

NORTH ASTON

NEWS

August 2017

#322



NORTH ASTON NEWS

AUGUST 2017, No:322

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The Chairman's Mark

The Fête

Thank you everyone who made this year's Fête another great success. Dare I say that as well as raising money for the church and village we enjoyed doing it? And this year we actually remembered how the tea tent went together! I won't mention anyone by name (mainly for fear of leaving somebody out) but I am very aware that some of you put in a lot of hard work before the event itself as well as on the day - so extra thank you to you. Although we will have a debrief session at our next meeting, please feel free to give me any feed-back while it is fresh in your mind so that we can make it even better next year

John Harvey-Lee

For those of you who were unable to attend the Fête, we used the occasion to honour John Harvey-Lee. John has served our community in so many ways over the years. He was secretary to the village meeting, a former Editor of this journal, and co-ordinator of the North Aston Neighbourhood Watch scheme. During his period as Editor he researched the early history of the village and gave us 'a potted history of North Aston' in monthly instalments. This history went on to become a core part of The Book, 'North Aston ~ A Millennium', which he and Marcus put so much work into. He even runs his own postal service at Christmas!

The Fête was a fitting venue because, over the years, he has designed and built most of the games for it. With most surrounding villages having summer fêtes, John's games have given North Aston its own USP. To mark the occasion we gave him a very simple carving, created by Daniel Durnin, made from a piece of yew from the village.

Mikron

Another superbly polished performance was enjoyed by a smallish audience. Great acting, singing, live music, humour on several levels, social history and drama fuelled by greed, love and morality. We are so lucky to have them come each year but I fear they might start to look elsewhere for a larger audience - let us hope not.

Village Forum

This month we have our quarterly village forum on Thursday 17th August at 7.30pm in the Bakery and then, nearer the end of the month, the Flower & Produce Show on 26th. I hope to see you at one or the other or even both!

Mark

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

Village Forum

August 17th 2016
The Old Bakery from 7:30 pm

The next Village Forum will take place on Thursday 17th August 2017. This will be an informal gathering where you can chat and discuss matters that concern you. There will be a brief presentation from the Treasurer, but no formal agenda and no minutes, although essential notes will be taken.

Subjects that may (*or may not*) come up include:

- The recent Village Fête and Mikron Theatre visit.
- The Flower & Produce Show.
- Plans for the Harvest Supper.
- and setting a date for the next Forum Meeting.

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)) 3477702

visit the website at:

www.northastonorganics.co.uk



The winners of the June draw were:

1st Prize (£25): J Aziz (#32)

2nd Prize (£5): L. Johnson (#57)

This is the third draw of the new 100 Club year, and now is your last chance to join The Club for the 2017-18 year. You'll have missed three chances to win, but it's still a very worthy cause that raises important funds for the community. If you feel able to offer your support, then please contact Norman (340368) for further information. What's more, there's a genuinely high chance of winning, so please give it a go.

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

This Month's BIRTHDAYS

Trudy Busby
Thea Bourke-Borrowes
Freya Stay



Announcements

Deddington Farmers' Market

The traditional Farmers' Market in Deddington takes place in the market square every 4th Saturday of the month, and in August will be staged on the 25th. North Aston Organics will have their regular stall, so please do support them.

Parkchella Summer Barbecue

North Aston residents are invited to a Summer Party & Barbecue at Park Farm House on Saturday 26th August, from 12 noon to 3:00 pm. Everyone from the village is invited - see invitation below - and dovetail a visit to Park Farm with viewing and judging at the Flower & Produce Show. If you're able to attend, please let them know by calling 349922.



North Aston Nature Notes

With Stephen Rees

Well, well, what a busy month it's been for our wildlife in and around North Aston, with reports of sightings coming thick and fast.

At the beginning of the month Bill came to see me with rumours of something strange going on up at the allotment. Norman was losing carrots at a rate of knots! Chatting to Norman only made things look even more weird. The culprit was only attacking one row and ignoring all the others, including Tony's just across the path. It was going along and literally pulling up carrots by the dozen.

We set up my infrared camera trap to see what was going on. Checking the camera the next night we had no pics, so moved it, but again the night after we had no photos of animals - just ones of the empty path and of Norman.

