

NORTH ASTON

NEWS

April 2018

#330



NORTH ASTON NEWS

APRIL 2018, No:330

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Out of Hours Doctor: 111 or 08453 458 995

The Chairman's Mark

Under Discussion

The North Aston Discussion Group has now gained momentum and there was a good turnout for last month's topic on organ donation. We had an excellent presentation from Helen Canons to start us off and I certainly learnt a lot from her and the input from others. The next subject in May will be Animal Rights (date to be confirmed in the next edition of the News).

Something Brewing

I also hear that the Brewing Co-op has got off the ground and I hope that goes from strength to strength. I look forward to some sampling!

Forum

Please do try and attend the Village Forum on Thursday 12th April (see separate notice below). Please let me know if you have anything you'd like adding to the agenda. Among other things we will form a sub-committee to organise the Fête, and any volunteers to help with that will much appreciated.

Easter

I look forward to seeing some of you on the Village Green on Easter Monday morning for the Egg Hunt!

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

Mark

Village Forum

April 12th 2018
The Old Bakery from 7:30 pm

The next Village Forum will take place on Thursday 12th April. This will be a fairly informal gathering, and a chance to catch up with other residents, as well as lay plans for this summer's community events. There's no fixed Agenda as such, but topics likely to come up for discussion include:

- Review of Village Risk Assessment status*.
- Appointment of Data Protection Officer*.
- Planning for the Fête and creating an organising committee.
- Update on the Village Defibrillator - siting and housing.
- Starting a new 100 Club year.
- Choosing a "Village Charity" - a focus for fundraising efforts in 2018.
- Traffic Calming and Kerbing the Green.
- Update on the return of Mikron on Sunday 12th August.
- Plans to mark the centenary of The Armistice in November.
- Any other matters.
- Setting a date for the next Forum Meeting.

If you have any additional topics you'd like to raise, please do so under *Any Other Business*. Please advise Mark if you think appropriate.

* These items have been held over from the January Village Meeting, and will be dealt with swiftly at the beginning of the Forum.

Front Cover: Bill Graham has finished laying the hedge alongside Watson's Ground, and spring has finally arrived, with daffodils bringing warm colour to the Green and around the village. Thanks again to Jane McArdle for her photographs.



March 2018

The winners of the January draw were:

First Prize (£10): W Doggett (#23)

Second Prize (£5): C Busby (#118)



Next month's 100 Club will be the last for the 2017-18 season, with a bumper bonus prize of £100 going to one lucky participant. That could be you ... next year! With April's copy of the North Aston News, Norman will be distributing envelopes inviting every household to take part in this nail-biting and thrilling lottery. If you'd like to take part in 2018-19, then don't forget to return the envelope, with your subscription, in time for the May draw. For the time being you can contact Norman on 340368, but from April Bev Rees will be taking over - thankyou Bev! And remember ...

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

Pavements are for Pedestrians

Under Rule 244 of the Highway Code, vehicles should not be parked partially or wholly across the pavement, as this can obstruct and seriously inconvenience pedestrians, wheelchair users, those with visual impairments, children walking to the bus, people with prams or pushchairs, and gardeners trying to get to the allotments. Residents never do this, of course, but if there are tradespeople working on-site or guests visiting, please ask them to park responsibly.



April Birthdays

Tracy Boss Peter Durnin
Harry Godwin & Tony Godwin
Liz Hite Mary Hoare
Olivia Kneale
Franca Potts Annie Savage
Susannah Taylor
Dawid Waszynski Norman West



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

Deddington Farmers' Market

The Farmers' Market takes place every 4th Saturday of the month, and April's will be on the 28th. Parking may be a nightmare, but do try to support our local farmers and growers, including our own North Aston Organics, who 'stand' at the Market every month.

Ringling the Changes

The North Aston Ringers are still looking for new recruits. Bell ringing is great fun and suitable for all ages. No experience necessary! For more information contact Jeremy on 340105 or email jeremytaylor@north-aston.co.uk.

Oxfordshire Artweeks - 5th - 13th May

If you haven't done so before, visiting the studios of working artists can be an inspiring experience. Oxfordshire Artweeks, which has been running since 1981, is an opportunity for people to see creative works, often in interesting settings.

