

NORTH ASTON

NEWS

June 2020

#356



NORTH ASTON NEWS

JUNE 2020, No:356

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Out of Hours Doctor: 111 or 08453 458 995

Notes from the Chair

Hello!

It seems that our rather isolated few months might be easing slightly, now that we can have little gatherings (social distancing obviously still in place) to see our friends and family once again.

We are so lucky that we have all been able to enjoy the sunshine and everything that our beautiful village has had to offer during this time. My family and I have been on lots of lovely walks, usually meeting someone along the way to share a distanced chat or a far-away wave. It has been these small things that have made isolation a tad easier.

We have, for obvious reasons not been able to hold any Meetings of late, so with that in mind we shall be holding a Zoom meeting on the 8th July – see the note below. More details on this to follow.

For now though, continue to enjoy the sunshine, the lazy days and our incredibly special little bubble.

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

Lucinda

Village Meeting

Although we are restricted by the current lockdown situation, a limited amount of village business must still be conducted. The Village Meeting is obliged to approve a set of Accounts and to submit an Annual Return. The deadline for this has been moved to 31st August, but it is unlikely that a full Village Meeting will be possible prior to that date. It is therefore proposed that there will be a "Virtual Meeting" on Wednesday 8th July, starting at 6.30pm. This will take place using Zoom, and will include a very limited agenda of essential topics.

Further details will be published in next month's News, and via the Village mailing List. If you would like to be included on the invitation list and participate in the meeting, please email secretary@north-aston.co.uk

As and when it is felt prudent to do so, a full Meeting will be held.



The winners of the May draw were:

1st Prize (£10): Alex Hack (#138)

2nd Prize (£5): Susie Taylor (#123)

This year's 100 Club has now started. Bev has already distributed renewal forms to all existing members, and if you haven't yet returned your subscriptions, then please do so asap! You're given a month's grace, so numbers were still included for May, but will be ignored next month if subscriptions haven't been paid! She is also keen to sign up new members, so if you don't yet participate, then please consider joining in. Contact Bev for more details, and to find out which numbers are still available. Call 347434 or email info@north-aston.co.uk.



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

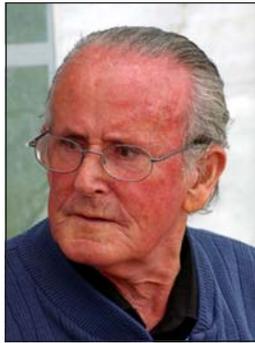
Front cover: We've just gone through the driest May on record, with parts of the country receiving less than 10% of usual rainfall. Vegetables are stunted, strawberries are on the small side, but peonies have flourished!

Announcements

Dick Taylor

We are very saddened to learn that Richard "Dickie" Brent Taylor was tragically taken from his family on April 20th. He was 84.

He leaves behind his wife of 59 years, Dorothy Ann Taylor, his three children Brent, Bryn and Zena, grandchildren Glenn, Aimee, Donna, Courtkne, Ben, Bryent, Claudia, and Jason, and great grandchildren Kinley and Grace.



Dick will be fondly remembered as a long-time North Aston resident. He moved into the village in 1952, to take up a post working at Cold Harbour Farm. He met Dorothy at the cinema in Middle Barton the following year, but it was eight years before they married. The couple moved into No.3 New Cottages in 1969, where they lived for over 40 years. From the early 1990s Dick operated Aston Cabs, offering a hugely appreciated independent taxi service for the area. About ten years ago Dick and Dorothy moved to Kidlington, to be closer to other family members.

Dick was loved by everyone who ever met him and will be greatly missed. Our condolences to his family and many friends.

Birthday Best Wishes!

Happy Birthday to our Gorgeous Evelina. Have a super duper day! We love you to the furthest star and back. Lots of love Mummy, Daddy, William and Sebastian xxxxxx

Welcome

A warm North Aston welcome to Paul and Alexa Jolly, who have moved into 5 Hall Close. We hope they enjoy their time here.

Planning Applications

Notice of various Planning Applications have been received from CDC. In accordance with a request, the listings here have been simplified. Visit <https://planningregister.cherwell.gov.uk/> and keyword search "North Aston" for more information.

