

# NORTH ASTON

*NEWS*

September 2016

#311



Flower & Produce Show  
Results 2016

# NORTH ASTON NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2016, No:311

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### Old Bakery Bookings

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## The Chairman's Mark

Thank you to everyone who turned up to the Village Forum last month. It was good to get some feedback on the summer events. We did crack a bottle of wine or two but I'm not sure if it was a good idea, as the meeting ran on a bit. I think it may have to be coffee and cake next time!

### Harvest Lunch

It would be great to see some new faces at the Harvest Lunch. With this in mind, could I encourage regular attendees to invite a neighbour to come along with them? We have a wonderful venue, delicious main course made with ingredients produced on the farm and more puddings than you can shake a stick at. Children are welcome (no charge for under 12s) and there is a grassy area outside the barn where they can let off steam. Don't forget to bring your conker on a string!

Can I also remind everyone to book their place in advance, as per the deadline, otherwise we'll all be on half rations! For more details see the advert. Offers of help with the catering gratefully received.

### Traffic & Transport

Kildare and Chloe continue to work hard on all our behalf at the Mid Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan Forum. The Traffic and Transport Working Group is now developing policies. Please see the proposals on Page 5. It is very important that the Group has feedback from as many people as possible on this topic, so please take the time to consider the proposals and give your comments to me, Kildare or Chloe as soon as possible.

### Flower & Produce

Congratulations to Lynn and everyone in the North Aston Gardening Club for hosting another excellent Flower & Produce Show. I'm sure they were heartened by the number of you who came out to admire and vote despite some grim weather. At one point the skies became so leaden that Chris had to shine a torch in order that voters could see the photography class! Well done to all the entrants.

Mark

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



August 2016

The winners of the December draw were:

First Prize (£10): A. Evans (#35)

Second Prize (£5): F. Potts (#100)



Please contact Norman (340368) for information about the 100 Club. Your chances of winning are far better than the Lottery!

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

### Traffic & Transport

A fortnight ago Mark has asked me to circulate a message about the MCNP Traffic and Transport Working Group via the North Aston mailing list, which I did - and thanks to those who have already responded. However, this is such an important matter that it has been decided to extend the deadline, and run the same appeal here in the *News*.

As I mentioned to those on the mailing list, I attempted to get something done about the crossroads at the Fox when I was Chair a few years back, and we did enjoy considerable support from all the neighbouring parish councils. We were trying to address two issues – the safety of the crossing, where there appears to be an accident of some kind almost monthly, and also the question of congestion. With the on-going development at Heyford Park, and busier traffic generally, it can only get worse.

At the time of our endeavours we met with determined resistance from Highways, whose ultimate response equated to ... until someone dies, we're not prepared to do anything.

Through the MCNP we now have the opportunity to do something positive. Please, even if you do nothing else relating to the MCNP, at least do this. Read the feature on Page 5, and please let your thoughts be known.

*Thanks, Marcus*

## This Month's BIRTHDAYS

Thea Busby  
Florence Busby  
Thomas Cunningham  
Don Davidson  
Camilla (née Durnin)  
Karen Hack (née Brown)  
Sam Hatzigeorgiou  
Clara Nicholson



and congratulations to  
**Peter & Jane Durnin**  
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.

## 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)

## 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 24th September and North Aston Organics will be there!

### 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).



This is a final appeal for this year's 100 Club. There is still a small handful of former participants who have yet to pay their subs for 2016, so if that includes you, please get in touch with Norman as soon as you can. However, we do need more members! If you'd like to take part in this fund-raiser for worthy village causes, please speak to Norman or call him on 340368. Your chances of winning really are far better than they are for the Lottery!

Thanks for your support.

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

# North Aston Village Forum

## Thursday 4th August 2016

The Forum is now an informal gathering at which members of the village can ... discuss matters that concern them, review recent happenings, plan future events, or simply have a chat. As such, official "minutes" are no longer taken, and lists of those attending are not published, but outline notes are kept for reference ...

### Feedback from the Fête

The Fête was considered to be a success with takings on a similar level to last year.

It was generally agreed that, for whatever reason, there seemed to be fewer children than previous years – despite it occurring before the school break up. Other events occurring on the same day included the Ardley Fête.

The games, especially those at the far end of the Green, seemed to struggle to attract customers. It was suggested that maybe ice cream sales could move down to that area to attract more people. Homemade sweets seemed much work for little return. Do we want more volunteers -could we maybe have a sweet-making evening some time before the Fête to make it less onerous and more fun? What about candy floss – can we hire a machine?

It was suggested to make it easier for our Japanese visitors we could print picture signs especially at the refreshments area so they can feel more confident in ordering food and drink.

Better waste bins needed for recycled and non-recycled waste. Maybe if anyone has spare wheelie bins – blue and green - that could be used on the day to make rubbish disposal easier.

Trays for the bar would help. Might we buy our own sets of cups and saucers, at present they are hired from the school (for £10).

The games are in need of a new home and caretaker. Perhaps the shed at the Bakery could become available for that purpose. Tony agreed to take on repair and maintenance of the Fête games. Would we like home-produced burgers for the BBQ? All good food for thought!

### Big Lunch

The idea of the Big Lunch is to bring the community together. In that respect, and for whatever reason, it never really seems to have taken off. More of a Micro Lunch – enjoyed none the less by those present.

It was decided not to have a Big Lunch next year but to try a village Rounders Game – suitable for all ages - followed by a BBQ.

