

NORTH ASTON

NEWS

June 2016

#308



NORTH ASTON NEWS

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The Chairman's Mark

Nicholson Nurseries Planning Application

Last month's extraordinary meeting was the first chance for the village to discuss in more detail the proposed plans, as outlined in April's edition.

I felt there was a general appreciation of the Nicholsons Nurseries' value to the local economy and community and a recognition of the need for a business to develop. This was weighed against concern about increased traffic through the village and at the junction with the main road, ever-increasing development of the nursery site, and a worry about use of the site for housing at some distant point in the future.

Because the Meeting was obliged to consider the application for the road in isolation, ahead of the anticipated plans to develop the Nursery and Park Farm Barns site, the majority of those at the meeting felt that the only option open to us was to object to the application at this point. As Niel Nicholson was there, he said he would postpone the application for the road, and put forward his plans for the Nursery first, so that we could then reconsider at a later stage.

That second planning application, for the coffee shop, is now imminent and I take the view that with the Nursery opening hours remaining the same, this does not affect the village as a whole and therefore we will not hold another planning meeting to discuss it. If I receive a clamour of phone calls/emails to do otherwise then a meeting can be convened.

Don't forget anyone can comment individually on any planning application direct to Cherwell District Council.

The Village Fête

Do please try to come to the fête planning meeting on Tuesday 7th June in The Bakery at 7.30 to help get the ball rolling. If you can't make it but can help on the day, please let me know in advance of the meeting, Thank you.

Mark

Telephone: 01869 347 806 ~ email: chair@north-aston.co.uk



Announcements

The Village Fête

There will be a planning meeting for this year's Village Fête on Tuesday 7th June at 7:30pm in the Old Bakery. If you're able to help, then please do come along. Better that than the knock on the door...

The Fête will be on Saturday 16th July, and this year will be officially opened by Victoria Prentis MP. Since St Mary's faces some pretty hefty bills in the coming months, all the proceeds from this year's event will go towards the church, helping to cover some of the cost of restoring the east windows and contributing towards the various development projects. It is important that the village demonstrates its willingness to raise money for these causes, so that applications for outside funding can be seen to be supported by our own efforts.

If you can't attend the Meeting, then please help in any other way you can, perhaps by donating items for the tombola, book stall and White Elephant. Items can be left at the Old Bakery from the beginning of July.

Mikron & The Big Lunch for the Queen!

Also next month we will be celebrating the Queen's 90th Birthday by hosting a Big Lunch on the Green, followed by another visit from the Mikron Theatre Company. Both will be staged on Sunday 31st July. Mikron will be perform 'Pure', one of their new productions for 2016 that tells the story of chocolate making - and eating - in Britain! The Big Lunch will kick off at mid-day with a welcome drink, and Mikron's performance will start at around 3:00 pm. There will be no tickets as such, but a collection will be made, and there will also be a bar serving beer, wine and soft drinks.

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This Month's Birthdays

Andy Brown
Adam Busby
Alex Hatzigeorgiou
Tilly Kneale



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 25th June, 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.



The winners of the April draw were:

1st Prize (£10): Vicky Taylor (#127)

2nd Prize (£5): N Graham (#97)

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

We're into the new year now. You should have had your renewal envelope last month, and if you haven't yet done so, please return this to Norman as soon as possible. If you've never entered before, please give it a go! 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).

Thanks for your support.

North Aston “Extraordinary Meeting”

Thursday 12th May 2016 ~ The Minutes

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

Those present: Kildare Bourke-Borrowes (KBB), David Hazle (DH) Clive Busby (CB), James Galitzine (JG), Jan Liberadski (JL), Tony Godwin (TG), Steven Walters (SW), Rupert Davis (RD), Marcus Potts (MP), Franca Potts, David Rose (DR), Joanna Lachert, Peter Durnin, Jane Durnin, Jane McArdle, Tony Rees (TR), Clare Hathaway (CH), Niel Nicholson (NN, from late on in the meeting).

Apologies: Niel Nicholson (although he appeared later), Jeremy Taylor and Mary Healy.

Chairman Mark Stay welcomed those present and reminded the meeting that it was here to discuss the Planning Application submitted by the Nicholsons for a new access road linking the Middle Aston Lane to the North Aston Road. The ‘extraordinary’ nature of the Meeting was due to the need for the Parish to respond (should it wish to) by 18th May.

MS said that in considering the application the Parish would only be able to respond by

1. “Raising no objections with no further observations.”
2. “Raising no objections but raising the following observations.”
3. “Raising the following objections on the following planning grounds.”

Before discussions commenced MS declared an interest in that, should a Farm Shop be created by the Nicholsons (as understood to be part of their future plans) he might be a supplier. He also declared that one of his sons worked for Nicholsons.

