

NORTH ASTON NEWS

JUNE 2012

No: 260



Don't miss the

Jubilee Big Lunch

On the Village Green
Sunday June 3rd 2012, from 12:30 pm
Followed by Games, Entertainment & Afternoon Tea

The central image features a circular coat of arms with a crown, a lion, and a unicorn, flanked by two Union Jack flags. The coat of arms is set against a blue background with a gold border. The entire scene is framed by ornate, golden scrollwork and floral motifs, including pink flowers and green leaves.

NORTH ASTON NEWS

JUNE 2012, No: 260

Useful Contacts

North Aston News

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North Aston Gardening Club

Chris Tuffrey, Chairman. See above.

North Aston Pet Alert

Please notify of any Firework Parties

Deirdre Oakley: Tel (01869) 340646

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North Aston Farms

Telephone: (01869) 347865 or 347888

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North Aston Organics

Telephone: (01869) 347702

Email: northastonorganics@gmail.com

Nicholson Nurseries

Telephone: (01869) 340342

Email: office@nicholsonsgb.com

North Aston 100 Club

Norman West. Tel (01869) 340368

CDC Local Councillor

James Macnamara, Lower Heyford

Telephone: (01869) 340109

Email: cllr.james.macnamara@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

Thames Valley Police non-emergency

Telephone: 101

Out of Hours Doctor

Telephone: 08453 458 995

Upcoming Events

Coffee Morning

There will be no coffee morning this month.

Big Jubilee Lunch

Sunday 3rd June on the Green, from 12:30 pm.

Mill Open Garden

Tuesday 5th June. 2:00 pm, North Aston Mill

Gardening Club Meeting

Wednesday 20th June. 7:30pm, Nether Cottage

Village Hall Forum

The next Forum meeting will be on July 9th.



CHAIRMAN Chewing the Cud

June is upon us and one minute it feels like an arctic winter and the next we are being told that we are getting higher temperatures than Greece. Let's hope that this coming Bank Holiday weekend is at least rain-free for the Jubilee celebrations.

Talking of which, you will see later in the newsletter that there are a number of events being staged this coming weekend.

Could we have a working party to help erect the marquees and collect tables and chairs on the Green, meeting at 5.00pm on Saturday evening in readiness for the Big Lunch on Sunday. If it doesn't rain, and the canvas stays dry, a similar group will be needed on Monday from 10:00am to take them all down again!

Last Saturday night saw a large slice of France brought to North Aston. Our second event of the year was held in Peach Pubs Barn. Many thanks to them for allowing us to use their fantastic facilities.

I know that everyone who attended will agree that we had an absolutely fantastic evening. Under the experienced eye of Franca we had food and ambiance that would have graced any five star restaurant. Eat your heart out Le Manoir aux Quat' Saisons. A BIG THANK YOU, to Franca, Bev Rees for preparing the food. Our two "Musical Medics", Lynn and Fiona, who created a Parisian atmosphere with their music. We must not forget our Maitre-d', Marcus - hidden talents all round. Finally anyone else I have not mentioned who helped to make the evening a huge success. Last but not least, all those who turned up on the Sunday morning to help clear up.

The speed monitor has been returned after being repaired and it has not cost the Village a single penny. It would appear that there should have been two drain holes drilled in the bottom of the casing to allow water to escape. These were not present so Radar-Lux renewed the monitor free of charge.

Don't forget the Big Jubilee Lunch and the Gardening Club Plant Sale this coming Sunday. I'll look forward to seeing you all there. Have a Happy June.

Chris Tuffrey

You can call me by telephone on **07903 339155**, send me an email: info@offac.co.uk, or just knock on the door at Gilmore's, The Green.



The lucky winners
of the May Draw were:

First Prize (£10): Joyce Morley (#10)

Second Prize (£5): Franca Potts (#100)

100 Club

If you think that's lucky, then perhaps you should be taking part! If you're not currently a member and would like to join the North Aston 100 Club, now's the time to do it. Please call Norman on 340368 to reserve your number.



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



Mail to: info@north-aston.co.uk

What a Great Evening!!!!!!

The French Supper Evening on Saturday (26th May) was fantastic. I would be very surprised if I was not speaking for everyone there when I say how impressed I was by the fabulous food, professional catering and great ambience created by Franca, Bev, Fiona, Lynn and Marcus.

I had a great evening and thank you all.

Eileen Gilmore

Faster Broadband on the Way!

Jan Liberadzki has written to tell us that he found a press release hidden away on the BT website entitled: *Faster broadband for another 6,000 Oxfordshire homes and businesses*. The piece says that BT will be rolling out a programme of faster broadband connections to another 6000 rural homes in Oxfordshire, and the next three exchanges to be upgraded are Burford, Checkendon (where?!!) and Steeple Aston. Work will begin in the Spring of 2013.