### Mikron Theatre

There were at least ninety five people present and once again a great time was had by all.

The 3.00 pm performance seemed a success but there was little support for the Bar so it was decided not to bother with that next time. The Ice Cream sales were an absolute hit though.

It was decided that we would definitely like to invite Mikron back and to give better local promotion - especially to our friends and neighbours who might not know how good the Mikron really is.

### Harvest Lunch

The date for the Harvest Lunch this year is 2nd October.

It was noted that the elder statesmen and women of the village no longer attend the Harvest Lunch in force, and it was wondered whether there was anything that could be done to reverse this trend, such as offering transport.

It was also noted that there was not much chance to mingle once people had sat down and whether it might be nice to make people move around after first course.

Singing - enjoyable?? Also it was thought we should invite a neighbour who might not normally come – more the merrier!

### Notice Board

There seemed to have been some confusion over the making of the new Notice Board but the upshot was that Mark was going to now go ahead and get it made.

### Community Speed Watch

After a quiet spell the Speed Watch was in need of being invigorated. It was deemed to have definitely had a positive effect

on slowing drivers down. More volunteers please!!

The second speed monitor was due to be put up at the bottom end of the village. (Opposite Jericho gates)

### Hedges & Verges

It had been brought to the Chairman's attention that there were a number of hedges and verges through the village in need of trimming back, as they were creeping out into the road itself.

The Chairman read the latest press release from CDC regarding grass cutting. They are doing less than they did, and this is a problem on the main road. At the Fox Crossroads, Duns Tew have taken it upon themselves to pay a contractor to mow their side of the junction at a cost of £80 a time, to make sure it remains safe. However, the verge on the far side of the main road actually lies within the Parish of North Aston, and therefore Duns Tew wondered whether we might like to use their contractor to mow our side and share the costs.

In response, Clive Busby said he would be happy to cut *both* sides, subject to Duns Tew's agreement. This suggestion will be raised at the next Duns Tew PC Meeting, and a decision taken at the North Aston Village Forum in November.

### Any Other Business

The main drain from Old School House to the corner of The Green and on to the Old Post Office has been jetted and cleared, and should now be more effective.

### Next Meeting

The next Forum Meeting will be held on Thursday 3rd November, and the Village Meeting & AGM will take place on 5th Jan 2017.



**Saturday 17th September – 18:30 to 22:30  
@ Upper Heyford Airfield**

Celebrate Heyford's unobstructed views of the sky with accompanied Stargazing and an atmospheric open air cinema suitable for all the family.

The evening shall include:

**6.30 pm** - dinner by The Village Brasserie

**7.30 - 8.00 pm** Stargazing talk hosted by Chipping Norton Amateur Astronomy Group

**8.15 - 9.45 pm** - Open air cinema (To take part in the poll to choose the film for the evening by visiting the group's Facebook page - see below)

**9.45 - 10.15pm** - Accompanied Stargazing

**This event is ticketed - Price £3**

To get your ticket, visit [www.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk) and search for "Look to the Skies"

Visit the Facebook page for more information:  
<https://www.facebook.com/events/491216184401743/>

# North Aston Nature Notes

With Stephen Rees

The Olympics are all over now, but we have been setting our own world records down here in our corner of the village.

One morning about a fortnight ago Wendy counted 36 rabbits in Beesleys Close, the field that our bedroom looks over. That's mad! When they all ran in it made an amazing spectacle.

A week or so ago the farm cut the crop in Banbury Ground just below us. That evening, just before it got dark, we were sat down the bottom with our wine and there were nine foxes in the field all at the same time. The next night there were six, and every night since then there have always been two or sometimes three. They seem to walk a few paces, stop, eat something, then walk on a bit, stop and eat again, and I'm pretty sure they are after slugs.

We have come to recognise some of them individually now. There is one huge big old dog fox that comes in by the bottom gate every night, a really scraggy thin one, and a small one that walks past our chairs, right next to the fence, looks at us and just carries on walking. We know he is coming long before we see him, because the rabbits stand upright and thump their back legs on the ground to warn the other rabbits!



My friend Paul, who is the Farm Manager at Rousham Park, said he counted 13 kites sat together like a load of vultures in the middle of a field last week. I think the most I've ever seen at one time is seven. He tells me that they have also lost all of their koi carp and goldfish in the ornamental ponds at Rousham to the otters that come up from the river. That's a shame, as they were old stock fish; very big and lovely to see.

All the hawthorns are now heavy with berries and the blackberries down by us are ripe and ready to pick. In the mornings now when I walk Penny there is a beautiful mist hanging in the valley with just treetops standing out making for wonderful photo opportunities.

That's about my lot for this month, except to say we finally have had a few butterflies on our garden. I also saw a common blue out in the field - very pretty. We have had good fun in the evening with our bats; lots of Pipistrelles and a couple of larger ones. I'm not sure where they come from, but they aren't in my bat boxes, so I suspect they must live in our attic!

## Traffic & Transport Working Group

The MCNP Traffic & Transport Working Group is now developing policies which, after further discussion, will be incorporated into the Plan itself which, when accepted by the Inspector, will go forward to CDC and then get incorporated into our Local Plan, and become part of Planning Law.

Consideration is now being given to policies covering HGV traffic, other road traffic, cycle ways, train and bus. We now need to try to decide what our aspirations are on the following, and these should be reasonable, realistic and do-able to get through the inspection hurdles.