JT also declared an interest as North Aston Farms and Nicholsons were currently working together on a joint project. (As had already been disclosed in last month’s *North Aston News*) KBB expressed his incredulity that NN had only discovered about the Meeting by seeing it mentioned in the *North Aston News* and, due to the very short notice, was not able to attend. MS apologised but said that there had been no alternative but to hold the meeting at short notice due to the restricted time frame given in which to respond.

As a starting point for discussion MS had a list of questions concerning the development which had been presented to him by KBB. These questions had been emailed to NN who, at very short notice, had sent a reply addressing each point. These questions and answers were made available to those present.

It should be made clear that these were not just questions posed by KBB but also points which had been raised by others but whose identities were not made known.

A general discussion ensued with the following points/questions raised:

DH – Why was there no access road to Park Farm shown on the plan?

DR – How many heavy movements a day come into the village?
SW suggested at least 30 movements from what he has seen – but not all were ‘heavy’. He went on to say that he could see this road enhancing trade – but if the aim was to reduce traffic into the village, then he felt it could not be justified. The problem is the need to understand the commercial intention of the whole scheme.

JG – Who knows what the future holds?

MP was concerned about the road being the first planning application to be made – and that the Meeting was required to consider this application in isolation.

RD thought the road a sinister prospect and would be detrimental to the Middle Aston Lane. He also made the point that most of the heavy vehicles were not connected to the Nicholsons Forestry department and so would not be stopping at Park Farm.

The access points and junctions were discussed with concerns raised over the speed of cars coming down the village road and RD worried about speed of cars along Middle Aston Lane, which he felt was potentially very dangerous where the proposed road crossed the Lane.

JG said he would have expected to see some traffic accident data in the Planning Application. JL said this was a relatively small application and wouldn’t necessarily need it. No-one was

able to recall any accidents occurring at the existing T Junction where the Middle Aston Lane meets the Somerton Road. Concerns were raised over the obvious need for signage onto the proposed new road.

Having discussed such issues for a while DH asked the question “Should the village offer a response to this planning application?” A vote was taken with 16 in favour and 2 abstentions.

It was noted that NN has always been fully open about this plan. He had attended the previous Village Meeting to field any questions and had held his own open meeting at the Nursery for village consultation.

KBB said he was concerned that the new road would make the Nursery site a target for property developers, and enquired whether North Aston could put a restrictive covenant on the road.

MS said he thought that the Local Plan as it stood only allowed for in-fill and conversions in North Aston. JL felt that the new road might change that. TG insisted that concern for what might happen in the future was conjecture, and should not be taken as grounds for objecting to the application in front of us.

JG – Main grounds for objection would be highway issues such as increased vehicle movements at road junctions. There have been no accidents at the existing junction so the need for a new access road has not been adequately justified.

MS asked if anyone was in favour of the road. Only CH said she could see the logic in it. It was thus decided then that the Meeting would object. Issues to be raised could include the fact that new roads increase traffic, the impact on junctions, and that the scale was not in keeping with the village.

JG added that one could refer to Policy ESD 13 relating to local landscaping protection and ESD 6 sustainable flood risk management.

Niel Nicholson joined the meeting at this point, and questions for him were offered from the floor:

JL – Will there be an increase in traffic as a result of this road?
NN – Yes, probably.

JG – How much hedgerow would need to be removed on the Nursery side of Middle Aston Lane? NN – Maybe 10m and perhaps one sycamore would need to be removed. (Located outside the TPO zone). On North Aston Farms’ side of Middle Aston Lane there is only a scrappy bit of hedge. Anything cut down would be replaced.

JL – Any feedback from County Highways? NN – Not yet.

DH – If the new road was not put in would the proposed coffee shop still go ahead? NN – Yes.

NN then said that if the village didn’t want to support the road he would withdraw the application for the moment. He pointed out that he had always been very open about his plans but wanted to have the village on side.

It was pointed out to Niel that considering the planning application for the road in isolation made it very difficult for the village to see its justification. If submitted again in conjunction with the Coffee Shop and Park Farm planning applications, then the road could be seen as being more justifiable.

JT suggested that due to his conflict of interest he would prefer to stand down as taker of minutes in subsequent meetings relating to the Nicholson/Taylor venture. This was agreed as a sensible idea.

Please also see Mark Stay’s comment as Chairman on the inside front cover, and also Niel Nicholson’s response to the Meeting, and revised plans for the Nursery, on the opposite page.

Nicholsons Nurseries - Revised Plan



Following the Extraordinary Village Meeting, where the Meeting decided to object to our proposed road, we have accordingly withdrawn our application, as we were only applying for it to reduce traffic, but particularly lorries, into the village. As I said at the meeting, and in our last *News* update, we will be submitting the planning applications in stages.

We have now submitted a planning application for the first bit of extra development at The Park, part of the plan that we have openly discussed in several forums now.

This will involve: the Yurt we propose to use as a café; a small timber framed building next to the Yurt (for use as the

kitchen and loos); infilling of the small courtyard area within the current Plant Centre building with a flat roof (to create a little more display area); and hard-coring an area further down the nursery for use as a yard and staff parking. Please see the plan.

