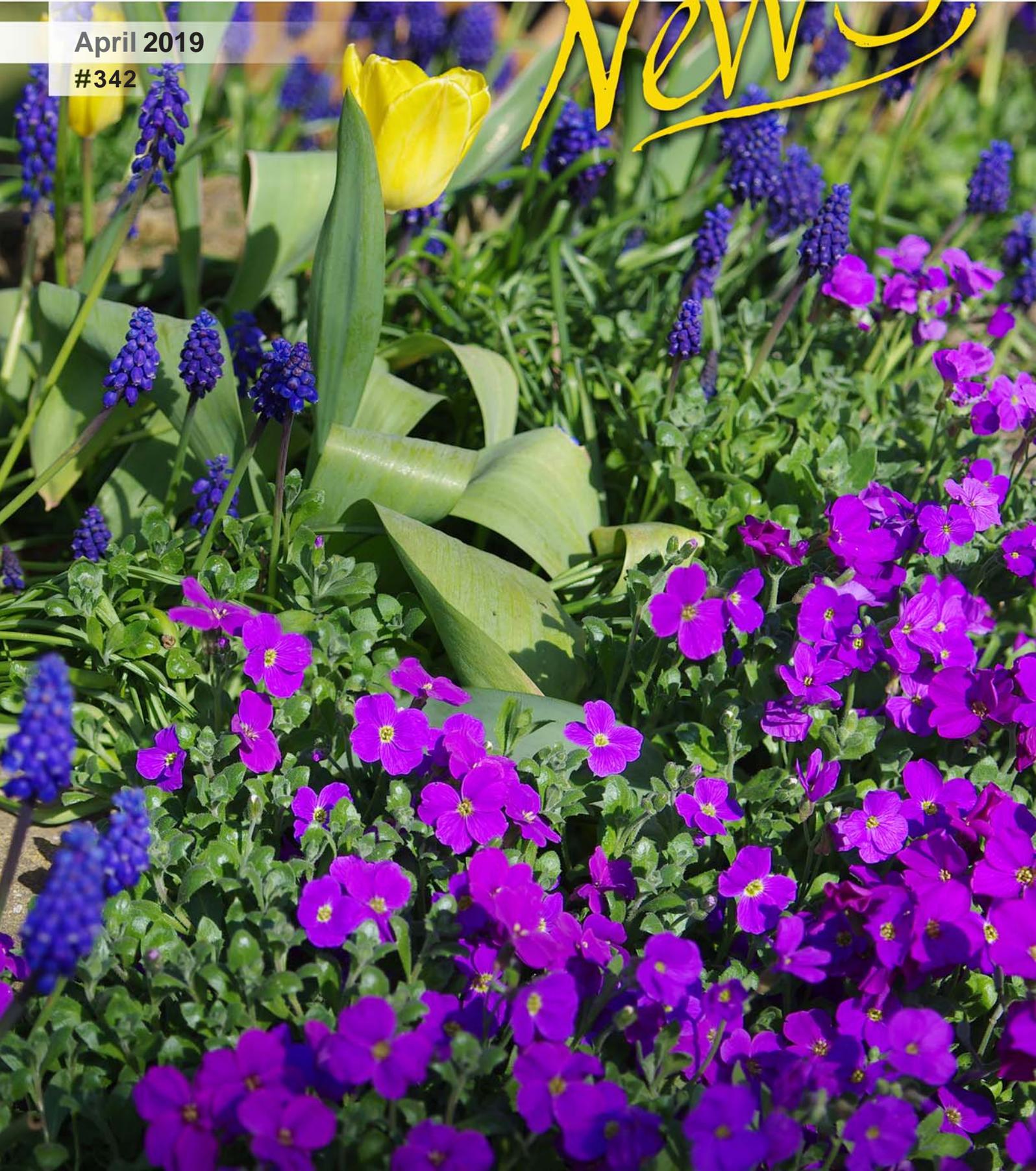


NORTH ASTON

NEWS

April 2019

#342



NORTH ASTON NEWS

APRIL 2019, No:342

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Notes from the Chair

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Lucinda Fuoco and I have been given the task alongside Eileen O'Sullivan of being the new Chair to the Village Meeting, and I must say I'm very excited.

For the sake of the few people in the village that don't know me, I'd like to share a little more about myself so that you all know exactly who I am. I currently live at Aston Cottage with my husband Vincent, my three gorgeous children William, Evelyn and Sebastian and a menagerie of furry and feathered friends.

I am the daughter of Peter and Jane Durnin and I grew up at School End ... so I haven't moved very far. In fact, where I live now used to be my grandparents' home, and it's where my mother grew up. I feel incredibly lucky to be able to call North Aston 'home'.

I am really looking forward to this new challenge that I have been lucky enough to have been given. Please know that you are always welcome to pop in for a chat over coffee and a slice of cake. I look forward to getting to know everyone in the village over the coming months, and with the egg hunt on Easter Monday and the Village Fête in July, there is certainly plenty to get our teeth in to right from the start.

