

NORTH ASTON

News

March 2022

#377



NORTH ASTON NEWS

MARCH 2022, No:377

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Thames Valley Police non-emergency: 101

Out of Hours Doctor: 111 or 08453 458 995

Notes from the Chair

Hello all!

Firstly, I hope that everyone survived the storms with minimal damage. The children loved the storm and having to have an impromptu day off from school ... I, however, did not love it, having to find alternative route after alternative route home after work because of fallen trees.

The bus service is now well and truly up and running. I do hope that anyone using it is enjoying not having to walk quite so far to catch a bus! Lastly, I believe we have set a date for the AGM for the 3rd of May more details to follow. I shall look forward to seeing you there....it seems like it has been far too long since we have all been able to get together. I shall also be handing over the reins to our new Chairman at this meeting so if you are interested in taking on this role on please do come along and make yourself known.!

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

Lucinda

North Aston Village Meeting & AGM

Provisional date - Tuesday 3rd May 2022

We had hoped to hold a meeting during April but, as Easter sits in the middle of the month and the committee have other commitments, the date for the next meeting and AGM will be early in May and the Agenda will be published in April's edition of the News.

Lucinda announced some time ago that she will be retiring as Chair at the next AGM and Sue and I have also decided that it is time for us to step aside, having completed 3 and 4 years respectively. (This is Sue's second stint as Treasurer).

Neither role is onerous as there is very little in the way of obligation compared to a Parish Council (and obviously we will support the new Secretary and Treasurer) but the best bit of being a part of the Committee is that you really do get to know who everyone is in the village and it's a great way of connecting with neighbours and friends.

Being such a small village it's essential that we share the things that need to be done to maintain such a positive environment, so please have a think about supporting the village by taking on one of these roles. *Many thanks, Annie Savage (secretary@north-aston.co.uk)*



February 2022



The winners of last month's draw were:

1st Prize (£10): Bertie Busby (#4)

2nd Prize (£5): Noah Hack (#21)

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

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

Front Cover: The beginning of March officially marks the start of Spring, and later this month, on Sunday 27th, the clocks 'spring' forwards once again. The days get longer, and nature starts to show its brighter colours. Normally this might prompt a front cover photograph of some daffodils, crocuses, primroses or other seasonal flowers, but in tribute to happenings in Europe, this month's image is bright yellow (in the colour edition at least) with the national flower of Ukraine - the sunflower.

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.

Having recently cleared the backlog of outstanding applications, the Planning Department at CDC now has a raft of new ones to consider. Some have moved ahead fairly quickly, while decisions on the remainder are expected later this month.

North Aston Hall St Mary's Walk North Aston OX25 6AA. An application has been submitted to permit the reinstatement of windows to the east elevation of the North Aston Hall, with new blind windows on north elevation and replacement French window on the second floor at the Hall. Comments should be submitted by 10th March, and a final decision is anticipated on or before 5th April. Reference No: 22 / 00354 / LB

North Aston Hall St Mary's Walk North Aston OX25 6AA. The application for the construction of an estate office and vehicle storage facility should reach the decision stage on or before 23rd March. Reference No: 22 / 00276 / F

North Aston Hall St Mary's Walk North Aston OX25 6AA. A decision relating to the application to make alterations to the roof, chimneys and guttering of the main house is anticipated on or before 23rd March. Reference No: 22 / 00280 / LB

North Aston Hall St Mary's Walk North Aston OX25 6AA. A planning application has been made to permit the replacement of an agricultural storage barn. At decision is expected by 18th March. Reference No: 22 / 00224 / F

The Old Bakery, North Aston Organics, Somerton Road, OX25 6HX. The application to permit the erection of a traditional pole barn has been approved. Reference No: 21 / 04256 / AGN

Brown & Silver Bins

While it is too late now to benefit from the early-registration discount to the proposed Brown Bin Garden Waste scheme, there's still time to subscribe and ensure that you can continue to benefit from the fortnightly Brown Bin collection.

The annual fee is £40. If you wish to continue with the fortnightly collection, you need to register by visiting the CDC website at www.cherwell.gov.uk/gardenwaste and subscribing.

Most of you, who subscribed a couple of months ago, should have received the label already which needs to be fixed to your bin. If you haven't yet taken delivery, it should arrive soon.

