

# NORTH ASTON

NEWS

July 2014

#285



*The Jubilee Bench*

*London to Paris by Bike, On the Land, Sykes Appeal, the Fête!*



**JULY 2014, No: 285**

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**Thames Valley Police non-emergency: 101**

**Out of Hours Doctor: 08453 458 995**

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# Your Village Chairman

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## Bees & Chemicals

I admit this subject isn't normally part of our village agenda, though as an abnormally environment-conscious and sustainable place it is always in the background, or at least it should be.

We have two beekeepers in the village, most of us feel that there are more bees active this year, the abandoned nest in my roof is now re-occupied and doing well. However two very recent events show how serious and charged this subject is.

In April 2013 the EU banned the use of three neonicotinoid insecticides for three years for an assessment to be made (Britain opposed the ban). These are neurotoxins which attack the central nervous system; they are embedded in the seed, so that every part of the plant is toxic to insects. Now a new and important study has concluded that not only bees and other pollinators are being dramatically affected, but the whole of our ecosystem – through the soil, through water courses, through birds, through dust, etc. The study concluded: "Overall, a compelling body of evidence has accumulated that clearly demonstrates that the wide-scale use of these persistent, water-soluble chemicals is having widespread, chronic impacts upon global biodiversity and is likely to be having major negative effects on ecosystem services such as pollination that are vital to food security."

The following day, Syngenta – one of the major agro-chemical companies, applied to the Government for an 'emergency' lifting of the ban to treat large quantities of oil-seed rape seeds, to 'protect food security'; the government is apparently sympathetic. Environmentalists and academics have dismissed these alarmist claims. So the stage is set for a major confrontation and probably an almighty row with the EU. Many of us will remember Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* (1962), and the banning of DDT that resulted. To many of us this is an equally serious situation; who is offering to be Carson's successor?

## The Jubilee Bench on the Green

Thank you to everyone who came to the unveiling, and specially to Eileen who cut the ribbon and made a short moving speech about Chris; to Clive who got the foundations dug and the slabs in place (kindly provided by NA Hall); to Mary and Jeremy who organised the drinks and refreshments, and of course to Daniel who designed and made it. I hope you've been to sit on it. When the power-line posts and cables are removed, the view across the valley will be even more beautiful.

## Heyford Park and the proposed Neighbourhood Plan

There has been quite a lot of activity on this, which the four of us appointed at the last Parish Meeting have been following on your behalf. We, along with most of the other parishes, are joining in. We will produce a summary for you to vote on at the August Meeting, and if you don't approve, we can withdraw. The Plan will still be being created, and there will be a Referendum in May 2015.

## The Fete July 19th

PLEASE help us to make this another successful day in our village life. There will be a flurry of activity in July, and many will be asked to do things. I'm sure you will – it's our day. Thank you.

*Kildare*

Telephone: **01869 340 200** ~ email: [chair@north-aston.co.uk](mailto:chair@north-aston.co.uk)

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## North Aston Big Lunch

Just a reminder that the North Aston Big Lunch will be on Sunday 20th July, the day after the Village Fête. This will be a "Bring Your Own & Share" event, with guests asked to provide a dessert to share, and to supply their own main course, drinks, cutlery and glasses. Some drinks will be provided.



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

### **Recipes for the Church**

Thank you to those who have contributed so far to the recipe book I'm compiling to raise funds for the window restoration at St Mary's church. The recipes sound delicious!

However, as I don't have enough to make a book yet, I'm afraid it won't be ready to launch at the fête. I will be continuing to collect recipes over the next few months, and depending on contributions, will perhaps have enough to launch the book at the Flower & Produce Show.

If you have a recipe you could donate, please forward it on to me at [janechenies@hotmail.com](mailto:janechenies@hotmail.com), or I'd be happy to come and collect a written copy if you call me on 347504.

Many thanks, Jane McArdle (*Windana*).

### **A small but touching memory of D-Day**

A couple of days before the D-Day 70th Anniversary I was at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, and had a chat with Trooper Roy Cadman there. He was with No 1 Commando that came ashore in landing craft in the first wave at Sword Beach on June 6th. There was a big swell on the way across and many of them had been very sick. As they beached, he darted down the ramp, fell over in the water, struggled to his feet, ran up the beach through machine gun fire ('Off the beach! Get off the beach!'), and formed up with his platoon at the Ouistreham Casino.

They then advanced the three miles up to Pegasus Bridge, overcoming some problems on the way. This vital bridge, over the Caen canal, had been captured earlier by our very own Ox and Bucks Light Infantry Airborne, who had crash-landed near it in the dark in several large gliders.

At the bridge is the famous Pegasus café owned by the Gondrée family, perhaps the first building to be 'liberated' by the allies that day.

