

NORTH ASTON

NEWS

May 2021

#367



NORTH ASTON NEWS

MAY 2021, No:367

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

Tuck Hatzigeorgiou, Acting Chairperson

Email: tuck56@hotmail.com

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

Sunshine and fresh air ...

I hope that you are all enjoying the glorious weather and of course now that we have the easing of lockdown and the pubs are reopening ... life is seeming that little bit sweeter and dare I say it ... a little bit more normal.

I would like to thank everyone that came to last month's village meeting. It was so lovely to see all of you, even if it was only on a computer screen. For anyone that missed it please have a look at the Minutes published in this month's issue. And for anyone that has had to miss out on Meetings due to technology, rest assured we do hope (fingers tightly crossed) to have our next Meeting on the Green, all being well.

One item that was discussed was the possibility of a village picnic/party some time in the the autumn, and Franca has very kindly volunteered to head this up. However, many hands make light work and so, with that said, if you are able to help with any organising and/or setting up please do get in touch – it would be hugely appreciated.

One final thing; as we start to tentatively ease out of lockdown, for the last time hopefully, I would like to just say, I know a lot of residents are still a little hesitant about going out and so if you are struggling or need anything please do give me a call and I will be more than happy to help.

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

Lucinda

Traffic Update ...

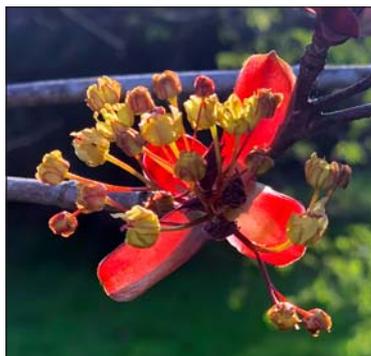
Several members of the NA Traffic Committee had a useful site meeting in April with the County Council Highways Inspector. This was to discuss the proposal of a restoration of the carriageway to its statutory width and the insertion of a line of low wooden posts on the verge along the Green, to deter vehicles from encroaching on the grass and ultimately leading to a yet wider carriageway.

It is hoped both measures would help to deter speeding on this section of village road. On the question of returning the carriageway to its statutory width the inspector said this was work that could only be undertaken by the Council, and was very unlikely in the foreseeable future due to budget constraints. However, the Council would apparently have no problem with the insertion of posts by the village.

We nevertheless requested a further meeting with a Council Highways Engineer to ascertain what should be the width of the roadway and, in addition, a consultation with the road safety advisor to discuss further means of slowing traffic through the village.

Another suggestion that has surfaced in the Mid-Cherwell Planning Forum is a request for a 20mph limit for all the valley villages, as is being proposed for Heyford Park.

Tony Buxton, NATC Chair



Do you know what it is yet?

This month's front cover photo has been supplied by Niel Nicholson, and with it comes a challenge.

If you recognise what the plant is, Niel wants to know. You'll need to identify the variety, so a general descriptive name isn't enough!. Get it right, and you could win Coffee & Cake at The Yurt.

Your only hint is that the photograph was taken at the end of April, in the

nursery. Send your answer to us here at info@north-aston.co.uk and the winning entry will be drawn from a 'hat'. Answer next month ...



Mail to: info@north-aston.co.uk

Planning

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.

18 The Green North Aston OX25 6HX. An application has been made to clear fallen limb and reduce to overall height of a T1 Crack Willow, with the aim of managing as a pollard in the future. The anticipated date for a decision is 19-05-2021. Reference No: 21 / 01206 / TCA

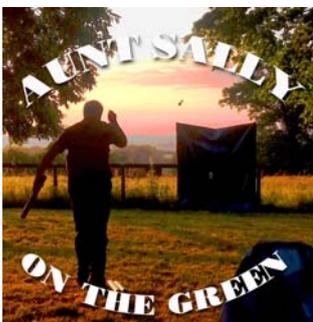
North Aston Hall St Mary's Walk North Aston OX25 6AA. Works are proposed that will involve the partial strip-out of the first and second floors of the main house in order to continue investigative works in pursuance of study into the historic fabric of the house. This will include investigation into the C17th origins of The Hall and to determine what, if anything, remains of the previous roof structure. Comments must be made by 07-05-2021, and the anticipated date for a decision remains at 25-05-2021. Reference No: 21 / 01012 / LB

