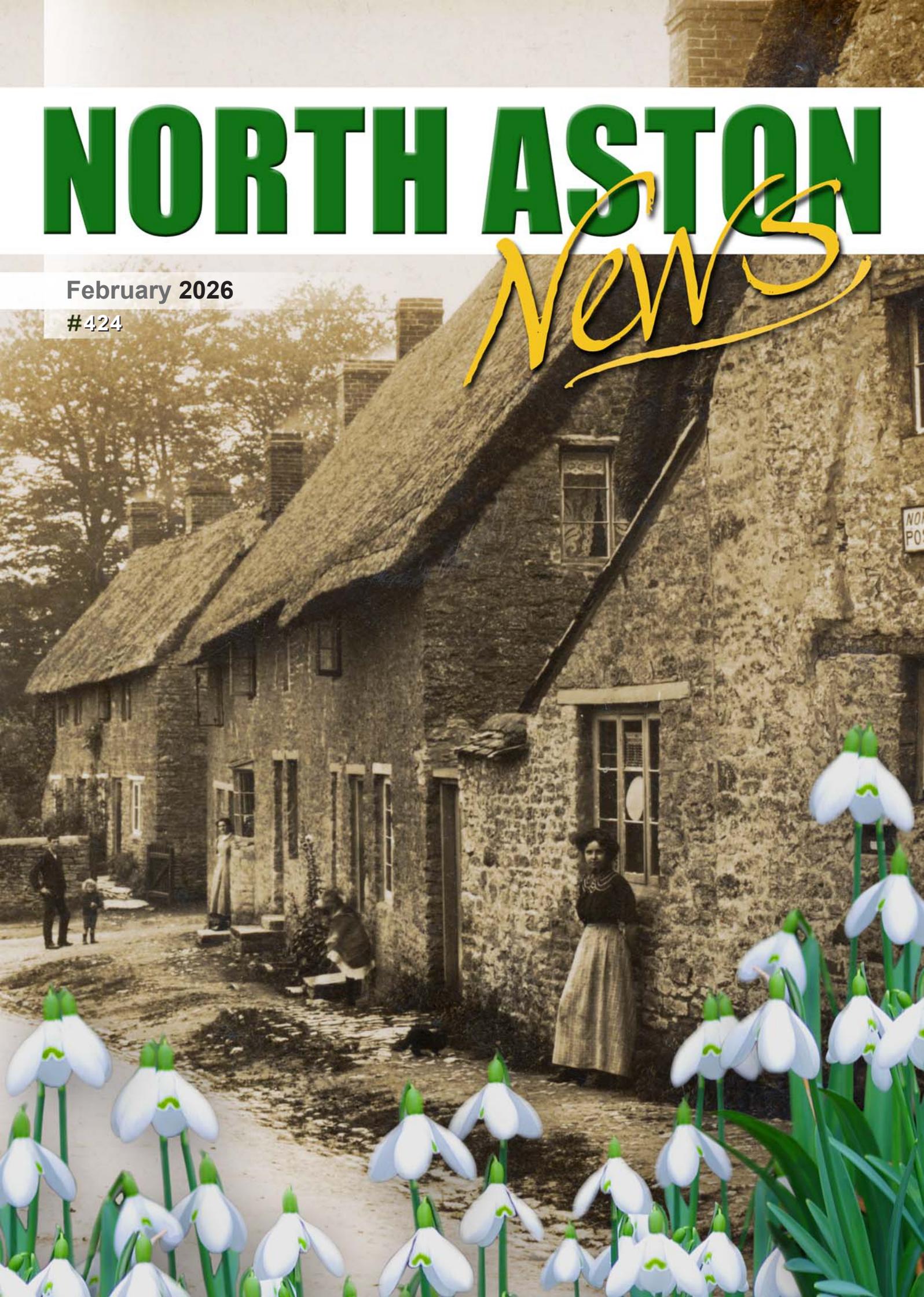


# NORTH ASTON

# NEWS

February 2026

#424



# NORTH ASTON NEWS

FEBRUARY 2026, No:424

## Useful Contacts

### Marcus Potts - NAPM Chair

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### North Aston Gardening Club

