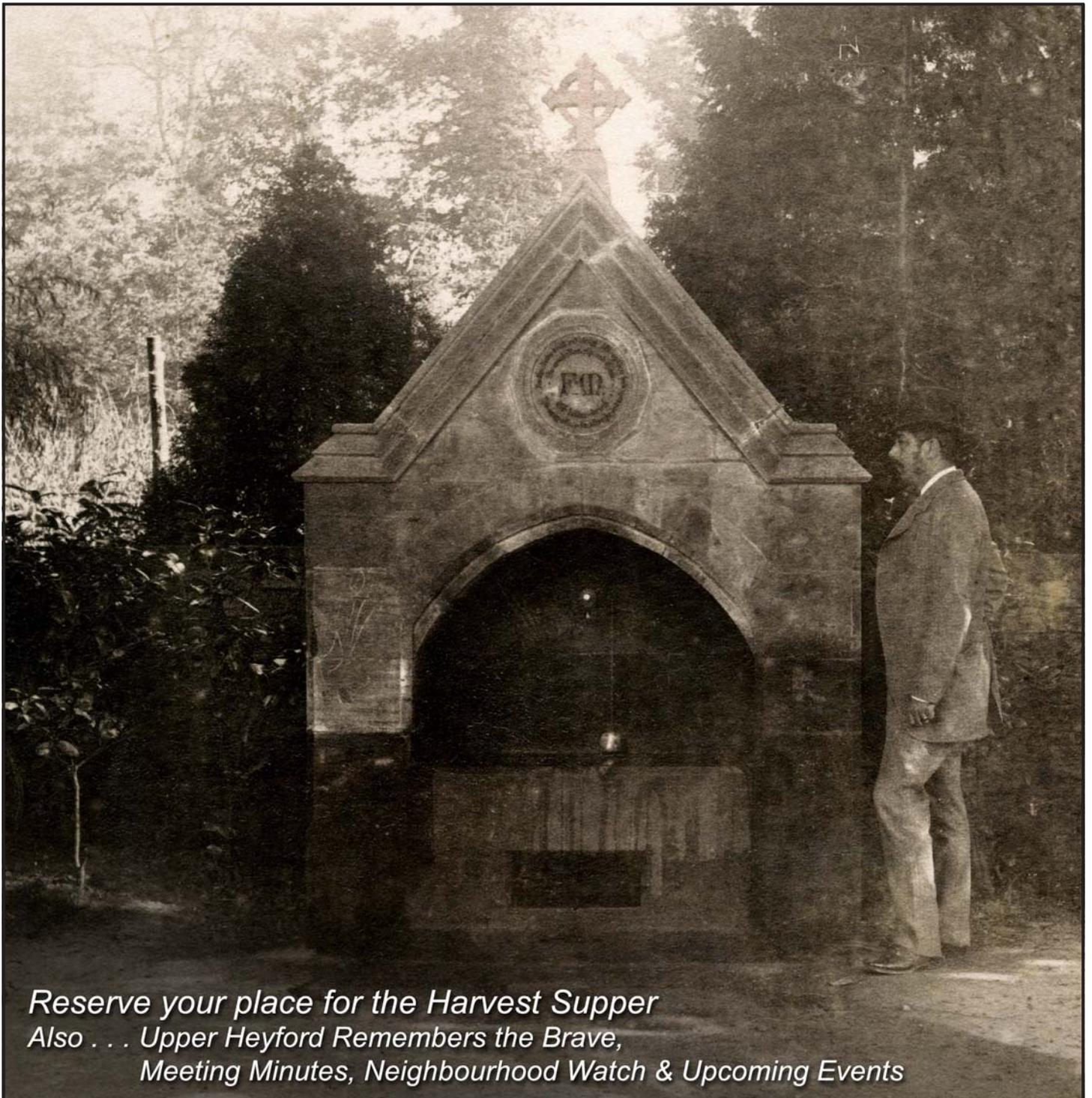


# NORTH ASTON NEWS

OCTOBER 2012

No: 264



*Reserve your place for the Harvest Supper  
Also . . . Upper Heyford Remembers the Brave,  
Meeting Minutes, Neighbourhood Watch & Upcoming Events*

## Useful Contacts

### North Aston News

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### Chris Tuffrey, Chairman

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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

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### 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](mailto: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

Wednesday 3rd Oct. 10:00 am, Old Bakery

### Harvest Supper

Saturday 6th Oct. 7:30pm, Orchard Barn

### Gardening Club Meeting

Wednesday 31 Oct. 7:30pm, Nether Cottage

### Village Hall Forum

Monday Oct. 15th. 7:30 pm, Gilmores, The Green



## CHAIRMAN Chewing the Cud

The other day Eileen and I were driving down Tithe Lane in Clifton and noticed the abundance of berries on the bushes. If country tales are anything to go by we could be in for a very long hard winter! Still, there is plenty of time yet for us to have an *Indian Summer*, which I am am sure we all believe we are due after the summer we have just had.

It has been a very long time since we have had any criminal damage committed in the village. That was until the other Saturday night. I expect you will all have heard by now that at about 2.45am someone decided to use the church A Board as a missile and throw it through the side window of the phone box. A nearby resident heard the noise and called the Police but alas it was too late to catch the culprits. Also on that same Saturday night/Sunday morning one of the cars parked on the road beside the Green was "keyed".

We had a repeat incident on the Wednesday morning at about the same time, when the phone box again was the target. A stone planter was thrown through the broken glass. Another villager heard this and reached their bedroom window in time to see someone running up the centre of the Green.

If anyone has lost a planter can you please let us know? I am also lead to understand that damage was done to one of the gardens in the village.

I had a telephone call from Bicester Police on Wednesday 19th and it would appear that Somerton also suffered criminal damage to their phone box and parish notice-board about 20 minutes before the damage was caused in North Aston. A group of youths on bikes were seen leaving the scene.

Further details about all these incidents are given on Page 6. If anyone has any information can they please let us know and we will pass it on to the Police.

If there is anyone else who would like to benefit from the Oil Buying Scheme, now is your chance to join. One North Aston member saved £300 on an order of 1500 litres, and that's a massive saving. Call me, or drop me an email.

Chris

Tel: 07903 339155, email: [info@offac.co.uk](mailto:info@offac.co.uk), or knock on the door!

**The front cover image** this month is taken from the album of photographs recently acquired that record a visit to North Aston made by an unknown photographer in July 1881. It shows a smartly dressed gentleman standing beside the water fountain - at that time just 20 years after it was gifted to the village by William Foster-Melliard. It is interesting to note that the monument was originally topped off by a stone cross - does anyone know where that is now? There is also what appears to be a drinking cup perched on the back of the trough, below the outlet that still feeds water today. The lettering of the inscription would seem to have been in-filled with black to make it more legible - an element of the 1999 restoration that was considered but not implemented. Perhaps had this photograph been available then, the decision might have been different.