Stable Cottage, St Mary's Walk North Aston OX25 6AA. An application has been made to demolish Stable Cottage and Garage adjacent to The Hall. This is the house to the north of the Church, formerly the home to Mike & Sue Weston. Demolition is justified on the basis of the recent construction of the building which, it is argued, makes a negative contribution to a conservation area and site of historic interest. The building is also deemed highly impactful on the Grade II listed church alongside. Comments must be made by 07-05-2021. Anticipated date is 18-05-2021. Reference No: 21 / 00998 / F

North Aston Hall St Mary's Walk North Aston OX25 6AA. The application to demolish the pool building, gym and coach house beside The Hall is at the consultation stage. Comments must be made by 07-05-2021, and the anticipated date for a decision remains at 17-05-2021. Reference No: 21 / 00989 / LB

Stephill Cottage Dane Hill North Aston OX25 6JE. The application to construct extensions to the cottage has been approved. Reference number: 21 / 00720 / F

An announcement regarding the inquiry into the plans for a hotel and leisure complex by Great Wolf Developments in Chesterton was expected at the end of April, but appears to have been delayed. There has been little recent news, so more anon.



Aunt Sally Returns!

With sporting fixtures now permitted, games of Aunt Sally will resume on The Green from May 19th, starting at 7 pm. Bring your own beer or a bottle of wine, but you must participate, and follow the approved Covid guidelines. Everyone welcome!

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

Deddington Farmers' Market

The date for this month's Farmer's Market is Saturday 22nd May. There will be a one-way system with social distancing, and customers are asked to wear masks at all times. The market has been busy of late, so please park at the school.



The winners of last month's BIG draw were:

1st Prize (£100): Archie Stay (#134)

2nd Prize (£5): Linda Brown (#50)

Congratulations to this month's very lucky winners! This marks the end of the 100 Club 'year', and subscriptions are now due for renewal. Bev will be distributing subscription letters to households over the next week to ten days. To be sure of retaining your chosen numbers, return your letter, with payment, as soon as you can.

You can drop off your envelope with Bev at 21 The Green. If you're not yet a member, then why not?! New members are always welcome. To take part in this worthy cause, contact Bev on 347434 or email info@north-aston.co.uk.

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

Heyford Park Pantry

Many thanks to everyone who donated to the Pantry last month. North Aston gave a massive 181 items! I will put the boxes out again this month and if you can spare something, that would be wonderful. They particularly need toiletries, loo rolls, cleaning products, washing powder/liquid & pet food.

The Pantry has now launched the *Food Larder*. Rather than aiming to tackle food poverty, it is responding to the appalling amount of food waste. To help redress the balance between usage and waste, *Community Larders* take surplus food and distribute it, free of charge, to the local community. In the case of Heyford Park Pantry, the food is being delivered from SOFEA, a charity in Didcot, which saves excess supermarket stock from going to landfill. It's all in-date and varies each week but we are all invited to join the scheme. The cost is £3.50 per week, for which we can select up to 10 items plus some fresh food, dependent on what is delivered that week.

The scheme is designed to balance the support we can give to others (the food bank) with the way in which we can use surplus food (the pantry). Those joining the scheme help to support those who may need help by not only avoiding waste, but by ensuring that the Pantry can continue to receive SOFEA deliveries. They need at least 100 members to guarantee this.

It is so inspiring to pop up to the Community Centre on Brice Road. Its open 11:00-12:30 on Fridays and 12:00- 2:00pm on Saturdays. They also run a jigsaw, book and DVD exchange scheme – all free. If you want to know more, or to sign up to the Community Larder, visit heyfordparkpantry.org. In the meantime, many thanks for your support, and remember to drop off any pharmaceutical blister-packs for recycling.

