

# NORTH ASTON

*NEWS*

October 2021

#372



# NORTH ASTON NEWS

OCTOBER 2021, No:372

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**Thames Valley Police non-emergency:** 101

**Out of Hours Doctor:** 111 or 08453 458 995

# Notes from the Chair

*Firstly, I would like to say an absolutely huge thank you to Franca and her team for the best evening I've had in a long time. The Village Party was such a welcome escape from Covid and all that has been associated with that whole nightmare. I know I harp on about it an awful lot but it was as wonderful as the 'Touch of Tartan' barn dances circa 1990 ... and everyone knows my love for those!*

*Secondly, I have had a very kind offer from a resident to step up at the AGM in January and put themselves forward as Chair. This person has already been Chair and is only wanting to hold the position as a temporary fix, so if anyone else would like to take it on please do get in touch.*

You can telephone Lucinda on **340588**  
or email: **[chair@north-aston.co.uk](mailto:chair@north-aston.co.uk)**

*Lucinda*

## Traffic Update ...

After a very promising meeting with the OCC officers in mid-May, and a promise to draw up proposals in the near future, the Communities Officer George Gibb left his post. Repeated attempts made to find out who had replaced him met with no help, until an email to the new OCC cabinet member for highways, Tim Bearder, elicited a contact from Dave Catling, who is OCC Acting Technical Officer, Traffic & Road Safety.

Dave was unable to find the work George had done, so there is to be another meeting on The Green, on Monday 4th October at 10.30, to run through what was discussed in May and start again. Tony Buxton, who is coordinating the village's response to traffic concerns, will attend the meeting, but if anyone else would like to join in, please do.

Tony has also heard from our local Councillor Arash Fatemian, who suggests that North Aston may be eligible for some money from the OCC fund.

Tony attended the September meeting of the *Mid-Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan* on behalf of the village, where several traffic matters were discussed:

Firstly, *Busgate* is now in abeyance, but not yet buried. It is on hold pending another Traffic Survey and Study Group, which is itself subject to the granting of the next Heyford Park planning phase in November. That will also release the promised *106 Funding* for the traffic calming in the valley.

An interesting development is the campaign to create 20mph zones in the Mid-Cherwell villages. Kirtlington will be a test case. If successful, it may then be rolled out across other villages. Tony will discuss the possibility for this being applied in North Aston with Dave Catling at the October meeting.

The Middle Aston Hatch End development also came up, with a revised proposal due for planning decision in November. MCNP is opposing it on the basis that it is for a large number of units with Class E consent, allowing a wide range of retail and services use, for which local roads are totally unsuited, especially in close proximity of the school.

The proposed Strategic Rail Freight Interchange at Ardley could include bypasses for Ardley and Middleton Stoney, and obviate the need for a busgate altogether. The Dorchester Group (Heyford Park developers) has taken a neutral position, but is pressing— and offered some funding - for a passenger rail station to be included in the plan. This will be discussed at the next Village Meeting, and North Aston's views passed on to MCNP.

Further down the line OCC is commissioning a Strategic Plan to 2050, with CDC preparing one to 2040 in the coming months. Our concerns and hopes need to be articulated. Of significance is the Government's intention to press ahead with the OxCam Arc, despite the abandonment of the expressway. This could see the construction of 1 million new homes, many in Oxfordshire.

There will be a meeting of the Traffic Subcommittee in mid-October.

**Front Cover:** *One of the winning blooms from this year's Flower & Produce Show, entered by Annabel Bevan.*

## 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.

Almost no progress at all has been made on any of the outstanding planning issues since last month, and the list of unresolved applications remains as long as ever.