Bicester Sculpture Group Exhibition is just such a place. The Studio set in the garden of the Old Vicarage behind St Edberg's Church in the town, was set up in the 1990s by George Muller, himself a celebrated stained glass artist. He had the vision of creating a space for artists to work together and inspire each other to explore their work in a shared studio. It currently hosts 24 sculptors working in a range of materials and producing a variety of artistic responses to the world around us.

Do go along to this free exhibition and maybe find your own creative inspiration! The artists will be happy to see you whether or not you have visited before. Put the date in your diary – Saturday 5th to Sunday 13th May from 10.30 am to 4.30 pm. More information next month.



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www.northastonorganics.co.uk

North Aston Nature Notes

With Stephen Rees

Well, March certainly came in like a lion didn't it! Let's hope it goes out like a lamb, as my old mum always used to say.

In Oxford and Summertown the cherry blossom is out and looking lovely, and down below us, here and there, we have blackthorn blossom and a few hawthorns in bud. So, spring is well and truly with us, but I've been told by people who generally get these things right that bad weather is coming for Easter weekend. Flipping heck, our wood pile has took a right good hammering this year! I hope it warms up soon.

So to last month's "who's seen what", and what a month it was! My own spots have been a bit common and nowhere near as good as other people's, so I'll get them out of the way first ...

Every morning, on my way to work, there have been six and sometimes seven Roe Deer in the grass field on the right, just before the organic field. That's literally every morning, and always in exactly the same place. I love seeing deer on the farm, although I'm sure the organic folk aren't so happy, since the deer can do a lot of damage, but they're still nice to see and watch.



On the 11th March [Wendy's birthday], after a text from Fred, I walked down to the flood meadows. I didn't see what he'd seen, but I did find frog spawn in a ditch that we always find it in. Last year we also found toad spawn on the same day, although there was none this year.

Over the last few days the Fieldfares have started grouping up into flocks. This means they'll be leaving us soon, heading back to Scandinavia for the summer, where they breed.

Last Saturday I woke up at work o'clock as usual, took a cup of tea in to Wendy, and then headed down to the summer house to drink mine. Even though it was really cold, it's still a nice place to have the first tea of the day. So, I'm sat there, looking out across the field, and this really pale fox appears down the bottom of the field, walking up the side of the hedge towards me, stopping every now and then to take in a scent or to listen. After five or ten minutes I've not moved an inch and my tea's gone cold, but old foxy is right up near the summer house, and going round behind the little mound of mud. He's stalking up it to watch the rabbits, but they've clocked him coming ages ago. They're stood up on their back legs saying, yeah whatever, come on then! It was so funny to watch; a proper little drama, and better than anything on TV. So to last month's spots, and get ready, because they are pretty flipping good!

On the 11th March Fred saw two Curlew down on the flood meadows. This is around the usual time they come back each year, so I rushed down there, and Wendy joined me an hour later, but we didn't get a spot of them and, more sadly, didn't hear them either.

At the same time Fred saw a Swallow above the river near Deep Lock. This is the earliest I have known them to come here, and before this the earliest I've ever seen them was 14th March, when fishing the river with my Dad on the last day of the season. That's a great couple of spots to Fred and, as usual, he's beaten me again!

The best sighting last month, without any doubt, goes to James, who put up a Water Rail from a ditch near the flood meadows. I've never even seen one. They are very elusive and secretive birds that move about a lot at night, with a call that's a cross between a cry and scream (*rather like a piglet!*). They're apparently quite common but hard to see, so well done James - another one to you.

Wendy saw the Fallow Deer below the cover again last weekend, and a white one amongst them, so it looks like the same ones that were here last year. That's good to know, and I'm glad they have come back.

Hal, our new neighbour, had a Barn Owl sitting on the fence the other night, just below his cottage. That's always a nice spot. I'm still hearing the Tawny Owls behind us, but haven't seen them recently.

Last weekend Wendy was spring cleaning our greenhouse, taking pots and trays out to wash, and found a seed tray covered in 50 or 60 snails. She lent it against a tree, and next morning they had all gone, except for a couple. I'm hoping they didn't go straight back to the greenhouse.

