

NORTH ASTON

NEWS

January 2017

#315



HAPPY NEW YEAR

NORTH ASTON NEWS

JANUARY 2017, No:315

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Out of Hours Doctor: 08453 458 995

The Chairman's Mark

Christmas Carols ... One

Thank you everyone who helped make Carols On The Green a great success - as good as it has ever been, I thought. £110.00 was raised for Médecins Sans Frontières for their work in Syria.

Christmas Carols ... Two

The Carol Singers (who visited every home in the parish on either Sunday 18th or Monday 19th December) collected a further £305.00 for MSE, Gatehouse and Homestart.

I am constantly amazed by how generous everyone is when you consider there are only around 70 houses in the village and not everyone was in. Thanks also to all those who helped keep the vocal cords well oiled. Finally, I have to admit that we didn't make it down the Middle Aston Lane this year due to time constraints.

Village Meeting & AGM

Please do try and attend the Village Meeting AGM on Thursday 12th January (apologies for giving you the wrong date in last month's edition). Apart from the usual AGM stuff we will be looking at events for the year ahead.

An Engagement ...

Just as important is The Village Community Engagement meeting on Wednesday 25th January. This is probably your last chance to comment on The Mid-Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan. A lot of time and effort from Chloe, Kildare and forum members from other villages has gone into this process, so please do come along and make it worthwhile.

Mark

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

Village Meeting & AGM

January 12th 2017

The Old Bakery from 7:30 pm

The first and only Village Meeting of 2017 (and thereby, also the AGM) takes place on Thursday 12th January. Under the new structure of the Village Meeting, this is the only formal gathering of the year, and will be the sole opportunity for residents to voice their thoughts and opinions on 'official' village matters. This includes the setting of the annual Precept and the election of Officers. Subjects on the Agenda include:

- Election of Officers
- Treasurer's Report and Setting the Precept
- Update on the Mid-Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan
- Broadband - a report on (lack of) progress
- The Village Notice Board
- Feedback on Christmas (Wassail, Carols on the Green, Gifts etc).
- Major events planned for 2017 - including setting a date for the Fête and Mikron's return visit
- The future of the North Aston 100 Club and setting a date for the next Forum Meeting

This Month's BIRTHDAYS

Kyle Hite (19th)
Lisa Honess (31st)



Many Happy Returns to all the North Aston residents who celebrate birthdays this month. If you're not listed, or know someone who should be, please let us know.

There They Went A-Wassailing

The North Aston Carol Singers performed their traditional house-by-house Christmas Wassail over the two days of 18th and 19th December.

The weather was kind, and so was the reception. A huge thankyou to everyone who donated so generously and offered sustenance along the way. Apologies to those on the Middle Aston Lane, who missed out due to constraints of time, and also to anyone else who was 'out' when the Singers called.

A total of £305 was collected "on the day" and has been split between *Médecins Sans Frontières* and two local charities; *The Gatehouse* (for the homeless in Oxford) and *Homestart* (Helping young families in Banbury). Anyone who would like to add to this can contact Mark Stay on 347806.



The winners of the December draw were:

First Prize (£10): Val Short (#27)

Second Prize (£5): W Rees (#43)



You see this notice every month, but do you ever wonder what it's all about? If you've never joined the 100 Club, then what's stopping you? You can watch as others win, but it could have been you! In a few months it will be time to start again, and if you'd like to support this worthy cause, then please contact Norman (340368) for further information. Your chances of winning are better than the Lottery!

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

Announcements

Deddington Farmers' Market

The traditional Farmers' Market in Deddington takes place in the market square every 4th Saturday of the month, and in January will be staged on the 28th. As usual our own North Aston Organics will have a stall, so please do support them.

Happy Birthday Kyle!

With best wishes to Kyle for a very Happy 11th Birthday on 19th January. With love Mummy & Daddy.

Stamps for Katherine House Hospice

Please don't forget to pass on your stamps (and foil) to Deirdre Oakley for Katherine House Hospice. Call her on 340646 for more information, or to arrange collection.

Christmas Gifts

On behalf of all the older residents, Norman West would like to say thankyou for the gifts distributed 'to those of a certain age' this Christmas by the Parish Fund. Various gifts were handed out and much appreciated by all who received them.