If you wish to discuss this, please email me on niel@nicholsons.gb.com or ring 01869 340342. Liz and I always welcome all feedback.

We are looking forward to welcoming you all in the Yurt café when up and running!

Niel

North Aston Mid Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan

With this issue of the *News* you will have received a leaflet and a Questionnaire.

The leaflet gives the dates of the next Community Interaction Meetings, and you can attend any of them. The two in Steeple Aston (Tuesday 14th June at 7:30 and Saturday 18th June at 3) may be the most convenient. A huge amount of work continues to be done to prepare the Plan, and you will certainly hear some interesting things.

The Questionnaire is an important part of the evidence base. Please take five minutes to complete it and drop it into the Bakery or give it to Mark, James, Chloe or Kildare. If you prefer, fill it in online at the address shown. We really do need to get as much feedback as possible. Thank you.

North Aston has two permanent representatives on the Mid-Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan Forum, which is a major on-going process, pending the proposed referendum next year. 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

North Aston Nature Notes

With Stephen Rees

All the hawthorns are out in full bloom now, the cow parsley is in flower, the horse chestnuts have started to produce their big white blossoms and the elders are just starting to come into flower: the hedgerows look and smell wonderful.

Just below us, two fields have been worked down and drilled with two crops, much to the delight of every pigeon and rook in the county. I can't remember the last time I saw droves of pigeons that large on the farm.

The night after they sowed the crops I had a walk round both fields and noticed lots of what looked like peas on the top of the soil. The next night there were a few pigeons and the odd rook on the field, but a couple of days later the field was what pigeon shooters call "blue with 'em". There were loads of them feeding, accompanied by almost as many rooks, all having a right royal feast. I thought there wouldn't be a seed left.

After a few more days they disappeared, and the field was returned to the hordes of rabbits, happily munching away. By then I was thinking, those crops have got no chance!

A week or so later and the seeds were up and the fields were looking



surprisingly green and healthy, so we shall see how well the crops do.

I think the prize for who heard the cuckoo first goes to Auntie Chris (Hazel), who said she heard it on the 18 or 19th of April, while walking down the wood behind Nicholsons. We heard it down here, on the other side of the Green, last Sunday, and again on Wednesday night over near Clive and Trudy's. I know they are not a particularly nice bird, because of the way they put their eggs in other bird's nests, but it's always nice to hear them.

I still haven't seen a house martin yet but the swifts are back and calling well in the evenings. There are also a good few swallows about, but now that the wires are gone from the fields behind us we are not going to have the large congregations of them later in the season like we used to.

The bird boxes are doing really well, with a high percentage of them now occupied - mostly with blue tits and great tits. I love seeing them in use; it's really satisfying. Our next job is to go round and pick up all the bird feeders and get them cleaned and ready for the autumn. The owl and bat boxes are not occupied, but we live in hope. Maybe next year.

The colony of rooks on the corner of the Green have been very busy in the mornings and evenings, making a right old row - which I love. They have hungry young sat out on the branches now, so the parents are all working hard.

HOW'S YOUR HEARING?

If you feel you're having difficulty with your hearing, why not use our quick checklist.

- DO YOU** frequently have to ask people to repeat themselves?
- DO YOU** have trouble in noisy or busy places?
- DO YOU** misunderstand conversations?
- CAN YOU** hear people talk, but have difficulty understanding the words?
- DO YOU** turn up the volume on the TV or radio?
- DO YOU** avoid social situations?

If you answer **YES** to any of these questions, you should have your hearing assessed professionally. The sooner your hearing loss is assessed and dealt with the better it will be for you. **Call us on 01295 268333 to book a no obligation appointment, it could bring about great improvements to your life all round.**

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Have you decided yet? If not, you're in good company. Neither has Kildare, but here he offers some of his thoughts ...

This is a very big *fate-of-the-nation* vote and for many of us it's a hard and complex decision. So hard that I've drawn up what I hope are the main arguments on both sides to help me. Our *Dear Editor* thought they were worth publishing in the *News*, in case they might help you too; I hope they do, even a little. All I've done is tried to assemble the main arguments as they've been expressed.

In spite of all these arguments, there is no absolute certainty that either choice is a good one. It's clear that many people in the EU are also very worried about the way things are going, including its democratic abuses (unelected and unaccountable people making decisions for us), its ever-diverging economies, its rising social disharmony, its declining competitiveness, its ballooning and inadequately controlled budget, its laborious decision-making processes, its lack of foreign-policy leadership, its inability to solve major crises like the refugees pressing against its borders, and the apparent unsustainability of the Eurozone; there is more.