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

### **Diamond Wedding**

Please can we thank everyone who sent cards, presents and the most beautiful flowers for our Diamond Wedding Anniversary in August. We were most touched and delighted.

*Don & Mary Davidson*

*Our apologies. This note should have been in September's issue of the News, together with best wishes from Don & Mary to Camilla for her birthday on 18th September, and a special "Happy Birthday" on the 13th to Don himself from Mary - "Lucky for some!"*

### **Service of Commemoration**

On the afternoon of Sunday September 16th, Clive Busby and I represented North Aston at the memorial service in Upper Heyford cemetery to mark the memory of two brave American airmen, Major Mike McGuire and Captain Jerry Lindh, who gave their lives rather than risk their malfunctioning aircraft crashing onto one of the Cherwell villages.

The ceremony of remembrance was attended by an impressive honour guard from the US Air Force with flags flying and the blowing of bugles. There were valedictory speeches from British and American officers to mark the occasion. But on that hillside cemetery overlooking the green valley the motley crowd of all ages, both military and civilian, demonstrated the strong bond of gratitude and respect that still exists between the people of the Cherwell valley and the Americans who served at Upper Heyford.

*John Harvey-Lee*

*Please also see Clive's full account later in the News*

## **Deddington Health Centre 2012 Flu Clinics**

It's time to book up to have a flu jab at the surgery:

### **Saturday Mornings:**

October 6th between 9.00 am and 12.00 pm

### **Weekdays:**

Mondays, 4.30-5.30 from September 24th

Thurs & Fridays, 2.00-3.00 pm from September 28th

### **Those who are eligible for a flu jab:-**

- Anyone 65 years old and over.
- Anyone with a long term condition such as asthma (if on a steroid inhaler), COPD, diabetes, heart disease, chronic kidney or liver disease; neurological disease; have a transplant; on immunosuppression drugs; nursing home resident.
- You are a carer.
- You are pregnant.

**Book up now and get protected from flu!  
Phone 01869 338611 for an Appointment**

## **Announcements**

### **This Month's Birthdays**

Tom Baimbridge

Daniel Durnin

Olivia Durnin

Jimmy Rees

and congratulations to

**Marcus & Franca**

on their Wedding Anniversary!

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.



### **New Arrivals!**

**Congratulations to Adam and Holly Busby  
on the birth of their baby daughter**

**Thea Florance born 23rd September  
Weighing 9lb 13oz**

**All our love to you  
Mum and Dad**

### **French Market in Bicester**

There will be a French Market in Sheep Street, Bicester, this Saturday (October 6th) between 9:00am and 5:00pm. The same market was in Woodstock a few weeks ago, and has also appeared in Banbury. About twenty stalls can be expected, offering a range of goods from French cheeses, sweets, pastries and bread, to woven baskets, linen, table cloths, hand-made soaps and wooden toys. Is it too early to start thinking about Christmas?

### **Facebook**

Log on to Facebook and find the North Aston Village page! You'll find photos from the Flower & Produce Show in September, as well as images from events earlier in the year. News of upcoming happenings is also posted there, and you don't need to be registered with Facebook to explore the page. If you are a Facebook user, then please "Like" our village page, so that we can help to spread the word about North Aston.

<http://www.facebook.com/NorthAston>

### **Electric Blanket Testing**

The annual Electric Blanket Testing Campaign gets under way this month. Before you start using it this winter, get your blanket professionally checked. Is it safe to use? Last year nearly 1000 blankets were tested, and over 300 were found to be dangerously faulty. Get a free safety check by calling 01865 815607 and taking your blanket to Bicester on October 9th, or to Banbury on October 23rd. Tests must be pre-booked, and full details will be given.

# HARVEST THANKSGIVING in North Aston

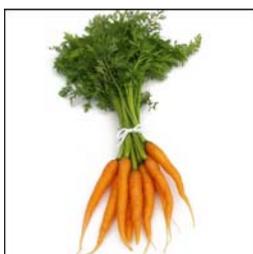
Sunday October 7th 2012  
6 pm in the Church

Keeping and growing animals and plants is a really important activity in our little village, and getting more so.

We have cows & sheep & milk & chickens & vegetables



& fruit & trees & plants & Bees . . . and more



*This Sunday Family Service* is our chance to thank God for our Harvest and all this produce from our Farms, Dairy, Vegetable Growers, Nursery, Allotments, Gardens and Orchards.

**It's for everyone. Please come and join in!**

**Produce:** We give as much as we can to Polly Preedy who helps feed homeless and needy people in Banbury. These days she strongly prefers to receive a restricted range of items, and these are Tea, Coffee, Sugar, and any tinned produce such as Soup, Ham, Corned Beef, Tuna, Tinned Vegetables, wrapped Chocolate Biscuits, etc. Please kindly bring whatever you can for her - *Thank you.*

# North Aston Gardening Club

## Gardening Club Meeting 26th September 2012

Present: Lynn Quek, Jill Rawnsley, Chris Hazle, Eileen Gilmore, Chris Tuffrey and Marcus Potts.

We met over a glass of wine as the wet and windy weather closed in to discuss, amongst other things, this year's Flower and Produce Show.

The consensus in the GC (and hopefully also in the village) was that a good time was had by all. The standard of entries was high (possibly even higher than seen in similar shows in neighbouring villages) and the display of fruit and veg, plants and flowers, photos and cakes, jars of delicious jams and preserves was a lovely sight to behold for all those who came.

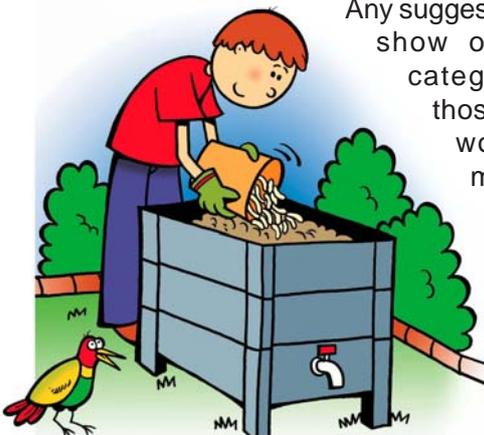
This year's highlights included the potato weigh-in and the sunflower competition. Also noted was the great relaxed atmosphere on the day, followed by a jolly BBQ and auction in the evening (where extortionate sums were allegedly paid for oversized vegetables). A big 'thank you' has to go to all those who helped organise and run the event and those who turned up to set up the show in good time and bring refreshments for all to enjoy. We are especially grateful to Norma, who stepped in to judge the baked goods and preserves with expertise for us at very short notice.

