

NORTH ASTON

News

February 2025

#412





FEBRUARY 2025, No:412

Useful Contacts

North Aston News. Editor: Marcus Potts

Telephone: (01869) 340296

Email: info@north-aston.co.uk

Christopher Woodhead - NAPM Chair

Telephone: (01869) 340358

Email: chair@north-aston.co.uk

Stephen Walters, NAPM Treasurer

Telephone: 07751 124224

Email: treasurer@north-aston.co.uk

Richard Hinzl, NAPM Secretary

Telephone: 07842 915069

Email: secretary@north-aston.co.uk

North Aston PCC

Clive Busby, Church Warden

Telephone: (01869) 340470

Email: casb@north-aston.com

Annabel Bevan, Church Warden

Telephone: (01869) 345153

Email: annabelbevan@hotmail.com

North Aston Gardening Club

Tuck Hatzigeorgiou, Acting Chairperson

Email: tuck56@hotmail.com

North Aston Pet Alert

Please notify of any Firework Parties

Eileen Gilmore: Tel (01869) 347210

Also email: info@north-aston.co.uk

North Aston Farms

Telephone: (01869) 347888

Email: farmoffice@northastonfarms.co.uk

Website: www.northastonfarms.co.uk

North Aston Organics

Telephone: (01869) 347702

Email: northastonorganics@gmail.com

Website: www.northastonorganics.co.uk

Park Farm House

Telephone: (01869) 349922

Email: tbc

Nicholson Nurseries

Telephone: (01869) 340342

Email: office@nicholsonsgb.com

Website: www.nicholsonsgb.com

North Aston 100 Club

Beverley Rees. (01869) 347434

Old Bakery Bookings

Mary Healy. Tel (01869) 347702

Email: maryvhealy@googlemail.com

Village Marquee Bookings

Niel Nicholson. Tel (01869) 340342 x202

Email: niel@nicholsonsgb.com

CDC Local Councillor

David Rogers, Deddington

Telephone: To be confirmed.

Email: david.rogers@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

Thames Valley Police non-emergency: 101

Out of Hours Doctor: 111 or 08453 458 995

Notes from the Chair

I have been taking inspiration from the snowdrops and aconites that have appeared in abundance. One has to admire their optimism and sheer determination to give a good show, no matter what the weather has thrown at them. It is a remarkable achievement and although Spring seems further away than ever, nothing daunts the snowdrop.

Best wishes,

You can phone Christopher on 340358

or you can email him using: chair@north-aston.co.uk

Christopher

Cherwell District Council

Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004

The Town and Country Planning Regulations 2012, 19 & 20

Cherwell Local Plan Review 2042

Cherwell District Council has prepared a new Local Plan for the region, and is inviting residents to comment upon the preliminary draft. This consultation was launched in December, but the period for public consultation has now been extended to Tuesday 25 February 2025. CDC has published an updated statement of consultation on the Council's website, and wish to ensure that there is now sufficient time for this to be considered alongside the other consultation material.

This Local Plan will have an impact on our region for many years to come, and will help to determine local policy on planning and development. If you would like to have your say on how this is implemented, then please do take the time to view the publication, either online (using the link below) or by viewing a printed copy. These are available to view at Bodicote House, Deddington Library, and various other locations (see website). We do have one copy in the village, which can be viewed by contacting Christopher (details above).

Statement of the Representation Procedure

Cherwell District Council has prepared a new local plan to meet its development needs, respond to climate change, protect the environment and support its local economy and communities. The following documents are available for inspection and comment:

1. The Local Plan which the Council proposes to submit to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government.
2. Policies maps showing the changes that would be made to the adopted policies map for the district.
3. A sustainability appraisal report of the local plan.
4. A statement of consultation setting out:
 - i. The bodies and persons previously invited to make representations
 - ii. How those bodies and persons were invited to make such representations
 - iii. A summary of the main issues raised by those representations, and
 - iv. How those main issues have been addressed in the Local Plan
5. Other supporting documents relevant to the preparation of the Local Plan
6. A statement of the procedure for making representations.