The upgrade will see the installation of new copper-based cabling that will allow connection speeds of up to 20 megabits per second. Here in North Aston we are currently lucky to achieve about 3.5 megabits (download) and 400 kb (upload), so the investment by BT will have significant advantages for those of us at the far extremes of the Steeple Aston exchange. Even so, we are still unlikely to see that full 20 meg connection. Copper cabling is a welcome improvement, but is still only one step up from the current system, and speeds will fall far short of those achievable using the latest fibre optic systems . . . but beggars can't be choosers.

If you want to check your own connection speed, visit this website: www.speedtest.net and click on the "Begin Test" button. It would be very helpful if you could let us know your result by emailing the News: info@north-aston.co.uk.

North Aston Emails

Would you like a North Aston email address? You can have your own @north-aston.co.uk email address, and there's just a nominal charge of £5 per year! Simply drop us a note stating your preferred choice of 'name', and we will send you full details on how to set up your unique email address. The preferred format is: firstname.surname@north-aston.co.uk, and proceeds will go towards Village Funds.

The Jubilee Big Lunch

The Big Lunch this year will be on Sunday, 3rd June. It is with regret that Nigel and Miranda Doggett have had to change their plans and cannot now invite us all round for a pre-lunch drink at the Old Vicarage. This will now happen later in the year. However, the lunch is definitely ON!

Full details on Page 5

Please come along and join the celebrations!

The April draw was the last in the previous year for the North Aston 100 Club, and saw the awarding of the "Big Prize" of £100. This month sees the first draw of the new "season", but it's not too late to join.

100 Club



If you haven't yet renewed an existing membership, please return your membership fee to Norman West in the envelope he provided last month. Don't worry if you've lost it - just call Norman on 340368. Likewise, if you do not wish to continue, please let him now.

We really do need some new members if the 100 Club is to be a complete success. Anyone who hasn't taken part before, but would like to join, should contact Norman. You can also enrol a relative or friend as a member.



Annual membership is just £5, with the chance to win any one (or more!) of the following prizes:

12x £5 prizes ~ 8x £10 prizes
3x £25 prizes ~ 1x £100 prize

Call Norman on 340368



Bringing better broadband to Oxfordshire

The OxOnline programme was set up to take advantage of the government's Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) initiative, which provides funding to help councils improve broadband access where it is currently lacking.

The OxOnline programme's aims are to help deliver broadband speeds of up to 24Mb to wide areas of the county and bring significant improvements to the rest of Oxfordshire by the end of 2015.

Find out more at www.oxonline.co.uk

Have your say

OxOnline wants the people and businesses of Oxfordshire to register their demand for better broadband so they can show that there is an active demand for better connectivity. Importantly, this will also help in delivering the OxOnline programme, furthering the business case when we talk to broadband suppliers.

You can complete this survey in less than five minutes at our website www.oxonline.co.uk

Completing the Survey

By completing the survey you agree to allow Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) to hold and process all the information you provide to produce statistical information for the OxOnline programme. This statistical information will not identify you personally and it will be used by private sector broadband service providers to assess the commercial viability of broadband infrastructure investment and services. Please DO NOT proceed if you DO NOT agree to your information being used in this way.

Not online?

If you don't have an Internet connection, but would like to have your say, please ask for a printed version of the questionnaire. Phone 347356 or call in at two School Cottages.

Adverts

BabySitting Service

Mature and responsible 16 year-old available for babysitting.
Please contact **Yvie** on 01869 340090

Need a Baby Sitter ?

Responsible baby sitting service available most evenings, including weekends. Also dog walking.

Phone **Josh** on 01869 347356 anytime

Computer Problems Solved

Look no further for a reliable computer repair and maintenance service. We'll remove viruses, fix hardware failures, boost the performance of your PC, or tackle a broad range of tasks.

Phone 07522 342093 or visit the website at

www.naenterprise.co.uk

Help make the community safer today

If you have any information about a crime, call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or visit the website at

www.crimestoppers-uk.org

North Aston Social Club

2012 Calendar of Events

June

3rd North Aston Big Lunch & Jubilee Celebration

July

21st Village Fête & Evening Barbecue

26th Mikron Theatre Company

August

TBC Mid-Summer Event (To be arranged)

September

1st Flower & Produce Show (Green)

2nd Stately Home Car Boot Sale (Green)

October

TBC Harvest Supper (Nicholsons Barn)

28th Halloween Barn Dance & Barbecue
(Licensed Bar & Fancy Dress)

November

TBC Medieval Banquet (Nicholsons Barn)
(Period Dress, Licensed Bar & Auction)

December

TBC Village Quiz Night (Licensed Bar)

Full details of every event will be advertised in the News in the months prior to each event.

Announcements

This Month's BIRTHDAYS

Andy Brown

Adam Busby

Alex Hatzigeorgiou

Tilly Kneale



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.

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 veg at affordable prices
- Minimal packaging & zero food miles
- Supporting the local economy



Too busy?
Why not try our Veg Box Scheme - Fresh vegetables delivered to your door.

Email: northastonorganics@gmail.com

Tel: (01869) 347702



The
Jubilee Big Lunch

*Will Take Place on the Village Green
Sunday June 3rd 2012*

~
*Gather for a Welcome Drink at 12:30 pm
followed by a Bring & Share Lunch from 1:00 pm
Games & Entertainment & Afternoon Tea*

Everyone is invited to get together on the Village Green to celebrate the
Queen's Diamond Jubilee

A welcome drink will be served from around 12:30 pm as people gather
for a big Bring & Share lunch, starting at 1:00pm.

