

# NORTH ASTON

NEWS

May 2016

#307



# NORTH ASTON NEWS

MAY 2016, No: 307

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# The Chairman's Mark

## Village Forum

*In many ways the new style Village Forum was not very different from old style Village Meeting. However, we managed to keep it to 90 minutes and more importantly we had cake - oh yes! (thanks to Gareth and Eileen). The next meeting will be 'Bring a Bottle' (and / or cake) if you feel like it.*

## The Fête

*An initial planning meeting for the Village Fête has been set for Tuesday June 7th, 7.30pm in the Bakery. Please come along if you would like to help. If you can't make the meeting but can help on the day, please make yourself known to myself or Kildare as we would rather not have to go around the village cajoling people.*

## Speedwatch

*It would also be great to share the burden of the Community Speed Watch. If you can do a morning slot, speak to Clive or Trudy or, if late afternoon is better, then Robert or Liz. Thank you in advance!*

## Nicholson Nurseries

*Following information printed in April's issue of the News and their Open Evening, Nicholson Nurseries has made a planning application for the first phase of the new development.*

*A couple of years ago it was decided that The Village Meeting would only consider a planning application if it affected the whole village. As this proposal concerns a new (access) road and extending the 30mph limit, I feel this does indeed affect the village and therefore there will be an Extraordinary Village Meeting on Thursday 12th May at 7.30pm in The Bakery.*

*Please note that an objection can only be made 'on planning grounds' with reference to Cherwell Local Plan or Structure Plan. Individuals can also make their own representation direct to the Council. Apologies for the short notice, but any response has to be with CDC by 18th May.*

*In the meantime, the details of the application, including detailed maps will be available for public viewing in the Bakery lobby, Monday to Saturday 9.00am to 9.00pm.*

*If you are unable to come to the meeting but have something to say about this particular application then please telephone or email me.*

*Mark*

Telephone: 01869 347 806 ~ email: [chair@north-aston.co.uk](mailto:chair@north-aston.co.uk)

## Extraordinary Village Meeting

An Extraordinary Village Meeting will be held in the Old Bakery on Thursday 12th May to discuss the Nicholson Nurseries / North Aston Farms Planning Application. All are welcome. The meeting will start at 7:30 pm.

## Announcements

### Park Farm House

The current programme of renovation to Park Farm House is nearing completion. Gavin Cross, the Home Manager there, would like to have an open afternoon or evening at some point over the next month for people to have a look around and ask any questions they may have. Unfortunately, the works have over-run and a final handover date has not yet been agreed, so setting a date is proving difficult.

If you would be interested in visiting the House and discussing Hillcrest's work and plans, then email Gavin on [gcross@hillcrestchildrensservices.co.uk](mailto:gcross@hillcrestchildrensservices.co.uk) or call him on 349922.

### The Village Fête

This year's Village Fête will be on Saturday 16th July, and as explained in the Minutes from last month's Village Forum (on the next page), the proceeds this year will go towards the major restoration and development projects proposed for St Mary's.

Please support the event in any way you can, either actively, or by donating items. There will be a planning meeting on Tuesday 7th June at 7:30pm in the Old Bakery.

### Mikron & The Big Lunch for the Queen!

This year's Big Lunch, to be staged on Sunday 31st July, will be a very special occasion. Not only will it be an opportunity for the village to get together and mark the Queen's 90th Birthday, but it will also herald another visit by The Mikron Theatre Company, who will be performing their latest production, entitled *Pure*, on the Green from around 3:00 pm. The new show should have a broad appeal, since it revolves around the history of chocolate making - and eating - in Britain!



## 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](mailto:northastonorganics@gmail.com)

Tel: (01869) 347702

visit the website at:

[www.northastonorganics.co.uk](http://www.northastonorganics.co.uk)

## This Month's Birthdays

Richard Boss  
Linda Brown  
Clive Busby Hal Busby  
Holly Busby Iris Busby  
Sarah Godwin  
Deirdre Oakley  
Matthew Rees  
Joseph Martin  
Oscar Taylor



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.

## Classifieds

### Deddington Farmers' Market

The monthly Farmers' Market in Deddington takes place every 4th Saturday from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm. This month's market will be on 28th May, and North Aston Organics will have a stall.

