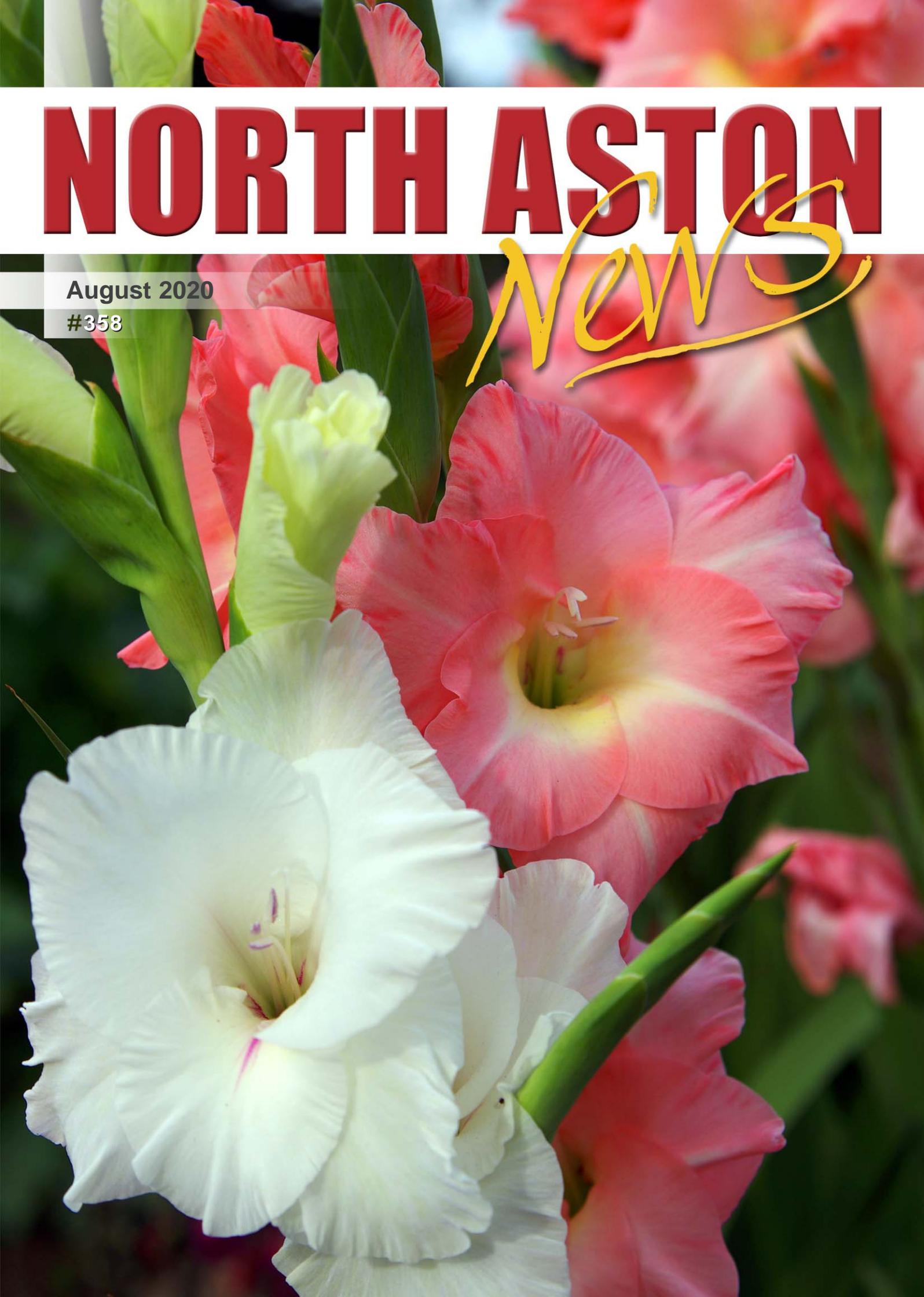


NORTH ASTON

NEWS

August 2020

#358



NORTH ASTON NEWS

AUGUST 2020, No:358

Useful Contacts

North Aston News

Telephone: (01869) 347356

Email: info@north-aston.co.uk

Lucinda Fuoco - NAPM Chair

Telephone: (01869) 340588

Email: chair@north-aston.co.uk

Sue Hatzigeorgiou, NAPM Treasurer

Telephone: (01869) 347727

Email: treasurer@north-aston.co.uk

Annie Savage, NAPM Secretary

Telephone: (01869) 347767

Email: secretary@north-aston.co.uk

North Aston PCC

Clive Busby, Church Warden

Telephone: (01869) 340470

Email: casb@north-aston.com

Annabel Bevan, Church Warden

Telephone: (01869) 345153

Email: annabelbevan@hotmail.com

North Aston Gardening Club

Lynn Quek, Acting Chairperson

Email: lsquek@doctors.org.uk

North Aston Pet Alert

Please notify of any Firework Parties

Eileen Gilmore: Tel (01869) 347210

Also email: info@north-aston.co.uk

North Aston Farms

Telephone: (01869) 347888 or 347865

Email James: jamesfionn@hotmail.com

Email Jeremy: jeremytaylor@north-aston.co.uk

North Aston Organics

Telephone: (01869) 347702

Email: northastonorganics@gmail.com

Website: www.northastonorganics.co.uk

Hillcrest Care - Park Farm House

Telephone: (01869) 349922

Email: parkfarm@hillcrestcs.co.uk

Nicholson Nurseries

Telephone: (01869) 340342

Email: office@nicholsonsgb.com

Website: www.nicholsonsgb.com

North Aston 100 Club

Beverley Rees. (01869) 347434

Old Bakery Bookings

Mary Healy. Tel (01869) 347702

Email: maryvhealy@googlemail.com

Village Marquee Bookings

Niel Nicholson. Tel (01869) 340342 x202

Email: niel@nicholsonsgb.com

CDC Local Councillor

Bryn Williams, Deddington

Telephone: 07836 271998

Email: Bryn.Williams@Cherwell-DC.gov.uk

Thames Valley Police non-emergency: 101

Out of Hours Doctor: 111 or 08453 458 995

Notes from the Chair

Wow ... again!

Summer is well and truly here, however I'm not sure that the weather got that memo!

Emergency Meeting - Sunday 2nd August 6:30pm

I would like to make everyone aware that we will be holding an emergency village meeting on Sunday at 6.30pm on the Green. This is concerning the proposed plan for a Busgate and associated traffic control arising from the Heyford Park development, and the effects that it will have on our village. If you would like to attend please keep to the social distancing guidelines and bring your own seating ... and a bottle may be handy!

Still Helping

I would also like to say that it of course goes without saying that if anyone still needs help with shopping or prescriptions please, please do call and I can collect these for you.

I look forward to seeing lots of you on Sunday..

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

Lucinda

Emergency Meeting - Sunday 2nd August