Please supply your own Main Course, Drinks, Cutlery, Glasses & China
and bring along a Dessert to Share and something for Tea!



Beryl and David
cordially invite all North Astonians
to join with them
at The Coach House, St. Mary's Walk, North Aston
on Saturday 16th June, 2012
between 4.00pm and 7.00pm
to celebrate their Golden Wedding

Your presence please not presents, but if you feel you would like to make a small donation to the St. Mary's Church Window Restoration Fund, that would be most welcome.

RSP

Tel: 01869-40122

North Aston Gardening Club

The May meeting was held on Wednesday 23rd, and there was a very good turnout with ten members attending.

The subject of the different seed companies was raised and I pointed out that we only used Dobies because of the very good discounts that they gave us. It was agreed that we should continue to look at what other seed companies can offer.

The next event for the Gardening Club will be the Plant Swap & Sale that will be held in conjunction with the Big Jubilee Lunch on The Green, on Sunday 3rd June. Times and details for the Lunch will be found elsewhere in the Newsletter. The rules for the sale, which is open to anyone in the village, are very simple. If you bring your own plants along to the sale you can swap them for other plants. Alternatively, if you just want to buy one, the cost will be 50p. Plants can be brought along from 12.00 noon and will put on a separate table.

There was much talk about the Flower & Produce Show in September. The date will be Saturday 1st September. It was decided that we would ask all entrants to bring their Sunflower along to the Show. So far about 18 pots and seed potatoes have been taken for planting, so it looks like we will have a bumper crop of spuds on show.

Following a lengthy discussion as to how the event was going to be judged this year, the feeling was

that even though the format last year was a huge success, it was not really feasible to do it all again. Instead, it was decided that we would have independent judges for the Vegetable, Flower, Cakes and Jams sections. Visitors would then be able to vote on the Photographic, Children's and Crafts sections. We already have our vegetable judge, but I will keep his name a secret. I know he is of respectable character but I would not want anyone trying to bribe him!

We will again be holding the Barbecue in the evening. As last year, this will be a Village Event, and any produce that is left over from the Show will be auctioned off by our intrepid Auctioneer Steven Rees, though he doesn't know it yet!!! Full details and schedules will appear in the next edition of the Newsletter.

Marcus very kindly designed and printed the new Gardening Club Membership cards. If you do not have yours yet you can collect it from my home. Anyone who has not yet paid their subscription please give it to Franca.

The next Gardening Club will be held at Lynn and Fiona's house, Nether Cottage, at 7.30pm Wednesday 20th June.

Chris Tuffrey

Village Hall

The last Village Hall Forum, on May 28th, was not the best attended meeting, but after the event we received a whole swathe of apologies from those who'd "forgotten" it was taking place. As a result, we have decided to change the date for these regular gatherings from the *last* Monday of the month to the *second* Monday. Hopefully, this will mean that reminders in the *North Aston News* will remain slightly fresher in people's minds, and the apologies for absence will be fewer.

Despite the turnout, those present embarked on a busy discussion of progress on the Hall project, including an update and more detailed presentation from Nicholas Kneale of his figures and findings with regard to the Business Plan. We are very grateful for his efforts, and for the encouraging conclusions arising from his deliberations with Somerton and Duns Tew. As his preliminary report at the previous meeting had suggested, the Business Plan demonstrates that North Aston can not only support a Village Hall, but could actually find it profitable to have one. Nicholas will now work with Chris and myself to put the Plan into a more attractive format that can be used as supporting documentation when Chris starts approaching those funding organisations that insist that applications include a detailed Business Plan.

The May discussion also ventured further down the road of considering the facilities and dimensions of the proposed Hall, and sufficiently so that we now feel confident that we can start setting out rough plans for the building. By the time the next meeting comes round, which will be held on July 9th, we hope to have a first sketch prepared and, subject to fine-tuning at that meeting, detailed plans should then be available in time for display at the Fête on 21st July. We shall also be asking Oakwrights, and perhaps one or two other manufacturers, to offer estimates of cost, based upon those plans.

One associated aspect of the Village Hall project has been the establishment of the Social Club. Aside from an agreement that "Social Club" has all the wrong connotations, the general consensus was that the first two events had both been hugely successful. The French Supper Evening on May 26th was another sell-out, and the limited spaces at Peach Pub Barn were all taken, despite some late cancellations that were rapidly re-filled. We would like to say a huge thankyou to all those who helped to organise and manage the event, most especially Franca and Bev for their excellent cooking. Thanks also to the staff at Peach Pubs for so generously allowing us to take over the Barn and move all their stuff around! We hope everything was back where they expected to find it on Monday, and that they felt we'd left the place clean and tidy. That in itself was in no small measure down to the great turn-out of helpers on the morning after; eager and willing to wash up, clean and polish, and generally make the place look

spick and span again. Thank you each and every one. If anyone would like a copy of the recipe for the *St Emilion au Chocolat*, please drop me an email!

