

NORTH ASTON

NEWS

February 2015

#292



NORTH ASTON NEWS

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Your Village Chairman

Your Village Meeting

As recorded in the Minutes further on in this Newsletter, the current officers of the Meeting offered their services again for the coming year and were duly re-elected. Thank you so much Bev and James. The situation will be different in January 2016 as at least one of us (me) will not be standing again. So, the hordes of candidates who didn't come forward this year can ready themselves for next.

A Village Sign and A War Memorial

Both of these pet projects of mine received almost no support; of course I can't imagine why not! However two interesting thoughts emerged. One would be to have made attractive cast entry signs at the three entries to the village to replace the Highways 30 mph signs existing, and the other could be to combine a Memorial and a village sign. Good thoughts, and so I feel these projects aren't yet quite on the rubbish heap.

The Mikron Theatre

Mark the date already: Monday 27th July on the Green. This very fun theatre company, who tour by canal boat (mooring overnight at Somerton Bridge) have been coming to North Aston for a few years thanks to Marcus and Nicholson's. The question was could we assemble enough of an audience to host them as a village on the Green? Enough people expressed their enthusiasm and willingness to put their backs into doing this, and so this will now be a village event and a good one. So PLEASE look forward to it. More news nearer the time.

Neighbourhood Plan.

After the initial huge flurry of activity last year, absolutely nothing has happened for two months. We aren't leading this, so there's nothing for us to do; those who are leading it are frustrated.

On the Land

It being the depths of winter still, this column is a bit thin this month. Work is going on of course every hour of the day and we'll hear more as spring emerges. My little contribution is a line from the wonderful working farmer and writer AG Street. He wrote:

*"You should live as if you would die tomorrow,
but you should farm as if you were immortal".*

Food, for thought.

If you have any suggestions about Village life, please do call or email me.

Kildare BB

Telephone: 01869 340 200 ~ email: chair@north-aston.co.uk

Front cover: A prediction of what is to come? The forecast for early February is snow, but this was North Aston a couple of years ago. Woolly jumpers on and braced for a chilly blast!



100 Club



This month's VERY lucky winners are:

First Prize (£25): Tuck Hatzigeorgiou #114

Second Prize (£5): Eileen Gilmore #99

If you'd like to reserve a number and join in the fun (from next April) please speak to Norman West, or call him on 340368.

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

North Aston Nature Notes

With Stephen Rees

Winter is a wonderful time to look for wildlife - birds especially, not only as we have a large influx of migrant species in this area, but also because there is less foliage on the hedges and trees and they're easier to see.

Fieldfares and Redwings come to us in October and November from northern Europe and Russia. They make a lovely sight as they gather in flocks, particularly down on the flood meadows, where huge numbers of Peewits can be seen twisting and turning in formation. Their black and white wings make a spectacle well worth waiting in the cold to see!

My favourite of all the migrant birds visiting North Aston, by far, is the Woodcock. We have seen a good number this year. The best time to catch them is as dusk is falling, when they fly along the side of boggy woodland, in and out of the trees with amazing skill and speed. Their big, black eyes seem to peer at you. They truly are a wonderful bird to spot.

North Aston Farm, being largely set to grass and with thick hedgerows, encourages a good head of owls. Barn Owls now seem to be the most common, and we see them often in the moonlight when we're out walking with Penny, our Labrador. They seem to find us just as interesting, often flying around us two or three times before heading off in their hunt for mice and voles.

We also have a resident pair of Little Owls, which I've been lucky enough to photograph, as well as a Tawny Owl. That appears to have taken up residence in the corner of woodland on the Green.

The last bird to settle each evening in Winter is the Rook. They make a wonderful sight as large flocks of them turn at speed, making plenty of noise as they head back towards the woods to roost. If one turns to have a last look at a

possible feeding spot, the whole flock turns with it, before returning to their original flight path.



Every night at this time of the year, when we're out with the dog, it's easy to see two, three or even four foxes in the fields below our cottage. They're busy pairing up now, anticipating the Spring, and you'll often hear the vixen's harsh screaming call. It's a sound that always makes the hair on the back of my neck stand up!

