

# NORTH ASTON

# NEWS

January 2019

#339



# NORTH ASTON NEWS

JANUARY 2019, No:339

## Useful Contacts

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### North Aston PCC

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Lynn Quek, Acting Chairperson

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### North Aston Pet Alert

Please notify of any Firework Parties

Deirdre Oakley: Tel (01869) 340646

Also email: [info@north-aston.co.uk](mailto:info@north-aston.co.uk)

### North Aston Farms

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### North Aston Organics

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

### Hillcrest Care - Park Farm House

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Website: [www.nicholsonsgb.com](http://www.nicholsonsgb.com)

### North Aston 100 Club

Beverley Rees. (01869) 347434

### Old Bakery Bookings

Mary Healy. Tel (01869) 347702

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### Village Marquee Bookings

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### CDC Local Councillor

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Thames Valley Police non-emergency: 101

Out of Hours Doctor: 111 or 08453 458 995

# The Chairman's Mark

## New Year

Firstly, may I wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year.

## Carols

Thanks to everyone who helped to make Carols on The Green a great success again. The turnout was roughly 160 people. We were blessed with fine weather, a starry sky overhead and wonderful singing. A perfect end to our village annual events. Along with the Wassail, we raised £540.00 for Restore, Homestart and Banbury Young Homeless Project.

## Village Meeting & Goodbye!

This will be my last Chairman's bit, as I will be stepping down at the next Village Meeting, and there won't be any 'oh alright, I'll do another year then'. As of the time of writing, no one has offered to take my place, so it looks like it will go all the way to the wire (the wire being 10th January). I am very willing to give support to the new incumbent if that helps anyone who is feeling unsure whether to take it on. Don't forget we also need a new treasurer as well. Please make the effort to attend our Village Meeting AGM on Thursday 10th January, 7.30pm in The Bakery. As well as the regular AGM stuff, which we will try to keep as brief as possible, we will look at events for 2019 and review traffic calming measures. If anyone has anything they would like to discuss please let me know and we can add it to the Agenda.

Telephone: 01869 347 806

email: [chair@north-aston.co.uk](mailto:chair@north-aston.co.uk)

Mark

## Village Meeting & AGM

### January 10th 2019

### The Old Bakery from 7:30 pm

The first Village Meeting of 2019 takes place on Thursday 10th January. This will be the only formal Village Meeting of the year, and will be an opportunity for residents to voice their thoughts and opinions on 'official' village matters. A fuller Agenda will be published on the Noticeboard, but subjects to be discussed include:

- Election of Officers
- Treasurer's Report and Setting the annual Precept
- Feedback on Christmas (Wassail, Carols on the Green, Gifts etc).
- Traffic Calming
- Major events for 2019, including Fête and Mikron Theatre Co
- Setting a date for the next Forum Meeting

If you have any additional topics you'd like to raise, please do so under *Any Other Business*. Please advise Mark if you think appropriate.



## December 2018

The winners of the December draw were:

1st Prize (£10): D. Oakley (#76)

2nd Prize (£5): J. Aziz (#32)

Contact Bev (347434) for further details of the 100 Club. Remember ...

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

## Events

### Deddington Farmers' Market

Don't miss this month's Farmers' Market, one of the largest markets of its kind in the country. It's held on the 4th Saturday of each month between 9am and 12.30pm. It features over 40 stalls offering the very best in locally-produced beer, bread, crafts, eggs, fish, flowers, fruit, meat, preserves, ready-made meals and, of course, our own North Aston Organics. This month's Farmers' Market will take place on January 26th.

### Closing Down

Brenda Haller took over the long-established antiques centre in Deddington more than 20 years ago, but all good things come to an end. Once voted among the top antiques shops in the UK, Brenda will be closing the centre in a couple of months' time. Between now and then, she will be selling off most of her stock at knockdown prices, so if you're tempted, pop in and browse through four floors of collectibles. Open every day.

### Pop Art in Banbury

Banbury Museum stages regular events, and this month is hosting a very special exhibition in association with the Victoria & Albert Museum in London. Entitled *Pop Art in Print*, the temporary exhibition features over 60 original works, including some iconic images from artists such as Andy Warhol, Roy Lichtenstein and Damien Hurst. From its rise in the Sixties and Seventies, pop art continues to remain a vibrant, colourful and very accessible movement. Entry is £5 for adults (concessions £4) and the event runs until 3rd March.

## January Birthdays

Iona Le Clercq (11th)

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.

## Announcements

### Planning Applications

Notice of the following announcements relating to Planning Applications have been received from Cherwell District Council: **North Aston Mill.** Replacing roof-covering to the main section of roof to the Mill House. Application refused on the grounds that the proposed replacement roof slates would have an adverse visual impact on the listed building, diminishing its special interest by removing part of its historic fabric and replacing it an inappropriate material. Appeal possible until 19th April 2019. Reference 18/01782/LB.