At the May meeting copies of the Minutes from the previous two Forum meetings were distributed. Further copies have since been handed out to some of those who regularly attend the Forum, but if you'd like to receive your own, please email info@north-aston.co.uk. Minutes of the May meeting will be available shortly, and archives of all the previous Minutes are still available.

Marcus Potts. (marcus@cmcgraphics.co.uk)

Next Village Hall Forum

Monday July 9th, 7:30 pm in the Old Bakery

ORCC Trading Oil Scheme

We published fuller details in the March *News*, but if you use oil for your domestic heating, this scheme could save you hundreds of pounds each year. If you would like further details, or would wish to join the North Aston 'Collective', please contact Chris Tuffrey, North Aston's liaison officer with ORCC. Call him on 07903 339155 or email: info@offac.co.uk. Some members have saved over £250 in the last 12 months, which suggests that saving the annual cost of membership (just £20) several times over during the same period is not an exaggeration.



Cherwell District Council is calling for volunteers to act as marshals when the Olympic Torch Relay comes through this area in July.

Marshals will work along the torch route as it goes through Bicester, Kirtlington and Kidlington, helping to supervise the Olympic Torch Relay.

Marshals needs to be 18 or over and be available to work on the afternoon of 9th July in Bicester, Kirtlington or Kidlington.

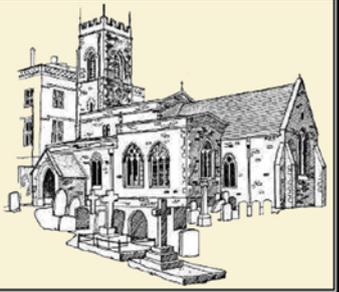
For more details email:

nicola.riley@cherwell-dc.gov.uk
or phone 01295 221724





The Church MATTERS



PARTY!

Jubilee Reception, Anne Monument opening and Concert



Queen's Diamond Jubilee



CELEBRATION PARTY!

Tuesday June 5th 4:30 - 6:30 at St Mary's

Come and round off the Diamond Jubilee celebrations
and see the beautifully restored Anne Monument

4:30 - 5:00: Bells

Refreshments for Everyone, Children's Game and Competition.

5:00

Formal unveiling of the restored monument, followed by a talk about the monument,
its history, the conservation and what was found.

5:45 - 6:00

More Refreshments

6:00 - 6:30

Concert by the Elastic Band,
ending with the National Anthem

6:30 - ?

even more Refreshments



Please come if you possibly can, we would really love to see you. The Buckingham Palace Fly Past will be over (with the Queen hopefully putting her feet up with a nice cup of tea), The Mill garden opening will be finished - so what better way could there be to round off this incredible Jubilee long weekend before going home and enjoying a well-earned rest!

Welcome to Jane McArdle

She has recently joined the PCC, and certainly brought the average age down a bit. We all look forward very much to her input, help and advice.

Any comments about the above are very welcome.

Please email Kildare: k.bourkeborrowes@btinternet.com or tel: 340 200
If you wish you can also email Clive: casb@north-aston.com or tel: 338 434
or our priest Father Mark Clavier: mark.clavier@gmail.com or tel 349 267

Any other member of the PCC will also be very happy to talk, and they are: Bill Adams, Richard Bailey,
Nick Bevan, Beryl Greenwood, Jenny Martin, Jane McArdle, Ted Short, Jeremy Taylor and Norman West.

It's your Church

North Aston Village Meeting

Thursday 19th April 2012 ~ The Minutes

Present: Chris Tuffrey (Chair), Sue Hatzigeorgiou (Treasurer), Marcus Potts (Secretary), Beverley Rees, Franca Potts, Sandra Reeves, Jan Liberadzki, David Greenwood, Beryl Greenwood, Christopher Drake, Jennifer Drake, Mark Stay, Clive Busby, Trudy Busby, Kildare Bourke-Burrowes, Tony Rees, Mark Stay.

Apologies: Tuck Hatzigeorgiou, Eileen Gilmore, John Harvey-Lee, Steven Rees, Niel Nicholson, Liz Nicholson.

Village Meeting

1. Welcome & Apologies

Chris Tuffrey welcomed everyone to the Meeting.

2. Minutes of the last Meeting

The minutes of the last Meeting were published in the February edition of the *News*. These were thought to be a fair and accurate record of the January AGM, and were proposed by Franca Potts, seconded by Beverley Rees.

3. Treasurer's Report

SH handed out copies of her Treasurer's Report, and briefly went through the figures, which appeared largely self-explanatory. The Report, including accounts and accounting statement for the year ended 31st March 2012, was approved; proposed by Mark Stay and seconded by Beryl Greenwood.

SH then spoke briefly about the Annual Audit. She had added the Notice Board to the asset register and, since it is Annie's area of expertise, she had also discussed the village insurance policy with Annie Savage. Aeon had taken two months to reply to her initial query regarding the extent of cover on such items as the Village Marquee, and had only recently responded. SH and AS had not had opportunity to discuss the details of their reply, but the renewal documents have arrived and the indications are that the premium will remain at much the same level as previously.