As they approached the bridge, which was being sprayed by a nearby Spandau machine gun, he looked up and there in a first floor window was little Arlette Gondrée, 5, waving a small tricolore flag at them. He waved back, and then they ran like hell across the bridge, with the bullets ricocheting around them, and linked up on the far side with the Ox and Bucks and 7th Para who had reinforced them. They apologised for being slightly late – 'some nasty men delayed us'.

Arlette still owns and runs the café there, and Roy has been going back with his comrades to see her every year. 'She always gives us a kiss, you know, and she's still quite young and attractive'. He's 91 this year, and she's 75. For him, I think, she will always be that darling little girl who they had come through storm and fire to liberate.

He was just one of the 156,000 soldiers who landed in Normandy that day; but of course precious few of them are left now to tell us these unique memories.

*Kildare*

## **This Month's BIRTHDAYS**

Mary Davidson

Jane Durnin

Eddie Hatzigeorgiou

Rosie Nicholson

Marcus Potts

Eileen West



Congratulations also to  
**Clive & Trudy Busby**  
on their wedding anniversary this month

## **Announcements**

### **Happy Birthday Robert!**

Wishing Robert/Daddy a very happy 40th birthday for the 1st July, with lots of love from Liz and Kyle xxx

### **Congratulations Olivia Kneale**

Heartfelt congratulations to Olivia Kneale, who will be getting married to Chris Lewis in North Aston Church on Saturday 26th July. The service will be followed by a reception at Rosemary Cottage. Nicholas would like to appeal to his neighbours and everyone nearby for their understanding should the celebrations prove to be suitably exuberant. The same DJ has been commissioned to organise the music as played for her sister Tilly's wedding last summer, and somehow the volume from the woofers and tweeters was sufficiently subdued and no-one appeared to be too aware of the music!

### **Road Works**

We've had no advance warning of any significant roadworks for July - but that doesn't mean they won't spring some on us anyway! The work along Camp Road in **Upper Heyford** continues, and there are intermittent works scheduled for the B430, the M40, and also in Adderbury. The new junction in Bodicote (Banbury) is due to be fully operational from early July.

### **Old Postcards, Boxes and Jewellery . . .**

We are always looking for interesting, quirky and quality items to add to our stock of antiques & collectables. We're particularly interested in Edwardian period postcards, "blue & white" china, brassware, wooden boxes, small items of silver and Edwardian or Victorian jewellery, including rings and brooches. Please contact Marcus or Franca at Old School Antiques (347356) or email [sales@oldschoolantiques.co.uk](mailto:sales@oldschoolantiques.co.uk). Thankyou.

# LONDON to PARIS

Firstly, thank you to everyone from the village who has given Jos and I their aid and encouragement in supporting Adoption UK based in Banbury.

As I'm sure many of you are aware Jos was unable to participate due to an accident that took place on a training ride two weeks before the event. He was unfortunate enough to collide with a Douge de Bordeaux that had run into the road from the owner's garden. The collision sent him over the handlebars, landing in the road on his head and left shoulder. This resulted in a broken collar bone which has since been fastened in place with a plate and several screws. The French Mastiff didn't sustain any injuries to speak of but was a little subdued for a couple of days following the incident, the owner tells us. Needless to say Jos was hugely disappointed that he would not be able to take part. The prospect of completing this challenge was intimidating enough, but the thought of doing it without my brother was just a little more daunting.

## Day 1

The first day arrived and I found myself with 150 other cyclists in Crystal Palace all waiting to be briefed; ready to start the 300 miles to Paris. "And they're off!" The nerves disappeared within an instant and I was happy to be finally on my way after months of training.

The first leg to Dover was 80 miles. Once out of the suburbs of London we then took to the rolling hills of the Kent countryside, and with the sun shining this was all going far too well. As everybody settled in people started to split up, generally cycling with others of the same ability. There were cyclists of all shapes and sizes, young and old, from all over the country. I tagged along with three Cornish lads, who became my cycling companions throughout the entire trip. With weary legs we arrived at the ferry and it was a chance for a break and a well-earned tea.

A short crossing of the Channel and we arrived in France, but the prospect of cycling another 15 miles in the cold and dark wasn't looked forward to; nevertheless, on we went and arrived at our first overnight stop in Calais.

## Day 2

The second day was 70 miles in total from Calais to Abbeville. It wasn't the best of starts for me as I briefly forgot the French drive on the other side of the road. When swinging left, possibly a little over confidently, now on the wrong side of the road, I was inches away from a farmer waving his fist out of a tractor window – just like home I thought.

Then with more concentration I started to enjoy the picturesque countryside of Northern France passing through quaint and beautiful villages, with the occasional local spurring me on (Well I hope that's what they were doing!) Food stops were roughly midway through the daily ride. It was always well received. A choice of pasta with pasta, cake and more pasta! After lunch we were all counting down the miles until we reached the next rest point.