Lost and Found

Has anyone lost a scarf / shawl, patterned in dark brownish colours, found in a field adjoining Danehill Farm? If so, please contact Clive Busby tel. 338434

NorthAston  MidCherwell
Neighbourhood Plan Forum

Village Community Engagement Meeting

The Orchard Barn, Nicholsons
Wednesday Jan 25th @7:00 pm

The Neighbourhood Plan Forum has now developed the proposed Policies and the separate Community Action Plan proposals to the stage where these can be presented to our third and probably final public Meetings.

These will be taking place across the Mid-Cherwell area in the coming weeks, and ours will be held at 7pm on Wednesday January 25th at Nicholsons Orchard Barn. In the next few days every house in the village will receive a leaflet about the Meeting and information about the Plan.

This will be everybody's chance to examine the content of the Plan in detail, and make comments and suggestions. Those will be considered at the subsequent review before the Plan is finalised and formally submitted for formal consultation and then submission.

So – please COME TO THE MEETING, join in and have your say. This is about US and our area's future.

Chloe and Kildare

For more information, visit: www.mid-cherwell.org.uk

You may also contact our Forum representatives:

Chloe. Tel: 340358

email: cewoodhead@btinternet.com

Kildare. Tel: 340200

email: k.bourkeborrows@btinternet.com

From Thames Valley Police

This month's updates and information:

Fake Bank Letters

With everyone wising-up to on-line fraud, crooks are looking for other ways to con people out of money. Lloyds customers should be on the lookout for a new sophisticated fraud that involves fraudsters sending fake bank letters.

The convincing letters use a replica template to Lloyds own, and include their logo, address and signature from a customer service representative. The letter tells recipients that there have been some "unusual transactions" on their personal account and asks them to call a number highlighted in bold to confirm they are genuine.

When victims respond, an automated welcome message is played asking for the caller to enter their card number, account number and sort code followed by their date of birth and the first and last digit of their security number.

The fraud was highlighted by the Daily Telegraph, who had been alerted to it by a reader who'd had three identical letters. The Daily Telegraph ran some tests using fake details and were passed to fraudsters who claimed to be from a Lloyds support centre. The bank has confirmed that the phone number and letters are fake.

The letters are essentially a sophisticated phishing attempt and serves as a warning to consumers to question written correspondence from their banks as well as emails.

If you are ever suspicious about correspondence from your bank you should call the customer services number on the back of your debit or credit card.



NORTH ASTON ORGANICS

Vegetable Stall

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

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



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

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

NICHOLSONS

Cleaner Required 1½ Hours Daily, Mon-Sat

From February a cleaner will be required for 1.5 hours each morning in the Yurt café at Nicholson's, between 7:30 am and 9:00 am, Monday to Saturday.

Does anyone know of someone this part-time role would suit?

Applications to: Rachel@nicholsonsgb.com
Telephone: 01869 340342

Motorway Services Thefts

Following a spate of thefts, TVP issued a warning that drivers using motorway services stations, particularly those on the M4, should beware of thieves using technology to prevent people locking their vehicles and then stealing from them.

Make a manual check that doors are properly locked before leaving your vehicle. Police are also appealing for anyone who may have any dashcam footage after visiting the following:

Chieveley Moto Services (M4, J13), November 24th to December 1st. Vans, lorries and cars were entered and items including tools, a suitcase and laptop taken.

Reading Moto Services (M4 J11-12), November 26th to 28th. Various cars accessed and items of luggage stolen.

Membury Welcome Break (M4 J14 -15). November 24th to 26th. Land Rovers, a Mercedes and a Renault were accessed and luggage, wallets and cash stolen.

Alan Hawckett of Newbury Police said: "I strongly recommend that anyone visiting motorway services keeps all valuable items in their possession when away from their vehicle. I'm appealing to those with car dash cameras who may have been at any of these service stations on these dates to contact me, in case they captured an offence or offender on camera." Anyone with information is asked to call 101 using ref 409 27/11/2016 or email alan.hawckett@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk.

Barclays Credit Limit Scam

Fraudsters will do anything to gain your confidence, and access to your account details.

Barclays customers with credit cards are warned of an email now doing the rounds that advises the account holder that the bank is very generously "in the process of increasing your credit limit by £750 (or more), but would like you to confirm you agree with this decision." Customers are requested to click a link in order to respond to the offer, but this does not connect with the bank's own website, but with a mirror, where account holders are deceived into supplying their card details in order to confirm or reject the supposed limit increase.