There will be a period of grace, but ultimately, if you leave your bin out without a label, it will not be emptied. Furthermore, if you leave an unlabelled bin beside the road after June, it will be taken away, either for disposal or to be re-used.

From now on, please **do not place food waste in your brown bin**. In the meantime, you should have taken delivery of the new **Silver Bin for Food Waste** and seen the flyer that accompanied it. While at first sight the 23-litre bin seems quite small, the collection will take place every week, and you can start using it straight away. Please **do not place food waste in your green bin**.

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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Applicants will be subject to a DBS Check



North Aston Nature Notes

With Stephen Rees

Well, what can I say about February? I can't remember winds like that for many a year. Wendy tells me there was three "named storms", one after the other. I know lots of people have suffered and I'm sorry for them, and also sorry for the loss of some big trees.

I was talking to a friend of mine about it and said I think it's all down to Climate Change, and he started to really go off on one, telling me I was talking a load of rubbish. There have always been storms, he insisted, so I changed the subject. I'm not a good arguer.

So we are still feeding the birds down here in our corner of the village, rightly or wrongly. I think we do it for our own pleasure as much as for the birds. Our table on the patio is covered in corn and peanuts and reminds me of Heathrow airport.

Blue Tits are our main visitors, arriving every few seconds all day long and taking a bit. Robins and Blackbirds take their share, along with Chaffinch, while Sparrows pick up the bits off the floor, rarely landing on the table.

A Jay and a Greater Spotted Woodpecker are other regular visitors ... as is our flipping Squirrel! He takes a nut, buries it in the lawn, and then comes back and does it all over again, and again, and again ... all day long. It's costing me a fortune! Still, it's also very amusing to watch.

Out the back we have a table on a pole that we put proper bird seed on. We have lots of visitors to it, including fat Wood Pigeons by the dozen. Under this we have a hanging spring feeder. Finches love this, eating the little bits of seed left by the Pheasants. We have a visit every morning by seven hen pheasants and occasionally a big cock bird too. Honestly, it really is costing me a fortune! We must be mad, feeding pheasants, but I like to see them.

Billy (eldest son) is a keen shooter, and was out in the high winds a few Saturdays ago. I could hear the bangs, and it made me remember the big days shooting we used to have years ago. I miss the build-up to a shoot, but I don't miss the shooting part of the day at all ... although I do miss the hip-flask of whisky and Stone's Ginger afterwards though. Hey ho, life has moved on.



Steve's hand-made Bird, Bat and Bee Hotels are now available to order. Please see his advert on Page 6 for more details and styles.



Photo credit: Mike Brown

February Bird of the Month

This for me was an easy choice ~ one of my favourite birds, the Curlew.

The Curlew come back to us at the end of February and start to call in March. We only ever have one or two pairs that return to the old flood meadows down by the river, but they come back every year.

The call of the Curlew for me is one of the most lovely things in nature. I can't wait to hear it. We will be down near the river as much as possible in March, waiting to hear our old friends eerie call. It's truly wonderful.

Our biggest wader, the Curlew is a common sight around The Wash, and on the Welsh coast, but they do like inland flood meadows too for breeding. Folklore again, but if you hear a Curlew calling in the night there will be a death the next day, and if you hear three calling together in daylight, then there will be thunder and lightning.

I think that's it then from our corner this month ...

Regards, Steve & Wendy

Plumbing ~ Woodworking ~ Restoration ~ Repairs

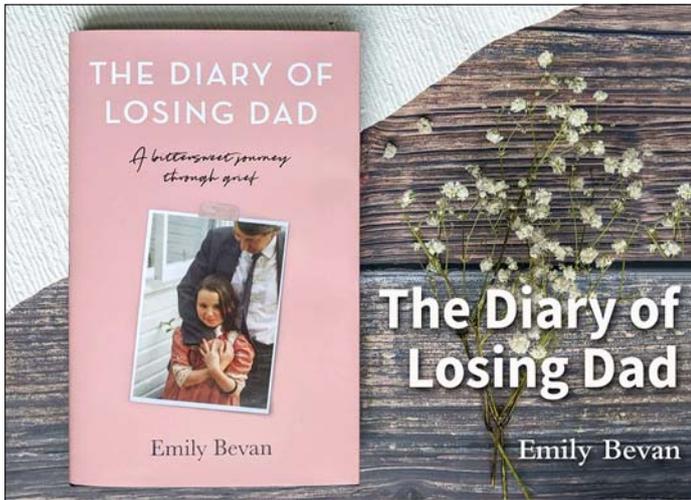
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When the Bevan family settled into Mill Cottage in 2004, it soon became clear that they were a loving and loveable family, and one which soon began enthusiastically to join in our village life. Nick, Annabel, Emily and Oli. It was also soon clear that Nick was a peerless and energetic man on many fronts – ex-headmaster, Oxford Rowing Blue, great teacher & coach and clearly a wonderful father and family man.