The latest Mori poll shows that up to half of the people in the EU (40% even in Germany) believe that their country too should have an EU membership referendum. Honest *Remain* politicians recognise all these problems, but believe that we should stay in and help reform and change the EU from the inside; this raises the question of whether the EU is capable of significant reform, and who would lead the way in that? Are 28 fairly egotistical heads of state supported by a self-perpetuating cabal of EU Councillors and Commissioners capable of the radical steps required? Will the EU start to crumble anyway, hastening reform, and are some of the objectives that we most fear already being slowly abandoned?

Two years ago David Cameron set out to re-negotiate some important pre-referendum matters (originally 'a substantially reformed EU'), and those were:

- Allowing Britain to opt out from the EU's founding ambition to forge an "ever closer union" of the peoples of Europe;
- EU migrants who want to claim tax credits and child benefit must live here and contribute to our country for a minimum of four years;
- A clear recognition that the Euro is not the only currency of the European Union, to ensure countries outside the Eurozone are not materially disadvantaged;
- A target for the reduction of the "burden" of excessive regulation and extending the single market.

If you think he largely achieved these aims, good. If you feel that he didn't get enough, or that he actually got 'two-thirds of Diddly Squat' (Boris Johnson) or it 'wasn't worth the paper it was written on', then you might wonder whether he actually still has a mandate to campaign for *Remain*.

During the campaign, we have been fed a continual stream of subjective opinion dressed up as 'facts' by both sides (the



Fact Mongers?). The big guns, the political establishment, the Civil Service (Treasury), big business, etc have all 'proved' that we must *Remain*. Of course we need to take notice of these people, but generally it's the same elements who supported our joining the EMU and the Euro (wrong), and the Exchange Rate Mechanism (wrong). Many people observe that the Treasury almost never gets an important forecast right; generally, big organisations are risk-averse and are more comfortable with the status quo.

To their arguments have been added a stream of warnings from respected and authoritative people – senior foreign politicians, current and retired heads of defence and security organisations, the armed forces, etc. It's clear that many of these people have been substantially organised from 10 Downing Street, and many people have called their tone disagreeably 'bullying' & 'threatening', or suspect that 'we are being sold a line'.

Against them has been a passionate but splintered campaign from the *Leave* campaign, which has failed to paint a reassuring picture of what life after *Leave* would be like and therefore allay the fear of all the consequences forecast by *Remain*; this may be inevitable, because no country has so far ever exited the EU, but it's not helpful.

The *Brexiters* paint themselves as 'People of good faith with only the interests of Britain at heart versus the self-serving vested interests of the elite who want to remain in their very well-paid jobs'. The *Remainers* see these people as irresponsible adventurers who would take us out of the world's largest group of treaty-bound cooperating nations and cast us on the lonely ocean of uncertainty and potential economic decline (although only a few months ago Cameron was saying that Britain would 'do OK' outside the EU).

Central to all of this is national sovereignty; but is absolute sovereignty in a globalised and multi-stranded world a notion that we need to revise and not be so precious about? In the EU we retain national sovereignty over many important matters, but we also share other parts of it with our 27 fellow members through the institutions of the EU. Older people are very concerned about this; younger people aren't. Who governs Britain today? 'Them' or 'Us and Them together'. Either way we are no longer a truly self-governing sovereign democracy, but is that REALLY important?

As Kildare understands it, the basis of the case for Remain is that the benefits that the UK enjoys from being a member of the EU are immense, that the UK can lead change and reform from the inside, and that the short- and long-term effects of leaving are likely be extremely serious. Here he examines these areas of concern one-by-one ...

The Referendum arguments for Staying in the EU (Remain)

The arguments are few but strong:

Immigration

EU migrants have generally been of great benefit to the UK economy, providing our workforce with energetic and skilled employees in every sector. Any future close relationship with the EU will still require free movement of people. The new powers will lessen the attractiveness to the UK of EU nationals coming here simply to enjoy our Welfare system. The UK will never be part of a passport-free area and will never give up control of its own borders.

Economy

The Treasury and others forecast that Brexit would threaten jobs (even whole industries), reduce household incomes, increase prices, lead to inflation, reduce tax revenue, increase interest rates, threaten inward investment, etc. The value of sterling would sink. It would be a catastrophe for the City's pre-eminence as a world banking and financial centre, and the world would withdraw its money.

Currency

Sterling is a strong independent currency, and is now protected. Whatever happens to the euro and the Eurozone, the UK will not be called on to bail it out. UK companies will never be required to locate inside the Eurozone in order to trade in its currency.

Trade

The EU is the world's largest free-trade single market. We have free access to it, and nearly half of our exports go there. If we left we don't know what terms we could negotiate to continue to trade. At best they wouldn't be as good as we now enjoy. This could be very dangerous.

Rules and Regulations

While true that the EU is probably over-regulated, it is for the good of everyone and it's a level playing field – every member state has to apply the same rules in the same way. The EU has now committed to reduce the burden of regulation, especially on business.