**3 Somerton Road.** Fell 1x Eucalyptus to ground level and replace with native species more suited to the location. Statutory expiry date, 9th January 2019. Reference 18/00357/TCA.

Full details on the CDC website: [www.cherwell.gov.uk](http://www.cherwell.gov.uk) and follow the links, using the application reference quoted above.

### Golden Oldies Christmas Gifts

Many thanks for the Village Fund Christmas Gift, it was much appreciated. Special thanks to Linda and Trudy for organising and distributing same.

Hoping everyone had a very Happy Christmas, and wishing a Healthy 2019 to all Villagers, from Val & Tony Short.

## There They Went A-Wassailing

The North Aston Carol Singers wassailed house-to-house within the village on Sunday 16th December. Including money raised by *Carols on the Green*, a total of £540 was collected for the three local charities: *Restore* (supporting mental health in Oxfordshire), *Banbury Young Homeless Project* and *Homestart* (Helping young families in Oxfordshire). A huge thankyou to everyone who donated so generously and offered sustenance along the way. Anyone who would like to add to this can contact Mark Stay on 347806.





## Park Farm Free Dog Walking

Don't have time to walk your dog?  
Let the Park Farm Girls  
help you out!

We are reliable, friendly and professional and will give your dog the exercise and socialisation they need to be healthy and happy.

Available on weekends only.

Please call 01869 349922 for more information or if you would like to set up a dog walking appointment with us.

**Looking forward to hearing from you!**



# North Aston Nature Notes

## With Stephen Rees

A Happy New Year to you all, and we hope you had a nice Christmas and a good break from the day-to-day routine of work and chores.

Both Wendy and myself were poorly over Christmas, so we didn't get out as much we would have liked, but we did do a couple of walks along the Thames through Oxford, stopping at a pub for a beer and another for hot chocolate. It made a nice change from walking in mud or up a big hill to a trig point!

The birdlife along the river was very busy, with lots and lots of geese of all colours and sizes, duck, Coots and Moorhens, all busy feeding and splashing about and being chased by dogs and children alike. I was amazed at how many Terns we saw flying about above the river. It reminded me of a walk we did near St David's a few years ago, when the Terns had chicks and they kept bombarding us from on high.

A bit closer to home, we have a big flock of Sparrows in and around our garden. Eve has said she sees them in the garage, all chatting at the same time. Unfortunately, we also have a nearly resident Sparrowhawk down here too, and that has obviously clocked our flock of 'meals'. Wendy saw him on Christmas Day on our gate, at the end of the garden. I think he was waiting for a Sparrow to make a break for it, and twice now I have found piles of feathers where he has caught and plucked his dinner.

Billy and a friend of his had a walk around the farm over Christmas, hoping to get a few pigeon and pheasant. He said every wood they walked through he put up a Woodcock, but knowing how I feel about them, didn't put the gun up to them.

## From Thames Valley Police

*This month's security updates & information*

### Rogue Traders

Trading Standards have reported a spike in cold-calling to do work, especially gardening, clearing roofs and cleaning guttering. High values of money are being paid in cash to these individuals and they are proving hard to trace.

This is a reminder not to engage with people who try to sell items and services at the door. Call 101 or Trading Standards on 03454 040506 as soon as possible to report them. Take as many details as you can – vehicle types and registration numbers, personal descriptions, company names etc. Always call 999 in an emergency or if you feel threatened. The quicker TVP get the reports, the more chance they have of catching these people in the act.

- Use a door chain so you can check whose calling without opening the door fully.
- Never trade on the doorstep.
- Always ask a trusted friend or neighbour for advice
- Display a "No Cold-Calling" sticker.

Thinking of others, please keep an eye out for neighbours and relatives who are suddenly having work done that might seem unexpected, and be prepared to report any suspicious activity around their homes.

Also, and especially following recent events here in North Aston, don't pander to the so-called Nottingham Knockers. They are not who (or what) they claim to be!

Nice to know we have a good few with us again this year, though it's the first year that I haven't seen one in a long time. I think that's just because I haven't been in the woods much.

The other day I was watching a pair of Ravens flying together, very slow and close. One kept dropping its talons down and touching the other, which didn't seem to mind at all. I thought they might be courting, but after watching for a while I think they were just playing. They really are a very big bird, especially close-up, and quite different from their Crow cousins.



I went metal detecting this week on a farm not far from here. After a short time I turned around because the wind and drizzle was right in my face, and there, right behind me, was a Fallow deer. It stood about a hundred yards away and was obviously wondering what the heck I was doing. Now, that was a nice spot to begin the year!