To everyone's horror, Nick contracted renal cancer in 2012 which subsequently spread, and after suffering a serious stroke and complications he died in January 2014. He was buried in North Aston and had packed Memorial services at Balliol and Shiplake where he had been loved and admired.

Emily his daughter was 22 when they came to North Aston, went to Drama school and has since gone on to become a successful actress (*In the Flesh*, *The Casual Vacancy*, etc.) as well as writing songs and poetry. She's also now married

and a mum. It turns out that she kept a diary of things that happened during all that long and agonising 18 months between his first diagnosis and his death, her emotions and feelings, her observations, her interactions with her family, her struggle with ongoing grief, with side trips, often amusingly told, about travelling away, life on film sets, falling in and out of love interspersed with her moving short poems, and some quotations and email exchanges.

Then there is the coming home, the visits to the JR and Witney hospitals, the glimmers of hope and the unspoken realisation that there really will be none.

This wonderful book is for everyone in North Aston who knew Nick (and of course who knows Annabel) because though it's a narrative of his final journey it celebrates his life and his life-enhancing qualities, and the love and care he brought to his family and friends. It's also potentially for anyone who has suffered or is suffering grief – it's open and starkly frank, even brutal, and perhaps shows that if you can bring yourself not to bottle and stopper up your grief, trying not to talk or think about it, but rather let the memories of all that happened roll out through your mind and get talked about, then things may be a bit easier.

Above all it's a kind of poem of daughter-father love through the joyous best of times and the final terrible ones. Writing these things is very very hard, but Emily has done it in such a loving way that she has produced a treasure of a very creatively written book, and personally I very highly recommend it. It deserves a wide audience.

Currently available from Waterstones, Blackwell's & similar book stores as well as online.

KBB Feb 2022

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The future looks bleak for Antique Ivory

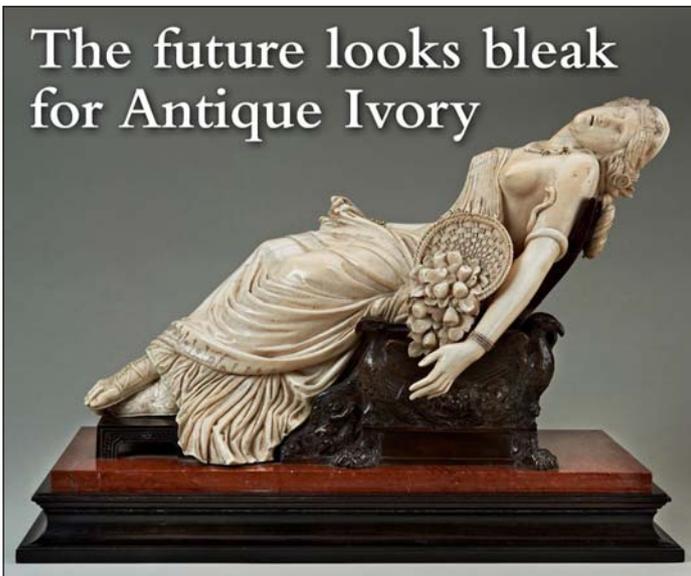


Photo: HM Government

Many of you will know that Franca and I are antiques dealers, alongside our respective day jobs, and until recently, we organised the twice-yearly antiques and collectors' fair at The Holt. The fair grew too large for the hotel, which couldn't cope with the volume of business it generated, so we've had to call it a day after nearly ten years.

In the very near future, the "trade" in antique ivory will also come to an end, when legislation passes through its final stages in Parliament. The new laws won't impose much on us, as we've never dealt in ivory, but it might have an impact on you. Why, and how?