### Antiques & Collectables!

We are always looking for interesting items to add to our stock of antiques & collectables. If you're moving, having a clear-out or trying to 'de-clutter' your home, 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](mailto:sales@oldschoolantiques.co.uk).

## North Aston Organic Beef

James & Vicky are hoping to sell more boxes of their delicious home-bred beef straight from the farm this summer.

If you would be interested in buying some, please contact James by emailing [jamesfionn@hotmail.com](mailto:jamesfionn@hotmail.com), or phone him direct on 07979 388066

# North Aston Village Forum

Thursday 14th April 2016 ~ The Minutes

**Officers present:** Chairman Mark Stay (MS), Treasurer Beverly Rees (BR), Secretary James Taylor (JFT)

**Those present:** Eileen O'Sullivan, Gareth Hughes, Kildare Bourke-Borrowes (KBB), Tuck Hatzi-georgiou (TH), Jeremy Taylor (JDT), Mary Healy (MH), Tony Rees, John Harvey-Lee, Chris Hazle (CH), David Hazle (DH), Robert Hite (RH), Niel Nicholson (NN), Clive Busby (CB), Trudy Busby, Annabel Bevan, Marcus Potts (MP).

April's meeting was the first occasion for a gathering of the Village Forum. A new layout for the Old Bakery room was adopted, with everyone seated around a long table, and there was a less formal atmosphere to proceedings. Compared to Village Meetings of the past, it was also completed in good time, and the brevity of these minutes reflect the pace and approach to the new Forum.

## Village Meeting

### 1. Treasurers Report

The Village Meeting Accounts showed a balance of £2,732.57 as of 7/1/16. BR said there was still a small amount of interest (about £6.00) to come in. With that understood the accounts were unanimously approved.

### 2. Annual Governance Statement

The Annual Governance Statement 2015/16 was read out to the Meeting and the Statement was unanimously approved.

## Village Forum

### 1. Treasurers Report

The balance in the Village Fund as of 31/3/16 was £6927.07. There was uncleared income of £3,703.00 from The Dorchester Group which will cover most of the cost of the new Radar Lux Speed Monitor.

### 2. The Fête

KBB re-iterated his offer to organise the Fête with his preference that all money raised this year go to support the Church.

It was agreed that there was plenty of money in the Village Fund at present and the Church's need was great. There was a motion therefore that all proceeds from the Fête would go to the Church this year. Proposed MP Seconded TH. Those in favour 16 with 3 abstentions. The motion was passed.

A Fête Sub-Committee Meeting was organised for Tuesday 7th June 7.30 in the Bakery. (The date for the Fête had previously been set for Saturday 16th July)

The Meeting agreed that MP could spend up to £100 on new banners for promotion of the Fête.

### 3. Queen's Birthday

It was suggested that the Big Lunch could be an occasion when we could also celebrate the Queen's Birthday. It was agreed that the Marquees would be taken down between the dates of the Fête and the Mikron Theatre / Big Lunch. MP agreed to organise the licensing of a bar for Fête and Mikron Theatre.

### 3. Village Notice Board

MS had spoken to The Hall and they had confirmed their desire that the Village Notice Board be relocated from its present site. It was agreed that a new site over the road near the telephone box/ electricity substation be investigated. MS to speak to NN about procurement of new Notice Board and to speak to JDT over new position.

### 4. Community Speed Watch

More volunteers are needed to share the burden.

The old speed monitor was currently broken down and awaiting repair. There were some technical issues with the new monitor. KBB to follow up MH idea of different coloured road surface to give sense of narrowing. (DH warned that the special paint needed could be very expensive).

### 5. Neighbourhood Plan Update

KBB said he was representing North Aston on the *Traffic and Transport Committee*. The Committee was frustrated at the lack of disclosure of the OCC Transport Model for the District.

### 6. AOB

JFT said that, in future, he would leave Cherwell District Council bump in the Bakery for Public viewing.

The Nicholson/Taylor Park Farm plan was aired but most people present had already been to the Nicholson's Evening.

CH reminded the Meeting that the Flower & Produce Show would be the last weekend in August as per usual.

JDT raised concerns about the gully that had formed on the side of the road going down towards The Lodge. There was also mention of more loose kerb stones. CB said he would continue to badger the Council.

MH wondered how local events (films/shows /concerts etc) could be better promoted in North Aston.