You can telephone Lucinda on 01869 340 588
or email: chair@north-aston.co.uk

Lucinda

How do you receive the North Aston News?

As well as printed copies of this newsletter, delivered by hand to every home in the parish, the *North Aston News* is also available electronically, as a full-colour PDF. This is distributed to a fully-compliant GDPR mailing list, not only of village residents, but also to friends, relatives and others who have links with the community, either through ancestral ties, former residency, or simple interest in what happens in our rural Oxfordshire community. The *News* is also available through Social Media.

If you would like to be added to the mailing list, please send a request to info@north-aston.co.uk. Several names slipped off the list in May 2018 when the new GDPR laws came into effect. If you used to receive your *News* via email, but don't any longer, then re-apply, and we'll be happy to return your address to the mailing list.



The winners of the March 100 Club draw were:

First Prize (£10): Annie Savage (#129)

Second Prize (£5): Bertie Busby (#4)



Next month's 100 Club will be the last for the 2018-19 season, with a bumper bonus prize of £100 going to one lucky participant. That could be you ... next year! Envelopes will be distributed shortly to existing members inviting subscription for another year, while anyone who hasn't yet tried this thrilling activity is invited to contact Bev Rees and adopt a vacant number. If you'd like to take part, then don't forget to return the envelope or call Bev on 347434 for further information. Remember ...

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

Front Cover: Bright April colours (for the PDF version!) in Les and Pat's garden this month, with spring flowers in the rockery.

Dear North Aston News

I would like to ask if anyone else is having problems with their broadband? Was it last year BT (see below) finally upgraded the infrastructure so we could all watch TV on demand at the same time? Having upgraded to the new service, I first believed it was much improved. However, over the winter it has slowed right down. Last night when trying to watch the final episode of *Baptiste*, iPlayer started buffering and kept doing so every 5-10 minutes. I finally gave up, so will probably never know who did it!

If anyone else is having broadband problems, please could they let me know? I would like to contact BT again on the subject and it would be helpful to know if there is a general problem in the village.

Regards, Gurli Andreassen

We ran a feature about this in January, and would welcome feedback. As mentioned then, subscribers who have not upgraded to one of the newer dedicated superfast packages will not have seen any benefit at all from the new fibre-optic installation. Indeed, the standard broadband rate is now slower than it was before OpenReach (no longer part of BT, of course) installed the new infrastructure. With connectivity of below 4Mb/s, buffering of any on-demand TV service is almost inevitable, especially at weekends, when usage within the village is high. Standard broadband is typically £12/month, with providers promising 11Mb/s, but this kind of speed is simply unattainable here in North Aston. To achieve smooth, seamless and uninterrupted viewing, you will have to upgrade to one of the superfast packages. Costs vary from £22/month (36Mb/s) or £30/month (50Mb/s) to £40/month (65Mb/s). However, again, the speeds quoted are rarely achieved.

Subscribers should be aware that they do have powers to demand better service from their provider. Previously, broadband providers have had unlimited time to resolve lower-than-promised download speeds, but as of 1st March 2019 the media regulator, Ofcom's voluntary code of practice has come into effect. Customers now have the right to exit a contract penalty-free if the company cannot fix poor broadband speed within a month. The same right also applies to those buying a bundled deal, incorporating landline phone, broadband and TV. To date, BT, EE, Plusnet, Sky, TalkTalk and Virgin Media have signed up, so if you are a customer of one of these providers, check your paperwork. If you have been promised a minimum speed (not one of the "up-to" speeds, which have been illegal for some time), then use an on-line resource to see if your current supply is falling short. If it is, complain ... loudly ... and demand better, or a request a reduced monthly fee.

Events

Deddington Farmers' Market

This month's Farmers' Market will be on Saturday 27th April, between 9am and 12.30pm. We are very fortunate in having one of the country's most vibrant farmers' markets right on our doorstep, and with our own North Aston Organics regularly in attendance. Over 40 other stalls will also be offering the very best in locally-produced beer, bread, crafts, eggs, flowers, fish, fruit, meat, preserves and ready-made meals.

April Birthdays

Tracy Boss ~ Peter Durnin
Evelyn Fuoco
Harry & Tony Godwin
Liz Hite ~ Mary Hoare
Olivia Kneale
Franca Potts
Annie Savage
Susannah Taylor
Dawid Waszynski
Norman West



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

Happy Birthday Evelyn!

Happy birthday to our beautiful Evelina Ballerina! Have a wonderful day. We love you to the furthest star and back! Lots of love Daddy, Mummy, William and Sebastian xxxxxx

Ringing the Changes

The North Aston Ringers are actively seeking new recruits to take up the ropes and start pulling! Bell ringing is great fun and suitable for all ages. No experience necessary and you don't need to be a regular churchgoer! For more information contact Jeremy on 340105 or email jeremytaylor@north-aston.co.uk.



North Aston Nature Notes

With Stephen Rees

Good news to start this month's bit! One Wednesday night, late last month, I was chopping kindling and glanced up to see Wendy on our patio with my binoculars, looking down towards our summer house, so I walked up to see what she was so interested in.

