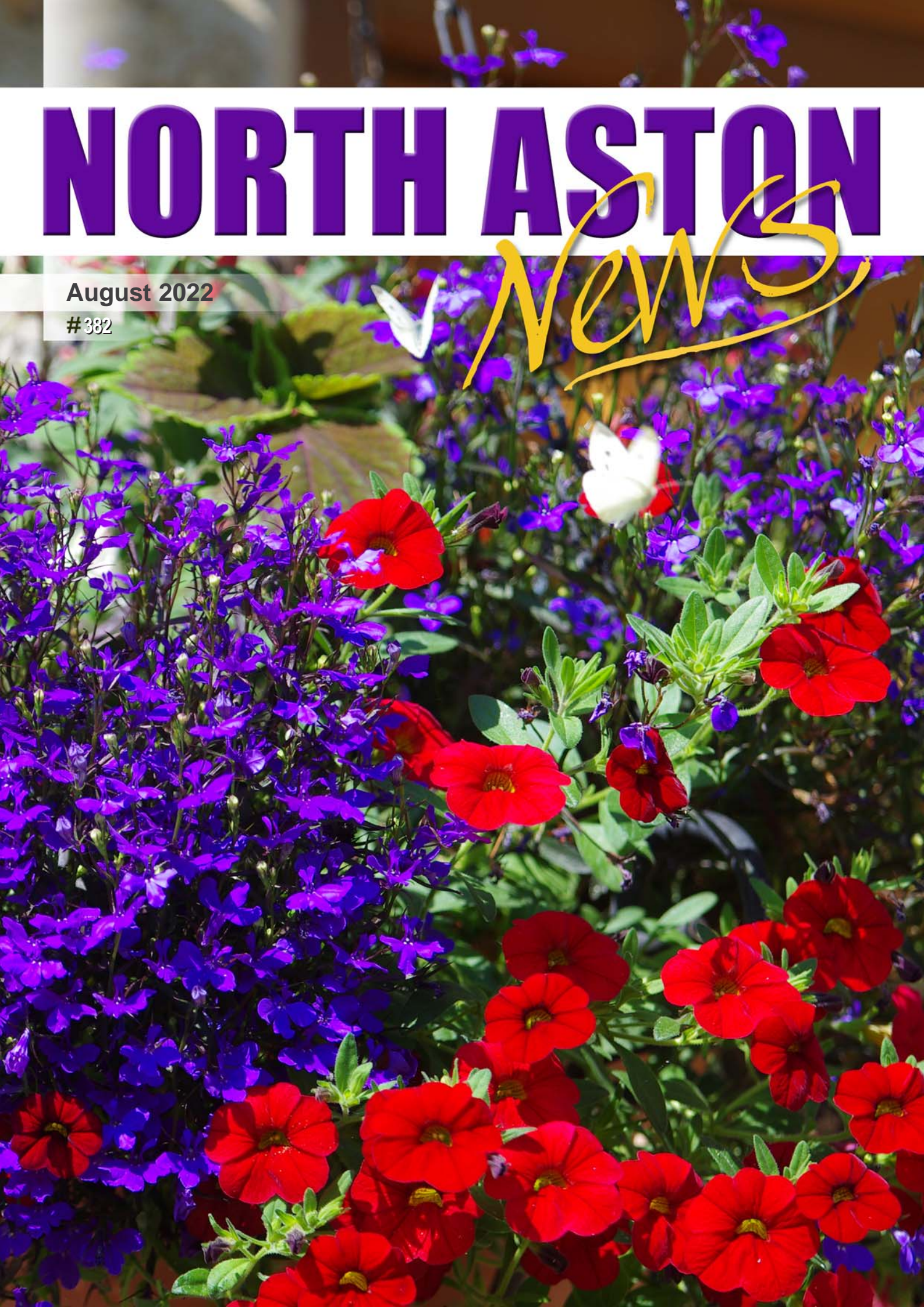


NORTH ASTON

NEWS

August 2022

#382



NORTH ASTON NEWS

AUGUST 2022, No:382

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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

The big village event in August is the Flower & Produce Show, taking place on the Bank Holiday weekend. There will be a great number of high quality items as usual but do make sure to get your entries in.

