

NORTH ASTON

NEWS

March 2017

#317



NORTH ASTON NEWS

MARCH 2017, No:317

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North Aston Gardening Club

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Email: lsquek@doctors.org.uk

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Please notify of any Firework Parties

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North Aston Organics

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Hillcrest Care - Park Farm House

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Nicholson Nurseries

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North Aston 100 Club

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Old Bakery Bookings

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Bryn Williams, Deddington

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Email: Bryn.Williams@Cherwell-DC.gov.uk

Thames Valley Police non-emergency: 101

Out of Hours Doctor: 08453 458 995

The Chairman's Mark

Keep Connected

Some of you may not be aware that some information/requests etc are circulated by email. Marcus also issues a reminder for when the North Aston News deadline is imminent. It would be helpful to have as many people on the list as possible, so can I urge you to add your address via info@north-aston.co.uk.

I will try and arrange to have copies of any emails put on the village noticeboard. Talking of which...

Being Noticed

I hope you have all been admiring the new village noticeboard. Thank you to Clive for installing it. However, on installation it was noticed that there was no drip rail above the doors and therefore rain water would seep in. So for the moment the doors have been sealed and I have been promised by the manufacturers they will fit a rail as soon as possible.

Doris

It seems we got off fairly lightly compared to other parts, as storm Doris ripped through the country last week. The main casualties were a few roof slates, the odd tree limbs and a lot of fence panels.

Hedging

I meant to say last month what a splendid job Bill Graham has done laying the hedge alongside the allotments. He has laid many hedges around the farm over the years so it is great that he now has a more public showcase for his craft.

Mark

Telephone: 01869 347 806 ~ email: chair@north-aston.co.uk

Village Forum Meeting

Plenty of advanced warning for the next village gathering, which will take place on Thursday 13th April. This will be a Village Forum Meeting, with the less-formal approach to community get-togethers. It will be an opportunity to plan for future events, such as the Village Fête on July 15th (volunteers needed to help organise this year's extravaganza!) and the return visit by the excellent Mikron Theatre Company on July 23rd.

There will still be an agenda, so if you have anything you'd like raised in discussion, then please email info@north-aston.co.uk or contact Mark.



February 2017

The winners of the January draw were:

First Prize (£10): N Doggett (#6)

Second Prize (£5): D Howe (#66)



Just two months to go now before this year's 100 Club comes to a close, and we start all over again. If you'd like to support this worthy cause, then please contact Norman (340368) for further information. We need ten more players! You've got a better chance of winning here than you do with the Lottery!

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

This Month's BIRTHDAYS

Jos Busby
Arthur Hathaway
Niel Nicholson
Stephen Rees
Wendy Rees
Joseph Stay



Many Happy Returns to all the North Aston residents who celebrate birthdays this month. If you're not listed, or know someone who should be, please let us know.

NORTH ASTON ORGANICS

Vegetable Stall

Open Mon-Sat from 9.00am
In the car park behind the Old Bakery

- Wide variety of fresh seasonal organic veg at affordable prices
- Minimal packaging & zero food miles
- Supporting the local economy



Too busy? Why not try our Veg Box Scheme? Fresh vegetables delivered to you door!

Email: northastonorganics@gmail.com
Tel: ((01869)) 347702
visit the website at:
www.northastonorganics.co.uk

Announcements

Yvonne Churchill

For the second month in a row, we have sad news of the death of a North Aston resident. Yvonne Churchill (née Clements) died of a heart attack on 18th February, aged 86.

Yvonne was born 1st February 1931 and lived in Steeple Aston until she married Dick Churchill and moved to Dane Hill. They

moved to 12 Somerton Road in 1965, where she lived ever since. She worked for the Co-op Stores all her working life, including Woodstock, Long Hanborough and Upper Heyford.

I'm sure many of us in North Aston will have met Yvonne on her regular walks around the village, and her smiling face and cheerful greeting will be much missed.