1. Somerton Road crossing A4260 at The Fox. This is one of four specific danger/pinch point areas in the Plan area being highlighted.
  - What, if anything, would we like to see happen here, to reduce the danger of this considerable hazard, in view of the steadily rising number of vehicles using it? Are traffic lights or a roundabout realistic? Both have been discussed in the past. Do you have other ideas, perhaps on the main road itself?
2. Speed control zones (all villages are being asked this). Would any of these appeal, or do you have other ideas:
  - A 40 mph zone right from Somerton Bridge all the way to the A4260 (except 30 mph (or less) in the village).
  - A 50 mph zone from Somerton Bridge up to say the Lodge, then a 40 mph zone through to the A4260 (except in the village).
  - A 20 mph restriction through the village in place of the 30 mph. I know that the Highways man we saw dismissed this as being unenforceable and unrealistic, but in all cases the fact that the MCNP would propose it through CDC would carry much more weight with OCC. OCC would probably want to charge for this new village restriction, price not known yet, but everything they do is surprisingly expensive.

The deadline for responses is now! Please take the time to give a response, as this is a very important area of concern for the village.

Mark, Village Chairman  
chair@north-aston.co.uk  
Telephone: (01869) 347806




**FLOWER & SHOW PRODUCE 2016**  
*Results*

**Section A: Vegetables & Fruit**

- 1 Oddest Shaped Vegetable**  
*Gold:* Bill Graham, *Silver:* Bill Graham, *Bronze:* Lynn Quek
- 2 Three Carrots**  
*Gold:* Geoff Rawnsley, *Silver:* Bill Graham, *Bronze:* Norman West
- 3 Three Potatoes**  
*Gold:* Trudy Busby, *Silver:* Bill Graham, *Bronze:* Norman West
- 4 Heaviest Onion (Tuffrey Cup)**  
*Gold:* Norman West, *Silver:* Bill Graham, *Bronze:* David Hazle
- 5 Three Onions**  
*Gold:* Stephen Rees, *Silver:* Norman West, *Bronze:* Bill Graham
- 6 Six Shallots**  
*Gold:* Lynn Quek, *Silver:* Norman West, *Bronze:* Stephen Rees
- 7 Three Beetroot**  
*Gold:* Trudy Busby, *Silver:* Geoff Rawnsley, *Bronze:* Lynn Quek
- 8 Three Courgettes**  
*Gold:* Lynn Quek, *Silver:* Annabel Bevan, *Bronze:* Kyle Hite
- 9 Longest Cucumber\***  
*Gold:* Steven Rees, *Silver:* Kyle Hite
- 10 Four Runner Beans**  
*Gold:* Jean Graham, *Silver:* Norman West, *Bronze:* Geoff Rawnsley
- 11 Longest Runner Bean\***  
*Gold:* Annabel Bevan, *Silver:* Deirdre Oakley, *Bronze:* Geoff Rawnsley
- 12 Four French Beans**  
*Gold:* Bill Graham, *Silver:* Lynn Quek, *Bronze:* Deirdre Oakley
- 13 Five Cherry Tomatoes**  
*Gold:* Jill Rawnsley, *Silver:* Kyle Hite, *Bronze:* Annabel Bevan
- 14 Four Tomatoes**  
*Gold:* Geoff Rawnsley, *Silver:* Lynn Quek, *Bronze:* Tuck Hatzigeorgiou
- 15 Mixed vegetables in a tray/trug or basket**  
*Gold:* Bill Graham, *Silver:* Steven Rees, *Bronze:* Lynn Quek
- 16 Three of a Kind of Other Vegetables**  
*Gold:* Bill Graham, *Silver:* Jean Graham, *Bronze:* Lynn Quek
- 17 Three Eating Apples**  
*Gold:* John & Elizabeth Harvey-Lee, *Silver:* Deirdre Oakley
- 18 Three Cooking Apples**  
*Gold:* Norman West, *Silver:* Chalce White
- 19 Six Soft Fruits**  
*Gold:* Jean Graham, *Silver:* Chris Hazle, *Bronze:* Lynn Quek
- 20 Spuds in a Tub**  
*Gold:* Deirdre Oakley, *Silver:* Stephen Rees, *Bronze:* David Hazle

**Section B: Plants & Flowers**

- 21 One Single Stem Rose**  
*Gold:* Jean Graham, *Silver:* Chris Hazle, *Bronze:* Jill Rawnsley
- 22 Single Spray of Roses**  
*Gold:* Tuck Hatzigeorgiou, *Silver:* Jean Graham, *Bronze:* Jill Rawnsley
- 23 Six Sweet Peas**  
*Gold:* Chris Hazle, *Silver:* Stephen Rees, *Bronze:* Jean Graham
- 24 Arrangement of 5 Blooms Picked from your Garden**  
*Gold:* Wendy Rees, *Silver:* Trudy Busby, *Bronze:* Annabel Bevan
- 25 Flowering Plant in a Pot**  
*Gold:* Deirdre Oakley, *Silver:* Chris Hazle
- 26 Geranium in Pot**  
*Gold:* Chris Hazle, *Silver:* Jill Rawnsley
- 27 Flower arrangement in an Unusual Receptacle**  
*Gold:* Lynn Quek, *Silver:* Stephen Rees, *Bronze:* Deirdre Oakley
- 28 Three Dahlias**  
*Gold:* Wendy Rees, *Silver:* Tony Rees, *Bronze:* Chalce White
- 29 Tallest Sunflower**  
*Gold:* Deirdre Oakley, *Silver:* Norman West, *Bronze:* Kyle Hite