Tuck Hatzigeorgiou, Chair  
Email: [tuck56@hotmail.com](mailto:tuck56@hotmail.com)

### North Aston Pet Alert

Please notify of any Firework Parties  
Eileen Gilmore: Tel (01869) 347210  
Also email: [info@north-aston.co.uk](mailto:info@north-aston.co.uk)

### Parish Safeguarding Officer

Sarah Godwin: Tel 07969 898 128  
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Website: [www.northastonorganics.co.uk](http://www.northastonorganics.co.uk)

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### Old Bakery Bookings

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### Village Marquee Bookings

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### CDC Local Councillor

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### OCC, Deddington Division Councillor

Gareth Epps, Deddington  
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### Thames Valley Police non-emergency: 101

Out of Hours Doctor: 111 or 08453 458 995

### North Aston News. Editor: Marcus Potts

Telephone: (01869) 340296  
Email: [info@north-aston.co.uk](mailto:info@north-aston.co.uk)

# Notes from the Chair

*We've just endured one of the wettest Januaries on record. Cornwall and the West Country saw the worst of the rain, but even here we had 188% of our normal January average. I am reminded of the Flanders & Swann song about the weather, and their verdict on January still holds true.*

*If you are struggling to keep the house warm, help may be at hand. The government-backed **Warm Homes: Local Grant** scheme is now available within Cherwell. If your household income is under £36,000, or you receive means-tested benefits, you could qualify for fully funded upgrades like solar panels or heat pumps, especially if your home is old and has a poor Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating. Check eligibility and apply online: [www.welcomethewarmth.org.uk/application-form](http://www.welcomethewarmth.org.uk/application-form).*

*We have a Village Meeting coming up this month. The Agenda is below. Please do come along if you're able. We hope to have news on the proposed Traffic Calming (which may see the first physical evidence next month) and also an update on potholes. If your car has sustained damage due to hitting a pothole, you can submit a claim through the OCC website at <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/transport-and-travel/street-maintenance-z/compensation>. More on that at the Meeting.*

You can phone Marcus on 340296  
or email: [chair@north-aston.co.uk](mailto:chair@north-aston.co.uk)

## Village Meeting - February 17th

The first Village Meeting of 2026 will take place in the Old Bakery on Tuesday 17th February, starting at 7:00 pm. The Agenda is as follows:

### Formal Business

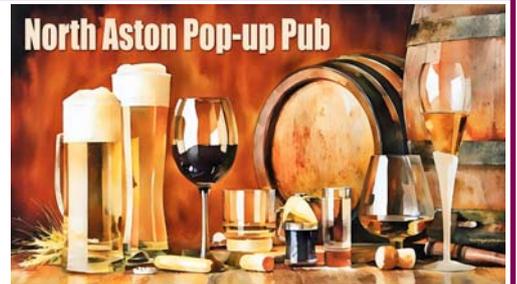
1. Welcome
2. Approval of Minutes of last Meeting (9 December 2025) as published in the January issue of the *North Aston News*
3. Treasurer's Report (update on Accounts and Banking)
4. Parish Expenses - Newsletter, Mowing etc
5. Village Constitution
6. Coalition of Parishes
7. Mid-Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan (update from JT following last month's AGM)
8. Traffic Calming

### Informal Business

9. Review of Christmas Events.
10. Events for Easter?
11. Mikron Theatre Company (Scheduled for Thursday 18 June)
12. Village Fête Saturday 4th July
13. Any other business
14. Date of next Meeting

This month's "Baker's Arms" pop-up pub will be on Friday 6th, from 7pm.