Her funeral is at St Mary's church on Tuesday 7th March at 11:30, and then afterwards at The Bakery. Donations in her memory can be made to *The Friends of the Horton*.



Deddington Farmers' Market

The traditional Farmers' Market in Deddington takes place in the market square every 4th Saturday of the month, and in March will be staged on the 25th. As usual our own North Aston Organics will have a stall, so please do support them.

Doris Strikes!

If anyone would like a small tree to saw for firewood, I have a storm victim that they are welcome to collect. Please telephone Eileen Gilmore on 01869 347210.



Frozen North Aston Beef

is now available to buy at Manor Farm

Mince

£8 per kilo sold in packs approx 0.5kg (40 packs left)

Slow Roasting Joints

Brisket

£10 per kilo sold in joints average 1.2kg (4 joints left)

Silverside

£12 per kilo sold in joints average 1.5kg (6 joints left)

Blade

£11 per kilo sold in joints average 1.2kg (4 joints left)

Braising Steak

£12 per kilo average pack weight 0.9 (5 left)

Shin

£10 per kilo average pack 450g (2 left)

Call Vicky (07818 794447) or James (07979 388066)

North Aston Nature Notes

With Stephen Rees

Snowdrops have been making lovely displays, daffodils are on their way out, and crocus are starting to show their pretty colours - Spring is well and truly on the way!

February was a strange old month, with the weather varying from t-shirt hot to freezing cold, heavy rain, and winds strong enough to uproot trees. We lost two of the tall pines down in Ram Spinney, which is a real shame, as we have very few on the farm. The one at the far end of the wood was a favourite tree for our buzzards to sit in, but now it looks a proper sorry state, uprooted and taken a couple of smaller trees with it.

We have been down to the flood meadows only a couple of times in the last few weeks, but as usual had an enjoyable short time watching the varied bird life that loves these fields as much as we do. We spotted a good few Teal, lots and lots of Mallard, and Wendy's favourite Lapwing. They all gave us a good show, although I've seen no Widgeon this winter.

It won't be long, maybe another week, and our Curlew will be back. They may be here already, but it's normally March before I see and - more importantly - hear their beautifully haunting call. That always puts a shiver down my spine! As was the case last year, I bet both Fred and James hear them before I do.

This winter we have put up ten woodcock while going through the woods and hedges. This is as many as I have ever seen on the farm and what a delight they are to see. One was so close when it flew past me I could clearly see its piercing black eye.

It is now light in the mornings when I go out with Penny, which makes our walk before work more enjoyable - but harder to come home, put Penny away, and get in my van and leave for work. Twice last week, on walking back to our house, the morning chorus of small birds that roost in the hedge around



our chicken run started as I went past. What a lovely sound it was, and a lovely start to the day.

As seems to be the norm, last month's article brought a few humorous comments back to me; this time about having red deer on the farm. As I've said, there are many people a lot more knowledgeable on wildlife than me, but I do know my deer and their habits well. They are still with us, so if you fancy seeing an unusual mammal for our area take a walk over a behind Covert Wood.

This month's ending comment is a sad one. Two weeks ago I found a dead weasel on our lawn. I see so few of these, our most ferocious and talented hunter, that it was very sad, but at the same time interesting to see one at close quarters.

Well, that's it for February. March is traditionally a fishing month for us, so maybe next month I will write about one of our trips. Bye for now!



Antiques
@ THE HOLT
Antiques & Collectors' Fair
March 18 & 19
Open 10 am - 4:30 pm
~50 Dealers. Trade from 9 am. Entry £2
@The Holt Hotel, Steeple Aston
Full details on the website:
www.antiques-at-the-holt.co.uk

25% NOW BIGGER



North Aston Community Orchard

Wednesday 8th March
8pm, The Old Bakery

Just to say another big thank you to all the wonderful folk who came along to our inaugural Community Orchard meeting last month.

There seems to be a lot of enthusiasm and we're going to be working hard over the next month to come up with a proposal to present at the Village Forum in April.