A famous comedian tells a story about nearly being run off the road by a speeding driver. When the approaching car passed him the driver shouted "pig" at him. Rather affronted feeling he was the wronged party he shouted some choice words back. As he rounded the corner he hit the pig!

Keep driving carefully through the village. Best wishes,

Christopher

You can phone Christopher on 340358

or you can email him using: chair@north-aston.co.uk



Photo: Elizabeth Harvey-Lee

Be Water Wise!

Since the middle of July there has been growing awareness of the possibility of a major drought in the UK - perhaps the most prolonged since 1976, but this time combined with much higher temperatures. A hosepipe ban seems imminent and we are all being urged to use water wisely. Re-use grey (bath) water on the garden or to wash your car. Use a watering can, not a hose. Don't leave taps running.

Church Services in August 2022

N. ASTON	S. ASTON	TACKLEY
Sunday August 7th		
9:30 am Holy Communion <i>Book of Common Prayer</i>	11:00 am Holy Communion <i>Book of Common Prayer</i>	5:30 pm Evensong
Sunday August 14th		
9:30 am Family Communion	11:00 am Family Communion	5:30 pm Holy Communion
Sunday August 21st		
10:30 am United Benefice Hold Communion	No Service	No Service
Sunday August 28th		
9:30 am Morning Prayer	11:00 am Morning Prayer	9:30 am Family Communion
Sunday September 4th		
9:30 am Holy Communion <i>Book of Common Prayer</i>	11:00 am Holy Communion & Baptism (BCP)	5:30 pm Evensong

More news is always available from: www.sntchurch.com

You can contact members of the North Aston 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, Les Parry, Beryl Greenwood.

Front Cover. A new category in this month's Flower & Produce Show is "Hanging Baskets". Perhaps this one could be a contender!

Planning

Planning Applications

The last year or so has seen a plethora of planning applications and conditional requirements related to building and renovation projects within the parish. For the first time, there are currently no applications awaiting decisions, and all the most recent have received approval from CDC. To view details of any Planning Applications submitted to CDC in recent months, visit <https://planningregister.cherwell.gov.uk/> and keyword search "North Aston" for more information. To find a specific application, use the CDC reference number.

Gate Cottage, Somerton Road, North Aston OX25 6HX. The various conditional requirements relating to use of stone and zinc, doors and windows within the extension to Gate Cottage have all been permitted. Reference Nos: 22 / 01072 and 01073 / DISC

North Aston Hall, St Mary's Walk, North Aston OX25 6AA. All the previously outstanding applications relating to work on The Hall, Bradenstoke Barn, the realignment of the driveway and the creation of a new gateway onto the Middle Aston Lane have now all been approved. Various references.

RIDE + STRIDE

Saturday 10th September 2022

This year's annual walk, cycle or horse ride between local churches to raise funds for Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust is coming up soon. A couple of years back Stephen Randall and the Stay Family raised £290, with £145 going to St Mary's. Could you help them do even better in 2022? Join them, or sponsor them! More information & entry forms from www.ohct.org.uk/ride-and-stride/ or ask Clive on 338434.

Steeple Aston Flower & Fun Dog Show



Bank Holiday Monday 29th August

Village Hall & Recreation Ground, Steeple Aston

2pm - 4.45pm ~ Admission £2 ~ Under 16s no charge
Free admission for anyone entering 5 classes or more

* Sideshows * Refreshments * Games * Stalls *

The show is open to everyone! For more information and schedule call Richard 01869 340512 or visit:

www.steepleaston.org.uk/clubs-societies/gardening

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North Aston Gardening Club

This year's Flower & Produce Show will take place on Saturday 27th August on the Village Green.