Well, I think that's it for March. Soon it will be time to start listening out for cuckoos. I wonder who will be the first to hear one this year. Bye for now,

Steve, Wendy & Penny





At Park Farm we've had another busy month, with lots of success stories for the whole group.

We've braved the weather and made the most of the snow; two days off school was a nice bonus too! Even though we weren't able to get the cars out, we had a lovely weekend at home and had a chance to spend some real quality time with each other at the house.

Many of us are getting ourselves ready for our exams at the end of the school year; we're all looking forward to getting them done and seeing our results at the end. We're working together to help each other get the best possible results, with homework clubs, tutoring and staff support all helping us achieve our goals.

We've welcomed a new staff member this month; she's settling in great and we're all excited to have her here. Hopefully she's enjoying being here as much as we enjoy having her. We've also had two birthdays since the last newsletter, so we've got plenty to celebrate!

Our activities and extra-curricular clubs are going great; we've had police cadets, guides, yoga, ice skating and horse riding to keep us busy, and some of our girls will be starting rock climbing and army cadets soon too!

Our local PCSO came to visit and built a new rabbit hutch. It's much bigger, and the rabbits seem to love it!

Speaking of rabbits, we've got big plans for Easter. We'll be attending the North Aston Easter Egg Hunt, and we've been invited to attend an Easter dinner at one of the other local homes. We've also got lots of girls visiting family, including some holidays, so we have a lot to look forward to.

Have a great Easter from everyone at Park Farm!



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NorthAston

MidCherwell

Neighbourhood Plan Forum

Following a meeting with CDC at the beginning of March, Martin Lipson, Chair of the Mid-Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan Forum, confirmed that the formal submission of our Plan documents could take place. They were delivered on 16th March, allowing CDC to commence the Regulation 15 Consultation. However, due to imminent Council elections, this has been delayed until May. The likely timescale is now:

- May 6 - June 18: Period of Consultation.
- July: CDC will produce a report on responses, although they will be immersed in the Local Plan (Partial Review) Enquiry prior to that time.
- July/August: We consider their report and if necessary agree any changes.
- August: CDC appoints the Examiner.
- September/October: Referendum

He tells us that the other piece of good news is that Middleton Stoney Parish Council has written confirming that they are content for their parish to remain part of the Plan, although the PC itself is no longer a member of the Forum.

The introduction to the Plan is being amended to reflect their change of membership, but no other changes are now needed. The Middleton Stoney parishioners will be able to vote in the Referendum and benefit from the Plan's policies.

This is a major step forward, and a significant achievement by all the parishes involved. With this stage completed, we are now several stages nearer to having the whole Neighbourhood Plan adopted.

From Thames Valley Police

This month's updates and information

Countering Terrorism

Here, in quiet, rural North Aston, the threat of terrorism may seem distant, but as we travel around the country, even in nearby towns, we still need to be vigilant.

Thames Valley Police and Counter Terrorism Policing South East (CTPSE) is urging the public to help the police tackle terrorism by reporting suspicious behaviour and activity.

Communities defeat terrorism. With the enduring terrorist threat, it is now more important than ever that everyone plays their part in tackling terrorism. Your actions could save lives.

Don't worry about wasting police time, and whatever you tell the police is treated in the strictest confidence and is thoroughly researched by experienced officers before, and if, any police action is taken. Any piece of information could be important, it is better to be safe and report. Remember, trust your instincts and ACT. *Action Counters Terrorism*.

Reporting is quick and easy. You can report in confidence online via the secure form: www.gov.uk/ACT. Alternatively, you can call the police confidentially on 0800 789 321. In an emergency, as always, call 999.

False TPS

Fraudsters are cold-calling people falsely claiming to represent one of the well-known UK telecommunication service providers. They pretend to offer a 'Telephone Preference Service' - an enhanced call-barring facility, which includes barring international call centres.

The fraudsters ask for bank account details, suggesting that there is a one-off charge for the service. Victims instead see monthly debits deducted from their accounts, which they have not authorised. The fraudsters often target elderly victims.

These direct debits are set up without following proper procedure, and written confirmation, which is supposed to be sent within three days, is never sent. On occasions when victims attempted to call back, the telephone number provided by the fraudster was either unobtainable or the victim's direct debit cancellation request was refused.