Other animals to look for are the Roe Deer that come out of the woods early in the morning to feed. We did have a pair of Fallow Deer on the farm last year, and a smaller buck, but sadly the hind was run over on the main road and the larger buck moved on.



All photos by Stephen Rees

This Month's BIRTHDAYS

Nicholas Kneale
Jocelyn Parsons
& Dick Taylor



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.

Announcements

Happy Birthday Jocelyn!

Commemorating your 60th Birthday! Our Birthday wish for you is to continue being the wonderful person and the best Grandma that you are!

All our love Jenny, Lee and Layla, and 60 Birthday Woofs from Morgan, Aston and Whisper and Neighs from Bennie & Mac XXX

Deddington Farmers' Market

The traditional Farmers' Market in Deddington takes place every 4th Saturday of the month. This month's will be on 28th February. Our own North Aston Organics will have a stall.



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On the Land

North Aston Organics

For January and probably a lot of February it will be a case of 'off the land' as the soil is at saturation point and any tractor activity will damage the soil structure for the season ahead. We are still harvesting by hand from Mill Field - mainly parsnips and leeks and a few brassicas. We are also growing a new vegetable called a Flower Sprout (as featured in *The Times* last week) which is a cross between a Brussels sprout and a kale. It certainly looks attractive (purple and green) and tastes nicer than you might think!

In the polytunnels we had an early flush of salad, spinach and herbs (parsley, coriander and chervil) which we were able to harvest until it all came to a rapid halt with the freezy weather.

We hope to make the first sowings at the beginning of February with early carrots direct into the soil in one of the polytunnels and tomatoes and lettuce into trays of compost in the glasshouse.

Before Spring starts in earnest, we are hoping to put up a small pole barn for our tractor and machinery before they all rust away. The poles are of the electricity/telegraph variety which once adorned the village until recently replaced.

Mark

Nicholsons

Happy New Year to all!

The new year is always the turning point for us, with days starting to get longer and the promise of Spring down the line.

But before that we need to get a lot of planting done during the dormant season, so the pressure is on for us and although we personally love the frost and snow it is terrible from a business point of view.

There is little to do in the nursery at this time of year though we are busy potting up next year's crop.

Niel

North Aston Farms

What a strange winter it has been so far. With the jet stream all over the place the intermittent spells of cold and mild weather are quite a bore when it comes to getting on the land at this time of year. A week of hard frosts would enable us to muck out the cattle yards and not damage the ground but a few days here and there just tease us. Luckily however we did manage to muck out the yard at Park Farm during the

last frozen spell. Our tree-thinning programme has started with one copse at the back of Manor Farm having nearly been completed. A bit of a shock to the system – but the canopy will soon spread as long as we don't have too many gales and they all topple over (always a risk if the trees have grown too tall and thin).

We have just had our 60 day TB test and gone clear (Hurrah) - but we will need to do it again in March before movement restrictions can be lifted. As part of our Environmental Stewardship agreement we are feeding farmland birds between December and March using bucket feeders that are high enough off the ground to avoid feeding the pheasants. We are also going to be putting up some nest boxes and bat boxes. As conservation is important to me it is nice to feel one can give nature a helping hand from time to time.

James

North Aston Dairy

There isn't an "On the Land" contribution from Josh this month, but following the national exposure in recent weeks over the cost to dairy farmers of the supermarket's greed for "loss-leading" milk sales I asked him if we could give the Dairy a plug in this month's NAN ...

As little as 20p of the money you spend on a litre of milk bought from the supermarket may be getting back to the farmer whose cows supplied it, and this is often less than it actually costs to produce. In North Aston you have the option to buy milk with the full retail price going to the farmers and kept in the local economy. It is all produced in the village and you can have it delivered twice a week in glass bottles.

Prices: £1.15/litre for whole milk, and £1.35 per litre for semi-skimmed.

We will preferably sell to customers within North Aston itself before offering it further afield, so there is always capacity to take on more customers from within the local community.

Josh

For more information and to sign up, please contact Josh or Graham via email (northastondairy@phonecoop.coop) or telephone: 01869347702.