Some new categories have been suggested for inclusion in next year's show: including ones for exotic veg, and possibly even exotic fruit; French and runner beans (not just for the longest), courgettes and winter squash. Some categories could be subdivided so that different subtypes (e.g. cherry or 'conventional' tomatoes; white or red potatoes) can be judged separately.

On the non-veg side of things, proposals are to include sweet peas, dahlias, foliage houseplants and perhaps a vase of "five different garden flowers" in the floral section.

It was slightly disappointing that there were relatively few entries from children this year. This was possibly due to some families being away on holiday on the day of the show.

Any suggestions to improve the show or ideas for new categories, especially those which you think would encourage more participation by younger members of the village would



be greatly welcome. Just email [info@north-aston.co.uk](mailto:info@north-aston.co.uk) or drop one of us a note.

As autumn is truly here, it's time to pore over seed catalogues and plan for next year's growing. Club members will have our usual distribution of the Dobies catalogue soon (they offer a substantial discount for club orders), but it's certainly worth looking into other seed companies who may offer a different range of varieties.

The next meeting will be on the final Wednesday of the month, as usual, so October 31st at Nether Cottage.

Lynn



**STOWE HOUSE**  
**Christmas Craft Fayre**  
Saturday 27 and Sunday 28  
October 2012  
10.00am - 4.00pm

Unique and unusual  
Christmas gifts for  
the whole family  
all under one  
beautiful roof



**Adults £6.00 Children £4.00**  
Includes entry to the magnificent State Rooms of Stowe House, plus free parking and minibus transfer to the event  
For enquiries and group bookings please call 01280 818282 or email [events@stowe.co.uk](mailto:events@stowe.co.uk)  
[www.stowe.co.uk/events](http://www.stowe.co.uk/events)  
The craft fayre is run by Stowe Enterprises Limited on behalf of Stowe House

# Can you help?

We sent out this appeal recently to everyone on our emailing list, but for the benefit of those not “online”, we will repeat it here while events may still be fresh in the mind. We have received a request for any information that may relate to the spate of petty vandalism that occurred in the village last month.

Late on the evening of Saturday September 15th, almost three weeks ago, we had reports of shouting and “rowdy behaviour” from around the eastern end of the Green. There were also minor incidents in neighbouring gardens, including uprooting and wilful damage to plants. This took place just before midnight, and we think the source is now identified.

However, a few hours later, thought to be around half-past two in the morning, the telephone box was vandalised. It would appear that the A-board sign used to advertise services in the church was used to smash the right-hand pane of glass. Also, during the same night (but whether associated with the “rowdy behaviour” or the telephone box incident isn’t clear) at least one car (perhaps two, but it’s not known when damage to the second was carried out) parked along Somerton Road was also vandalised. Paintwork was deliberately scratched and the radio aerial was “tweaked”. Mindless stuff, but still very upsetting for those affected.

Then, on the night of Tuesday/Wednesday 18th/19th September, the telephone box was attacked again. This time a concrete planter was thrown at the framework of the box, causing minor additional damage, but wrecking the planter.

This took place at 02:45. Immediately afterwards a single person was seen running the length of the Green towards the western end. Moments later, repeated banging was heard from that end of the Green, as if at a door or perhaps a wooden shed, followed by shouting and at least three voices. Was this a villager remonstrating with the culprit, or was more than one person involved? Raised voices were then heard coming from the area of the Vicarage gates.

That same night, but earlier, the glazing on the notice board in Somerton was smashed and other acts of vandalism took place within the village. At around 02:15 two or three people were heard “shouting and singing” along the lane just this side of the canal. The group was moving fairly slowly, and might have been on foot, or perhaps cycling erratically. They were heard again approaching the village, and it seems certain that someone in this drunken group was responsible for the damage to the telephone box here.

The police have been informed of all these facts and the telephone box has been repaired, but did you hear these events taking place? Perhaps you were the person shouting at someone banging on your door at that early hour? It would also be helpful to know where the planter came from – about 10 or 12 inches square with a mock Cotswold stone design, wider at the top than around the base.

There is evidence to suggest that the culprits are local, and some names have been suggested, but without more witnesses it’s not easy to draw any further conclusions.

If you have any information please can you either contact the News (email [info@north-aston.co.uk](mailto:info@north-aston.co.uk) or speak to Chris Tuffrey) or call 101 and advise Thames Valley Police.

## Make life sweeter for a child in your area.

Form a new volunteer support group for the NSPCC.



Get together with friends, have fun and raise vital funds for children. You could arrange:

a coffee morning    a cake sale

a golf day    a dog walk.

Or come up with your own fundraising ideas – it’s a great way to meet new people and help vulnerable local children. On behalf of all of them – thank you.

**Contact 01602 678967**

# Service of Commemoration

Upper Heyford, Sunday 16th September 2012

Last month Clive Busby and John Harvey-Lee represented the village of North Aston at a special memorial service staged in Upper Heyford. The occasion was to commemorate the sacrifice of those American pilots based at RAF Upper Heyford who had, over the course of the past forty years or more, given their lives so that others might live. The service marked the 20th anniversary of the deaths of Major Mike McGuire and Captain Jerry Lindh, and was a poignant occasion for all concerned. This is Clive's account.

On the 12th May 1969, pilot Major Robert Sipes, having taken off from Upper Heyford airfield in a USAF McDonnell F-101 Voodoo fighter-bomber, experienced a serious malfunction in his aircraft. Should he eject, leaving the plane to its own devices, he foresaw the disaster he might inflict upon the village of Steeple Aston. Dr Radcliffe's school lay directly ahead of him and a whole generation of young children were in extreme danger. He decided to stay with his plane, taking it down into the Folly Field, at the bottom of Cow Lane, beyond the Village and the School. He died in his blazing cockpit, saving the lives of many others.

Only a month later another F-101 Voodoo passed over North Aston in a north-westerly direction. Audibly, it was clear that all was not well with its engine. Just a few moments later a great plume of smoke rose from a field just south-east of Hempton. The plane had crashed, but this time the pilot had ejected safely, without loss of life.

More recently, in September 1992 two aviators; Major David "Mike" McGuire and Captain Terry C Lindh suffered catastrophic system failures in a USAF General Dynamics F-111 strategic bomber. Having just taken off,

they struggled over our villages in an attempt to get back to the airfield, which they so nearly achieved. In the end they crashed just short of the runway, but in so doing left ejection of their sophisticated cockpit capsule too late, and both men died.