However, there was clearly a need to discuss the small print with AS and MP concerning the inclusion or otherwise of the Marquee. Currently the policy does not cover the Marquee for a number of the anticipated risks, including malicious damage, storm damage or accidental damage. The date for renewal is the first of June.

Beryl asked if the proposed change would result in a reduction in the premium? It was thought that the cost to the Village Meeting might indeed be reduced, but that the Village Fund would have to pick up the likely cost of insuring the Marquee. The principal cost associated with the Village Meeting's policy is the requirement to have Public Liability insurance, and the Village cannot avoid meeting this cost. However, AS has expressed her concern that the current level of cover may be inadequate, and if so, then increasing the cover may result in a rise in the cost of the premium, so the final figure may not be significantly reduced.

It was pointed out that the Village Fund has always reimbursed the Village Meeting for the cost of the Marquee insurance, to the tune of £78.56 last year. Removing the Marquee from the main insurance policy and taking out separate cover would not fundamentally alter the financial situation.

4. Any Other Business

CB wanted to know what the insurance costs were for the

fountain. Was it necessary to insure the fountain at all? SH said she would look into the cost allocation to the fountain, and CB said he would leave it to Sue to decide.

Village Fund

Those attending and apologies for absence as above.

1. Welcome & Apologies

Chris Tuffrey welcomed everyone to the Meeting.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last Meeting, as published in the *North Aston News*, were thought to be a fair and accurate record of the January AGM, and were again proposed by Franca Potts, seconded by Beverley Rees.

3. Treasurer's Report

SH explained there was a slight error in one allocation of costs within the Village Fund report, but in all other regards the figures were correct and up to date. The "bottom line" was correct, but some of the costs within certain categories had been transposed.

The balance at the end of the year is £4867.87. The Report was approved, proposed again by Mark Stay and seconded by Beryl Greenwood.

4. Jubilee Celebrations.

Various ideas as to how the Queen's Diamond Jubilee might be celebrated in the Village had been discussed at the previous meeting in January, and had included suggestions for a heritage orchard, the planting of some new specimen trees on the Green, the lighting of a beacon and, of course, the Jubilee Lunch. The question was asked, did the Village want to do anything else?

With regard to the beacon, CB was concerned about the dryness of the Green, and the risks associated with a bonfire. CT explained about the Health & Safety implications, and the extent of the regulations as applicable in the event that a Jubilee Beacon is lit. CB said there had even been one suggestion elsewhere for a beacon on a church roof, but this was thought very risky! In all, it was decided that a beacon carried too many costly implications, should anything go awry, and would only be a very transient occasion, and so was dismissed as unsuitable for North Aston.

FP suggested that we arrange for a new village sign to replace the one made by Eric Maslen. This was made about ten years ago, using laminated timbers, and it had not weathered well. It had been removed last year and was in Park Farm Barn for safekeeping. MS thought we might not have enough time to have a new one made in time for the Jubilee celebrations in June this year, but that it was something we could plan for,

and perhaps assign as a Jubilee marker retrospectively. This is a jubilee year, and will extend until 2013 when the Queen marks the 60th anniversary of her coronation in 1953. So long as something happens within those 12 months, then it can still be considered a symbol of the Village's celebration of the Jubilee.

There was a query as to the possibility of restoring the old Village Sign, which is currently in the grain store at Park Farm, but SR said that it was probably 'beyond redemption'.

DG thought we needed to create a more durable sign, perhaps as a solid carved sign. Another suggestion was for a hanging sign, rather like a pub sign, within a timber framework, but which could be taken down and repainted more easily.

CT agreed that he would look into the possibilities of erecting a new sign along those lines, and it was suggested that a competition should be run, through the auspices of the North Aston News, asking for designs and ideas. This was agreed.

KBB said that the church was planning a major celebration on the Bank Holiday Tuesday, starting at 4:30 and going on until 6:30 or 7:00 - depending on the timing of the official flypast in London, which it was felt many people might like to watch on television. The party in the church would include children's games, a formal unveiling of the restored Anne Monument, a musical concert, drinks and refreshments. He said that there would be more information published in forthcoming editions of the News.

5. The Big Jubilee Lunch

Having been responsible for organising the Big Lunch every year since it was inaugurated, FP agreed once again to oversee the management of this year's Big Jubilee Lunch.

MP said that the Village had received an invitation to attend a pre-lunch drinks reception at the Old Vicarage, courtesy of Nigel and Miranda Doggett. He said this was a very generous gesture. Following the reception at the Old Vicarage, people could walk up to the Green for the "Bring & Share" lunch. The Marquees would be erected on the Saturday, just in case the weather turned inclement. *(Please note: subsequent to the Meeting, it was with regret that Mr and Mrs Doggett had been forced to postpone their offer of Drinks at the Vicarage. The reception will now take place after the Village Fête in July)*

CT passed on the news that the gardening club had decided to reschedule their Plant Swap & Sale event until the afternoon of the Jubilee Lunch. So many plants have been delayed this spring by the strange weather that very little would be ready for the original date of early May, so holding back until June gave the Club a better chance of having their plants in a saleable condition. Full details would be published in the News.