Viewing the Documents

The full consultation statement is available online at <https://cherwell.citizenspace.com/planning-policy/cherwell-local-plan-review-2042>

Hard copies of documents 1,2,3, and 6 are available to view at various locations during the following opening hours:

Cherwell District Council Offices, Bodicote House, OX15 4AA, Mon-Fri 9am - 5.15pm

Deddington Library, Deddington, OX15 0SH. Mon 2pm - 7pm, Wed 9.30am - 1pm, Thurs 1pm - 5pm, Sat 9.30am - 1pm

Submitting Representations/Comments

Comments on the documents can be made online using our engagement portal at: <https://cherwell.citizenspace.com/planning-policy/cherwell-local-plan-review-2042>

They may be sent by email to PlanningPolicyConsultation@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

They can be posted to: Planning Policy Team, Cherwell District Council, Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury, OX15 4AA.

A downloadable representation form is available on-line.

Any comments received will be made publicly available. Personal details will be protected although it may be necessary to disclose these to a Planning Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State at a later date. Data will be processed and held in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018

Cover: A stunning photo of a Goldfinch, submitted to the News by Colin Rainbow. Thank you Colin.

Planning

At last, some progress on some long-overdue decisions. To examine these plans and explore full details, search for "North Aston" on the CDC Planning Register web page at www.planningregister.cherwell.gov.uk/

Rosemary Cottage, North Aston, OX25 6HX. A request has been made to replace some modern windows with more appropriate timber-framed heritage double glazed units. The deadline for comments is 6th February. Ref: 24 / 03384 / LB

15 The Green, North Aston, OX25 6HX. The request to fell a large Christmas tree has been approved. Ref: 24 / 03157 / TCA

Nicholson Nurseries, The Park, OX25 6HL. The plans for a new timber-built entrance or 'Welcome' building to the Plant Centre has been approved. Ref: 24 / 02873 / F

North Aston Hall, St Mary's Walk, OX25 6AA. The application to construct a new swimming pool and associated changing rooms and service buildings has been approved. Ref: 24 / 02891 / F

St Mary's Church, St Mary's Walk, OX25 6AA. The application to carry out repairs to the timber lychgate and to improve disabled access has been approved. Ref: 24 / 02768 / F

North Aston Hall, St Mary's Walk, OX25 6AA. The decision on allowing for the demolition of the existing Coach House and construction of a new replacement was due on 31st January, and should now have been declared. Ref: 24 / 02763 / F



January's winners were:

1st Prize (£25): Freya Doggett (#25)

2nd Prize (£5): Mel Oakley (#19)

Congratulations! Every month, two lucky winners get drawn out of the hat. If you'd like to learn more about the 100 Club, please contact Bev: Telephone 347434 or email info@north-aston.co.uk.

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



Music for Pleasure

Performed by

Brian Thomas (Trumpet); **Charmian Bartlett** (Cello)

Paul Harrington (Keyboard)

Saturday 8th February

Steeple Aston Village Hall from 7:30pm

Come to an enjoyable and relaxing evening with a wide variety of musical favourites. There will also be an opportunity to join in.

Wine & Nibbles ~ Table Seating

Tickets: £12 (under 16s free) from

Margaret Bullement

Email: mtheb74@gmail.com or call 01869 347346

Also available from SA Village Shop

No Flies on SA PC!

Steeple Aston Parish Council has agreed to fund a pilot project to spray the larvae of the dreaded Blandford Fly, at an initial cost of £5,000. They will treat a single site this year, to gauge the effect, but hope other councils will contribute towards a much bigger project along the Cherwell Valley in the future.



There were some chilly days last month, especially down in the valley. Thanks to Annabel Bevan for this triptych of views from her garden.

North Aston Nature Notes

With Stephen Rees

Carrying on from last month's article, we wanted to tell you about a lovely, small and easy walk that we do regularly across the farm. To those of you that know this walk, sorry, but please bear with ...

This will take you to the furthest north-east corner of the farm, down to the beautiful medieval and hauntingly-named Bowman's Bridge. There it meets the former drover's road that heads one way towards the old market town of Deddington, or right to Clifton. You can walk down the hill to Somerton to begin the walk, but we sometimes drive down and park between the river and canal.

From there, walk back up the road a little. Just past the Mill, on the right-hand (north) side of the road is a footpath gate that leads into the fields. Take this gate and walk directly up the right-hand side of the field, along the hedge, and on to the top of the hill. Pass through another gate and you are now in the old gravel pit workings, with a fantastic view across Bestmoor (Bessemer) on the old maps and you'll see Somerton Deep Lock directly in front of you.



Once, it seems a hundred years ago, I can remember sitting there, watching the beagle hounds running the flood meadow. There was a hare running around the field and they were following the scent, even though they could have seen him if they'd only looked up! They just kept going around and around following the scent. I don't know if beagle packs still hunt nowadays, hopefully not, but back to the walk ...