RH was thanked for organising the Easter Egg Hunt.

### Date of next Forum Meeting

The next Village Forum will be on Thursday 4th August 7:30.

**North Aston**  **MidCherwell**  
Neighbourhood Plan Forum

North Aston has two permanent representatives on the Mid-Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan Forum.

This is an on-going process, pending the proposed referendum in late 2017. If you have any concerns that you might like to have raised at the Forum, you can contact **Kildare BB** (Telephone 340200 or email: k.bourkeborrowes@btinternet.com) or **Chloe Woodhead** (Email: cewoodhead@btinternet.com or telephone 340358) at any time.

You are also encouraged to visit the website:  
**[www.mid-cherwell.org.uk](http://www.mid-cherwell.org.uk)**

## Dog Microchipping!

Just a reminder that it became a legal requirement on 6th April last month that all dogs should be fitted with a microchip.

Dogs that are, for whatever reason, checked for a microchip and are found not to have one could result in their owners being served with a notice requiring them to have the animal microchipped within 21 days or face a fine of up to £500.

The purpose of the legislation is to create a central database listing every dog in the UK. This will allow the authorities to identify lost animals and return them to their owners, as well as tackle the use of dogs in crime and the black market trade in animals. Individual owners are responsible for having each dog chipped and keeping registration details up to date. The procedure is no more painful than a regular injection, and involves implanting a sterile chip, the size of a grain of rice, under the dog's skin, usually between the shoulder blades. Costs vary, from free (by the RSPCA) to heavily discounted by local vets. Please check with yours.

# North Aston Nature Notes

## With Stephen Rees

The blackthorn hedges below us have come into blossom, the hawthorns are now in leaf, and the dandelions and buttercups are starting to show their lovely yellow heads. At last spring is here, though as I write this it has turned properly cold again and it was hailing in Banbury this morning.

Up behind the old kitchen garden wall there are three plum trees that I think are probably there from when the gardeners used to throw the garden waste outside the wall. A few weeks ago they came into beautiful blossom, but just a day or so later the winds came again and blew all the blossom off, so I think no plums again this year. Three years ago we had a bumper crop of beautiful red plums, but last year there was not even one, and I think it will be the same again this year.

I think I'm the only person who hasn't seen a swallow yet. Everybody else keeps telling me they have seen them down by the river, at Cold Harbour, and even in the field behind our house that our bedroom window looks over, yet I still haven't seen even one. I'm meant to be the one who notices these things - not you lot!

However, I am seeing foxes out in the daylight at the moment though. They have hungry cubs in the dens, so are having to work hard trying to get enough food for them. I watched one the other evening stalking a young rabbit. It was quite funny to watch; the rabbit saw the old fox coming from miles away and wasn't in the slightest bit bothered. When the fox was a few yards away the young bunny just popped down his hole, but the fox still went into the routine of pouncing over the long grass to where the rabbit had been, then stood looking around as if he couldn't believe he hadn't got it.



The cuckoo will be here by now but probably won't start calling for another week or two, so let's see who hears it first. I bet it won't be me! Two weekends ago, on a Sunday afternoon, Wendy, me, Fred and Penny were sat down the bottom of the garden having some wine and seeing who could spot the most wildlife. I lost, and not only did I lose, but I was the one with the binoculars! We saw six roe deer on the hill below Deddington, three teal flying over the top of Rams Spinney in their unmistakable flight, a Sparrow Hawk flying along just above the ground, twice a raven, lots of small hedgerow birds and three Red Leg Partridges.

To start with there was only two red legs that came walking up on the ploughing but, when they were about 50 yards away, another one literally came running full bore up the hill and leapt on one of the others. Then, for ten minutes, we sat there watching one hell of a scrap as they were jumping up in the air, grabbing each other by the neck and pulling feathers out, while the hen bird stood on a clump of dirt and watched. After a while she just walked away and left them to it, until one finally gave up and ran away. I don't know whether it was the original one who won, and went back to the hen, or the other that came up the hill.

Tony has a pair in his garden as well, and Deirdre has seen them on her shed roof too. I hope they nest and stay around, as they make a lovely call in the summer evenings.

PS. We have just been for a walk along the back brook, behind Jeremy's, and saw lots of swallows ... but even then Wendy saw one before I did, and pointed it out, much to her delight. Oh well, better late than never! It's just nice to see them back.