She had a big smile on her face and said twice, "Come see!" I took the binoculars from her and, to my surprise and happiness, was pleased to see George our one-eared rabbit, just below the summer house. I think he must be four now, which is a good old age for a rabbit - especially one with less than normal ability. They have so many enemies. I must admit, he was looking very scraggy, old and tough, but it was such a delight to see him.

Talking of scraggy, all our Roe Deer are looking properly rough at the moment. They're losing their winter coats, and this makes them look a bit scruffy and ill, but they will be fine soon, with glossy new summer coats in a week or two.

It's Friday night now, half-past six, and Wendy, Penny and I have just been down the bottom of the garden for a glass of wine and a chill before lighting the Rayburn, taking a shower and having supper. Guess what we heard! A cock partridge chuckering, calling in his covey to roost. I haven't heard one in ages, and it was wonderful. His timing was perfect as well, just an hour before I had to write this for the *News*.



Other news this month, and March 3rd saw the arrival, or at least the first reported sighting, of the Curlew, which have returned to our flood meadows down by the Cherwell. Sadly it was not my spot, but since then I think they have moved on.

The same day we had a report of spawn in a ditch that Wendy and I always go to when we're looking to find frog and toad spawn. I think this is a week or two earlier than normal. Last year there was so much of it that the water had to get out to make room for it!

Our blackbird with the white ring around its neck is still here with us, and is a regular visitor to the grass under our feeders.

My bestest friend Freddy Amor texted me the other day to tell me he'd just heard Chiff Chaff. Flipping heck, he always, always beats me! Perhaps he should be writing this each month.

Two final notes and then I'm done with boring you for another month. Firstly, last Sunday afternoon, we were sat down in the summer house again, drinking wine (again! oh dear!) when we were treated to another display of a Buzzard being mobbed by a load of Rooks. They were giving it a really bad time, but then, after a few hundred meters, they all flew off and left him

alone. Lastly, but sadly not in North Aston, one day last week I pulled my van over next to a massive wheat field to have a cup of coffee and a smoke, and was sat gazing across the field, thinking about all the Saxon and Roman treasure just waiting to be



found, when I was really chuffed to see three Skylarks high up above. One by one they came down to the field. Very clever birds, Skylarks and by far my favourite bird name. They never land exactly where their nests are, but some distance away, and then run to it. Then they they always run a few yards away from the nest before taking off. This is to help prevent predators finding their chicks. The cock birds also have a huge spur on the back of their legs, although I'm not sure why. Their song has got to be one of the highlights of summer.

Oh, and one very last thing ... the day before yesterday, when out walking Penny dog, I noticed that the buttercups had come up. There had been none there the day before, not even one, but they all came up together and, by the following morning, the flowers had opened.

That's it then for now, Steve, Wendy & Penny

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North Aston Village Meeting & Forum

Thursday 14th March 2019 ~ The Minutes

Officers present: Chairman Mark Stay (MS), Treasurer Sue Hatzigeorgiou (SH), Tony Buxton (AB, Minuting for Secretary).

Those present: James Taylor (JT), Kildare Bourke-Borrowes (KBB), Chloe Woodhead (CW), Christopher Woodhead (ChW), Jeremy Taylor (JmT), Mary Healy (MH), Trudie Busby (TB), Clive Busby (CB), Les Parry (LP), Robert Hite (RH), Beverley Rees (BR), Tony Rees (TR), Jane Durnin (JD), Lucinda Fuoco (LF), Eileen O'Sullivan (EO), David Hanna (DH), Marcus Potts (MP), Mark Leclerc (ML).

Village Meeting

1. Nomination of Officers

MS introduced the Meeting and Agenda and, as he was stepping down from the role of Chair, confirmed the position with regard to the nominations for the role.

He also suggested the need for a separate financial audit meeting to be held in April.

Eileen O'Sullivan and Lucinda Fuoco offered to take on the role of Joint Chair. Proposed by CB. Seconded by BR. Unanimously accepted. CW asked to have the legal status of co-chairs checked and established.

2. Mid Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan

MS reminded the village of the referendum on the Neighbourhood Plan, to be held on the 21st March. CW outlined the election procedure, and expressed thanks to Martin Lipson and the committee for work on the plan. If passed, the Plan becomes a statutory document for five years.

CW argued that although not having a significant impact on North Aston, the Plan may help to limit new building in neighbouring villages, and the proposed new health centre and burial ground in Heyford Park could be beneficial.

MP proposed a vote of thanks to Chloe and Kildare for their attendance at the MCNP forum meetings.

3. Monks Causeway

Oxfordshire County Council has written to the Village Meeting regarding proposed repairs to the Monks Causeway Bridleway, which is situated below Grange Farm and leads across towards Somerton Mill.

In view of irreparable damage to culverts, OCC is canvassing local opinions on possible repair options. JmT noted that the repairs to the footbridge over the Deddington Brook seemed greatly over-engineered. CB suggested an inspection of the damage to the culverts and CW suggested promoting sensitive rebuilding. MS and MP questioned whether the bridleway lies within the parish boundary and a collective response to the OCC was proposed.