Competitiveness

It's recognised that the EU needs to be more competitive; competitiveness is now 'an essential objective of the Union'; imminent full completion of the single markets in services and capital will help the UK.

Democracy

The EU is composed of 28 free fully democratic states with their own parliaments and their own members of the European Parliament. Members' civil servants, Ministers and government leaders meet regularly to thrash out decisions on all important matters, and the UK often takes a leadership role in this. The EU dream of a European superstate is fading, and the UK now has agreement that it will never be part of European political integration. There are now new agreements that powers should be returned to member states where possible.

Imported Crime & Terrorism

As a member of the EU, the UK is able to share law-enforcement intelligence with all the 27 other countries; in Brexit we may lose that. The UK now has new powers to stop criminals and fraudsters entering the UK from the EU.

Foreign Policy & Defence

Outside the EU we would have very little influence and would be and be seen to be a second rate power. Brexit would increase the risk of war in Europe by breaking up our united opposition to hostile forces, including Russia. We have opted out of any plans to merge the UK's armed and police forces into centralised European forces.

The Wider Picture

There IS simmering discontent in nations right across the EU, and particularly in the Eurozone. The UK has a substantial international responsibility to help solve the causes of this where it can. A Brexit might well lead to unforeseen and very bad consequences, adding fuel to the ambitions of the hard-nosed nationalistic and authoritarian parties that are already gaining ground. It might even lead to the breaking up of the EU as we know it, and this would be seen as a terrible blunder and the UK would be bitterly blamed for this. The Leave supporters see the UK leading a kind of pan-European patriotic spring, with countries throwing off the supposed 'heavy yoke' of the EU and getting back to an EFTA-like association of free-trade self-governing democracies, but they have no idea what the consequences of trying to do this would be.



The arguments for the opposite side are equally strong ...

The Referendum arguments for Leave the EU (Brexit)

As I understand it, the basis for the case for Leave is that the EU has evolved to become a ponderous, grossly undemocratic, increasingly uncompetitive and wasteful 'super-state' effectively run by a remote self-selecting cabal of over-compensated under-qualified placemen, whose decisions are effectively controlled from Germany and whose aim through massive regulation is continuously to reduce national sovereignty and drive for total integration. Leaving the EU would allow the optimists, the visionaries, the creators to build a much better long-term future for the UK.

Immigration

The UK has received over 2 million EU migrants in the past 5 years, and the number is rising by 300,000 per year. This is undoubtedly too many for our needs and resources (NHS, schools, housing, energy, etc). We must take back control of our borders, be selective about who we let in and control the numbers. Six more countries are now candidates to join the EU, including Turkey and Albania, which will lead to tens of millions more potential migrants.

Economy

Most of the institutions which have produced the highly negative forecasts have been consistently wrong in the past, failing to predict everything from the end of inflation to the 2008 financial crisis, and recommending everything that was

and would have been disastrous (ERM, Euro, selling ½ of our gold reserves at the bottom of the market, etc). The forecasts are based on modelling formulae relying on associations of past data and cannot and do not predict the effects of Brexit. These people are once again the victims of 'group-think'. Other authoritative forecasts predict a possible short-term downturn leading to an increase of GDP of 4% and a reduction in consumer prices by up to 8%. Brexit would not be a catastrophe for the City and the UK's international banking and financial sector; its huge global presence and unrivalled depth of financial skills, knowledge and experience will allow it to change, adjust and - free of burdensome over-regulation - to grow and expand. There will of course be a net £8-£10 billion that we no longer have to contribute to the EU.

Currency

The value of Sterling would decline after Brexit; if sustained, this would be of great benefit to our exporters. Many advanced countries are trying to reduce the attractiveness of their currencies (negative interest rates, etc). After the initial uncertainty, currency markets would mostly recover; they always do.

Trade

The UK is the EU's single biggest export customer – worth £291 billion/year. On this measure it potentially needs our market more than we need its. The value of the UK's trade with the rest of the EU is declining year on year – 62% in 2006, 44% last year. The Brexit fall-back position is that on Exit we re-join EFTA or that we start trading, like most of the rest of the world, under World Trade Organisation rules, that is more or less free trade (with a few specific tariff barriers), removing the import tariffs levied under the EU Customs Union and reducing prices generally. This is how most countries in the world trade with each other.

Rules & Regulations

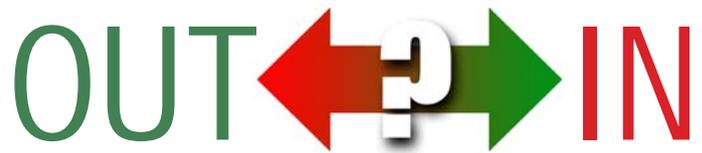
In a substantial way, the EU exists to regulate. It's a deluge, and each regulation must be translated into 24 official languages and enacted in 28 countries. Depending on definitions, for us this body of legislation consists of 49,699 exclusively 'EU' regulations and 4,532 UK measures which implement EU directives; we are being told what we must do on an hourly and daily basis. Many of these rules come at a high cost, and careful calculation indicates that the cost outweighs the benefit in many cases.