6. North Aston Social Club.

CT explained that it had been decided at the previous Village Hall Forum that more needed to be done to demonstrate the potential for a Village Hall, and that one way this might be achieved was by establishing a North Aston 'Social Club'. While events organised by the Club might be used to raise funds for the Village Hall, the primary objective was to show that there is support within the community for functions and events, and that there are people in North Aston able and willing to organise them.

The first event, the *North Aston Spring Quiz*, would take place at the end of April, and would be followed in May by a *Supper Evening*, with a French menu and theme. Thanks were

expressed towards Niel and Liz Nicholson for offering the use of their new barn for the *Quiz Night*, and to Hamish Stoddart and Janet Watts at Peach Pubs for allowing use of the Park Far Barn for the *French Supper*. Obviously, this is not a straightforward exercise for Peach Pubs, as they have to clear out their main office for us to set up the tables for the dinner, so their generosity is much appreciated.

7. Village Fête

CT noticed that he had skipped the Village Fête from the agenda, so the Meeting returned to this topic. The date was confirmed as Saturday 21st July. MP explained that it had been necessary to set the date some while previously, to meet deadlines for publicity, and to help the organisers of the Japanese students plan their schedule. They would like to visit the Fête again this year, but have promised not to bring so many £50 notes!

The Meeting was asked if anyone had fresh ideas for attractions and activities for the Fête. One put forward was that there might be an exhibition of classic cars or tractors. This met with general approval, with the proviso that vehicles on display were sourced locally. DB kindly offered to coordinate the attraction, and hoped to find at least half a dozen from within North Aston alone. Others could come from nearby villages, including Steeple Aston.

If anyone else had further ideas, they were asked to contact the News.

8. Update on the Village Hall

While explaining that Village Hall Forum meetings are now held monthly (*on the last Monday of each month, to be changed to the second Monday from July onwards*) CT gave a brief outline of recent developments. He talked about some new funding possibilities through the BBC Village SOS scheme, but that these grants could not be used towards the actual build of the Hall, but only for specific associated projects. He said that it was his intention to apply for funding to help cover the cost of a Ground Source Heating System.

DG said that he and BG had visited friends in Worcestershire, where a new hall had recently been completed. The community there already had a Hall, but it was fairly old. They had been able to sell that for development, and then use the proceeds to raise some funds for the construction of a brand new building. They had spent £600,000, but the results had been "phenomenal", and included a heating/insulation set-up that was, if anything, too efficient, and the Hall was often too hot! Combined with solar panels on the roof, the Village Hall at Rock (www.rockvillagehall.co.uk) has actually been generating a net income of £5000 a year.

CT said that he would be applying to Viridor for a grant, either in the current second quarter, or perhaps later in the year. Viridor reassesses applications four times a year. He also said that he felt confident that North Aston would be eligible for funding from the National Lottery.

MP explained that he had spent time with Nicholas Kneale, and that a provisional draft for the Business Plan would be ready for the Village Forum meeting at the end of April.

9. Appropriation of Funds

MP explained that money had been borrowed from the Village Fund to buy provisions and materials for the first few events organised by the Social Club. Last year the Village Meeting had approved the loan of £1000 to the Village Hall Project to

cover preliminary costs, including legal expenses incurred during the establishment of the Charity, and other costs faced by the Committee as the Village Hall project gathered pace. The Social Club, as part of the awareness and fundraising programme, fell within that remit, he suggested. As this was a loan, not a gift, he said that, once the event schedule was up and running, the first priority of the Social Club should be to repay this loan. Once a few events have been staged, they should become self sufficient.

SH said that she felt it was important that all the accounts should be kept separate and clearly defined. CB insisted that this was vital. CT suggested that there should be two accounts; a fund raising account and a main account, with all the grant funding deposited in the latter.

It was felt that the purpose of each event should be clearly identified, and if fundraising was the objective, then it needed to be made evident where the money raised would be going. Some events may be fundraisers for the Village Hall, while others may be to generate income for the Village Fund, or the church, and so forth. SH wanted to be sure that everything was fully transparent.

CT asked what the Village Fund account was used for? It was understood to be a resource to cover unexpected contingencies, but also to pay for things like the previously discussed village sign, the planting of trees, the installation of a new bench on the green, etc.

It was agreed that the Social Club should repay the loan as soon as possible after the first two events. For the time being the intention was to work within the £1000 funding already approved by the Village Meeting, of which we know some £680 will need to be set aside to pay the Spratt Endicott legal bill. The balance can be used to meet other expenses.

10. Speed Monitor

CT apologised that he had not had time to return the faulty Speed Monitor to the manufacturers, but would be going over to Stratford soon and would arrange for its repair. He would also enquire about the possibility of installing a solar panel to re-charge the battery.