Bring your own drinks, a selection of your favourite nibbles, and enjoy a convivial evening with friends at The Old Bakery.



Cover: A photo from the village archives showing North Aston around 1920, taken by Percy Simms.

Mail to: [info@north-aston.co.uk](mailto:info@north-aston.co.uk)

## Planning

One new application this month. To examine any of these applications in detail, search for "North Aston" on the CDC Planning Register web page, which can be found at [www.planningregister.cherwell.gov.uk/](http://www.planningregister.cherwell.gov.uk/)

**Rosemary Cottage, Somerton Rd, OX25 6HX.** An application has been made to install new underground broadband cabling. The target decision date is 23rd March. Ref: 25 / 02926 / LB.

**The Hall, St Mary's Walk, OX25 6AA.** The application relating to the Discharge of Conditions 3 (doors & windows) on planning ref. 22/02859/ F has been approved. Ref: 25 / 03041 / DISC.

**Middle and Nether Cottages, St Mary's Walk, OX25 6AA.** The application relating to roof repairs is no longer listed on the CDC Planning Portal. Ref: 25 / 02869 / LB.

## Blue & Brown Bins

Since the start of this year it has been possible to add glass bottles and jars to the blue bin for recycling. At the moment, the old **bottle banks** are still sited by Peach Barns, but they are likely to be removed within the next couple of months. We await confirmation from CDC as to when this may happen.

Now is the time to renew your subscription to the Brown Bin collection for **garden and green waste**. The annual fee for this has gone up to £59 per wheelie bin. You need to go online to the CDC website at <https://www.cherwell.gov.uk> and enter "Garden Waste Service" in the Search box. On the Payable Garden Waste page, click the big green button, and on the next page, enter your postcode, select your address, and then process the payment. You have until the end of this month, February, to renew your subscription.

## Simpler Recycling

The move towards collecting everything kerbside is part of a national scheme called *Simpler Recycling*. The aim is to unify policies on recycling and waste collection across the country, so that everyone faces the same challenges on what they can recycle, what will be disposed of to landfill, and what happens to garden and food waste.

Those of us in Cherwell have been doing most of this for years, so the concept of four bins for kerbside collection will be nothing new. We already have a green bin for general (landfill) waste, a blue bin for recycling (paper, card, most plastics and now, bottles and jars), a brown bin (incongruously, for green and garden waste) and the little silver bins for food. The rest of the country is now bracing itself for the same. From 31st March, there will also be the possibility of £400 fines if we don't follow the rules, although how rigorously CDC may enforce these remains to be seen. We'll be listing those rules in next month's issue.



December's winners were:

1st Prize (£25): Matthew Rees (#22)

2nd Prize (£5): Karen Hack (#124)

Congratulations! Every month, two lucky winners get drawn out of the hat. If you'd like to learn more about the 100 Club, please contact Sue: Telephone 347727 or email [info@north-aston.co.uk](mailto:info@north-aston.co.uk).

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



**Consensio**  
directed by Dr Paul Hedley

An afternoon choral concert for  
**Epiphany and Candlemas**  
Pieces by Byrd, Howells, Poulenc and others



**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February, at 3pm**  
**in Duns Tew Church**

Tickets: £12 (under 16s free)  
Tea, Coffee, Cake  
in aid of Duns Tew Church, OX25 6JP  
To book, contact: Clare Burgess  
[dunstewpcc@gmail.com](mailto:dunstewpcc@gmail.com)  
07909 881596

## Simply Glorious!

Steeple Aston Choral Society is doing something a little different for their Spring Concert this year, and the performance in March will take place in Tackley church, rather than the more usual Steeple Aston.

To be staged on Sunday 29th March, *Gloria! Gloria!* will offer music aficionados two Glorias for the price of one! Backing up Antonio Vivaldi's much-loved *Gloria in D Major* (RV589) will be Paul Herrington's equally rousing 21st century *Gloria in D Major*. Tickets will be on sale soon, and the evening will include bar with wine, beer, soft drinks and nibbles. For more details, see advert on Page 4.

