

# NORTH ASTON

# NEWS

June 2026

#428



# NORTH ASTON NEWS

JUNE 2026, No:428

## Useful Contacts

### Marcus Potts - NAPM Chair

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

### Bev Rees, NAPM Treasurer

Telephone: (01869) 347434  
Email: [treasurer@north-aston.co.uk](mailto:treasurer@north-aston.co.uk)

### Annie Savage, NAPM Secretary

Telephone: (01869) 347767  
Email: [secretary@north-aston.co.uk](mailto:secretary@north-aston.co.uk)

### North Aston PCC

Clive Busby, Church Warden. (01869) 340470  
Email: [casb@north-aston.com](mailto:casb@north-aston.com)

### 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  
Email: [cakemaker@btinternet.com](mailto:cakemaker@btinternet.com)

### North Aston Farms

Telephone: (01869) 347888  
Email: [farmoffice@northastonfarms.co.uk](mailto:farmoffice@northastonfarms.co.uk)  
Website: [www.northastonfarms.co.uk](http://www.northastonfarms.co.uk)

### North Aston Farm Shop

Telephone: (01869) 347888  
Email: [team@northastonfarmshop.co.uk](mailto:team@northastonfarmshop.co.uk)  
Website: [www.northastonfarmshop.co.uk](http://www.northastonfarmshop.co.uk)

### North Aston Organics

Telephone: (01869) 347702  
Email: [northastonorganics@gmail.com](mailto:northastonorganics@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.northastonorganics.co.uk](http://www.northastonorganics.co.uk)

### Park Farm House

Telephone: (01869) 349922  
Email: [Staff.ParkFarm@keys-group.co.uk](mailto:Staff.ParkFarm@keys-group.co.uk)

### Nicholson Nurseries

Telephone: (01869) 340342  
Email: [office@nicholsonsgb.com](mailto:office@nicholsonsgb.com)  
Website: [www.nicholsonsgb.com](http://www.nicholsonsgb.com)

### North Aston 100 Club

Sue Hatzigeorgiou. (01869) 347727

### Old Bakery Bookings

Mary Healy. Tel (01869) 347702  
Email: [maryvhealy@googlemail.com](mailto:maryvhealy@googlemail.com)

### Village Marquee Bookings

Niel Nicholson. Tel (01869) 340342 x202  
Email: [niel@nicholsonsgb.com](mailto:niel@nicholsonsgb.com)

### CDC Local Councillor

David Rogers, Deddington  
Telephone: 07900 998555  
Email: [david.rogers@cherwell-dc.gov.uk](mailto:david.rogers@cherwell-dc.gov.uk)

### OCC, Deddington Division Councillor

Gareth Epps, Deddington  
Email: [gareth.epps@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:gareth.epps@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

### 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

*Just a brief introduction, as we're short of space and I've written just about everything else already this month! I can't let May's trial of the traffic calming measures pass by without saying thanks to Howard for co-ordinating the dry-run and collating the many responses. We await the next phase with interest. Similarly, thank you to all the North Aston artists who exhibited their works at the Community Hub for Artweeks. The standard and degree of imagination on display was truly inspiring. Our next focus is the Village Fête (see below), but please do support Mikron on the 18th. Thank you.*

*Marcus*

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

The first Committee Meeting for this year's Fête was staged last month, and was encouragingly well attended. Thank you to everyone who turned up or has since volunteered to help.

It's hoped that this year's Fête will be nearer to its pre-Covid size, and the plans are that it will return to occupy both sides of the lane across the Green. The old canvas marquees will be used again, although it may be a swan-song appearance, depending upon their condition and how easy it proves for the *old guard* to erect them. There are hopes that some of John Harvey-Lee's unique and innovative games can be restored to working condition again. It would be good to see them once more.

The North Aston Fête has always been popular because it is a little out of the ordinary. It has that air of a traditional community event, and there's always been that sense that John Nettles or Neil Dudgeon might be about to walk on set ...

If it's going to be a success, the village needs your help. There's just a month to go, so if you haven't done so already, then please could you start saving the following items:

- **Books** in good condition.
- Good quality **Bric-a-Brac** and second-hand goods.
- Bottles, cans, tins and toys etc for the **Tombola Stalls**.
- Plants for the **Plant Stall**.
- Unwanted **china & crockery** - see below!

We weren't able to stage the previously popular **China Shy** last year - not enough china! Please can you search out any unwanted crockery, especially plates, but anything will do! We could still do with more big prizes for the **Raffle**, which is one of main fund-raisers of the event. If you or the company you work for can offer a suitable prize, please let us know.

Please note: The Bookstall will **NOT** be accepting CDs and DVDs this year. Similarly, the White Elephant is not an excuse for bypassing a trip to Ardley tip. Items need to be in good, as-new condition or genuinely *collectable*.

Towards the end of this month we will be asking for cakes, to go with the teas, such as scones and cup-cakes and also larger cakes to be sold individually. They'll need to be freshly baked in the days before the Fête.

Profits this year will be shared between St Mary's and Village Funds. For further information, please email [info@north-aston.co.uk](mailto:info@north-aston.co.uk) or respond to messages on the village WhatsApp group.



Cover: Summer visitors to a North Aston garden. MP

## Planning

It continues to be a quiet period for planning matters within the village, although there's still much going on nearby. To examine past applications in detail, or check for new ones, search for "North Aston" on the CDC Planning Register web page at [www.planningregister.cherwell.gov.uk/](http://www.planningregister.cherwell.gov.uk/)

## The Constitution

As discussed at the Village Meeting in May (*Minutes on P8*) the Parish Meeting has an updated Constitution. This was distributed to those on the village Mailing List, and outlines the principles by which the Parish Meeting operates. It lists the various "powers" available to it as a representative body under the terms of the Local Government Act, 1972.

