

NORTH ASTON

NEWS

May 2019

#343



NORTH ASTON NEWS

MAY 2019, No:343

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Notes from the Ch2ir

Hello North Aston! My name is Eileen O'Sullivan and I'm the new Vice-Chair of the Village Meeting, which in practice means I'm acting as Co-Chair alongside Lucinda Fuoco. For those of you who don't know me already, I've been living in North Aston for just over 3 years now, having moved here to work on the dairy. I'm now a full time mum to Wren, and my partner Gareth is working for Mark at North Aston Organics. You may have seen me out walking or on the Green with my baby, who's really now a toddler (that happened fast)! I would love to connect with more people in the village so please do come and talk to me if you see me out and about or knock on my door (I'm at number 11) – if I don't answer it probably means I'm stuck underneath a sleeping Wren!

An Egg-Citing Easter Monday!

Many thanks to Lucinda and Vincent for organising an Egg-cellent Easter Egg-stravaganza on the Village Green on Easter Monday! Fun was had by all and perhaps there are still some eggs out there for discovery by intrepid Eggs-plores! Right, I'm all out of terrible egg yolks (for this year)!

Sub committee for community activities

At the Meeting in April it was proposed that we establish a sub-committee for setting up more regular community activities and generally improving life in the village and creating more opportunities to connect and help each other. If anyone would be interested to get involved in this please get in touch – this could be a fantastic opportunity to enrich all of our daily lives here and it doesn't have to involve a big time commitment. We haven't fixed any details yet, so we can try to fit meetings around anyone keen to be a part of this.

Village Constitution

It was also raised at the meeting that we need to adopt a Constitution for the Village Meeting and Annie has kindly provided us with a draft document. This is published in the News to enable everyone in the village to have a look and provide feedback if they would like to. Feedback by email to secretary@north-aston.co.uk before 30th June. This will allow time to collate a proposed final version before the meeting in August.

Village Fête

Plans are already afoot for the Village Fête which this year will be on the second Saturday in July (13th). Please do get in touch early if you're available to help out on the day so we can allocate roles. Any donations for top raffle prizes would be fantastic too, whether you can offer something yourself or if you can source something from a local business.

You can telephone Eileen on 340957, or Lucinda on 340588 or email: chair@north-aston.co.uk

Eileen

Hello Everyone,

Annabel and I will once again be representing St Mary's Church this year, delivering and collecting *Christian Aid* envelopes around the village. This year the appeal is in aid of health care for pregnant women in Sierra Leone.

You should receive your envelope in the first week of May and we will come around collecting during the week of the **12th to the 17th**. If you would like to donate but won't be around please drop off your envelope at Manor Farm.



We are always amazed at the generosity of North Aston! Many thanks in advance.

Vicky Taylor & Annabel Bevan

Events

Deddington Farmers' Market

This month's Farmers' Market will be on Saturday 26th May, between 9am and 12.30pm. Deddington has one of the country's most vibrant farmers' markets, and it's right on our doorstep. Over 40 other stalls will crowd the Market Square offering the very best in locally-produced beer, bread, crafts, eggs, flowers, fish, fruit, meat, preserves and ready-made meals ... including our very own North Aston Organics. Do support them!

Oxfordshire Artweeks 2019

The annual artful extravaganza that is Oxfordshire Artweeks takes place again this month, with a number of artists in our area exhibiting their craft in painting, sculpture, photography and ceramics ... among other skills and attributes. Our own Annie Savage will be exhibiting her sculpture along with the other members of the Bicester Sculpture Group (see page 8), but she's not alone. There are another 8 venues in Bicester as well as artists in Lower Heyford, Tackley, Clifton and Enstone. Check out these and others on the website at www.artweeks.org.



The winners of the April Big Draw were:

First Prize (£100): A Brown (#87)

Second Prize (£5): F Potts (#100)



This month's 100 Club was the last for the 2018-19 season, with a bumper bonus prize of £100 going to Andy Brown. Many congratulations! The second prize went to Franca Potts. Both have been long-standing supporters of the 100 Club, but we need more members like them if this very worthwhile fund-raiser is to thrive.

By now every household should have received an envelope inviting them to join (or re-join), so please give it a try! For further information or to request membership, please contact Bev on 347434. Remember ...

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



The results of the Referendum on the Mid-Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan, staged on March 21st 2019, were as follows:

Number of votes cast in favour of adopting the Plan: 1231

Number of votes cast in favour of rejecting the Plan: 128

This represents 90.2% being in favour, and 9.4% being against.