**Section C: Cookery**

- 30 Jar of Jam**  
*Gold:* Lynn Quek, *Silver:* Jean Graham, *Bronze:* Chalce White
- 31 Jar of Chutney**  
*Gold:* Wendy Rees, *Silver:* Stephen Rees, *Bronze:* Jean Graham
- 32 Lemon Drizzle Cake**  
*Gold:* Chalce White, *Silver:* Lynn Quek, *Bronze:* Chris Hazle
- 33 Fruit Cake**  
*No entries*
- 34 Three Scones Plain/Fruit**  
*Gold:* Trudy Busby, *Silver:* Jean Graham
- 35 Savoury Flan or Quiche**  
*Gold:* Jean Graham, *Silver:* Chris Hazle
- 36 Men's Only Cake**  
*Gold:* David Hazle, *Silver:* Geoff Rawnsley
- 37 Women's Only Cake**  
*Gold:* Jean Graham, *Silver:* Annabel Bevan, *Bronze:* Wendy Rees and Chris Hazle
- 38 Six Bread Rolls**  
*Gold:* Chalce White
- 39 An Alcoholic Beverage from the Hedgerow**  
*Gold:* Jane Durnin, *Silver:* Wendy Rees, *Bronze:* Stephen Rees

**Section D: Photography, Arts & Crafts**

- 40 Something made from Recycled Materials**  
*Gold:* Stephen Rees, *Silver:* Bill Graham, *Bronze:* Wendy Rees
- 41 Collage of Plant Materials**  
*No entries*
- 42 A Limerick**  
*Gold:* Jane Durnin, *Silver:* Angie Hanna, *Bronze:* David Hazle
- 43 Photograph on the Subject of "The Four Seasons"**  
*Gold:* Lynn Quek, *Silver:* David Hazle, *Bronze:* Jane Durnin
- 44 Photograph on the Subject of "Red"**  
*Gold:* Chris Hazle, *Silver:* Annabel Bevan, *Bronze:* David Hazle

**Section E: For Children Under 8**

- 45 Four Cupcakes, Under 8s:**  
*Gold:* Evelyn Fuoco, *Silver:* Sebastian Fuoco, *Bronze:* William Fuoco
- 46 A Garden on a Plate, Under 8s:** *No entries*
- 47 A Painted Picture of a Monster, Under 8s:** *No entries*

**Section F: For Children Aged 8 - 16**

- 45 Four Cupcakes, Ages 8 - 16:**  
*Gold:* Chanel, *Silver:* Sophie, *Bronze:* Sophie B / Lauren / Kyle Hite
- 46 A Creature Made from Vegetables, Ages 8 - 16:**  
*Gold:* Kyle Hite
- 47 A Garden on a Plate, Ages 8 - 16:**  
*Gold:* Kyle Hite

**Best in Show**

Based upon classes with at least three entries or more:

*Rose Bowl Trophy for the Most First 'Growing' Prizes:*  
Bill Graham

*Cup for the Most Points (First Prizes) Overall:*  
Lynn Quek

*Tuffrey Challenge Trophy (for Heaviest Onion):*  
Norman West

*Junior Cup (for the Most Prizes by an Entrant under 16):*  
Kyle Hite

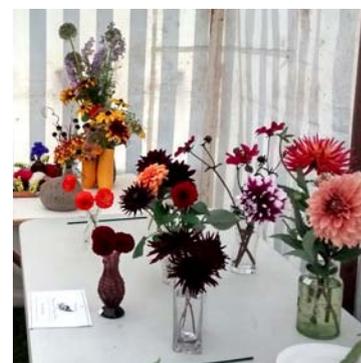
# North Aston Gardening Club

This year's F&P Show has proved one of the busiest we've had so far: 29 individuals submitted a over 250 entries.

Despite the heavens opening mid-afternoon, 66 people came along to vote for their favourite exhibits. In the true British spirit, punters were huddled under brollies on the green whilst having a cup of tea and a piece of cake in the midst of a thunderstorm. Although we were a bit down on cookery entries, the fruit, veg and flowers tent looked wonderful and we had a total of 30 photography entries (a total of 68 photos). It was a joy to see a surge in entries in the children's classes with lots of vegetable creatures and colourful cupcakes.

This year's show results are published in the newsletter. Kyle Hite is the first-ever winner of the Junior Cup, with two first, two second and three third prizes to his name. Evelyn Fuoco also deserves a special mention for coming first in two children's classes. Norman West takes the Tuffrey Cup home for growing the heaviest onion, weighing in at just under 1kg. Bill Graham and Lynn Quek received the Cups for having most First Prizes in growing classes, and most First Prizes overall respectively.

The Show takes quite a lot of organising: from setting out the schedule to taking down the marquees after the event. The (relatively) smooth running of the show is down to the teamwork of many helpers who come together in the week running up to the Show to get everything done in time.



I want to say a big 'Thank You' to all those who helped to set up the Show, provide refreshments, and those who were stewards and scorers on the day. It was also great to have so many volunteers gather on the Green on Thursday evening to put up the marquees: the extra hands really made it much easier this year. The enthusiastic support of exhibitors and our friends and families in all weathers had made the F&P Show a fixture in our village life. It is clear to me that the Show continues to be a success because we in North Aston enjoy coming together to celebrate all the horticultural, craft and culinary creativity in our little village.