4 Hall Close, North Aston, OX25 6HR. A decision relating to the application to construct a combined single and two storey extensions to the property was expected at the end of May. Application Reference No: 20 / 00664 / F

7 Somerton Road, North Aston, OX25 6HP. The previous application relating to the reduction in crown, height, spread and shape of various trees has been approved. Application Reference No: 20 / 00944 / TCA

Nicholson Nurseries, The Park, North Aston, OX25 6HL. The existing application seeking the permit trade on Sundays in December has progressed to the consultation stage. Application Reference No: 20 / 01007 / F

Godwins Farm, Somerton Road, North Aston, OX25 6JA. An application has been made to permit the change of use of an agricultural building into a dwellinghouse, including associated operational development. Comments relating to be received by 11th June 2020. Application Reference No: 20 / 01278 / F

The Mill House, North Aston, OX25 6HZ. The previous application for the construction of a garage, in-filling of existing swimming pool and creation of a new swimming pool has been resubmitted. Comments relating to this must be received by 18th June 2020. Reference No: 20 / 01254 / F

June Birthdays

Andy Brown

Adam Busby

Sebastian Fuoco

Elizabeth Harvey-Lee

Alex Hatzigeorgiou



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.

Notices

Deddington Farmers' Market

At the time of preparing this month's *News*, the website for the Deddington Farmer's Market still states that the market remains cancelled for the foreseeable future. However, the relaxing of lockdown means that open-air markets are permissible once again from 1st June, so there's a possibility that the farmer's market may resume this month. If so, the scheduled date is 27th June. Nearer the time, please double-check by visiting the website at www.deddingtonfarmersmarket.co.uk

Ordering a Take-Away

An even longer list this month. Yet more local pubs and restaurants are offering take-away services, including:

The White Horse, Duns Tew. A daily evening menu is posted on the website from 6 pm: www.dunstewwhitehorse.co.uk, or call 340272 to order. Mon-Sat & Sun lunch. Call 07818 519659.

Red Lion, Steeple Aston is offering take-away pizzas, priced from £8 to £11. Visit www.redlionsteepleaston.co.uk to see the full range or create your own. Call 01869 340225.

The Cinnamon Stick, Middle Barton is offering takeaway slots daily, 6-9pm, from their menu of Lebanese dishes. Order on-line at www.thecinnamonstick.co.uk. Call 340440.

The Fox at Souldern. Thursday-Saturday weekly, ordered in advance via www.thefoxatsouldern.co.uk from a great pub-style menu. Call 01869 345284 to place an order.

The Killingworth Castle at Wootton. Rated *Pub of the Year* by the Oxford Times, and now offering take-away meals Fri-Sat. See the menu on www.thekillingworthcastle.com or call 01993 811401.

Foodonomics in Somerton. Take a break from home cooking, with quality home-made meals from Somerton! Visit the website at www.oxfordfoodonomics.co.uk/webshop/ to see what's available - chilled for home-warming or ready to eat.

Please support our local pubs and foodie businesses. When they're gone, they're gone!

North Aston Nature Notes

With Stephen Rees

The weather has been odd just lately – one day so hot we could hardly stand to be out doors, the next , 60 mile an hour winds and even a couple of frosts in the evenings. Not doing the spuds any favours!

For the last few years we hadn't heard a Cuckoo in North Aston, but this year we've heard it four times, all but once really early in the morning*. Wonderful! I'm so pleased.

The Cow Parsley has looked really beautiful the last couple of weeks when Wifey and myself have been out on our bikes. We have also noticed that the Dock leaves are enormous this year, and the Hawthorn blossom is in full bloom too.

Our new bee-hotels are still so busy. We have over 300 holes sealed up now with eggs inside. These are Masonry Bees, so-called because of their habit of sealing off their holes with mud. It really is amazing to watch them, and you can stand right next to the holes and watch them at work – they really don't seem to mind at all. I've had to make another couple now to keep up with the demand for holes.



The Peacock is back in the village again, calling out mornings and evenings from behind Mark's garden and around Hall Close, but I've not seen it though.

Liz Nicholson sent me a great video of a really big Grass Snake she'd found in her garden. It was a proper whopper! Thanks Liz, and please try to live with it.

The Sparrowhawk has been busy again these last few weeks. I've found three plucked sparrows just lately, and seen him in our garden a few times. They are the most fantastic flyers, so I've decided I'm coming back as one!

There's one bit of really good news, as we have still got George, the one-eared rabbit, living down by our summer house. I reckon he must be five years old now. I wonder what that is in human years? The wife just Googled the question, and discovered that wild rabbits can live up to nine years.