That's it then. Once again, A Happy New Year to you all. We're back to work soon, so I'd better go and finish off that bottle of wine!  
*Steve, Wendy & Penny*

### Your TV Licence Expired!

Well, no it hasn't, not necessarily, but those on-line should look out for a very convincing email that suggests that it has. The email will say something along the lines of ...

Your TV Licence expired!

Renew now for FREE (!) This offer is valid for only 48 hours.

It costs £150.50 for a colour and £50.50 for a black and white TV Licence. In some cases, you may be entitled to a reduced fee TV Licence. You can pay for your licence all in one go or spread the cost.

The email then explains how anyone over 74, or living in a care home, or registered as blind, will be entitled to a reduction in the fee, or may even be eligible for a free licence. The fact that all this detail is included is both convincing, and also a cynical ploy to hoodwink the elderly and less computer-aware. There's a big button inviting the recipient to "Check your TV Licence status", but the link goes to a scam website, where personal and payment details will be phished.

### The Benefits of GDPR

It's eight months since the new Data Protection laws came into effect, and most of you should have noticed an impact on junk mail. There is, undoubtedly, less of it. As well as reducing the bulk of this unwanted attention, there are two further indirect benefits. Firstly, you can now unsubscribe from legitimate marketing emails with more confidence, knowing that your address and details are now less likely to be flagged as "live" and therefore shared further afield. Secondly, a higher proportion of those other emails - the ones that still keep arriving - are now even more likely to be scams, so you can use this knowledge to your advantage, and ignore or delete them!

# Councillor Calling



From Councillor Bryn Williams

## Maternity & Paternity Leave

At the December meeting of the council a motion was proposed by Councillor Woodcock, 'To extend paternity and maternity leave by one extra week of leave to employees for every week a premature baby spends in hospital before the due date.' An amendment was proposed by Councillor McHugh, 'In addition to premature birth, there are other clinical crises that could befall council employees. Officers are to investigate extending this motion to allow Directors the discretion to deal with significant medical crises of a similar magnitude involving council employees, in a compassionate and caring manner and report back to Executive in due course.'



## Purchase of The Mill Arts Centre

It was resolved to purchase The Mill Arts Centre from Oxfordshire County Council for a token £1.00 and to

agree a revenue budget of £50k to cover costs of transition and a budget of £250k for immediate remedial works, funding to be sourced from general reserves.

## Council Tax Reduction Scheme

To review the proposed level of Council Tax discounts for 2019-2020 and to approve the following.

- Retain the discount for second homes at zero.
- Retain the discount for empty homes (unoccupied and substantially unfurnished) at 25% for 6 months and thereafter at zero.
- Retain the discount for empty homes undergoing major repair at 25% for 12 months and thereafter at zero.
- Retain the empty homes premium of an additional 50% for properties that have remained empty for more than 2 years.

## Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme

Our district now has 96.5% coverage of Superfast Broadband (>24mps). However, this also means that 3.5% of businesses



and residential premises do not have the service available to them. A new scheme should assist, especially if grants can be pooled. Mr Steven Newman, the Senior Economic Growth Officer welcomes enquiries from businesses and residents who wish to take advantage of the scheme, contact him by email at [steven.newman@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:steven.newman@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk) or Direct Dial 01295 221860.

Thank you,  
Bryn Williams (email: [Bryn.Williams@Cherwell-DC.gov.uk](mailto:Bryn.Williams@Cherwell-DC.gov.uk))

# NICHOLSONS

Plants Forestry Landscapes

## NOW'S THE TIME FOR PLANTING

As a team we are passionate about horticulture and simply love sharing our knowledge.

Our range of plants extends to all the usual suspects: shrubs, a small herbaceous collection, climbers, fruit and we specialise in bigger screening plants and specimen ornamental trees.

Pop in for a browse or to get advice from an expert:

The Park, North Aston, OX25 6HL  
01869 340342

To find out more please visit our website:

[www.nicholsonsgb.com](http://www.nicholsonsgb.com)



# Broadband



We received an email recently from the Better Broadband for Oxfordshire organisation to advise that they need to revise their planned completion date for extending full coverage of high-speed broadband across the county to June this year.

North Aston acquired fibre broadband a couple of years ago now, and the programme overall has delivered so-called *superfast* access to some 76,000 Oxfordshire premises. The remaining households so far not connected are generally very remote and with challenging geography. This, together with a high demand for the services of the civil contractors (such as Openreach) who carry out the work, accounts for the delay.

## Slower Broadband in North Aston?

Some while ago we became aware that some residents here in North Aston were experiencing slower speeds than they'd "enjoyed" prior to the installation of the new fibre system, and we contacted Better Broadband for their thoughts. They in turn contacted Openreach, who advised that it is indeed possible that premises which have chosen not to upgrade to a full fibre service may now have slower speeds than they did previously. They suggest that this may be because the process of installing fibre broadband required the existing lines be connected to the new cabinet (beside the Green), and somehow the connectivity could be different from, and perhaps inferior to, that offered by the old cabinet. This seems unlikely.