## Day 3

By the third day, over half way through, our legs and bums were certainly feeling the effects of cycling for long periods.

Today would be another 70 mile route travelling from Abbeville to Beauvais. We travelled along the River Somme, an area known for its epic battles during the First World War and you cannot help but be reminded of the tens of thousands of people who lost their lives during that time. Leaving these sombre thoughts behind, myself and the boys from Kernow battled on to our penultimate overnight stop.

## Day 4

The final push to Paris would cover 65 miles. This day would turn out to be the wettest and toughest day of all. By the time we got to our food stop we were all soaked through and our teeth chattered with the cold, but with the finish line in the forefront of our minds we all made another big effort after lunch and finally arrived at Eiffel Tower. Cycling all together, being escorted down the famous boulevards was a real highlight. Jos surprisingly travelled out to meet me and joined in the celebrations, which was a nice ending to this strenuous and worthwhile challenge.

Once again, and on behalf of Adoption UK, a massive thank you to you all! For an adopted child, finding their forever family isn't always the end of their journey. Many adoptions today involve children who have sadly experienced neglect and/or abuse in their early lives. This trauma can lead to emotional, behavioural, educational or developmental difficulties and many require ongoing support to help them overcome these early experiences. It is therefore vital that adoptive parents receive the correct, ongoing support. Adoption UK provides adoptive families with this support and your kind donations will be used to fund information, guidance, training and education services – such as the development of their national Helpline and local support groups. These vital services help adoptive families build brighter futures for children and help adoptions succeed. More information can be found at [www.adoptionuk.org](http://www.adoptionuk.org).

*Adam Busby*

Many congratulations to Adam and Jos. Their efforts raised just under £3000 for Adoption UK.



# North Aston Gardening Club

June has been good month for growers: the mixture of long days of sunshine and then rain certainly made for good growing (not least for the weeds!).

Many gardens in the village are bursting with flowers, and the allotments are looking full of produce. It looks like a good year for courgettes, peas and spuds so far, and the milder weather has yielded a bumper crop of early broad beans. So, there'll be no excuses not to take part in the annual North Aston Flower & Produce Show (Saturday the 30th of August at 2pm). Entry forms are distributed with this month's *Newsletter*.

We plan to simplify the public voting system: this year we'll be going for the 'first past the post system' where you, the public, will vote for only one entry per class, and the entry with most votes comes First, the one with second most votes comes Second and so on.

Lynn Humberstone from Heyfords' WI has kindly agreed to be the judge for the cookery section. Entry fees are still a bargain at 30p per adult entry, 20p for children (under 16s).

Entry forms and fees need to be dropped in to either Chris Hazle (19 The Green) or Lynn Quek (Nether Cottage) by 8pm Friday the 22nd of August. We will be posting further instructions for the day in the August Newsletter.

There is no NAGC meeting this month, the next one will be mid-August (date and venue TBC) when we will be finalising plans for the FnP show. Happy gardening!

Lynn



The lucky winners of this month's draw are:

First Prize (£10): S Greenwood (#133)

Second Prize (£5): L Brown (#50)

More than the usual number of members haven't yet renewed their subscriptions for this year. If you still want to be included, then please hand in your forms and payment to Norman as soon as possible! However, we need new members if the 100 Club is to continue.



If you would like to sign up, please speak to Norman West or call him on 340368.

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

## Upcoming Events

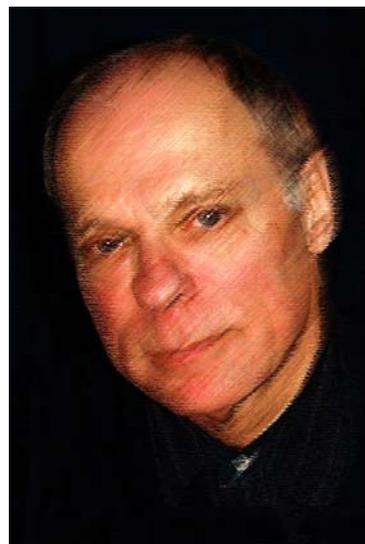
### Deddington Farmers' Market

The traditional Farmers' Market in Deddington takes place every 4th Saturday of the month. This month's will be on **26th July**.

# Poetry Group

On behalf of the Upper Heyford Poetry Group, we cordially invite you and your partners to meet the poet Lawrence Sail, who will be coming to Upper Heyford Reading Room on Monday, July 7th at 8.00 p.m., to read a selection of his poetry.

Sail was born in London and brought up in Exeter. He studied French and German at Oxford University, taught for some years in Kenya, before returning to the UK, where he taught at Blundell's School and Exeter School. He is now a freelance writer.