By the time many of you receive your printed copies of the News, this extraordinary meeting will have been and gone ... so what's all the fuss about? Here's an explanation of what's at stake:

The Heyford Park expansion is inevitably going to have an impact on the infrastructure of the whole Cherwell Valley. The developers (Dorchester Group) have now put in a proposal for a "Busgate" which will deter traffic from using the road between Middleton Stoney and Heyford, and will divert it instead towards Ardley and other villages to the north and west.

The intention is to relieve congestion at the already difficult Middleton Stoney crossroads, but transport consultants have identified that this will also result in a significant increase in traffic through Somerton and North Aston.

Flows on the Somerton Road, east of the A4260 junction at The Fox, have been used to assess the likely impact the development will have on North Aston and Somerton. The modelling undertaken predicts that traffic flows on this link are likely to increase by approximately 37% (83 more vehicles each way per hour) with development but no highway mitigation in the AM peak hour, which will increase to approximately 59% (130 vehicles each way) when the full package is introduced. In the PM peak, an impact of approximately 55% (110 vehicles two-way) is predicted with initial development, and this could increase to approximately 112% (230 vehicles each way) when the full mitigation measures are introduced.

The proportional impact of the development and its associated mitigation package is enough to be considered as *very significant* in these locations, with the proposed Busgate causing a major re-assignment of traffic through the villages. It is predicted that this increase will have a detrimental impact on the lives and amenity of residents in North Aston and Somerton. On this basis it is considered that a contribution towards the provision of traffic management measures in North Aston and Somerton should be provided.

The mitigation proposed in these locations should be focused on discouraging through traffic from using this route.

This is a significant moment for the future safety of North Aston residents - in particular children, the elderly and our pets. Regrettably, notification of these plans was not effectively circulated to all parishes in the area, and the official deadline for responses has passed. However, a discretionary extension to Monday 3rd August has been offered, which is why the Emergency Meeting had to be called for Sunday at 6:30pm on the Green. The fundamental purpose of the meeting is to establish whether or not the village, as a community, supports or objects to the Busgate proposal.

Announcements

New Arrivals!

Congratulations to Paul and Alexa Jolly on the arrival of Rourdon Timothy Seagroatt Jolly, a brother for Helena, who joined the North Aston community on Tuesday 30th June.