Notices

Local Elections, May 6th

Don't forget that we have local elections this month, and even more boxes to mark as we catch up on the ballots that were postponed from last year. With County as well as District elections being contested, we'll be faced by three ballot papers:

Cherwell DC, Deddington Ward. Three candidates:

- Nigel Geoffrey David (Liberal Democrat)
- Amanda Jane Watkins (Labour)
- Bryn Williams (Conservative)

Oxfordshire CC, Deddington Ward. Three candidates:

- Arash Fatemian (Conservative)
- David Richard Hingley (Liberal Democrat)
- Amanda Jane Watkins (Labour)

Police & Crime Commissioner. Four candidates, 2 votes:

- Matthew Barber (Conservative)
- Laetisia Carter (Labour)
- John Howson (Liberal Democrat)
- Alan Gordon Robinson (Independent).

The polling station will, as usual, be in the Old Bakery. Opening times will be 7 am through to 10 pm. Take your polling card and some means of identification.

Wednesday Fish & Chips: 5:50 pm to 6:20 pm

The weekly visit from Van 99, bringing Fish & Chips to The Green, is now at the later time of ten-to-six. The change has resulted in more customers, which means there's a better chance of the van continuing to call into the future.

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Here at Nicholson's, we aim to offer you much more than your typical garden centre experience.

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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 - Simple and surprising

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North Aston Nature Notes

With Stephen Rees

Hello you lot! Hope all is okay and you're looking forward to a bit of normality returning to our lives.

Blimey ... April came and went quickly! Time seems to be flying by at the moment. We have both (me and the boss, otherwise known to you all as Mrs Rees) been busy at work and busy at home. Wifey has been licking gardens into shape, and I'm still chopping logs every weekend for our two fires. It's been blooming cold in the evenings!. Oh, and I've been making bird tables and bee hotels.



The bee hotel idea has now gone into turbo mode. Last year's residents are hatching and eating their way out through the mud that the bees plugged the holes with. There's also an absolute mad mass of bees laying in the empty holes, then plugging them off again. It's so cool to watch! As soon as the sun hits the wall, late afternoon, they just explode into action. You can stand right next to them and watch, and they really don't mind at all. We have 17 hotels up and running now, with thousands of rooms available. I'd make more, but I'm not sure the house wall can take the strain.

If anyone wants to have a look, please feel free to pop over - and don't worry about Penny. She'll be barking, but her tail always wags at the same time. She really is harmless.

Our bird feeders are also still really really busy, both the big one with the pitched roof and the pheasant feeder lower down. I know people say it's not right to feed all year, but it's just outside our bedroom and we can sit in bed with a tea in the morning and watch all the birds. It's great. The table that was meant for the Blue Tits can hold three Rooks or Pheasants at a time, which is a bit mad. It's costing me a small fortune in peanuts, but worth every penny.

Wifey, who is head gardener for Wendy Rees Garden Services, has told me it's looking like a bumper year for Buttercups. I hadn't noticed until



she pointed it out. She's very observant like that, and can spot a good thing for me to write about.

She was also telling me about the best type of gardens for wildlife. It definitely isn't ones that are left to go wild and unkempt, and neither is it the ones that are perfect either. A good wildlife garden is a mix of vegetation, with shrubs, flowers and lawns for worms. Clumps of stinging nettles around the edge are good, with little corners left alone for the hedgehogs, and some water features are a benefit too, even if they're only shallow trays filled with stones and water. Leave a few dandelions to grow up between the cracks of paths and pavements, as the bugs love them.

I haven't spotted any swallows here yet, but it's still early. There are lots down in Somerton, so pop down there if you want to see some, but they should be here soon. Also, keep your ears open for the cuckoo ... any day now!

Something else you could try in the garden is to lay a bit of old tin down on the ground. Pick a sunny spot, and leave it there for a few days, then carefully lift it up, and see what's made it their home. You might be lucky, and find a Grass Snake or a Slow Worm. If I find one, I catch it and release it in Liz Nicholson's garden. I know she absolutely loves them...

Bye for now, from Stephen, Wifey & Penny the dog.



From Annie Savage, NA PM Secretary

At the recent village meeting, a number of thoughts were kicked around with regard to the way in which we, as a village, engage with care for the planet and sustainability.