Details will be shared in the April *North Aston News*, but if you can't wait till then, or if you're keen to have your say on whether we plant a *Morello* or an *Ashmead's Kernel* then join us at 8pm on Wednesday 8th March, in the community room at the Old Bakery, to iron out details of the proposal.

Gareth

NICHOLSONS



The Yurt Café now Open !

We are very excited to announce that our Yurt Café is now open. Our head chef Sonya Kidney enjoys exploring new flavours to bring you a Café with character.

www.theyurtatnicholsons.co.uk

Rosara 2017 range

After a successful first year for Rosara, we are now stocking our 2017 collection. Visit our website to see our complete range of Outdoor Style.

www.rosara.co.uk



ROSARA



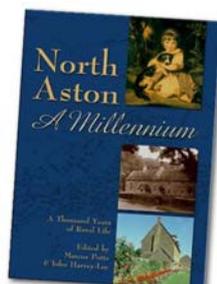
www.nicholsonsgb.com

Clocks Spring Forward with Mother!

Don't forget that the start of British Summer Time takes place this month. Not only is it Mothering Sunday on March 26th, but at 1.00 am the clocks "spring" forward across the UK. So it will instantly be 2.00 am, giving us an hour less sleep, but the good news is; we'll be heading for Summer!

Special Offer

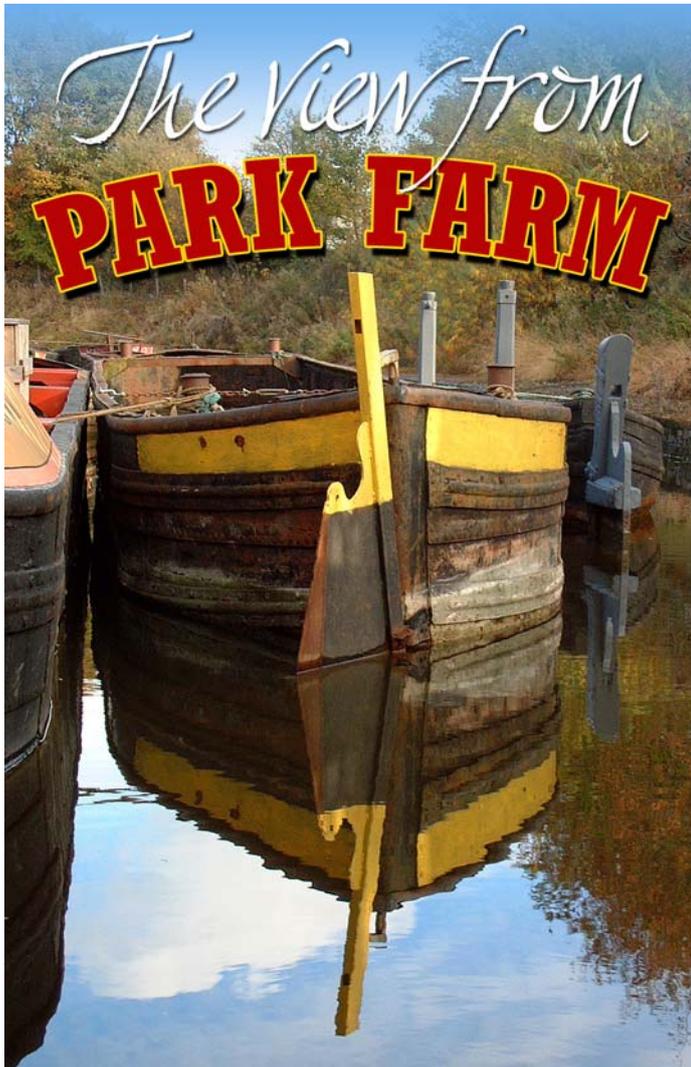
To mark the tenth anniversary since its publication, we are offering copies of *North Aston ~ A Millennium* to residents of the village for the special price of just £10 per copy (RRP £25). An affordable gift for yourself, your friends and relatives ... or even Mother! Contact Marcus.



What is it?