We have had a visit from a Stoat. We've seen it hunting in the long grass for baby rabbits, and looking very comical as it jumps up and down, standing on its back legs to get a clearer view.

Also quite entertaining was watching an old black-faced ewe chasing a fox around Banbury's Ground. The old charlie would run off ten yards, then stop and look at the sheep, and then she went for him again. This went on for five minutes or more. I reckon they were just having fun .

That's about it then, except I can't finish without mentioning Mark's legs. Yep, you heard me right; Mark's legs! Wifey and me walked over to the organic shop the other evening to get a cabbage to go with sausages and onion gravy and stopped (at a very big social distance) to say hello to Mark, who was hoeing. As we were chatting I noticed his legs were covered in the nasty Cherwell Flies (*Simulium posticatum*). I said to him, "Don't they bother you?", and he just shrugged and said "Not really. They itch a bit now and then." Cor! A proper bloke! Wifey was well impressed ...

That'll do for now then

Regards from Stephen, Wifey and Penny the dog.

** There seem to be at least two Cuckoos local to the village, with one being heard fairly regularly behind Hall Close, and another very vocal example around Bestmoor, down in the valley. That may be the one actually seen by Robert towards the end of May on the lane towards Cold Harbour.*

Last month we warned about the prevalence once again of the Blandford or Cherwell Fly, as Steve mentions above. They will be with us for a few more weeks yet, so please be alert. Can I also now warn walkers that there are two plants to be wary of as you explore the lanes and footpaths around North Aston. There are now profuse stands of Hemlock (*Conium maculatum*) around the village, easily identifiable by their size (around six feet tall) and smooth waxy stem, pale green with purple blotches around the nodes.



Every aspect of the plant is highly toxic, but it's relatively harmless of you just brush against it. The same cannot be said for the Giant Hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*), which is also now more common, especially down by the canal. Up to 12 feet tall, it's easily identified, but unlike Hemlock, has hairy stems and leaves. These exude a sap that's highly phototoxic, meaning it responds to sunlight, leading to a skin reaction that's similar to a severe burn – extremely painful blisters and, if not treated, serious consequences. If you do get any on your legs or arms, you'll certainly know about it, and whatever else you do, don't rub your eyes. Wash off with soapy water as soon as you can, and if you're nowhere near water, wrap the area in clothing to keep the sunlight away.



We are delighted to pass on the news that **The Yurt** will be open again from Thursday 4th June ... although for take-away meals only. The café will be open Tuesday to Saturday, normal hours of 9am to 4.30pm, serving coffee, cakes, ice cream and light lunches. The staff are looking forward to seeing North Aston residents again very soon!

Thursday Thanks

For a couple of months villagers have been stepping out onto their doorsteps and drives to express their thanks to the nurses, doctors and staff of the NHS. That has now officially ended, but a recent suggestion that we make a one-off show of appreciation for other keyworkers has been well received.

This is only going to be really effective if we co-ordinate the effort, and place gifts, cards and other expressions of our appreciation out on the same day. It's been suggested that we aim to say thankyou to the recycling binmen on Thursday 4th June (two bins to remember!), the "green" binmen on Thursday 11th June, and the postie on Saturday 6th June.

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What's on Order?

The lockdown is easing, but we are still required to "stay alert", and the more vulnerable among us are being encouraged to "stay at home", even while others are out gallivanting on the beaches. If you're one of those still facing difficulties, please contact the WhatsApp group, and someone will be able to help – perhaps do some shopping, collect a prescription, or find a good book for you to read!

Take advantage of the following local deliveries, but please be sure to mention the *North Aston News* when you order!

North Aston Organics

Mark, Ginny and the team at NAO have their pop-up shop in the car park behind the Old Bakery with a stock of fresh vegetables, including many of the essentials. See the advert on the left.

Mark's Cotswold Bakery

An excellent artisan bakery based in Chippy, and using locally-ground flour. An even wider variety of breads, loaves, bloomers and cakes now delivered to North Aston on a Wednesday. You can place an order through the NA WhatsApp "Bread Group".

Manos Deli Jericho

We've heard excellent reviews of Manos, based in Jericho, Oxford. They will deliver from their extended range of fresh fruit, vegetables and tasty homemade dishes. Check out the menu at www.manosfoodbar.com, call 01865 311782, or email: info@manosfoodbar.com for further information.