Some North Aston residents may be surprised to know that they probably do own examples of antique ivory. It might be a collection of ivory-handled knives, a Victorian comb, a chess set, a sewing-needle case, a carved elephant, a silver teapot with an ivory finial, a miniature painting, a brooch, a figurine ... the list goes on. Ivory has been used for centuries to create art as well as to provide elements in practical but high-quality everyday items. When the new *Ivory Act 2018* passes into law, how will this effect those who, perhaps unwittingly, own pieces of antique ivory?

The first thing to stress is, it will not be illegal or an offence to own antique ivory, it will only be illegal to "trade" in it. This means it is also perfectly legal to inherit, gift and bequeath pieces to friends and family, or to a museum.

The indirect effect of this new Act is that pieces which contain significant amounts of ivory will become virtually worthless overnight. This may mean little to those who perhaps didn't even know they owned antique ivory, but for those who either collected it, or bought antiques that included elements made from antique ivory, this could mean a significant financial loss.

Auction houses around the UK have anticipated this, and in the next month or so, several key salerooms have announced "last ever" auctions of antique ivory. Even so, hammer prices are likely to be significantly below those of the past.

There are a few exceptions to the ban, all very strictly enforced. These include pre-1947 items that include less than 10% ivory by volume, pre-1975 musical instruments with less than 20% ivory by volume and most pre-1918 portrait miniatures. Certain pre-1918 items of "outstanding artistic, cultural or historical value" will also be exempt, but will require stringent (and costly) certification. A charity has been created to accept unwanted antique ivory items for those who no longer wish to own antique ivory pieces.

MP, Feb 2022

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WIDEN your horizons

Research shows that 67% of people are worried about their home being broken into, yet there are simple measures we can all take to reduce our chances of becoming a victim of burglary. To help with this, TVP is running a Think WIDE(N) burglary prevention campaign (1st-31st March) to highlight simple measures which can be taken in the home.

The **WIDEN** acronym stands for **WINDOWS**: Keep windows locked; **INTERIOR**: Put inside lights on a timer; **DOORS**: Double or deadlock your doors; **EXTERIOR**: Put outside lights on a sensor, and **NEIGHBOURS**: Keep an eye out for your neighbours. Visit www.ourwatch.org.uk/thinkwiden.

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Schubert's 'Winterreise'

Howard tells us of a programme currently on iPlayer which musically-inclined residents may find interesting. "I can highly recommend it!" he says.



The film has been produced by Howard's friend John Bridcut and is entitled *Winter Journey: Schubert's Winterreise*.

Forget the traditional concert set-up, *Winter Journey* is unlike any classical song recital yet seen on TV. It is a creative reimagining that takes Schubert's *Winterreise* out of the concert hall and into the wild.

The idea is the brainchild of Benjamin Appl, a leading baritone in the new generation of lieder singers and the last pupil of the great Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau. The London-based German saw photos of the Julier Tower online and immediately thought of Schubert's masterpiece. What more apt setting could there be? Built in the heart of the Swiss Alps, the Tower is a unique theatre that uses the spectacular views of the mountains as a dramatic backdrop. It sets a remarkable scene, and offers the perfect backdrop to Appl's performance.

You can get some glimpses of what it was like to make the film here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=DyKk7Ohk9YE

Winter Journey is on **BBC4 on February 27 at 8:00pm** and a sound recording is out soon on Alpha Classics.

Banbury
Symphony
Orchestra

Spring Concert

7.30pm, 26th March
Deddington Church

The programme begins with **Humperdinck's** overture to his opera *Hansel and Gretel*, based on the Grimm Brothers' fairy tale. Humperdinck wrote a number of stage works, but his fame now rests principally on this work. Skilfully constructed and full of memorable tunes, it easily stands alone as a concert piece.

Tchaikovsky was a great admirer of Shakespeare. He wrote his Symphonic Fantasia *The Tempest* in 1873, a few years after his better-known *Romeo and Juliet*. Similar in structure, *The Tempest* contains themes depicting the stillness of the ship at sea, the grotesque nature of Caliban, and the love between Ferdinand and Miranda.

There were high expectations of Jean **Sibelius** after the success of his *Finlandia* in 1900. He duly obliged by following on with his *Symphony No 2*. Described as 'a confession of the soul', it offers an enormous range of orchestral colours and moods before the final radiant and triumphant conclusion.