Congratulations to Rebecca Brown and Matt Roberts on the birth of Mabel Maria, who arrived on Tuesday 28th July weighing in at a very respectable 7lb 6oz.

Planning Applications

Notice of various Planning Applications have been received from CDC. Visit <https://planningregister.cherwell.gov.uk/> and keyword search "North Aston" for more information.

Bee Cottage, Somerton Road, North Aston, OX25 6HX. An application has been submitted to enable the construction of detached garage outbuilding. Comments required by 03 August. Reference 20 / 01694 / F

North Aston Hall, St Mary's Walk, North Aston, OX25 6AA. An application has been submitted proposing a partial strip-out and demolition of new extensions and investigative works throughout to support a study of the historic fabric of the house. Comments required by 10 August. Reference No: 20 / 01616 / LB

The Mill House, North Aston, OX25 6HZ. The application for the construction of a garage, in-filling of existing swimming pool and creation of a new swimming pool has been approved. Reference No: 19 / 02603 / F

Godwins Farm, Somerton Road, North Aston, OX25 6JA. The application for alterations to and conversion of an agricultural building into a dwellinghouse, including associated operational development and demolition part of the building, has been approved. Application Reference No: 20 / 01278 / F

Possible Closure of Somerton Railway Crossing. This is part of a major and on-going process of applications and development. A decision with regard to the crossing is awaited, but all concerned parties, including Cherwell District Council and the Parish Councils and Meetings of all neighbouring communities have written in opposition of the closure, with additional support from bodies such as the British Horse Society. For further information, view Application Reference 18-00825-HYBRID

Heyford Park. Details of a further aspect of this on-going development, relating to a proposed "Bus Gate" and the impact this may have on traffic flow through North Aston, are discussed on Page 2, and illustrated to the right.

Hatch End Old Poultry Farm, Middle Aston Road, Middle Aston. An application made to demolish the old Poultry Farm in Middle Aston and for the erection of 29 replacement business units, with extensive associated works, has been withdrawn following widespread opposition. Reference. 20 / 01127 / F

Notices

Deddington Farmers' Market

The monthly Deddington Farmer's Market is now back in full swing, albeit with Social Distancing imposed and a convoluted one-way system.

This month's market will be staged on Saturday 22nd August. To know who'll be there, visit the DFM website at www.deddingtonfarmersmarket.co.uk and view the list of stallholders. The wearing of masks is recommended.

August Birthdays

Trudy Busby
Thea Bourke-Borrowes
Eileen Gilmore
Louis Le Clercq
Jane McArdle
Freya Stay
Kate Symons



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.

What is a Bus Gate, and where will it be?

The plan to introduce a Bus Gate on the road between Heyford Park and Middleton Stoney will, in effect, restrict traffic along the B4030 to public service vehicles only. The Bus Gate would be sited beside the existing Y-shaped junction, south-east of the former air base. The junction will be re-prioritised, and through-traffic will be prevented from travelling between Middleton Stoney and Lower Heyford. This diagram explains ...



While traffic emanating from Heyford Park itself is unlikely to be hugely affected, and will use instead a new junction onto the B430 further north, the restrictions to through-traffic will mean vehicles travelling between, say, Bicester and Chipping Norton, would be re-routed through Ardley, Somerton and North Aston, or south towards Kirtlington and Bletchington.

The Village Defibrillator

The defibrillator is located at 4 Somerton Road. CPR & Defibrillator training sessions can be arranged. For more information, and to book a session, please contact Mark on 347806



Steve's Potted Histories

With Stephen Rees

For the last few weeks and months I've been thinking lots about this virus we are all under, and considering that, overall, North Aston has got off reasonably lightly.

Then I started to think about the Spanish Flu, and that put me in mind of the plague, and I wondered how North Aston had fared through these catastrophes.

Time for a bit of research and, oh my word, I've found out so much about our village! Which is really handy, because I suspect everyone is bored stiff of *Nature Notes*.

The earliest reference to North Aston I've found was 1086. That's amazing. I had no idea! In the Domesday Book of 1086 there were 25 recorded residents in *Estone*, of which seven were serfs and three were ploughmen.

By 1377 there was 58 people living here. Well, that's not quite right, because 'here' wasn't here at all, because North Aston then wasn't where North Aston is now, it was down by the church. And mentioning the church, it isn't the original church either; it's the second one. The first was built in the 1100s and was replaced by our new 'modern' stone church in the 1400s, but that's a bit vague to find out about, so there's a whole history of the church in the North Aston *Millennium* book ... if you'd like to find out more!