4. River Cherwell Management

MS noted receipt of a communication from Mark Malaure, the Environment Agency Cherwell Catchment coordinator, offering to attend a village meeting with a view to canvassing opinions on the management of the river. MS suggested extending an invitation to Mr Malaure.

5. Good Neighbour Plan

MS noted the receipt of communication from Rosie White of Age UK seeking to consult on the establishment of a Good Neighbour Plan in the parish, to address social isolation and loneliness of the elderly. CB and MP suggested that support already happens spontaneously but JD and MS questioned this.

Any Other Business.

1) MS requested a report on the state of the village finances at the next meeting, promised by SH.

TB requested clarification of the Fête finances, with particular emphasis on the returns from each individual stall. MP suggested a return to their regular publication in the newsletter.

2) MP raised the use of the village as a departure and parking point for organised events by the *Oxfordshire Ramblers Association*, leading before Christmas to congestion on the road alongside the Green. For subsequent events permission had been sought, and granted, for parking on the Green. However, JT expressed concern that it might become a more popular venue,

and TR felt it might encourage indiscriminate parking on the Green at weekends. KBB suggested writing to the association to clarify arrangements and SH proposed limiting the number of such events. MS suggesting one per year for a large group.

3) MP raised the matter of the proposed removal of memorial gravestones in the churchyard, and the receipt of three more letters of objection. CB confirmed the vicar will take all opinions to the Diocesan Advisory Committee to find the best way forward. MP sought views on a collective letter of objection to their removal, but since application for a Faculty had yet to be made officially, a decision was postponed until the next meeting.

4) JmT requested a contribution from the Village Meeting towards the cost of Rates on the Old Bakery property, a suggestion supported by KBB. MP proposed and CB seconded a payment and the meeting approved a contribution of £100 a year from the Village Fund.

Date of next Forum meeting

Thursday 25th April at 7:30 pm.

Village Forum

Introduction

MS outlined the difference between the Village Meeting and the Village Forum.

1. Planning for the Village Fête 2019

The chairman noted the need to establish a fête sub-committee and the holding of a planning meeting. CB, MP, TR, ML, LP, SH, BR and MH volunteered. It was proposed and accepted that the meeting could take place after the next Village Forum on Thursday April 25th.

CB suggested that an earlier start of 1pm would encourage sale of refreshments, and the MS suggested asking the mobile fish and chip business Pollocks to participate. CW also recommended the mobile business Foodies.

2. The Mikron Theatre

The return visit by the Mikron Theatre Company was confirmed for 29th June, when the new production of "Redcoats" will be performed, starting at 7:30 pm.

3. North Aston 100 Club

BR noted that subscriptions to the 100 Club are coming up for renewal, and details are in the *Newsletter* every month.

Any Other Business

1) LF volunteered to put out Easter eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt, which will take place on Monday 22nd April. MS suggested £50 to buy Easter eggs from the Village Fund. Proposed by CW, Seconded by MP. Approved

2) CW reminded the meeting of the possibility of using the tennis court and booking arrangements. details will be placed in the *News*.

3) CB reported a quantity of power tools were stolen from an outbuilding at the Old Rectory on Friday night, and a number of other properties were targeted.

4) JmT encouraged the recruitment of more bell-ringers. MP agreed to promote this in the next *Newsletter*.

5) CW enquired about the provision of further defibrillator training. MS said he would run another session when enough people had expressed an interest.

ChW proposed a vote of thanks to Mark Stay for all his hard work as Chair, and the meeting applauded.

Date of next Forum meeting: Thursday 25th April at 7:30 pm.



The Tadmarton Loop

Here is a favourite ride of mine, again around the hour mark and taking in nice stretches of the countryside.

Starting from North Aston, head out towards the main road, and then turn right, descending the busy A4260 towards Deddington. Climb up onto the main street and, at the traffic lights, turn west along the B4031. Enter Hempton before taking the right turn towards Barfords St Michael and St John. Take the short but swift descent before starting the climb that takes you past the radio listening station and then into Bloxham.

At the mini roundabout turn left onto the A361 to Chipping Norton for about two hundred yards and then take a left opposite the petrol station, past the primary school and out towards Lower Tadmarton. At the T junction turn left onto the B4035 and then left again after ¼ mile towards Tadmarton Heath and Wiggington. This take you up a steady climb past Rye Hill Golf Club, which plateaus at Wiggington Heath.

Straight over the cross roads, you plunge down a very steep and twisty road, past the Wildfowl Sanctuary to a further set of cross roads. This descent has a very poor road surface often punctuated with springs and loose gravel. It is quite dangerous and a challenge to ride down safely, especially if you want to try it without touching your brakes. It can be done but beware!

Crossing this next set of crossroads brings you to a short climb followed by a further downhill section through Wiggington, before climbing out of the village, an ascent which seems longer than it is and steepens just before its summit.

Joining the A361 again, take a right towards Chipping Norton for ¼ mile and then turn left to Great Tew (B4022). Another tight and twisty lightning downhill section allows you to hit 40mph before climbing into the village of Duns Tew itself, with the quarry on your right. Another good climb this one which levels out after the cottages on your right and you will find yourself at open crossroads turning right towards Ledwell.