Tickets remain great value at just £10, while those 18 and under are admitted free.

You can book your tickets in advance through the website: www.banburysymphony.com

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From the FIRE STATION

January was an exceptionally busy month for the fire station, with just over 20 call outs consisting of 8 fires, 4 rescues, 4 alarms, 4 standbys and one hazardous materials incident. Training has also been intense with two exercises taking place at the Horton hospital and Moreton in Marsh fire college. A third training scenario had to be cancelled as crews were busy with a real life incident.



Garin Wilby, Adam Perry and Corrie King all passed their BA theory exam, and Ben Fenemore is now fully BA leader (BAX) trained. The nursery school received a visit from the fire station, looked over the truck and were allowed to have a go shooting water from the firehose reel – too much amusement!

The recruitment truck has been resident at the station, although we are not currently recruiting, to raise awareness of the fire service and all it provides for the community. As always, please be mindful when driving of the continued low sun and frosty mornings. As home fires are still welcoming in the evening, please inspect your chimneys and get them swept if necessary.

James Greenwood FFD james@cyclogicalshop.co.uk

Preloved Sale & Freecycle Event

At a recent village discussion on sustainability, I felt it would be a lovely idea if we could rethink our attitude to items which still have life in them but we no longer need or want. There may be things which we would like to sell or donate and preventing more landfill has to be a good thing.

With these thoughts in mind I decided to organise a Recycling and Gifting event in the village on Saturday April 23rd from 2-4pm at the Bakehouse. If you have any clothes, freshly washed where appropriate and well presented, accessories (including shoes/bags) or household objects and unwanted gifts which are clean and in good condition, why not see if they can find a new home? This is different from a jumble sale and all items which remain unsold or not chosen must be collected after the event.

There will be three categories of items: and you are welcome to donate in any way you choose:

- 1 **Make money from your unwanted possessions** – items which you would like to sell and retain the proceeds, either for yourself or your own charity.
- 2 **Freecycle** – items you would simply love someone else to be able to use and are donating freely.
- 3 **Sell items and donate** the proceeds to the nominated Charity which is the *Joanna Simpson Foundation*. The charity aims to support, protect and care for children affected by domestic abuse and homicide.

Privacy is important and the items will be given a price label and code to protect the identity of the seller. You must state the amount you wish to sell for and any remaining items must be collected by a time to be advised when you drop off.

Please do call me if you would like to know more.

Julie Al Nugaidi - 07827 888880





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“What are you giving up for Lent?”

Forgive me, there is something deep within my soul that hates this question. For years I used to reply, “Skydiving”. And, I promise you, I have never been skydiving during Lent. Though - in the interests of full disclosure - that sentence doesn’t actually need the words “during Lent” to remain true.

No: what I hate about the question is the assumption that doing something Christian is always negative.

I hate the idea that to be a good Christian you must always be about giving up things. “Thou shalt not”. Jesus is the unseen guest at every meal - so don’t have too much fun: he can hear you...

I don’t know where we get this stuff from, but it’s not from Jesus. He spent his time with people, enjoying their company, making them feel at home, bringing joy and love into their lives. He did this so much that some accused him of enjoying life rather too much... Not long before he died, whilst at supper with friends, a woman poured expensive perfume over Jesus and even his disciples thought that it might have been better sold and the money given to the poor. The last picture the Bible gives us of Jesus before his death is of him eating and drinking with his friends; and again after the resurrection he is cooking breakfast for them by the lakeside.

There are times to pause, to hold back, to make sure we know what’s important and why - but why not add something to life rather than make life plainer, if we want to remember Jesus? Why not add acts of kindness? More time with family? Visits to those in our communities who are housebound or lonely?

So may I ask a different question this year:

What are you adding into the mix of life for Lent? What are you doing this Lent that will make others smile?

I’ve been asked to speak at a church in London, and they’ve given me a really tricky text from the Old Testament.

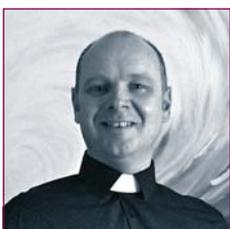
They want to know how they should deal with difficult bits of the Bible. Well - Jesus is really clear: the Bible is a gift that is supposed to bless people; and when it is used in order to make people feel less worthy, less human, just ‘less’, there’s not much about God going on. It’s exactly the same principle with Lent.