A total of 6 ballot papers were rejected; four being unmarked, and two being spoiled. The turnout was calculated as being 24.8% of all those eligible to vote.

The Deputy Counting Officer, Natasha Clark, declared that more than half those voting had expressed favour in the Plan and, as a consequence, it will now be adopted.

May Birthdays

Richard Boss Linda Brown
Clive Busby Hal Busby
Holly Busby Iris Busby
Sarah Godwin
Oscar Le Clercq
Deirdre Oakley
Matthew Rees
Oscar Taylor
Bianca Waszynska



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: **St Mary's Church, North Aston**. Installing a new stained glass window into the east window of the Anne Chapel in St Mary's Church to replace clear glass. Full details can be viewed on-line at www.cherwell.gov.uk using the reference below.

If you wish to comment, the Standard Consultation Expiry Date is Thursday 16 May 2019. Emailed to: dm.comments@cherwell-dc.gov.uk. Reference 19 / 00636 / F

Somerton Road Closure

A reminder 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.

Tennis Club

Chloe Woodhead has very kindly offered to continue organising the *North Aston Tennis Club*. 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.

Ardley Tip Temporary Closure

The Household Waste Recycling Centre at Ardley will be closing for two days this month, on Tuesday 14th and Wednesday 15th May for a "deep clean and essential maintenance".

Cover Photo

Many thanks to Jean Graham for her photo of the North Aston Apple tree in blossom last month.

North Aston Nature Notes

With Stephen Rees

At the end of April Wendy and I went to the RSPB nature reserve at Minsmere, Suffolk, and had a wonderful time. We even had some new spots for us ...

While sitting in the massive and very comfy Bittern hide, looking out over miles of reed and rush beds, trying to spot Bearded Tits, we were treated to displays of hundreds of Swallows, lots of Sand Martins, and the best display of acrobatic flying by Peewit I've ever seen. It was a choral song to make your heart sing!

A first for me was to see a Shoveler duck, not ten yards from our hide. Even better, we saw not one, but three Marsh Harriers hovering and hunting just above the reeds. I was surprised at how big they are, and how agile too.



Whilst watching a pair of Oyster Catchers, I saw a ripple on the edge of a pool about fifty yards away, almost directly in front of us. Then, out came three Otters; two young and one massive adult, and they started to play. Moments later, the adult caught a big fish and, to Wendy's embarrassment, I shouted out ... "Wendy! Otters! Bloody otters!"

The other bird watchers came over and said that they had never seen more than one there before. That made it a brilliant afternoon, and we also heard two Cuckoo, saw a Red Deer and a Muntjac.

So back to more local news. We saw two swallows in the field behind us on 20th April, but haven't seen any more since, and no-one has told me yet that they have heard the cuckoo. Last year they were few and far between. However, Deirdre

tells me that she has seen Blue Tits already using our nesting boxes on the Green, and we have Great Tits and Blue Tits in a good few others. That's what makes me smile, and encourages me to put up the boxes.

I saw a Sparrowhawk smash into a flock of small birds and catch one along the side of a hedge a few days ago. They are so fast, and the little birds have no chance of escape. Their only defence is in numbers, and hoping that it isn't their turn today.

Talking about birds thinking, I saw a Rook flying really fast



and straight a couple of weeks ago, early in the morning. I was thinking that's not how a Rook normally flies, and when it got closer I saw that it was carrying a small bird in its claws. I suspect it was probably a pheasant chick.

All of a sudden, and from every angle, more Rooks came flying in, and they started to mob him. I reckon they also noticed he was flying differently, and guessed he had a treasure! I'm probably wrong, but how else did they know?

I made a note of hearing a Chiff-Chaff singing away on the 6th last month, and we have Black Caps too. They're very tuneful for a little grey job of a bird.

The Roe Deer have shed their winter coats now, and are looking splendid. We have two regular visitors just below us, and they ping over fences like they have springs in their legs.

The Easter weekend was lovely and hot, and brought out the dandelions to flower, as well as a good few butterflies and bees. Then the next week, it turned cold and slightly frosty again. Hey up!

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

North Aston Gardening Club

Don't forget to pick up your spud and tub for the Spud-in-a-Tub growing competition at this year's Flower & Produce Show. Can you grow ginormous tubers to rival Deirdre's? You can find a seed potato and large tub in Norman's front garden. If there are no spuds on display, just ask Norman, as they may be being kept out of the sun.