Googling this problem reveals that there are widespread issues with standard broadband speeds declining after the introduction of superfast fibre into an area. Those who favour "conspiracy theory" options say this is a deliberate ploy by the ISPs who are trying to persuade subscribers to upgrade to the more expensive packages. Others suspect the increased bandwidth available overall has caused the backhaul bandwidth from the exchange to become congested, and this is impacting more heavily on customers still using standard broadband.

If you are concerned by the slow speed of your broadband, your first tactic should be to raise the issue with your ISP. Follow their standard complaints process. Your contract is with them, and they will be able to investigate performance related issues more easily.

In May 2018 the law relating to the advertising of access speeds by ISPs was changed. No longer can they promote packages with access of "up to" a certain speed, but the speeds advertised must be available to at least 50% of their customers, and at peak times. See what your ISP is promising for your postcode, and if you are significantly below that advertised speed, complain! (Most ISPs claim 11 Mb/s for North Aston, but a recent test showed most households only receive 3Mb/s.) Ultimately, of course, the only way to be assured of the higher speeds is to upgrade to a superfast package. Again, check with your ISP, or shop around.

If you have specific queries about coverage, then you can still contact the team at [Broadband@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Broadband@oxfordshire.gov.uk), who will be happy to advise further.

The village Defibrillator is located in the porch at 4 Somerton Road, at the eastern end of the village, opposite the post box.

If you would like to attend a CPR and Defibrillator training session please contact Mark on 347806



## NORTH ASTON ORGANICS

# Vegetable Stall

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# The Church MATTERS



## Renewed, Changed

One of my most frequent prayers is - "Lord, make me a nice person today." And sometimes he does. I expect he may try to do so more often, but I don't always give him much chance of success.

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. "Oh dear," she said.

Some of us try New Year Resolutions to sort ourselves out. My problem is - I forget them. 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...)

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. Jesus 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.

And 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 forget - 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.

The Christmas carol says: "How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given." And life tells us the gift is given again and again. Given to whoever asks, however often we ask. If we ask for Jesus' love, Jesus' presence, Jesus, now in our hearts - perhaps he will come even to us.

In a world where Brexit remains more a fear and a threat than a hope and a joy for most of us, where political life has become the story of the our differences and not our common bonds, and where truth and compassion (too often) wave the white flag of surrender, we all sometimes need help to live a little better. And if resolutions do it for you - fantastic.

For everyone else, why not try coming to worship with us at church this year? Come and spend an hour once a week seeking God in the midst of everything else that finds us, so that (just imagine) God might hear our prayers and from the beginning of the New Year, renew us all, make us all more the people we are at our best, the people we sometimes already are, the people we always want to be - every day.

*Revd Marcus Green*



Any comments about the above are very welcome. More news is always available on our website: [www.sntchurch.com](http://www.sntchurch.com)

Please email our Rector Marcus Green: [steeplerector@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:steeplerector@hotmail.co.uk) or tel: 340 903

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

Any other member of the PCC will also be very happy to talk, and they are: Richard Bailey, Beryl Greenwood, Vicky Taylor, Jane McArdle, Ted Short, Jeremy Taylor and Norman West.



# CHURCH SERVICES

## PARISH WORSHIP IN JANUARY-FEBRUARY

**NORTH ASTON**

**STEEPLE ASTON**

**TACKLEY**

### Sunday January 6th 2019 - Epiphany

9:30 am  
Holy Communion  
*Book of Common Prayer*  
**Revd Marcus Green**

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

10:30 am  
Covenant Service  
*At Tackley Methodist Church*

### Sunday January 13th 2019

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

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

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

### Sunday January 20th 2019

9:30 am  
Holy Communion  
**Revd Marcus Green and**  
**Richard Bailey**

11:00 am  
Holy Communion  
**Revd Marcus Green and**  
**Richard Bailey**

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

### Sunday January 27th 2019

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

11:00 am  
Morning Prayer  
*With Children's Church*  
**Revd Marcus Green**

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

### Sunday February 3rd 2019

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**



Bible Study happens most Mondays at the Rectory at 2pm.  
Families are welcome to **all** Sunday services within the parish.  
Visit the Benefice Website for further information: [www.sntchurch.com](http://www.sntchurch.com)

### North Aston News

The *North Aston News* is designed and produced by CMC Graphics, printed by Nicholsons of North Aston, and distributed monthly, free of charge, to all the residents of the Parish of North Aston. A full-colour edition in electronic format is also available and is mailed out to an extensive emailing list every month. To be added to that list, please contact the *News*. We welcome contributions, which need to be in an electronic format (except Classifieds and Announcements). To submit an item, please email: [info@north-aston.co.uk](mailto:info@north-aston.co.uk).

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