



NORTH ASTON

NEWS

December 2022

#386

NORTH ASTON NEWS

DECEMBER 2022, No:386

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Thames Valley Police non-emergency: 101

Out of Hours Doctor: 111 or 08453 458 995

Notes from the Chair

The American humourist, Robert Benchley, sent a telegram home on his first visit to Venice: "Streets full of water. Please advise".

I often think of this when the valley fills with water and the flood plain does what it is supposed to do, which is to, er, flood. "Valley full of water..."

The floods attract a great deal of bird life and the sound of the geese honking in the early morning is a wonderful noise. After the drought of the summer months it is good to see some moisture back in the soil even if walking has become a bit boggy.

And Christmas is coming ... and one of the great village events of the year is the Carols on the Green on Christmas Eve. Just the perfect way for all to get together and launch the festivities.

Have a great Christmas and New Year. Best wishes,
Christopher

You can phone Christopher on 340358 or you can email him using: chair@north-aston.co.uk



Thank you to Mark Stay and all his sponsors for raising £462.50 while visiting local churches on his bicycle for Ride & Stride 2022. Half of this sum will be returned to St Mary's which, at this time of extraordinary electricity prices, will be very welcome

Church Services in December 2022

N. ASTON	S. ASTON	TACKLEY
Sunday December 4th		
9:30 am Holy Communion Book of Common Prayer	11:00 am Holy Communion Book of Common Prayer	5:30 pm Evensong
Sunday December 11th		
9:30 am Morning Prayer	11:00 am Morning Prayer	5:30 pm Holy Communion
Sunday December 18th		
2:00 pm Carol Service	11:00 am Holy Communion Book of Common Prayer 6:00 pm Carol Service	5:30 pm Carol Service
Saturday December 24th ~ Christmas Eve		
6:00 pm Carols on the Green	4:00 pm Crib Service	4:00 pm Crib Service
St Mary Magdalene Woodstock 11.30pm Midnight Mass		
Sunday December 25th ~ Christmas Eve		
9:00 am Christmas Communion	11:00 am Christmas Communion	9:30 am Christmas Communion
Sunday January 1st ~ New Year's Day		
No Service	10:30 am United Benefice Holy Communion Book of Common Prayer	No Service

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. Winter is truly upon us as we start December, with a chill wind from the east. Snow may not be too far away ... as this photo of St Mary's suggests. Merry Christmas!

Planning

A smattering of new applications this month, and also decisions on some of the previously submitted applications. To view full details, please visit <https://planningregister.cherwell.gov.uk/> and keyword search "North Aston" for more information.

Magnolia Cottage, The Green, North Aston OX25 6HU. A planning application has been submitted to permit the construction of a garden room outbuilding to the rear garden. A decision is anticipated by 13th January 2023. Ref: 22 / 03479 / FB

North Aston Hall, St Mary's Walk, OX25 6AA. An application has been submitted to permit the retention of the 1980s West Coach House (previously intended for demolition) with proposed repairs and alterations, including new windows and doors. Comments should be submitted by 8th December, with a decision expected by 29th December. Ref: 22 / 03337 / LB

North Aston Hall, St Mary's Walk, OX25 6AA. The application to carry out work to the single storey extension to the rear of The Hall has been approved. Ref: 22 / 02860 / LB and 22 / 02859 / F

North Aston Mill, Somerton Road, OX25 6HZ. The application relating to roof material, timber boarding and external paving for the poolhouse has been approved. Ref: 22 / 02752 / DISC

North Aston Hall, St Mary's Walk, OX25 6AA. The plan to carry out alterations within The Hall, including the re-opening of two cellar windows, has been approved. Ref: 22 / 02475 / LB

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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The Park, North Aston, OX25 6HL | 01869 340342



Mark Hichens

18 January 1925 – 26 November 2022

Mark Hichens, who died very peacefully at the end of November aged 96, was one of the last connections with his family's 54 year ownership of North Aston Hall, and was well known to many in the village.

In later years he very often came to stay with his sister Phoebe in Folly Field House, and spent years clearing and restoring the Squire's Walk and The Folly.

He came with his family to the village as a young child in 1929, grew up here, and went on to teach history for all of his active life. History was his passion, and he wrote many books on historical topics, both erudite and amusing, the last of them very recently.

He also wrote *Lady Flora had a Farm*, a thinly veiled fictional account of their life in the village, which many of us were able to chuckle at. He continued to be very interested in North Aston life and always seemed to know what was going on, even before some of us did. He wrote a good account of wartime life in the village in *North Aston ~ A Millennium*.