Continue across gravel pits, through the next gate, and start down the hill. At the bottom, on your right, is an old stone barn. Please keep clear of it, as it's the home now of Barn Owls. 30 years ago they were re-introduced there, and Jeremy, James and I took turns feeding them frozen day-old chicken chicks through the top window. They thrived!

Head on through the next gate and you are now in the old Polo Field. It's a long, narrow field, which will lead you to our destination. At the far end of the field, through the gate, and you're into a small coppice of willows, poplars and ancient old oaks. Years ago they were inhabited by Little Owls, lots of them, but we haven't seen one there for a long time.



The path now will lead you past a tiny bridge that you could easily miss, but if you do spot it, step off the path and have a look. It's many years old now, and a real craftsman's job. From there, move on to the Back Brook and over Bowman's Bridge. It looks very unassuming, but its hundreds of years old and, standing on it, you can almost feel and hear the old horse-drawn carts as they clattered across it. All of us as kids spent our summers here, fishing for the Jacks (small Pike) and Chub that used to spawn in the brook – but that's a tale for another day, with a tale about big brother Tony that's well worth repeating, and a big telling-off from Dad!

From here you can either turn for home, or go on to Clifton for a pint at the pub, which is what we do fairly often. We did this walk during January, just after the floods, and there must have been three or four hundred Teal and Widgeon on the floodwaters. We stood and watched them through binoculars and, all of a sudden, a Peregrine Falcon came in and started mobbing them, making them get up and fly. It took one and few off – a real spectacle to see.

I hope you try this short and easy walk. It's really worthwhile, with lots of history and beautiful views.

Best wishes! *Stephen & Wendy*



MOSSINATOR®
ROOF CLEANING SYSTEMS

Moss Removal & Roof Cleaning
Patio & Driveway Cleaning
Render & Brickwork Cleaning
Solar Panel & Skylight Cleaning
Installation of Bird Protection
Chimney Cowl Installation



Enhance the appearance of your property
with our quality assured friendly service
info@mossinator.co.uk - 01865 362797

News From The Farm

We are breathing a sigh of relief down at the dairy, as we got through our latest TB test in January without any more casualties (although sadly we weren't so lucky with the beef herd). After our disastrous result back in June, in which we lost many of our best milking cows, we've been really struggling to continue serving all our regular milk customers. After a long wait, we managed to find some new cows to buy before Christmas and they've been settling in well, so we are very thankful that we weren't dealt another blow this time, and can relax again (until our next nerve-wracking test!).

Sadly, we are continuing to struggle with milk yields, as we've had no new calves born for many months, and have no more cows due to calve until March (when we expect four to come along at once!). As a result, our plans to refill all our freezers with ice cream over the winter didn't come to fruition, and so are down to just Vanilla and Chocolate, and this is probably all we'll have for a little while.

However, we've been hearing lots of great feedback about the **Yoke House Ice Cream** we've been stocking in our shop the past few months, which is very pleasing. We searched far and wide for an ice cream that we thought was (almost) as good as ours, and found it in a small kitchen overlooking the Painswick Valley near Stroud. The ice cream is lovingly handmade in tiny batches, using organic milk, cream and eggs as well as fresh, seasonal ingredients from the surrounding fields and hedgerows. If you haven't tried our Vanilla or Chocolate Gelato yet, please give that a go — but if you're feeling more adventurous, why not treat yourself to a tub of something a bit different ... there is Damson, Rhubarb, Ginger, Strawberry, Coffee, Raspberry Ripple, and Salted Caramel, plus both Blackcurrant and Pear Sorbets.

The Honesty Shop

The Honesty Shop is continuing to thrive and we've done a bit of a reshuffle recently to make the best use of the space, so if it looks like something you normally buy isn't there, please have a look around because it might just have moved!

We've now got everything back in stock, and have recently added a few extra things to the selection, including a range of nuts & seeds, some new types of flour, piccalilli and coleslaw, some magazines, logs & kindling, some bottle brushes, and a new brand of toilet roll! Just a reminder that we have fresh sourdough bread every Wednesday and Friday mornings.

Thanks for your continued custom, and please continue to spread the word to your friends in the local community. We are also open to any suggestions on how we could improve it, and if there is anything you would like us to stock in there, please let us know.