Before then, on 21st February, Nicholas Cleobury and friends from SA will be putting on a concert, also in Tackley church, offering a pot-pourri of music from Bach, Sarasate and Saint Saens, with Rebecca Lewin (*soprano*) accompanied by cello, violin, piano and organ.

The evening starts at 7pm, and entry is free, with a retiring collection in aid of church funds.

## Blooming Spring

Also coming up in March will be the annual Steeple Aston Spring Show. Scheduled for Sunday 22nd, the event will be staged in Steeple Aston Village Hall from 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm. There will be classes for all manner of spring flowers, as well as cookery, floral art, crafts and children's categories. Anyone can enter, even from here in NA, with the last day for entries being Thursday 19th March.

More details next month, with entry forms available from Steeple Aston village shop or online: [www.steepleaston.org.uk/clubs-societies/gardening/](http://www.steepleaston.org.uk/clubs-societies/gardening/).

# North Aston Nature Notes

## With Stephen Rees

Hello to all, and apologies for a short Notes this month.

Just after Christmas, when the weather was so cold and awful, I went down to our bantams to give them an extra tin of their favourite treat, sweetcorn, only to find them all dead and the fox still in the run! He was eating one of the birds. I shouted to Wendy to help, and chased Mr Fox around with a spade, but he leapt over the six-foot fence as if it wasn't there! He'd left all our birds dead. It was all very sad. They were a really friendly, happy bunch, and they were my mates too, not to mention flipping expensive!

The weather has been so awful recently that there would have been no rabbits or mice about, so I can understand why the fox got very brave and hungry, but it's still annoying! We know these things happen, but even so, flipping heck!

We had one really nice but very chilly walk down to the flood meadows. It was really very, very cold, with the east wind blowing a true hooley. We took hot Cornish Pasties with us, wrapped in tinfoil, and some port, and had them down near Bowman's Bridge, looking out over the floods on Bessemer and Chris's meadows.

The floods are such a magnet for water birds this time of year. They offer so much opportunity for finding worms, bugs and the like, and they were covered in birds. The sky was full of beautiful Peewits, flashing their black-then-white wings in the sun, and we spotted several skeins of geese and ducks passing overhead. On the water, there were more Teal than you could even imagine trying to count, a few Widgeon, hundreds of Mallard, a good few Shellduck and, right in the middle, we saw a single Pintail. That's the first time I've seen one down there.



On the edge of the water there were lots of small birds, mostly Wagtails but also Stonechats, Tits and Finches, all feeding on washed up insects.

After a while we were getting properly cold, so we splodged our way through the fields and back up the hill to home, where we got the log-burner going to round off a good walk and a good day.

We were lucky that day, but it's been a horrible few weeks weather-wise, with winds and rain and frosts. Now they tell us we've another storm heading in from the east, so I'd better get more logs in. I usually bring them in at the weekend and stack them by our log-burner, but by the next day our room almost always has bees, wasps and butterflies in it, woken up from their slumbers in the logs.

So that's a boggy wet January out of the way, and we can look forward to spring, some drier, warmer days and, before too long, it will be time for Aunt Sally again!

Steve & Wendy

## NORTH ASTON ORGANICS

### Vegetable Stall

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

- Wide variety of fresh seasonal organic vegetables at affordable prices
- Minimal packaging & zero food miles
- Supporting the local economy