Forge House Bakery

Located in Lower Heyford and also broadening her choice of breads, Sue Brown's bakery delivers to North Aston on a Thursday, although collections at other times can be arranged. Includes focaccia, cinnamon buns, and cultured butter. Email forgehousebakery@btinternet.com or call 07584 666561.

Aldens Meatmaster

Aldens of Oxford have proven to be one of the most reliable companies delivering to North Aston, with a wide range of meat, vegetables, fish, fruit and wines. Spend £60 for free delivery, but check through the WhatsApp group to see if anyone else wants to share a delivery slot. www.meatmaster.info

Moore & Lyon Farm Produce

Located on the Worton Road, north out of Middle Barton, Moore & Lyon are one of several Farmer's Market traders now offering direct sales. Meat and eggs as well as other staples on Fridays. Email mooreandlyonproduce@yahoo.co.uk or call 07967 530183. Shop is small, so please wait outside if they're busy.

Tip Top Chef

Tony Baughan, founder of Tip Top Chef, offers home-cooked frozen and chilled meals, with delivery to our area on Friday afternoons or Saturday Morning - no charge on orders over £15. Visit www.tiptopchef.co.uk to see latest menu, which changes regularly, or call him on 07827 293 800.

Cotefield Nurseries

Like DIY shops, nurseries are now open again, so no need to use the North Aston delivery service, but Cotefield has been so helpful to vegetable growers in the village during the lockdown, so please continue to support them. Check their Facebook page to see what's newly in stock, or call 01295 275222.



Eileen & Norman West
4th June 1960

Happy Diamond Wedding Anniversary!

Mum & Dad ~ Nan & Gramp
Great Granny & Great Grampy

Wishing a very special couple huge
congratulations on your 60th wedding
anniversary. All our love & best wishes,

Linda & Andy
Tracy & Richard
Karen, Alex, Noah, George & Arthur
Paul & Sarah-Jane
Becky, Matt & Bump

XXXX

Owing to the current restrictions we are
disappointed that you cannot join us in a toast
to Norman & Eileen, however, once we are able
to meet again you will all be very welcome! In
the meantime, stay safe and well ...

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Full-Fibre Update

Mailing List subscribers will already know that the list of properties submitted to Openreach for connection to the Full-Fibre network was completed and 'closed' last month.

During May every household in North Aston was individually contacted, one way or another, and the total number of properties signed up to the programme rose from 43 to 78. As well as almost every property in the centre of the village, the list now includes a number of out-lying homes, farms and businesses. Only three addresses are now not expected to be connected, either because circumstances have changed and they are no longer residential, or their occupants have elected not to participate.

Confirmation that the list is now 'closed' has been received from Openreach. The next stage will be for them to arrive at a revised costing for the implementation of the infrastructure. As part of this process they will also apply, on our behalf, for vouchers under the Rural Gigabit Connectivity Scheme, and we will learn whether or not the value of these will cover the

total cost if installation. Having 28 businesses based in North Aston will certainly help in that regard.

When Openreach came back with their initial quote, the estimated value of vouchers exceeded the total cost, meaning there would be no charge to householders for connection to the full-fibre. However, several of the properties recently added to the list are among the most challenging, in terms of infrastructure and distance from the cabinet. Thankfully, a significant number of the other new addresses might also be considered among the simplest. The hope is that the voucher value of these easily-connected homes will exceed their installation costs, and the surplus generated will then cover the expense of linking in the more remote properties. The possibility still has to be faced that it won't. If that proves to be the case, then the owners of these more remote homes will have to consider two options – either dropping out of the scheme, or making a personal financial contribution sufficient to make up the difference.

The project may not come to that, of course, but we will keep you informed of progress along the way.

Lucinda's Carrot Cake

Our Village Chair claims that she's survived the lockdown thanks entirely to Carrot Cake. Here's her recipe ...

This makes one 9-inch double-layer cake (approximately 16 portions) or 22 to 24 cupcakes

For the Cake you will need:

- 250 grams All-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- ½ (half) teaspoon fine sea salt
- 1½ teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 295 ml vegetable oil
- 200 grams granulated sugar
- 200 grams lightly packed brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 4 large eggs
- 300 grams grated peeled carrots (5 to 6 medium carrots)
- 100 grams coarsely chopped pecans
- 65 grams raisins

For the Creamy Frosting, you'll need:

- 225 grams cream cheese, at room temperature
- 140 grams powdered sugar
- 80 ml double cream
- 50 grams coarsely chopped pecans, for topping cake

Directions

First, make the batter ...