Hopefully this year's event will be almost back to a pre-pandemic 'normal', and nearly all the regular categories and classes have returned. So too will the public voting system, although the way this is calculated will be a little different and very innovative — but you'll have to come along to find out how it works!

As well as all the fruit, flower and vegetable classes, the cookery and preserves categories are returning in strength as well. The full entry list is being distributed with this month's edition of the News, so have a look through and see what you could do to take part. A jar of jam perhaps, a Victoria Sponge Cake, or perhaps you fancy making something out of recycled materials? There are also categories for the children under 16. The more entries the better.

Finally, there will also be a special category for photographs, with the theme of "Red, White & Blue", to commemorate the Jubilee. All photos need to have been taken since September last year.

Entries are 20 pence each, and Forms need to be completed and submitted to Meadow Cottage (old schoolhouse) on or before Sunday 21st August.

During the Show there will also be the return match of Tug-of-War with Duns Tew and Somerton!

We hope that many North Aston residents will join, either as participants and/or as spectators! For further information please contact Tuck on 347727 or email him at tuck56@hotmail.com

Bibendum gives the Yurt a resounding thumbs up!

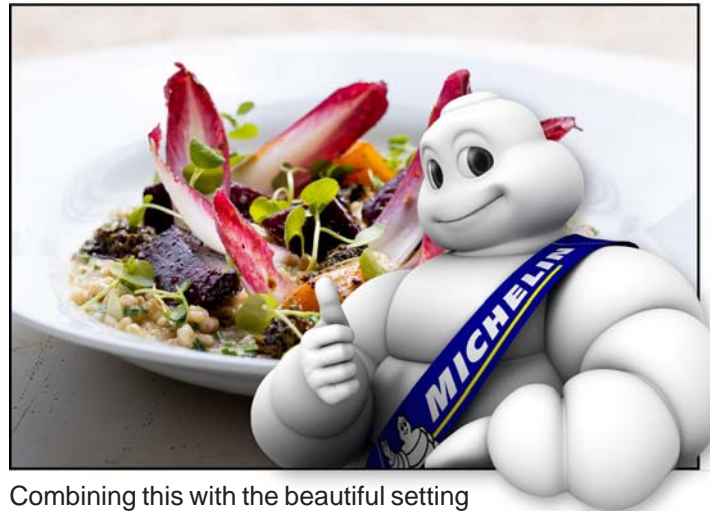
We're delighted to pass on the news that the Yurt has been selected to feature in the *Michelin Guide for Great Britain & Ireland*. The team at the Yurt makes a huge effort to provide delicious food and innovative menus, whilst operating as sustainably as possible. To be featured in the *Michelin Guide* is a great reward for all their hard work.

In addition to being featured in the guide, the Yurt has been picked out as one of the inspectors' six favourite new additions for 2022, alongside such famous establishments as Gordon Ramsay's London-based 1890 restaurant.

The entry described '*unfussy dishes that are big on flavour and come with some Mediterranean influences; brunch is served every morning; and a bright and breezy service comes from a capable young team*'. The Michelin inspectors summed up the Yurt as being '*cosy and characterful*'.

Only 25 Oxfordshire-based restaurants are featured in the Guide. Judging is undertaken over a series of visits by a group of Michelin inspectors, who base their assessments on five objective criteria: quality of the ingredients used; mastery of flavour and cooking techniques; the personality of the chef in his cuisine; value for money; and consistency between visits.

If you've not been to the Yurt recently, all menus offer a variety of dishes using seasonal ingredients and locally-sourced produce, with the aims of offering fresh, simple food that is balanced in flavour and presented with flair. The menus are curated by award-winning head chef, Andrew Carr, who takes pride in regularly introducing new ideas.



Combining this with the beautiful setting provided by the Yurt itself, visitors really are guaranteed a special experience, reconnecting with nature and enjoying distinctive, wholesome food. See below for more details.