On Sunday the 16th September, John Harvey-Lee and I attended a service at Upper Heyford Cemetery to commemorate the twenty years since the deaths of Major McGuire and Captain Lindh. Relatives and friends had flown over from America. A USAF Guard of Honour came from RAF Croughton, and the Air Attaché from the United States Embassy also attended. The local villages were well represented.

Upper Heyford village was generous with its hospitality and a pictorial display of the long history of the airfield was shown in the reading room.

This was a important and moving event. These brave men will not be forgotten.

*Greater love has no man than this,  
That a man lay down his life for his friends*

*John Chapter 15, verse 13.*

## Harvest Supper

This year's Harvest Supper will take place on

**Saturday 6th October, 7.00pm for 7.30pm  
at Nicholson's Orchard Barn**

There will be a Welcome Drink, followed by North Aston Lamb Stew (or Vegetarian Option), Roast Seasonal Vegetables and Jacket Potato.

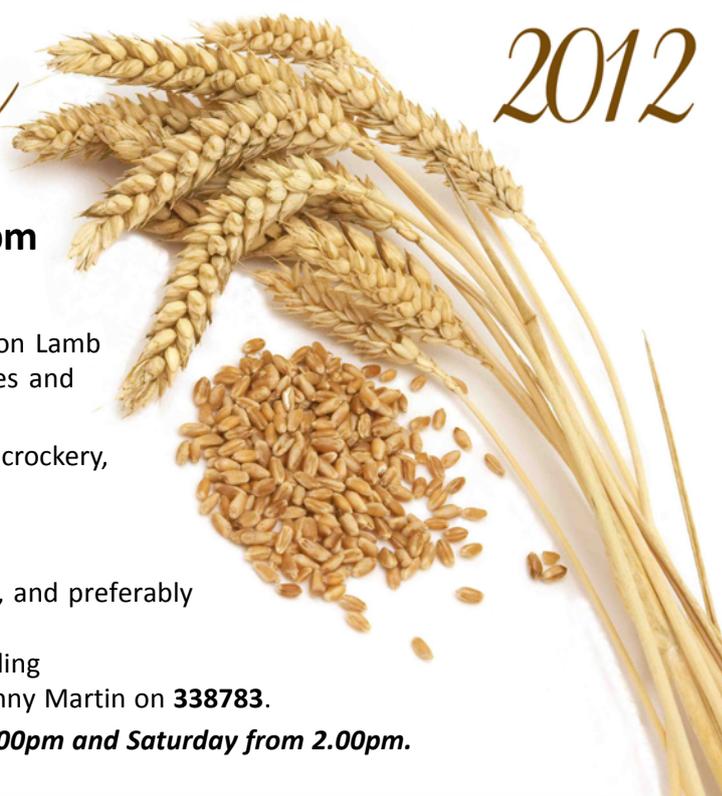
Please bring a pudding to share and your own cutlery, crockery, glasses, drinks and condiments.

**Cost £3.00 to be paid at the door.**

It is essential that you book places as soon as possible, and preferably by the end of Thursday 4th October.

Please specify any vegetarian meals required by emailing [northastonharvestsupper@gmail.com](mailto:northastonharvestsupper@gmail.com) or telephone Jenny Martin on **338783**.

**Volunteers needed to help with cooking Friday from 6.00pm and Saturday from 2.00pm.**



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# North Aston Village Meeting

Thursday 30th August 2012 ~ The Minutes

**Present:** Chris Tuffrey, Sue Hatzigeorgiou (late arrival), Marcus Potts, Beverley Rees, Franca Potts, Tuck Hatzigeorgiou, Beryl Greenwood, Clive Busby Trudy Busby, Matthew Rees, Eileen Gilmore, John Harvey-Lee, Chris Hazle, Lynn Quek, Jane Durnin, Peter Durnin.

**Apologies:** Niel Nicholson, Sandra Reeves, David Greenwood, James Taylor, Jeremy Taylor.

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## Village Meeting

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### 1. Welcome & Apologies

Chris Tuffrey welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### 2. Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the last Meeting in April were published in the June edition of the News. These were thought to be a fair and accurate record of the Meeting and were proposed by John Harvey-Lee and seconded by Franca Potts. Carried unanimously.

### 3. Treasurers Report

Sue Hatzigeorgiou was unable to attend the start of the Meeting, and had provided Chris Tuffrey and Marcus Potts with an outline Treasurer's Report. This was read out to the Meeting by MP, and was seen to be fairly straightforward. SH had asked that it be stated that the official Audit had been completed and submitted.

The Treasurer's Report for the Village Meeting was proposed for approval by JH-L, and seconded by FP, and was carried unanimously.

### 4. Any Other Business

With no other matters on the Agenda for the Village Meeting, CT announced under AOB that he had been advised by SH that she wished to stand down as Treasurer at the Annual General Meeting in January, and hoped that by making the announcement now there might be more time for a volunteer to be found to take over this important role. CT asked that those present either considered whether or not they might be prepared to take on this responsibility, or knew of someone who might. He hoped that a candidate might be found in time for the next Meeting, and welcomed nominations.

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## Village Fund

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### 1. Welcome & Apologies

The same apologies were given as for the Village Meeting.

### 2. Approval of Minutes.

The Minutes of the April Meeting, as published in the June edition of the News, were thought to be a fair and accurate record of the January AGM, and were again proposed by John Harvey-Lee and seconded by Franca Potts and carried unanimously.

### 3. Treasurers Report

As previously, MP read out the Treasurer's Report for the Village Fund, as prepared by SH. However, there appeared to be some confusion over some of the figures, and as a result it was felt inappropriate to move towards a vote to approve the Report, pending clarification. It was suggested that this be

deferred this until the next meeting.

The next item on the printed Agenda was a review of the Village Fête, but CT asked if this could be considered later in the Meeting, and asked to introduce a new item.

### 4. Remuneration for Contributions to the Village

CT said that he wished to discuss the question of financial compensation to those who make significant contributions to North Aston life. He began by suggesting that MP has to compose and write the monthly village *Newsletter*, including preparing the artwork and arranging for its printing. He said that he would like to see "thanks" offered on a regular basis in the form of a payment being made for the time and effort involved, which he said was typically two or three days a month. He said that the *News* is a marvellous piece of journalism and something that we should all be proud of, especially when compared with some of the other monthly publications he'd seen from neighbouring communities. He wished to suggest that the village should make a contribution of £50 per month to MP by way of payment.

MP responded by saying that, while he appreciated the suggestion, he felt that making such a payment would represent a dangerous precedent. He said that there were other people in North Aston who also supported the community by giving of their time, and if one person was paid for something they had done, then where was the line to be drawn? If he accepted payment for preparing the *News*, then others would also be justified in expecting payment for tasks they had performed. He said he did not think it a good idea.