The F&P Show will be held on Saturday the 31st of August, so you have plenty of time to get growing!

Lynn

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North Aston Village Meeting

Thursday 25th April 2019 ~ The Minutes

Officers present: Chair: Lucinda Fuoco (LF), Vice Chair: Eileen O'Sullivan (EOS), Treasurer: Sue Hatzigeorgiou (SH), Secretary: Annie Savage (AS).

Those present: Trudy Busby (TB) Clive Busby (CB), Jane Durnin (JD), Linda Brown (LB), Mark Stay (MS), Les Parry (LP), Mary Healy (MH), Jeremy Taylor (JT), Bev Rees (BR), Tony Rees (TR).

Village Meeting

1. Constitution

LF thanked people for coming and outlined the way in which she and EOS are going to run the arrangements around Chairing of meetings. As it is advisable to have specified roles, she will be the Chair of the Village Meeting and EOS, the Vice Chair, but they will very much share the role.

At present we have no formal Constitution. A draft one was submitted for the defibrillator grant application last year, and this needs to be formally adopted. It is essential that all residents of the village have the opportunity to view the proposed document and copies were handed round for people to read and comment on by June 30th. AS said she was happy to send out email copies for those residents who would prefer and collate all the feedback in time for the August meeting. The draft will be included in the next *North Aston News* and comments invited. (*Please see note below right and draft text overleaf.*)

2. Accounts

SH presented the accounts to the Meeting and asked for comments. There were two items which required explanation: Payments had been made into the Village Meeting account which belong in the Village Fund account and it was agreed that the transfer of the items should proceed.

The meeting was asked to approve the accounts. MS proposed. BR seconded.

3 Risk Assessment

The risk assessment accompanies the accounts and obliges us to consider the management of our finances. The Meeting was asked to consider each of the items on the assessment and comment on accuracy. EOS read the details and three items were identified for amendment:

a) **Assets:** it was agreed that an annual inspection of our assets should take place in order that the risk of third party claims is minimised. JT suggested we do this at the time of the fête when all the marquees and equipment is out. It was noted that in addition to the defibrillator, a generator currently stored at Nicholsons should be included. Value £1,000. It was agreed that an inspection was required and TR offered to take it to a plant hire company. The meeting approved expenditure to ensure safety is maintained.

b) **Legal Powers.** Under the heading of Legal Powers, the risk is currently identified as high. SH said she thought this was reflective of the ability of the officers to make unchecked purchases and there was a lack of internal check between accounts periods. It was agreed that bank statements should be brought to each meeting for inspection and the risk was downgraded to Medium.

c) **Minutes.** It was agreed that the Minutes should include a standing item on Declaration of Interest.

JD proposed the Risk Assessment be approved. BR seconded. The meeting approved accordingly.

4. Annual Governance Statement

SH reminded us that, although we are exempt from the Audit as our turnover is less than £25,000, we must still comply with a list of criteria being met. EOS read out the list of conditions to the Meeting. SH confirmed the accounts had been examined by an accountant and LF is required to sign them if the Meeting approves. MH proposed we accept. TB seconded. The meeting approved accordingly.

5. CPR and Defibrillator Training

AS advised that the defibrillator needs to be registered with the

ambulance brigade and as part of that, we have been asked if anyone would like to act as a Community First Responder. It is a voluntary role and anyone interested should contact AS. LB advised there are CFRs in Steeple and Somerton.

BR confirmed that Nicholsons had completed a training session that day and 10 further people had been trained. Additional training will be held in the Bakehouse and AS confirmed she is happy to co-ordinate.

6. Community roles

LF outlined a proposal to set up a sub-committee open to anyone in the village to develop relationships in the village to reduce isolation and promote community cohesion. CDC has set up a fund to assist and we are eligible to apply if we identify projects which require support.

Volunteers to contact LF

7. Any Other Business

1 **Churchyard:** CB advised there was nothing to report as further investigations and rodding was required.

2 **Speedwatch:** Duns Tew have contacted us to see if we can set up a joint initiative. The meeting agreed the problem appears to have deteriorated. AS said she would talk to RH about our response and try to establish further training on the use of the Speedwatch equipment. LP asked about the local police attitude given Lower Heyford has recently had at least three occasions on which police vehicles have carried out speed catching and he agreed to contact the police to see if they will assist us. CB confirmed he will order new batteries for the lower monitor as previously agreed.