However, there are apparently the remains of 15 cottages in the fields south-east of the Hall, and among the grounds of what is now Folly Field House. (*There are records suggesting that Foster-Melliari (he of the fountain fame) demolished most of the surviving cottages soon after he bought the Hall in 1861, to improve his view. The last remaining medieval remnant, pretty little Folly Cottage, was razed in the 1970s, and is pictured here.*)

So there are two views as to why the village was knocked down and moved. The first is hearsay, and suggests that it was burnt down in the fourteenth century because of the Black Death, but I can't find any evidence of this at all. There is evidence though, of a series of enclosures in 1350-ish when the strips of common land were taken away from the farmworkers and seized by the wicked Lord of the Manor (who got his comeuppance later by being beheaded for treason – served him right!).

This sounds more likely, as the following years showed evidence of a big decrease in the number of inhabitants and demolition of some of the cottages.

The first reference I can find for our new village is circa 1714, but several of the cottages are much older than that, including the ones inside the gate to St Mary's Walk, Norman & Eileen's (and Tony & Bev's) at the western end of the Green, and ours in the top corner. The old School House, where Marcus lives, has medieval foundations from the 16th century, but was rebuilt first in the 18th century, as a coach house, and then converted to the School in 1844. Back in the C18th the school had 18 pupils, but by 1850 it had grown to almost 40.



Steve's Potted History ... Part 2

That first part was lots of facts and dates, and after just reading it back, it all sounds a bit rushed! Slow down Stevey boy and enjoy it more ...

Right, so we've got as far as finding out that the main part of North Aston used to be down by the church and the Hall ... except that the Hall wasn't a hall, it was a priory. It looks like this is the oldest building in the village, pre-dating the Manor. The Manor is said to date from the 1500s, but the main door is apparently 1400s, so it is thought that there was an older farm house on the site that was enlarged to make the Manor.

Way, way back, in the C14th, the Lord of the Manor was paid by the Crown to supply two knights if required, and North Aston was a valuable estate back then. The village was important for the production of apples in the C16th, and there were 15 orchards. It even had its own variety of apple, called the *North Aston Apple*, which was a hybrid of a Norman variety called *Nonpareil* (introduced by Edward Vernon in 1593).

And another important part of our village, and one with a large history of disputes, arguments and fights (literally fist-fights and brawls) was Bestmoor water meadow. This has been the most important field on the estate for generations. The dates are vague, but between C15th and C18th it was owned by the Lord of the Manor, but Commoners from North Aston and Duns Tew were allowed to cut hay for one day each July, with 41 yardlands for Duns Tew and 21 for North Aston.

A pole 13 feet 8 inches long was kept under lock and key at the Manor, and could be hooked to the belts of two men, who would then walk through the long grass marking out rows for each person. The awkward corners and bends were given to the pole men. They then had one day in which they were allowed to cut as much as they could, and then take it out that same night. As it got darker and darker, people from the two opposing villages would start to steal bushels of hay from each other ... and then the fighting would start.

Access to the field (*which lies due north of The Mill, towards Deddington*) was either by a ford to the south or Bowman's Bridge to the north – the bridge was called *Bamon's Bridge* back then, and I'm not sure when it changed to Bowman's Bridge. The bridge itself is probably one of the oldest structures on the estate, known to have been there in the 1400s, but some experts date it as much earlier. It's definitely my favourite place on the estate with many childhood memories of fishing nearby with my brothers. (That's another tale for another day ... the story of Tony and the pike!) Foster-Melliari (again!) resolved the arguments on Bestmoor by persuading Henry Dashwood and Joseph Preedy of Duns Tew to sign over all the freehold rights, and the fights ended.

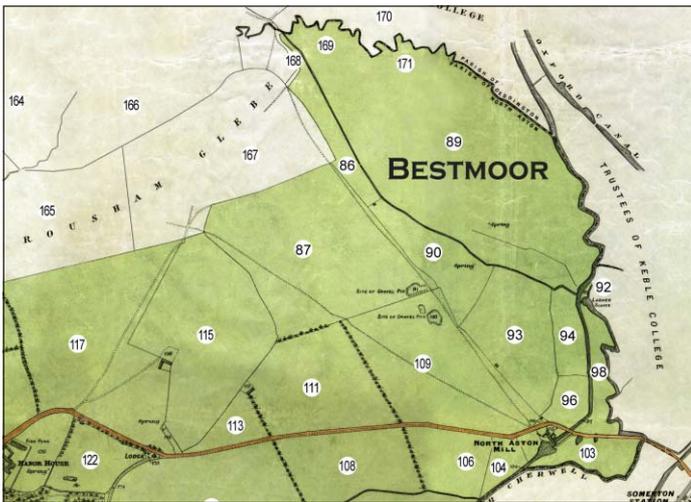
So, going right right back to the start of all this ... the Black Death. It came to England for the first of a few times in 1348, carried on ships from Asia by rats. It wasn't the rats themselves that had the plague, but the fleas that lived on them as hosts. Yuck! The disease spread rapidly through the poor and rich alike, and within three months it had killed up to 60% of the country's population. It came back again in 1361 and took another 20%. Bodies were piled up and burned, and houses were pulled down too. The stench of burning flesh could be smelled throughout the country.