As you may realise, this takes in part of my previous route described in February. In Ledwell, turn right and enjoy the level blast into Sandford St Martin. Carry on through the village and into Westcott Barton. Keep left and join the B4030 (towards Lower Heyford), and into Middle Barton. Straight through this village and just as you leave its confines, bear left towards Duns Tew, past Horseshay Farm and another quarry. At the T junction, take the left, then bear right through Duns Tew itself to bring you back out at the Fox Crossroads and home once again.

Route statistics: Distance – 16miles, max speed – 40 mph, min speed – 6.4mph, time – 1 hour 4 minutes.

James Greenwood (james@cyclogicalshop.co.uk)

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Box Office: MYCO.ORG.UK or call 01865 686481

North Aston Tennis Club

Over the past few years keen tennis players in the village have been invited to join the *North Aston Tennis Club*. It has proven very popular, and Chloe Woodhead has very kindly offered to continue this into 2019.

The courts are at Folly Field House, not far from the church. If you would like more information and details on how to join the Club, please email Chloe on cewoodhead@btinternet.com or telephone her on 01869 340358.



Thanks to Elizabeth Harvey-Lee for this photo of Bill Graham's hedge-laying handiwork along the Middle Aston Lane. Rural skills at their best.



We've had a fantastic month at Park Farm; we've been busy as always with loads of activities, as well as jobs around the house and school. We've also spent a lot of time working on our Garden this month; Harry the gardener has been running Gardening Club and helping us to grow loads of vegetables, herbs and flowers. Hopefully by the time summer rolls around we'll be able to send photos of a flourishing and colourful garden for you all to enjoy.

We've been focusing on doing more memorable activities in recent months; instead of going to the cinema or bowling, we've been trying to enjoy experiences that we can cherish forever. For example, some of us took part in a Ghost Tour of Oxford, where we learned about some of the most haunted places in Oxford. It was pretty scary, but as our guide pointed out to us, it was 'fun scary', and everyone involved had a wonderful time. Up next is a trip to *Cadbury's World*; we'll keep you updated on how that goes.

We've also been learning a lot in our educational workshops this month; we learned about Saint Patrick's Day, and we spent a lot of time learning about world events. We were all deeply saddened to hear about the events in New Zealand in recent weeks, and this prompted us to learn more about world religions. We're planning to follow this up by visiting a number of places of worship in the coming weeks, to expand our knowledge.

We're looking forward to getting out and enjoying the warmer weather this month, so hopefully we'll see a few of you out and about in North Aston when we next go for a walk.

Take care, and have a wonderful April!

Park Farm

Free Dog Walking

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Friendly local pre-school for 2 to 5 year-olds.
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www.steepleastonpreschool.org.uk

Bicester Bridge Club

Last month we ran an advert for the Bicester Bridge Club. Here's some background ...

'Use it or lose it' is intuitively right when applied to our physical health. If you don't exercise muscles regularly, then your physical abilities will deteriorate more quickly than if you take at least a twenty-minute brisk walk every day.

Exercising the brain is just as important. "Use it or lose it" applies to cognitive as well as physical health. Popular works on the topic show that doing regular brain exercises such as crosswords or Sudoku helps expand our memories and our ability to reason. But what about our social lives? Crosswords and Sudoku are great, but they don't get us out of the house.

Attending club meetings puts you in touch with local people. It offers enjoyable conversation. It makes you deal with people whose company you enjoy as well as others who may irritate you! - such is the rich tapestry of a bunch of people who get together for some group purpose.

Bridge is a pastime that neatly combines mental exercise with social intercourse. It's fascinating at any age. You can't play it on your own; bridge needs four people. So, you must get out and meet people to learn and play this marvellous game. You can play it round the kitchen table or in a club.

The key to a successful Bridge Club is to foster the competitive nature of the game without losing the key objective of any hobby club - to provide a relaxed environment where you can enjoy the company of friends.

Bicester Bridge Club has the widest possible spectrum of players, from County-level to raw beginners. We have teams in the Oxfordshire leagues and players who play bridge at the club on one day of the week and also get together with three friends and a glass of wine to play bridge at home.

A Bicester Bridge Learning course is a terrific way into both the game and the club. You can try a free taster at the Kingsmere Community Centre in Bicester (OX26 1EG) by contacting www.bridgewebs.com/bicesterlearning or calling Ken Langdon on 07850 616069.

Councillor Calling



Decisions passed at the last Full Council Meeting

Business Plan 2019/20 & Medium Term Financial Strategy 2019/20 - 2023/24

Adele Taylor, Executive Director Finance and Governance was satisfied that the budget prepared for the financial year 2019/20 is prudent and makes allowance for the costs of providing services in accordance with CDC's approved policies and service plans. "I consider that the budget proposals set out in the report are robust. The level of reserves is sufficient to meet the known risks within the budget taking account of the CDC's robust financial management framework. It is important that the implications arising from separation from South Northamptonshire District Council are closely monitored and reviewed. The financial management arrangements, close working with partners and strategic oversight will ensure that this can be well supported and managed".