A large round chamfered stone has been unearthed by the water pipe contractors working near the allotments. Any ideas what it might be? Suggestions can be emailed to us here on info@north-aston.co.uk. High resolution image available!



This is our first column for the *North Aston News* and we have all been really excited! We live at Park Farm which is a residential children's home here in North Aston.

This month has been busy at Park Farm. We have had lots of exciting day trips, seen family members, started Zumba, celebrated 'Galentines Day' and we now have a new home manager!

We have been out on various day-trips, including the Ashmolean Museum and the Black Country Museum; we

From Thames Valley Police

Following on from last month's advice about phishing emails, TVP sent out a similar warning this month about nuisance phone calls. The advice they gave is as follows:

To reduce telephone scams you can register with the Telephone Preference Service. This is a free service that allows you to opt-out of receiving unsolicited sales and marketing calls. You can register online at www.tpsonline.org.uk or call 0845 070 0707. *However, we've been "registered" for more than ten years now, I can say that it is not 100% effective. We still receive three or four such calls every day.*

Your telephone service provider should also be able to offer assistance in barring or blocking calls to and from premium rate or international rate numbers.

Another option is 'Truecall'. This is a paid-for service using a Call Blocker device that intercepts incoming calls, allows through the genuine contacts and blocks around 98% of

found it really interesting to see how people used to live. A few of us also travelled to Hackney, London, to see an exhibition put on by our Maths tutor!

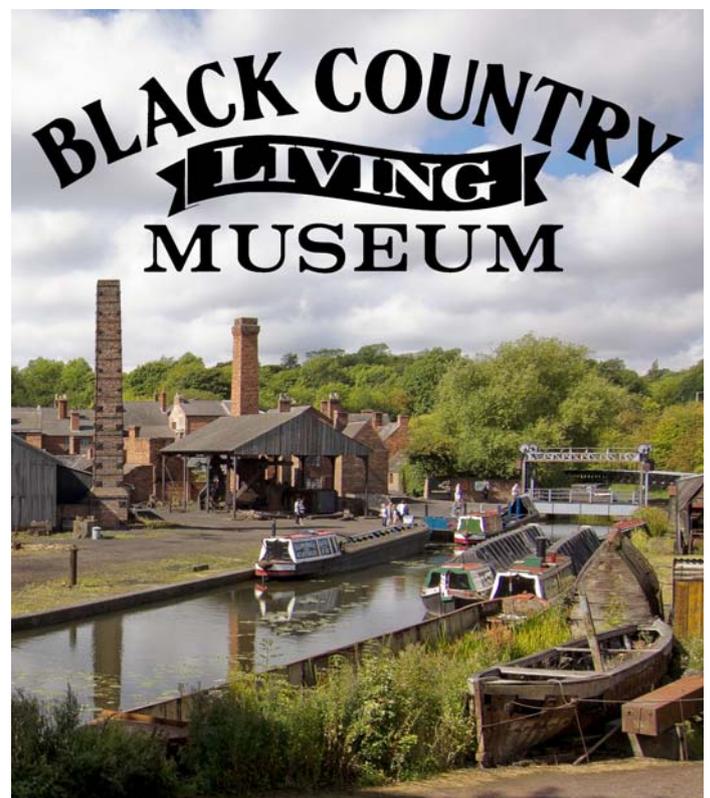
The best part for us was half term! We all had positive contacts, seeing family members which we enjoyed. We also had 'Galantine's Day', where we celebrated different forms of love and friendship. It was really special as we were all together. We made delicious pancakes, and had them with strawberries and Nutella.

Half term has meant that we have been able to go out and explore Oxfordshire even more. We have been on lots of group walks - we particularly enjoyed Blenheim Palace!

This month we have also found a loving new home for some of our rabbits and all started Zumba class. We all love it!

Thank you for reading!

Park Farm



nuisance calls. It costs about £100 to buy, plus £20 per year for an on-line maintenance account. It was recently reviewed by Which? as being the most effective system. Information from www.trueCall.co.uk, email info@trueCall.co.uk, or call them free on 0800 0 336 330.