The various paragraphs include a *Code of Conduct*, to which the Officers are expected to adhere. If you wish to tip your hat to the new Constitution, it can be found on the Village Matters page of the website: [https://www.north-aston.co.uk/village\\_matters.htm](https://www.north-aston.co.uk/village_matters.htm). This page also includes access to past issues of the North Aston News, going back to January 2011.

## The SRFI

There was mention in last month's issue of the Strategic Rail Freight Interchange, planned for land near Ardley.

The development is deemed to be an infrastructure project of national importance, and as such, any decision relating to its construction will be determined by the Secretary of State for Transport and central government. However, local residents can still have their say, and the online portal for the Planning Inspectorate is now 'open'. To find out more, and to register your interest, please visit this website at: <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk> and enter "Oxfordshire" in the search box.

The primary page includes outline information about the SRFI, and you can then click on links taking you to the detailed planning documents, the developer's website, and the option to be sent updates. The deadline to register is 19 July 2026. Of all the various developments proposed for North Oxfordshire, the SRFI is the one that will have the most profound impact on this area, especially on the roads and infrastructure around Junction 10. Exhibitions were widely staged in 2022, but dates for public hearings and meetings have not yet been announced for this next phase. However, by registering your interest, you will be advised when these opportunities arise. In the meantime, CDC has announced that it does not intend to defend its reasons for refusing the planning applications for the Tritax and Albion developments at Baynard's Green, implying they will be approved on appeal. More next month.



Aunt Sally is proving to be a popular evening activity on the Green, every second Wednesday. Novices and beginners are very welcome. See back page for dates and details.

**TOP OF THE WOLD**  
with **MIKRON**

Thursday 18th June  
North Aston Village Green  
from 7pm

MOBILE LIBRARY

Just bring something to sit on, your own refreshments, and prepare to be informed and entertained!  
Full details from [www.mikron.org.uk](http://www.mikron.org.uk)

No reserved seating or ticket required - A collection will be made after the show

## Mikron on the Green

The Mikron Theatre will be back this month, on Thursday 18th June at 7pm, with an all-new production entitled *Top of the Wold* – a laugh-out-loud quest through a patchwork of culture and community that celebrates the oft-forgotten and wonderfully eccentric enigma that is, was, the Mobile Library. Not to be missed! Bring a picnic and enjoy live theatre.

## It's not too late!

Many thanks to all those who have already returned their 100 Club membership envelopes. If you haven't yet done so, please can you pop yours through the letterbox at Meadow Cottage as soon as possible. If you're not yet a member, there's still time! If you would like to join or know more about the 100 Club, please contact Sue directly on 07887 854708. This could be your chance to win a prize and contribute towards the village - but remember, you have to be in it to win it!

**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?  
Why not try our Veg Box Scheme?  
Fresh vegetables delivered straight to your door!

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

# North Aston Nature Notes

## With Stephen Rees

Woo hoo! Amazing, brilliant — I'm so chuffed, on two accounts. Firstly, I heard a cuckoo yesterday, as did a few others in the village, but secondly, and much more importantly, I heard him before Wendy did! I can't believe it! She always wins these days. You may think it's a small shallow victory, but not in our house it isn't!

For the last week or so it has been snowing in our corner again, despite the baking temperatures. Everywhere is covered in willow blossom from the big tree on the edge of Wendy's garden. It gets everywhere! It's in the house, even somehow inside the living room and bedroom. It even gets into your hair and clothes. It all looks very pretty through the window, but blimey, it makes a right old mess.

Butterflies will soon be abundant, with any luck. I can't wait. I just love them, especially some of the little brown jobs, like the Gatekeeper. It looks like it has a little skull on its wings. Keep an eye open for those, and others, hopefully.

It seems it's been a good couple of months for the deer. I have seen Roe does with their young and, at a garden where Wendy and myself work – well she works, while I just mess about on the quad and mower – we have the tiniest Muntjac fawn. It's grown accustomed to us being around, and just



watches us from the flower beds. It's a delight.

All our migrant birds will be here by now, hopefully. If you want a bit of fun, you can get an App for your phone [listen to me go! I don't even know what IT stands for!] that tells you what

bird is singing. It's really good, and Wendy put it on my phone for me. It's so easy to use. Just turn it on, hold your phone up, and it identifies the bird. It's brilliant.

Needless to mention really, but flipping heck, it was soooo hot during those last days of May. However, don't worry, it can't last. We are going camping in Wales this month, and it always [always] rains when we go away. So, get ready for a cooler period.  
Best for now, *Steve & Wendy*



*Four-spotted Chaser dragonfly spotted by the Lakes.*

Photo: MP

### Tea & Cakes

There will be a fundraising *Tea & Cakes* event at St Mary's Church on the afternoon of Sunday 7th June, from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm. All welcome! Come and catch up with your fellow North Astoners.

There's no charge, but we will collect donations in aid of the Disasters Emergency Committee Gaza Appeal: <https://www.dec.org.uk/appeal/middle-east-humanitarian-appeal>

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



# NORTH ASTON FARMS & DAIRY

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

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

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

**NORTH ASTON FARM SHOP**  
 & Community Hub

**NEW  
 OPENING HOURS!**

THURSDAY - SATURDAY  
**9AM - 6PM**

SUNDAY  
**10AM - 4PM**

FRESH, LOCAL & ORGANIC PRODUCE

THE PEACH BARN, SOMERTON ROAD  
 NORTH ASTON, OX25 6HX

Join our weekly newsletter

Follow us on social media

## North Aston Gardening Club

How are your preparations going for this year's Flower & Produce Show? You don't have to be a member of the Gardening Club to enter, and there are plenty of categories for those without green fingers!