The big question now is: what superlative vegetable do we need to grow for the Tuffrey Cup next year? Over to you Norman!

*Lynn*

Nether Cottage. Email: [lsquek@doctors.org.uk](mailto:lsquek@doctors.org.uk)

# North Aston Harvest Supper



## Lunchtime, Sunday 2nd October

Orchard Barn @ Nicholsons, The Park, North Aston  
12:30 for 1:00 pm

### *Usual format:*

Welcome Drink and Main Course provided ~ bring a Pudding to Share

Please bring all your own drinks, cutlery, crockery and glasses.

## All Welcome! Bring a neighbour!

'Tickets' on the Door, but Reservations Essential before September 24th  
Please book by leaving a message on 01869 347702

Price: £6 on the Door - Children under 12 Free

Please let us know if you have any special dietary requirements.

Any surplus money will be donated to Church funds

Volunteers needed to help with cooking. Please let us know when you book.

# RIDE + STRIDES

**Saturday 10th September 2016**

Help to preserve the history on your doorstep by taking part in a sponsored walk, cycle or horse ride around Oxfordshire's churches.

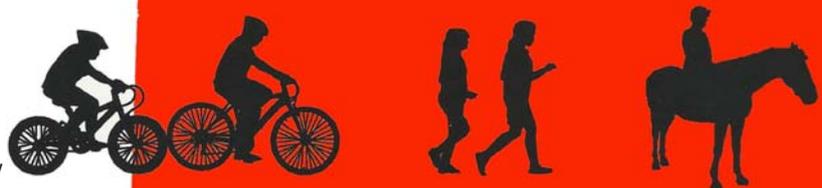
All funds raised go to the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust, and 50% can be passed on directly to a church of your choice, including our own parish church of St Mary's.

More information is available from:

Deirdre Oakley (340646) or  
Clive Busby (338434).

Please give them a call, or drop by to collect a Sponsorship Form.

Details: [www.ohct.org.uk/ride-stride/](http://www.ohct.org.uk/ride-stride/)



# Choral Music through the Ages

A concert to be given by the

**Cathedral Singers  
of Christchurch, Oxford**

At St Nicholas Church, Tackley  
Saturday 17 September 2016, 7.30 pm

(Interval Wine and Refreshments included)

Tickets £10 available from  
Tackley Village Shop or at the Church



Concert in aid of Church fabric funds

Congratulations to the Happy Couple  
**Olivia & Adam**



Married at Saint Mary's, Saturday 6th August.

## From North Aston to the Somme

This summer marks the 100th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme; a military offensive that lasted five months and resulted in the death or wounding of around a million British, French and German soldiers. It was one of the bloodiest battles in human history.

On July 1st 1916, during the opening onslaught, Rifleman Norman Sykes of the First Battalion, The Prince Consort's Own Brigade, perished. He was wounded in a dawn attack on the Quadrilateral Redoubt (Heiden Kopf) near Albert in Picardie. Reports suggest he was captured by German forces and, after a British retreat, was withdrawn to a dressing station behind enemy lines, where he died of his injuries. Norman was one among a total of 13,636 other ranks and 662 officers who died that day. He was just twenty years of age.



Norman was born in North Aston in February 1897, the son of Henry and Martha Sykes, who lived on Dane Hill. We have just one photograph of Norman in the archives, taken in around 1903, when he would have been about five or six (1 in the image). He volunteered to join the army in 1915 at the outbreak of war. Despite receiving the telegram advising the family of Norman's death, his mother Martha never believed it, and hoped for the rest of her life that one day he would return.

His body lies in Thistle Dump cemetery, High Wood near Longueval, roughly 25 kms north-east of Amiens. Unlike so many of his fellows who rest in unmarked graves or whose bodies were never found, Norman has a headstone. Today he is part-claimed by the people of Deddington, and a deputation visited the Somme in July to pay their respects to some of the 70 soldiers of the Parish who perished in the First World War.



If you are interested in the history of the Sykes family, we have been sent an electronic (PDF) version of a monograph written by John Sykes, who is the foster-son of Bessie May, wife of Bernard Sykes (2 in the photo), Norman's elder brother. It outlines the history of the family in great detail, and makes for fascinating reading. If you'd be interested to receive a copy, please email [info@north-aston.co.uk](mailto:info@north-aston.co.uk)

MP

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# Comment

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*In last month's issue of the NAN, Kildare Bourke-Borrowes contributed a piece in which he explained why he had voted Leave in June's EU Referendum. A surprising number of responses came through as a result and, with permission, I have selected the following for inclusion this month ...*

In response to Kildare's article on Brexit I am writing as one who voted *Remain*.

Whilst acknowledging his (and others) magnanimity in victory I would contest a number of his assertions. He said those who voted leave did so on a Principle and a Vision, a factor lacking in the thinking of *Remainers*. I disagree. Those in the *Remain* camp are often accused of being nervous of change and unsupportive/disrespectful of the British capabilities of entrepreneurship, creativity and inventiveness, in short, as Belloc wrote, we '*always keep a hold of nurse, for fear of finding something worse*'.

This could not be further from the truth. I voted *Remain* on a clear Principle and Vision that those seemingly representing *Remain* appeared nervous to articulate. The Remain Principle is that working closely together minimises the threat of armed conflict. Two horrendous World wars inside 25 years started in Europe followed by 70 years of peace is not a coincidence for me. The more nations talk, co-operate and debate the less likely conflict becomes. Thus, rather than betraying millions of British men and women who fought on European soil to defeat tyranny it looks to ensure similar numbers do not die in the future. How proud we can be that our people in 1939 did not abandon Europe but saw the importance of solidarity with our close neighbours.