Heat the oven to 180°C. Grease two 9-inch round cake pans and line the bottom with parchment paper then grease the top of the paper. Or, grease and flour the bottom and sides of both pans.

In a medium bowl, whisk flour, baking soda, salt, and the cinnamon until well blended.

In a separate bowl, whisk the oil, sugars, and vanilla. Whisk in eggs, one at a time, until combined.

Switch to a large rubber spatula. Scrape the sides and bottom of the bowl then add the dry ingredients in three parts, gently stirring until they disappear and the batter is smooth. Stir in the carrots, nuts, and raisins.



... then Bake the Cake ...

Divide the batter between the prepared cake pans. Bake until the tops of the cake layers are springy when touched and when a toothpick inserted into the centre of the cake comes out clean, 35 to 45 minutes.

Cool cakes in pans for 15 minutes then turn out onto cooling racks, peel off parchment paper and cool completely. (If you find that a cake layer is stuck to the bottom of the pan, leave the cake pan upside down and allow gravity to do its thing).

... and then, to Finish ...

In a large bowl, beat cream cheese with a hand-held mixer on medium speed until creamy, about one minute.

Beat in the powdered sugar, a little at a time until fluffy. Pour in cream and beat on medium speed for another minute. Chill covered until ready to frost the cake.

When the cake layers are completely cool, frost the top of one cake layer, place the other cake layer on top of that, and then decoratively swirl the top of the cake with remaining frosting. Leave the sides unfrosted, and scatter nuts or crunchy sugar strands across the top if you like.

What's On ... and What's not!

It seems an appropriate moment to remind everyone what we've been missing this spring, and as we head into summer, it will be strange for the *News* not to include announcements about upcoming events.

In previous years we'd have been looking forward to such happenings as the *Deddington Car Festival*, making preparations for our own *Village Fête*, and Mark would be coaching the tug-of-war team in first defence of North Aston's crown at the *Duns Tew Fête*.

We would also be anticipating another visit by the *Mikron Theatre Company* – they were due back in July to perform "A Dog's Tale", but that seems unlikely now. There would have been regular Wednesday-evening gatherings on the Green for a round or two of *Aunt Sally* over a beer or a glass of wine.

All is not lost, however. As we go to press, *Steeple Aston & Middle Aston Horticultural Society* is in heated debate about whether or not to stage their annual *Flower & Produce Show*, slated for August 31st. North Aston's own *Show* is pencilled-in for Saturday the 29th. That's almost three months away, and much could have changed by then ... either way.

A decision will be made this coming month, leaving good time for growers to pamper their crops. More news in July.

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



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The View from Park Farm

In light of the lockdown, we would like to share a few thoughts that our girls have had since being at home more...

"I've learnt that I can be happy with myself!"

"I've learnt that exercise makes you feel happier!"

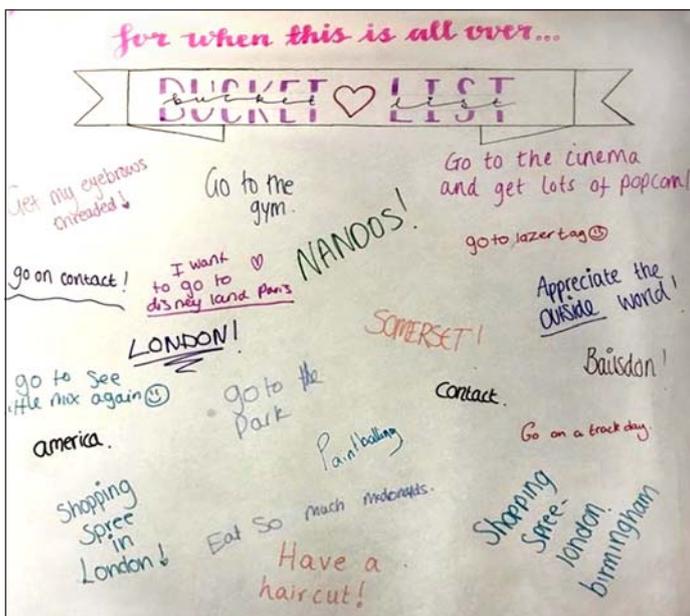
"I've learnt to be patient!"