The date for your diary is Saturday 29th August, and entry forms will be attached to next month's issue of the *News*. The Club will especially welcome entries to the floral and cooking categories, which includes baking and preserves.

This year's Show will also see the return of the Photography Competition. Not only will there be the possible honour of being picked as a winner at the show, but all the photographs entered will be considered for next year's Village Calendar. The theme is simply *North Aston*, and photos should have been taken within the last year. Get snapping!

### The Lottie Awaits!

There is still a vacant plot on the village allotment. As well as a chance to grow your own fruit and vegetables, the allotment is also a great place to unwind and allow your mind to wander ... or meet up with others, chat and socialise.

You can choose how much space you want to take on, from a full plot (about the size of a marked-out tennis court) to just a quarter. You can always be sure of help and advice if you need it. The only pre-requisite is that allotmenters must be residents of North Aston.

For further information please contact Tuck on 347727 or email [tuck56h@gmail.com](mailto:tuck56h@gmail.com)

[www.rosara.co.uk](http://www.rosara.co.uk)

**ROSARA**  
 at NICHOLSONS

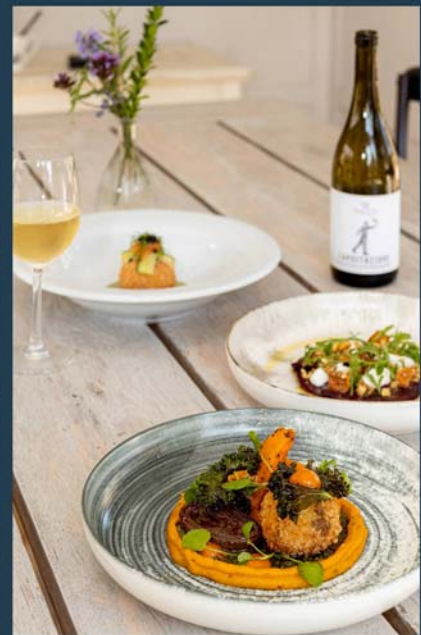
@rosaraatnicholsons



LIFESTYLE



PLANT NURSERY



MICHELIN YURT

Scan the QR for events

Rosara, The Park, North Aston, OX25 6HL

## Traffic Calming

The temporary traffic calming installations arrived last month, and were left in position for a couple of days. Howard Ionascu has since collated together all the various comments and observations received from residents, both verbally and by email or WhatsApp, and created a transcript, which has been submitted to OCC for further consideration. He notes:

I tried to remove authorship, but otherwise the texts submitted were unaltered. There are many comments about the design and style of any permanent structures; this will, of course, be useful to refer back to when any decisions or consensus is required going forward.

However, OCC Highways have asked us to focus in this feedback specifically on how successful the temporary chicanes were on reducing speeding through the village. I have tried to encapsulate the main themes and trends in the points below.

### Themes and trends from the feedback:

- The chicane at the western end of the village was felt to be too far away from the centre of the village to be of any use in slowing speeds. Various observations of cars slowing or stopping to give way for priority traffic, but then immediately speeding up again through the village. It was noted by many that this chicane sat outside of the village 20 mph. (NB. OCC has already begun a conversation about extending the 20 mph towards the Banbury Road). It was felt that it may have had far more effect if it had been positioned closer to the Middle Aston Lane junction. This chicane had little, if any, effect on speeding as a result of its position.
- The chicane in the middle of the village did little to slow traffic given the relatively low traffic volume through North Aston. The very straight nature of the Somerton Road alongside the Green meant that as long as the road was clear in the opposite direction, cars did not slow on approach to the chicane. Many commented and questioned whether it would have had more effect if the chicane had been positioned on the opposite side of the road. And very many comments suggesting it needed to be a staggered build-out on both sides of the road, in an S shape, to make drivers slow down.
- Many questioned why there was no build-out at the eastern/Somerton end of the village. It was felt to be a serious omission as it is a major part of the speeding problem that needs addressing.

### Clarifications:

A number of residents have asked for clarification on two important factors:

1. Is street lighting/illumination required for speed humps given we are in a 20mph zone? (NB. We had been told it was, but Department of Transport advisory leaflet 3/91 states that in 20 mph zones lighting is not required. <https://tsrgd.co.uk/pdf/tal/1991/tal-3-91.pdf>)
2. Please can the suitability of a chicane at the Somerton end of the village be looked at again and measured out.

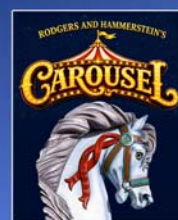
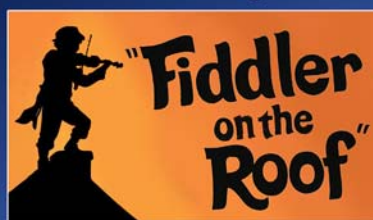
*It is important to stress at this stage that no preferences have been favoured and no decisions made. It has long been agreed that 'something' needs to be done. The funds, through Section 106, are now available. What is needed next is a consensus, drawing upon the experience and advice of those at OCC, and the approval of the majority of residents.*

## Meddlin' with Musicals!

Steeple Aston Choral Society

### A Journey through Broadway and London's West End

featuring numbers from



Saturday 27th June from 7:00 pm

Steeple Aston Village Hall – Tickets £12  
from Margaret Bulleyment – 01869 347346  
[mtheb749@gmail.com](mailto:mtheb749@gmail.com) or the Village Shop

## Local Elections

It seems a distant memory, but the result for the local elections staged on 7th May were as follows:

● Eddie Reeves, Conservative Party	1294
● James Hartley, Liberal Democrats	1173
● Gail Collingwood-Turner, Reform UK	885
● Aaron Bliss, Green Party	333
● Annette Murphy, Labour Party	300

There were 10 rejected ballots. The total electorate is 7649 and the turnout was 52.2%.