The winners of the April draw were:

1st Prize (£100): Clive Busby (#118)

2nd Prize (£5): Deirdre Oakley (#76)

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

## It's Renewal Time!

April's draw was the last of the 2015-2016 period, and a massive £100 was up for grabs. Congratulations to Clive for being the very lucky winner when the numbers came out of the hat (or, in this case, tin).

Norman will be distributing envelopes with this month's News inviting residents to re-join the 100 Club for the next 12 months - or sign up for the first time if you've never done it before. It's a very worthy cause, raising funds for the village but offering a really excellent chance of winning as well - better than the lottery! To renew or reserve your number, please contact Norman (340368) as soon as possible.

Thanks for your support.

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# Fête Money for the Church

Why has the Village Forum decided that all the money raised by the Fête this year should be given to our Church?

The short answer is that our Church is currently more in need!

Our Village Fund has about £8,000 in it, even after our investment in the Traffic Calming equipment, and is most unlikely to need to spend most of that money in the coming year. On the other hand our Church has proposed some exciting restoration and improvement plans which will cost a lot of money (more than £150,000). Some of this will come from the continuing Restoration Fund and the majority will come from external fund raising. There was an open meeting led by Rector Marcus in the Church to discuss these plans in January. About one third of this sum will be spent on saving and completely restoring the two big medieval south windows, and the rest on making the building a lot more welcoming and inclusive.

This includes providing wheeled access right from the car park into the Church – a legal requirement and hugely important for disabled and elderly people, as well as for parents with buggies and strollers. We also need to dismantle and repair the decaying Lych gate as well as construct a simple servery, so that the means for preparing and serving refreshments are in the Church instead of having to be carried in and out each time. Then we shall be building a loo under the tower (so important for those people with children, those who come from far away, who have special needs, etc).

The Fête money will go towards preliminary expenses (architect, quantity surveyor, etc), and to show potential donors that our community is fully involved in this and has given money towards it. I know that a few people don't wholly approve of this and they might say:

## **a. It's too expensive**

When you start working on a Grade II\* medieval ecclesiastical building you have to comply with the requirements of a whole range of bodies whose job is to protect and preserve our heritage by law. Everything has to be done in complete

sympathy with what is there and can be undone in the future without disturbing the past. Going that route is far more expensive than just knocking holes in things and putting up wood and plasterboard stuff as we might do at home. Besides, the PCC want to do everything in the very best way possible, for the benefit of future generations.

## **b. The Church is largely irrelevant**

Is it really? St Mary's is our only large village building and our only substantial link with the past. It is the only place which has served our community continuously for 700 years, where 25 or 30 previous generations in our village have come to worship as Christians, and where the majority of us come, at least at the great significant times of our personal and national lives, like they did.

## **c. This is a conversion to a Community Centre 'under the radar'**

No it isn't. In 2009 we as a village rejected the proposal to do this. The current plans involve removing 3 back pews only (with the wood being re-used), no chair seating, no meeting facilities or special areas and little visible change. We need to remember that our Church has gone through huge changes in every single one of the seven centuries since it was first built – very many things that were once there aren't anymore, and many other things have been added and changed. This process will continue, for the next 700 years.

## **d. The Church is in terminal decline**

Well, not here it isn't. It's actually quite a lively place, and our congregation is far higher than the national average. It is also growing, and brings together children and adults from our village and from outside it every week of the year.

The point about all this is that our Church is, and always has been, a place for all of our community all of the time, always there, always open, always available whether we go to it regularly or not, decade in decade out, and it's good and right that we can help it to survive and become an even more welcoming place – for everyone, for now and for the future.

Here's to a wonderful and successful 2016 Fête!

*Kildare BB*

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# Lower Heyford Development

Some of you may have been aware of the recent proposal to build 5,000 houses at Lower Heyford.

A previously unknown developer (Bonnar Allan) and Corpus Christi College (the landowner) were suggesting that this development would occupy a large (roughly square) block of land on the east of the Oxford Canal, opposite Rousham, bounding Lower Heyford on the north, the canal on the west, the Portway on the east and a hedge line on the south.

The houses would mostly be along the south and east sides, with a large country park protecting the views from Rousham House. A large car park and station shuttle-bus service would be located at the top of the village, where there would also be an R&D hub and a secondary school. This development was clearly aimed at relieving Oxford's un-met housing requirement, and would be largely a commuter-site.