The few records that refer to the Black Death in North Aston suggest that the village wasn't seriously affected, possibly because, even in the Middle Ages, it remained self-sufficient and slightly remote ... much as it has been through the Coronavirus lockdown.

Regards from Stephen, Wifey and Penny the dog.



A wonderfully atmospheric view of Bestmoor to accompany Stephen's Potted History. The 1907 map below identifies this important part of North Aston's agricultural heritage.



NORTH ASTON ORGANICS

Vegetable Stall

Open Mon-Sat from 9.00am
In the car park behind the Old Bakery

- Wide variety of fresh seasonal organic veg at affordable prices
- Minimal packaging & zero food miles
- Supporting the local economy



Too busy? Why not try our Veg Box Scheme? Fresh vegetables delivered straight to your door!

Email: northastonorganics@gmail.com
Tel: (01869) 347702
visit the website at:
www.northastonorganics.co.uk

Still Taking Orders!

Just a list this month - see previous editions of the *News* for full details. If you do book a delivery or a take-away from one of these local companies, please be sure to mention the *North Aston News* when you order!

North Aston Organics - Essential Veg!

See the advert for our own North Aston growers on the left.

Mark's Cotswold Bakery - Artisan Bread

Deliveries on Wednesdays. Join the NA WhatsApp "Bread Group".

Manos Deli Jericho - Delicious Greek Food

Check www.manosfoodbar.com or call 01865 311782.

Forge House Bakery - Fresh Bread & Buns!

Delivers Thursdays. Email forgehousebakery@btinternet.com.

Aldens Meatmaster - Top Quality Meat & Wine

Liaise with the NA WhatsApp group. www.meatmaster.info

Moore & Lyon Farm Produce

Worton Rd, Middle Barton, Fridays. Call 07967 530183.

Tip Top Chef - Home-cooked Frozen & Chilled

Delivered Fri/Sat. Visit www.tiptopchef.co.uk or 07827 293 800.

Food to Take-Away

Some local pubs are now open again, but several are still offering a take-away service, where previously they didn't.

The Yurt @ Nicholsons - Takeaway Lunches & Teas

The Yurt is now open Tuesday to Saturday 9am to 4.30pm for lunches, afternoon teas and pancakes! And don't forget to browse through the Rosara collection.

The White Horse, Duns Tew

Daily menu on www.dunstewwhitehorse.co.uk or call 340272.

Red Lion, Steeple Aston

Pizzas! Check www.redlionsteepleaston.co.uk or call 340225.

The Cinnamon Stick, Middle Barton

Lebanese dishes: www.thecinnamonstick.co.uk or call 340440.

The Fox at Souldern

Thursday-Saturday: www.thefoxatsouldern.co.uk or 345284.

The Killingworth Castle at Wootton

Fri-Sat on www.thekillingworthcastle.com or call 01993 811401.

Foodonomics (Somerton) - Home Cooking!

Visit www.oxfordfoodonomics.co.uk/webshop

The Holt at Hopcrofts - Discount Scheme!

The Holt has registered for the Government's *Eat out to Help out Scheme*. From 3rd - 31st August, Monday - Wednesday, receive 50% off all food and non alcoholic drinks up to £10 per person. You can enjoy a meal in the Highwayman's Bar or try Afternoon Tea, usually £18 per person for only £9 per person! Check the website www.holthotel.co.uk or email info@holthotel.co.uk.

Please support our local pubs and foodie businesses.

Full-Fibre Update

Following on from last month's Update, there has been further progress on the Full-Fibre front.

As you may recall, the second proposal submitted by Openreach had increased the number of properties in North Aston from 80 to just over 200 ... and you thought development at Heyford Park was rapid growth! A fresh breakdown of the list, highlighting the various errors, many additions and a few omissions, was submitted to Openreach at the end of June. In due course, another revised list was received from them in the middle of July, and for the first time we appeared to be heading in the right direction.