Eddie Reeves has been duly re-elected as a representative on Cherwell District Council for the Deddington Ward.

As a consequence of this last round of elections, the balance in CDC has shifted slightly, and of the 48 councillors, there are now 20 Liberal Democrats, 8 Conservative, 8 Labour, 6 Reform, 4 Green and 2 Independent.

**Deddington**  
**ANTIQUES & FLEA MARKET**

4th Sunday of the Month  
10:00 am to 2:30 pm  
Holly Tree Hall, Horse Fair

**Hello again!**

What a glorious spell of weather we've been having (although as usual it's not ideal for the farmers!). I hope everyone has been making the most of it, whether in the garden, out walking, or simply enjoying a bit more time outdoors. I've certainly been trying to spend less time behind a desk and more time getting back into sync with nature's rhythms. A few nights camping under the stars and waking up to birdsong has done wonders. The challenge, of course, is finding a balance between living by the rhythms of nature and the rhythms of the modern world!

Talking of balance, apologies for our unexpected closure towards the end of May. I had a family emergency to deal with at the same time as several major changes behind the scenes, and we decided it was better to close briefly than muddle through. The good news is that we're putting systems and staff in place to make sure the shop is far less dependent on any one person in future.

There are lots of exciting developments on the horizon. We've recently expanded our local team (there are now 8 of us!), have our new opening hours coming into effect (signs still to be updated) and have a packed programme of events planned throughout the summer, including our *Summer Gathering*, monthly *Open Mic Nights*, *Summer Feast*, concerts and (hopefully!) a barn dance. Details of all events can be found on our website at northastonfarmshop.co.uk, along with our newsletter and social media pages where I'll be sharing much more over the coming weeks.

One of the highlights of recent weeks has been hosting **Oxfordshire Artweeks**. The conversations it sparked were every bit as inspiring as the artwork itself. People from all walks of life, all ages and all backgrounds gathered to share stories, ideas and perspectives. After the first weekend I was so inspired that I moved my camp bed into the loft for a few nights simply to spend more time with the exhibition and absorb it all.



While you're visiting, do take a look at the original 1812 map of the North Aston estate, kindly loaned by James Taylor and now hanging on the staircase. It offers a fascinating glimpse into the history of our village and has completely changed the way I look at the surrounding landscape.

Finally, keep an eye out for our new Purple Door Challenge — a village-wide treasure hunt with prizes of up to £350 of farm shop produce. Details will be available in the shop and will be on the WhatsApp group shortly too.

As always, the best way to find out what's happening is to pop in for a coffee and a chat. I look forward to seeing many of you over the summer.

Nick



**New Opening Hours**

Since last month, opening days now include Thursdays and opening hours are: Thursday, Friday & Saturday: 9am – 6pm and Sunday: 10am – 4pm. See advert on Page 5.

**What's Coming Up**

Upcoming events at North Aston Farm Shop and Community Hub this month include:

- ★ Sunday 14th June – *Summer Gathering* (meet local producers, tastings, community gathering, ice cream, etc.)
- ★ Thursday 18th June – *Open Mic Night* (monthly event, full bar available)
- ★ Friday 26th June – *Summer Feast*
- ★ Sunday 28th June - *Slow Sunday Craft Morning*

Provisional events for next month include: a Barn Dance, originally planned for earlier in the month but running behind schedule, and further concerts and live music events planned throughout the summer.

**Inspired by Art**

If you visited the Hub last month, and were inspired by the contemporary art on display, then head for Compton Verney in Warwickshire. The art collection there is equally uplifting, and is often supplemented by new and temporary exhibitions. Elizabeth Harvey-Lee photographed this drawing of a Spaniel by the artist Adriaen van der Werff (1657–1722) from the exhibition of Dutch and Flemish masterpieces entitled *Bruegel to Rembrandt*. Selected from the collection of the Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium, the exhibition runs until 28th June. <https://www.comptonverney.org.uk>



---

# North Aston Village Meeting & AGM

Tuesday 12th May 2026 ~ The Minutes

**Officers present:** Marcus Potts, Chair (MP), Bev Rees, Treasurer (BR), Annie Savage, Secretary (AS).

**Those present:** Dave Hanna (DH), Franca Potts (FP), Julie Al Nugaidi (JAN) Sue Hatz (SH), James Taylor (JT), Trudy Busby (TB), Clive Busby (CB), Tony Rees (TR), Jeremy Taylor (JTT) Mark Stay (MS), Councillor Gareth Epps (GE, OCC), Councillor David Rogers (DR, CDC). Apologies: Mary Healey, Les Parry, Jan Liberadski, Stephen Walters.

---

**1. Welcome.** MP welcomed everyone to the meeting and reiterated that there was requirement for a Parish Meeting AGM to be held between March and June every year.

---

## North Aston Parish Meeting

---

### 2. Election of Officers

As the previous committee had stepped down prior to the AGM, it had been necessary for those present at the December 2025 meeting to elect Officers to form a Committee until the AGM. MP confirmed the current Officers were willing to stand again and asked if there were any nominations or volunteers for the positions of Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. As none was forthcoming, the meeting was asked to approve the Committee appointments. A vote was taken as undenoted:

Marcus Potts in the role of Chair.

Proposer JTT. Seconded by TB.

Bev Rees as Treasurer.

Proposer JAN. Seconded by TB.

Annie Savage as Secretary.