Competitiveness

The EU is low on innovation, on productivity and on growth, and it's getting worse. In 1975 the EU accounted for 36% of the world economy; today it is 24% and in 2024 it will be 14%. Only 6% of UK businesses export directly to the EU, yet the other 94% have to comply with its myriad of very burdensome rules.

Democracy

The dominating influences in Brussels are an elite of powerful international civil servants, lobbyists and big business people, all effectively accountable to no-one – it's a centralised unelected bureaucracy. These people's decisions affect our daily lives, and we can't get rid of them; we don't even know who they are. The only people we democratically elect are the 73 UK members of the European Parliament, a body which trundles meaninglessly between Brussels and Strasbourg, which has no legislative initiative and which operates in consensus blocks.



Imported Crime & Terrorism

It's been said authoritatively that the UK's membership of the EU 'prevents the most elementary precautions that need to be put in place' to combat rising levels of organised crime; there is no agreement about how much Brexit would affect this - it may depend on how much 'free movement' was negotiated. What we know is that the EU is awash with criminal gangs and imported terrorists, and that they are making life extremely difficult for security services everywhere. Full control of our borders will be of great help in keeping these people out.

Foreign Policy & Defence

The EU has not shone in any area of foreign policy, and it now wants to formulate a common foreign and defence policy, and that includes replacing the UK and France on the UN Security Council with an EU seat. Outside the EU the UK would once again have diplomatic autonomy. Membership of the EU does not ultimately ensure our security; only NATO, backed by the power of the USA and reinforced by our own armed forces, does that. We have substantial influence in the world, through our membership of the G20, the G7 & G8, through the Commonwealth, through our economic strength and through our huge network of cross-country links and membership of global bodies. Outside the EU these will be very relevant; inside the EU they aren't really.

Agriculture

This accounts for 30% of the direct and 9% of the indirect EU budget, and is effectively controlled by France. The EU is not really interested in how much food farmers produce, and this is all wrong.



Kildare concludes ...

So, we must weigh up the fors and againsts, the costs and benefits, the representations and misrepresentations, and we must think about it and vote of June 23rd. Good luck!

IN ← ? → OUT

Stephan Gutzeit is a German visitor to North Aston, having lived in the village for the last 15 months. Kildare invited Stephan to offer his thoughts on the Referendum

On my way to Birmingham International today, I learned about a Bavarian Bierfest in Banbury, complete with an Oompha Band and catering by *BestWurst*. I boarded a crosscountry train, owned by *Deutsche Bahn*. At the airport, I relaxed in the Aspire lounge, run by swissport. No doubt in Berlin tomorrow, I'll run into British tourists. Many will enjoy German beer while there, significantly cheaper than the ale back home. Indeed if beer, known as *fluessig brot*, or liquid bread, were taxed as heavily in Germany as it is here, not only would easyJet lose significant business — Angela Merkel would be out within a month.

Do these observations imply that the referendum is an anachronism? That history is marching on, towards ever more internationalisation? That, were the British to *brexit*, European history would simply proceed without you? It might even march on in English — the ABBA English long ago pioneered by the eponymous pop band from up north.

This is certainly what most educated Germans believe. I recall exactly one pro-Brexit piece in a national newspaper: An interview with Bavarian-born Gisela Stuart, MP. The *wirtschaftswunder*, or economic miracle, proved so welcome a contrast to Nazi nationalism, in retrospect, that future Germans grew up believing sovereignty, or living traditions, do not matter any longer. A deeper reason is the conviction, expressed by countless German philosophers, that history ought to know only one direction — towards ever more rationalisation. Against this background, dissenters are spoilsports. Indeed this is how your PM's renegotiations were covered in German media: Here the British go again, for an *extrawurst*. (If you are unsure how extra sausages play in Germany, compare "coming in from outside" over here.)

For enlightenment, we might turn to a Central European who settled in Oxford: Sir Isaiah Berlin. He argued that economists, utilitarians, and many intellectuals are mistaken when they believe everything humans value can be calculated along a single scale. Not so: Values like prosperity and sovereignty are incommensurable: If you believe in self-governance, no increase in wealth can compensate you for

North Aston Gardening Club

I've been busy up at the allotment battling rabbits and weeds, both of which appear to be enjoying the breezy sunny days we've had of late. The arrival of summer suggests that gardening club members should start planning for our annual Flower & Produce Show (scheduled for Saturday August 27th).