The new schedule had shrunk from 217 addresses to 104 ... which meant we were still including about 20 properties which shouldn't have been there. These included 16 in Middle Barton and Lower Heyford, as well as a handful of North Aston properties that featured twice. In addition, the schedule included a handful of homes along the Middle Aston Lane which, while technically in Middle Aston, are closer to North Aston and share the same Distribution Point as Hendon Farm and the two neighbouring cottages, which are in North Aston. Because these are out-lying properties, they are potentially expensive to connect, but if we can include these extra addresses and gain the value of their vouchers under the Rural Gigabit Scheme, it may actually reduce the overall cost.

I am awaiting confirmation, but it looks feasible to include these at no additional cost, so we will add them to the list. This makes the grand (and true!) total of properties on the list a princely 85. I can't believe how long this is taking!



The new Pergola beside The Yurt at Nicholsons is already proving very popular with visitors, who are now able to sit outside, suitably distanced, and sheltered from the occasional shower.



July 2020

The winners of the July draw were:
1st Prize (£25): Jane Durnin (#61)
2nd Prize (£5): Mary Taylor (#14)

It's too late to join this year's 100 Club - you've missed the boat!
 However, if you'd like to know more, contact Bev on 347434 or email info@north-aston.co.uk. Remember ...



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

ARBOCARE TREE SURGERY LTD

Qualified and Experienced Arborists

- Established over 25 years
- Contractors to the National Trust
- Crown reductions
- Thinning
- Felling
- Hedge Trimming
- Stump Grinding
- Decay Detection & Tree Reports



Free phone: 0808 1555815
 Mobile: 07778811136

www.arbocare.co.uk



Have you spotted any painted rocks? One of the girls at Park Farm has 'hidden' these around the village as part of a Treasure Hunt for younger residents. If you spot one on your travels, take a photo on your phone and email proof to parkfarm@hillcrestcs.co.uk. You can move a stone, but be sure to hide it again somewhere else!

North Aston Village Meeting

Wednesday 8th July 2020

Held on 'Zoom'

Officers present: Chair Lucinda Fuoco (LF), Treasurer Sue Hatzigeorgiou (SH), Secretary Annie Savage (AS).

Those present: Tony Buxton (TB). Apologies were received from Niel Nicholson, Jocelyn Aziz, Robert Hite and Jane Durnin.

Village Meeting Minutes

Please note: The rules around holding Village Meetings are changing and although a virtual meeting to approve the Village accounts was held on July 8th, we may need to hold a further very short one in August.

There is some uncertainty as to the validity of online meetings and we await the advice from Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils. Whilst online Meetings of Parish Councils were approved, the same arrangements for Village Meetings were not confirmed.

If an additional Meeting is required to ratify the accounts, a very short Meeting will be held on the Green. The statutory seven-day notice will be provided and the details shown on the noticeboard in advance.

The Meeting had been announced publicly via the *North Aston News* and a notice on the board. A number of people had expressed an interest and asked to be invited and the meeting documents were circulated in advance of the meeting. They were discussed as follows:

1) Risk register: this had been reviewed prior to the meeting and it was agreed that it was important to review this in a fuller meeting. No amendments were made.

2) Internal audit: SH presented Part 2PM, the internal Auditors Report, which details internal controls over the way in which the Village Meeting accounts are managed. It was confirmed this had been examined and approved by an internal auditor who is not a village resident and the statements approved.

3) Annual Governance Statement 2019/20: SH presented the Statement to the Meeting and noted these had been examined and they were then approved and signed by the Chair.

It was noted that due to the current difficulty of running village matters as a result of Covid-19, we had observed the requirements set out by Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government in response to coronavirus which extended the reporting deadline to August from March.

It was confirmed that further guidance from the department would be complied with.

4) Accounting Statement. SH presented the Accounting Statement to the Meeting and confirmed they matched the summary accounts and bank statement, which were also presented.

It was noted that the village insurance arrangements were altered in June. The policy previously held via Aviva was cancelled and cover transferred to Royal & Sun Alliance following a cover comparison. The premium reduced from £560.64 to £246.40 with improvements in the cover afforded.

TB proposed the accounts should be approved. Seconded by SH. Approved and the statement signed by LF.

5) Certificate of Exemption: SH confirmed that the Village Meeting was not a Parish Meeting and spent less than £25,000 per annum and, in addition, complied with the requirements of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations and therefore is exempt from full audit.