As we all know here in North Aston, at the heart of everything that's done at Nicholsons is a sense of integrity and a passion for our planet. They are proud to say that the Yurt produces zero food waste, and if the ingredients can't be produced on-site, outside suppliers are carefully selected to ensure that their values align with Nicholsons.

As Liz herself has said, "To be featured in the *Michelin Guide* is a fantastic achievement, and something that all the team is incredibly proud of, especially me."

"We all look forward to continuing to provide our customers with unforgettable experiences, whilst also pushing ourselves more and more from a sustainability perspective. We hope to welcome you soon!"

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Walk-ins are welcome at the Yurt but to secure a table and time, please book via our website.



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North Aston Nature Notes

With Stephen Rees

Well, I suppose the first subject this month has got to be weather. Blimey! In the middle of the month we had the two hottest days on record, back to back.

As many others, I have never in my life experienced heat like that before. I've been abroad a few times to hot places but those two days were unbelievable. Down in our corner of the world it was really strange. There were no birds flying at all, no bird song, no rabbits in the paddock, and even the pollinators were very quiet. Not a bee or bug in sight.

We both were very glad when temperatures turned down a bit, and we hope it was a one-off, but I think it's something we are going to have to get used to. We went to work early, at 5.30, and came home early too, and shut the door. That made it a bit more bearable, but I can't imagine how people live in those temps all year round.

So to our wildlife. It's hard to imagine that in just a few weeks' time the first of our summer migrants will be heading away once again. The first to leave will be the cuckoo, and it's young will follow a few weeks later. The swallows and swifts will be next.

July was a really lovely month for fauna and flora alike. Butterflies and moths were at there busiest, and the moths around our summer house have been large and noisy when we lit our candles. Keep an eye out for the Elephant Hawk

Moth, large and beautiful with its purple markings, which will happily come to a light and land on it arm.



Two other things. Out on our mountain bikes the last few weekends, the wild flower meadows have really been something to see, and a good excuse for me to stop for a breather. Ragged Robin, Cornflowers, Daisy, Cow Parsley, Ladies Smock and many others that I don't know (but Wendy does!) all look so wonderful as they try to out-do each other for the bees' attention.

Bridle paths through grass fields for me are just as pretty. I've always been a fan of grasses, ever since Wendy started to teach me their names. Yorkshire fog (how cool), Cock's-foot, Brome, Timothy and Quaking Grass are just a few, and they look as lovely to me as the flowers. I like running my fingers through them. When I used to walk Penny in the morning I would run my empty tea mug through the heads to see how many seeds I could get before we reached home.

That's about it besides my Bird of the Month, which has been keeping us very entertained - the humble Blue Tit.

Bird of the Month ~ Blue Tit

We have lots of little Blue Tits in our garden. They are quite brave and don't mind us sharing their garden at all. It's another bird that mates for life, and has over the years come to be linked with love, trust and honour. If their mate dies, they don't take another, but live a solitary life on their own. How sad is that! The folklore also said that, if you meet one in a wood and it doesn't fly away, but looks you in the eye, you will marry your one true love. But if it does fly away, a spinster you will be ... You've got to love Folklore!

I think that's enough old tosh for this month. I've got to go and get the sauseges on. Till next month

Regards, Steve & Wendy

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News from our Councillor

Cherwell District Council's decoupling programme with the County Council hopefully reaches its conclusion imminently when the members of the Joint Shared Services and Personnel Committee receive the Phase 3 service recommendations.

Phase 3 of the programme includes recommendations for the following services.

- ◆ Emergency Planning
- ◆ Regulatory Services and Community Safety
- ◆ Digital and IT Services
- ◆ Procurement and Contracts
- ◆ Customer Services
- ◆ Continuous Improvement
- ◆ Land Charges
- ◆ Property, Investment and Facilities Management

Phase 3 completes the recommendations for 24 services areas which have been reviewed since the decision to decouple the strategic partnership was taken in February of this year. We still have a lot of work to implement the required changes and a revised senior structure chart will be ready in August to reflect the new starters and changes agreed.