The Speed Monitor had only been operational for a little over a year, and it was thought that the cost of the repairs, if incurred, really ought to be met by the manufacturers, as the fault had manifested before the 12-month period had elapsed. CT said he would attempt to persuade them of this fact.

Catalytic Converter Thefts

Catalytic Converter thefts are on the increase. These exhaust components, fitted to most modern petrol-engined vehicles, are targeted for the precious metals they contain and can be stolen within minutes! Removal not only disables the vehicle but also costs around £800 to replace. Thames Valley Police has teamed up with the Just Car Clinic to offer a free marking service, which will also include a sticker to display on the vehicle and deter thieves.

FREE Catalytic Converter Marking Day

**Saturday 2nd June from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at
Just Car Clinic, Thorpe Industrial Estate, Banbury**

11. Any Other Business

A. Tetra Pack Recycling

CB asked about emptying the tetra pack recycling bin. KBB, SH, FP and MS said that a rota for taking the contents to Ardley ought to be possible, and MS offered to arrange one.

B. Goals on the Green

CB also asked that people be reminded that the football goals needed to be put back after use. It was pointed out that the goals are often used by people from outside the village, who pause on the Green for picnics or to enjoy the location. These visitors cannot be expected to appreciate "village rules", and it was also thought that the goals themselves had very little visual impact. It was deemed a very minor irritant, but those present agreed that, if anyone saw the goals had been left out on the Green, then they would endeavour to put them back at the side of the children's play area.

C. Moles

SH said that the mole man had been back to look at the Green, and would deal with the return of the mole infestation in due course.

D. Internet Connection

SR asked if the Internet connection in the village had been particularly poor recently, as she had been experiencing a very slow service. She said that she knew that the rate in Deddington was far superior, and could nothing be done to improve the service to North Aston? It was explained that Deddington benefited not only from a closer proximity to the main exchange, but also had the added advantage of cable access. North Aston is far removed from the exchange in Steeple Aston and a slow connection rate is inevitable. The nearest cable access is alongside the main road, and is beyond economic reach. It was thought probable that nothing was likely to happen for the foreseeable future, and North Aston's Internet users would have to accept the *status quo* until such time as BT upgrades the connection to the Steeple Aston exchange.

E. Dates for the Next Meeting

The Meeting concluded with the setting of dates for the next meetings:

Village Fete Meeting: Thursday July 5th

Village Meeting: Thursday 26th July



If you want any advice or would like to contact the Neighbourhood Watch Team you can call them on the new police non-emergency number of 101. If your call is an emergency then dial 999. You can also email: BicesterRuralNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

If you have information about crime or Anti Social Behaviour in your area but you do not want to speak to the police, please call the Crimestoppers charity on 0800 555111.

Mill Garden Open for Charity

Friends and neighbours from villages both sides of the river are welcome to visit the gardens of North Aston Mill on Tuesday, 5 June between 2pm and 4.30pm.

Jane is raising money for Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research by taking part in this year's Blenheim Triathlon so there will be a small entry fee, tea and cake for sale. Hope to see you there!



It's still not too late to plant your sunflower seeds! The April News included a packet of seeds and full instructions, and if you tend your seedling really well, it might still win. Black plastic pots can still be collected from Nicholsons or (for a limited period only) from Gilmore's, The Green. (Please return the pots afterwards for recycling).

Stand Tall and Be Counted !!

Traffic Speed Monitor - May

The Traffic Monitor is back in operation again, so hopefully through-traffic will slow down again. It was very noticeable how much more quickly drivers were passing through the village when the monitor was no longer there.

*Congratulations to
Karen & Alex Hack
on their
First Wedding Anniversary
June 4th*

Please note that there will **not** be a
COFFEE MORNING
in June, but make a note of the date for July!

Come and join us for an informal get-together at the Bakery on the first Wednesday of each month. Tea, coffee and cakes will be served from 10:30am till 12:00 noon.

EVERYONE WELCOME!

If you would like transport, or a helping hand across the road, please ring Gwen Short (01295 810762) or Beryl Greenwood (340122) to arrange.



We hope to see you on Wednesday July 4th



Councillor Calling



Marathon Man

Well, I survived the London Marathon (3:58:36, since you ask) and a new council year is starting, so there's two milestones this month!

I'm so grateful to all my sponsors (though it's never too late on www.justgiving.com/james-macnamara) who have contributed almost £2,000 this year to **St John Ambulance**. This brings my total over three marathons close to £20,000, reinforcing that moment at the 17th mile marker when I swear never to run another step – at least until next year...

Local Elections

Elections in 17 wards produced two changes, with Banbury wards swinging to Labour, so Cherwell now has 41 Conservatives, 6 Labour (taking over as the official Opposition once more) and 3 Lib Dems. The Leader remains Barry Wood, while Colin Clarke from Banbury begins his year as Chairman. Meanwhile, at OCC, the Leader for the past ten years, Keith Mitchell from Deddington, has handed over to Ian Hudspeth of Woodstock, who'll have a year to make his mark before the whole County Council is up for re-election next May.