6) The Meeting agreed that the date for Commencement of the Exercise of Public Rights should be 11th July 2020. On this day, the full documentation shall be placed on the Notice Board at the entrance to St Mary's Walk.

Minutes signed by Lucinda Fuoco in her capacity as Chair as being a true representation of the Meeting.



Here's the third in our Chair's series of tantalising recipes to keep you sane through Coronavirus.

You will need:

- 1 cup of Peanut Butter
- 1 egg
- 3/4 cup of Granulated Sugar
- Ice cream scoop
- Baking tray

Peanut Butter Cookies

Start by placing all the three ingredients together in a bowl. You can whisk them with a whisk attachment, paddle attachment, or simply by hand with a fork or spoon. When you're done mixing, you'll notice the cookie dough mixture will be soft and moist.



Next, use a small ice cream scoop to form the cookie dough into small balls. Place them on the prepared baking sheet at least a couple inches apart.



Flatten the cookies with your hands or the bottom of a glass, then use the back of a fork to press down and create criss-cross lines. That's the iconic look of these three-ingredient peanut butter cookies!



Cook!

Bake for about 8 minutes, then cool them on a rack.

They'll be soft, sweet and full of flavour!

Lucinda

The View from Park Farm

Here at Park Farm, as things begin slowly to get back to normal amidst the recent pandemic, the girls have been busy in the community with a variety of things in the local area.

Some of the girls have taken to baking cakes and other treats for a local care home. They have been hand-delivering these themselves and chatting with some of the residents, and hope they can continue to do this in the weeks to come.

Another of our residents has thought up a fun activity for those with younger children (or the big kids) in North Aston and has painted rocks and hidden them around the village. She has asked if, when found, pictures could be taken and emailed to Park Farm from those of you that are lucky enough to find them, stating the location where they were found, and then to move them somewhere else, but keep this a secret!

And for the adults, Park Farm has begun to hand out Avon catalogues for those of you who like to treat yourselves once in a while. There are all sorts of beauty products, from nailcare and perfumes, to skincare etc. So far we have delivered catalogues to two homes in the village, so if you think you deserve to spoil yourself, you can place an order through us via email or text. We can then source **and** deliver it straight to your door. Hoorah!!!

And finally, as things settle back to normal, you can be sure of one thing, and that is that we will be thinking of more things to do for our community as soon as we can.

So in the meantime, stay safe, have fun, and don't forget to treat yourselves!!!

From all the girls and staff at Park Farm!

SJB HEARING COMPANY LTD

"Where your hearing comes first"



About SJB Hearing Company Ltd

Sarah-Jane Brown is an experienced Hearing Aid Audiologist and has been working in the Banbury area for the past 5 years. She has built up a strong reputation and has helped hundreds of local people to improve their hearing and overall health & wellbeing.

"I'm looking forward to welcoming you into my clinic and helping with your hearing health needs"

- Complimentary Hearing Assessment
- State of the art hearing technology
- Friendly, Impartial advice
- Earwax removal with Micro-suction
- Bespoke Hearing Protection - shooting, motorcyclists, musicians





SJB Hearing Co Ltd is a private, independent practice owned & operated by Mrs Sarah-Jane Brown

www.sjbhearingcompany.co.uk ~ tel: 01869 254 019
 email: booking@sjbhearingcompany.co.uk
 Ashcroft Therapy Centre, Hudson Street, Deddington, OX15 0SW

NICHOLSONS





A HIDDEN GEM IN THE COUNTRYSIDE

Here at Nicholsons we aim to offer you much more than your typical garden centre experience.

The Plant Centre

Hedging & Screening | Colourful herbaceous plants and flowers
Fragrant herbs | Ornamental and edible fruit trees | David Austin roses
Topiary | Veggie strips | Hairy pots | Expert advice & Guidance

Rosara - Outdoor style for your garden

Furniture Sets | Garden accessories | Hammocks | Planters | Textiles
Kadais and BBQs | Lighting

The Yurt Café - Now open for TAKEAWAY ONLY

Open Tuesday to Saturday

Oak Roasted Coffee | Artisan teas | Delicious cakes
Light lunches | All dietary requirements welcome

To find out more please visit our website:
www.nicholsonsgb.com

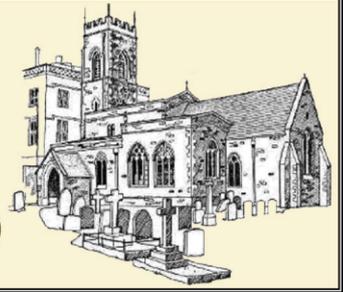
The Park, North Aston, OX25 6HL
01869 340342








The Church MATTERS



Easing back to normal ...