Mark was a wonderful man, and will be very sadly missed by all his friends. It's hoped that there will be a Memorial service for him in St Mary's in January, when a fuller account of his life will be published in the *News*.
KB-B

Books by Mark Hichens include *Abdication: The Rise and Fall of Edward VIII*, *Wives of the Kings of England* and *The Inimitable P.G. Wodehouse: The Story of His Life and a Treasury of His Wit*. His most recent, *Capitalism Versus Communism: The Cold War*, was published in 2020.

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Heyford Pantry Collection

Residents of North Aston have been beyond generous in your support for the food bank at Heyford Park and there's a certain predictability about my request for even more help, particularly in the run-up to Christmas.

I don't really need to say anything about the festive season that so many people will be facing this year, so any contributions which you could make will be perhaps more significant to people than ever.

The arrangements with the bins will largely be the same as they have been - a collection every two months from donation points in the bus shelter and outside Middle Cottage. I will be putting them out on Saturday 3rd December for the whole week. I'm aware this doesn't suit everyone so there is a permanent donation box in the bus shelter at the entrance to Nicholsons and I empty this on a regular basis. Please do feel free to drop items off at any time.

Huge gratitude from the Heyford Park Pantry to all.

Annie Savage

Christmas Eve on the Green

Carols on the Green will take place on the Green again this year, and will be back very nearly to the old familiar format, with a blazing bonfire, mulled wine, mince pies and lots of enthusiastic singing!

In the days before the event we shall mail out an electronic PDF version of the Carol Sheet, specially formatted for mobile phones. The makers of mulled wine have already been volunteered, but if anyone would like to bring along mince pies or other refreshments for a chilly evening, please do!

Keeping the Home Fires Burning

With more of us resorting to open fires and log-burners as the price of other forms of domestic heating continues to rise, Kildare was intrigued to find a hand-written poem amongst some old papers. He took a photo, but here's a transcript.

Log Fires

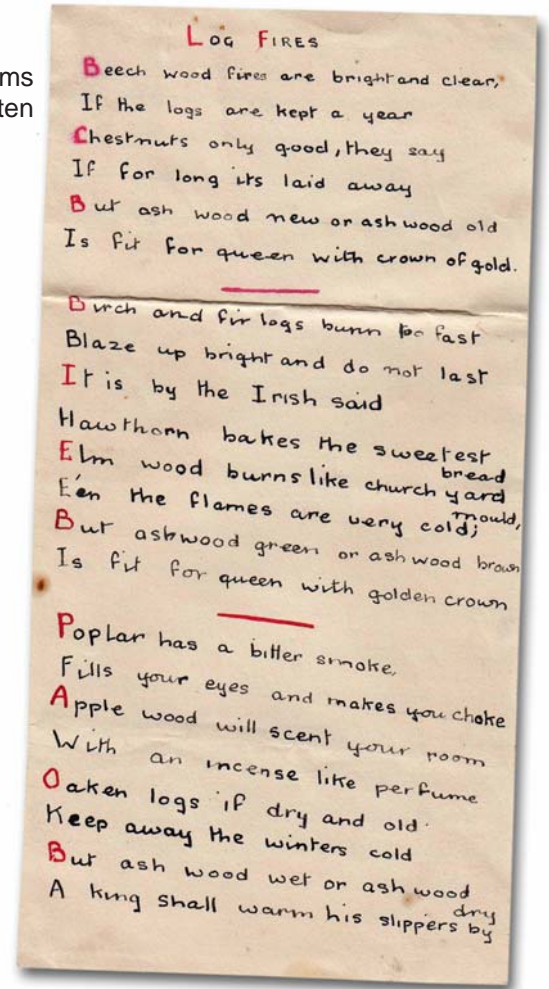
Beech wood fires are bright and clear, if the logs are kept a year.
Chestnut's only good, they say, if for long it's laid away.
But Ash wood new, or Ash wood old, is fit for Queen with Crown of Gold.

Birch and Fir logs burn too fast, blaze up bright and do not last.
It is, by the Irish said, that Hawthorn bakes the sweetest bread.
Elm wood burns like churchyard mould, e'en the flames are very cold;
But Ash wood green, or Ash wood brown, is fit for Queen with Golden Crown.