We're so lucky to live in a community where so much is done already - whether it's the Farm and Dairy, NA Organics or Nicholsons, or on an individual level. It feels like it's a good time to widen out our own activities and see if we can do a bit more. It doesn't need to be earth-shattering, as tiny steps are just as important. We have already started recycling blister packs, and coffee pods are on the way this month (see page 7) but other ideas have also been suggested for recycling, such as crisp packets, cheese wrappers etc. There was a reminder that Ginny Stay (North Aston Organics) organises a monthly organic food delivery from SUMA which we can all participate in.

Our young people are often more engaged with eco projects and it would be great if they felt encouraged to join in and help us to focus our minds on how we can do things better.

I'm keen that we pull together and am happy to set the ball rolling, so if you feel enthused about this, let me know and we can work something out about how we actually get some energy into this. Give me a call (347767) or email me at secretary@north-aston.co.uk.

North Aston Village Meeting & Forum

Tuesday 20th April, 7:00 pm via Zoom ~ The Minutes

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

Those present: Niel Nicholson (NN), Liz Nicholson (LN), Tony Buxton (TB), Marcus Potts (MP), Franca Potts (FP), Jo Pochron (JP), Adam Pochron (AP), Bev Rees (BR), Tony Rees (TR) Ginny Stay (GS).

Village Meeting

LF opened the meeting by thanking everyone for coming and explaining that we had to continue with meeting via Zoom in order to comply with Covid regulations but we hope to be able to meet in person next time.

1. Accounts

The main reason for the meeting was to put before the Village, the documents and accounts which need to be submitted in order that we comply with the regulations governing the way a Village Meeting is conducted. She thanks SH for working hard on the Accounts and Governance Report, which had been circulated prior to the meeting for people to inspect.

Annual Reporting

SH ran through the documents and confirmed they had been inspected by Kate Ringham, who has very kindly acted as our internal auditor for a number of years. We have a certificate of exemption which means we are not obliged to have the accounts certified by an external auditor as our annual turnover is below £25,000, so Kate provides a check on the way the finances are managed.

SH explained there has been very little activity on the accounts due to Covid. No events were held so the income on the Village Meeting account was limited to the Precept and interest and the only cost was the annual Insurance Policy.

The Risk Register was completed last July, so will be reviewed once the Village Meeting can be held in person to give other attendees a chance to discuss if required.

SH asked if anyone had any comments or was the Meeting happy to approve the Accounts. No comments were made and a proposal was made by MP to approve, seconded by NN. Formal thanks were extended to Kate Ringham for her assistance.

2. Traffic Committee Update

AB gave a summary of the position regarding traffic in the valley following a meeting of the Mid-Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan (MCNP).

Following the suspension of the Busgate proposal, a full survey will be held to determine the level and flow of traffic using the roads in the valley. AB had agreed with the MCNP group that North Aston will be happy to participate. There is a proposal for a 20mph limit to be imposed throughout Heyford Park and discussions are being held around whether or not this could be extended to all the villages.

TB has spoken to OCC with regard to bringing the Somerton Road alongside the Green back to its statutory width in order to slow traffic down. The traffic committee are proceeding with the previously agreed plan to install low posts along the edge of the Green but consideration needs to be given to the relationship with the tarmac in order to comply with the statutory distance. AB and Jeremy Taylor have discussed the proposal and in principle JT is happy to proceed.

The NAT Committee is meeting with OCC on Thursday April 22nd and a discussion regarding cost ensued. NN very kindly offered to help with the posts and is happy to provide at cost but as Nicholsons are not authorised to work on Highways, an approved OCC contractor would be required to do the work.

3. Footpaths and Countryside Code

At this point a new attendee shown only as "P" on the screen joined the meeting. LF explained that a number of people had raised questions about footpaths and specifically the one below the Manor, which forms part of the Cherwell Valley Way. She had been in contact with Peter Burrell, the owner of North Aston Manor to enquire about the additional pathway constructed adjacent to the historic footpath. The new pathway has been installed in consultation with OCC as an additional route, not a replacement

route, and the gate has been improved to allow access for pushchairs and wheelchairs. There had sadly been an incident of vandalism to the gates which is upsetting and this was in addition to problems elsewhere in the village. She reminded everyone to be vigilant and also brought attention to dog waste which is a recurrent problem.