As they say, "other suppliers are also available", and there is also a Dairy Crest delivery to the village three days a week, on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, with the additional option of a whole range of groceries delivered to your door.

North Aston Village Meeting & AGM

Thursday 8th January 2015 ~ The Minutes

Officers present: Chairman Kildare Bourke-Borrowes(KBB), Treasurer Beverly Rees(BR), Secretary James Taylor(JFT)

Those present: Nicholas Kneale (KN) Clare Hathaway, Peter and Jane Durnin, Clive Busby (CB), Trudy Busby (TB), Tuck and Sue Hatzigeorgiou (SH), Stephen Walters(SW), Niel Nicholson(NN), Tony Rees, Mark Stay(MS), Jeremy Taylor(JT), Mary Healy(MH), David Hanna(DH)

Apologies from: Sarah Bourke-Borrowes, Marcus and Franca Potts, John Harvey-Lee and Eileen Gilmore.

Village Meeting

KBB welcomed the meeting and informed the Meeting that John Harvey-Lee was recovering at home having suffered a heart attack and asked for permission to send John very best wishes for a speedy recovery on behalf of the village. This was very much agreed.

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting

KBB wanted to make a couple of amendments to the Minutes of the last Meeting.

Under *Treasurer's Report* for the Fund Meeting it should have stated that £321 income for the marquee hire had included a donation from the Nicholsons which was raised at the Mikron Theatre evening.

Under Cost of the Harvest Supper it should have stated that it was agreed that any money made on the supper should be used to pay North Aston Dairy with any surplus returned to the Village Fund.

Following these amendments the Minutes from the last Meeting were accepted.

Proposer Nicholas Kneale, Seconder Mark Stay

It was agreed at this point that the Treasurer's Report for both Village and Fund Meetings should be dealt with at the same time.

2. Treasurers Report

Village Meeting Accounts

BR said that Franca Potts was still receiving some post from CDC and appeared still to be registered as Parish Clerk which explained why BR had not received information regarding precept. KBB agreed to look into this.

The precept of £620.71 and £1.33 had come into the account leaving a balance at 31.12.14 of £2662.69. (Outgoings for the year had been insurance £566.15 and subscriptions of £22.18)

Village Fund Accounts

Income for the year was £3787.15 (made up of fête, 100 Club, marquee hire and book sales). Total expenditure had been £2,044.59 (including donation to PCC, fête, Thames Water, Easter Egg Hunt, 100 Club, Mole Man. There were some un-cleared expenses totalling £875.08 (Christmas village gifts, fountain painting, mulled wine for Carols on the Green, 100 Club re-registration, BDO and some extra fête costs. The balance at bank 31/12/14 was £6679.40 less un-cleared expenses.

BR pointed to an adjustment in the 100 Club income which had previously showed £500 and now showed £465. BR said that the £500 had included an uncashed cheque of £35. CB asked why the donation to the PCC didn't appear to be half the income from the Fête? BR said this was due to the extra fête expenses that were yet to be accounted for.

The accounts were agreed and proposed by Clive Busby, seconded by Tuck Hatzigeorgiou.

3. Nominations of Officers

JFT had not had any nominations by the 24/12/14.

KBB, BR and JFT agreed to put themselves up for re- election as Chair, Treasurer and Secretary with KBB stating that this would be his last year as Chairman. All three were unanimously re-elected.

4. Precept

KBB read out a letter from CDC asking that we apply for our precept by the 23 Jan 2015. A discussion was had as to how

much we should request. £600 was proposed – in line with previous years.

Proposer Clive Busby, Seconded Jane Durnin.

5. Neighbourhood Plan

BB had no updates to report.

6. Mains Sewerage and District Heating.

JFT had not yet done his house-to-house survey to determine possible interest in mains sewerage. NN shared his thoughts on a possible district heating system and wondered if any interest could also be gathered on a house-to-house basis. JFT said he would get together with NN to look at devising a questionnaire. NN said that although very expensive there was no reason why it shouldn't make a good return on investment. JT said if ever sewerage and heating was going in maybe we could bury all the overhead electric cables at the same time.