The Remain Vision is for a European Union of shared goal of economic prosperity within a political framework. Not giving up the Pound, not propping up the Euro but being part of an Economic trading area that is already working well together, being part of a political area that supports workers' rights, enshrines the protection of the vulnerable, looks to invest in our regions and sees mutual prosperity as the route to peaceful co-existence. For many *Remainers* none of this is about 'giving up rights' to an unelected body it's about giving up a huge opportunity when we leave.

As a *Remainer* I can clearly see that that the EU is (like much of our Government) unwieldy, is imperfect, is sometimes silly; in short it has its problems but it is also a glorious opportunity for people from different cultures to co-operate, learn and thrive. Why do people like me fear that this will not continue if we leave? Many of us wishing to *Remain* are very concerned that it is not the reasoned voice of 'detachment whilst remaining close friends' that will prevail post Brexit but it will be those that are inward looking, intolerant and xenophobic. There were undoubtedly voices calling for leave that had distasteful motives and ambitions and it is these that I fear the most, not the potential for economic chaos.

So when we look back in years to come I hope we will still find our country a balanced welcoming environment where differing cultures, sexuality, religion etc. are tolerated and indeed welcomed and where we look to protect the rights of workers, the vulnerable and parents. I fear this may no longer be the case and I will for the time being reserve my right to be a *Remainer* and to campaign for a leaving settlement that

preserves much of what is good about our EU membership. Despite Mr Hague's suggestion, we are not all *Leavers* now as that would betray the hopes and ambitions of the 16 plus million people who voted to *Remain*.  
*Paul Martin*

The UK is coupled to the rest of Europe and the wider world. We cannot escape the fact that our actions have consequences in other parts of the world and we are dependent on the actions of others: in the age of international globalisation we need institutions like the EU more than ever.

The idea that that the EU regulations are manacles passed down from an unelected bureaucracy is as misguided as it is false. As a democratic system, the EU is one of the most proportional and representative, and large swathes of the UK would do well to remember that we are (or were) a significant part of that community and one of the 'big three' nations that have the most influence over the direction of EU policy.

Legislation is passed by the EU in much the same way as in consensus democracies such as Germany or Sweden, although there are additional measures to make sure that significant power is given to national governments (through the Council of Ministers) and is not just in the hands of the directly and proportionately elected European Parliament (to which the UK sends 79 MEPs).

Perhaps one reason why many people feel that regulations are handed down to them by the European Union is the lack of public knowledge of the working of the EU and the lack of media scrutiny. When compared to national governments the EU is possibly one of the most transparent institutions out there – the information is easily available, but people tend not to read it.

A further reason (and in my mind the biggest reason for the large amount of public opposition on principle to the EU) is that the EU operates on a different version of democracy, i.e. consensus democracy, from the UK.

The EU as a consensus democratic institution has proportional elections, a court to arbitrate Treaty disagreements, and most importantly a series of checks and balances which limits the power of the political executive (Commission) – holding it to democratic account.

One key myth is the idea that laws from the EU are passed by unelected bureaucrats – demonstrably false. The Commission proposes legislation based on direction from the European Council (heads of national governments), with the added boon that commissioners are appointed by national governments so legislation will have an extra care for national interests.

Legislation is then voted through via the co-decision procedure by both the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers – both of which are elected (although the Council of Ministers during national elections). Furthermore, the treaties to which all legislation must adhere, must be approved unanimously by the national heads of state and government, so the treaties which require a supermajority to change (over 60% of the European Parliament) must be unanimously approved by the European Council. Thus if the UK government is unhappy with the direction that the EU is taking then the treaties provide ample ground for preventing such a change in direction.

So in summary, the EU is one of the most democratic, accountable and transparent institutions (critics and fans alike would do well to read Arend Lijphart for more). The reality of the 21st century is that as our economies and societies become ever more interlinked our politics must reflect this.

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The ever-present danger of global warming is an excellent example: we need common policies to tackle this. The EU has had common policies on this for years and we would be naïve to think that there will be effective change without some regulatory body to hold governments to account.

I have steered clear of economic arguments on why we should have remained – mainly because there are neither the space nor the hours in the day, but the signs are there for those willing to look: we will suffer. *Archie Stay*

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I would like to respond to Kildare Bourke-Borrowes' article published in the August edition of the *North Aston News* regarding his views on Brexit.

Firstly, I cannot really understand why Kildare voted *Leave* at all, as he comments that it was done “*with great anxiety*”. He goes on to say that following the result of the vote there was a “*surge of joy followed immediately by a huge pang of trepidation*”. This suggests that he cast his vote without any great degree of conviction.

Kildare spells out the general view of many Brexiteers regarding what we can expect in the future. He states that “*the catastrophe that was widely forecast by ‘experts’ has not happened.*” Well, it hasn't happened yet (at least, not to the extent predicted) as we haven't actually left the EU, and no-one can predict what will happen when we do, as this could still be years away.

Having put some case for why he decided to vote *Leave* he then goes on to suggest that we don't know where we are heading and have no idea what disruption the result might cause. By voting to *Leave* the UK took a huge leap into the dark – similar perhaps to sending the troops ‘over the top’ during WWI, unaware of exactly what would happen to them but knowing that, for many, the outcome could not be favourable.