P then confirmed he was Peter Burrell and he also confirmed that the new permissive footpath was intended to provide additional amenity to the village and signage would be installed shortly. He then left the meeting.

4. Mikron Performance 9th July

Once again Mikron will be holding a performance on the Green on the evening of July 9th. Due to new working restrictions, it will be entirely open air and AS confirmed that numbers were restricted and tickets must be purchased in advance. Further details will follow.

5. Village Party

As the village has been unable to gather over the past year and two fêtes will have been missed, FP was keen to discuss some sort of village party day. She is happy to take the lead on organising an event and LF was keen that we set up a working party to think about the format. Although no dates can be booked, September may be a good month to consider and the hope is that we could hold a celebration for children in the afternoon, running on into an evening event. Marquees may be suitable but NN and LN both said they were happy for their barn to be used.

6. Sustainability

AS said she had been thinking of ways of increasing the village's involvement with sustainability and even if only small steps are taken, it would be lovely to widen this out.

Along with the *Heyford Park Pantry* collection, the collection of medicinal blister packs for recycling had been added. MP has widened this out to include the small coffee pods used in Tassimo and similar machines and AS and he have been discussing adding to the list. Contact has been made with Terracycle and a group has been established at Heyford Park, with whom there are working possibilities.

LN mentioned Tammy at Nicholsons, who has been working on this and there may be scope for doing more. Ginny mentioned the SUMA organic food order and Bicester Green and NN suggested we make more use of the bus shelter to collect. AS said it would be lovely if the Young People in the village felt like becoming involved too.

7. Heyford Park Pantry

The village has shown huge generosity in the monthly collections for the *Heyford Park Pantry*, who are very grateful for the donations. In addition to supporting up to 40 families with the food bank they have expanded the operation and are now working with organisations to redistribute surplus food from supermarkets. This will be managed by a membership scheme open to everyone within a 15 minute radius of Heyford Park. For £3.50 per week, up to 10 dry goods items plus fresh produce may be selected and they are desperate to sign-up new members as the scheme's viability depends on at least 100.

8. Any Other Business

1. MP reported that although we thought the **water pressure** in the village might be improved, this was now unlikely to happen. As part of the installation of the District Heating System, attempts were made to boost pressure, but resulted in burst pipes, so the outcome is not positive. It may be that houses owned by North Aston Farms will have header tanks installed. An update from the land agent, Laws & Fiennes, will be printed in the NA News.

2. MP reported that the **Broadband** FFTP project had ground to a halt in August 2020, and despite his attempts to make contact with the relevant person at Openreach, nothing was heard for several months. MP has now established links with a fresh contact

at Openreach, and progress is now being made. If we wish to proceed, we are required to confirm on a website which MP will detail in the NA News. Jeremy Taylor has been chasing Openreach with regard to the burying of related cabling, and some progress has been made, but it is slow and frustrating.

3. Clive Busby had forwarded a summary of items via the Secretary and AS read out his report:

Clive is currently investigating and pursuing :

- i) The ongoing speed monitor battery consumption rate
- ii) The dripping water fountain tap
- iii) The blocked road drains

He has approached OCC Highways department to clear the parish drains in order that the water drains away to alleviate the build up of sludge in sumps.

LF thanked Clive for his hard work

Christian Aid Week ~ 10-16 May

Vicky will once again be representing St Mary's Church this year, delivering and collecting *Christian Aid* envelopes around the village. She is happy to deliver envelopes but still feels that collection is not appropriate, both in terms of social distancing and because of the potential financial challenges some people may be facing.

Those choosing to donate can drop off their envelopes at the Old Bakery office, where there will be a grey collecting box, clearly marked. Envelopes will be delivered on 10th May, and it would be great if people could return them by the 16th.



This year's appeal focuses on global water shortages, largely the result of climate change, but even more pertinent given the UK Government's recent cut-back on foreign aid.



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

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4. Bev confirmed that **100 Club subscriptions** are due soon and she will be sending out the envelopes shortly. She asked MP to include her address in NA News.

5. There are hopeful signs that we could resume a regular **Aunt Sally** on the Green from June onwards, so long as we all participate as a "sporting event". TR confirmed he was happy to construct the scaffolding frame. It was noted that the village agreed to fund the cost of a backdrop from the Village Forum account and in order that this remained current, AS suggested we approve the expenditure again. NN proposed/GS seconded.