3 **Village Green:** JT reported that the Green had recently seen an explosion of wildflowers and he proposes that the mowing of the grass is managed differently this year to encourage the seeding. He suggests the sheep are not put onto the green until after the Mikron Theatre event in June. MH suggested paths are cut through the long grass. It was agreed that the space for the fête would be grazed off and mown to reflect this.

8. Date of the next Meeting

This will take place on 29th August 2019 at 7.30pm.

Village Meeting Constitution Have your say!

You may have seen in the Minutes of the Meeting held on 25th April that the Village Meeting does not currently have a formal Constitution. In seeking to address this, we would welcome your thoughts.

Set out on the next page is the draft which was put before the Village Meeting. It is important that everyone in the village sees the document and is able to comment.

The consultation period ends on June 30th and if you would like to make suggestions or if you feel any aspect of the document is inappropriate, please contact Annie Savage, the Village Meeting Secretary. Her email is secretary@north-aston.co.uk or you may telephone her on 347767.

The village defibrillator

The defibrillator is located in the porch at 4 Somerton Road, opposite the post box. CPR & Defibrillator training sessions are arranged from time to time. For more information, and to book a session, please contact Mark on 347806



The Village Constitution

Here follows the draft text for the proposed Village Constitution. Please read through, and submit any comments or observations to Annie Savage (secretary@north-aston.co.uk) before 30th June 2019.

1. Name: The name of the Association is the North Aston Parish Meeting The Association Area covers the North Aston village boundary as outlined by the Cherwell District Council Ward.

2. Aims: The aims of the Association shall be to carry out such purposes as to benefit all members within the Association. In furtherance of this, the Association shall have the following powers:

- To represent member residents and businesses within the Association area.
- To promote, support and achieve changes and improvements to the quality of life for local people and businesses.
- To work with other local associations.
- To consult and inform all members regularly.
- To be non-party political.
- To promote membership to all members of the community.

3. Membership

- Voting membership of the Association is open to:-
 - All residents over the age of 18 living in the Association area.
 - Any resident outside the boundary area – subject to approval by the Committee.
- The Chairperson keeps records of the business of the Association.
- Voting membership will automatically end when a member stops living in the Association area.
- In the event of continuous or serious breaches of the Constitution or Code of Conduct, voting rights of a resident can be suspended or ended by a two-thirds majority vote of the Committee.
- A member whose membership has been suspended in accordance with clause 3(d) shall be entitled to have that suspension reviewed at the next General Meeting.

4. Affiliation

The Association may affiliate to any non-party political organisation whose aims and objectives are commensurate with those of the Association and which can help the Association in achieving its aims and objectives.

5. The Committee

- The Committee shall have the following Officers: Chairperson; Secretary; Treasurer
- Officers shall be elected at an Annual General Meeting (AGM). The size of the committee should be no less than 3.
- The Officers shall be elected by the membership defined in 3) above
- Officers will normally stand for a 3 year term subject to annual re election by the membership.
- The Chairperson shall chair all meetings of the Association. In the absence of the Chair, another Officer present shall take the role of Chairperson.
- Election or removal of Officers can only be carried out by a majority vote at a General Meeting or Special General Meeting called specifically for that purpose.
- Any vacancies from the Committee occurring by resignation or otherwise may be filled by the Committee by co-opting members with full voting rights, until the next General Meeting.
- The Committee may, when necessary or when deemed to be of benefit to the Association, co-opt up to three people whose skills and/or experience would be advantageous to the Committee in carrying out its functions.
- Copies of the Constitution are available free to all people in the Association area. The Secretary must send out copies of the Constitution within seven days of a person requesting it.
- The Committee shall, as far as possible, be representative of the community which it serves.
- Any Officer who does not attend three consecutive meetings without giving reasonable apologies shall be deemed to have resigned.

6. Meetings

Annual General Meetings

- The Association shall hold an AGM once each calendar year in the month of January and not more than 15 months shall pass between the date of one AGM and the next.
- The AGM shall
 - Present a statement of accounts to members.
 - Elect Officers/ Committee members.
 - Consider any resolution put forward by members.
 - Set the precept for the forthcoming year
- Notification of an AGM will be issued not less than 14 days prior to the meeting. Notice of the AGM shall be posted on the notice board in the Association area.
- Every member present shall have a vote.