**21 The Green North Aston OX25 6HX.** An application has been made to fell two trees which have outgrown their context. Decision is expected in November. Reference No: 21 / 03224 / TCA

**Lower House St Mary's Walk North Aston OX25 6AA.** A decision on whether or not to permit the pollarding and reduction in height of an elderly tree was expected 17th September. Reference No: 21 / 02749 / TCA

**North Aston Hall St Mary's Walk North Aston OX25 6AA.** A decision on the application relating to the restoration and replanting of the gardens around the Hall was expected on 3rd September. Reference No: 21 / 02703 / TCA

**Bradenstoke Barn & Coach House, St Mary's Walk, OX25 6AA.** Various applications relating to work proposed on both these properties is in abeyance, with decisions now two months overdue. Reference Nos: 21 / 02003 / LB and 21 / 02002 / F

**North Aston Hall St Mary's Walk North Aston OX25 6AA.** The decision relating to work proposed on trees close to the Hall is now two months overdue. Reference No: 21 / 01996 / TPO

**Gate Cottage Somerton Road North Aston OX25 6HX.** A delayed decision on the proposal to replace the existing kitchen extension at the rear of the cottage was expected on 29th September. Ref Nos: 21 / 01861 / LB and 21 / 01860 / F

**18 The Green North Aston OX25 6HX.** A resolution on the question of the Willow is now four months overdue. Reference No: 21 / 01206 / TCA

**North Aston Hall St Mary's Walk North Aston OX25 6AA.** A decision regarding partial strip-out of some floors in The Hall is several months overdue. Reference No: 21 / 01012 / LB

See previous page for an update on traffic-related matters and other planning issues.

### Mystery House

The photograph from 1881 published in last month's News as a "Mystery House" turned out to be less of a mystery after all, but an interesting image none the less.



A deluge of phone calls and emails confirmed that the photograph was of the Old Vicarage, when it was not so old, and also, still a vicarage. So much has changed in the last 140 years that the building is, indeed, almost unrecognisable, but congratulations to Norman West, Jane Durnin, Jill Adams, Jeremy Taylor and Kildare Bourke-Borrowes for seeing through the mists of time.

The defibrillator is located in the porch at 4 Somerton Road. 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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## Moonrakers

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SATURDAY 30TH OCTOBER 7.30PM

## HEYFORD PARK PANTRY

Rather than running a collection every month for the Pantry, we will now collecting every *other* month. The boxes were out last weekend, and thank you to everyone who responded to the message through the village WhatsApp group, for donating so generously once again. The next collection will be over the first weekend in December, with a box on the doorstep at Middle Cottage and another in the bus shelter next to Nicholsons.

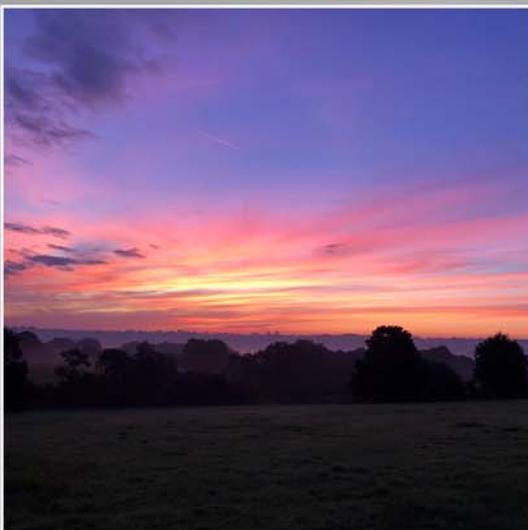
The Pantry is a truly inspirational venture and particularly at the moment, the rising costs of food and fuel are bringing extra pressure to bear on so many families so please start collecting now, and dig deep with whatever you can - even a single item could make a difference to someone who is struggling. It would be very helpful if you could donate cleaning items, soaps and shampoos along with washing powder/liquid and pet food but all items are gratefully received.

Please do also remember that all residents are eligible to join the Community Larder and for a small monthly fee, are entitled to choose a number of items which SOFEA are redistributing to help combat food waste. Details are on their website at [www.sofea.uk.com](http://www.sofea.uk.com). Thank you.

Annie Savage – [secretary@north-aston.co.uk](mailto:secretary@north-aston.co.uk)

*Background: Thank you to Jane McArdle for the wonderfully atmospheric early-morning view of Scots Pines along the Middle Aston Lane, shrouded in mist.*

*Below: Another dog-walker out at the crack of dawn is Jonathan Wiseman, who captured these glorious September sunrises, casting bursts of colour across the Cherwell Valley.*



# Informal Village Meeting

Monday 9th August 2021 ~ Notes

*An informal Village Meeting was held on The Village Green and these notes were intended for last month's News.*

As the occasion was always intended to be a bit of a catch-up, rather than a formal meeting, there was no Agenda but it was well attended.