The proposal instantly met with very vocal opposition, and this looked set to grow. The plans would have involved a massive development on greenfield land in our beautiful valley, and the resulting pressure on local amenities and infrastructure would have been massive. It is exactly the type of unwanted speculative development that our Mid-Cherwell Neighbourhood

Plan will seek to deny, but the Plan won't be finalised until 2017, just when Oxford's overspill proposals will be being considered by the inspector responsible.

However, as of the end of April, it looks as if the plans have already met with sufficient opposition for the developers to backtrack. At Lower Heyford's Parish Meeting on April 21st John Harrison, Bursar of Corpus Christi, and Nigel Rankine, the MD of Bonnar Allan, presented details of the proposal. Barry Wood (Leader of CDC) also attended. The presentation met with considerable opposition from the floor, with the consensus being that the development was "not wanted" in the Heyfords. James Macnamara subsequently issued a very strongly worded letter of opposition. In response he received an assurance from John Harrison that the fellows of Corpus Christi had reconsidered their offer to sell the land to Bonnar Allan and the proposal had been withdrawn.

We had anticipated being asked to join in the opposition to this proposal and, subject to approval of our Village Forum, we were prepared to do so in every way we could. Now we can all breathe a communal sigh of relief ... for now, at least. We understand Bonnar Allan is now considering another Oxfordshire site. We shall watch closely.

*Chloe and Kildare, updated by Marcus*



# The Church MATTERS



## Charity Begins?

Whenever I think back to the time when I worked as a fundraiser, one thing never ceases to amaze me: the generosity of people.

Some folk heard what I was doing and presumed it must be the hardest thing on the planet to do. And seriously, it was not. I mean - office politics in any job can be difficult, but the actual fundraising was often a joy. I found that by and large, people are generous. Sure, sometimes circumstances mean that all of us struggle to give what we'd like to, but even then we like to try and help. All you have to do is look at the figures raised by Comic Relief and Sport Relief and the various other "Big Name" event charities.

Even when charities get their methods wrong, even when the economy is hard, even when the news gives us "bad news" about people worse off than us and tries to stop us helping - in all this I find one of the most wonderful things about humanity. Jesus tells us that the greatest command is to love God and to love our neighbour, and most people really do want to do something to show love to fellow human beings in trouble.

So sometimes we sail the world, cycle huge distances, jump off tall buildings, work in far-flung places with folk in terrible circumstances. People from our villages do these very things - and I for one want to cheer them on.

Sometimes playing our part comes closer to home. *Christian Aid Week* happens in mid-May. Traditionally our villages have been huge supporters of this week: I hope that will be true again this year. We are lucky to have Paul Valentin, international director of *Christian Aid*, speaking at our Family services in North and Steeple Aston on May 8th, so come and hear more from the horse's mouth. What we give really does help.

And of course, there are other ways to help. Each of us should be aware of friends and neighbours, especially those who might be more vulnerable. The winter is (hopefully!) over, but people can still struggle - with food bills and loneliness, and giving a meal or some extra time can save lives in Oxfordshire too.

Community activities in our villages rely on us all to participate in all sorts of ways - from using the village shop to supporting local sports teams, school projects, arts and (yes, I'm going to say it) the church too. Time, actions, money. These are the things with which we can all be generous in different ways. With building projects coming up in church, time, actions and money are all going to be vital gifts we need - and in large measure.

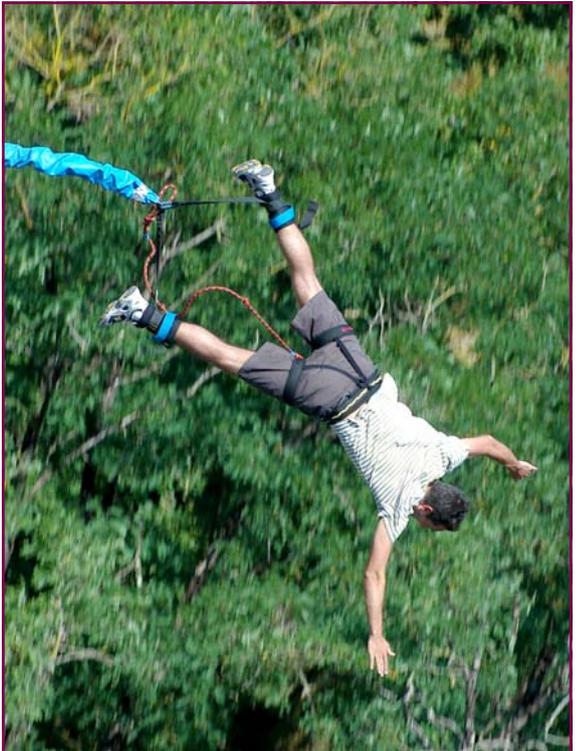
Back when I worked as a fundraiser, someone said to me: there's no real culture of giving in our country is there? Rubbish. People are generous to a fault.