"I've learnt to save money!"

"I've learnt that I can help others!"

These comments from our young people were lovely. Everyone here at Park Farm appears to be reflecting more on what life is like 'slowed down.' We're also learning to be happier with ourselves and learning a lot of self-care, mostly through the use of lots of pamper nights!

We also thought it would be nice to share something we have done with all the staff and young people – our Bucket List. We're adding to it constantly, but they're things we can't wait to do when lockdown is over and everything is back to normal.



We hope that you are all staying well, and of course enjoying the tuck shop, for which we have reached our target for our brilliant NHS! However we still have tuck items left over and will keep messaging the WhatsApp group for drop-off times. I'm sure at this rate we'll all be glad when the dentists open again ... Have a lovely month everyone!

All the girls and staff at Park Farm!

Walking & Cycling

As we emerge from lockdown, the government is anticipating a surge in enthusiasm for walking and cycling, as people stretch their legs and widen their horizons.

As a result, Oxfordshire will be receiving a proportion of the £250 million being earmarked for improving footpaths and cycleways. OCC has already announced plans to begin a programme of mowing, clearance, improved signage, and widening. If you encounter any issues whilst out walking or cycling, you can report them using OCC's *FixMyStreet* page: <https://fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk/>

In the meantime, and despite the appeal of a couple of months ago, the amount of dog mess, especially on the verges around the Green and on the corner of the Middle Aston Lane has not improved. Please, dog owners, **Bag it & Bin it!**

Under Pressure

TVP and CDC have both issued advice relating to Domestic Abuse in recent weeks. The lockdown has pushed this taboo subject to the fore, as vulnerable individuals have been forced to endure the heightened fear of abuse, both physical and mental, whilst being encouraged to "stay at home". None of us knows what happens behind closed doors, even here in North Aston, but there is help at hand ...

If you feel at risk or have experienced actual abuse, you can always call 101. If you're in immediate danger, dial 999, but you don't have to speak. Just press 55 when the operator responds. If the situation is ongoing, and you can see no easy resolution, then call the Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse Helpline on 0800 731 0055 or email das@a2dominion.co.uk and they can offer advice and organise sanctuary if needed.

If you're the abuser, and you're struggling to manage your behaviour and hurting the ones you love, then call the Respect Helpline on 0808 802 4040. There's help for you too.

From the Fire Station

Last month was strange ... this month stranger still.

Fire station practical training is on hold, Tuesday nights are spent on the computer and after any callout every surface needs to be disinfected. New PPE (scheduled) has arrived for rollout in June, so we have at least been able to try on some new uniform.



The quietness of the roads meant road traffic accidents seem to be a thing of the past, but Deddington has been busy with fire call-outs. 8 shouts occurred: 3 stand-bys for other stations (Banbury and Chipping Norton), 1 Alarm and 4 Fires.

A car fire at Hopcrofts Holt had crews working especially hard, with the vehicle completely gutted. After George Williamson and Adam Perry successfully extinguished the fire, Deddington and TVP then cleaned up the road and prevented any contaminants entering the nearby water courses.

The domestic fires were all in the kitchen, usually grill or cooker. One, a dishwasher, had caught fire in the early hours of the morning, Deddington was the second Breathing Apparatus team to enter the property while Banbury tackled the fire. Andy Heywood and James Greenwood dispersed smoke and searched all rooms in the house, whilst actively using the Positive Pressure Ventilation fan.

With partial lockdown still in force please remain patient and help all the emergency services do their jobs.

James Greenwood (james@cyclogicalshop.co.uk)



What's Brown and Sticky?

A stick ... of course, and Bill Graham, who's been busy around the parish in recent months laying hedges, has been rooting out suitable lengths to make walking sticks, crooks and canes.

Bill usually sells these at the Fête, but he can't do that this year, so contact him direct to see what's available. Call 340693 or email brewhouse.cottage@icloud.com

Prices vary, but all proceeds go to Katherine House Hospice.

Lighthearted Relief

Kildare has kindly shared this amusing sequence of examination answers, reputedly recorded from 16 year-olds taking their GCSEs ...