Council Tax for 2019/20

Residents will pay £5 a year more towards their district council services as CDC agreed the increase at February's full council meeting. It is the first increase in 10 years and was brought about by the demise of Northamptonshire County Council

and the subsequent termination of CDC's 'Joint Working' arrangement with South Northamptonshire District Council.

Members Allowance - 2019/20

The council resolved to accept the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel to increase the members allowance for 2019/20 from £4,284.00 p.a. to £4,392.00 p.a. The Panel noted that those Members who responded spent an average of 40 hours per month on council duties. This was more than the average response of 33 hours per month in the survey last year.

2018/19 Financial Year

As we approach the end of the financial year, the forecast is a net surplus of circa £500k against the budget set a year ago which, considering the economical turmoil and our impending split with South Northamptonshire District Council is a remarkable achievement. Any surplus will of course be used to plug the gap in finances due to the split from SNDC. The surplus has been achieved due to CDC being a 'Pro-Growth' council with income generated from new businesses choosing to be located in our district & an increase in housing, attracting new families and investment in Cherwell.

Thank you,

Bryn Williams (email: Bryn.Williams@Cherwell-DC.gov.uk)

Would you like to know how to use the village defibrillator?



The defibrillator is located in the porch at 4 Somerton Road, almost opposite the post box. From time to time CPR and Defibrillator training sessions are organised so that residents can become familiar with using the machine. For more information, and to book in on a session, please contact Mark on 347806

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To find out more please visit our website:

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Tackling the Demand for Water

Last month the Environment Agency issued a warning that England faces catastrophic water shortages due to the effects of climate change. Speaking at the Waterwise Conference in London, Sir James Bevan, chief executive of the Agency, told the assembly that, within 25 years, England would reach the "jaws of death - the point at which, unless we take action to change things, we will not have enough water to supply our needs". Only through a combination of changing public habits, conservation, and substantial investment in infrastructure will the country be able to satisfy the increasing demand.

Hot on the heels of this grim prediction comes the announcement that Cherwell District Council is now looking for opportunities to work with local organisations to identify ways in which the Cherwell Valley catchment area can be enhanced, not only to improve environmental and recreational possibilities, but also, in the longer term, to address the future requirement for water.

This April plans are revealed for a radical new initiative within the Cherwell Valley that could be the precursor for exactly the kind of infrastructure development programme that will be needed if the country is not to run dry in the years ahead. The construction of the new Cherwell Valley Reservoir will achieve far more than merely provide a resource of natural, fresh water. The area faces heightened pressure through the introduction of new housing, particularly at Upper Heyford, and this will impact seriously on local supplies.

However, the incorporation of an advanced technology hydro-electric generation system will also provide low-cost power for local communities, while the reservoir itself will offer exciting possibilities for recreation, wildlife regeneration and amenity.

In engineering terms, the works are considered modest. An embankment some 28 feet in height will carry a new road across the valley, roughly in alignment with the existing lane. The most significant construction will be a new canal lock which, with a fall of just under 15 feet (4.7 metres), will be one of the deepest in the country. Built into the embankment will be a quartet of Archimedes screw hydro-electric generators; three in a central pod (B) to maintain a flow of water to the River Cherwell, and a fourth (A) at the site of the existing feeder stream to North Aston Mill. To maximise efficiency, a hydro-turbine will also be installed into the lock's sluice mechanism to generate additional power, supplemented by solar energy, to pump water back into the reservoir with each emptying and re-filling of the lock chamber.