Nick Miller, North Aston Farms

NORTH ASTON ORGANICS

In the car park behind the Old Bakery

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



Too busy? Why not try our Veg Box Scheme?

Fresh vegetables delivered straight to your door!

Email: northastonorganics@gmail.com

Tel: (01869) 347702

visit the website at:

www.northastonorganics.co.uk

NORTH ASTON FARMS & DAIRY

Organic, pasture-fed meat, ice cream & more - on your doorstep!

Order online	Visit our shop	Join a milk round
Fresh beef boxes plus individual cuts of beef, lamb and rose veal, ice cream & more! Free delivery within 15 miles (on orders over £40) or collection from the farm	Open 7 days a week 8am - 7pm - Fruit & veg - - Meat & dairy - - Cupboard essentials - Find us at: <i>The Old Bakehouse,</i> <i>North Aston, OX25 6HX</i>	Twice-weekly deliveries Monthly invoice Reusable glassware Delivery before 7.30am Milk, yoghurt & cream plus extras including bread, butter, eggs, juice, meat & ice cream

Find out more at www.northastonfarms.co.uk

North Aston Village Meeting & AGM

Thursday 9th January 2025 ~ The Minutes

Officers present: Christopher Woodhead (CW, Chair), Stephen Walters (SW, Treasurer), Eve Rodgers (ER, Secretary).

Those present: Marcus Potts (MP), Joanna Pochron (JP), Trudy Busby (TB), Clive Busby (CB), Mark Stay (MS), Richard Hinzl (RH), Jane Durnin (JN), Kildare Bourke-Borrowes (KBB), Bev Rees (BV), Tony Rees (TR), Sue Hatzigeorgiou (SH), David Rogers (DV).

The Chair welcomed everyone and wished them a Happy New Year. He welcomed David Rogers, CDC Local Councillor for Deddington, who explained that he is one of three District Councillors for the ward. The purpose of his attendance was to learn more about North Aston, to meet residents, and to support them with anything he can.

Formal Business

1. Minutes of Meeting dated 4th November 2024

The minutes for the previous Village Meeting, as published in the December 2024 edition of the *North Aston News*, were approved (CW proposed, MP seconded).

2. Treasurer's Report

For accounting period April 2024 to December 2024.

Parish Meeting and Village Fund accounts: The figures presented for the Annual Report remained unchanged, with the exception of further fête income yet to be handed over, which will be added on receipt. Final figures will then be published, having taken all income and expenditure into consideration.

Bank accounts: The new NatWest account is up and running and all funds have now been transferred from the Santander accounts, save for a total balance of £3.18 interest recently accrued. SW asked the meeting if the Santander accounts should now be closed. CW proposed they should be, and the meeting agreed. SW will arrange closure in liaison with Niel Nicholson.

Mid-Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan: The charge for North Aston for 2023/24 was £169 and for 2024/25 was also £169. The Meeting agreed that these should now be paid. NN has kindly offered to arrange payment online and SW will take this forward with him.

Parish Precept 2025/26: SW recommended keeping this at the same level as the current year i.e. £450. MP proposed the Meeting should agree to this figure, which was seconded by BR. A vote was held, and it was unanimously agreed that the submitted figure would be £450.

Newsletter expenses: At the previous meeting it was agreed that the payment to MP for the newsletter be increased to £350 due to the amount of time this took each month. SW will action this. Payments for mowing will continue at £250. MP was thanked for the extra work he undertook for the newsletter and MP and CB for other activities such as the carol service.

3. Election of Officers

Secretary: CW explained that ER was standing down as Secretary and thanked her for her work. He introduced RT, who had kindly volunteered to take on the role. CW proposed RT as Secretary, and the Meeting voted unanimously in favour. ER and RT will arrange a handover, and MP will assist with transferring the Secretary email account to RT.

Treasurer and Chair: These posts were up for election. As no volunteers came forward, it was agreed that CW and SW will continue for another year. The Meeting thanked CW and SW for standing for another year.

4. Cherwell Local Plan Review 2040

DR explained the purpose and background to this plan and that he is on the Members Advisory Group. The plan includes an ambitious mandatory house-building target and is currently out for consultation. The planned increase in housing at Heyford Park and other nearby developments such as the proposed rail freight interchange at Middleton Stoney and a visitor park at Bucknell could lead to a huge increase in traffic through the village, which is a cause of concern.