Proposer FP. Seconded by DH

No objections were raised and the elections were approved.

### 3. Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the AGM held on 9th January 2025 were published in the *North Aston News* (February 2025) and approved in the Meeting held on Monday 14th April 2025.

The Minutes of the Parish Meeting held in December 2025 were published in the *January News* and discussed at the Meeting on 17th February, and approved subject to one amendment, requested by MS, relating to the continued relevance for the village to discuss local projects in the surrounding area. MP confirmed the amendment had been carried out, approved by MS and the formal record amended on line. No further amendments required.

### 4. Treasurer's Report

BR presented the financial report to the meeting which detailed the income and expenditure from 01.04.25 to 31.03.26. The Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR) required approval. Due to our size as a Parish Meeting, we are not required to have the accounts formally examined by an external auditor and Niel Nicholson in his capacity as Financial Director inspected and approved them. They will be uploaded to the Village website and displayed on the village notice board for a period of 2 weeks.

MP explained the position with regard to the precept. As we are required to submit a request to CDC annually in January, there is a degree of uncertainty about the accuracy of the level required in relation to costs for the forthcoming period. The Insurance premium and other costs had been higher than budgeted so going forward we will need to make up the shortfall via the Precept for 2027.

### 5. Constitution

MP thanked AS for her work updating the Constitution. The document had been sent out to village residents and no comments had been received but MP explained this was a working document and should anyone require further explanation or request amendments, this may be done by giving 14 days notice prior to a Parish Meeting and the issue will be debated and voted upon and any amendments agreed amended accordingly.

AS explained that much of the document was about procedure but the most relevant parts were the *Code of Conduct* and the limits on permitted activities contained in Appendix 1. She noted that during the handover to the previous Committee, all documentation, including the Constitution, had been provided in paper copies to the new Officers which were subsequently lost but it is now felt that all relevant documents shall be stored online and newly appointed Officers shall be required to sign to acknowledge receipt.

JTT asked for clarification around amendments and MP reaffirmed the position on review. He asked for a vote to adopt the new Constitution. Proposed by FP. Seconded by DH. No objections.

### 6. Bus Shelter

JT asked if the item could be moved up the agenda and MP agreed as this falls within the remit of the Parish Meeting.

At previous Meetings the siting of the bus shelter on the southbound carriageway of the A4260 had been discussed as it currently requires repair and poses a danger to traffic leaving the village due to obstructed vision. David Bellchamber at OCC has confirmed the layby to the north (Deddington side) belongs to North Aston Farms and the layby to the south is mainly on land belonging to OCC, although part of it is also on NA Farm Land. OCC would be willing to resurface and mark up the layby subject to agreement from NA Farms. It was agreed that a meeting between NA Farms/ NA Parish Meeting/ Duns Tew PC and OCC shall be held shortly to progress. MP agreed to organise.

TR questioned the condition and work required to make the bus shelter useable and suggested this did not need to be an expensive project, particularly as we do not have the funds in the Parish Meeting account.

The AGM ended at 19.30 pm

---

## North Aston Village Forum

---

Minutes of Meeting Held at The Old Bakehouse, 12.05.26, starting at 7.30 pm

### 1. Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 19th February 2026 were published in the March edition of the *North Aston News*. These were deemed to have been an accurate representation of the Meeting, and approved unanimously.

### 2. Treasurer's Report

BR presented the Financial Report to the Meeting which detailed the income and expenditure from 01.04.25 to 31.03.26. JTT asked for a reminder of the details relating to the scam and Bev confirmed that although we had been tricked out of £1,400 by scammers, NatWest had refunded all but £100 of the sum. BR confirmed that CW and SW had followed up the matter with *Report Fraud*. This is one of the reasons that the Constitution now includes an additional layer of approval in relation to financial matters. The Chair and Secretary, in addition to the Treasurer must approve expenditure prior to payments being made.

Although the last Forum Meeting approved the purchase of two new gazebos, it was decided to delay the purchase in light of possible financial requirements for a new bus shelter and other items. MP asked for a vote to approve the Treasurer's Report. Proposed by MS. Seconded by CB. No objections.

### 3. Constitution

Although the Village Forum is not an Incorporated or Statutory body, the current Officers believe it would be good practise to have a similar document in place to the Parish Meeting Constitution. The Officers propose to create a Constitution for the Forum and present it to the village in due course.

*At this point, Cllr Gareth Epps (OCC) and Cllr David Rogers (CDC) joined the meeting.*

### Councillors' Contribution

Cllr Epps updated the meeting on activities within CDC. There have been various changes within the Council including the resignation of the Leader and his own promotion to Cabinet for which the meeting congratulated him. He proceeded to give the following updates in relation to the village and the district.

- Traffic Calming – the dates for testing the layout of temporary chicanes through the village have been confirmed as 18th and 19th of May.
-

- The Strategic Rail Freight Interchange (SRFI) has been declared a Nationally Structured Infrastructure Project (NSIP) which means it bypasses normal local planning requirements and passes decisions to the Government for approval by the Secretary of State. CDC are awaiting the date for comments to be made available by the Local Authority and general public.
- The large pothole on the way to Somerton has been approved for repair and Cllr Epps continues to be a Fix-my-Street *Super User* and reports all potholes he comes across.
- JTT asked for an update on the water leakage damage by The Lodge and Cllr Epps agreed he would investigate the position.

Cllr Rodgers thanked everybody at the meeting who took part by voting in the recent elections. He confirmed that he had forwarded news from the District Council to MP who confirmed he would be including the relevant items on the NA News.

- JTT asked for an update on the work required to make good the damage caused by the recent works by Thames Water when working at the pumping station on the way to Deddington. Both Cllr Epps and Cllr Rodgers confirmed they would raise the matter with OCC.