Homes for Ukraine

We are creating a new team to lead on the rematching of households where sponsorship arrangements cannot continue. This team will be hosted by the city council and funding for the team will come from the government's existing commitment to provide local authorities with £10,500 per guest. The team will sit outside the existing homelessness teams but will still be able to access homelessness expertise. The team will have access to an emergency accommodation fund (£30,000), which will help families avoid becoming homeless.

As per government guidance, rematching will only be used where it is unviable or unsafe for the existing sponsorship to continue and will only apply to guests who received a visa through the *Homes for Ukraine* scheme. We will be working to keep rematches to a minimum, and requests from Ukrainian guests to be rematched can be turned down if there is little justification. We need to ensure that sponsors and guests alike understand that we do not have vast amounts of temporary accommodation to rehome people and we need to be working to ensure arrangements do not break down.

Supporting processes and procedures for rematching are being developed and accommodation checks for new hosts must be complete before any Ukrainian guests can move in. There will be no need to re-visit properties and hosts already inspected and DBS checked.

We are currently recruiting to these roles and can offer these as secondments. Please do help spread the word and if anyone is interested, please put them in contact with Richard Wood at Rwood@Oxford.gov.uk

In addition to rematching we are also making plans for supporting our guests and hosts with 'moving on' arrangements as sponsorship agreements come to an end.

Signposting

Queries relating to housing or community support for Ukrainian families can be directed to our Cherwell customer services (01295 227001 or customer.service@cherwell-dc.gov.uk). For further information visit www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ukraine. The Oxfordshire Ukraine helpline number is: 01865 966444 / 01865 966 444 or email: ukraineresponse@oxfordshire.gov.uk.

Finally – if you are aware of or involved with any fantastic local activity, events or networks that support our guests, please encourage volunteers and providers to email fis.enquiries@oxfordshire.gov.uk with the details. The county council can then work on getting this information online.

Covid-19 Vaccination Update

As the number of infections is increasing, a reminder for those eligible that vaccinations and boosters are still available. Details of an autumn booster programme are expected soon.

It is important that if you are due a vaccination that you get it. Anyone over the age of 5 who has not previously been fully vaccinated and is wanting a first, second, or booster dose can come forward at any time to one of our available sites.

During the summer some vaccination sites have suspended operations but appointments are still be available at other sites, including community pharmacies and the larger vaccination centres. To book visit www.nhs.uk (search Coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccination) or call 119 free. Lines are open every day from 8am to 8pm.

If you are eligible and have not yet had your Spring/second booster, then make your appointments soon. This vaccination is important as it reduces the severity of COVID-19 symptoms as well as the risk of hospital admittance as case numbers rise. If you are 75+, immunosuppressed or have a severely weakened immune system you may be eligible for a fourth dose at least three months from their previous dose. If you believe you are eligible and have not heard anything please book your appointment direct and don't contact your GP practice. Appointments will start from 3 months (91 days) after your previous dose.

Children aged 5-11 continue to be offered two doses of the vaccine, at least 12 weeks apart. Two doses should give the child long-lasting protection against serious complications of infection and some protection from mild symptoms. Parents and guardians visit <https://www.nhs.uk/covidvaccination> or call 119 to book an appointment. To find out more, visit www.nhs.uk/covid-booster.

Electoral Registration

The annual drive to update electoral registration has begun. To help save paper over 31,000 residents who have previously associated an address with their electoral registration are being contacted via email. Look out for an email from cherwelldc@householdresponse.com.

From 8 August we will send out postal requests to the remaining residents. This will ensure that everyone gets the opportunity to respond.

£150 council tax rebate update

CDC has now paid out the government's £150 council tax rebates to 88% of eligible households. Residents, who pay by direct debit, have received their money automatically. The remaining households have received a letter inviting them to apply for their rebates.

Despite reminders, around 5,000 households who are entitled to receive this money had still not applied for it when the deadline passed for bank refunds at the end of July. If that includes you, don't worry. Instead, the sum will be credited to their council tax account instead.