If you use the Internet to renew insurance etc. beware of giving your phone number as this is one way it can get passed on to marketing companies. Instead offer the following number: 0333 8888888. This will state you don't wish to be contacted by phone but they can e-mail you instead.

Use caller display. If you see a number you don't recognise, pick up, but let the caller speak first. Listen and wait. If it's sales patter, a recording or a nuisance call, say nothing. Remain silent or gently lay down the phone and walk away. They'll soon realise there's nobody there and hang up.

If you have been scammed, you should report it to Trading Standards. Email trading.standards@oxfordshire.gov.uk or telephone them on 01865 815000.

Last month we ran an advert for Erin Buckley, who is a very talented animal illustrator. I was intrigued to know why she'd asked us to feature an advert in the News, and what her connection is with North Aston. Here's her reply ...

I am a full time illustrator, working on the beautiful Dorset coastline. I specialise in creating intricate pencil colour drawings of animals on high quality art paper, with the aim of achieving a unique likeness that captures a pet's character.



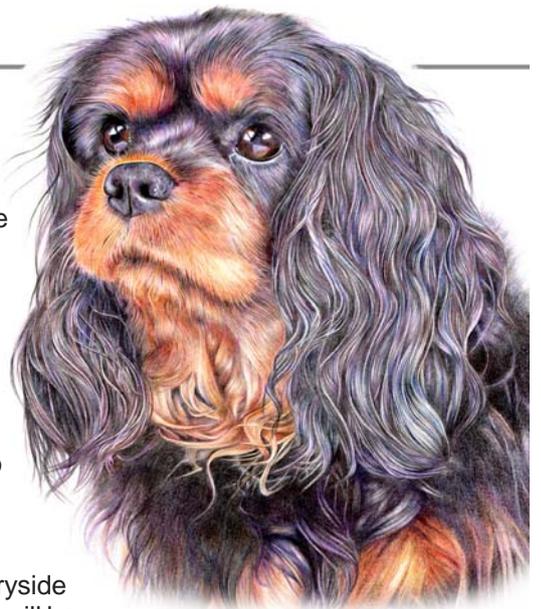
Since childhood, I have always loved drawing, this love being nurtured by my father who is a retired art teacher and landscape oil painter.

Six years ago I gained a degree in *Illustration* from AUB, the Arts University Bournemouth.

Here, I was encouraged to experiment with a wide range of media, including flowing ink portraits, wall murals and book illustration. It is due to this artistic sense of adventure that I found my true speciality – drawing animals. Since then I have built this into a small business.

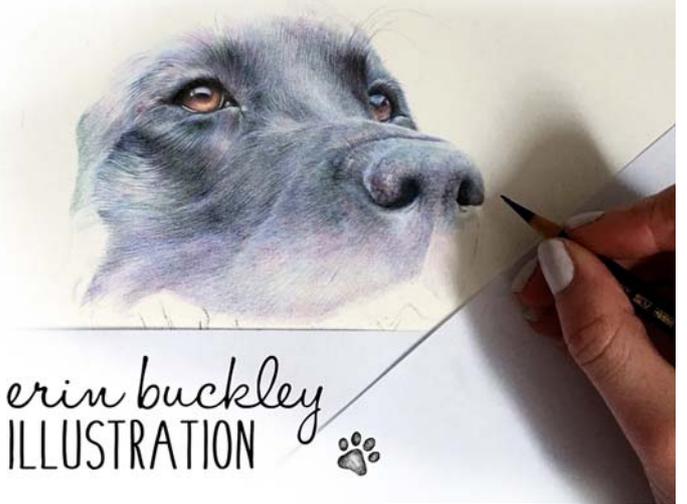
Although I live in Dorset, I have developed a strong bond with North Aston. I have always loved staying with my husband's aunt and uncle, who live in the village. North Aston feels like a real rural retreat from everyday life, and the gentle peace and tranquility is hard to find these days. It was actually while I was in North Aston that I decided to make a career out of illustration. Steadily, business has started to grow and more work has come in from referrals by current clients, which is very rewarding.