General Meetings

- There shall be at least one general meeting of the Association in any year (including the AGM).
- Meetings are open to all people living in the defined area.
- Every member present at a General Meeting shall have a vote.
- Decisions of the General Meeting shall be binding on the Committee.
- At least seven days' notice shall be given for a General Meeting.
- The quorum for a General Meeting shall be six (6) members present.

Supplemental meetings of the village forum may take place at the same time as the AGM but does not form part of the Village meeting

Special General Meetings

- A Special General Meeting may be called by the Committee or if requested by at least 10 members. This request should be made in writing to the Secretary at least 14 days before the requested meeting date. The Secretary must issue a written notice at least seven days in advance of the meeting.
- The Secretary shall call a Special General Meeting at the request of a majority

of the Committee; or on receipt of a petition by not less than ten (10) members, giving reason for their request.

c) The Secretary shall give not less than 7 days' notice of such a meeting, which will take place within 14 days of receipt of this petition.

Committee Meetings.

- The quorum of Committee members shall be two (2) officers.
- Committee Meetings may be called by the Chair and Secretary or at the request of one third of the Committee members.
- At least 7 days' notice must be given to Committee members.

7. Conduct of Business

Voting

- At all meetings (except those dealing with alterations to the Constitution) decisions shall be taken by a simple majority of those members present and voting. Each member has one vote.
- Alterations to the Constitution require a two-thirds majority of those present and voting at a General Meeting at which the Constitution is proposed to be changed. Full details of proposed changes must be circulated at least fourteen days before the meeting.
- In the event of a tie in voting, the Chair of the meeting shall have the casting vote. This casting vote should not be used to change or introduce new policies or procedures.
- Conflict of interest must be declared. Members with a conflict of interest should then withdraw from discussion and voting on the issue in question.

Minutes

- All voting that takes place at an AGM, General Meeting, Special General Meeting or Committee Meeting shall be counted and recorded in the minutes.
- All formal meetings such as Committee Meetings, Special General Meetings and AGMs must be minuted and the minutes formally approved by the next meeting of the Committee or General Meeting.

8. Finance

- A simple record of any income and expenditure must be produced each year at the AGM and be available to all members on request.
- Accounts should be open to inspection by members on request.
- The Association may raise funds either by donation, grant application or other means. The proceeds of any such fundraising shall be used in accordance with: and to the furtherance of: the aims and objectives of the Association.
- A bank account is open in the name of the Association.
- The Association may use online banking. All transactions must be authorised by 2 committee members. Any payments made by cheque or other banking instruments or instructions shall be signed by at least 2 signatories who must be elected officers
- Signatories must not be related or be members of the same household.

9. Changes to the Constitution.

- Any proposed change to this Constitution can only be made at a Special General Meeting, a General Meeting or an Annual General Meeting.
- Any proposed change to this Constitution must be sent to the Secretary not less than 28 days prior to the meeting at which the alteration is to be discussed.
- The Secretary will send the new wording (amendment) together with the old wording and notice of the meeting at least fourteen days prior to the meeting at which the alteration is to be discussed.
- Alterations to the Constitution require a two-thirds majority of those present and voting at the General Meeting.

10. Dissolution

- A Special General Meeting called specifically to consider a motion to dissolve the Association can only dissolve the Association.
- All members shall be given 14 days' written notice of such a meeting.
- The Association can only dissolve if a majority of the members present and voting at the Special General Meeting vote for a motion to dissolve the Association.
- The meeting shall decide on the disposal of any assets remaining after the satisfaction of debts and any other liabilities. These assets must be applied to charitable purposes agreed with the members of the Association.

11. Code of Conduct

- The role of the Committee is to carry out the day to day business of the Association in an efficient, fair and responsive way. In taking decisions on behalf of the Association, Committee members must always be aware of their responsibilities to represent all members.
- All Committee members must comply with the Constitution and Code of Conduct at all times.
- Committee Members shall conduct themselves in a manner that will not cause offence to others. Racist, sexist or inflammatory remarks or abusive behaviour will not be tolerated. The Chair has the right to warn the members of their behaviour. If they persist they will be asked to leave the meeting until further notice. The Committee must arrange a date and time and hold a meeting for them to discuss the incident and make a decision as to what action to take.