The next day, after Richard had put up more fencing, Norman found a hole in the wire at low level, so it looks like it was probably a badger. It turns out Trudy has had the same problem at her house, losing all her carrots too.



Speaking to James and Vicky, they had a Polecat and kits in their garden, and James wondered whether it was escaped Ferrets or a true Polecat. My opinion was probably escaped Ferrets, but talking to Mark a few days later he had a video on his phone of something big hunting along a hedgerow and it was very difficult to decide if it was a Polecat or a Ferret.

Clive also saw something that he is sure was a Mink; big and completely black, up near the grain store. Whether this was the same animal or not, I don't know. I think I owe Clive an apology for having a rant about Otters - sorry Clive; I do get myself wound up a bit when I get going!

My favourite bit last month was talking to Aunt Viv one night, up by where we park our cars. She was all excited about a find she had made of a shed grass snake skin, which she managed to carry all the way home without breaking. She lay it out on Tom's bench and measured it. Are you ready? 48 inches - yep, four foot long! I had to see this for myself, so went down and had a good look. Wow, it's huge!

On doing a bit of reading I found someone who had found a dead one 6 feet long, so not a British record Viv, but flipping heck, a big'un nonetheless. The next night I found one on our own garden path ... a massive six inches long! Wendy has seen two at her work in the garden, as well as two others while she's been out cycling.



Last week we had a hatching of caterpillars on a plant in our garden - at least 28 of them, and a very pretty sight they made too, with black and yellow stripes throughout their whole body. On looking them up it turns out they were caterpillars of the Cinnabar Moth, which is also very colourful; the reason being that both moth and caterpillar are highly poisonous, living mostly on Ragwort and taking up its toxic substance.

This seems to have been a good Bumble Bee summer. We've seen lots down in our corner, both big and small. I'm not sure which family they belong to. I'm told there are about 20 different ones commonly found around us.

It was great last month, down the bottom of our garden in our summer-house, and we've slept out in it twice, getting lovely views of the sunrise and mist. We've seen lots of good spots, from a Sparrow Hawk coming straight at us and swerving off at the last moment, to lots of Foxes, Roe Deer, and a Muntjac, which very regularly come in really close and look at us over the fence.

The nicest moment for me was when we had a male and female Bullfinch sat on the wire just in front of us, then flying in and out of the clump of tall grasses getting seeds and returning to the wire. In my opinion the female was just as attractive as the male, even if not so colourful.

In the hedgerows, up near Clive and Trudy's, the Blackthorns have got lots and lots of Sloes on them, the Hazels have nuts, and the Blackberries have lost their flowers to be replaced by hundreds of tiny green blackberries. Autumn is on its way already.

One final note this month, and I'm afraid it's a sad one. If it's not bad enough that the Ash trees are suffering, now the Horse Chestnuts are too. If you look at the big old boy near the fountain you will see it has ugly rusty-red leaves. Like nearly all the Chestnuts, it has been attacked with leaf blotch, or bleeding canker. This is a nasty fungus that attacks leaves and bark, and if that's not bad enough, an introduced moth called the Miner Leaf Moth is also attacking Chestnuts too. An article on the Internet by a tree expert was saying the poor old conker tree could possibly be wiped out of England in fifteen years. A very sad note to end on.

Steve, Wendy & Penny

The Horse Chestnut by the Fountain was first seen to have contracted Bleeding Canker about five years ago, but being a larger, more mature tree, is fighting the pathogen. Younger trees are often more susceptible, but half the trees in the UK are now thought to have been infected. Ed.



The Park Farmers have had another busy period, and the girls here have all been busy with their various clubs, including Boxing, Guides, Trampolining, Drama, Street Dancing, and Swimming.

This month the girls have been focused on healthy eating, and have adopted the Joe Wicks fitness and diet regime. The girls have enjoyed utilising the recipes within his recent books and have adopted a boot camp exercise programme on a weekly basis.



The gardening club continues to flourish and the vegetable patch is beginning to pay dividends, as we are now enjoying home grown courgettes and spinach.

The garden at Park Farm is beginning to take shape and a lot of work has been done to de-nettle the surrounding areas around the chicken coop in readiness of getting chickens in the summer.



Sunday Breakfast club continues to be a success at Park Farm and the girls enjoy discussing topical issues with the staff and helping with cooking our wonderful breakfasts.