Perhaps if there is a problem, it's that there's no real culture of asking. Because when we ask - my experience is that so many people do their best to help. So I'm asking: why not give something that will make a difference? And go on giving? To a charity, to a local sports club, to the church, to a neighbour. Give your time, your skills, your money, whatever is the thing you can give.

Jesus said: "It's better to give than to receive". It sounds odd, but actually, I think he was on to something.

*Revd Marcus Green*

Bible Study happens on most Mondays at 2:00 pm in the Rectory, Steeple Aston. Morning Prayer is on Thursday May 12th at 10am in St Mary's. More news can always be found at [www.sntchurch.com](http://www.sntchurch.com)



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

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

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

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# From Thames Valley Police

*We have received several messages from Action Fraud this month, relating not only to unlawful and underhand on-line activity, but also face-to-face.*

## Fake Email Addresses

This alert is a reminder to be aware of emails that appear to have been sent from a legitimate organisation but are actually generated by fraudsters, with the purpose of encouraging recipients to open malicious attachments or click links to sites where invasive software will inadvertently be downloaded.

I receive about a dozen or more of these every week – sometimes daily – and now think nothing of them. I'm sure others are probably as familiar with these threats now as I am, but to those who are less active on the Internet, they may still be confused. Let me assure you that the emails themselves are harmless - it is the attachment, or hyperlinks within the message, that can cause the problems.

The simple solution is just to delete the email. If you open an attachment by mistake, or click a link to a web page, then stop immediately. If you are a competent computer user, then activate any anti-virus or anti-malware software you may have straight away. (If it was active at the time, then you should have been protected anyway, but better to be safe). If you're not, then shut down your computer and have it checked over by a professional. If you have another device (which should not have been affected), then access your critical on-line accounts using that and change your passwords and log-in details, especially those for your email account and online banking or shopping accounts.

*As always .....*

Do not click or open unfamiliar links in emails or on websites. Make sure you install and use up-to-date anti-virus software. Have a pop-up blocker running in the background of your web browser. Ensure Adobe Reader and Flash, or any similar access software, is up-to-date on your computer.

## Wine Fraud

Many people enjoy a glass of wine with their dinner and, with returns from regular savings and investments so poor in recent years, alternative sources of income have become tempting. Investing in wines can (occasionally!) be very profitable, and because of that wine has now become another target for fraudsters.

Action Fraud warn of a new investment fraud that is targeting those who may be considering selling their wine investment. The fraudsters agree to purchase the wine, but instead transfer the stock into their own account without paying for it. The fraudulently obtained wine is then sold on to other, unsuspecting victims.

They achieve this by setting up fake companies and websites as well as exploiting the names of legitimate, established companies to facilitate this fraud. They cold-call the victims and offer to purchase their wine for significantly more than the actual market value. Fake documents are used to facilitate the fraud and are sent to the victims via post and email, while fake escrow services may be employed to fool the sellers into thinking payments have been made.

The victims are sent instructions on how to transfer their wine into storage accounts held by legitimate bonded warehouses and assured that payment will be received upon completion. This adds an air of legitimacy to the process, but these storage accounts are actually controlled by the fraudsters. Once the

wine is transferred all contact ceases and the wine is moved on, normally within hours and often abroad, and, needless to say, the victim never receives the money from the agreed sale.

## Protect Yourself

Never respond to unsolicited phone calls, no matter how plausible. If in doubt, hang up. Check that the details of the organisation or company are correct, but don't be fooled by a professional looking website. Also, fraudsters may be masquerading as a legitimate organisation, so never sign over any investment without first checking the third party is authentic. If in doubt, seek independent legal and/or financial advice before making a decision.