12. General

- Committee Members must never personalise issues and should be willing to recognise that everybody is entitled to express their point of view without unduly preventing progress of discussion at a Committee or General Meeting.
- A serious breach of any of the Association's Code of Conduct may result in a member, following a majority vote of the Officers, being asked to resign.
- The Committee Members will take decisions based on their being a unanimous agreement or a simple majority of those present if a vote is taken. Minority voters should always be prepared to accept the majority decision and not take such a decision as any form of personal slight or criticism.
- Committee Meetings must be held at times which are convenient to the majority of Members. If an Officer fails to attend three consecutive meetings without giving good reason, they must be asked to consider resigning at the next Committee Meeting. To prevent there being arguments about attendance at meetings, a record will be kept showing who was at each meeting.



Last month at Park Farm we were really busy getting involved in loads of activities. With two weeks off school, we were trying to make the most of our free time before heading back for the business end of the school year.

We completed many Easter-based activities, including an Egg Hunt. Some of us went to Cadbury's World in Birmingham; we learned a lot about how chocolate is made, and even got to bring some home!

We went out to play laser tag; we had a great time and even though it got very competitive, we all enjoyed ourselves a great deal! We have also gone out to parks and for long walks, making the most of the recent good weather.

Over the holidays we've still been learning; we've done lots of educational workshops on sexual health and first aid, which went really well. We feel like we've learned a lot and now we feel much more comfortable dealing with a first aid incident if we need to. Some of us have also been on Young Driver sessions, learning how to drive for under 17s.

We have spent time outside in our garden and enjoying the lovely sunshine. Our patch is really coming along now, and we have strawberries growing, along with some summer vegetables!

We are looking forward to the summer term; many of us are sitting exams and although we are nervous, we are also excited to get them done and get our grades, but more importantly, we are looking forward to the summer holidays!

Remember, we have a free dog walking service and we would love to help you out by exercising your pooches for an hour or so at weekends or during the holidays!

Park Farm
Free Dog Walking

Stuck for time? Let the Park Farm Girls help out with their reliable, friendly and professional dog-walking service. (Weekends only). Please call us on 01869 349922 to set up a dog-walking appointment.



Thursday May 9th, 7.30 pm, Old Bakery
If you were able, would you uninvent the internet?

Over the past 12 months, a small number from the village have enjoyed interesting evenings together over a bottle of wine, to share thoughts on a variety of subjects.

In thinking about how to make the group more widely appealing, I thought it would be good to let you know of the next meeting and flag up some thoughts about how we could encourage more people to be part of it. It's not heavyweight or academic and you'd be free to come along and not say a word. The aim is really to share our thoughts about things which interest us - so far we've thought about our relationship with animals, organ donation and how we feel about having a fulfilling time after retirement, amongst other things.

The next meeting is planned for Thursday May 9th at 7.30 in the Old Bakehouse. The topic planned is '*If you were able, would you uninvent the internet?*' If you can make it, it would be great to see you and if you would like to be included on the Email list, please drop me a note, phone me, text me or *WhatsApp* me and let me have your email address, so I can include you in messages.

Tony: furniturechat@gmail.com, 078909 55327 or 01869 347767

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BICESTER SCULPTURE GROUP

Oxfordshire Artweeks is upon us again. As ever, it's a wonderful opportunity to visit the studios of working artists and see what they've been inspired to create.

Regular Artweeks visitors will be familiar with Bicester Sculpture Group. The group was founded in 1998 in memory of George Muller, who worked on notable commissions in cathedrals as well as private houses. He established the studio in Bicester with the vision of creating a space for sculptors to work together in a shared, creative environment, and his legacy continues today with 24 artists working in stone, wood, metal, clay and other media. Most of the artists themselves live in villages surrounding Bicester.

In previous years the group has been located in the Old Vicarage but this year, their Artweeks exhibition will be staged at the former St Edburg's School in Cemetery Road, Bicester OX26 6BB.

It's just round the corner from the Church and Old Vicarage so make sure you visit. Open between 11am and 4pm from Saturday May 18th to Monday May 27th, this year the Group is sharing the event space with Oxfordshire Youth Arts Project, so this promises to be an excellent event.

You can find out more about Bicester Sculpture Group by visiting the website at www.sculptureatbicester.org.uk, or calling round to speak with Annie Savage.

Bridge

Would you like to play in a friendly environment with advice from experienced Bridge players and teachers?

Join us every Thursday 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm at the Kingsmere Community Centre, Bicester OX26 1EG

£5 per session with tea and coffee provided.