It was a delight to welcome Mikron back to The Green last month. The travelling theatre has been visiting the village each summer now for the past five years, having staged their debut North Aston production in the Orchard Barn back in 2012.

This year's show told the history of hostelling and the YHA. It seemed a slightly off-beat subject to choose, but the topic was tackled with typical Mikron flair, combining a generous mix of humour with pathos and semi-serious education.

Reports suggest that the audience was a little smaller this year than last, possibly thanks to the weather forecast, but those who went "really enjoyed it. It was witty, fast paced, creative and informative. Now we know all about the history of the YHA and its democratic roots! The Green made a lovely and appropriate backdrop to the story." Another reviewer suggested: "Good crowd, great show. Judging from the many laugh-out-loud moments and the applause I think we really enjoyed ourselves. I hope they continue to come back."

Mikron is back in the area later this month, with performances of the company's other show, *In at the Deep End*, at The Plough Inn, Godstow on 9th August and the Rock of Gibraltar, Bletchington, on 11th August.

North Aston Gardening Club

This year's Flower & Produce Show will be held on Saturday the 26th of August. Entry forms are attached to this month's *News*. Usual rules and modest entry fees apply. There's no sunflower competition this year, but the old favourite *Spud-in-a-Tub* remains, and is joined by Heaviest Marrow for the *Tuffrey Cup Challenge*. I suspect the usual weighing scales just won't do for this year.

The North Aston F&P Show is distinguished by the fact that all the non-cookery classes are judged on the day by YOU, the members of the public. Entries with the most votes win prize certificates, and certificates mean trophies, including the Junior Cup; awarded to the young exhibitor (up to age 16) with the most 'First' certificates.

Entries should be brought to The Green between 9-11am on the day (Saturday). Please be prompt: marquees will be shut to entries at 11am to allow for behind-the-scenes administrative tasks and for cookery classes to be judged by our nominated expert Lynn Humberstone. The show is then open to the public from 2pm onwards, and all voting sheets must be in by 4pm. Refreshments including baked goods will be available on the day but donations of cakes/ tray bakes and biscuits will be gratefully received. Results will be announced around 5.30pm.

Entry forms and fees should be dropped off at Nether Cottage by 6pm on Sunday the 20th of August. Can I also appeal for help setting up the marquees on Thursday the 24th of August at 6.30pm.

If you haven't 'done this sort of thing before', do give it a go. We are especially keen for youngsters to put in entries. We try not to take all this too seriously (really), and year on year all those who support the show by putting in entries or joining in the judging seem to enjoy themselves, rain or shine. It's a fixture on the North Aston calendar and a great occasion to celebrate the horticultural and creative talents in our village.

Lynn

Nether Cottage. Email: lsquek@doctors.org.uk



St Mary's Church flower and cleaning rota is in need of a few more volunteers. Can you help us for an hour a month? We'd welcome help from both men and women, and if flowers aren't quite your thing, that's not a problem!

All offers would be greatly appreciated.
Please contact Jane McArdle on 07790 090282
janechenies@hotmail.com

Paul & Sarah Jane



Congratulations

on your Wedding Day, Saturday 5th August

We hope you both have a wonderful day
Lots of Love, Mum, Dad, Karen, Alex, Noah, George,
Becky, Nan, Gramp, Tracy and Richard xxx

Broadband into North Aston



It is now well over a month since Broadband went 'live' in North Aston, and I've been trying to gauge resident's reaction to the new and improved connectivity. It was like extracting teeth, but I have finally had some feedback.

There seems to have been some expectation that there would be an instantaneous improvement in access speeds. One respondent suggested that "broadband is still absolute rubbish", and another said they hadn't "noticed any major difference." This is probably true for anyone who hasn't upgraded their ISP account. In most cases basic connectivity has only shown a nominal increase in speed, but because we were woefully slow before, doubling up to 4 Mb/s is still slug-like. The only way to take advantage of the new fibre is to upgrade your package.

Several residents have done this. "We've had the broadband upgraded this week, and BT agreed to waive the £50 fee. They adjusted our tariff slightly and I have to say we do notice it being a bit quicker," said one respondent, while another, who went for a top-of-the-range package, said "it was very easy and we can now stream films without having to wait half an hour for them to load. We are working our way through *Mad Men* without any glitches!" Then there are those who went for the middle-range option: "We upgraded at the first opportunity. Although it is better (we have BT Broadband) I was promised 45 Mb/s by BT and I think we are getting around 22 Mb/s, but it's a lot better than the 2 Mb/s we were getting before and the buffering is now almost gone."