Sail has published nine poetry collections. He works in schools and colleges and has presented the BBC Radio 3 programme *Poetry Now* and *Time for Verse* on Radio 4. He has been a judge for the Whitbread Prize and the UK jury member for the European Literature Prize.

A chance meeting of his with Richard and Sheila Bailey means we are fortunate enough to be having him as our guest.

Drinks and nibbles will be served during the evening, which will probably last till about 9.30 p.m. There is no charge, but we will be pleased to receive donations to help defray costs.

We do hope you will be able to join us. So that we can set the Reading Room up beforehand, **please will you send us an RSVP by Friday, July 4th.**

We look forward to welcoming you to what promises to be a most enjoyable evening.

Heather & Roger Burt: [heatherandrogerburt@icloud.com](mailto:heatherandrogerburt@icloud.com)



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# On the Land



June-July 2014

Continuing our series that looks at what's happening on the land around the village, this month we have submissions from **Josh** at North Aston Dairy, **Neil** from the Nursery and **Mark** of North Aston Organics.

## North Aston Organics

If you have been whizzing down the road towards Somerton you may only catch a glimpse of what's happening in Mill Field. Until recently, we had many of last winter's brassica crop still in the ground and in full flower to attract *Apanteles glomeratus*. Sadly, it does not have a common name. How about *Cabbage White Slayer* or *Caterpillar's Doom*, for this rather non-descript 'fly' is a parasite of that common pest. The adult fly feeds on the pollen and nectar of flowering brassicas, then later on in the season lays its eggs inside the caterpillar which then hatch out and the larvae feed on their host.

We have also just planted 18,000 leeks by hand with a small gang. Occasionally cars stop by the gate as it is such an unusual sight to see people working in fields unless they're in a tractor. Maybe I should buy a leek planting machine for next year!

Back in the village in Beasley's close we are still making weekly sowings of numerous crops, although we are definitely past the peak. We are sowing something nearly every week from February to early October.

Not having time to cultivate any flowers in the garden I take great delight in the vegetable flowers like the exquisite aubergine or blousey courgette, and even the humble potato *en masse* is quite impressive.

Meanwhile, up the road at the multispan polytunnel the rabbits are re-enacting *The Great Escape* in reverse by continually trying to find ways inside despite might best efforts to keep

them out. Last month they got in and ate all the leaves they could reach on the mangetout plants. At least it made harvesting the pods a lot easier!

Mark

## Nicholsons

Apart from a few short showers we have had very little rain for the last month, so a lot of our time here at the nursery is spent watering – as you know all the water is recycled, so we ensure it is chlorinated to keep it clean and then water as required through individual drippers to each tree. This ensures we waste as little as possible. We are also keeping a careful eye on diseases and pests, as this time of year is when we see lots of activity. Yes, we do spray but only when we need to. And of course lots of weeding! We still have some plants to sell and the new crop is nearly ready, so we are almost round the full circle.

Out on sites we are also watering and weeding, and our landscape teams are still flat out building gardens. The tree teams are using the dry weather to get onto those sites that we can't get to in winter. We are about to put a forest road into a wood to allow the wood to be thinned and managed, so we get involved in some interesting projects.

Although some of us want rain for the plants the others want dry to make the jobs easier – never happy! But I think we have all enjoyed the last few weeks of dry and warm weather.

Niel

## North Aston Dairy

It is a calming thought to know that we have 150 bales of grass silage wrapped and beginning to ferment. Currently they are dotted around the fields where they were cut and baled, but they'll soon be brought in and stacked up ready to feed over the winter. Nice as this weather is, we could do with a little rain to reinvigorate the pasture and accelerate the regrowth.

We've had three calves born this month to keep the milk flowing. Poppy, Cherry and Meadow are all post-natal, healthy and yielding well. Their calves, two male, one female, make a happy group, eating grass and drinking milk from a bucket. The boys are destined for Rose Veal (which we sell locally alongside the dairy produce) in 6-9 months' time and the heifer should come into the milking herd in a couple of years.

Josh





THE  
**NORTH ASTON FETE**  
**Saturday July 19th 2014**

Gates open 2:00. Fête closes 4:30pm

**The Village urgently needs your help!**

The annual Village Fête is only a few weeks away, and we need to start planning now. We will need generous contributions and donations of items for all the main stalls, including White Elephant, Raffle, Tombola, the Book Stall and, nearer the day, Cakes & Produce:

**Adult Tombola**

Bottles, cans, tins and other suitable goods - all within sell-by date please!

**Children's Tombola**

Small toys (new only), soft drinks (named brands) & packets or bags of sweets.

**White Elephant Stall**

Items in excellent, as-new sellable condition, or of antique or collectable interest.

**BookStall**

Books in tidy, readable condition, hardback or paperback.  
Also DVDs, CD's & Computer Games - no videos please.