When I'm visiting North Aston I notice that the seasons in the surrounding countryside seem more pronounced and vivid than where I live. This has inspired me to create a collection of illustrations of English countryside wildlife, which will be appearing over the next few months on my website.



I love animals and I have two naughty cats of my own. I am very aware of how much personality and character they have; truly, they are part of the family. I understand that every animal is unique and different and this is one of the most important things to capture when I draw them.

Every image is lovingly and meticulously drawn from carefully selected photos that capture a pet's individual personality. Combining this attention to personality with a love of bringing out the incredible colours hidden in their fur allows me to create a memory of a pet on paper, that accurately captures their unique spirit and temperament. My hope is that this will make the owner smile every time they look at my drawing of their pet on the wall.



erin buckley
ILLUSTRATION 

Citizens Advice helped me find a way forwards

Call in - drop-in advice sessions in **Banbury, Bicester & Kidlington.**

Call us - adviceline **03444 111 444** (local call)

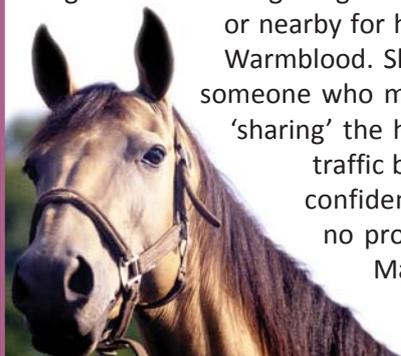
Online at **www.citizensadvice.org.uk** and **www.caox.org.uk**



Whoever you are, whatever your problem. Free, impartial & confidential advice

DIY OR GRASS LIVERY WANTED

Magdalena is looking for grass livery in North Aston or nearby for her 15 year-old Polish Warmblood. She's also keen to find someone who might be interested in 'sharing' the horse. He's good with traffic but sharp to hack, but confident riders will manage no problem. Please contact Magdalena for info and further details. Tel: 07907 199159



Councillor Calling



Residents of North Aston will, no doubt, be aware of the discussions surrounding the future Governance of Oxfordshire.

Oxfordshire County Council is pushing the idea of a Unitary Authority (the so-called *One Oxfordshire* proposal) under which arrangement the current structure of County Council, District Councils (including Cherwell) and Oxford City Council would be swept away to be replaced by one uber-council for the entire County, essentially a land- and money-grab by the County Council. While this idea may have superficial appeal - fewer buildings, fewer staff, fewer Councillors (undoubtedly a popular move!!) - the following points should also be considered:

- Council tax will increase for residents if a unitary council were to be introduced to cover the costs of implementation.
- For years Oxfordshire County Council has increased its share of council tax whilst reducing services, meaning residents pay more for less.
- On the other hand Cherwell has frozen its share of council tax for the past seven years without reducing services. When taking into account inflation, residents now pay less for more from Cherwell.
- Oxfordshire County Council's previous poor performance in managing budgets and delivering services has led to cuts in services such as children's centres and buses which have a particular impact on the most vulnerable members of society.
- Cherwell is a strongly performing council which has repeatedly intervened where the county council has failed – this option would be lost if a unitary model were to be introduced.
- Cherwell has taken innovative steps to generate income to address reductions in Government funding. These include the *Build!* project and Graven Hill Village Development Company.
- The predicted savings cannot be guaranteed. There is also no reference to increasing service provision to residents implying the only options will be reductions or maintaining the status quo.
- Cherwell has supported the growth of a strong economy; the district's unemployment figures are the lowest on record (less than 300) and the total amount paid in business rates is the highest for all of Oxfordshire.
- Local issues which are of huge importance to the local community, such as protecting the Horton General Hospital, will be diluted amongst the county's wider issues and considered a distant problem to a city-based unitary authority.
- A single point of contact will be a single point of failure. CDC is a successful council; it does not fail.