The primary focus was planning for the Village Party, which was scheduled for Saturday 4th September, just after the Flower and Produce Show. North Aston has been very lucky in that there have been so few Covid-related incidents and even more blessed that the connectivity in the village heightened the sense of community, and it is in this spirit that the day of celebration is being held.

The party would be free to all residents of the village. including those who spent a significant time here during the pandemic and it promised to be a happy day. It remained important that we were cautious about Covid, and precautions were in place during the events on the day and, it was hoped that everyone would take a Lateral Flow Test on the morning of the party. Test kits were made available at the Flower & Produce Show.

Marcus reminded us of the need for each household to confirm their acceptance of the vouchers for the upgraded internet connection, for which North Aston has been so lucky to have been selected. Even though it may not be of particular interest to residents who are content with their current Internet connection, or feel they don't have a huge need for it, Marcus explained it would be of huge long-term benefit to the whole community, and would also benefit friends and neighbours, and be of tremendous value to others. He confirmed there is no cost so there's no downside and urged all of us to sign up. No progress has been made with the traffic calming scheme as the two OCC officers involved with the committee have left



As of 30th September, only one-third of all the eligible properties in North Aston had pledged their vouchers towards the FTTP programme. This is either an illustration of extraordinary apathy or, perhaps, a lack of understanding of just how important this project is to the future of the village.

The only residents who can have grounds for not having visited the website yet, and pledged their vouchers, are those who do not use the Internet at all. Their position is perfectly understandable of course, but for everyone else, there really is no excuse. It is, to use a colloquialism, a complete no-brainer. If you currently have an Internet connection, you access Broadband, or you stream TV, then there is no reason why you haven't yet pledged your voucher. It will take five minutes, that's all, yet it could transform North Aston for generations to come. If you don't make that pledge, then the whole project is in jeopardy. So, here's the link again:

[www.openreach.co.uk/iwantultrafast](http://www.openreach.co.uk/iwantultrafast)

An explanation on how to complete the form can be found in the August edition of the News.

the local authority and with a not unfamiliar approach in the public sector, emails and telephone calls to establish their replacements and our current position, remain unanswered. Tony is chasing our local councillor Arash Fatemian. (See Page 2 for an update on this).

Annie mentioned an online community facility called *Next Door* as she is aware several people have had invitations to join. Its quite a useful site for local information such as trades people or local events but isn't in any way intended to be a replacement for the *North Aston Whats App Group*. She knew of several people who have used it and found it helpful.

A brief discussion was held about the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, as the Oxfordshire Lieutenancy Office has written to all parish Councils and Village Meetings. There will be a number of events over the weekend of June 2nd to 5th 2022 including the lighting of Platinum Jubilee Beacons and a Big Lunch as well as a large scale tree planting campaign to be known as the Queen's Green Canopy.

Obviously we are some way away from the festivities but we thought Niel Nicholson would be the go-to person for arboreal input, so we'll start stalking him before the next meeting.

Annie Savage, NAPM Village Meeting

## Nicholsons@Chelsea

Many congratulations to all those at Nicholsons involved in the impressive display at the Chelsea Flower Show, in association with David Harber Sculptures. Understandably, their efforts were rewarded with the top award for a trade stand of five gold stars. The selection of ingenious and eye-catching sculptures were set off perfectly by the surrounding plants, with the whole area designed and created by those clever people at Nicholsons. The site was constantly thronged throughout the week, and a gallery of photos can be seen on the next page, and at [www.nicholsonsgb.com/chelsea-gallery](http://www.nicholsonsgb.com/chelsea-gallery)

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Nicholsons of North Aston, in association with David Harber Sculptures and Savills, exhibited at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show at the end of September. These photographs of the stand are by Clive Nichols ([www.clivenichols.com](http://www.clivenichols.com)) and Marcus Potts.

A display of flowers inspired by the Show is on display in the Yurt for the first week or so of October.

The sculptures:  
 Background: Mantle  
 Left: Torus  
 Below: Orbis  
 Lower-left: Chalice  
 Lower-right: Slate Sentinel





## Harvest, All Saints, and a quick look at continuing COVID guidelines in church.

We all want the pandemic to be over, but for the time being, we're still putting some things in place in order to keep people safe when we gather together. So:

**Facemasks:** If you come into the church building alone, there is no need to wear a facemask. But for a service when there are quite a few folk around - please wear one if you possibly can so we do our best to care for each other. If you are exempt or just can't manage them, then do come anyway. It's OK. We keep masks on throughout services or other events.