7. Any Other Business

Hill Crest Park Farm

KBB said he had been approached by Hill Crest to see how they could become more involved with the village. JT suggested some wwoofing (willing work on organic farms) if they wanted outdoor activity. CB suggested helping out at the fête. Other suggestions such as Easter Egg Hunt and bell ringing were suggested. Stephen Walters suggested that it would be better to ask Hill Crest what conditions they require to work under first rather than try to come up with suggestions that might or might not be suitable.

SW then went on to tell the village that Hill Crest Park Farm was expanding significantly and would probably be housing more children in the future. SW said he thought it better that the village says it would like to help involve the children but needs some guidance on how! SW wondered whether some community work in the church yard might be a possibility. KBB agreed to liaise with Hill Crest as to the best way forward.

Mikron Theatre visit

KBB told the meeting that Marcus Potts had been approached by the Mikron Theatre Company (a travelling company based on the canal) as to whether the village would like to host them again this year. In the last few years they have come to Nicholson's Orchard Barn where it has been promoted heavily to Nicholson's Gardening Club. This had resulted in a good audience of about 80 people – but not many from the village itself came.

NN said that the barn may be available this year but he didn't want to have to "find an audience"- (it would not be promoted specifically through the Gardening Club). KBB voiced his concern that North Aston would not be able to muster an audience. MS thought it would be good for the village. The possible date for a visit was Mon 27th July.

SH said that this was the summer holidays – so inevitably some people would be away. A show of hands was asked as to who would be happy to promote and help. Enough raised their hands to suggest we should support the idea.

Lay-by Signs

KBB asked about the signs that had recently appeared at the lay-bys down the Main Road. JT explained that the Estate was in the process of trying to have them permanently stopped up and returned to the ownership of the farm.

JT raised the issue of loose kerb stones which had still not been dealt with.

8. Date for the Next Meeting

The date for the next meeting was set as Thursday 30th April 2015 at 7.30pm in the Old Bakery.

Village Fund

Minutes & Treasurers Report

Now covered under the Minutes for the Village Meeting.

1. Review Carols on the Green

KBB asked whether the insurance was organised. JT said it had come under the Farm insurance as it had last year. It was generally thought that the Carols on the Green had been a success.

The "ring of lights" around the fire was thought to have been a good addition to the event – providing an aesthetic "safety" barrier. Thanks were given to the Nicholsons for providing them. KBB said £40 had been raised for the church. Thanks were given to CB for lighting and managing the fire.

2. Village Sign

KBB raised the notion of having a new Village Sign akin to the one that used to be on the village green. A vote was taken to gauge the feeling of the meeting. 4 voted in favour, 1 against with the remainder abstaining.

A general discussion took place about the merits of a village sign. DH wondered whether the possibility of a war memorial might not be relevant to this matter. SW suggested having some cast signs at ground level at the three entry points to the village which could replace the rather un-aesthetic "North Aston" entry signs that seemed so out of character with the village.

CB mentioned that Minster Lovell had a cast sign at the entry to the town. NK asked whether a war memorial with "North Aston" at the top would be an answer. The conversation turned to the subject of a war memorial about which the meeting seemed uncommitted. KBB agreed to look into the possibility of some cast village entry signs.

7. Any Other Business

Electricity for the Meeting Room. No one claimed responsibility for the electricity payment of the Bakery room. The PCC pays £25/yr for four meetings to contribute towards rates and electricity. It was proposed that the village meeting pay £40 plus vat per year for use of the meeting room to cover rates and electricity. This was unanimously approved.

Payment for North Aston Organic Dairy meat. MH said that Josh had been paid for his produce.

North Aston Newsletter. KBB brought up the subject of having the front cover of the Newsletter printed in colour. He told the meeting that it would be great if Marcus Potts' wonderful colour front covers as seen in the online edition of the *News* could be appreciated by more people. NN said that it would be expensive and make the printing of the Newsletter much more time consuming. MH said that she personally would be happy to have only electronic Newsletter.