**Raffle Prizes**

Brand new or very special items, as well as gifts, promises or services!

**Cakes & Produce**

Home-baked cakes, scones & biscuits, home-grown flowers, vegetables & fruit.

Please deliver these to the marquee on the day. Thankyou!

For now, items can be dropped off at Two School Cottages for storage elsewhere.

*We also need . . .*

**Gazebos, Awnings, Tables & Chairs**

If you have an E-Z-up gazebo, small marquee or anything similarly weatherproof (just in case!) that we could borrow for the day, as well as garden chairs & tables, please bring them along to the Green on the Saturday morning.

**Games & Attractions**

All the ever-popular stalls and attractions will be included, as well as a brand new "Wild West" game from the irrepressible John Harvey-Lee. We will need volunteers not only to help man the stalls on the day, but also to help with setting up on the Friday evening.

Please do put your name forward . . . before someone comes knocking on your door!

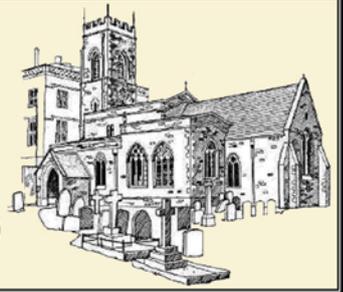
*Volunteers needed to help on the day!*

340200 or email: [info@north-aston.co.uk](mailto:info@north-aston.co.uk)





# The Church MATTERS



## Looking ahead, Looking back

This is a time of year for anniversaries. Almost every wedding I take seems to be the anniversary of someone else's. I'm personally grateful for all the good wishes I received on the 20th anniversary of my ordination. It hardly seems two minutes since that sunny day in Cardiff all those years ago - but the photos remind me it was, perhaps, slightly longer ago than I first recall!

The Fête brings out so many stories of Fêtes past, and ideas for future events - and I must say how much I am looking forward to my first North Aston Fête as Rector here. Actually (whilst I remember) I must also say that the village's giving during Christian Aid Week was very generous: something close to £350, very much up on last year. Well done and thank you!

So we have personal celebrations and commemorations. And we have community moments too. One of these community moments is coming up, and I very much want to invite every member of our village to mark this event.

As July draws on, with the Wimbledon and World Cup finals, we will also find our newspapers and TVs filled with the reminders that a hundred years ago Europe fell into a terrible, terrible war. A war meant to end all wars, which merely became the first of two global conflicts that devastated the last century. It is a world away since the long summer days of 1914 which led to trenches in northern France and Christmas football games with the Germans. And gas. And shrapnel. And whole communities decimated and a way of life lost for ever.

Some village families still remember specific people who left from here and never returned. All of us recognise the horror they faced, and pay tribute to those who served, re-dedicating ourselves to peace and to praying for a better future.

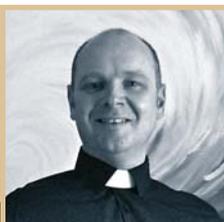
On August 4th, the centenary of the beginning of the Great War, there will be vigils all around the country. There will be a vigil in Steeple Aston for the whole benefice. The bells will be pealed, half muffled, from 8pm till 9pm, and then at 9pm we will hold a vigil service in the church there. There will be readings from soldiers of the 1914-18 War, and candles representing each person from our community who died will be lit and extinguished as we remember them. Please come. Please join with us as we take time to hold this moment in our history and value it together.

The following Sunday at 9.30am (10th August), we will hold our morning church service on the Green and again remember those from North Aston who served, and celebrate peace and the joy of the life we have together. This will be a family event, and again, all are very welcome.

## Coffee Mornings

Morning Prayer is happening on Thursdays at 10am in St Mary's - a wonderful oasis of peace in the middle of the week. And if you find yourself down in Steeple on a Wednesday morning, do call into the church there, where coffee (nice coffee) is available from 10.30 onwards every Wednesday through the summer months!

*Revd Marcus Green*



Any comments about the above are very welcome.

Please email our Rector Marcus Green: [steeplerector@hotmail.com](mailto:steeplerector@hotmail.com) or tel: 340 903

If you wish you can also email Kildare: [k.bourkeborrows@btinternet.com](mailto:k.bourkeborrows@btinternet.com) or tel: 340 200

or Clive: [casb@north-aston.com](mailto:casb@north-aston.com) or tel: 338 434

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.

## From Thames Valley Police

### Team and Crime News

Deborah Hextall tells us that the Team has been busy recently, attending as many Parish meetings as possible so that communities get an opportunity to raise issues directly with the police.