- Q. Name the four seasons ... **A.** Salt, pepper, mustard and vinegar.
- Q. Explain one of the processes by which water can be made safe to drink ...
A. Flirtation makes water safe to drink because it removes large pollutants like grit, sand, dead sheep & canoeists.
- Q. How is dew formed?
A. The sun shines down on the leaves and they perspire.
- Q. What guarantees may a mortgage company insist on?
A. If you are buying a house they will insist that you are well endowed.
- Q. In a democratic society, how important are elections?
A. Very important. Sex can only happen when a male gets an election.
- Q. What are steroids?
A. Things for keeping carpets still on the stairs.
- Q. What happens to your body as you age?
A. When you get old, so do your bowels and you get intercontinental.
- Q. What happens to a boy when he reaches puberty?
A. He says goodbye to his boyhood and looks forward to his adultery.
- Q. Name a major disease associated with cigarettes ...
A. Premature death.
- Q. What is artificial insemination?
A. When the farmer does it to the bull instead of the cow.
- Q. How can you delay milk turning sour? ... **A.** Keep it in the cow.
- Q. How are the main 20 parts of the body categorised?
A. The body is consisted into 3 parts - the brainium, the borax and the abdominal cavity. The brainium contains the brain, the borax contains the heart and lungs and the abdominal cavity contains the five bowels: A, E, I, O and U.
- Q. What is the fibula? ... **A.** A small lie.
- Q. What does 'varicose' mean? ... **A.** Nearby.
- Q. What is the most common form of birth control?
A. Most people prevent contraception by wearing a condominium.
- Q. Give the meaning of the term 'Caesarean Section' ...
A. The caesarean section is a district in Rome.
- Q. What is a terminal illness? ...
A. When you are sick at the airport.
- Q. Use the word 'judicious' in a sentence to show you understand its meaning ...
A. Hands that judicious can be soft as your face.
- Q. What does the word 'benign' mean?
A. Benign is what you will be after you be eight.

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About SJB Hearing Company Ltd

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Upcycling & Thrift

Ardley Reopens

Oxfordshire's recycling centres have now re-opened. New rules regarding social-distancing now apply, so please follow the instructions of staff and officers and use appropriate PPE.

Dining Table & Six Chairs

Offered for sale is this imposing solid-oak refectory-style dining table (180 cms x 96 cms) with six chairs (2 carvers & 4 regular ladder-backs). The table, in excellent condition, was originally purchased from John Lewis for about £500. The asking price, including the chairs, is just £150. If interested, please contact David & Isobel on 340090.





The Church MATTERS



The Kindness of Strangers

Last year at this time I spent three weeks in Atlanta, visiting my sister. On that trip I bought two prints which now sit on my kitchen wall, two slightly comical animals looking out (with blue skies beyond them) as if from windows onto my breakfast table. A sheep in one, a goat in the other.

Jesus tells a tale about these in chapter 25 of St Matthew's Gospel. He writes of sheep and goats being separated, being placed on God's right and left. And to those on the right, the sheep, he says - I was hungry and you gave me something to eat; I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink; I was a stranger and you invited me in; I needed clothes and you clothed me; I was ill and you looked after me; I was in prison and you visited me. And he gets the response - when did we do this for you? For me - he says - why, when you did it for the very least, you did it for me.

One of the wonders of these terrible days is that I see a lot of sheep around, and I mean that in the best possible, Matthew 25 sense! I see a lot of people helping others. Doing good. Talking to the lonely. Shopping for those who can't do it for themselves. Taking time and not rushing past.

When we do it for each other, we do it for Jesus. And none of us are perfect, and all of us have off days, and all of us need others to help us sometimes. For sure. But these are days that are transformed by the simple human kindness that Jesus picks on and says is never just 'simple human kindness'. It is beautiful and life-giving and transformative and godly. Thank you for playing your part in bringing light in these dark days. It's how we will all get through OK.

The Fête, Church Buildings, Sunday Services...

As I write in mid-May, I'm aware that things can change very quickly, so this is where we stand right now.

The Fête is off. Thank you so much to all who have worked hard, but I fully agree that there is no way things can continue without knowing if we can safely hold the Fête or not. So with great regret, this year's Fête will not happen. The Fête is a terrific community event and a really important fund-raiser - but this year, safety must come first. Here's to a healthy 2021!