It was suggested that some people might be happy to receive the *News* only electronically. KBB said that he would suggest to MP that he might email the village and ask for the names of those who would prefer this, and they would then no longer receive a printed version. KBB would check with Norman that this wouldn't make his distribution more difficult.

Speed Monitor. TB asked what the latest was on the speed monitor. KBB said he would liaise with MP over that.

Date for the Next Meeting. DH reminded the meeting that the date set for the next meeting (Thursday 30th April 2015 at 7.30pm The Old Bakery Meeting Room) would be after Easter. The issue of the annual **Easter Egg Hunt** was raised and the Village agreed a similar expenditure as last year (£50) to cover costs for this event. KBB agreed to ask Jane McArdle if she would be happy to organise it again.

From Thames Valley Police

This month's updates and information:

Parcel Scam

Tom Jennings of TVP tells us to be extra vigilant after another spike in "courier fraud" in the Cherwell area. Courier fraud is when a victim is asked by someone pretending to be from their bank or the police to withdraw money. The offender then uses a courier or taxi to pick up the money from the victim.

There was a spate of offences in Cherwell in 2014, with 37 attempts and six successful frauds. Since the start of 2015, there have been three further attempts, one successful.

Offenders target the vulnerable, including the elderly, and the victim of this year's first sting is in his 80s. He was contacted by a man claiming to be a Detective Inspector at Leighton Buzzard police station and told his card had been cloned and had been used to purchase items totalling £3,700.

The next day he was phoned again and told that police had put counterfeit money into his bank accounts as part of the investigation. He was asked to withdraw £5,000 from two accounts, which he did. A courier then picked up the £10,000 from the victim's house later that day.

If you receive one of these calls, end it immediately. In order to clear your line, wait at least five minutes before making any calls. Alternatively, call the police from another phone line. Do not hand over anything as a result of this type of phone call, and report the incident to the police immediately.

Police officers or banks will never ask you to withdraw cash or handover bank cards and PIN numbers. If you or elderly family members receive these types of call, report it immediately to your local police station, ideally in person.

Facewatch!

Have you got this App yet on your SmartPhone? *Facewatch* allows you to view CCTV images of people being sought in connection with criminal activity across the TVP area.

The App is free to download and allows you to search by postcode and then identify those people that you recognise – anonymously if you prefer. With a number of positive identifications already, TVP is keen to encourage members of the public to download *Facewatch* and help them in their fight against crime.

You can read more about *Facewatch* on the dedicated website at: www.facewatch.co.uk

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, use the familiar 999 number.





The Church MATTERS



February is always a month of great variety: we have both Valentine's and Ash Wednesday, which really does take us across the gamut of emotions! I guess that's life for you. Up one moment, and all over the place the next. If you are one of those lucky people who live out your existence on a permanently even keel, do spare a thought for the rest of us every now and then...

Church life is just the same. In our worship, we bring who we are to God. It's a temptation to button-up our true selves in our Sunday Best and hope that the Almighty is as un-noticing as the Rector. The truth is, of course, both scarier and more wonderful than we dare hope.

We bring who we are to God, and God loves us.

So St Valentine's Day needn't just be about cards and sweethearts and roses and tables for two; romance and St Valentine have no historical link we know of (Chaucer brought the two together a thousand years after Valentine lived) but now we have the connection, let's use it. Churches are places where people marry and celebrate and find all sorts of wonderful life memories. Why not join us on Sunday February 15th, bringing who you are to God, and come for a blessing. Especially if you've been married here in the past few years, or plan to be soon.

Ash Wednesday sees the start of Lent. Every year I say - don't just see this as a time to give up chocolate again. Lent is a time to prepare for Easter, for the wonder of God's love revealed as Jesus dies on a cross and rises gloriously on the third day. God's love is seen at Easter to be stronger than all things; Lent is time to spring-clean our souls so we can see this Easter wonder when it comes. Add time to pray, time to help others, time to do something practical for someone else for whom it will mean the world. Don't give up something - do something! Join us at 7.30pm on Ash Wednesday in Steeple Aston church and make your own commitment to this season.