Date for Next Meeting

It was not possible to set a confirmed date for the next Meeting. However, a hope was expressed that it might take place on The Green, so that residents could attend in person. A date will be published in the *News*.

The Launch of Podback!

Continuing our new series on ways in which the community can embrace sustainable habits, here's another scheme that may suit North Aston residents with coffee-making machines.



If you have a Tassimo, Nespresso, Dolce Gusto, Starbucks or L'Or coffee maker, you'll be all too aware that you haven't been able to recycle those little plastic or aluminium pods ... until now. On 15th April, Nescafé, Nestlé and Jacobs Douwe Egberts, the three largest coffee manufacturers in the UK, launched a joint project to encourage recycling of their branded coffee pods.

Called Podback, the scheme will allow individuals, and groups, to collect together their used pods and send them back to the makers for recycling. If you want to do this for yourself, then visit the website appropriate to your brand, and order some of the special recycling bags. These are free with any order of coffee, or with modest delivery charge if ordered alone. These can either be returned via Yodel, or dropped off at a nearby collection centre - full details of how and where are on the website.

- www.podback.org/
- www.tassimo.com/gb/recycling
- www.nespresso.com/uk/en/recycling
- www.dolce-gusto.co.uk/recycle

Alternatively, join our community scheme. We shall be placing collection boxes in the bus shelter outside Nicholsons, and all we ask is that you make sure your pods are not leaking and that they go into the right box! There will be one box for plastic pods, and another for aluminium. We hope to have this in place before the end of the month.



From the FIRE STATION

We still find ourselves in lock down, but there is light at the end of the tunnel! Very quiet at the station incident wise – only 8 shouts: 6 standbys and 2 false alarms.

Training at station has started again, albeit masked up and training every other week, as we are only allowed five at station



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 or to book a session, please contact Mark: 347806



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Ashcroft Therapy Centre, Hudson Street, Deddington, OX15 0SW

at any one time – so half one week and the other half the following week.

Ben Fenemore (who featured on the front cover of last month's News) has started his BA training, whilst both Adam Perry and Emma Flint progress with their Driver training. We said a sad farewell and a hearty thanks to our Station Support Officer Mark O'Connor, and a welcome to our new SSO James Newton. We also have two new recruits who are going through their basic training – Garin Wilby from Clifton and Louis Martin who lives in Adderbury. Follow us @Deddingtonfire on Facebook.



James Greenwood FFD
james@cyclogicalshop.co.uk

Officers of the Deddington Fire Station took part in a minutes' silence in a mark of respect for the Duke of Edinburgh, who died last month. The photo above shows one of the officers removing the windscreen from a car during a training exercise for tackling an RTA.



Here at Park Farm we have been very busy, with things opening up more and becoming a bit more normal.

The girls have been involved in fun activities around the local area, including bike rides, walks and scavenger hunts, as well as spending time cooking various new meals. They are currently having a relaxing time off school, and have visited some national parks and playgrounds.

A new resident has joined us here at Park Farm, and she seems to be settling in well. The girls did question the staff whether the Easter Bunny would visit over Easter and, to their surprise, he left them all many chocolate eggs which brought much excitement to the house. The girls will soon be preparing themselves for the return to school and begin settling back into a regular routine.



Blandford Ahoy!

Our annual warning that the season for the Blandford Fly is almost upon us. Keep lower legs covered and watch out for these vicious little flies whose bite can easily turn septic.



The Church MATTERS



Spring is upon us!

As I write, it feels as if the current move to lifting the Lockdown may actually be for real. Certainly things are changing in Church life.

Church Services

From the beginning of May, we are back to 'in person' services every weekend. Not quite a full rota of services yet, but a service every Sunday somewhere in the Benefice. See the list on the back page of this newsletter for details. We are aiming to hold open air Communion each week in our churchyards, either here or in Tackley or in Steeple Aston, starting on May 2nd in North Aston. Do bring your own chair and please wear a face covering. If the weather is bad - we go indoors, and it's morning prayer instead (so that once we've sat down there's no moving about). Everyone is welcome - and there's no booking needed.