And so we all begin to dip our toes in the waters of normality...

I cannot tell you how glad I am to be able to write that we are again holding congregational services of worship in the Benefice. Christianity is a team sport. We are here to cry with each other and to laugh with each other, and that's very hard to do all alone. I've been tremendously impressed by the care and thoughtfulness I've seen in all sorts of places in these last months - and I know it will only continue - but coming together to express joy and sorrow and praise and lament and thanksgiving and confession and all the hundred other emotions and desires of life lies at the very heart of our common faith.

The very word 'communion' is a sharing word. Not my time with God, but ours. Our joining together - or rather, our being joined together with Jesus and all he has done for us and still does and will do.

So on July 19 we scheduled our first service back together. Then August 2nd, then August 16 - and so on. Initially every two weeks, with a plan to go weekly in September, depending on how things turn out. We are worshipping in the open air as long as the weather allows. In the open air - because it feels safer and more welcoming and more open to more people in these still-not-quite-right days in which we live.

Each service will be a joint Benefice service for now - one week in Steeple, then in North Aston, then in Tackley. The rota at the back of the magazine or on our church website www.sntchurch.com has all the details. If the weather is really bad at 10.30am (our regular start time this summer) but is forecast better in the afternoon, we will push back till 5pm. If it is set in bad all day, then our online service will be all that we have that weekend. Worship at Home, our online service available on YouTube or via our website, has been watched by a wonderful number of people throughout the last four months. Thank you for joining with us. We will continue this every week for the time being.

When you come, because we are outside, please do bring your own chair or rug to sit on, and do observe social distancing. Our hope is that the churchyards all allow for this quite well. Please also wear a face covering or mask. Someone said to me - washing hands is something we do for ourselves; face coverings is something we do for others. Masks will feel strange in worship - but let's make a positive out of it: I will award a prize to the most colourful or creative mask for the first three or four services! Let's see how that works out!

The diocese asks us not to sing for now. But we can share communion together, and I am sure our gatherings will be wonderful. God is good. It seems clear that there are still long days ahead for all of us, and coming together for encouragement and prayer is a wonderful gift. Do join us if you feel able. If you do not - then stay home, watch the online service or use the telephone version of this (dial 929021 and you can hear our online service in full, or just the prayers, or just the sermon if you would like) and let us know so we can pray for you.

Our church buildings are also open most Saturdays so anyone can take a moment for their own personal prayers or a spot of quiet reflection if they would like to; we do need volunteers to keep the buildings open - please contact me or the church wardens if you'd like to help with this.

This is a long haul. But we will get there together, with God's help

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 will be open on Saturdays for quiet contemplation

Please see *Church Matters* (previous page) for the latest news on church opening. In essence, there will again be no Sunday services at St Mary's this month.

The vicar's online church service, *Worship at Home*, can now be accessed via a local phone number as well. Dial 929021 and choose to listen to the whole service, just this week's prayers, or this week's sermon. Given that some people don't have easy access to computers, this could be a very welcome development. The situation with regard to public buildings, like the church, remains fluid. Please adhere to current advice. For the latest information, please visit the benefice website at www.sntchurch.com.

North Aston WhatsApp Group

The Group remains very active, and members continue to help one another, share ideas, source items, and cooperate to make life a little easier. 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. There are also NA village groups dedicated to specific areas, including bread deliveries, on-line ordering and gardening.

RIDE+STRIDE

Saturday 12th September

There's no stopping this annual fundraising event! Help to preserve the history on your doorstep by cycling, walking or horse-riding your way around Oxfordshire's churches. Perfect open-air exercise, raising money.

Now's the time to start gathering sponsors, so visit the website at <https://ohct.org.uk/ride-and-stride> to download an entry form.



Church Worship

Welcome back to our Church services!

We are offering
Open-air Communion Services
(weather permitting*) in our churchyards

July 19 - 10.30am Steeple Aston

August 2 - 10.30am North Aston

August 16 - 10.30am Tackley

August 30 - 10.30am Steeple Aston

Sep 6 - 10.30am North Aston

Sep 13 - 10.30am Tackley

Sep 20 - 10.30am Steeple Aston

Please bring your own chair or rug,
observe social distancing, and wear
a face covering or mask

*If a Sunday morning suffers really bad weather, services will be put back to 5pm; if the bad weather continues, our weekly on-line service will be the only service that day

Worship at Home

(our online worship service)

continues each Sunday at 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 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.

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