**Distancing:** We are keeping every other pew empty (they are marked with an X or with a sticker saying 'pew unavailable') in order to maintain some distancing. Apart from that - sit where you want, with whom you want. If you want a bit more space around you, bring a coat or a bag so no-one gets too close!

**Maximum capacity:** Because of distancing, the maximum number of people we can get in church is around 60. That's more than fine on an average Sunday - but it does occasionally mean that we may say we are full on big occasions like Christmas Morning. So come early! To keep everyone safe, we won't go over that number.

**Booking a place:** We don't plan to go back to this. But if you come at the very last minute for a big event, please don't be cross with a church warden who tells you we are full. We are sorry - but keeping everyone safe right now has to remain at the top of our to-do list.

## Harvest Festival

We are celebrating Harvest on the weekend of October 3rd. Our Harvest Festival Service will be at 9.30am that morning and we look forward to singing together, to remembering all that the last year has held, and to being grateful. In a season where the leaders of the world are coming together to discuss the Climate Emergency, it's good for us to pray and ask God's blessing on our world as well as remembering all who strive to look after our beautiful planet. We will be taking up a special collection, and people have asked us to remember three things: the work of Water Aid, the work of Polly Preedy among the homeless in Banbury, and Asylum Welcome, a charity working among Afghan refugees here in Oxfordshire. If you are not able to give at the Harvest Service then do contact our treasurer Les Parry or speak to Clive and anything you give will be added to our Harvest offering.

## All Saints & All Souls - Remembering All God's People

Last year we couldn't do our annual Benefice service in Tackley where we remember our loved ones who have gone before us, giving thanks for life and love. This year we are doing it. It will be a bit different because of how things are right now, and Tackley church also has a maximum number of just over 60 people, but please do join us at 5.30pm on October 31st for this very special service. With more apologies than I can possibly offer - if we reach capacity on numbers we won't be able to cram more people in. We have to keep everyone safe at all our services. At least this year we can put this service on, reading out all the names as we always do, with candles lit, standing together in love and remembering.

And do remember - all our churches are open every day. So please do come along and take a moment to sit quietly, to pray and listen and be with God. We offer them to you as a safe space in the midst of this strange world. If everything feels too much or just wrong or people or life are just making you frustrated or upset - come and sit in church and take time in the silence to be with God. He knows. He understands. He hears. And he loves you and me, always.

*Revd Marcus Green*

Call 340903 or email: [steeplerector@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:steeplerector@hotmail.co.uk).

More news is always available on the website at [www.sntchurch.com](http://www.sntchurch.com)

## Church Services in October 2021

N. ASTON	S. ASTON	TACKLEY
<b>Sunday 3rd October</b>		
9:30 am <i>Harvest Festival</i> Revd Marcus Green	11:00 am <i>Harvest Festival</i> Revd Marcus Green	5:30 pm <i>Harvest Festival &amp; Auction</i> Revd Marcus Green Canon Robin Gibbons
<b>Sunday 10th October</b>		
9:30 am Family Service Revd Marcus Green	11:00 am Family Service Revd Marcus Green	5:30 pm <i>Holy Communion</i> Revd Marcus Green
<b>Sunday 17th October</b>		
9:30 am <i>Holy Communion</i> Revd Marcus Green	11:00 am <i>Holy Communion</i> Revd Marcus Green	5:30 pm Evensong Canon Robin Gibbons
<b>Sunday 24th October</b>		
9:30 am Morning Prayer Richard Bailey	11:00 am Morning Prayer Revd Marcus Green	9:30am <i>Family Communion</i> Revd Marcus Green
<b>Sunday 31st October</b>		
No Service	No Service	5:30 pm <i>All Saints and All Souls</i> Revd Marcus Green Canon Robin Gibbons
<b>Sunday 7th November</b>		
9:30 am <i>Holy Communion</i> Book of Common Prayer Revd Marcus Green	11:00 am <i>Holy Communion</i> Book of Common Prayer Revd Marcus Green	5:30 pm Evensong Revd Marcus Green

You can also contact members of the PCC: Church Wardens: Clive Busby, ([casb@north-aston.com](mailto:casb@north-aston.com), 340470) and Annabel Bevan, ([annabelbevan@hotmail.com](mailto:annabelbevan@hotmail.com), 345153), Richard Bailey (LLM, ex officio), Vicky Taylor (secretary), Les Parry (treasurer - till November 2021), Jeremy Taylor, Ginny Stay, Jane Jana, Beryl Greenwood.