On a personal note, I have stepped back after a decade on the Executive in a variety of portfolios (simply due to time constraints rather than any political machinations). This should give me more time to concentrate on local ward issues in the Astons & Heyfords and, of course, Planning, where I remain on the Planning Committee along with my co-ward member, Mike Kerford-Byrnes.

Matters of Discipline

Standards of behaviour are in the spotlight, with the old disciplinary regime changing with the council. *The Standards Board for England* has been abolished, along with disciplinary sanctions for councillors (serious issues will be dealt with by the criminal courts) and the centrally imposed *Code of Conduct*. Cherwell has combined with OCC and the other four Districts to approve a streamlined *Code*, which Towns and Parishes are invited to adopt for simplicity, though they are at liberty to design their own. The trouble is that "prejudicial interests" and "personal interests" are being replaced by "disclosable pecuniary interests", which must be registered but have yet to be defined!

Honouring Hard Work

Service to the community rarely gets the same attention as punishing the wicked. There's an interesting proposal to create *Honorary Aldermen* of councillors who have

given long and valued service to the council and *Honorary Freemen* of people who have given eminent service to the District. While there might be some who'd sneer at dreaming up new titles, I feel strongly that we don't do nearly enough to recognise and thank those, at every level, who give their time for their communities: recognition costs nothing but confers great value – I'm all for it.

The Changing Face of Bicester

Meanwhile, back in the world of bricks and mortar, Bicester developments continue to unfold:

Community hospital plans have been submitted by the PCT, for a 12-bed hospital, much to local satisfaction, and not just a day centre. This will be built in the car park of the current hospital, which will then be demolished to make way for housing to pay for the new one.

A **private hospital** is still planned, though, for the "medical village" area of the new Kingsmere development and so we could end up with two facilities! There is no medical or planning reason why there shouldn't be two: it's purely a financial viability decision for the backers.

Bicester Village plans to expand further, onto the site currently occupied by Tesco. Recognising that they are now a "destination" for day-long outings, they recently got permission to increase the space devoted to dining, which should ease the queues.

Tesco will move South across the ring road onto what is planned to be a business park extending to Bicester Avenue (alias *Wyevale*) with offices and an hotel. They will pretty much double in size as a "Tesco Extra", with a separate roundabout entrance, which is expected to greatly ease traffic holdups.

Employment should be boosted by up to 3,500 jobs by all this. That's not counting the immediate prospect of Unipart moving in, reinforcing yet more Bicester's motor engineering credentials.

Park-and-Ride facilities will be built by Bicester Village by the new ring road roundabout, helping people get to Oxford on weekdays and to Bicester Village at weekends, another traffic-easing measure, along with the ring road itself – have you tried it yet? It completely foxes my satnav, which thinks I'm doing 50mph across open fields!

Sainsbury and the **cinema** in the town centre leap ahead by the day. The original plans had them open in time for Christmas shopping, but they are doing so well I hear rumours they may be up and running by September.

Tying all this together, consultation has begun on a **Masterplan for Bicester**: don't be shy in making your views felt – we in the villages have as much stake in our market town as anyone. **James Macnamara**

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CHURCH SERVICES

PARISH WORSHIP IN JUNE 2012

STEEPLE ASTON

NORTH ASTON

TACKLEY

Sunday 3rd - Jubilee (Trinity) Sunday

11.00 am
Holy Communion &
Big Lunch
Fr Mark Clavier

8.00 am
1662 Holy Communion
Fr Mark Clavier

9.45 am
Children's Church

6.00 pm Jubilee Service
Fr Mark Clavier
Fr Robin Gibbons

Sunday 10th - First Sunday after Trinity

11.00 am
Holy Communion
& Children's Church
Fr Mark Clavier

9.30 am
Family Communion
Fr Mark Clavier

9.30 am
Holy Communion
The Rev'd Geoff Hunter

6.00 pm
Evensong
Fr Robin Gibbons

Sunday 17th - Second Sunday after Trinity

6.00 pm
Evensong
Fr Mark Clavier

No Service

10.30 am
Benefice Communion & Children's
Church
Fr Mark Clavier

6.00 pm
Evensong
Fr Robin Gibbons

Sunday 24th - Third Sunday after Trinity

11.00 am
Holy Communion
Rev'd Geoff Hunter

19.30 am
Village Praise
Kildare Bourke-Borrowes

11.00 am
Holy Communion & Children's Church
Fr Mark Clavier

6.00 pm
1662 Holy Communion
Fr Mark Clavier

Families are welcome to **all** services.
Father Mark provides a children's sermon for children 4+ during the service.

Mid-Week Services & Morning Prayer

9.30 am
Morning Prayer
Tuesdays

Noon
1662 Holy Communion
Thursdays

9.15 am
Morning Prayer
Mondays

9.15 am
Morning Prayer
Wednesdays

Other Events this Month

Due to the Jubilee celebrations, there will be no **Coffee Morning** at the Old Bakehouse in North Aston this month

Bible Study at the Rectory, Steeple Aston, every Monday , 1.30 - 2.30 pm

13th June: **A Pint with the Parson** - The Red Lion, Steeple Aston from 7:30pm