DR talked the Meeting through other expected changes at CDC, including a new county-wide unitary authority or a mayoral authority across Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Berkshire West. He offered to pass on any concerns from the committee to relevant officers. His contact details are available in the North Aston News.

5. Mid-Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan Review

There was no update at this Meeting.

6. Traffic Calming

There is continuing concern about the speed of traffic through the village and its impact on safety. There is a dormant Speedwatch team. DR can put residents in touch with the Thames Valley Police Speedwatch officer.

CW and SW have been in touch with Duns Tew Parish and both have attended a meeting about the A4260 junction, called by Duns Tew. The crossing area on the A4260 is within the North Aston Parish but has effects on both parishes. SW lives by the crossroads and has seen a significant increase in traffic volume both on the A4260 as well as the Duns Tew to North Aston / Somerton Road, thus witnessing the dangers of the crossroads for all users. CW reported that there had been an accident there on the day of the Meeting.

DR provided contact details for Tony Kirkwood, the Oxfordshire Project Zero lead and offered to meet with him and North Aston representatives at the crossroads. He also provided details for Stuart Hutchings at Thames Valley Police, who may be able to help. It was noted that the speed camera at the end of the dual carriageway is not effective as it is placed too far back and mostly not loaded.

The state of the local roads was also raised as a concern, with major resurfacing needed. DR explained how North Aston could ask for a higher precept in future years to partially address this, as there are severe constraints on CDC's budgets.

Informal Business

7. Mikron Theatre Company

The performance for this year, to be staged on The Green, has been booked for Friday 20th June.

8. Village Fête

It was agreed that this had been a big success, despite the weather. The date of 5th July was confirmed. A meeting of a fête sub-committee will be called by CW. CB thanked the village for the funds the fête had raised for the church. MS is happy to help but not to lead. CW asked for a volunteer to lead. As none was forthcoming, he will put out a call on WhatsApp and email.

9. Marquees

It was agreed at the last Meeting that these should be replaced due to being too heavy and hazardous for erecting and dismantling. SW had contacted a business that may have second-hand marquees, who directed him to eBay. It was proposed that four smaller, lighter marquees be purchased. SW will look into purchasing these.

It would be preferable to relocate storage within the North Aston village, and a proposal to explore use of a container at Park Farm was made, if the Taylor family agreed.

10. Defibrillator

A lead for training had been discussed at the last meeting. SH will follow up with TH.

11. Any Other Business

Speed Display: CB reported that it would cost £3,800 to replace the speed display at the Somerton end of the village. DR suggested speed build-outs, and MP explained that there had been considerable past work in scoping this option but there currently was no budget for them. Funds will become available from Heyford Park in the future, but a date is yet to be set. DR explained that a grant could be explored. CW suggested that funds for the speed display could come from the Parish fund.

Village Green: JD raised concern that this is being eroded by vehicles moving out from parked cars. There was a discussion about kerbing and posts and rails, which concluded these would not be possible because they would limit agricultural machinery. Kerbing would be the responsibility of the County Council.

Affordable Housing: CB asked DR if truly affordable housing is being considered by the Council. DR explained the current limits to affordable housing.

Concluded on the next page ...

Continued from previous page ...

Broadband: MP has been in touch with Gigaclear, the designated provider for full fibre broadband to the village. The survey has been completed but there is no news on when work will start.

Speedwatch: This could be revived, as CB has the equipment but would need a team of two people per session and volunteers to come forward.

Newsletter: DR will provide an update on council matters for the next newsletter. He was thanked for taking the time to attend the meeting and for providing helpful information.

12. Date of next Meeting

The date to follow, after RT and ER have met to handover.

Plumbing ~ Woodworking ~ Restoration ~ Repairs

Outbuildings & Sheds Repaired & Renovated

Hand Tools Sharpened ~ Power Washing

Man with a Van ~ House Clearances ~ Fully Insured



Stephen Rees
Handy Man

Call: 07531 978077
Email: stephen.rees@north-aston.co.uk

Pop-up Farm Shop

We are very excited to be hosting our second pop-up Farm Shop at Peach Barns on Saturday February 8th, 1pm - 4pm. The December event was a great success, so we've decided to press ahead with another this month. If successful, we may repeat it on the second Saturday of every month.