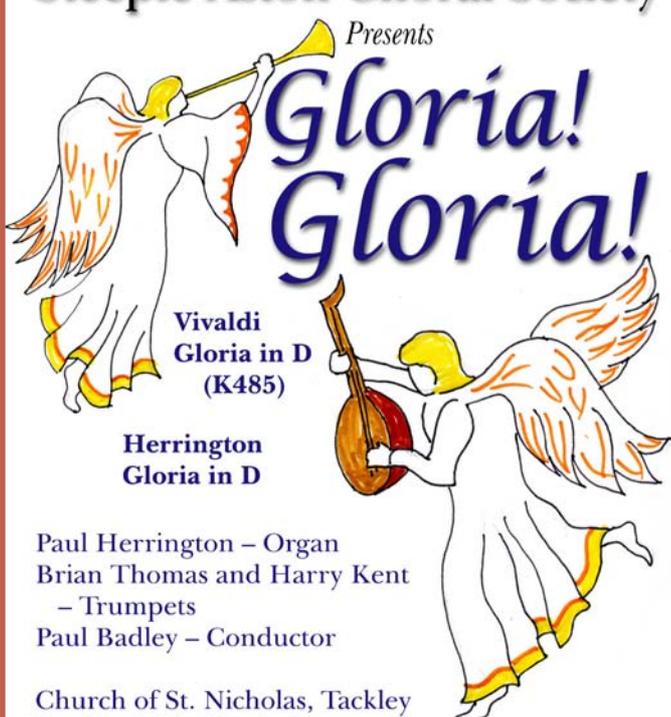
**Too busy?**  
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Email: [northastonorganics@gmail.com](mailto:northastonorganics@gmail.com)  
Tel: (01869) 347702  
visit the website at:  
[www.northastonorganics.co.uk](http://www.northastonorganics.co.uk)

## Steeple Aston Choral Society

Presents

# Gloria! Gloria!



**Vivaldi  
Gloria in D  
(K485)**

**Herrington  
Gloria in D**

Paul Herrington – Organ  
Brian Thomas and Harry Kent – Trumpets  
Paul Badley – Conductor

Church of St. Nicholas, Tackley  
Sunday 29th March, 7 pm

Tickets £12 (Under 16s free) from SACS members,  
SA Village Shop or from Margaret Bullyment  
(01869 347346) or email [mtheb749@gmail.com](mailto:mtheb749@gmail.com)



## Potholes!

Road maintenance is one of the key things for local government to get right. And while weather conditions have been about as bad as it gets for blowing holes in our roads, I'd like to have thought that things might have gone better when it came to fixing them.

Like all councils, Oxfordshire doesn't get enough funding from Government to pay for road repairs. This isn't a new problem (a colleague looked at a parish council minute from 2018 to find an exhortation to the county councillor to "tell his leader to sort it out".) But rather than have a policy of managed decline as happened in our county for many years, we are now trying to maintain roads in a "steady state" at a cost of £49.9 million per year. That means we have to borrow money – a position which isn't sustainable in the long run. The Government allocates us a mere £33.6m. We're also finding money to put into drain repairs to prevent some reoccurring issues for long-term good.

The FixMyStreet logging system isn't perfect: but it generally works. Many villages have a volunteer "Super User", although there's currently nobody in place for North Aston or Middle Aston. I'm currently going through the training, which is

interesting. Super Users can action potholes in built-up areas and get action within a 28-day period. Urgent repairs – or those on faster roads – need to be logged by a highways officer. A really clear photo or two means a fix can be booked without a need to physically inspect – saving time and money. Some of these will be temporary patches to make the roads safe – only certain equipment can be used in wet weather.

The past month or so has been really challenging. It's not just Oxfordshire: venture (with care) around Aynho or down the A41 to Aylesbury and you'll find cases where repairs end once you leave our county.

If there's a really big hole needing fixing; if a repair is of poor quality and the contractors need to revisit it; or if you're interested in becoming a Super User, let me know! **GE**

## FixMyStreet

If you've not encountered this before, FixMyStreet is a free online service for reporting local street issues like potholes, damaged kerbs, graffiti, or other road-related issues. There is also a dedicated App for mobile phones.