Poplar has a bitter smoke, fills your eyes and makes you choke.
Apple wood will scent your room with an incense like perfume.
Oaken logs, if dry and old, keep away the Winter's cold,
But Ash wood wet, or Ash wood dry, a King shall warm his slippers by!

Cooling the Coals

On a related note, the sale of traditional, domestic "House Coal" will become illegal from 1st May next year. That's the small nuggets of natural coal that tend to produce large amounts of smoke. Bagged House Coal has already been unavailable since May 2021. Instead, coal merchants and retailers will be asked to supply specialist coals for domestic fires and solid-fuel boilers, such as anthracite and low-volatile steam coal. Anthracite-based "Smokeless Ovals", such as Phurnacite, are another cost-effective, multi-purpose fuel ideal for use on open fires, multi-fuel stoves and solid-fuel ranges and cookers.



Is your child 3 or 4 years old?

Primary school place - you must apply now

If your child was born on or between **1 September 2018** and **31 August 2019**, you need to apply for a primary school place now.

You must still apply even if your child already attends a nursery attached to the school.

Deadline for applications is **15 January 2023**.

Apply online at

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/primaryadmissions
- it's quick, easy and secure.

You can get free access to the internet at many of our libraries and children's centres - ask for details at your local facility.

For help and information:
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Email: admissions.schools@oxfordshire.gov.uk
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From the FIRE STATION

Summer is over the yard arm and Autumn is firmly here, as rain and squally winds funnel through Deddington.

That busy Summer seems a distant memory, as we have been exceptionally quiet recently, with a mere twelve call-outs divided between Stand-bys, Rescues, Alarms and RTCs.

Training does continue however, with Corrie King having passed her final BA Team Leader Exam. Louis Martin has starting his BA basic course and CJ Harber is now qualified to be on the run. Also, Barney Neal will have completed his two-week basic training when this goes to print.



The Deddington crew was proud to honour the Remembrance Day ceremony in the market place last month, as well as making visits both to the Cub Scouts and to Deddington Primary School. They also attended the village Fireworks display earlier in November.

James Greenwood FFD james@cyclogicalshop.co.uk



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The next Village Meeting will take place on Wednesday 11th January 2023 at 7pm. This will also be the AGM. If you have any items you'd like raised and discussed, please submit your suggestions to secretary@north-aston.co.uk.



November 2022

Last month's winners were:

1st Prize (£10): Kate Stevens (#41)
2nd Prize (£5): M. Graham (#107)

Call: Bev (347434) or email info@north-aston.co.uk
You've got to be in it to win it!



Duns Tew drama group presents ...

SMUT'S SAGA

a pantomime!

At the time of publication there are still a few tickets left for this year's Duns Tew Pantomime. Please check with The Little Box Office for availability.

Tickets - Evenings: £12 , Matinée: £7.50 Adults or £5.50 Children

Friday 2nd & Saturday 3rd December ~ 7:30 pm
 Saturday 3rd December ~ 2:00 pm Matinée
 Friday 9th & Saturday 10th December ~ 7:30 pm

During the evening performances a range of snacks will be served in the first interval and of course the bar never closes.

Tickets from: www.thelittleboxoffice.com/dtdg

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Announcements

Deddington Farmers' Market

This month's Farmer's Market will take place on Saturday 17th December, and will be the last of the year. For more information please visit: www.deddingtonfarmersmarket.co.uk

Heyford Park Farmer's Market

The Farmer's Market on Brice Road is staged every first Saturday of the month from 10am through to 2pm, and the next will be on December 3rd. It promises to be one of the targets yet, with new stallholders, and entertainment from the Witney Town Band. Updates on www.facebook.com/heyfordparkfarmersmarket/

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

Van 99 continues to call at the Green on a Wednesday, 7:25 to 7:40 pm. You can email an order to van99orders@gmail.com, call 07484 360719, or track the van on www.bit.ly/findvan99.

Baby Sitter - Friday/Saturday & School Holidays

Susie Taylor offers babysitting on Friday & Saturday nights, or week-nights 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.

Children's Christmas Party & Wassail

There are plans for a Children's Christmas Party on Sunday 11th December in the Old Bakery. If you haven't already registered an interest for your child, drop us an email: info@north-aston.co.uk. The traditional North Aston Wassail, with carol singers traipsing door-to-door around the parish, is scheduled for the same day. If you'd like to take part, please let us or Mark know.

December Birthdays

Paul Brown
Clementine Le Clercq
Stefan Liberadski
Joyce Morley
Joshua Potts
Tony Rees
Caroline West & Peter West



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

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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