She also says that they have been out and about dealing with Anti-Social Behaviour and had a large scale party shut down in a wooded area near Caversfield last month. This was really concerning, as those present were all between the ages of 13 and 17, many of them were drinking alcohol, and they had started a fire and were throwing aerosol cans on to it. "I am sure I don't need to tell you how dangerous this can be and how lucky they were that nobody was hurt," she says.

If you have any information on parties or ASB that is taking place within the rural area please contact the Team on BicesterRuralNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

The police have also been conducting Speed Checks in the area, as they are aware that this is a subject that continues to be a concern for rural communities. PCSO Kidd organised a new speed watch group with Ardley Parish Council and, on 12th May, conducted a speed check and found 34 vehicles to be speeding, of which 5 were locals. Perhaps they should be invited to conduct a speed check in North Aston!

"We will continue to do all we can to tackle the issue of speeding within our villages," adds Deborah, "but if you are willing to help us set up a speed watch group in your community, please contact us at Bicester Rural NHPT.

The email from Deborah also mentioned the subject of Neighbourhood Watch. John Harvey-Lee has been our co-

ordinator here in North Aston for many years, and recently suggested that it was time not only to update the listing, but also to encourage someone else to take over managing the scheme. Would anyone be willing to help update the list and oversee the Watch? It shouldn't be too demanding, either of time or resources, but it could be a great help.

Neighbourhood Watch is all about people getting together with their neighbours to take action to cut crime. Such schemes are community initiatives operated by their members, and they work by developing close liaison between households and the local police. Watch schemes can help to cut crime and the opportunities for crime; help and reassure those who live in the area, and encourage neighbourliness and closer communities.

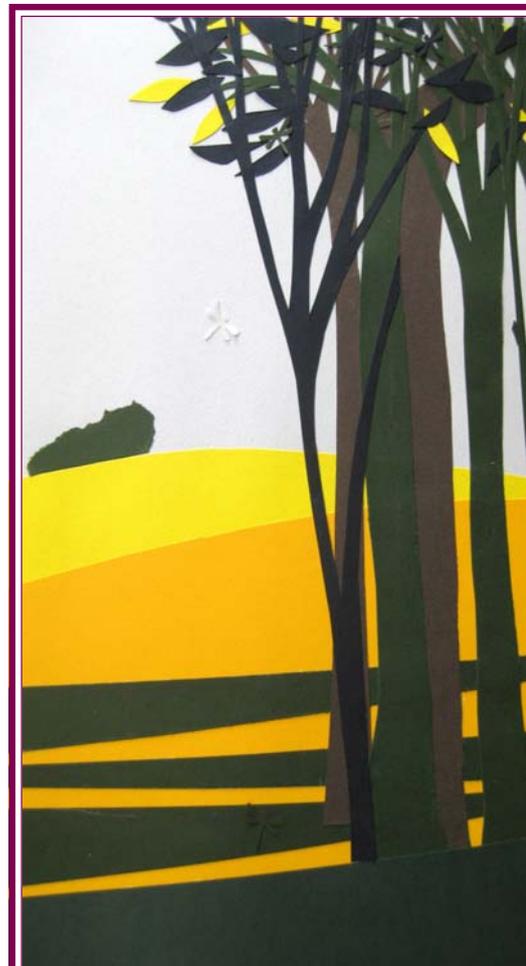
If you'd be willing to take this on, please send an email to the News (info@north-aston.co.uk) or call 347356.

### Contacting TVP

Should you wish to contact the police about any non-urgent matter, please use the 101 number. They want to hear from you, no matter how trivial you think the incident may be.

In the event of an emergency or a "crime in action", then use the familiar 999 number.

To receive free local alerts and crime prevention advice, sign up to Thames Valley Alert. Visit [www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk](http://www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk) and register.



### STEEPLE ASTON CHORAL SOCIETY

*Invites you to*

## A SUMMER EVENING of LOVE SONGS

*Including -*

**Brahms 'Liebeslieder' and**

**L'Estrange 'Love's Philosophy'**

**Solo Lieder sung by Angela Kazimierzuk**

*Together with exclusive premiers of exciting new works by our own*

**Derek Hopwood 'Go Lovely Rose'**

**and Marcus Green 'O My Heart'**

**Sunday July 6<sup>th</sup> 2014**

6.00 pm in The Village Hall, Fir Lane,  
Steeple Aston, Oxfordshire

**Tickets:** available on the door £8.00

*Children under 16 free*

**Enquiries:** Telephone 01869 347346

# Ardley EfW Update

We've received an update from the operators at Ardley, who inform us that the first deliveries of waste arrived at the Energy from Waste (EfW) plant on 5th June and were used by the contractors (CNIM Clugston Oxfordshire Ltd) to continue the commissioning process of the new the facility. Burning of the waste started in mid-June.