Eileen Gilmore pointed out that there were differences between what was involved in preparing the *News* and most of the other duties that people performed. The *News* is a regular task that places MP under pressure on a monthly basis to get the job done.

Jane Durnin said that many people give their time to the community as "volunteers", and as such did not expect to be paid. However, if there were expenses incurred, then she thought it was appropriate that they received compensation for those costs, but she emphasised that time itself was offered on a voluntary basis.

It was also suggested that, if MP gave up preparing the *News*, and someone else took over the task, would they also expect to be paid the same amount, even if they were not able to prepare the newsletter to the same standard?

Beryl Greenwood said that we shouldn't forget that JH-L had also edited the *News* for many years, without payment. CT added that we should also not forget everything else that John does for the village.

Franca Potts suggested that everyone who does a voluntary job should be allowed to place a claim for their out-of-pocket expenses. Maybe there's a better way of spending the money,

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but while she felt she should agree with MP, she actually agreed with CT.

It was then suggested that Clive Busby should also receive compensation for all his efforts to keep the Green tidy. CB admitted that he had considered claiming for expenses, including fuel and for wear-and-tear on his machinery, but he had never thought to claim for the hours he spent mowing.

EG insisted that expenses, however incurred, should be claimed. MP suggested that CB should be encouraged to submit his claim for expenses at least once a year, when he had a clear idea of the number of times he had been required to mow the Green, and could prepare costings for maintenance.

Peter Durnin, however, pointed out that MP gives not only of his time, but also his skill, and perhaps he should, after all, be paid for that? CB asked if PD was suggesting that CB was 'thick'? This defused what had become quite a tense discussion, and allowed FP to offer a concluding suggestion. She thought that we all appreciate what the volunteers do for the community, and said that they should all be encouraged to put forward claims for expenses. 'We do not take their efforts for granted,' she said.

CT asked if this was the general feeling of the Meeting, and everyone was in agreement. The idea that anyone doing voluntary work for the village should be fully reimbursed was put to the vote, and was proposed by BG and seconded by JH-L. The motion was carried unanimously. It has therefore been accepted that, in future, all volunteers should be encouraged to submit claims for their expenses.

## 5. The Village Fête

MP read out the financial details of takings from the Village Fête in July, as supplied by SH. He went through the list, outlining the profits made by each individual stall and game, and highlighting the successes of almost every attraction. Even some of the smaller stalls, which have struggled to raise any money at all in previous years, did well, and it was unanimously agreed that the 2012 Fête had been a tremendous success.

CT stated that he had written a letter of thanks to Martin Clunes for so generously agreeing to open the Fête for us, and for staying so long. He thought that MC had evidently enjoyed his visit, and that he had actually been back again since.

CT then offered a quick review of the Fête, including a suggestion that attendance this year had been in the region of 1200 to 1500 people. This was initially questioned from the floor, but the assumption would appear to be supported by the facts. There were programme sales of just over 600, but these ran out after little over an hour, and visitors continued to arrive throughout the event. Later arrivals were allowed to enter without charge, and did not receive programmes. Furthermore, there were 150 Japanese visitors, who were offered half-price entry and also did not receive programmes. The many children who attended with their parents were not issued with programmes either. Finally, it was thought that perhaps 100 people from North Aston were also present, either as volunteers or in supporting roles. With all figures considered, then a total of 1200 or more seemed highly probable.

CT concluded by saying that the Fête had raised a total, after expenses, of around £4000. This was a fantastic achievement, but the Meeting had now arrived at the time of the night when

the Meeting had to decide how the money was to be divided.

CT said that one of the reasons why members of the organising committee had worked so hard to make the 2012 Fête such a success had been because there was a genuine desire to raise money for the Village Hall project. Inviting MC to open the Fête, and introducing new attractions, such as the Yarnton Brass Band, the Classic Cars, and other features, had been done with the intent of increasing the profile of the event and, it had been hoped, to generate even more money than usual. That the Fête had raised almost twice as much as on any previous year demonstrated that all that hard work had been justified.

In the past, CT said, the proceeds had been split between the Church and the Village Fund. This year, thanks to that extra effort, sufficient money had been raised to consider "a third entity". He then asked those present, "as a village", what the Meeting wanted to do with the funds.

FP suggested that the fairest distribution might be to split the profits three ways. CB stated that he thought that the proceeds should still be split half-and-half, between the Church and the Village. EG did not agree with him, and said that she also felt that the money should be divided between the three – Church, Village Fund and Village Hall. CB reiterated his disagreement.

CT suggested that many people had come to see MC, and that the extra publicity for this year's more ambitious Fête, which had been arranged by the organising committee, had been directly responsible for the extra income. TH thought that the weather might also have had an important part to play. After weeks of dismal days and rain, the weekend of the Fête had been one of the first when the sun shone, and people had wanted to get outside and enjoy themselves. The North Aston Fête just happened to coincide with that break in the weather, and people looked for something to do on a particularly good day. It was the height of the holidays and MC was just the icing on the cake.

EG reiterated her agreement with FP. Matthew Rees, at a tangent, said that he would like to suggest that the Village purchased a decent sized barbecue, that could be used on such occasions. The sale of burgers and sausages had been one of the best money-spinners of the day, but the four chefs had been working "flat out" on small barbecues, and perhaps we could justify the expense of something bigger.

TH drew the topic back to the distribution of moneys by suggesting that he was also inclined to favour the splitting of the funds three ways. "The Church and the Village Fund will still get more than they've ever received in previous years," he said. "Also, we have to demonstrate that we are trying to raise money towards the Village Hall ourselves in order to support applications for grants and other funding."

BG then reminded the Meeting that, some ten years or so previously, it was always known as the Church Fête, and it had been held in the Manor gardens. Norman West had been instrumental in preparing for the Fête in those days (as he remains today) but had required an operation on his knee that made it difficult for him to manage on his own. As a result, the decision had been taken to move the event to the Green, and to encourage more residents to become involved. "To me, as someone involved from the very beginning, I feel it has been swept away from under our feet," she said. She did concede, however, that a few years ago, when the Church

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was in dire need of funds, the Village Meeting had voted to donate all the proceeds to the Church, and she had been grateful for that.

This was seen as a precedent for the fact that the split was not always half-and-half, and perhaps a three-way split could be agreed. TH, however, said that he had lived in the village for almost twenty years, and had been involved in preparing for the Fête ever since it had moved to the Green, and as far as he was concerned, the event was now the North Aston Fête, and not a Church event. It was also suggested from the floor that, this year especially, the support from the Church at the organising meetings when the Fête had been planned had not been as wholehearted as in previously years.