During Lent we always hold a course in the Benefice; it's on Thursday evenings at the Methodist Church in Tackley, and this year we'll be using recently retired Bishop John Pritchard's new book 'The Journey' as our focus. Come along - all are welcome, starting 8pm Feb 26th.

Children always come to God just as they are. We could learn a lot from that attitude - I think it's something of what Jesus means when he says, 'unless you have the faith of a little child you'll never enter the kingdom of heaven'. I have been so thrilled to see the way our renewed Family Service has worked over the last few months. There were about a quarter of the village present for last month's! I (very sadly) won't be at this month's service on Feb 8th, but do come and see the Open The Book team in action and join in the glorious fun.

And all our worship is being transformed by our amazing new church organ: if you haven't seen it yet, come and have a look and a listen. We are *very* grateful to have received a donation that has allowed us to install this marvellous instrument. There will soon be a recital to give the organ an official 'opening' - watch this space!

We bring who we are to God, and God loves us. In February, the joy of Valentine's and the Ashes of the following Wednesday tell us God sees us through every mood, and his love remains with us all, always. We try to reflect all of this in all we do at North Aston church.

More news is always available on our website: www.sntchurch.com...

Revd Marcus Green



Any comments about the above are very welcome. More news is always available on our website: www.sntchurch.com

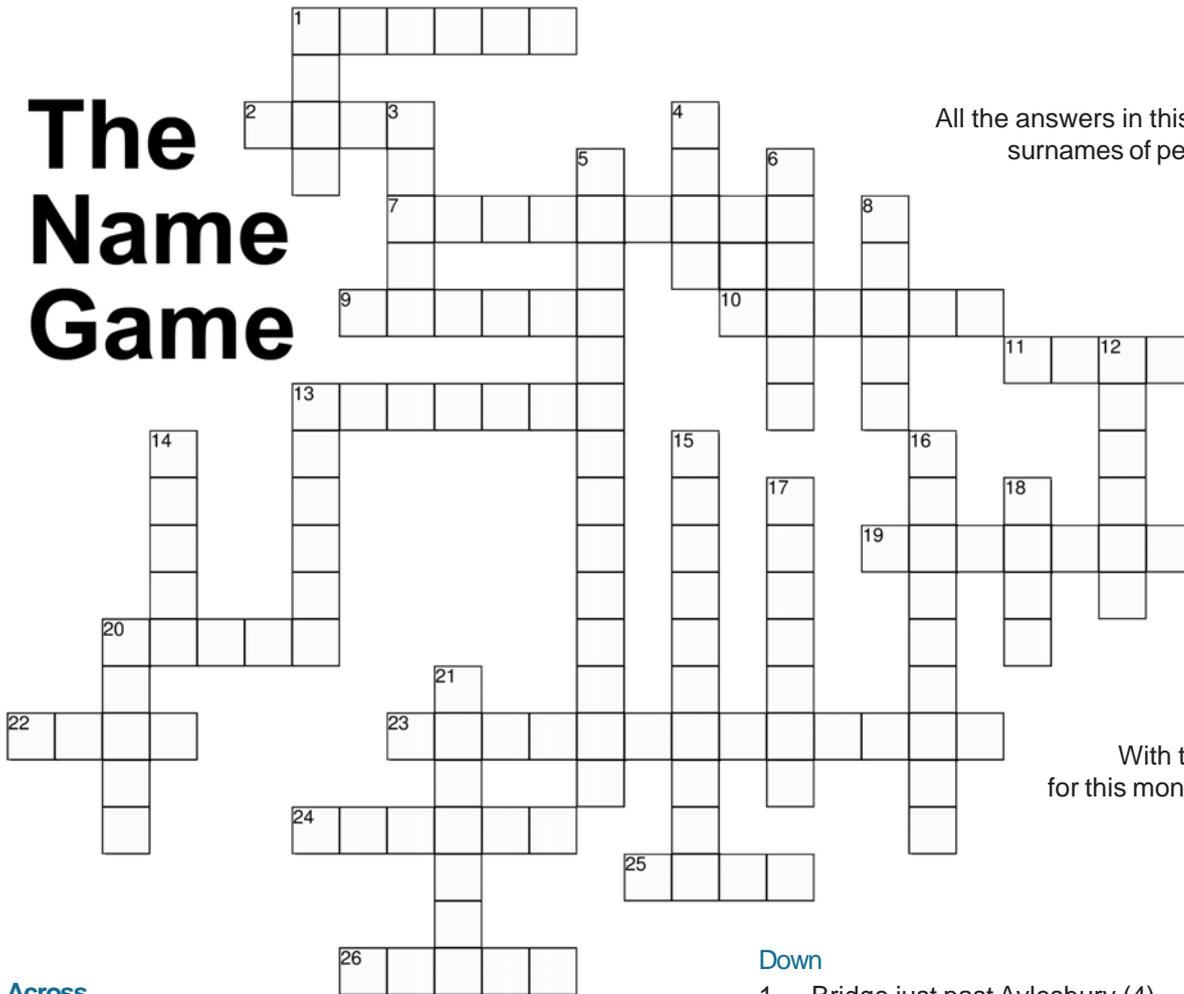
Please email our Rector Marcus Green: steeplerector@hotmail.co.uk or tel: 340 903