A brief discussion was held regarding the forthcoming monitoring of the traffic calming measures. MP thanked Howard Ionescu for his continued work on this project and asked for volunteers. Cllr Epps mentioned it was essential to let everyone in the village know so they were able to comment on any impact they might experience. A number of people volunteered to assist with the observation exercise.

- Cllr Epps reported that in the context of Heyford Park, the traffic report had not taken into account the impact of increased traffic through the areas surrounding Heyford Park and this included North Aston and Somerton. He emphasised the need for us to carry out regular recording of vehicle numbers driving through the village and MP confirmed he would examine the speed monitor devices to interrogate numbers. Cllr Epps said a major study/consultation on infrastructure was imminent.

MP read out an email from Stephen Walters asking how near we might be to OCC extending the current 20 mph speed limit closer to Peach Barns. He also expressed his support for reducing the overall limit between Somerton and Duns Tew to 40 mph.

MP then read out a note from Jan Liberadski asking that OCC consider the addition of white lines to the road between the village and Peach Barns to provide a safer designated pathway for pedestrians. He too requested a reduction in the limit to The Fox crossroads, either to 40 mph or, preferably, 30 mph.

Cllr Epps confirmed he would request a visit from OCC Highways.

*Cllrs Epps & Rodgers left the meeting following thanks from MP*

#### 4. Mid-Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan

MP informed the meeting that a letter had been received from Martin Lipson, Chair of MCNP Forum, explaining that now the SRFI has become a project of National Government interest, MCNP aims to set up a fighting fund via which any objections or challenges to the development may be funded. He has written to all parishes asking for a donation to be held by MCNP.

A discussion took place around the relevance of this in light of it being a NSIP, as any challenge to the Government was likely to be disregarded and, further, how far would a small fund go when legal fees are so high. MP confirmed he had personally considered the advantages and disadvantages to the scheme but the Meeting felt that in reality we as a village would have little say in the matter.

As MP intends to accompany JT to the next MCNP meeting, SH suggested the most effective way of understanding the value to North Aston would be to ask further questions of Martin Lipson and report back to the Village Forum.

#### 5. Village Fête

TR and MP agreed to organise a Fête Committee and a meeting date was set. Discussion focussed on the erection of the marquees. MP said in order to sell them, if we decide to do so, we would need to erect them to check for condition and take photographs. MS was very clear about the Health & Safety risk concerns and it was agreed this requires careful management. MP asked JTT and JT if they had any objection to the erection of the marquees on the section previously used, to the trimming of some of the lower branches of overhanging trees, and to mowing in the relevant areas. CB confirmed the mowing was in order and the request was approved.

#### 6. Fundraising

MP advised that there is a need to raise additional funds for the Forum as the level currently held has reduced significantly. The village had received a letter from Vicky Taylor on behalf of the PCCC thanking the village for the donation to the Church from the 2025 fête and MP asked the meeting if the arrangement should continue at the same level this year. A consensus was reached that a 50/50 share should be continued as the Church is in need of funds, particularly in respect of the disabled access.

The Committee had discussed possibilities for fundraising opportunities, including:

- i A Village Quiz
- ii Supper Evening
- iii Village Christmas cards
- iv A Calendar
- v A Barn Dance

MP asked for people to consider other options. Niel and Liz Nicholson have been exceptionally generous in allowing the village to make use of the Orchard Barn and MP said he would speak to Niel about how they felt about future use, particularly in light of increased usage by Nicholsons and changed access arrangements.

JTT said he felt if we had a defined project and specific fundraising target, it becomes easier to raise funds.

The question of a Harvest Lunch or Supper was raised but no conclusion was reached.

#### 7. Mikron

MP reminded the meeting that the Mikron Theatre Company is returning in June and agreement was reached that the position of the performance area would be moved to make the best use of light, as last year the audience were facing into the setting sun. MS offered to organise signs etc on the day. AS confirmed she would help.

#### 8. Defibrillator

MS confirmed he checked the equipment regularly and had spare batteries. The question of a refresher training was raised and SH said she would speak to Tuck with a view to he and Sarah Godwin arranging a refresher event.

#### 9. AOB

1. MS said he just wanted to raise with the Meeting the subject of a **Resilience Plan**, and asked people if they feel it might be relevant. It was agreed that this would be raised at the next Meeting.
2. **Granite setts** – MP will contact Gigaclear for an update on the replacement of those damaged or loosened during the recent cabling work
3. A brief discussion was held about the **footpath** to the Farm Shop at Peach Barns, as it is such a hazard to walk along the main road. TR felt the verge and overgrown shrubbery could be cleared to create enough room and will report back

#### 10. Date of next Meeting

The next Meeting was set for Thursday 17th September at 7pm.



*A view across Banbury's Ground toward Ram Spinney — a scene that may not have changed much since the map of 1812 was created. A detail is shown on Page 7, while the whole map can be viewed in the Community Hub. Photo by Wendy Sinclair.*

---

## The Year in Retrospect

Our local Cherwell District Councillor, David Rogers, takes a close interest in the communities he serves, and regularly attends our Parish Meetings. He is your go-to if you have any concerns or issues relating to Council business, and his contact details are always on Page 2.

He has recently produced his *Summary* of district council matters for the last year, 2025-2026.

---

I wish to begin this with mention of the tragic incident at Bicester Motion, where lives were lost in a fire. This event cast a long shadow across the district and prompted expressions of condolence and recognition of the emergency services' response.

Alongside this, planning pressures were intensifying. Developments demonstrated a recurring pattern: where neighbourhood plans were in some way insufficient, planning decisions increasingly favoured developers under the "tilted balance" of national policy.