Simply visit the website at <https://www.fixmystreet.com> (or open the App) and enter a location (postcode or map pin). Find the exact location on the map, describe the issue, add a photo, and click submit. If you're using your phone, perhaps standing beside the pothole, then the App self-locates the issue. The pothole may already be listed, because someone else has already reported it, in which case, report it again! The correct local authority is automatically notified.

The village is hoping to appoint a Super User to mastermind the reporting of local potholes.

# NORTH ASTON FARMS & DAIRY

*Organic, pasture-fed meat, ice cream & more - on your doorstep!*

<b>Order online</b>	<b>Farmers' Market</b>	<b>Join a milk round</b>
<p><b>Order ice cream and pasture-fed meat</b> from the farm</p> <p><b>Free delivery</b> within 15 miles (on orders over £100) or collection from the farm</p>	<p><b>Find us at</b> Deddington Farmers' Market on the fourth Saturday of every month</p> <p>Fresh dairy Pasture-fed meat Ice cream</p>	<p><b>Twice-weekly deliveries</b> Monthly invoice Reusable glassware Delivery before 7.30am</p> <p><b>Milk, yoghurt &amp; cream</b> plus extras including kefir, eggs, meat &amp; ice cream</p>

Find out more at [www.northastonfarms.co.uk](http://www.northastonfarms.co.uk)

## Irene Kill, née Dore

1934 - 2026

*We are saddened to note the passing of another member of a long-established North Aston family, with records of the Dore family in the village stretching back before the 18th century.*

Irene was born in the village on May 12th 1934, the third of four children to Edith and Cecil Dore, and a sister to John, Michael and Dot. Initially the family home was on the Green, before they moved to a tied cottage at Hendon Farm in 1936. Irene's father was tragically killed in a road traffic accident on the Oxford-Banbury road in 1941 and the family then moved in 1943 to Park Gate, still in North Aston.

Irene attended the village primary school and then Steeple Aston school. Times were hard - money was tight and the family diet seems to have been based on bread. The Local Education Authority bought Irene a bicycle to enable her to get to Steeple Aston school. The first radio the family owned was the one John brought back from India when he was completing his National Service! Nevertheless village life provided a strong sense of community and support from extended family members. Irene and her siblings enjoyed the freedom to roam the fields, play on the hayricks and swim in the river. Every week they went to Sunday school at the local vicarage along with annual trips to the seaside. They collected wood to supplement the coal-burning range, and if they could bag a rabbit for the pot during harvest-time it was a bonus!



Irene left school at age 14. She had two jobs in North Aston, one delivering newspapers on her bicycle, the other in the market gardens of Colonel Williams. At one point while delivering newspapers she was knocked off her bike and suffered bad facial bruising. At 15 she went to work for Northern Aluminium Company (Alcan) in Banbury, printing linotype documents for the engineers and covering the switchboard at lunchtimes. She would leave home at 7.30am and travel to work on two buses, not arriving home till 7.00pm in the evening. Her weekly wage was the princely sum of one pound, seven shillings and sixpence!

She married William Kill, (Bill), at St Mary's on 19th January 1957. Initially they set up home on the edge of Somerton village, with the luxuries of electricity and running water. Stephen was born in December 1957, followed by Margaret in 1960 and Peter in 1964. They moved to Bicester in 1967 to a house they built themselves. Irene and Bill went their separate ways at the end of the 1980s

After retirement, Irene made her first (of what became several) overseas trips to New Zealand, to visit her son Peter and his family. Irene died on the 6th January 2026. She had five grandchildren and one great grandchild. Irene's funeral cortège departed St Mary's on Tuesday 2nd February and the interment of her ashes will be at her brother's grave site on Thursday 5th February.

Irene appears in *North Aston – A Millennium*, in the confirmation photograph on page 121, and there are numerous references to the Dore family throughout. Some of the older village members may remember not only Mum but also myself.

*Stephen Kill, February 2026*



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at NICHOLSONS

Our purpose is to connect people with climate and nature through meaningful experiences. We place people, principles and planet before profit.