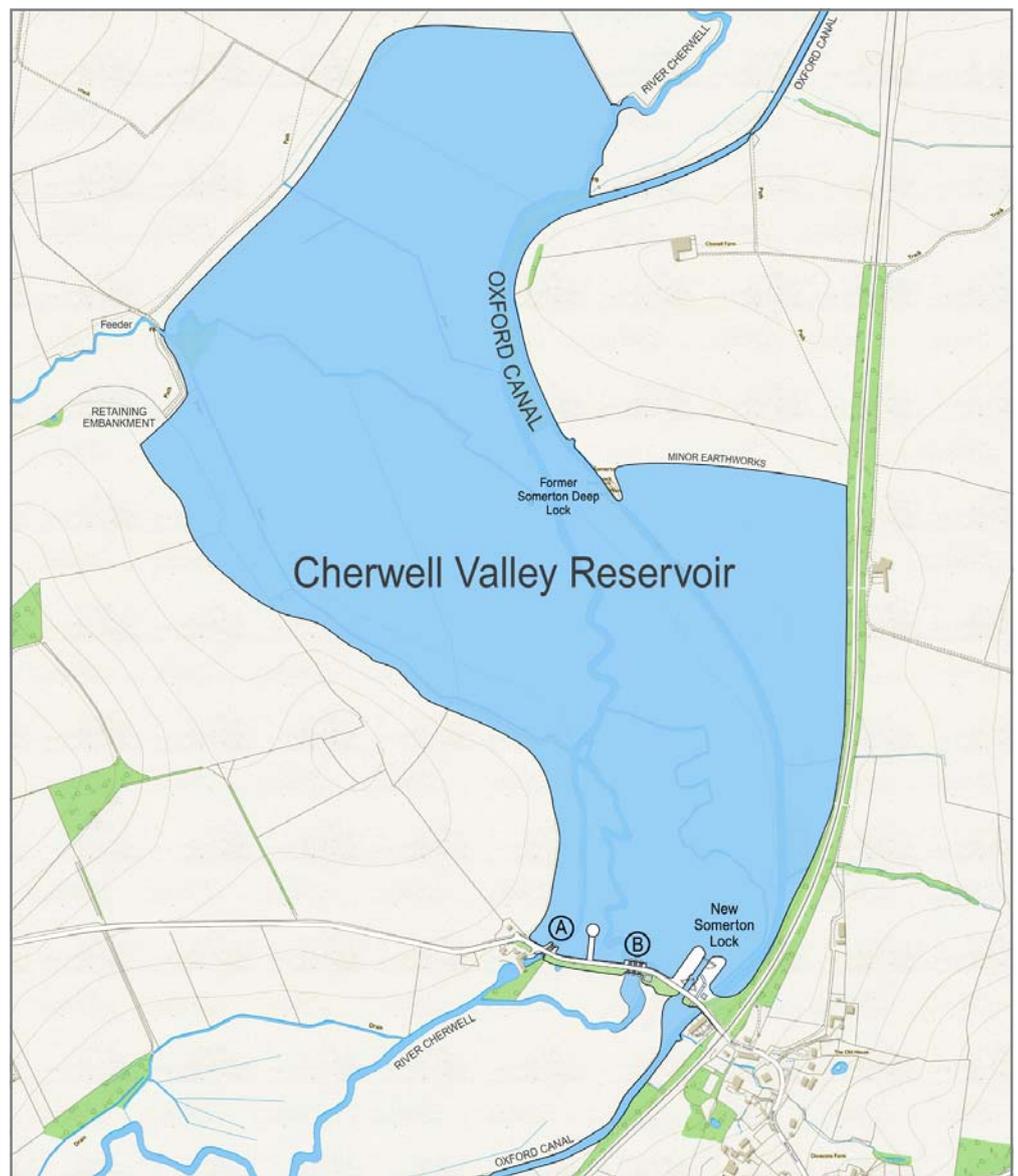
With a maximum depth of around 25 feet, the total storage capacity of the reservoir will be approximately 5.2 million litres (1.2 million gallons). A pier will extend northwards from the dam into the deepest water of the reservoir to facilitate extraction. This

will link via a network of underground pipes to the recently completed 17.5 km Angelinos (Tackley-Deddington) pipeline, with a supplementary connection via the existing mains water supply to the Heyfords.

Small-scale hydro-electric generation has been successfully trialled on the River Thames at Culham and Romney Weir, near Windsor, with a further eight sites earmarked for future installations. The four turbines proposed for the Cherwell Valley Reservoir will generate a combined output of some 650 KW; sufficient to power 1000 homes. Properties in Somerton and North Aston are expected to be among the first to benefit from this low-cost Green Energy supply.

Environmentalists have already expressed their concerns, highlighting the potential loss of wetland habitat. French utility giant, Électricité de France (EDF) is acting as consultant to the project, and spokesperson, Avril Le Pétomane, offered reassurance: "The reservoir will not destroy these habitats, it will merely change them," she insisted. "Extensive areas of permanent wetland will be created along the borders of the reservoir, with opportunities for marginal species to flourish. In addition, populations of waterfowl and wetland mammals will be encouraged. Fish stocks will thrive. The reservoir will offer huge potential for recreation, including angling, sailing and other rural pursuits."

Although still at outline stage, construction is expected to start at the beginning of April 2022.



New Window for St Mary's

Some members of the church's PCC are concerned that village residents may not have seen the Public Notice displayed in the church porch. This relates to the proposal to install a new stained-glass design in the east window of the Ann Chapel. At their request, the content of the Notice is reproduced below, and anyone with an interest in the new window is encouraged to take the time to visit the church, where detailed plans can be examined. To clarify, the east window is the large (currently clear-glass) window immediately to the right when entering the church.

If you would like additional information, please seek out one of the church wardens or a member of the North Aston PCC, as listed opposite.

A visual of the window is reproduced (right) and the text of the Notice is as follows:



Ref: 2018-027087
Diocese: Oxford

Church: North Aston, St Mary the Virgin
Archdeaconry: Dorchester

Form 4A
(Rule 6.2)

Public Notice
(general form)

In the Consistory Court of the Diocese of Oxford Church of North Aston, St Mary the Virgin In the Parish of North Aston

NOTICE IS GIVEN that we are applying to the Consistory Court of the diocese for permission to carry out the following:

New stained glass window (incorporating existing original eagles) to be installed in the east window of the Ann Chapel. Work to include repairs to the stone reveals internally.