I would like to address one comment made with regard to sterling and interest rates. According to Kildare, exchange rates are still within recent historical ranges and interest rates are unchanged. Since his article was published things have altered significantly. This time last year it was possible to get 1.44 euros to the pound, yet at Stansted airport last week it was just 99 cents, and only two or three weeks ago the Bank of England reduced interest rates to a record low of 0.25%.

There seemed to be many contradictions in the article and it came across as someone trying hard to justify a vote to *Leave* but struggling to find convincing arguments. In common with many of those who are uncertain as to why they voted *Leave*, Kildare seems to have adopted a stance of “it'll be alright on the night”, but there's little yet to suggest that it will be.

*Franca Potts*

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Readers were invited to respond to Kildare's article on Brexit in the August edition. In my view, the *North Aston News* is not the appropriate place for individuals to put forward their own political views in the way that has been done in the article.

*Eve Rodgers*

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## Announcements

### Glasses Found

If anyone lost a pair of glasses at last month's Flower & Produce Show, or went home without a plate, then please contact Chris Hazle, who will be happy to reunite you.

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## From Thames Valley Police

*More timely warnings from TVP and Action Fraud ...*

### Police Scam

Thames Valley Police is warning residents in Cherwell & West Oxfordshire to be wary of unexpected telephone calls, claiming to be from banks or the police.

Recent calls of this type have been received by residents in the area, asking for cash payments. Please be vigilant and make sure that you never give out your bank details over the telephone. No-one from the police or banks etc will ever telephone to request bank transfers or the hand-over of cash.

### Don't be a Mule!

Students are among those being recruited, sometimes unwittingly, as “money mules” by criminals operating money laundering scams.

Fake jobs are advertised in newspapers and on the Internet, usually offering opportunities to make money quickly. These include posts on social media, direct emailing using genuine company websites to create an impression of legitimacy, sending mass emails offering employment, and targeting those who have posted their CVs on employment websites.

Students and those in full-time education are particularly susceptible, since the opportunity for making quick money can be very attractive. Money is accepted into the mule's bank account, followed by instructions of what to do with the funds, perhaps by transferring the money into a separate specified account or withdrawing the cash and forwarding it via money transfer companies like Western Union or MoneyGram. The mule is generally paid a small percentage of the funds as it passes through their account.

Money Laundering is a criminal offence which, if prosecuted, carries a maximum prison sentence of 14 years. Furthermore, it can lead to the mule being unable to obtain credit in the UK and prevented from holding a bank account.

Never give your bank account details to anyone that you do not trust. No legitimate company will ever ask you to use your own bank account to transfer their money, and don't accept any job offers that ask you to do this. Be wary of on-line offers that promise easy ways of earning quick money - if it seems too good to be true, it probably is.

### Droning On ...

Following on from last month's warning about the mis-use of drones comes a fresh warning from TVP about online shopping websites being utilised by fraudsters to advertise nonexistent drones at very competitive prices.

Capitalising on their popularity, fraudsters are advertising drones at a lower value than their recommended retail price to tempt buyers. After agreeing to a sale, the fraudsters request payment via bank transfer saying that it will quicken the delivery process. After transferring the money the buyers never receive the drone and the fraudster blocks the victim to prevent further conversation.

Always check the validity of any offer, use a secure online payment option such as PayPal, which helps to protect you, and check feedback online by searching the associated phone numbers or email addresses of the seller. If the item is offered well below market value, then it may be too good to be true.

Please report any incident to the police immediately on 101. 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).

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# The Church MATTERS



Watching the Olympics this Summer has been a wonderful and yet bizarre experience. There was a moment when Sir Bradley Wiggins won his 5th gold medal - and at his side suddenly appeared Sir Chris Hoy (6 gold medals) and Sir Steve Redgrave (5 gold medals). The big beasts of British Olympic sport. A few days later when Jason Kenny (no knighthood yet) won his 6th gold medal, at his side was only his fiancée, Laura Trott. But we live in an age where multiple British gold medal winners are commonplace. Max Whitlock won two in one afternoon...

For most of us, our life dreams don't come with medals attached, with crowds cheering, with anthems sung and cameras rolling. Mercifully, we don't all reach our goals in our twenties and then have to commentate on others as they follow behind us. Whether our hopes and dreams and ambitions are around our homes, our families, our work or our play, we spend our lives running without any particular finish-line in sight. If we're lucky we get those sunlit shafts of joy, those sometimes surprising moments of realisation that we have, actually, been blessed with more than we hoped for.



The writer to the Hebrews in the New Testament says: "Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us." He pictures a "great cloud of witnesses"; people like us, who know what we are feeling, who understand us and are somehow gathered around, cheering us on though we don't always see it, and argues that life - faith - is like a race. We start with hopes and dreams, but we can trip and fall by the wayside. Don't stay down when you fall. Let those around help. Let Jesus help. Look to him.

One of my moments of this Olympics came in a heat of the women's 5000m, when US athlete Abby D'Agostino and New Zealander Nikki Hamblin both tripped and fell two thirds of the way through their race. D'Agostino helped Hamblin up, but was injured; Hamblin started to run on and then, realising what had happened, turned back and helped her fellow athlete complete the race. They finished last and next to last - but were put through to the final anyway.

In life, in faith, we all secretly want handfuls of gold medals. Anthems. Cheering.