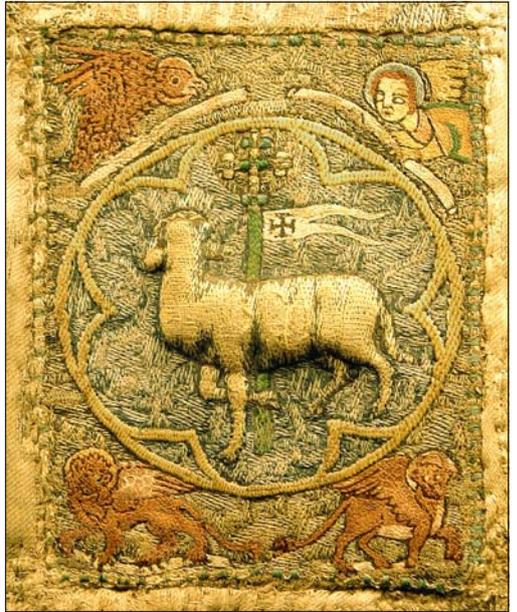
Our church building remains closed. The guidelines have changed a bit and now allow me to go in, but remain clear that public access is not permitted. I am staying out of all three buildings most of the time because I do not feel I should be going in when no-one else can.

Church services remain online, and our short 'Worship at Home' video services are available on the homepage of www.sntchurch.com every week. These will continue - and I am delighted to note that so many people are watching these. The videos have included lots of church members recently, as well as singers and musicians recorded in isolation and performing congregationally by the wonders of technology! The current guidelines say we may be able to start public worship services in early July - and we will advertise here, and online, via the *Rector's Ramblings* emails and on posters if and when this happens. There is a feeling that many would like us to gather in the open air initially, and we are taking guidance on this.

The church building is closed, but God is with us wherever we are. His love never ends, and if we are low, he is the one who promises to raise us up. He is our refuge, and our hands are his hands to care for and protect each other. He is our strength and our song, and even when our bells and hymns are silent, our community spirit sings his praise, and his Spirit will help us find that music this day and every day as long as we need breath to sing.

The *Rector's Ramblings* emails carry more news; to be included in this regular update, contact me by email on steeplerector@hotmail.co.uk, or check our website: www.sntchurch.com

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: 340903
You can also email Clive: casb@north-aston.com (tel: 340470) 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

NORTH ASTON

STEEPLE ASTON

TACKLEY

The Church is Closed

Since March all CofE parishes have suspended public worship during the COVID-19 infection. This means there will be no Sunday services at St Mary's this month and the church building remains closed. Those in need of spiritual support can join the Vicar virtually, via his weekly 'Worship at Home' video, accessible through the church website; www.sntchurch.com. You can also ask to be added to his mailing list by emailing steplerector@hotmail.co.uk or call him on 340903.

North Aston WhatsApp Group

The Group looks set to become a village fixture, and continues to act as a means of communication during these difficult times. Members help one another, share ideas, offer help, and cooperate to make life a little easier and more amusing. It has done much to generate a sense of community. There's plenty of scope for more acts of kindness, so if you have a Smartphone and wish to join, contact Annie on 347767 and she will explain what you need to do and add you to the Group.



In previous years Vicky Taylor has worked door-to-door collecting donations for Christian Aid Week.

This year, for obvious reasons, she felt she couldn't do that. Technically, the "week" should have been 10th to the 16th May, but you can still donate by visiting the website: www.christianaid.org.uk. The money will go to helping with sanitation in refugee camps and other places where poverty makes fighting the Coronavirus difficult.

A Word of Thanks

A very big thankyou to everyone who has been helping and supporting those of us classified as "vulnerable" during the Covid-19 crisis – shopping, collecting prescriptions, visiting to check all is okay, helping with pet care, and anything else which may be needed. It is very much appreciated, and so reassuring to know that so much help is available to keep everyone safe.

Thank you all, *Deirdre Oakley*

Church Worship
 Our church buildings remain closed
 due to COVID-19

but...

Jesus is risen and we're still here!
 Worship at Home
 (our online worship service)
 is available from each Sunday at
www.sntchurch.com

and...

**God's love is always with us
 everywhere**
 So please pray in our churchyards
 or at home
 or ... anywhere!

Contact: Revd Marcus Green
 Tel. 340903 ~ steplerector@hotmail.co.uk

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 sent out to an extensive emailing list every month. To be included in 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, including high resolution photographs suitable for use on the front cover, please email: info@north-aston.co.uk.

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