## Tax Rebate

We all like to get a little back from HMRC, and fraudsters know this, so they've started texting or emailing members of the public offering a tax rebate. The message contains a link to a website and requests that the recipient provides personal information, such as bank account information, to claim the nonexistent rebate. You know it's too good to be true!

As always, just ignore these blatantly obvious attempts at defrauding you. Never provide your personal information to anyone either over the phone, or via email.

If a caller asks you for elements of your password – first and fourth characters, for example - by all means provide them with that basic, incomplete information, but before proceeding further, ask them to give you the second and fifth. If they are genuinely calling from your bank, for example, they will be able to do this. If they cannot, or they refuse, then hang up.

## Buying Pets Online

I can't believe that people buy pets on-line without seeing them first, but apparently they do. Action Fraud reports a rise in the number of puppies and kittens, as well as other pets, being advertised for sale via online auction websites.

The fraudster's advert may claim that the pet is currently held somewhere less accessible or overseas and will have to be delivered by specialist courier. Upon sale, they request an advance payment by money or bank transfer, but then request additional payments to cover shopping costs, for example. The animal never arrives though, and probably never existed in the first place.

If you are looking to buy a new pet, meet the seller face to face and examine the animal yourself. A genuine seller should be keen to ensure that the pet is going to a caring and loving new home. If the seller does not express any interest in you or the pet's new home, be wary. If you think the purchase price is too good to be true then it probably is, especially if the pet is advertised as a pure-breed. Do not be afraid to request copies of the pet's inoculation history, breed paperwork and certification prior to agreeing a sale. If the seller is reluctant or unable to provide this information it could be an indication that the pet has been illegally bred. Commercial dog breeders must be registered with their local authority and undergo regular inspections to ensure that the puppies are bred responsibly and are in turn fit and healthy. Illegally farmed puppies will often be kept in inadequate conditions and are more likely to suffer from ailments and illnesses associated with irresponsible breeding. When thinking of buying a pet, consider buying from a rescue centre or from reputable breeders.

If you have been affected by these, or any other kind of scam, report it to **Action Fraud** by calling 0300 123 2040, or visiting [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk).

# Councillor Calling



## Super Thursday – Election Day

America has Super Tuesday. Not to be out-done, North Oxfordshire has Super Thursday which, this year, falls on 5th May. Voters will, rightly, feel fatigued at the end of the process for they have a lot of voting to do. As well as voting for three District Councillors, there is also a vote for the Police and Crime Commissioner and for those in Banbury and some of the villages (not the Astons) there are also Town and Parish Council elections as well – democracy requires effort!

The Astons now form part of the new Deddington Ward of Cherwell District Council. In an attempt to represent the electorate better Cherwell District Council has re-organised all the old wards into 16 new wards, with the net result that the number of District Councillors has been drastically reduced from 50 to 48!! All the new wards will have three councillors each.

The new Deddington Ward stretches from Hook Norton in the West to Souldern in the East; from Milcombe in the North to Steeple Aston in the South. There are approximately 7,500 eligible voters.

## District Elections Matter

Cherwell District Council is responsible for all those issues which make our lives easier, or more frustrating, depending on where one stands. Most importantly, they have control over Planning for North Oxfordshire so if you want to build that extension or develop a new housing estate in your back garden they are (subject to Government interference) the people who say yea or nay. They also empty your bins, license your local pub and charge you for parking in their car parks, amongst many other things. They are the people to whom you pay your Council Tax (before part of it is distributed to other authorities) therefore you want them to be cost-conscious and efficient. Cherwell, a Conservative-run administration, has not increased its part of the Council Tax for seven years.

## More than one vote ...

Because of the re-organisation, the old concept of one-voter-one-vote is now obsolete. Each voter will now have three votes and you can use all three to vote for the same party.

The Conservative Party is fielding three candidates in the Deddington Ward, and you are able to vote for all or any of them. They are: **Bryn Williams** - currently the District Councillor for the old Deddington Ward; **Mike Kerford-Byrnes** - currently the District Councillor for the old Astons and Heyfords Ward; **Hugo Brown** - standing for the first time at District level.