At the same time, major strategic proposals began to emerge, most notably the Botley West Solar Farm, a scheme of national significance with the potential to become the largest in Europe. This reflected a shift in the scale of development affecting the district, moving beyond local housing into nationally significant infrastructure.

The Cherwell Local Plan progressed toward submission, with the plan prepared for Full Council approval. This marked an important milestone. During this period, concerns grew around infrastructure provision, particularly for me surrounding primary care. The ability of the Integrated Care Board (ICB) effectively to utilise Section 106 funding remains woeful.

By late summer the Local Plan had been submitted for inspection. Applications such as the Milcombe development and the Oxford United stadium highlighted both the volume and complexity of decisions being taken.

A significant financial risk emerged with the Government's announcement of a full business rates reset. While Cherwell had historically benefited from strong business growth, this change was expected to place additional pressure on council finances. By autumn 2025, the scale and intensity of development pressures had increased significantly. Major proposals including Heyford Park, the rail freight interchange, large-scale warehousing, and the Puy du Fou theme park collectively highlighted the cumulative impact of growth across the district.

This period also saw recognition that parish and town councils were often under-resourced when responding to complex planning applications. In response, a motion was advanced and later approved to provide training, guidance, and dedicated planning support to local councils, strengthening their ability to engage in the planning process.

Environmental and infrastructure challenges also became more visible. The discovery of a large illegal landfill site in Kidlington raised serious concerns regarding environmental risk, cost, and accountability, with uncertainty over funding and responsibility for remediation.

Transformation within the council itself was underway. Initiatives included digital and IT modernisation, service redesign, and collaboration with neighbouring authorities, alongside preparations for wider local government reorganisation and devolution.

By December, financial pressures had become more acute. The council launched a budget consultation for 2026–27,

identifying a range of savings proposals to address funding shortfalls. Underlying these financial challenges was a broader structural issue: the anticipated reduction in income from business rates and the withdrawal of national funding streams.

Primary care infrastructure emerged as a critical concern. Despite ongoing housing growth, there remain significant barriers to delivering new GP facilities. Evidence highlighted the complexity of the funding and delivery model and limited engagement from NHS bodies. A key concern was the length of time required to deliver new facilities, with some projects taking up to a decade.

At the start of 2026, planning decisions reflected a more assertive stance from the council, with several major applications refused by the planning committee. However, these decisions also exposed limitations within the system. There was little flexibility to redirect developer contributions toward locally identified priorities such as environmental improvements or traffic mitigation. Similarly, options to use planning mechanisms to address issues like heavy goods vehicle movements remained constrained.

The Local Plan examination process began in February and structural issues within the planning system became more apparent. Concerns were raised about Section 106 agreements, including the use of "mortgagee in possession" clauses, which could result in the loss of affordable housing when developers encountered financial difficulties.

By March approximately 300 planning applications were under consultation. Additional committee meetings were scheduled to manage this workload and avoid delays in decision-making. National policy also began to reshape planning. Proposals to require referral to the Secretary of State for refusals of large developments indicated a potential shift toward greater central government involvement in local planning decisions.

Local government reform and devolution progressed, with plans to move toward a mayoral strategic authority. However, questions remained about governance, funding, and the extent of local democratic oversight.

The future of Heyford Park remained uncertain. It was not selected as a new town, but it continued to progress as a large-scale development, raising further concerns about infrastructure provision and cumulative impact.

For me, Primary Care remains a significant unresolved issue. Funding secured for healthcare infrastructure was limited relative to housing growth, contributions per dwelling were well below potential levels, and the ICB had not brought forward funding requests for new facilities in many years. This highlighted a systemic disconnect between development and service provision, with no clear mechanism to ensure delivery of essential infrastructure.

It's been a busy year and I hope this give a flavour of what has been going on. I've been to Westminster to lobby. As Chair of Overview and Scrutiny I've had the chance to direct the work program to focus on infrastructure delivery. As a member of the planning committee, I've ensured that every penny that should be going to Primary Care does and also that the views of this Ward are heard. As a member of the Full Council I've brought a number of motions to support the rural communities and to benefit us all. And I've attended as many Parish Council meetings and site meeting as I can to offer my support. Parish Councils are the absolute bedrock of local democracy and the work done at grassroots is so vitally personal and important that you all deserve respect and gratitude.

*David Rogers*

david.rogers@cherwell-dc.gov.uk – Tel: 07900 998555



# The Church MATTERS



## Fuelling the Mind

June sees the official start to summer (although BST began at the end of March) and it is good that the weather seems to have caught on and is warming up. I even managed, a few weeks ago, to get out on my bike in shorts!

Whenever I'm riding I have to think carefully about how I'm going to fuel the ride. For long easy rides I take a pack of fig rolls. For shorter but more intense rides I add sugar to my drinks, as it's easier for the body to absorb it on the go. We also think carefully about the food we eat when we are wanting to 'watch' our weight, counting calories and ensuring that we have the right balance of carbohydrates, proteins and nutrients.

With the war in Iran, the blockade of the Straits of Hormuz, and the resulting increase in fuel prices, we are thinking more carefully about the fuel we put in our cars, and how often we use them. Whilst we may think about the food that fuels our bodies and the petrol/diesel for our motor vehicles, how often do we think about what we put into our minds and souls?

We know that getting outside, for a walk or gardening, can massively improve our emotional well-being. The digital environment that we are surrounded by equally can have an impact on our emotional well-being. The sharp increase in mental health issues from 2012 is linked to the advent of smart phones which many of us now carry.