We invite you to explore our carefully curated Plant Centre and Rosara retail space featuring locally-grown, fresh cut flowers courtesy of The Chipping Norton Flower Farm. Enjoy generous hospitality from our Michelin-recommended Yurt restaurant and brand new Tiny Café.

To spark your curiosity, Rosara at Nicholsons offers a varied events programme consisting of dining experiences, seasonal fairs, talks, demonstrations and workshops.

We hope to welcome you soon.

[www.nicholsonsgb.com](http://www.nicholsonsgb.com) | 01869 340342 | The Park, North Aston, OX25 6HL



# The Church MATTERS

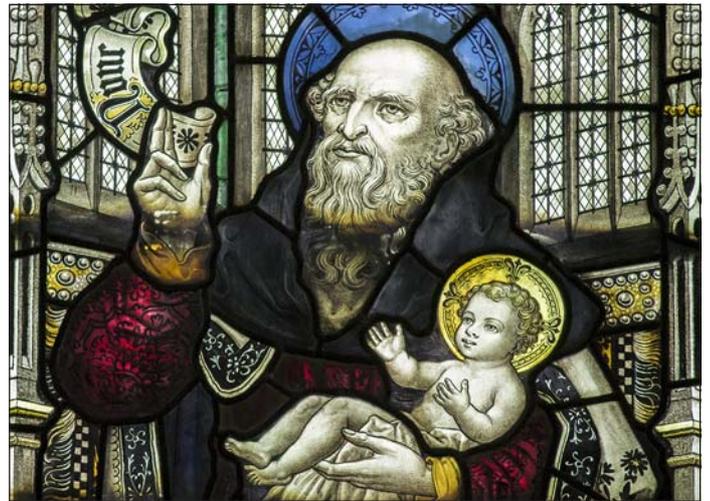


## Candlemas

Shortly before Christmas, which seems ages ago already, I was part of an interesting discussion about when people put up their Christmas decorations. Some enjoy getting into the Christmas celebrations by putting up the decorations early, 1st Dec (or before) whilst others wait, with increasing anticipation and excitement until Christmas Eve and making it a special whole family activity. In contrast there was much more consensus about taking the decorations down by Twelfth Night.

If you'd visited Steeple Aston Church throughout January you would have seen the crib still out, because in Church the Christmas season officially ends with Candlemas at the beginning of February. When we remember Jesus as a tiny baby being taken to the Temple in Jerusalem to be consecrated to the Lord. There Simeon and Anna recognise Jesus as the one through whom God would redeem the world. Simeon in a beautiful intergenerational moment, taking baby Jesus in his arms he says the words that we know as the *Nunc Dimittis*;

*“Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,  
you may now dismiss your servant in peace.  
For my eyes have seen your salvation,  
which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:  
a light for revelation to the Gentiles,  
and the glory of your people Israel.”*



At the end of 2025 we sadly lost several village members, tributes for some of whom have been included in recently editions of our newsletter. Whilst death comes to us all, it is the one certainty of life, it is not necessarily easy or welcome. Simeon had been promised, “by the Holy Spirit that he would not die until he had seen the Lord’s Messiah”. As he holds Jesus in his arms he knows his life is complete, and he is at peace, and ready to die. He knows God’s love and purpose for the world, and his own small part in that larger story.

This gift of peace, as we face death of a loved one or own mortality is a wonderful beautiful gift. Over the Christmas period I watched a couple of ‘RomCom’ style films telling the story of giving a loved one peace and life again following someone’s passing. As we move through February with the lengthening of the days, and hopefully warmer weather, we are reminded of the turning of the seasons, that there is a cyclical nature to life, birth, growth and death and new birth. We also see this reflected in the life of the church, as we move from Christmas to Lent and head towards Easter and the celebration of Jesus’ resurrection and in our own lives.

My prayer for you is that you would know God’s peace, like Simeon, as we face death, and can be at peace knowing that life continues.