What is a pop-up Farm Shop? — Well, it's somewhere between a normal farm shop and a farmers' market. The aim is to showcase all the food and other goods produced here in North Aston, while also supporting other local producers. As well as organic beef, lamb and dairy from **North Aston Farms**, and vegetables, fruit and herbs from **North Aston Organics**, there will be bread, eggs, cheese, pork, chicken, chocolate, beer and other cupboard essentials, as well as books, cards, candles, firewood and other household supplies. There will also be a cake stall raising funds for St Mary's Church, and we'll be serving hot drinks and burgers/steaks from the BBQ.

Parking & Traffic — Last time, we were caught a little off guard by the number of visitors. This time we'll be opening up the large field next to Peach Barns for parking, so hopefully we'll avoid queues. If you are planning to attend, please walk or cycle if possible, as the less traffic going in and out of the village the better!

Get Involved — If anybody in the village would like to sell their own produce at the event, we'd love to hear from you. Please email farmoffice@northastonfarms.co.uk ASAP or call/text Nick on 07751084168. We'd also love to hear from anyone who is interested in lending us a hand - there's a lot to do to get ready and not much time left.

Many thanks, North Aston Farms & Friends
www.northastonfarms.co.uk/farmshop

NICHOLSONS



PLANTS

Expert Advice & Guidance | Hedging & Screening
Colourful Herbaceous | Ornamental & Fruit Trees

Monday to Saturday



THE YURT

A Unique Dining Experience | Brunch | Lunch | Desserts
Innovative Menus | Locally Sourced Food

Tuesday to Saturday

01869 340 342 | contact@nicholsonsgb.com | Nicholson's at the Park, North Aston OX25 6HL

www.nicholsonsgb.com



December started off as a busy one for us, before quietening down over Christmas. We attended 14 fire calls, including a flat fire, a fire at an industrial unit, a car fire, a chimney fire, some RTC's (Road Traffic Collisions) and the usual standbys!

The largest incident was a fire at a furniture warehouse and self-storage unit near to Milcombe. We were mobilised to attend with Banbury and Chipping Norton's appliances, and on route we could see a large orange glow in the distance. The Banbury crew was the first to arrive, declaring "one building well alight" and requesting "Pumps 5 and Water Bowzers 1". This means that, at that time, they needed five appliances in total (and so two more were mobilised) and one high-capacity water bowser. Our water bowser is based in Wheatley. It has approximately a 12,000 litre tank, which is equivalent to six fire engines' worth of water, and was requested due to the lack of hydrants in the area and poor water pressure.

We were faced by a large warehouse, with part of the building well alight. Flames were coming out through the roof. We helped Banbury to lay out more hoses and get water onto the fire, and started to gain access to the rest of the building. Despite having three engines present, the scale of the fire and the lack of water meant that we were unable to stop it spreading. We needed further assistance, so the message was sent requesting "make Pumps 8, Water Bowzers 3 and Aerial Platforms 1". Our Aerial Ladder Platform (ALP) is based at Rewley Road in Oxford, and was needed due to the fire breaking out through the roof, and it being the only safe way to fight the fire. We couldn't send firefighters inside while there was a risk of the roof collapsing. Two more water bowzers were sent from Warwickshire and Northamptonshire!



All crews worked hard into the night, and we got back home at about 03:00, having been mobilised at 20:30! We were then sent back the next day as a relief crew to continue damping down any hotspots. In total (Including relief crews) 16 different appliances, 3 water bowzers, 1 ALP, 1 Command Unit and the Welfare Unit attended this incident.

As firefighters we never know quite what each incident is going to bring. We were mobilised to attend a fire involving 'Road Furniture and Receptacles'. This is normally a bin fire, but this time what we discovered was not a bin on fire but a car! Using two hose reel jets, we extinguished the car fire and carried out an inspection of the building it was parked next to, to ensure that no fire had spread to the building.

We attended a chimney fire at a thatched house before Christmas. Luckily the fire was contained inside the chimney, and had not spread to the thatch — otherwise it could have become a lot more than just a chimney fire! We extinguished the fire using chimney rods and a stirrup pump, which is a hand pump that we put in a bucket of water to spray water up the chimney. The fire had started due to the chimney not being swept recently. It is recommended to have your chimney swept every six months by a registered chimney sweep.

Some of you may have seen us at the Christmas Deddington Farmers market. We had a great morning handing out leaflets, showing people over the fire engine, and offering safety advice. This included chatting about our *Safe and Well Visits*. These are aimed mainly at the elderly, and those at a higher risk of home fires, although anyone can request one. A firefighter will visit the home to carry out a safety check, advise on any risks, and suggest how best to stay safe. If you are worried about someone's safety, or your own, you can book a visit by visiting www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/fire-and-public-safety/community-safety/safety-home/keep-safe-and-well

We are now recruiting for new firefighters. If you live or work within five minutes Deddington and are interested in joining our team, then come along to the station for a chat on a Tuesday between 1900 and 2100, when we will be training.