We, the Councillors of Deddington Ward, believe that a Unitary Council will not prove to be of long-term benefit to Residents of Cherwell, either financially or in terms of representation.

Cherwell District Council has launched a petition "Stop Plans for a Unitary Authority in Oxfordshire" which we would urge all those who care about how they are represented to sign.

The petition can be found at: <https://www.change.org/p/stop-plans-for-a-unitary-authority-in-oxfordshire>

Regards, *Hugo Brown*

What were we doing?

I was surprised to discover that it is now ten years since the *North Aston News* began the move into the electronic age. Back in 2007 John Harvey-Lee was still editor, and producing most of the *News* the old way, by hand, using "hard copy" printed sheets, scissors and glue, but it had become a joint effort. At the same time I was producing the "official" pages (Minutes from Meetings, adverts etc) for supply to John, who then tied everything neatly together for photocopying. I can now look back through the electronic archive and see what was happening in North Aston in March, in years gone by ...

10 Years Ago

In March 2007, *North Aston - A Millennium* had just gone to the printers, and John and I were eagerly awaiting delivery of advanced copies. This had been a mammoth effort by so many people in North Aston, and even today, the orders are still trickling in. If you haven't got a copy of the village's "official history", there's still a healthy stock, so pop round and collect one - price to residents is now £10 per copy.

9 Years Ago

Top of the agenda at the Village Meeting was the issue of traffic calming along the Somerton Road, and the deteriorating state of the Middle Aston Lane. There was a move to push for a roundabout at *The Fox*. Some things never change!

8 Years Ago

Crisis! There had been no takers for the post of Chairman of the Village Meeting, and deep snow covered Oxfordshire! Beesley's Close was a hive of winter sports, but Chris Tuffrey had stepped forwards to become Chair, while we welcomed Preach Pubs to the village.

7 Years Ago

The village was engrossed once again in thoughts of a new Village Hall, yet Minutes from the Village Meeting revealed rumours that toilets and a kitchen facility were to be built into the Church. There were rumblings!

6 Years Ago

The *News* was, by now, fully digital, and Chris Tuffrey had just launched *The North Aston Gardening Club*.

5 Years Ago

After twenty years of trying, the new Village Hall looked set to become a reality. Full funding was in place, the promise of land had been made, almost 90% of the village supported the project, and the prospects looked excellent.

4 Years Ago

Kildare was Chair, designs for the new Jubilee Bench had just been received from Daniel Durnin, and the village was gearing up for the "Spirit of North Aston" arts festival, part of *Oxfordshire Arts Week*.

3 Years Ago

Adam and Jos Busby were seeking support for their bike ride from London to Paris, and there were concerns about proposed housing developments at Upper Heyford.

2 Years Ago

After many years here the Adams family had moved out of North Aston, but a new organ had moved into the church!

Last Year

Then, as now, the Mid-Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan was a focus of attention, but we welcomed Gareth and Eileen to the village and the *The Colander Girls* "Supper Club" had just been launched ... and is still going strong I believe.

Marcus



The Church MATTERS



Lent ...

March 1st is both St David's Day and Ash Wednesday this year. Given the link the calendar gives us between the patron saint of Wales, *Land of Song*, and the start of Lent, we've decided that our Lent Course for 2017 should take us through themes we think through in the run-up to Easter with the help of lots of music.

So: we'll celebrate Ash Wednesday with a service at Tackley Church at 7.30pm, and then starting a week later we will meet every Thursday at 8pm through Lent (March 9, 16, 23, 30 & April 6) at Tackley Methodist Church looking at five themes - *Abandonment, Service, Longing, Strength and Fear* - and each week we will use different songs and pieces of music to help us reflect on these themes. Do come and join us as we take these times to reflect on life, on our selves, on God and on the journey to the Cross at Easter. We're calling this course "Salvation's Songs", and very much hope that it might provide a creative way for us to go through Lent together.