During 2017, there were 493 Action Fraud Reports relating to this fraud. We all detest cold-callers, and any means towards reducing their frequency sounds appealing, but there is only one Telephone Preference Service (TPS), and it is free to register. Simply visit <http://www.tpsonline.org.uk>.

HM Customs

TVP have received several calls from residents in and around the Chipping Norton area saying that they have received a telephone call from someone claiming to be from HM Customs. The caller states that the resident owes the taxman a lot of money, and attempts to persuade the victim to part with personal details in order to "rectify the situation".

So far there are no reports of these scams being successful, but if you should receive a call from anyone claiming to be from HM Customs or the like, and that you owe serious amounts of money, please do not supply any personal details.

BT Bill Scam

We've mentioned this previously, but the BT bill scam is becoming more prevalent, and so another warning may be timely. The phishing ploy involves an email that may say something along these lines:

New BT Bill

Your bill amount is £285.88. This doesn't include any amounts brought forward from any other bills.

We've put your latest BT bill online for you to view. [See your bill here](#).

We'll take your payment from your account as usual by Direct Debit.

Reduce paper waste

You're still getting paper bills by post. Why not [go paper-free](#), and stop storing and shredding them once and for all?

When you [log in to your account](#), you can also see your recent usage, call costs and bills.

Thanks for choosing BT.

Your BT Team

The links ([underlined](#)) all lead to a bogus website infected with a malware program known as the Dridex banking virus. Once installed onto a computer, this will enable the fraudsters to access personal information.

The standard advice is, never click links in emails you don't recognise, and don't 'open' an email without checking the content, and any links, in the viewing pane first.

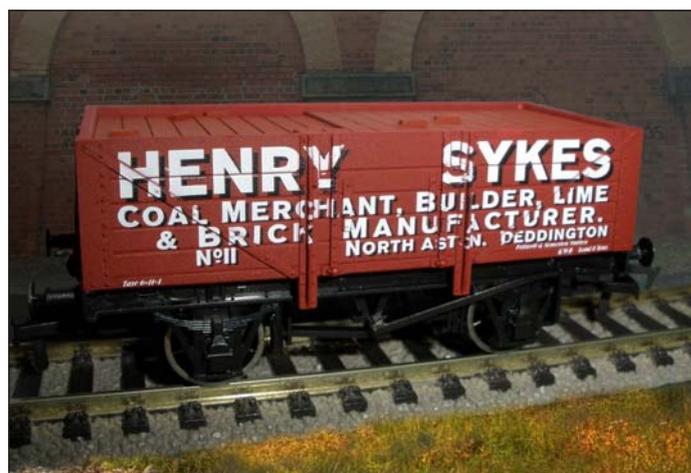
If you have been affected by this, or any other type of fraud, report it to Action Fraud by visiting www.actionfraud.police.uk or by calling 0300 123 2040.

Henry Sykes on Track

Anyone with a copy of The Book will be familiar with the name of Sykes, since several pages are devoted to the family which lived on Dane Hill from the late 19th and into the 20th centuries.

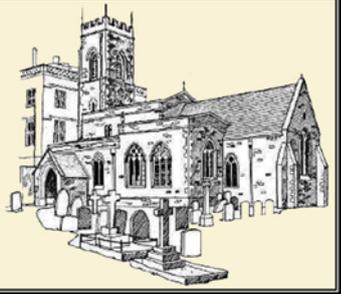
Henry was the patriarch, born in Deddington in 1859, and an astute businessman. A stonemason by trade, he moved to Bray Cottage on Dane Hill in about 1900, renting the house from William Foster-Melliard, as well as the neighbouring lime kilns. He subsequently bought two fields from Sir Henry Dashwood on the Duns Tew side of the main road, as well as The White House, and set up a builder's merchants and a general haulage business.

He was dealing mainly in sand and slaked lime, but it seems doubtful that he was ever a brick manufacturer or a coal merchant, least of all that he had his own railway wagons. However, model railway enthusiasts can look out for these highly collectible HO gauge wagons attributed to Henry Sykes. Only 150 are thought to have been produced by West Wales Wagon Works before Michael Martin, the proprietor, passed away in November 2015. They do occasionally appear on eBay, and typically sell for around £15 apiece.