Ben Fenemore, Acting Crew Manager
Ben.Fenemore@oxfordshire.gov.uk

PCC Minutes

At their Meeting on 21st January, the PCC discussed among other things:

Safeguarding. As noted previously, the whole Church, including ourselves, now take this extremely seriously, and there remain a number of actions which need to be fulfilled, and they will be. Sheila Bailey (the wife of Richard, our Lay Reader), who has been our Safeguarding Officer since the role was initiated. She has stood down, having taken it as far as she feels she can, and we are very grateful to her; it has subsequently been announced that Sarah Godwin has offered to assume this role, which everyone has welcomed.

Finances. They remain stable, but there is very little room to fund projects in view, including the disabled access project, and the new Church path, and so the PCC will be considering a round of fund-raising for those, as well as grants.

Lychgate and Disabled access. As normal, both the Diocese and CDC Planning are requiring further details, which are being provided.

Church Path. This is going to be rather expensive, though will have to be done somehow. Meantime we will lay replacement pea shingle on the path approaching the Church door to minimise the mud being brought in on shoes.

Churchyard Burial Spaces. Our rector and Clive have identified a row of older unmarked grave spaces in which, if found suitable, we can provide another eight spaces for over-burial. Five other unused spaces exist, so a potential total of 13 spaces, which should carry us forward for some time.

Fête. The provisional date for this is July 5th, to be discussed and confirmed at an upcoming Village Meeting. All members of the PCC expressed their willingness to assist with this.

APCM. Annual Parochial Church Meeting, to which everyone in the parish is welcome. Provisional date is Thursday 1st May in the Church. Confirmation will follow. *KBB*



The Church MATTERS



Love

February here in the UK is dominated by Valentines Day. Supermarket aisles are dedicated to it with pink and red heart banners, advertising companies use it to tempt us, and florists stock up with red roses. The world keeps telling us that love is fluffy pink cushions and red roses.

Over the Christmas period I have finished Miranda Hart's book, "I Haven't Been *Entirely* Honest with You", as she describes her health journey, complete collapse, eventual diagnosis of Lyme Disease and slow recovery. Currently I am halfway through Chris Hoy's book "All that Matters", chronicling his own journey over the last year beginning with his diagnosis with stage 4 prostate cancer. The day after his diagnosis, Chris talks about how he saw his death hurtling towards him, comparing and contrasting it with an out-of control rollercoaster and a slow-motion car crash which no-one can save him from. Life is often compared to a roller coaster, with it's highs and lows, fun and scary

moments (sometimes at the same time).

Miranda by contrast had to battle for years with doctors who didn't think anything was wrong, before finally getting her own diagnosis, which came with a sense of relief. Something was wrong, and now there was a way forward.

Both have, in vastly different ways have had to face and overcome challenges. Chris faced his chemotherapy treatment like a training camp, breaking it down into manageable small steps. Miranda writes about walking through a dark cave and picking up treasures, as she learnt things about herself, and how to care for herself, including letting the past be the past, and loving ourselves. Along the way she learnt to let go of negative things which were holding her back, and to treat herself with gentleness and kindness.

Whilst their challenges and responses to them look very different, there were

many similarities. Both built a team of people around them who supported and encouraged them onwards. Both refer back to previous experiences and encounters to help them navigate their way forward. Chris acknowledges that a cancer diagnosis is a mental challenge as well as a physical one. Recognising the precariousness of life has changed his perception and attitude to life, enriching him. It has increased his appreciation for the little things in life and that he 'loves like he'd never loved before.'

Miranda's final treasure is love. Through the course of her health journey she learnt to love "her wild self," and that she is loveable. We all are.

This Valentine's day, I invite you to spend some time loving yourself. Look at yourself through God's eyes, and honour your gifts, then go out and share God's love with others.'

Harriet

Please note – my usual day off is a Monday.



Church Services in February 2025

NORTH ASTON † STEEPLE ASTON † TACKLEY

For a list of all the services planned for February, please visit:
<https://www.sntchurch.com/whats-on>

Snowdrop Sunday 9th Feb

Steeple Aston Church ~ 2.30 - 4.30

Tea, Cake & Book Sale

The Reverend Harriet Orridge is Rector of the Parishes of Steeple Aston, North Aston and Tackley.