In addition, there are three Labour candidates: **Annette Murphy**, **Alasdair Brown** and **Polly Foster**, one Green; **Aaron Bliss**, and a single UKIP candidate; **Aubrey Ellis**. However you choose to vote, please don't forget to do so – democracy depends on it.

HMHB

## Charles Bowles - Artist

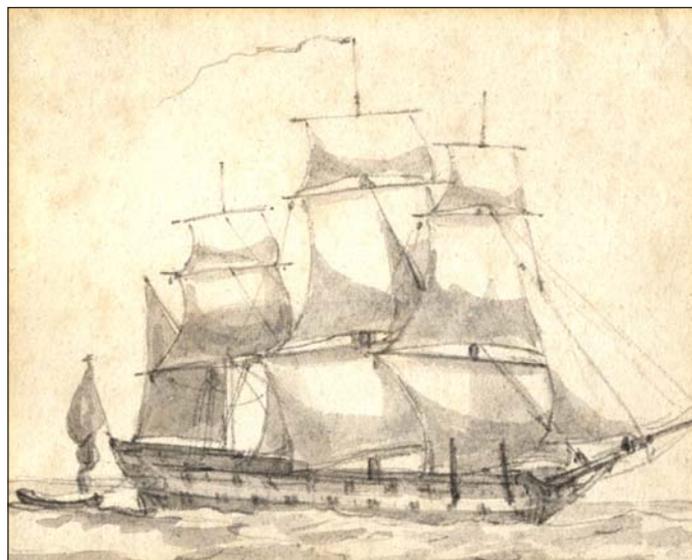
Anyone who's read their copy of *North Aston - A Millennium* will be familiar with the name of Charles Oldfield Bowles.

Charles Oldfield purchased the North Aston estate in 1733, but died seven years later without children. In his will he left the bulk of his wealth to close friend and associate Charles Bowles, whose wife Jane had recently given birth to their first child, who they'd named Oldfield in his honour.

Oldfield grew up at North Aston. His first wife, Gertrude, died tragically young, aged just 26, but he soon remarried, and his second wife Mary subsequently gave birth to a daughter, who they named Jane after her grandmother. This is the child who became perhaps the most famous member of the Bowles family, immortalised by Sir Joshua Reynolds in his painting of "Miss Jane Bowles" clutching her pet spaniel *Venus* that now hangs in the Wallace Collection.

Art was a focus of interest for the family, and Oldfield himself was an accomplished painter and also a significant patron of the arts during the late 18th century. He numbered Thomas Gainsborough and Joseph Farington, as well as Reynolds, among his personal friends. Growing up in such an environment, it is no surprise that his only son, Charles (born 1786) also shared a passion for art. Like his father, he proved to be an accomplished painter and exhibited twice at the Royal Academy.

He specialised in marine subjects, and recently a series of four watercolours by Charles Bowles dating from around 1805 appeared for sale through Sulis Fine Art ([www.sulisfineart.com](http://www.sulisfineart.com)) priced at a modest £30 each. They may still be available.



Charles Bowles' only son, also named Charles, died at Sebastopol in the Crimea in 1855. His father sold the North Aston estate to William Foster-Melliard and died in 1862.



MP

Images courtesy Sulis Fine Art. 01225 723888



# CHURCH SERVICES

## PARISH WORSHIP IN MAY-JUNE 2016

NORTH ASTON

STEEPLE ASTON

TACKLEY

### Sunday May 1st - Sixth Sunday of Easter

9:30 am  
Rogation Sunday  
**Clive Busby**

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

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

### Sunday May 8th - Seventh Sunday of Easter

9:30 am  
Family Service  
**Revd Marcus Green  
and Paul Valentin,**  
International Director, Christian Aid

11:00 am  
Family Service  
**Revd Marcus Green  
and Paul Valentin,**  
International Director, Christian Aid

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

### Sunday May 15th - Day of Pentecost, Whitsunday

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  
Canon Robin Gibbons**

### Sunday May 22nd - Trinity Sunday, First Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 am  
Morning Prayer  
**Revd Marcus Green**

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

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

### Sunday May 29th - Second First Sunday after Pentecost

No Service

No Service

10:30 am  
*United Villages Service*  
United Benefice Festival  
Open Air Service with  
Tackley Methodist Church

### Sunday June 5th - Third 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  
Canon Robin Gibbons**

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

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

### North Aston News

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