We all can be D'Agostino and Hamblin, finding that in life we fall over - but helping each other, we get up and carry on. I have a suspicion that this is what winning really looks like.

**Harvest:** Our Harvest Festival this year is coming up on October 2nd. The Harvest Festival Service is at 9.30am and the lunch will be later on the same day. It's always a terrific occasion, and I'm delighted how it has grown over the last couple of years. Please join us to celebrate! This year our collection at the Festival service will be given away to Mary's Meals, an amazing charity which feeds over a million schoolchildren a day in needy countries across the globe. Please be generous.

**Cathedral Singers of Christ Church Concert:** On September 17th in Tackley Church at 7.30pm - do join us in Tackley for an amazing evening of choral singing. Tickets £10 (including interval refreshments) from Tackley Church or Tackley Shop in advance, or at the door.

*Revd Marcus Green*

In addition to Sunday services, Bible Study happens in the Rectory most Mondays at 2pm and Morning Prayer is at 10am on Thursday Sept 8th: everyone welcome! More news is always available on our website: [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: [steplerector@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:steplerector@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.

# Councillor Calling



## Devolution – Where are we at?

While we all watched, transfixed, the stunning success of Team GB in Rio, life on Cherwell District Council proceeds at a more stately, but no less exciting, pace

The big news, indeed the only news of note, is that Devolution has been put firmly on the back burner.

For those who have forgotten, or never even consciously took on board, what Devolution is all about it is the concept that there are too many levels of Local Government in Oxfordshire and that these could usefully be reduced.

While there is pretty much unanimous agreement on that point, there is no agreement on what should be done about it nor what the eventual outcome should be.

Oxfordshire County Council adopted one stance – that it should be the sole level of Local Government in the County – while the 5 Districts\* adopted the diametrically opposite stance that the County Council should be abolished and that the Districts, organised as three Unitary Authorities – North, South and City - should, themselves, take over all the services currently provided by County.

Both sides commissioned Reports; Grant Thornton for OCC and Price Waterhouse Coopers for the Districts, to determine the optimum structure for Local Governance in Oxfordshire

and ... not in the least bit surprisingly each Report backed the side of the party which commissioned it.

Those who take more than a passing interest in these matters may recall talk about a tie-up between Cherwell and South Northamptonshire District Council. Indeed, there is already highly effective back-office shared working between the two Councils, which will continue, but a political tie-up was ruled inadmissible not because each was in a different County but because the resulting political body would have been served by two separate Police Forces. Ironically, a merger with a Buckinghamshire Council could be permitted (as we share Thames Valley Police) but this is not, and never has been, pursued as a serious idea.

As there was no agreement as between County and Districts on the basics of the way forward, although there were many commonalities in the findings of the two Reports, the whole idea has been “paused” until consensus, if any, emerges. In the meantime, Cherwell remains committed to seeking investment in housing and transport infrastructure and to improving skills training and developing the local economy and will continue to work with Oxfordshire County Council to develop a governance solution to be presented to the Government in the due course.

It is entirely understandable that the new Prime Minister, who has very many issues on her plate, not least the vexed question of how and when to deliver Brexit, has decided to relegate re-organisation of Oxfordshire governance away from the top of her list.

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\* The five Districts are: Cherwell, South Oxfordshire, Vale of White Horse, West Oxfordshire and City of Oxford.

For more information, visit <http://www.cherwell.gov.uk>

## Broadband into North Aston



It seems astonishing to think that contractors for BT Openreach have started digging the trench alongside the Somerton Road, into the village, which will bring through the cabling for our long-awaited (and much overdue) high speed fibre optic cable link with 21st Century technology.

As I write this I can hear the pneumatic drills of the Thames Water contractors doing much the same thing to improve the water supply to some North Aston properties. It is a regular source of amazement that the public services and utilities rarely speak to one another, and time after time, roads are dug up when, with a little co-operation, one trench could be used to perform several functions with minimised disruption. Well, this time they seem to have communicated!

In August we received clarification of a number of issues from Stephanie Payne of Harlequin Group, the company which carried out the preliminary survey work on behalf of Carillion Telent, the contractors for BT Openreach. She sent a photo-montage showing the location of the new DSLAM (Digital

Subscriber Line Access Multiplexer) cabinet. This will not be in exactly the same position as the current grey pillar Junction Box (JB), since this will remain to serve the conventional telephone system, but will be just along the road a few yards, and will source its power from the telegraph pole on the opposite side of the road. The DSLAM has yet to be installed, but we may not have to wait too much longer.

MP





# CHURCH SERVICES

## PARISH WORSHIP IN SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2016

NORTH ASTON

STEEPLE ASTON

TACKLEY

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### Sunday September 4th - Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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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**

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### Sunday September 11th - Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

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9:30 am  
Family Service  
**Revd Marcus Green**

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

5:30 pm  
Holy Communion  
**Revd Marcus Green**

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### Sunday September 18th - Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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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**

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### Sunday September 25th - Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

11:00 am  
*Harvest Festival*  
**Revd Marcus Green**

5:30 pm  
*Harvest Festival*  
**Revd Marcus Green and  
Canon Robin Gibbons**

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### Sunday October 2nd - Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

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9:30 am  
*Harvest Festival*  
**Revd Marcus Green**

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

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

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Families are welcome to **all** Sunday services.  
Visit the Benefice Website for further information [www.sntchurch.com](http://www.sntchurch.com)

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### North Aston News

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