More details at: www.bridgewebs.com/bicesterlearning

Please call David Tarsky on 07867126188



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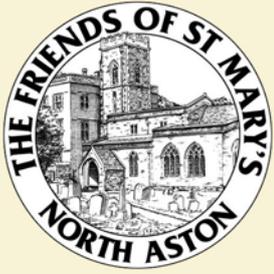
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The Church MATTERS



Giving Thanks!

Week by week, Sunday by Sunday, it is the invitation to come together and worship God that makes us who we are. Week by week, Sunday by Sunday, it is in our songs and our prayers, our study of the Bible and our fellowship that we grow to be more Christ-like together. If we are to build our Church life together, this is the foundation. So I want to take a moment to thank everyone who makes each Sunday service so important, so vital, so key in that life. Everything else we do comes from this point, and whether we then talk of service in the community or giving or anything else - it comes from this point of worship.

Thank you. Thank you to everyone for all you do and all you give and all you are in our life together. But perhaps you might allow me to mention one or two folk in particular in our church community? I could not begin to do my work as Rector without Clive and Annabel as wardens, Beryl as treasurer and Ted as PCC secretary. Their care and help and encouragement are more valuable than they begin to realise. So too the presence and ministry of Richard, on whom I depend enormously, especially now he is looking after morning prayer on the last Sunday of each month.

And I must speak of our various projects. Hopefully we will get the churchyard sorted soon - we all want to keep it open, and I have been so grateful to the wardens for the work they have done to move this forward. The renovation of the windows in the chapel has been an enormous success: thanks to Jane for such sterling work with the fundraising there, and to Trevor Dean who was our contractor, and Kelvin Sampson our architect.

At time of writing we are waiting to see how the diocesan registrar will respond to the application for the stained glass window in the chapel. I do hope this will go forward, and I have been impressed by the way the PCC, the DAC and many others have carefully worked through and supported this project. When Nicholas Kneale first spoke to me about donating a window as an offering of thanks for all his family have received in North Aston, none of us could have known he would not be with us now. How much all of us, however, want it to be that the tokens of our gratitude are what outlive us, and continue to bless.

If we want to go forward with the lychgate and the work on the path, we need to find more funds. We will see what the year ahead brings. And more than waiting around to see - we must be generous as always, with our time, our money, and our prayers. Indeed: let's all pray like we believe it makes a difference! And in the faith of Jesus, let's pray to move on now as a church - because being a Christ-like Church means loving God and loving our neighbour, not being a club that does the same as it's always done, but being a family that reaches out to care for everyone. And let's pray that we all grow to be more Christ-like - more kind, more generous, more faithful, more forgiving - in the process.

We've spent a while focussed on renovations, and a lot of our conversation has been about building projects. But now let's fix our eyes elsewhere: remembering that the church is always people, and never just buildings, in the year ahead let's pray that we might build God's church. Let us become more and more a welcoming people who know we are loved by Jesus and want to serve everyone. Then indeed we all might find ourselves surrounded with tokens of thanksgiving and blessing...

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 MAY-JUNE

NORTH ASTON

STEEPLE ASTON

TACKLEY

Sunday May 5th 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**

Sunday May 12th 2019

9:30 am
Family 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 May 19th 2019

9:30 am
Holy Communion
Revd Marcus Green

11:00 am
Holy Communion
Revd Marcus Green

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

Sunday May 26th 2019

9:30 am
Morning Prayer
Richard Bailey

11:00 am
Morning Prayer with Children's Church
Richard Bailey

9:30 am
Holy Communion
Revd Marian Needham

Sunday June 2nd 2019

9:30 am
Rogation
Clive Busby

11:00 am
Holy Communion
Book of Common Prayer
Revd Charles Chadwick
Parish Development Adviser

5:30 pm
Evensong
Canon Robin Gibbons

Sunday June 9th 2019 - Pentecost

9:30 am
Holy Communion
Revd Mervyn Puleston

11:00 am
Holy Communion
Revd Marian Needham

5:30 pm
Evensong
Canon Robin Gibbons

Bible Study happens most Mondays at 2pm in the Rectory; Thursday Morning Prayer is at 10am on May 9th. 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 Nicholson's 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*, stating your wish to be added to the mailing list. We welcome contributions, which need to be in an electronic format (except Classifieds and Announcements, which may be hand written). To submit an item, please email: info@north-aston.co.uk. Advertising is welcome. If you wish to place a Display or Classified advert in the *News*, please request a rate card by email: info@north-aston.co.uk