The Church MATTERS



Christ is Risen!

From all at St Mary's, may I wish everyone in the village a very happy Easter indeed!

After a cold and dark winter, which started with snow in early December and seemed determined to keep us in scarves and hats as long as possible, Easter is a time of great joy. We remember Christ dying for us, we feel the full force of forgiveness, and we sing Easter songs of rising praise. It's a great time of year. The flowers have been slow to bloom this spring, with snowdrops still out in force well into March; but the colours are returning, and with them we see the yearly reminder of how Jesus brings life and hope back to our lives even when life and hope seem furthest away.

The process of actually seeing something happening in our building projects has seemed like a long winter with everything eternally in hibernation too - but at last the windows are being restored, and the funds for the lych gate and path are coming together. We are very hopeful that with part one of our 'St Mary's For Everyone' nearing completion, part two should happen this year as well. Please pray that we will get this done! One or two more successful bids and we are there.

Though ... just after Mothering Sunday I was with some of the school children one afternoon. I asked them - which is more important: the children or the buildings at school? They told me very definitely - the children. I agreed. And I said - the same is true at church: God loves people. As amazing as our building is, everything here is to help people worship God and love others. Everything we are doing is working toward these goals. We work hard on our buildings and projects - but people always matter more.



There are moments when (as a human being, never mind as Rector) I hear people's fears that the church's life is in the past. I hear folk talk of all sorts of aspects of village life, of their work, of their family, of their dreams in the same way. But Easter says loudly - trust God. The winter may feel long and dark and cold, and yet Jesus is rising ... in a world that needs the winter to end. Christians aren't Christians "because it helps", but because it changes everything, because Jesus changes everything. I'm a Christian because the Jesus who rose at Easter lifts me up when I fall, and pushes me to hope when I despair, and more than hope - to love, when I'm just about done.

If it's been a while since you've really listened to the heart of the Easter story, then why not take the opportunity this Easter Sunday, and come and join us as we worship together as a village family? Jesus rose to declare time is up on fear, loss, despair and all those wintry things, and to bring his glorious light of love to you. To me. To all of us.

And if Easter Sunday passes too quickly - the season of Easter stays with us. Come to something at church in the weeks that follow. A day comes and goes; but the hope that Jesus rose to bring us remains for ever. I see this Easter life all around, and as Rector I look forward to our church continuing to grow in faith and love and number. Please do be a part of this journey.

Finally, notices: our Annual Church Meeting is on the evening of Tuesday April 17th, at 7.30pm in church. Only Church Electoral Roll members can vote on issues, but everyone is welcome to attend. St Mary's is your church.

Revd Marcus Green

Bible Study happens on most Mondays at 2pm in the Rectory; Morning Prayer is in church on Thursday 12th April at 10am; and 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, Beryl Greenwood, Vicky Taylor, Jane McArdle, Ted Short, Jeremy Taylor and Norman West.



CHURCH SERVICES

PARISH WORSHIP IN APRIL & MAY

NORTH ASTON

STEEPLE ASTON

TACKLEY

Sunday April 1st 2018 - Easter Day

9:00 am
Easter Family Communion
Revd Marcus Green

11:00 am
Easter Family Communion
Revd Marcus Green

10:30 am
Easter Family Communion
**Revd Geoff Hunter and
Richard Bailey**

Sunday April 8th 2018 - Second Sunday of Easter

9:30 am
Family Service
Revd Marcus Green

11:00 am
Family Service
Revd Marcus Green

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

Sunday April 15th 2018 - Third Sunday of Easter

9:30 am
Holy Communion
Revd Marcus Green

11:00 am
Holy Communion
Revd Marcus Green

5:30 pm
Informal Service,
followed by APCM
**Revd Marcus Green and
Canon Robin Gibbons**

Sunday April 22nd 2018 - Fourth Sunday of Easter

9:30 am
Morning Prayer
Revd Marcus Green

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 29th 2018 - Fifth Sunday of Easter

No Service

No Service

5:30 pm
United Benefice
Family Communion
**Revd Marcus Green and
Canon Robin Gibbons**

Sunday May 6th 2018 - Sixth Sunday of Easter

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**

North Aston News

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