As always, double-check the destination of any links before clicking them by hovering your cursor over the link and viewing the source code. You can also review the true sender of an email by checking the DNS of the email - a bit tekky, but a helpful double-check if you know how to do it using the email's Properties and Return Path data.

To report a fraud and cyber crime, call Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or visit http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/report_fraud.



The Church MATTERS



Are you any good at New Year Resolutions?

In one of my previous parishes, I popped into the shop one day. In front of me was a gaggle of elderly busybodies, gossiping about life and being pretty miserable about one or two folk I knew. I said nothing as I waited to buy a Mars Bar.

When they'd gone, Clare, who ran the shop, looked at me and said: "When I'm old, will I be like that, Marcus?" I thought for a moment and replied: "I think that when we are old, we are exactly like what we were when we were young - but more so." Clare paused. "I'm not sure I like that," she said.

One of my most frequent prayers is - "Lord, make me a nice person today." And sometimes he does. Of course, he may try to do so more often, but I don't work with him all the time.

The thing is, I'm no good at New Year Resolutions, because like most people I fail occasionally. And then what? (I can spend ten pounds far faster than I can lose ten pounds, but my scales tell me it's the latter I need to focus on. Bother, gained again...)

So fresh from the Christmas rush I come back to Jesus. I don't need more lights and presents and gifts and food - but I do need Jesus. Resolutions don't do it for me. But Jesus does - because even when I ignore him, after praying "make me a nice person", he doesn't give up trying. He doesn't give up on me.

He doesn't give up on us.

Christmas isn't just for Christmas, it seems. He isn't just "born today" once a year. He comes to us whenever we stop, pray, say sorry for our mistakes, ask for his help, and throw out the odd *thank you* too.



The New Year follows Christmas because, with the promise of God coming to live amongst us comes the possibility of life being constantly new. Renewed. Changed. And it's not a one-off resolution that fails the moment we break it - because it's not about us summoning up the spiritual stamina to be nice. It's about Jesus coming to live in us and making all the difference in the world.

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given. And given again. And given to whoever asks, however often they ask. If we ask for his love, his presence, Him, now in our hearts - he will come.

So as I look forward from the remains of 2016. I don't know what the future holds, but I know who holds the future; and I wish everyone a happy, joyful and Jesus-filled 2017.

Revd Marcus Green

Midweek Prayer is on Thursday Jan 5th at 10am; and Bible Study happens most Mondays at the Rectory at 2pm. More news is always available on our website: 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.

Councillor Calling

Cherwell
DISTRICT COUNCIL
NORTH OXFORDSHIRE

January Update

I hope everyone had an enjoyable and relaxing Christmas break, although I'm sure Christmas often proves to be the most stressful of any holiday period during the year, certainly not the least stressful. Anyway, I hope it was enjoyable nonetheless and may 2017 bring good health, happiness and continued good cheer to the parishioners of North Aston.

I'm afraid there's little to report upon since our last update in December, the main points being that the Bloxham Neighbourhood Plan was adopted at CDC's Full Council meeting in December.

Cherwell District Council has also proposed to set up a Cherwell Lottery which will provide discretionary support to voluntary and community organisations active in Cherwell. The lottery will be operated by an External Lottery Manager (ELM) that will share the risk with CDC.

Residents will also be glad to hear that CDC's proportion of the Council Tax will remain the same for a successive eighth year with no increase despite maintaining the same level of service within the district. There will also be Free Parking in all CDC owned car parks 'Free after Three' during January 2017, something which the district council is keen to promote in order to encourage more trade within our high streets and town centres.

We still await further information regarding the Local Plan Part 2 where CDC will announce how many dwellings are to be allocated to rural villages and parishes, this has been further delayed due to the complex nature of the work involved. As soon as I have any further information you'll be the first to hear. In the meantime I wish you all a very Happy New Year and look forward to attending the North Aston Parish Meeting on Thursday, January 12th.

Bryn Williams
Cherwell District Councillor, Deddington Ward
Telephone: 07836 271998
E-Mail: Bryn.Williams@Cherwell-DC.gov.uk



Comment

The North-South Divide

In the weeks running up to Christmas we had chance to do some shopping in several of the nearby towns and, in the process, noticed a significant correlation between the vitality of the respective town centres and local parking policy.