Vehicles delivering waste have continues to arrive, but quantities remain dependent on the satisfactory progress of the commissioning process. The management team anticipated approximately 20 vehicle movements per day, increasing to 35 by the end of last month as waste started to arrive from more Oxford County Council districts.

The majority of this initial processing did not produce any noticeable noise. The next phase, which included the process of flushing out the plant pipework to clear small installation debris using "steam blowing", involved high pressure steam coming out from both the roof vents and a temporary vent on the eastern side of the plant. This was largely dependent on local weather conditions and was for short periods of 15 to 30

minutes during daytime. Local residents were asked not to be alarmed by the steam and to rest assured that the installation debris would not become airborne.

The steam blowing process was expected to be completed, during daytime hours, by the end of June, with the actual burning of waste starting 16th June.

We can now expect the plant to be fully operational in the next few weeks. In the meantime, if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the Customer Care Line on 0800 975 3029, or call Susan Orme (Ardley EfW Health and Safety Manager) on 07788 844906 or Rod Lerwell (Ardley EfW General Manager) on 07876 654987.



## The Sykes family of North Aston

'The Book' continues to sell fairly well via the website, and earlier this year a copy was despatched to John Sykes, now living in France. In June, he replied:

Earlier this year I obtained a copy of *North Aston ~ A Millennium*, which I read with great interest. I must straight away say that my link with North Aston is a tenuous one. I was raised by my foster-mother, Mrs Bessie May Sykes, née Mundy, and that is how I acquired the surname Sykes. I have never lived in North Aston, and indeed, have not lived in the United Kingdom since 1959.

Mrs Sykes died in Reading some 40 years ago, and her four natural children Leslie, Ruby, Ronald and Geoffrey are also no longer of this world. She was a very taciturn person, and never told me much about her past, in particular about her married life with Bernard Sykes, the postmaster of North Aston. When she assumed responsibility for fostering me, in 1935, she was living with a certain John Taylor, who I believe had been at one time butler to the Longford family in North Aston Hall. I was given to understand by Ron, her second son, that his father Bernard had eloped with a younger woman to Brackley, but that his parents had never formally divorced.

I was intrigued by the fact that the chapter in the book on the Sykes family (p130-133) makes no mention of Mrs Sykes, although she must have been a well-known figure in North Aston up until she left the village, which I guess would have been towards the end of the 1920s. She left without her husband, but with her four children, and I enclose a photograph taken in 1930 of her and her three sons in front of a greengrocer's shop in Shirley, near Southampton. She ran the shop I believe with the help of her eldest son Les, standing at the back. (John also enclosed photographs of Les, Ron and Geoff taken in 1944, and Bernard, in about 1965).

The interview given by Les in the book makes no mention of his mother, of his sister Ruby of his brothers Ron and Geoff, or of their relatively short stay in Southampton, or of their subsequent move to the Reading area. Moreover, the

photograph of Les in the book does not seem to bear much resemblance to the Les shown in my photographs (*although I'd contest that it does!*).

I am also intrigued by the fact that no mention is made in the book of John Taylor. Was he indeed butler to the Longfords and, if so, approximately when. Were Bernard Sykes, his wife Bessie May and John Taylor involved in some kind of *ménage a trios* which led to the collapse of the marriage?

If there is any person who might be able to throw light on these points, I would be very keen to hear from them, as I would appreciate any help in establishing the facts more clearly.

John Sykes

*If anyone can help John with his research, please can they contact me, and I will put them in touch with him. My own research suggests that Ruby's first name was actually Jessie. Les died in 2002 (in Reading) and Ron in 1989 (Brackley), but I have no updates on Ruby (b1915) or Geoffrey (born 1916). Bernard died in 1971 (Worthing) and Bessie May in, I think, 1972, near Reading. As for John Taylor, there is a reference to a J Taylor serving in the Royal Air Force, somewhat incongruously as a "Private", during the 1914-18 war, but was he later a butler at the Hall? Perhaps you know?*



# Councillor Calling



## All Change at the Top

This month your newsletter deadline is timed perfectly, falling the day after the Council's Annual Meeting, the first of the new council year. This saw an unusual double change at the top as last year's Deputy Chairman, Kieron Mallon, did not step up to the chair but moved on to the Executive to cover communications and performance management. Now he's free of county council Cabinet responsibility (it gets complicated for those dedicated souls serving at Town, District and County level simultaneously).

So former Banbury Mayor Alistair Milne-Home donned the Chairman's chain while former Bicester Mayor Melanie Magee became his Deputy, balancing North and South, gender and age so neatly we'll probably never manage it again! Otherwise, continuity is the name of the game with one Executive member dropping off and some minor re-jigging of responsibilities. While less exciting politically, this does enable people to thoroughly master their portfolios and to focus on the longer term.