God bless, Harriet

*Please note – my usual day off is a Monday.*

The Reverend Harriet Orridge is Rector of the Parishes of Steeple Aston, North Aston and Tackley.

You can contact the Rector by phone on **01869 932224** or by email: [harriet.sntchurch@gmail.com](mailto:harriet.sntchurch@gmail.com). You may also contact members of the North Aston PCC: Church Wardens: Clive Busby, ([casb@north-aston.com](mailto:casb@north-aston.com), Tel: 340470) and Richard Bailey, Tony Godwin (Treasurer), Vicky Taylor (Secretary), Annabel Bevan, Ginny Stay, Jeremy Taylor, Kildare Bourke Borrowes, and Sarah Godwin.

## Church Services in February 2026

NORTH ASTON	S.ASTON	TACKLEY
<b>Sunday February 1st</b>		
9:30 am Holy Communion Book of Common Prayer	11:00 am Holy Communion Book of Common Prayer	5:30 pm Evensong
<b>Sunday February 8th</b>		
9:30 am Morning Prayer	11:00 am Family Service	5:30 pm Holy Communion
<b>Sunday February 15th</b>		
9:30 am Holy Communion	11:00 am Holy Communion	5:30 pm Evensong
<b>February 18th – Ash Wednesday</b>		
No Service	No Service	6:00 pm Holy Communion with Ashing
<b>Sunday February 22nd</b>		
9:30 am Morning Prayer	11:00 am Morning Prayer	9:30 am Family Communion
<b>Sunday March 1st</b>		
9:30 am Holy Communion Book of Common Prayer	11:00 am Holy Communion Book of Common Prayer	5:30 pm Evensong

This schedule is reproduced in good faith. The Editor cannot be held responsible for any errors or changes. To be sure of all this month’s services, please visit: [www.sntchurch.com](http://www.sntchurch.com)

## Announcements

### Deddington Farmers' Market

The Farmers' Market this month will be on Saturday 28th February, 9 am to 12:30 pm. **Important!** The roadworks have been causing some chaos through January, and are due to continue into March. Visitors from the south may find it easier to park behind Orchard House in Hopcraft Lane OX15 OTD, ///: guests.gliding.astounded, as well as skirting Deddington via Earl's Lane.

### Dog Walking Service

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

### Pop-up Pub

The North Aston Pop-up Pub will meet in the Old Bakery on Friday 6th February this month, from 7pm. See Page 2 for more details.

### Bicester Green

The next Bicester Green Repair Café will take place on Saturday 21st February in the shop on Sheep Street, 10am - 2pm.

From 14 January 2026 you will need to **book a time slot** before every visit to our Household Waste Recycling Centres.

You can book up to **two weeks** in advance or **30 minutes\*** before you visit.

\*Subject to availability



The booking system will help manage demand and make your visit quicker and easier.



[oxfordshire.gov.uk/hwrcbooking](https://oxfordshire.gov.uk/hwrcbooking)

Unable to book online?  
Call 01865 519800 Monday to Friday.

The North Aston 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 Stay: 347806



## February Birthdays

Tuck Hatzigeorgiou

William Fuoco

Mia Obinna (9th)

Jocelyn Parsons



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.

### Not so Peachy

The Peach Pubs business, which for several years had their offices in what is now the Farm Shop, was taken over in 2022 by Revolution Bars Group, and left North Aston. It is sad to report that, as of last month, the parent company, The Revel Collective, has gone into administration. The group undertook a major restructuring in 2024, shutting 15 unprofitable bars in a bid to turn around its performance, but increased staffing costs and lower consumer spending have continued to challenge the pub trade. The administrators will strive to find a buyer. The group has around 62 sites, including the original five Peach Pubs in Oxfordshire, and employs around 3,000 staff.

**Plumbing ~ Woodworking ~ Restoration ~ Repairs**

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## North Aston News

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