A promotional poster for 'Bavarian Bierfest Banbury'. The top half features the text 'Bavarian Bierfest' in a blue, arched, decorative font, with 'Banbury' in a large, red, gothic-style font below it. In the center, there are two glasses of beer with pretzels. Below the text, it says 'Bavarian style, fun, food and bier with linked arm swaying and rhythmic bier stein banging to music provided by The Oompha Band'. Further down, it lists 'Lashings of genuine German food by BestWurst', 'The Bier sourced from Munich and served in Steins', and 'Join in the fun - Bavarian attire welcomed.' The ticket price is '£25.00 per ticket for food & entertainment (Bier not included)'. Tickets are available from <http://ow.ly/10q8Gv> and the contact number is 'Call Chris: 07770 962439'. The bottom of the poster shows a row of beer glasses.

its absence. But if such pluralism is true about values, it must hold for history, too: There is no one predetermined path. We get to shape where we want history to go.

I was impressed by Michael Gove's argument that Brexit might be the best option for everyone: It might liberate the Continent, too, from the monomaniacs in Brussels. Can we be certain that this would happen? Shakespeare, unlike Mr. Juncker, understands the uncertainty of human affairs: None of us can "look into the seeds of time, and say which grain will grow and which will not." But we do know that, in Blake's words, "without contraries is no progression": Universalism does not lack thoughtful supporters in Europe — it is mainstream. Thoughtful particularism (not populism), defending "little platoons" everywhere, is missing for balance. Sometimes some people must "stand athwart history, yelling Stop". William F. Buckley succeeded in this (with a little help from Ronald and Margaret). Therefore this *kibitzer* is silently cheering on the thoughtful Brexiters.
Stephan Gutzeit

We will be meeting to discuss and finalise the F&P schedule at our next meeting, which is at 8pm on Friday 3rd of June, kindly hosted and Chris and David Hazle. Please come along with any suggestions you may have for the F&PS.

Also on the cards for discussion is a NAGC *Summer Day Out* to visit one of the many grand gardens in our corner of the world (Hidcote in Chipping Campden has been suggested).

I hope to see some of you at the meeting, and in the meantime, Happy Gardening.

Lynn



The Church MATTERS



I love the summer!

A bit of sunshine makes us all feel that bit brighter, don't you think? Everyone smiles, everyone gets out a bit more, everyone enjoys the longer evenings and forgets the rain and the cold and the snow - of April.

Our Family Service in June comes on June 12th, and always brings a bit of spiritual sunshine. This service isn't just for children, it's for all the family, for folk of every age, whether you come with your own family or simply to be part of God's family. And this month that weekend in June sees a very special celebration as all over the country people will be celebrating the 90th Birthday of the Queen as head of our national family.

The Family Service at 9.30am will mark this; and I know that we in North Aston are thinking of holding a village event to celebrate the Queen's birthday in July, but Steeple are holding their Big Lunch on June 12th and I am sure that if anyone wants to come and join in, they'd be very welcome. Hopefully it will be in the churchyard, with everyone enjoying the sunshine and sharing food together. Straight after the Steeple church service. Drinks provided. If it snows again, we'll all go into the church...

Family is a really good way of understanding the church. We all belong; even though we may not all agree, and from time to time we clear off into our own rooms and put on our own music rather loudly (to annoy each other), we still all belong. There is a bond of love that binds us which is hard to explain. It comes from Jesus, the Head of our family, who loves us more than we'll ever understand, and that's why we gather to worship Him week by week.

Please pray for our new PCC (parochial church council) who have been elected at Easter to look after the church over the year ahead. One of the most important things the new PCC will do is make decisions about the Building Project; speak to anyone on the PCC about this if you'd like your opinion to be heard.

There will be money to be raised for the project and hopefully all the designs will be sorted soon and we can look to having the work done as soon as we have sought permissions from all the heritage bodies that will require us to make sure everything is done properly and in very good order.

Within our church family we also have to say a huge thank you to Beryl Greenwood. Beryl is stepping down as our treasurer, and we are still looking for her replacement. She has been calm, efficient and thorough - and always prayerful, reminding us that whatever our needs, God is our provider. Thank you Beryl for all your hard work on our behalf - we are all very grateful.

And a quick note looking ahead to the end of July - we have a United Benefice Service (where all three parishes come together) on July 31st in North. I'm delighted to say that we will be welcoming back into our church family Revd Mark Clavier, my predecessor as Rector, for this service. Do come and make Mark very welcome as he returns to us!

Revd Marcus Green

Morning prayer is on the Thursday following the first Sunday of the month's services - this month it will be Thursday 9th June at 10am. More news can always be found at www.sntchurch.com



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: Richard Bailey, Kildare Bourke-Borrowes, Beryl Greenwood, Vicky Taylor, Jenny Martin, Ted Short, Jeremy Taylor and Norman West.

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.

Round-up of Local Crime

We have been sent a brief message that offers an insight into the level of crime currently prevalent in the Bicester area. It makes interesting reading

A trailer had its hitch lock tampered with in Blackthorn in an attempted theft. It is believed that the offenders may have been disturbed. Nothing was stolen.