## Graven Hill Project

Unusually, the council meeting was immediately followed by an Executive meeting, mainly to kick off the Graven Hill building project. You'll recall that Graven Hill is the surplus Ministry of Defence land near Bicester that Cherwell has bought and which now has planning permission for 1,900 self-build homes. These have the double benefit of hugely increasing the district's supply of lower cost housing (because the buyers/builders pay partly with the unattractively named "sweat equity" ie their own labour) and enabling Cherwell to keep up the pace of delivering homes without waiting for developers. Under the Localism Act, the mechanism for this is an "arm's length" company wholly owned by Cherwell, which has (quite rightly) generated a huge volume of paper in studies and planning.

## Huge Demand

Driving house-building forward has become even more vital as, just when we'd achieved the holy grail of five year's housing supply, enabling us to restrict planning permission to appropriate sites, the Inspector examining our new Local Plan announced that it must increase the total number built over the next twenty years from 17,000 to 23,000. When you consider that it's taken all of human history to date to build Cherwell's current 56,000 homes, planning for a 40% leap (plus all the schools, jobs, roads, etc) in twenty years is a tall order – and it's got to be done by November so he can resume the examination and sign off the Plan on the original date next March.

The 23,000 figure came from a Strategic Housing Market Assessment that had to be carried out county wide in a hurry after Inspectors elsewhere had condemned Local Plans for out of date figures – a Catch 22 when you can't start a Plan without this vital information on housing need and it takes

four years to jump through all the hoops, with lengthy consultations at every stage, by which time your numbers are judged too old... CPRE is challenging this horrendous SHMA figure as being based on over ambitious employment projections but, with time so tight, Cherwell has to find room for a lot more houses, even if the final total ends up being reduced a bit.

## Difficult Times Ahead

Clearly, every existing permission will be looked at to squeeze more on to it and to see if its boundaries can't be stretched a little. Then every rejected site must be reviewed: was it really so bad? And other policies, such as the tight restrictions on building in smaller villages, may have to be eased. I'm afraid it's going to be a very difficult and contentious year. And that's before we grapple with the legal "duty to cooperate" with Oxford's assertion that their need is so great they will have to sprawl across the Green Belt into the Districts (cynics might think that this is to increase in size to justify becoming a "unitary" council – ie taking the county's powers – under the City Deal proposed by Labour). Luckily, the Green Belt is so strongly protected that any change will take a couple of years at least so that is a fight we can defer for the moment.

So, the new council year has started with a bang: an incredibly complex housing development on the one hand and a complete revision of the Local Plan in six months on the other. Interesting times!

**James Macnamara**

Tel: 01869 340109

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

## 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
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# CHURCH SERVICES

## PARISH WORSHIP IN JULY - AUGUST 2014

NORTH ASTON

STEEPLE ASTON

TACKLEY

### Sunday July 6th - Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

8:00 am  
Holy Communion  
*Rev Marcus Green*

11:00 am  
Holy Communion  
*Rev Marcus Green*

9:30 am  
Holy Communion  
*Rev Marcus Green*

6:00 pm  
Holy Communion  
*Rev Mervyn Puleston*

### Sunday July 13th - Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 am  
Family Service  
*Rev Marcus Green*

11:00 am  
Holy Communion  
*Rev Marcus Green*

9:30 am  
Holy Communion  
*Rev Mervyn Puleston*

6:00 pm  
Evensong  
*Fr Robin Gibbons  
& Rev Marcus Green*

### Sunday July 20th - Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 am  
Holy Communion  
*Rev Marcus Green*

11:00 am  
Holy Communion & Baptisms  
with Children's Church  
*Rev Marcus Green*

9:30 am  
Morning Prayers

6:00 pm  
Holy Communion  
*Rev Marcus Green  
& Fr Robin Gibbons*

### Sunday July 27th - Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 am  
Village Praise  
*Kildare Bourke-Borrowes*

11:00 am  
Holy Communion, Book of Common  
Prayer  
*Rev Marcus Green*

9:30 am  
Holy Communion  
Rev Marcus Green

6:00 pm  
Evensong  
*Rev Marcus Green  
& Fr Robin Gibbons*

### Sunday August 3rd - Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

8:00 am  
Holy Communion  
*Rev Marcus Green*

11:00 am  
Holy Communion  
*Rev Marcus Green*

9:30 am  
Holy Communion  
*Rev Marcus Green*

6:00 pm  
Holy Communion  
*Rev Marcus Green  
& Fr Robin Gibbons*

Families are welcome to all Sunday services.

### Monday August 4th

**Morning Prayer**  
10:00 am Every Thursday  
St Mary's, followed by Coffee

9:00 pm  
Vigil on the Centenary of the  
First World War  
*Rev Marcus Green*

Visit the new Benefice Website for further information, a "What's on" page, and contact information: [www.sntchurch.com](http://www.sntchurch.com)