Find out more by visiting www.cherwell.gov.uk/EnergyRebate.

Bryn Williams

Cherwell District Councillor | Deddington Ward

Tel: 07836 271998

Bryn.Williams@Cherwell-DC.gov.uk



From the FIRE STATION

Sixteen shouts – a busy start, barren middle and a flurry of activity towards the end of the month kept the crew of Deddington fire station on their toes.

There was recently a RTC involving two vehicles on the main crossroads in Deddington. Strangely, most of the crew had to go past the incident to reach the fire station, get the pump out and mobilise back to the crossroads. This did allow us to see first-hand what was required. Fortunately, both the casualties had minor injuries consisting of shock, bruising and small cuts. Upon arrival, the road was coned off, vehicle batteries disconnected, absorbent granules put down to contain any fuel leakage and the casualties treated by the road side until the ambulance arrived. Prior to the Fire service arrival, several bystanders who witnessed the accident, were able to offer support on scene to those involved.

In the small hours of the following morning, Deddington was mobilised to support Warwickshire Fire Service with a large barn fire just past Edge Hill. A large quantity of straw was well alight with crews both fighting the fire and damping down adjacent buildings to prevent the fire spreading. Deddington was tasked with supplying shuttle water and aiding with command support until the crew was relieved at 5am.

Within the wider community, Deddington has been carrying out *Safe and Well* visits, installing smoke alarms and providing an insight into the role of the fire service to school children as part of Warriner Year 11 careers day.



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Scams & Scallywags

We are constantly reminded to be on the lookout for scammers. That was brought home to us last month, when one village resident was conned into paying way over the odds for some household maintenance. It can happen to anyone. It's just a sad fact that there are rules and conventions in society that some people don't think apply to them.

We can never be fully prepared for just how brazen and persuasive some of these tricksters are prepared to be, but we should never be too afraid to ask for help. If you suspect you're being taken for a ride, take a moment to think it through, and then call someone. If the would-be perpetrator is legitimate, they won't mind. If they're lining up for their next scam, they may think better of it and leave.

On a related note, TVP warns residents to be cautious of cold callers impersonating local authority and council officers in the Oxfordshire area. If you suspect anyone, ask to see their ID, and if they're legit, they'll be happy to show it.

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North Aston's Tug-of-War team will be pulling hard to secure the return of "their" trophy at this month's Flower & Produce Show

Announcements

Deddington Farmers' Market

The August Farmers' Market will be held on Saturday 27th August, starting from 9 am through until 12:30. Please park at the school, and take your own bags and containers if possible. For further information visit: www.deddingtonfarmersmarket.co.uk

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

Van 99 suffered with the heat last month, but should be back on schedule for August, pausing on the Green each Wednesday evening from 7:25 to 7:40 pm. You can track the van's progress on www.bit.ly/findvan99 and pre-order by email to van99orders@gmail.com or calling 07484 360719.

Baby Sitting Service

Susie Taylor's babysitting service - Friday & Saturday nights, or weeknights during school holidays. Call Vicky on 07483 291277.

Dog Walking Service

Evelyn's Dog Walking Service is now available evenings and weekends @ £5/hr. Message or call Lucinda on 07869 282227



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August Birthdays

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



Many Happy Returns to all the North Aston residents who celebrate birthdays this month. If you're not listed, or know someone who should be, please let us know.



Aunt Sally on the Green!

The Green is still a popular place every second Wednesday, with August dates for Aunt Sally being 10th and 24th, from 7 pm.

Bring along your own bottle of beer or a glass of wine, and make an evening of it, with a portion of Fish & Chips from Van 99!



This month's winners were:

1st Prize (£25): Franca Potts (#100)

2nd Prize (£5): Pete Evans (#36)

If you haven't yet returned your envelope with this year's subs, please do so immediately. From now on, any unpaid winning numbers will go back into the pot. For more info, call Bev on 347434 or email info@north-aston.co.uk.

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

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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