Easter was a real joy - to see such a fantastic crowd gather and worship together on such a beautiful day. We had a wonderful early service in our churchyard, and the events that followed in Tackley and then the full Benefice Communion in Steeple were also filled with joy. Here's to more such occasions in the weeks ahead.

We will continue with online services as well through May - you can find these either by going to the homepage of our website, www.sntchurch.com, or if you don't have internet try ringing our special 'services' phone number, 01869 929021.

Church opening

All three of our churches are now open every day again. It's good to be getting back to normal! Yes, please do use the hand sanitiser when you go in and when you leave so that we do our best to keep the place clean and tidy for the next people in, and please wear a face covering, but we are open!

The Fête

The North Aston Fête is, very sadly, not happening this year - but mark the diary - our friends down the road in Steeple Aston very much hope that their Fête is happening this year, and the date they have it all booked for is the afternoon of Saturday July 10th. Any church and village Fête is a great occasion for everyone to come and enjoy the sunshine and see each other. Robinsons Close in Steeple Aston is a big open space and means we can be well distanced and safe, and we hope all their usual attractions (from teas to classic cars) will be present. To be honest, like many organisations, church finances have really suffered in the last year and they do need to raise quite a bit on the day. But we also hope to be able to give away funds to other local groups as we always try to do as well.

The Duke of Edinburgh

I was very touched to hear a couple of very personal stories about Prince Philip as we joined in the national days of mourning after his death in April.

Many of us have lost people very dear to us this year; I think that for quite a few of us, the Duke of Edinburgh's passing, and all the coverage around it, was both disturbing and comforting all at the same time. We have had no national service of mourning, but as we watched Her Majesty the Queen and her family gather as our families have gathered, limited in number but not in sadness, we grieved together even though apart. And the simple words of the risen Jesus to his grieving followers at Easter - *peace be with you* - speak powerfully to us as we seek meaning and hope through all these days. May God's peace indeed be with you.

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 ~ MAY

NORTH ASTON

STEEPLE ASTON

TACKLEY

Limited Church Services are back "in person"

Church Gatherings

Sunday Services are back once more, although to a limited schedule. The Rector in his *Church Matters* (previous page) explains how these will be rolled out across the Benefice in the coming weeks. Please check with the website for any fresh updates and news.

St Mary's is now open again daily for personal worship. Please use the hand-sanitiser provided and follow guidelines.

Larger religious gatherings are currently limited to 15 people (including outdoor receptions) and won't rise to 30 until May 17th. These restrictions apply equally to funerals, wakes and baptisms. Everything should return to 'normal' in June, provided cases and hospitalisations continue their downward trend.

Local help

Anyone in need of support or assistance at a more local level is invited to contact one of the Officers of the Parish Meeting (see inside front page) or join the very active North Aston WhatsApp group.

If you're not yet a member, drop a note to Annie (secretary @north-aston.co.uk) or give her a call.

All that grows ...

The growing season is now with us, and a new and dedicated WhatsApp group has been set up for the community's growers and allotmenters.

This allows members to share information and news about events on the allotment, share seedlings and produce, and plan for this year's Flower & Produce Show which, it is hoped, will take place in September.

If you'd like to be added to the group, please send a text to 07785 511282 or email info@north-aston.co.uk.

Church Services May 2021

Sunday May 2nd

10.30am North Aston Church Yard
Benefice Open Air Communion

Sunday May 9th

10.30am Tackley Church Yard
Benefice Open Air Communion

Sunday May 16th

10.30am Steeple Aston Church Yard
Benefice Open Air Communion

Sunday May 23rd: Pentecost

10.30am North Aston Church Yard
Benefice Open Air Communion

Sunday May 30th: Trinity Sunday

10.30am Tackley Church Yard
Benefice Open Air Communion

In case of bad weather, services will be replaced by indoor Morning Prayer. Face coverings/masks should be worn at all services. Please bring your own seat to outdoor services.

Worship at Home

continues online at

www.sntchurch.com

or listen to the service on the phone:
Ring 929021 if you don't have internet

Everyone Welcome!

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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