Details of this month's Church Services are on Page 2. More news is always available from: **www.sntchurch.com**

You can contact the Rector via email (harriet.sntchurch@gmail.com) or by phone: **01869 932224**. You may also reach out to members of the North Aston PCC: Church Wardens: Clive Busby, (casb@north-aston.com, Tel: 340470) and Annabel Bevan, (annabelbevan@hotmail.com, or Tel: 345153). Richard Bailey (Lay Reader & Treasurer), Vicky Taylor (Secretary), Ginny Stay, Jane Jana, Tony Godwin, Jeremy Taylor, Kildare B Borrowes.

Announcements

Deddington Farmers' Market

The Farmers' Market for February will take place on Saturday 22nd, from 9 am to 12:30 pm.

North Aston Farm Shop

There will be another pop-up Farm Shop at Peach Barns on Saturday 8th February, from 1 - 4 pm. See details on Page 7.

Dog Walking Service

Evelyn's Dog Walking Service is still available evenings and weekends @ £5/hr. Message or call Lucinda on 07869 282227.

Brown Bin Collections

It will be time this month to renew brown-bin subscriptions. From 25th February, log-in online and register for another 12 months: <https://www.cherwell.gov.uk/info/10/rubbish-and-recycling/872/payable-garden-waste-collection>.

Dates for your Diary

The Mikron Theatre Company has agreed to return to North Aston this summer, and will perform an all-new production entitled *Hush Hush* on Friday 20th June. Then, on Saturday July 5th, the North Aston Village Fête will be staged on the Green. Please start thinking about items for the White Elephant and Tombola stalls.

Road Traffic Statistics

We have received a quarterly report on road safety statistics from TVP, covering the third quarter of last year.

Mobile speed cameras were deployed across the region for around 183 hours during the three-month period, and picked up almost exactly 1600 drivers exceeding the speed limit. That was the equivalent to an average of 533 per month.

The Community Speedwatch programme, where TVP works in association with local community volunteers, spent 178 hours standing by the roads, and in the process, recorded around 3000 vehicles.

26 were penalised for use of a mobile phone, 40 drivers were caught not wearing their seatbelts, and 85 were exceeding the speed limit. All these received fixed penalty notices.

In addition, 47 drivers were stopped while under the influence of excessive alcohol and 59 had been using recreational drugs.



The unrelated photo from Stephen Rees shows a very glum gargoyle. Well, it was very cold last month!

February Birthdays

Tuck Hatzigeorgiou

William Fuoco

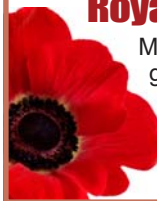
Mia Obinna (9th)

Jocelyn Parsons



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.

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal



Many thanks to all those who donated so generously to the British Legion Poppy Appeal last November. A total of £527 was collected from the kind people of North Aston. This has enabled almost £4850 to be forwarded to the National Appeal from this area.

TONY REES

The Complete Plumbing Service

Bathrooms, Kitchens and all
general plumbing installations,
maintenance & repairs.
Wall & Floor Tiling

tonyrees.plumbing@btinternet.com

Tel: 07710 712050



21 The Green - North Aston - OX25 6HX

The North Aston defibrillator is located in the porch at 4 Somerton Road. CPR & Defibrillator training sessions are arranged from time to time. For more information or to book a session, please contact Mark: 347806



North Aston News

The *North Aston News* is edited by Marcus Potts and designed and produced by CMC Graphics. It is printed by Nicholsons of North Aston, and distributed monthly, free of charge, to all the residents of the Parish of North Aston. A full-colour electronic edition is also sent out to an extensive emailing list every month. To be included in that list, please contact the *News*, stating your wish to be added to the mailing list. Contributions are welcome, which need to be in an electronic format (except Classifieds and Announcements, which may be hand written). To submit an item please email: info@north-aston.co.uk. All images should be at the highest possible resolution. The Editor strives to adhere to the Editors' Code of Practice, and reserves the right to amend or modify content, where appropriate, and to express editorial control. All content is copyright the original author and/or CMC Graphics. © 2025 and ongoing.

Advertising is welcome. If you wish to place a Display or Classified advert in the *News*, please request a rate card by email: info@north-aston.co.uk