## Announcements

### Deddington Farmers' Market

Our local market was awarded *Farmers' Market of the Year 2020* in the Oxfordshire Prestige Awards, which follows on from being rated the "third best Farmers' Market in the UK a few years ago. It's certainly worth a trip, if you aren't already a regular. This month's market will take place on Saturday 23rd October. Customers are still requested to wear masks and to park at the school. Visit the website: [www.deddingtonfarmersmarket.co.uk](http://www.deddingtonfarmersmarket.co.uk) for the latest information.

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

We had an apology from Howe & Co for the late arrival of the van on 22nd last month, but Van 99 usually brings Fish & Chips to The Green every Wednesday at ten-to-six. You can pre-order by calling 07484 360719, emailing [van99orders@gmail.com](mailto:van99orders@gmail.com) or visiting [bit.ly/findvan99](http://bit.ly/findvan99)

## Being Our Best

The energy in our little village over the past few months has been more than impressive – whether via the support network during the pandemic to the amazing party, from the hundreds of donations to the Heyford Park Pantry or simple small acts of kindness which so many of us have witnessed.

I wondered how people would feel about continuing this commitment to community by looking at other ways in which we could support and engage with bigger issues on an ongoing basis? I mentioned last month I was hoping to hold a meeting on the 14th October and would love to see if we could talk about things which would underpin the idea that collectively we can *Be Our Best* by involving ourselves with other projects.

It doesn't necessarily mean masses of work and I hope it could be good fun – and I would love it if some of the younger people in the village could offer thoughts and ideas too.

If you're up for this, could you drop me a note on WhatsApp (0776 477 3327), email me ([secretary@north-aston.co.uk](mailto:secretary@north-aston.co.uk)) or phone (347767) and let me know if a meeting on Thursday 14th at 6pm would be a good time for you. However, I'm happy to work round dates/times if this is tricky.

Annie Savage – [secretary@north-aston.co.uk](mailto:secretary@north-aston.co.uk)



**100 CLUB**  
September 2021

The winners of last month's draw were:  
**1st Prize (£10): Franca Potts (#100)**  
**2nd Prize (£5): Freya Stay (#136)**

Congratulations to this month's winners! For more info on the Club, call Bev on 347434 or email [info@north-aston.co.uk](mailto:info@north-aston.co.uk).

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

## October Birthdays

Daniel Durnin  
Olivia Durnin  
Tom Godwin  
Paul Honess  
Audrey Newman  
Jimmy Rees



We remember Tom Baimbridge  
who would have celebrated a birthday this month

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.

## THE WOMEN'S TOUR



As was mentioned to the Village Mailing List last month, the Women's Tour of Britain will be coming passing nearby on Monday October 4th.

This is the top event for women cyclists in Britain, and attracts entries from all around the world, including several of this year's Olympic medallists.

North Aston will be close to the Stage 1 route, which starts from Bicester town centre at 11:00 am. The route will head south-west to Oxford (11:45) before swinging south-east towards the Baldons, across to Clifton Hampden, west to Abingdon, and then back up towards Cumnor and Eynsham. From there the cyclists head north, via Bladon, to join the A4260 at the Enslow turn. Continuing north, they'll pass through Hopcrofts Holt (13:20) and arrive in Deddington soon after half-past one. They should be passing the Fox a few minutes before.

From Deddington they head west along the Milton road, to South Newington and Milcombe, where they join a "circuit" that will take them round a long loop that includes Hook Norton, Sibford Ferris, Tadmerton, North Newington and Banbury, before heading back to Bloxham to do it all over again. The finish will be in South Bar around 15:30.

All times are approximate. For updates and information, check the website at [www.womenstour.co.uk](http://www.womenstour.co.uk)

## North Aston News

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