A number of others agreed that the Fête was, indeed, a village event, and had not been perceived as a "Church Fête" for many years. "It is the *North Aston Fête*" insisted FP, and several others were heard to agree. TH repeated his assertion that, if we are working towards a Village Hall, then we have to demonstrate that we are making an effort as a community, and in sheer monetary terms, the Church will still receive more than it ever has before.

Lynn Quek pointed out that a large cross-section of the village takes part in the Fête, both church and non-church, and calling the event the *North Aston Fête* makes sense. "I respect the fact that the Church is an important part of village life," she said, "but the three-way split does seem to be the fairest way."

Jane Durnin said that it hadn't always been the Church Fête either, but had at one time been a Cricket Club Fête. However, it was suggested that this had actually been a separate event, organised by NACC.

CB interjected to state that he felt it was important that the accounts for the Village Hall were published. It was explained that this wasn't yet possible, since all the funds so far raised for the Village Hall were held by the Village Fund, and no independent bank account had yet been established. However, as soon as that dedicated account was opened, detailed statements would become available.

This focused the discussion somewhat, and CT proposed that a vote be taken. The proposal was that the total moneys raised by the 2012 North Aston Village Fête should be split three ways, equally between the Church, the Village Fund and the Village Hall. EG proposed the vote, TH seconded. 8 voted in favour, 3 voted against and there were 2 abstentions. The motion was therefore carried.

With the allocation of funds settled, the Meeting went on to discuss the Fête in more general terms. BG wanted to thank everyone who had worked towards the Fête this year. "It was the best we've ever had," she said. However, she felt that everyone had been stretched to their limits, and worried that those working at the Fête had not had time to enjoy themselves. MP said that he felt that the event had set a benchmark for the future, and we now knew what our limits were. Evidently, we can cope with a Fête of this magnitude, but this was perhaps a maximum. With the experience gained from 2012, another fête of similar size should be more manageable.

MP wanted to thank Clive and Trudy especially for the great efforts they had made in making the Green look so splendid; mowing the grass and cutting back overhanging branches from many of the trees.

FP said that she had been very impressed by the number of people who had worked so hard, especially on the day, with many arriving on the Green at eight in the morning, and not stopping until six in the evening. She added that if people have strong views about where their stalls should be placed, and how the site should be laid out, then they shouldn't turn up at mid-day and start complaining and being rude and ungrateful, just because things may have been done differently. BG appreciated that this comment was, to a certain degree, aimed at those involved with staffing the Refreshments Tent, and she apologised for any misunderstanding that may have arisen.

However, it was observed by others at the Meeting that a number of latecomers had been fairly vociferous in their criticisms, and if such people wanted their views to be heard, then in future they had to make the effort to attend planning meetings and to turn up in better time on the day. MP agreed that some people who had accepted responsibility for jobs at the Fête had not turned up until the last minute, by which time all the setting-out and preparation had been done for them. Under such circumstances, they had no right to complain.

JD observed that, while it had been a lovely day, she had sensed that there was a stressful atmosphere in some of the tents! TH said that "we all learn as we go along, and every year we learn a little more." It was a "perfect storm" this year, and he had spoken to some people who hadn't really been out of their houses in weeks. The Fête had been a golden opportunity.

CT said that we should all be very proud of what had been achieved.

MP then read out extracts from a number of emails and letters he had received immediately after the Fête, in which people had made comment on areas where they'd felt improvements could be made, and offered their suggestions for the future.

The most consistent criticism was of provision for parking. Thanks were expressed to Niel for opening the gates to the Nursery so that cars could be parked there. Other cars had been parked around the Vicarage end of the Green. It was thought that better use could have been made of space on the Green itself, and that, in future, parking attendants would be needed to direct traffic as it arrives. A dedicated space for disabled parking should also be provided, perhaps near the telephone box. That prompted a suggestion that perhaps the toilets (much appreciated though they were) could be sited in a less visually prominent position next time!

Another repeated criticism had been the state of the Green itself. While widely acknowledged that CB and TB had worked wonders to make the grass look as good as it did, they should never have been required to work so hard. The state of the Green in the weeks leading up to the Fête had been "a disgrace to the village". It was thought that there was certainly no need for the Green to be neglected in this way, and the poor weather had not been an excuse for failing to mow the grass more regularly through May and June. On an estate the size of North Aston Farms, it was also felt unlikely that any hay produced from the Green represented a significant contribution towards the total crop. In future it was hoped that a more sympathetic mowing regime could be introduced that would ease the final preparations for the Fête and enhance the general appearance of the Green throughout the summer.

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Other suggestions received included: more effective public address (the system failed on the day, leading to the electrocution of one of the operators!), the addition of a Dog Show and a Tug-of-War; better access to the classic cars; a more obvious barrier to the car park; explanatory notices for the cars and motorcycles; better layout for the motorcycles; the inclusion of a central focus, perhaps a flagpole; and more plant sales. All in all, though, the Fête was deemed a great success and a credit to the community.

## 6. Any Other Business

### A. Village Hall

EG announced that she would have to leave early, so asked if she could “throw in my AOB spanner now”. With regard to the Village Hall, she said she knew no more than anyone else, despite sharing a home with the Village Chairman, but she didn’t feel that it had moved forwards much in recent months. She asked if North Aston has “aimed too high,” and went on to ask why we couldn’t rebuild on the old pavilion site. “Would it actually require planning permission?” she asked. Would a building there serve the village and its apparent requirements? “It may be just me,” she said, “but I feel we’ve pitched this too high.”

“That wasn’t a spanner,” suggested PD, “that was the whole engine!” As Chairman of the Village Hall Forum, MP responded by explaining why any development of the Pavilion site would still require planning permission, and that CDC had already made it clear that they did not favour that site on a whole variety of grounds. Developing the Pavilion site would also add tens of thousands to the overall cost. He also apologised for the lack of progress (and subsequently explained some of the reasons for that in the September issue of the *News*). In essence, however, the Village had expressed its wish to build a village hall and where it should be sited, as well as what functions it should perform. To end up with something that fell short of those expectations would be a sad repetition of history. However, it had been agreed many months previously that the Village Meeting could not devote the time necessary to discussing details of the Village Hall and that debate on this subject should be pursued at the Forum meetings. If EG had concerns, then she should attend the next Forum meeting, and raise them there.

### B. Jubilee

CT said that, in the light of no other suggestions being forthcoming regarding a permanent memorial to the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee, he had decided to follow up on a suggestion made at a previous Meeting that we look into having a new

bench for the Green. He had approached Daniel Durnin, who excelled in last year’s *Flower & Produce Show* with his hand-made furniture, to submit a quote for making a bespoke bench. He was waiting for Daniel’s response.