If you wish you can also email Kildare: k.bourkeborrowes@btinternet.com or tel: 340 200

or Clive: 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, Beryl Greenwood, Jenny Martin, Jane McArdle, Ted Short, Jeremy Taylor and Norman West.

The Name Game



All the answers in this cryptic crossword are surnames of people living in the village

With thanks to James Taylor for this month's cryptic conundrum

Across

1. Avenue found in chopped herb (6)
2. Comes first in canoeing, archery, swimming and hockey (4)
7. Nitrogen in school mix up? (9)
9. Friend found by french mother - e's disappeared! (6)
10. Sale at home (6)
11. He swallowed it (4)
13. Joe perhaps meets learner by Rome roundabout (7)
19. Lad catches European Football League fever (7)
20. Runner perhaps consumes Vanadium (5)
22. Stew boiling over (4)
23. I hug a tiger - zoo catastrophe! (13)
24. Clamour about vase (6)
25. Watch her back say (4)
26. Could sit between Leona and Carol we hear (5)

Down

1. Bridge just past Aylesbury (4)
3. Joins Beth, Annabel and Daphne (5)
4. Sore sore! (4)
5. Our book brewers brew! (6-8)
6. On your knees Said (6)
8. Sound like you might need a lot of these to make one for Severn we hear(5)
12. Victoria and Albert disappear in lavatory disaster (6)
13. Downing wrong footed missing centre (6)
14. He holds paddle (5)
15. Big bream Di - very fishy (10)
16. Eg new door manufactured (9)
17. Fellow alters connection (7)
18. King follows Queen east (4)
20. Frantically Be busy - e's off! (5)
21. Win boar (wild) (7)

Antiques @ THE HOLT
Antiques & Collectors' Fair
 Open 10 am - 4:30 pm
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 @The Holt Hotel, Steeple Aston
 Full details and directions on the website:
www.antiques-at-the-holt.co.uk
March 21 & 22

Councillor Calling



Rubbish!

To celebrate the New Year, let's talk rubbish! Waste collection is being reviewed as it's just over ten years since Cherwell introduced our blue recycling bins (I still remember the furore, being one of those who were sure it would never work...). There's a new EU Waste Framework Directive to comply with and, most importantly, having raised recycling from 11% then to just under 60% now, it seems to have got stuck and needs reinvigorating if we are to reach the potential 80% that we could recycle.

I think it's worth talking about as it affects all 60,000 homes, not to mention all businesses, every week and costs a lot of your money. The good news is that your satisfaction keeps increasing and is now at an astonishing 88%, while the cost, which was £63 per property per year in 2009/10 has been driven down to £48 this year – less than £1 a week – and is set to fall further in 2015/16. This matters as, with an average council tax of £123.50 and central grant support continually falling, efficiencies here help protect other vital services.