It wasn't a scientific survey, and I don't doubt there may be other factors contributing to the success - or otherwise - of high street shops, but our Councillor's comment (*left*) about Cherwell District Council's *Free After Three* initiative prompts two things ... a straightforward response, but aligned with that, the simple need to fill half a page in the *News*!

For personal reasons we've recently started visiting Witney on a regular basis, and what a revelation that has been! I had no idea that the town centre was so well served, not only by the ubiquitous brands that seem to dominate most towns these days, but also by quality independent shops, artisan stores, delicatessens and fashionable clothes outlets, many privately owned. It's clean and pleasant to walk around, and there's a vibrant, forward-thinking outlook.

We also found ourselves doing much of our pre-Christmas shopping either in Chipping Norton (where there's a sparkly new Aldi as well as the best Co-op in the region) or Bicester (with its much regenerated centre, attractive range of shops, supermarkets and restaurants, and cosy new cinema).

We no longer shop in Oxford - we can't afford the hassle, or the parking fees, but by default, probably because it's easiest to get to and our banks are sited there, we are required on occasion to go to Banbury. Sadly, I find it hard to enthuse about any aspect of the town that's been my "local centre" virtually all my life. Some of the satellite retail parks are useful and well-served by major brands, with big stores and plenty of parking, but the town centre never fails to disappoint.

I found myself in deep water about forty years ago when I was commissioned to write a guide book to the Oxford Canal, and (in all honesty) advised most boaters to sail on by, giving Banbury a miss. I was banned from The Unicorn (now closed!) as a result. The passage of time has not been any kinder to Banbury, and it remains dominated by pound stores, charity shops and white-washed windows. I can recall the market from my youth as having a bustling, noisy, almost exciting atmosphere, but no more. It's now hardly worthy of the name, and I feel sorry for those few traders who still brave the long hours and winter chill to keep it going. They deserve better.

Why is Banbury so down on its luck, and what makes Oxford a last resort for shoppers like us? By contrast, why is it so much easier to head east or west towards the heady delights of Witney, Chipping Norton and Bicester? I'd suggest two very obvious reasons; ease of access and parking charges.

Parking in Witney is free. There is a massive multi-storey car park, right at the heart of the town, and you can leave your car there while you wander round the shops ... for nothing. Parking in Bicester is free - at least for the first two hours if you use Pioneer Square. Most parking in Chippy is free, and even Brackley (with Waitrose and some decent High Street shops) offers easy parking, for free.

If CDC is truly keen to promote, encourage and rejuvenate Banbury's town centre, then *Free After Three* is simply not enough. It has to be free all day, every day.

Marcus



CHURCH SERVICES

PARISH WORSHIP IN JANUARY - FEBRUARY

NORTH ASTON

STEEPLE ASTON

TACKLEY

Sunday January 1st 2017 - The Holy Name

No Service

11am Holy Communion
Revd Marcus Green

No Service

Sunday January 8th 2017 - First Sunday after the Epiphany

9.30am Family
Epiphany Crib Service
Revd Marcus Green

11am Family Service
Revd Marcus Green

5.30pm Holy Communion
Revd Marcus Green and
Canon Robin Gibbons

Sunday January 15th 2017 - Second Sunday after the Epiphany

9.30am Holy
Communion
Revd Marcus Green

11am Holy Communion
Revd Marcus Green

5.30pm Evensong
Revd Marcus Green and
Canon Robin Gibbons

Sunday January 22nd 2017 - Third Sunday after the Epiphany

9.30am Morning Prayer
Revd Marcus Green and
Richard Bailey

11am Holy Communion
With Children's Church
Revd Marcus Green and
Richard Bailey

5.30pm Holy Communion
Revd Marcus Green and
Canon Robin Gibbons

Sunday January 29th 2017 - Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

11am United Benefice
Festival Service
Revd Marcus Green and
Revd Clare Hayns
(Chaplain of Christ Church)

No Service

No Service

Sunday February 5th 2017 - Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

9.30am Holy
Communion
Book of Common Prayer
Revd Marcus Green

11am Holy Communion
Book of Common Prayer
Revd Marcus Green

5.30pm Evensong
Revd Marcus Green and
Canon Robin Gibbons

Families are welcome to **all** Sunday services within the parish.
Visit the Benefice Website for further information www.sntchurch.com

North Aston News

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