### C. Harvest Supper

CB confirmed the date for the forthcoming Harvest Supper as being Saturday October 6th. It was hoped that this could be staged in the Orchard Barn at Nicholson Nurseries. Further details would be published in the *News*.

### D. Loose Kerbing

CB said that he had noted that, despite contact with the Council, a number of kerb stones along Somerton Road were still loose. CT explained that workmen had visited and had reinstalled some of the granite setts, but not all. He would contact Highways and ask them to come back to complete the job.

### E. Water Supply

BG expressed her concern over the way the water board had been handing the installation of new pipework to Hall Close and the houses near the Church. It seems that they have adopted a fairly random method of identifying which pipe goes to which house, and simply turn off one supply and wait for a household to contact them! CT said that he was also aware of other householders along St Mary’s Walk who had received ambiguous and unhelpful letters about the water supply, and there had also been complaints about litter being dropped by the contractors. BG said that she and DG had, without warning, been left totally without water on two separate occasions. TH admitted that it sounded like a very “slapdash” way of checking for leaks.

CT said that he understood that the water board had encountered a number of problems whilst working on the supply, including issues at the reservoir that had resulted in lower than usual pressures and a need to “bleed” the system. However, he understood that the work would be completed shortly.

On a similar topic, JH-L said that homes along the Middle Aston lane had been subject to interruptions in electrical supply as well. It was thought that trees catching the supply cables could be to blame.

### Next Meeting

That concluded the meeting and a date of Thursday 29th November was set for the next meeting. This would be the final meeting of the year, and would allow for preparations for events over Christmas and the New Year.

# COFFEE MORNING

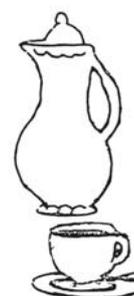
Come and join us for an informal get-together at the Bakery on the first Wednesday of each month. Tea, coffee and cakes will be served from 10:30am till 12:00 noon.

## 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 October 3rd



## Crimes of Note

We hope that those of you who managed to have a summer holiday had a lovely time away. We are grateful that the traditional summer burglary spree that can occur with windows left open in hot weather or unoccupied houses whilst the residents are away has not happened this year. Thank you for being keeping your homes and valuables secure and for being vigilant to suspicious incidents.

### Metal thefts

Sadly, thefts of lead and other metals continue. Lead from Fringford Village Hall roof has been stolen.

### Speeding

Speed checks have been carried out in Middleton Stoney recently and 14 motorists were given tickets for excess speed, including a resident of Steeple Aston and another from Upper Heyford. Speeding checks were also carried out using the speed indicator device in Upper Heyford. 8 out of 40 of the vehicles monitored were exceeding the legal limit. Please watch your speed, and thank you to all those of you who drive safely.

### Offenders brought to justice

Following the theft of a trailer from Heyford Park, a male has been arrested and is currently on police bail whilst enquires continue. The trailer was recovered at an address in Banbury and has been returned to its owner.

You may recall from last month's *News* that two vehicles were stolen from a farm in Steeple Aston. One of these, an orange Lancia that was in the process of being restored to its former glory, has now been recovered and returned to its rightful owner. The investigation continues and there seems every likelihood of a successful prosecution.

### Meet & Greet

The team had some good days out at the Stratton Audley Hunt and Finmere Festival this month. Thank you to all those of you who came to speak to us!



WPC Brown attended the licensing of a new team Vicar, Bill Muncey, at Fringford Church recently.

### Have your say

Come and speak to members of the team. The next opportunity is on October 9th at the Chesterton Coffee Morning, from 11am - 12noon.

### NAG Appeal

The Neighbourhood Action Group is a committee that is formed of police officers from the neighbourhood team and volunteer members of the local community. The community members have an active influence in the policing of the rural area and offer any expertise that they may have to help resolve issues. We meet every 6 to 8 weeks to discuss any current issues. We are actively looking for new recruits so if you would like to know more and think you may be able to help, please contact us without obligation on the below email address or ring 101.

### Contact us

If you would like to contact the neighbourhood team you can call us on the new police non emergency number of 101. If your call is an emergency then dial 999.

# Bonfire Night!

This year's Bonfire Night falls on a Monday, so it is expected that some celebrants may wish to let off their fireworks on the Saturday (3rd) or Sunday (4th). Please remember that it is illegal to let off fireworks after 11:00 pm on any November date except the 5th, when the cut-off is midnight.

If you're planning on having a fireworks party that won't be on these dates, then you must advise your neighbours. This will enable owners to keep their pets safely indoors and so less likely to be frightened. Knocking door-to-door or doing a leaflet drop is the first step, but to help with wider distribution, please email details of your fireworks party to [info@north-aston.co.uk](mailto:info@north-aston.co.uk), and the warning will be distributed through the Village database. If you're not included but want to receive such information, then please submit your email address as soon as possible.

**Saturday November 3rd**  
**Sunday November 4th**  
**(No later than 11:00pm)**  
**Monday November 5th**  
**(No later than midnight)**

# Steeple Aston Players

proudly present

## Fall Into Autumn

An evening of song, sketches,  
readings and dance celebrating  
Autumn

Jan Liberadzki 2012

Friday 26th and Saturday 27th October 7.30pm at the Village Hall  
Tickets £5, children & concessions £3  
Booking 01869 324875



# 100 Club



The lucky winners of the August Draw were:

First Prize (£10): Linda Brown (#50)

Second Prize (£5): Dierdre Oakley (#19)

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 next year, please call Norman on 340368 to reserve your number.

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

## Artweeks 2013

Plans for North Aston's participation in next years Artweeks Festival (May 18th-27th) are gathering pace. If you'd like to take part, now is the time to start preparing your exhibit and plan your role in what should be an exciting community project. Volunteers to help with organising the event also very welcome.

## 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](http://www.naenterprise.co.uk)

## ORCC Trading Oil Scheme Start Planning Ahead for Winter!

Details have been published previously in the News, but with the approach of Winter here's a reminder that could save you hundreds of pounds each year if you use oil-fired domestic heating. 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](mailto:info@offac.co.uk). Savings of over £250 in a year based on an annual membership fee of just £20 seem like a bargain.

**Please  
keep the  
Pavements  
Clear**



# 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 you door.

Email: [northastonorganics@gmail.com](mailto:northastonorganics@gmail.com)

Tel: ((01869)) 3477102

## FREE Anti-Theft Number Plate Screws

Your vehicle registration number is part of a person's identity and many people fail to consider what could happen if their number plate is stolen, so a campaign to combat the rise in car number plate thefts is being launched in north Oxfordshire. The partnership has enlisted the help of garges and MOT stations who have agreed to fit theft resistant screws **free of charge** to MOT customers.