I mentioned last month that perhaps the thing to give up this year at Lent might not be chocolate or red wine, but an hour each week to come and worship with us. If 9.30 on a Sunday is tricky, perhaps the Lent Course might hit the spot? Worshipping Jesus isn't about being perfect; it's about opening ourselves to God's heart of love so that we might be changed deep inside - changed so that we might find ourselves a bit better at loving people around us. Worth a try, surely? Do remember that Mothering Sunday is the fourth Sunday in Lent, so that's March 26th this year. We will of course celebrate this in our service of Morning Prayer that day!

Now, if I might give some advance notices: Looking ahead into next month, the church's Annual Meeting is on Tuesday April 4th at 7.30pm. Only people on the church's electoral roll can vote at this meeting, but we welcome everyone in the village to come along and hear what's been going on in church life, and to think and pray about the plans we have for the year ahead.



and then Easter...

Easter is really late this year, but we have some super ideas, which will be revealed in full in next month's newsletter. For now, I must say I am delighted that we will be celebrating Holy Week a bit differently in the Benefice, travelling around from church to church each day so that every parish gets two events through the week leading up to Easter itself. And we have a special guest, Revd Bruce Gillingham, who was something of a mentor to me when I was an undergraduate. He is a really super person, recently retired, who is giving us the whole week to make a short address every evening of Holy Week (April 10-15) helping us to find "The Way of New Life" as we approach the Easter celebrations. Bruce will also be leading the Easter Morning Family Communion in North Aston on April 16th.

Revd Marcus Green

Morning Prayer is in church on Thursday 9th March at 10am, and Bible Study usually happens in the Rectory at Steeple on Monday afternoons at 2pm More news is always available on our website: www.sntchurch.com



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

You can also email Clive: casb@north-aston.com (tel: 338 434) or Annabel: annabelbevan@hotmail.com (tel: 345153)

Any other member of the PCC will also be very happy to talk, and they are: Richard Bailey, Kildare Bourke-Borrowes, Beryl Greenwood, Vicky Taylor, Jenny Martin, Ted Short, Jeremy Taylor and Norman West.



CHURCH SERVICES

PARISH WORSHIP IN MARCH-APRIL

NORTH ASTON

STEEPLE ASTON

TACKLEY

Wednesday March 1st 2017 - Ash Wednesday

No Service

No Service

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

Sunday March 5th 2017 - First Sunday in Lent

9:30 am
Holy Communion
Book of Common Prayer
Revd Mervyn Puleston

11:00 am
Holy Communion
Book of Common Prayer
**Revd Geoffrey Hunter and
Richard Bailey**

5:30 pm
Evensong
**Canon Robin Gibbons and
Revd Geoffrey Hunter**

Sunday March 12th 2017 - Second Sunday in Lent

9:30 am
Family Service
Revd Marcus Green

11:00 am
Family Service & Baptism
Revd Marcus Green

5:30 pm
Holy Communion
**Revd Marcus Green and
Canon Robin Gibbons**

Sunday March 19th 2017 - Third Sunday in Lent

9:30 am
Holy Communion
Revd Marcus Green

11:00 am
Holy Communion
Revd Marcus Green

5:30 pm
Evensong
**Revd Marcus Green and
Canon Robin Gibbons**

Sunday March 26th 2017 - Mothering Sunday - Fourth Sunday in Lent

9:30 am
Morning Prayer
**Revd Marcus Green and
Richard Bailey**

11:00 am
Holy Communion
with Children's Church
Revd Marcus Green

5:30 pm
Evensong
**Revd Marcus Green and
Canon Robin Gibbons**

Sunday April 2nd 2017 - Fifth Sunday in Lent

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

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

5:30 pm
Evensong
**Revd Marcus Green and
Canon Robin Gibbons**

Families are welcome to **all** Sunday services within the parish.
Visit the Benefice Website for further information www.sntchurch.com

North Aston News

The *North Aston News* is designed and produced by CMC Graphics and printed by Nicholsons of North Aston.
You can contact the *News* and submit content by email: info@north-aston.co.uk. Telephone 01869 347356