The consensus seems to be that "it is definitely faster but still drops out every now and again!" If you have stuck with your previous package, then you may not have noticed much difference at all, but those who've upgraded are definitely appreciating the improved speeds, the streaming video, and the near-instant page-loading on websites.

If you're considering an upgrade, there seem to be roughly three stages - Basic (which is what most of us were on before, with speeds of up to 7 Mb/s), Fast (up to 45 Mb/s) and Very Fast (supposedly up to 80 Mb/s). All are priced accordingly, so you get what you pay for ... in theory, at least!



The Church MATTERS



Forgiveness

I went into one of the schools in the Benefice toward the end of term to take Collective Worship, and found that I had to completely re-think on the spot what I had prepared.

I was going to do something general about forgiveness, with a baptism illustration, but I started off by talking about 'small things that make a big difference' as my way into the subject. And as I did, a hand went up at the back of the room.

One of the children wanted to give us all an example of a small thing that made a difference: saying something nice to someone. Well, I thought - isn't that right? So I agreed, and said especially when you've felt bad or sad or grumpy all day, if someone says something nice to you it can make all the difference!



And then someone else put their hand up. And someone else. And someone else. Child after child, all across the school, thought of little things that can make a big difference. Giving a little money to charity - it might seem like not much to us, but it can sometimes be life-changing to others. Like the £8 a year it takes to feed a school child in Africa through Mary's Meals, which so many of us have been supporting this year. Or giving someone a shoulder to cry on - just being there doesn't cost anything, but it can make a world of difference to a friend in need. These were examples the children actually gave.

Then we thought about forgiveness. We thought together about how saying sorry is such a small thing, and yet it can have a huge effect. Like baptism is a tiny touch of water really, but it shows us that God's love never stops flowing over our hearts to cleanse and forgive us on the inside and give us new beginnings and the chance to live again.

I'm really grateful to everyone who decided to pledge something toward our fundraising project at the Village Fête. It's a bit of an ask - promise more, when you've already come to spend! But without the amazing support of our community on top of the wonderful work Jane McArdle is doing in finding grants, we can't hope to achieve the things we are aiming at: renovating ancient stonework around our windows; sorting access so everyone can get into the churchyard safely without steps; and providing better facilities such as a basic servery and a toilet inside so that the church can be used by more people more than once a week.

Small things make a big difference, and every pledge, every gift, really does count. Thank you for being part of what we are trying to do - which is to keep our church a vital place for everyone in our village. Thank you. If you have pledged - the next target is Harvest, when we will be ready to receive everyone's promises...

Though also: The Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust annual Ride & Stride Day is on September 9th this year. Every September folk walk or cycle around churches to help raise funds for our parishes, and if you'd like to support us this way, do visit on the day. Or why not participate! Go to www.ohct.org.uk/ride-stride/ where there are more details of how you can.

Our usual mid-week activities take a break in August, with everything re-starting in early September.

Revd Marcus Green

More news can always be found 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.



CHURCH SERVICES

PARISH WORSHIP IN AUGUST-SEPTEMBER

NORTH ASTON

STEEPLE ASTON

TACKLEY

Sunday August 6th 2017 - Ninth Sunday After Pentecost - Transfiguration

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 August 13th 2017 - Tenth Sunday After Pentecost

9:30 am
Family Service
Revd Marcus Green

11:00 am
Family Service with Baptism
Revd Marcus Green

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

Sunday August 20th 2017 - Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost

9:30 am
Holy Communion
Revd Marcus Green

11:00 am
Holy Communion
Revd Marcus Green

5:30 pm
Informal Service with Baptism
**Revd Marcus Green and
Canon Robin Gibbons**

Sunday August 27th 2017 - Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost

9:30 am
Morning Prayer
Revd Marcus Green

11:00 am
Holy Communion
Revd Marcus Green

5:30 pm
Holy Communion
Revd Marcus Green

Sunday September 3rd 2017 - Thirteenth 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

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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We welcome contributions to the *News*. To submit an item please email: info@north-aston.co.uk.