I think it’s exactly the same principle with life...

What can we add into the mix that makes things better for others, that brings a smile to someone’s face, that makes this day better for someone else?

Even when we’ve all been struggling through these really difficult last couple of years, and the last thing any of have wanted is ‘Lent’ - giving up more stuff - when someone has done something kind for us, life has been just a bit better.

The question is - what can we take up today, so we can be that someone for someone else?



Revd Marcus Green

Call: (01869) 340903
Email: steeplerector@hotmail.co.uk

More news is always available on the website at www.sntchurch.com

Church Services in March 2022

N. ASTON	S. ASTON	TACKLEY
Ash Wednesday 2nd March		
No Service	No Service	7:30 pm Holy Communion at Woodstock Church
Sunday 6th March		
9:30 am Holy Communion Book of Common Prayer Cn Charles Chadwick	11:00 am Holy Communion Book of Common Prayer Cn Charles Chadwick	5:30 pm Evensong Revd Jeremy Auld
Sunday 13th March		
No Service	No Service	10:30 am United Benefice Holy Communion Revd Andrew Bunch
Sunday 20th March		
9:30 am Holy Communion Revd Andrea Russell	11:00 am Holy Communion Revd Andrea Russell	5:30 pm Evensong Richard Bailey
Sunday 27th March ~ Mothering Sunday		
9:30 am Morning Prayer Richard Bailey	11:00 am Morning Prayer Richard Bailey	9:30 am Holy Communion Bishop Gavin
Sunday 3rd April ~ Passion Sunday		
9:30 am Holy Communion Book of Common Prayer Revd Marcus Green	11:00 am Holy Communion Book of Common Prayer Revd Marcus Green	5:30 pm Evensong Revd Marcus Green

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

Announcements

Deddington Farmers' Market

This month's market is scheduled for Saturday 26th March. For further information and the latest news, visit the website: www.deddingtonfarmersmarket.co.uk

Wednesday Fish & Chips: 7:25 pm to 7:40 pm

The time for Van 99 to visit The Green each Wednesday has changed, and will now be later, from 7:25 pm through to about 7:40 pm. If you value this weekly visit, please support Howe's van when you hear the bell. You can pre-order by emailing van99orders@gmail.com or calling 07484 360719. You can track the van's progress on bit.ly/findvan99

Baby Sitting Service

My name is Susie, I am nearly 15, live in North Aston and am looking for babysitting work on Friday or Saturday nights or weeknights in the school holidays. I have enjoyed recent experience with looking after younger children at my dance school. Please call my Mum Vicky on 07483 291277.

Birthday Wishes!

A very Happy Birthday to Artie Hathaway, who celebrates his 7th birthday this month. Best Wishes, and have a fantastic day!

Highway Code Changes

In March Thames Valley Police will be carrying out a series of online webinars to explain the recent changes to the Highway Code. The discussions will explain the changes and PC Liz Johnson from the Road Safety Team will be on hand to answer questions. The revised code impacts on the priority of road users, and gives pedestrians and cyclists the right of way over cars in key circumstances, especially at junctions and traffic lights. It also requires cyclists to be more aware of other users on shared routes, like bridleways and footpaths. Cyclists now have the right to use a greater width of the highway, and car drivers need to offer more room when overtaking them on the road. Cyclists and horse-riders also have enhanced priority on roundabouts. The webinars are scheduled for 2pm on 10th March and 7pm on 14th March. Visit www.olderdriversforum.com/webinars/

E-Scooters - The Law

Not thought to be a problem in North Aston, yet, but it's worth being aware of the law. While it is perfectly legal to purchase and own an e-scooter, privately owned e-scooters are restricted for use solely on private land with the permission of the landowner.

Under current UK law, privately-owned e-scooters are treated in the same way as motor vehicles, so it is illegal to use them on pavements, cycle paths or roads unless the correct MOT, tax and insurance has been obtained. These restrictions do not apply to Hire & Ride rented e-scooters, as now being trialled in Oxford. For further information go to www.gov.uk/guidance/e-scooter-trials-guidance-for-users.

March Birthdays

Jos Busby
Arthur Hathaway
Niel Nicholson
Stephen Rees
Wendy Rees
Joseph Stay



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.



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North Aston News

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