Recycling Together

Joining with South Northants has helped a lot. Although, in line with our deal on joint working where each council preserves its different policies, they collect rubbish slightly differently, a single management team and identical vehicles minimise costs and, when lorries break down, there's a lot more flexibility for back up so you don't get let down.

The Cost

The cost is helped enormously by your care: less than 5% gets rejected at the recovery facility, boosting the price of recycled materials. (An interesting sign of the times: as email reduces the paper in the mix, online shopping has increased the cardboard). However, all the extra homes being imposed bring extra costs: 13,000 new homes in Bicester equate to three extra crews costing £150,000 *per annum* plus the capital cost of the vehicles, so we need to be robust in ensuring the developers pay a fair share from their building profits and the costs don't fall on existing residents.

Commingling

The EU Directive now requires separate collection of recyclables, which we currently sling all together into the blue bin (apart from glass to "bring banks" and food/garden refuse in the brown bin). "Commingled" in the jargon. Luckily, there is a get-out clause if this is technically, environmentally or economically impractical – which it clearly is:

- Technically, there's the little issue of persuading 45,000 residents who have bought a blue bin to abandon them for boxes plus the safety issues of lifting and handling non-wheeled bins

- Environmentally, the fall in recycling is estimated at 3,000 tons as, the less easy and convenient the system, the less people bother to recycle, not to mention the environmental nuisance of wind blown litter from boxes
- Economically, the cost would be exorbitant, not only of writing off the current capital investment but also of implementing an elaborate new scheme.

When going Green is wrong ...

But, that leaves the question of how to rescue the estimated 12,000 tons of recyclables – 1,000 tons of glass, 4,000 of paper, plastic and metal and 7,000 tons of food – which are idly chucked in the green bins, at a cost to the environment, of course, but also of £180,000 in landfill charges – not to mention fuelling the horrible incinerator at Ardley.

One way is to extend the range and convenience of bring banks: as to range, they can collect textiles, shoes, batteries and small electronic equipment as well as clear, green and brown glass (it's important to separate as this dramatically increases its value), while the council is always keen to find new sites. Another is to make it easier for blocks of flats, where there obviously isn't the same room for separate bins.

Do More

Meanwhile, expect more and more regular communication to encourage all of us to do a little more: I hope you'll understand the financial and environmental incentives and do your best.

James Macnamara

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CHURCH SERVICES

PARISH WORSHIP IN FEBRUARY-MARCH 2015

NORTH ASTON

STEEPLE ASTON

TACKLEY

Sunday February 1st - Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

9:30 am
Morning Prayer
Richard Bailey

11:00 am
Morning Prayer
Richard Bailey

5:30 pm
Evensong
Fr Robin Gibbons

Sunday February 8th - Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

9:30 am
Family Service
Open The Book

11:00 am
Family Service
Open The Book

5:30 pm
Holy Communion
**Revd Stephen Pix and
Fr Robin Gibbons**

Sunday February 15th - Last Sunday after Epiphany

9:30 am
Holy Communion
Revd Marcus Green

11:00 am
Holy Communion
Snowdrop Sunday
Revd Marcus Green

5:30 pm
Informal Service
**Revd Marcus Green and
Fr Robin Gibbons**

Ash Wednesday - February 18th

7:30 pm
Holy Communion
**Revd Marcus Green and
Fr Robin Gibbons**

Sunday February 22nd - First Sunday in Lent

9:30 am
Morning Prayer
Revd Marcus Green

11:00 am
Holy Communion
Book of Common Prayer
Revd Marcus Green

5.30pm Holy Communion
**Revd Marcus Green and
Fr Robin Gibbons**

Sunday March 1st - Second Sunday in Lent & St David's Day

9:30 am
Holy Communion
Book of Common Prayer
Revd Marcus Green

11:00 am
Holy Communion
Revd Marcus Green
featuring London Choral Group *Amici*

5:30 pm
Evensong for St David's Day
**Revd Marcus Green and
Fr Robin Gibbons**

Morning Prayer
10:00 am Every Thursday

Families are welcome to all Sunday services.

Visit the Benefice Website for further information www.sntchurch.com