Alternatively, do-it-yourself motorists can pick up sets of screws from Banbury, Bicester and Kidlington police stations.

Registration plates stolen from parked vehicles are used by thieves who drive away from petrol station without paying for fuel, and by criminals who commit ram raids, bank robberies and other crimes that require getaway cars.

Number plate thieves also avoid speeding fines, parking tickets and congestion charges.

The innocent owners of the plates are usually the first to be questioned by police investigating the crimes, and receive letters demanding payment of speeding and parking fines.

Full details and a list of participoating garages is given on the CherwellSafe website. Simply visit the following web page:

[www.cherwellsafe.org/pdpage1.htm](http://www.cherwellsafe.org/pdpage1.htm)

# Councillor Calling



## All in the Planning

The **Local Plan** and **Bicester Masterplan** have now been released for consultation and we all have until 10th October to get our comments in. This is a once in a generation chance to dictate how your District and your market town will develop over the next couple of decades – get it wrong now and we and our children will have to live with the consequences. So it's vital that everyone who has an interest takes a look and lets Cherwell know what needs changing. Often it's the tiny details that, if neglected, cause trouble for years ahead.

Even more difficult to spot are the things that are not in but ought to be. There are 266 pages of the Local Plan but don't despair! A lot of it is about "faraway places of which we know little" (Banbury, Kidlington...) and it's all available on the website so you don't have to bankrupt yourself printing it or cripple yourself lugging it around (I do!). So do, please, give it a go – a thousand pairs of eyes must surely spot all the traps – and then tell Cherwell what you don't agree with (and what you do, if you feel strongly about something that might arouse opposition, so both sides get a fair hearing).

## Taking Care

Meanwhile, back in the here and now, **Bicester Community Hospital**, after nearly twenty years of agonising, finally lurched past a major milestone in getting unanimous approval for its planning permission. Even now, this was not uncontroversial: it will only have 12 beds on site, not the 30 ideally wanted, it will be paid for by building fourteen houses on the site of the old hospital but, to make the finances stack up, none of these will be affordable, and it will displace a lot of well-used parking to where, nobody knows. However, councillors, including me, concluded that the old place was well past its sell-by date and we need a good replacement now more than a perfect one possibly, sometime. As it happens, it also looks rather an attractive design as well as being far better equipped, more flexible, etc, etc, as you'd expect.

## By Order of St John

By coincidence, wearing a totally different hat (the finely silver-braided one of St John Ambulance county commander, as it happens), I also attended the opening of the Orders of St John Care Trust's latest brand-new **Langford View Care Home**, which was most impressive on the part of staff and facilities alike. So Bicester's medical facilities are suddenly galloping ahead.

## Tesco Expansion

Slightly further south, the **Tesco/Bicester Village** scheme has been submitted to the planners. This will extend both the shops and carpark at Bicester Village on to the current Tesco site, while Tesco will build a far larger Tesco Extra store, with all sorts of non-food goods added to the current offering, on the south side of the road next to Wyevale/Bicester Avenue.

As well as creating "up to 3,500" new jobs and, of course, giving us the choice of the new town centre Sainsbury, the new Lidl and Aldi, and this expanded Tesco, it is hoped that the separate entrance (£11million of roadworks...) will help solve the horrendous traffic jams at Christmas and Bank Holidays.

## Bicester Bottleneck

Talking about jams, the County Council have just approved a new **Bicester town centre traffic scheme** costed at one and a half million pounds. This involves changes to the roundabout where the Banbury and Buckingham Roads meet south of the station, to North Street, Roman Way and St John's Street and to Queen's Avenue. As always, expect plenty of disruption while the works are under way – I think I'll give up on the town centre and use the ring road to get to the station – but hope we shall see an end to those grinding rush-hour queues.

## Heritage in Trust

After all this Bicester stuff, I'd better mention developments at **Banbury Museum**, which is being formed into an independent trust so, freed of paying business rates, there's more money for exhibitions and education. This month saw the appointment as chairman of the preparatory "shadow" board of trustees of none other than Bob Langton, formerly of Lower Heyford (my predecessor as church warden, in fact), an inveterate and effective volunteer for good causes: if I ever had any worries, now I know the museum will be in safe hands.

## Dick Makepeace

And to end on a terribly sad note, I must record the passing of **Dick Makepeace**, who shared the representation of the Astons & Heyfords ward on Cherwell District Council with me until a few years ago. He set an example of tireless and devoted work which I struggle to emulate and, although we sailed under the flags of opposing parties (Dick was Liberal Democrat to the core), that was never the least bit relevant when it came to solving problems in the ward. The Council always formally remembers in silence those who have served the people of this District. I look forward to adding a personal note to the tributes which follow.

**James Macnamara**

Tel: 01869 340109

[cllr.james.macnamara@cherwell-dc.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.james.macnamara@cherwell-dc.gov.uk)



# CHURCH SERVICES

## PARISH WORSHIP IN OCTOBER 2012

### STEEPLE ASTON

### NORTH ASTON

### TACKLEY

#### Sunday 7th - Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

11.00 am  
Holy Communion  
**Fr Mark Clavier**

6.00 pm  
Harvest Festival  
**Fr Mark Clavier**  
**Fr Tony Clavier, preacher**

9.30 am  
Holy Communion  
**Fr Mark Clavier**

6.00 pm  
Evensong  
**Fr Robin Gibbons**

#### Sunday 14th - Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity

11.00 am  
Holy Communion  
**Fr Mark Clavier**  
**Fr Tony Clavier, preacher**

9.30 am  
Holy Communion  
& Children's Church  
**The Rev'd Geoff Hunter**

9.30 am  
Holy Communion  
**Fr Mark Clavier**  
6.00 pm Evensong  
**Fr Robin Gibbons**  
**Fr Mark Clavier**  
**Fr Tony Clavier, preacher**

#### Sunday 21st - Twentieth Sunday after Trinity

11.00 am  
United Benefice Communion &  
Children's Church  
**Fr Mark Clavier**

No service

6.00 pm Evensong  
**Fr Robin Gibbons**  
**Fr Mark Clavier**

#### Sunday 28th - Twenty-First Sunday after Trinity

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

9.30 am  
Village Praise  
**Mr Kildare Bourke-Borrowes**

9.30 am  
Holy Communion  
**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 - Every Week

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

- 3rd October – 10.30-12 pm **Coffee Morning** at the Old Bakehouse in North Aston  
**Bible Study** at the Rectory each Monday 1.30-2.30 pm  
24th October – 7.30 pm **A Pint with the Parson** at the *Gardiner Arms*, Tackley  
17th October – 7.30 pm **Holy Ways** at Dr Radcliffe Hall