Building materials were stolen from a building site in Caversfield. Approx £3K worth of fencing was stolen from a secure compound. A male who was stopped in Caversfield after a report made to police by a member of the public gave false details. As a result the male was given a Fixed Penalty Notice for wasting police time.

A warrant was executed under S23 Misuse of Drugs Act after reports were made to police about illegal activity occurring at an address in Caversfield. On entering the property three rooms were full of young and mature cannabis plants as well as three large containers of cannabis ready to be distributed. Two males have been arrested and interviewed and are currently on bail for production of cannabis.

Buckets from a digger were stolen from a Motocross track in Arcnott. Offenders gained access to the site via foot.

An attempted burglary occurred to a shed at an address in Fringford. Offenders attempted to force open the shed door but were unsuccessful. Forensic evidence was taken from the offence location and the investigation is still ongoing.

A vehicle was also damaged in Fringford, offenders had spray painted the vehicle in silver paint and had damaged all four tyres. Another car was damaged in Upper Heyford when offenders unknown threw stones at the vehicle as it drove by causing scratches on the bodywork.

Offenders entered a compound in Baynards Green and stole a whacker plate, two chainsaws and a generator. A trailer belonging to a lorry parked on the A43 near to Baynards Green was damaged by offenders and three pairs of brand new trainers were stolen. A vehicle parked in Wendlebury was also scratched overnight.

A vehicle was broken into in Ambrosden. Offenders had chiselled out the lock to the rear of the van and gained entry. A second van was also broken into and a large quantity of beer and soft drinks was stolen.

A vehicle parked in Launton was entered by offenders. A mobile phone that was in a cradle on the windscreen of the vehicle was stolen. A new fence that was installed at Stoke Woods was also damaged by offenders.

A house was burgled in Lower Heyford. Offenders gained entry to the property through the kitchen window but nothing was stolen. Some milk and Granola were also stolen from a doorstep in Chesterton.

A warrant was executed under S23 Misuse of Drugs Act after receiving intelligence from members of the public in Ardley. Approx 10 grams of a substance believed to be Cocaine was seized from the address with a quantity of cash.

On the basis of these reports, most of us should be able to sleep easy in our beds tonight - but be vigilant, and if you see anything suspicious, call TVP - Use the 999 number if it's a genuine emergency, otherwise dial 101.

Speedwatch

North Aston is not the only village with an active Speedwatch group. Below are the results of action taken in April.

1st April	Upper Heyford	1 speeding vehicle
5th April	North Aston	1 speeding vehicle
6th April	North Aston	2 speeding vehicles
7th April	North Aston	2 speeding vehicles
12th April	North Aston	1 Speeding vehicle
14th April	Ardley	4 Speeding vehicles
19th April	Upper Heyford	15 Speeding vehicles
27th April	Ardley	2 Speeding vehicles

It is interesting to note that the number of offending drivers reported in Upper Heyford is significantly higher than it is in North Aston ... where warning signs of "activity" are much more prominently displayed.

HMRC Scam

Last month we warned of bogus phone calls (and emails) purporting to be from HMRC, some concerning possible rebates on income tax payments or, occasionally, irregularities that need to be addressed . Well, within a couple of days we had a reported incident in North Aston.

This concerned one of the better-known scams, and one that is really so transparent as to be laughable, but still something to be wary of. In this instance the caller gave her name as Heather Gray and, despite an American accent, claimed to be a representative of HMRC. Where this approach differs from some of the others is the threatening nature of the content, with Ms Gray giving dire warnings of prosecution if her instructions are not followed to the letter. "You, or your retained lawyer, must call this number immediately", she says. The number starts with 0203, and then varies, although 1291409 and 1291027 are two that she's used. Failure to comply, she says, may result in the confiscation of goods, including your car, and could even result in a "visit from the police".

Needless to say, it's all a load of tosh. If you do receive one of these calls, just hang up. Similarly, if you get a call from someone claiming to be from BT and advising you that there's a fault with your computer ... even if you haven't got one ... then just ask him to go away, and tell him his mother was a hamster and his father smelt of elderberries! (That will test your capacity to recall film scripts!)

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.

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, or phone him direct on 07979 388066


ROSARA
www.rosara.co.uk



CHURCH SERVICES

PARISH WORSHIP IN JUNE-JULY 2016

NORTH ASTON

STEEPLE ASTON

TACKLEY

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**

Sunday June 12th - Third Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 am
Family Service
to Celebrate the
Queen's 90th Birthday
Revd Marcus Green

11:00 am
Family Service to Celebrate
the Queen's 90th Birthday,
followed by Big Lunch
Revd Marcus Green

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

Sunday June 19th - Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

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
Richard Bailey**

Sunday June 26th - Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 am
Morning Prayer
Revd Marcus Green

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

5:30 pm
Evensong
Canon Robin Gibbons

Sunday July 3rd - Sixth 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
Informal Service
and Baptism
Revd Marcus Green

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

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

North Aston News

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