The BBC, in May, ran two articles highlighting the dangers of misleading information on social media (self titled 'baby sleep experts' who were giving false and dangerous advice, and 'AI generated weight loss professionals' who were setting unrealistic expectations). The difficulty is discerning what information is real and trustworthy.

At the end of May, as a church, we celebrated the outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on everyone. One of the roles of the Holy Spirit is to help us discern the 'Truth' especially of God. At his Last Supper, Jesus referred to the Holy Spirit as the *Spirit of Truth* when he was promising his disciples that they wouldn't be left alone. The Holy Spirit, which is open to everyone, gives us Peace, Power and Purpose.

God's Peace is knowing that we are loved for who we are (having peace with ourselves), which leads to peace between us and others because we are secure in who we are.

God's Power enables us to stand up for what is right, giving us the courage and confidence to share God's love with the wider world. This can be like on the first day of Pentecost when the disciples were suddenly able to speak to the crowds gathered in Jerusalem in a variety of languages.

God has a purpose and a plan for each one of us and the Holy Spirit helps us to know and fulfil that purpose. In a jigsaw no two pieces are alike, each one has its own unique place and purpose and without all of the pieces the jigsaw is incomplete.

This month I invite you to consider giving your digital environment an annual MOT. Take a moment to think about what you would change for your digital environment to reflect your priorities perfectly.

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 on **01869 932224**  
or by email: **harriet.sntchurch@gmail.com**.



## Church Services in June 2026

NORTH ASTON	S.ASTON	TACKLEY
<b>Sunday June 7th</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 June 14th</b>		
9:30 am Morning Prayer	11:00 am Family Service	5:30 pm Holy Communion
<b>Sunday June 21st</b>		
9:30 am Holy Communion	11:00 am Holy Communion	5:30 pm Evensong
<b>Sunday June 28th</b>		
9:30 am Morning Prayer	11:00 am Morning Prayer	9:30 am Family Communion
<b>Sunday July 5th</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)

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.

## Announcements

### Deddington Farmers' Market

The next Farmers' Market will be on Saturday 27th June from 9 am to 12:20 pm. It seems likely that the roadworks will still be making access and parking difficult, so please use the parking area behind Orchard House in Hopcraft Lane. Postcode OX15 OTD and W3W ///: guests.gliding.astounded.

### Dog Walking Service

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

### Road Closures

While Thames Water's disruption of Deddington continues, although is nearing conclusion, most of the scheduled closures around the area have now been completed. At the time of writing, top-dressing the A4260 dual carriageway has just been done, and Fir Lane in Middle Aston has re-opened.

Water Street in Somerton will be closed between 22nd and 24th June, 09:30 to 15:30 each day, for repairs to a damaged culvert. Roadworks continue at the Bicester end of the Middleton Stoney road (near Bicester Village) for the rest of the summer. A little further afield, the A40 is scheduled for a week of night-time closures this month while a sliproad is completed near Witney.

### Have you had your Weetafix?

The year's premier show for the nation's arable farmers, *Cereals 2026*, takes place on June 10th and 11th from 8 am to 6 pm daily at Jeremy Clarkson's farm, Diddly Squat, near Chipping Norton. This is the UK's flagship event for arable growers. For full details visit: <https://www.thecerealsevent.co.uk/>

### Meddlin' with Musicals

Steeple Aston Choral Society presents a Summer Concert on Saturday 27 June from 7.00pm in Steeple Aston Village Hall. Classic numbers from some of the best-loved musicals, with opportunities to sing along! Bar with wine, beer, soft drinks and nibbles. Table seating. Tickets £12 from Margaret Bullement, 01869 347346, [mtheb749@gmail.com](mailto:mtheb749@gmail.com) or the village shop.

### Deddington Open Gardens

The Friends of Deddington Church will be organising a special Garden Open Day on 21st June, between 2 and 5 pm. Ten of the village's best gardens will be opening their gates to visitors. Tickets £10, with map, from the Church on the day.



May winners were:

1st Prize (£10): Tony Rees (#26)

2nd Prize (£5): Jocelyn Aziz (#32)

Congratulations! See feature above for more information.

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



## June Birthdays

Andy Brown  
Adam Busby  
Sebastian Fuoco  
Connie & Archie Honess  
Rourdon Jolly  
Sue Hatzigeorgiou  
Elizabeth Harvey-Lee  
Alex Hatzigeorgiou



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!

This month's gatherings will be on the 10th and 24th June, starting at 7 pm. Check the village WhatsApp group for updates. Bring along a bottle of beer or a glass of wine, maybe some nibbles, and come fling a stick!

**Plumbing ~ Woodworking ~ Restoration ~ Repairs**

**Outbuildings & Sheds Repaired & Renovated**

**Stephen Rees**  
*Handy Man*

**Hand Tools Sharpened ~ Power Washing**

**Call: 07531 978077**

**Email: [stephen.rees@north-aston.co.uk](mailto:stephen.rees@north-aston.co.uk)**

**Man with a Van ~ House Clearances ~ Fully Insured**

## North Aston News

The *North Aston News* is edited by Marcus Potts and designed and produced by CMC Graphics. It is 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 electronic edition is also 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. Contributions are welcome, which need to be in an electronic format (except Classifieds and Announcements, which may be hand written). To submit an item please email: [info@north-aston.co.uk](mailto:info@north-aston.co.uk). All images should be at the highest possible resolution. The Editor strives to adhere to the Editors' Code of Practice, and reserves the right to amend or modify content, where appropriate, and to express editorial control. All content is copyright the original author and/or CMC Graphics. © 2026.

Advertising is welcome. If you wish to place a Display or Classified advert in the *News*, please request a rate card by email: [info@north-aston.co.uk](mailto:info@north-aston.co.uk)