Copies of the relevant plans may be examined at
St Mary's Church

Petitioners:

1. REVD MARCUS GREEN, RECTOR
2. CLIVE BUSBY
- 3.

Date: 14/03/2019

If you wish to object to any of the works or proposals you should send a letter stating the grounds of your objection to The Diocesan Registrar at:

Oxford Diocesan Registry
16 Beaumont Street,
Oxford
OX1 2LZ

so that your letter reaches the registrar no later than 14/04/2019. A letter of objection must include your name and address and state whether you live in the parish and/or your name is entered on the church electoral roll of the parish or any other basis on which you have an interest in the matter.

Thursday, March 14, 2019 3:17 PM.

Warning of Road Closure



**OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL**

Under the Road Traffic Regulation Act, 1984, OCC hereby gives notice that Water Street in Somerton will be closed to all vehicles on 23 May 2019 between the hours of 09:30 and 15:30 to facilitate a Network Rail safety examination of the railway bridge and structure. Access will be restricted to frontages only.

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The Church MATTERS



Christ is Risen!

From all at St Mary's, may I wish everyone in the village a very happy Easter indeed!

Easter falls about as late as it can this year (April 21st), so hopefully everyone will be back from breaks away and ready for the term ahead, and we'll have a full church (as last year) to celebrate this most glorious day.

But what does it mean?

Oh it's just a celebration of the Spring, it's about life returning after winter, it's the Church trying to pinch pagan rituals ... I hear all these things and smile. For sure, early Christians were pretty good at hearing the songs around them and singing different words to the same tunes, but Easter has always been something else entirely. The English word has a chequered history, but in many countries (from France - *Pâques* - to Wales - *Pasg*) the time of Jesus' death and resurrection during the Jewish feast of Passover remains clear in the festival's name.

And why such a fixation on that part of the Jesus story?

Because being a Christian is never simply about being a 'good person' (whatever that might mean), it's about realising how imperfect we are as human beings - and yet how loved. So loved that in Jesus we see a God who gives us everything. He even gives away his own life that we might be forgiven. And he rises again to show that God's love is stronger than death, and will stay with us always.

If you need St Mary's to be a place with perfect people who always agree and have perfect lives - I'm afraid we really aren't the church for you! But if you long for a place where real people, with real differences and real lives, come together to find a God who loves us and gives us hope, then do come and join us - any Sunday - but especially at 9am on Easter Sunday as we celebrate the joy, the gift, the wonder of God's life and love in the risen Lord Jesus.

And if you'd like to spend an hour or two preparing for that, we have Rev'd Clare Hayns from Christ Church Oxford in the Benefice during Holy Week just ahead of Easter: Clare will be with us at Tackley on Maundy Thursday evening, in Steeple Aston on Good Friday afternoon, and here in North Aston on Holy Saturday evening. See the services rota for full details.

Finally, may I invite you to our Annual Church Meeting on the evening of Tuesday April 30th. Only Church Electoral Roll members can vote for PCC members or on any issues raised, but we would like to welcome everyone to attend. The new electoral roll will be published after we close the revision on April 7th - so do get any forms back to Norman or Clive please! But God's love is not just for people on the church electoral roll, it's for all of us. As Rector it is always my full intention to welcome anyone who wants to come along and see what happens in church life, and to pray with us. Everyone in North Aston is invited to be a part of this journey of love and hope.

Revd Marcus Green



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, Beryl Greenwood, Vicky Taylor, Ginny Stay, Ted Short, Jeremy Taylor and Norman West.



CHURCH SERVICES

PARISH WORSHIP IN APRIL-MAY

NORTH ASTON

STEEPLE ASTON

TACKLEY

Sunday April 7th 2019 - Passion Sunday

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 April 14th 2019 - Palm Sunday

(9:15 Procession) 9:30am
Family Service
Revd Marcus Green and
Richard Bailey

11:00 am
Family Service
Revd Marcus Green

10:30 am
Palm Sunday Service
With Tackley Methodist Church

Thursday April 18th 2019 - Maundy Thursday

No Service

No Service

7:30 pm
Service for Maundy Thursday
With Revd Clare Hayns,
Chaplain of Christ Church

Friday April 19th 2019 - Good Friday

No Service

12:00 noon
Reflection Service: At the Cross
With Revd Clare Hayns,
Chaplain of Christ Church

No Service

Saturday April 20th 2019 - Holy Sunday

7:00 pm
Easter Eve Service
With Revd Clare Hayns,
Chaplain of Christ Church

No Service

No Service

Sunday April 21st - Easter Sunday

9:00 am
Easter Family Communion
Revd Marcus Green

11:00 am
Easter Family Communion
Revd Marcus Green

10:30 am
Easter Communion
Revd Geoff Hunter and
Richard Bailey

Sunday April 28th 2019

No Service

11:00 am
United Benefice
Holy Communion with Children's Church
Revd Marcus Green

No Service

Sunday May 5th 2019

9.30am 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 on most Mondays at 2pm in the Rectory; Midweek Morning Prayer will be at 10am on Thursday April 11th. Visit the Benefice Website for further information: 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.

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