

# NORTH ASTON

*NEWS*

May 2025

#415







**MAY 2025, No:415**

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

**Out of Hours Doctor: 111 or 08453 458 995**

# Notes from the Chair

*May 8th sees the 80th anniversary of VE day and although the structures and safeguards put in place at the end of the war by the allies seem more under threat than ever, this day is still well worth celebrating.*

*Here in North Aston there will be a gathering on The Green at 7.00 pm for drinks and a bonfire to mark this important date. If anyone has some memorabilia or stories to tell please bring them along.*

*Best wishes,*

You can phone Christopher on 340358

or you can email him using: [chair@north-aston.co.uk](mailto:chair@north-aston.co.uk)

*Christopher*

## North Aston Parish EGM

### Tuesday 13th May at 7:00 pm in the Old Bakery

There has been a request from the organisers of this year's Village Fête to hold an Extraordinary General Meeting in order to debate, and potentially approve, the use of a large proportion of the existing village funds in order to purchase replacement marquees for use at the Fête and other future village events.

As covered by the Minutes from recent Village Meetings, the old canvas marquees now pose a challenge, since they require considerable manpower to erect, and are also now starting to show their age. The need to replace them has been growing for some years, and the time to act has now arrived.

If you would like to take part in this discussion (which may prove to be brief!) please come along to the Meeting on 13th May to share your thoughts. You can also email the Village Secretary, Richard: [secretary@north-aston.co.uk](mailto:secretary@north-aston.co.uk)



Part of our regular reminders about the Fête, as we build up towards the event itself, which will be on July 5th.

At a recent meeting it was decided that two of the more popular stalls for donations, the Bookstall and the White Elephant, will have to introduce a cut-off date for donations this year. This will enable those who'll be 'manning' these stalls have a decent time to prepare the stock. That means donations need to be dropped off at the Old Bakery by 22nd June.

In addition, the Bookstall will now NOT be accepting CDs and DVDs. Put simply, nobody wants to buy them any more. On behalf of the White Elephant, there's also the annual (and usually unheeded) request that donations need to be either in great, as-new condition, or genuinely *collectable*. This is not an excuse to offload the accumulated rubbish from the back of the cupboard under the sink!

Stalls being planned include: Teas & Cakes, Bar, Barbecue & Burgers, Ice Cream, Welly Wanging, Aunt Sally, Bowling, Tombola (x2), Books, Bric-à-Brac, Plants and, if enough plates can be found, China-Smashing! The Tug-of-War will also return. Still needed – high-value prizes for the raffle. Personal donations welcome, but also seeking support from local businesses. There are regular updates on the village WhatsApp group.

*Cover: A Kestrel spotted by Colin Rainbow in The Park last month, inset over a view of The Jacobite crossing Glenfinnan Viaduct (route of the Hogwarts Express) from a trip to Scotland in April by MP.*

## Planning

Two fresh applications this month, and another that's in the final consultation stage. To examine these in detail, search for "North Aston" on the CDC Planning Register web page at [www.planningregister.cherwell.gov.uk/](http://www.planningregister.cherwell.gov.uk/)

**3 Greenside Cottages, North Aston, OX25 6HU.** A request has been made, with regard to proposed re-thatching of the property, that the material used be changed from combed-wheat straw to water reed. Ref: 25 / 00945 / NMA

**2 School Cottages / 4 Hall Close, North Aston, OX25 6HT.** An application has been made to carry out canopy reduction to a T1 Maple in a conservation area, reducing limbs and cutting back to appropriate pruning points. Ref: 25 / 00955 / TCA

**Nicholson Nurseries, The Park, North Aston, OX25 6HL.** The decision as to whether or not to allow extended opening hours for the Yurt Café was expected on 24th April, but has not yet been confirmed. Ref: 25 / 00459 / F

## Celebrating VE & VJ Day

There will be a gathering on the Village Green on the evening of May 8th, from 7:00 pm, to mark the 80th anniversary of the end of WW2. A bonfire will be lit, and there will be a toast in honour of those who gave their lives that we might enjoy the freedoms we still enjoy today.

The occasion is open to everyone in the village. Anyone with memorabilia or family mementoes from the period will be warmly encouraged to bring them along, while anyone with stories or memories that they're willing to share, either first-hand or handed-down, will be most welcome.

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**THE PARK**  
**NORTH ASTON**  
**OX25 6HL**

 **ROSARA**  
at NICHOLSONS

[CHORLEYS.COM](http://CHORLEYS.COM)

## St Mary's APCM

The Annual Meeting of Parishioners will take place on Wednesday 7th May from 7.30 pm in St Mary's. Any resident in the parish will be very welcome to attend this meeting. Although a crucial gathering in the church calendar, during which St Mary's church wardens are elected, it rarely attracts much support outside the small group of regular church-goers. This Meeting will be followed by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, or APCM. Only lay persons whose names appear on the parish electoral roll, who will typically be regulars in the congregation, can attend this part of the evening, during which a report will be shared reviewing the past activities of the parish and plans for the future.

## The 100 Club Renewals

The 100 Club year is drawing to a close, and envelopes will be distributed soon inviting existing members to renew for another 12 months. It's all in a great cause, and the chances of winning are so much better than the Lottery! Please return envelopes promptly, and if you've never participated before, then please join in the fun. Call Bev on 347434 or email [info@north-aston.co.uk](mailto:info@north-aston.co.uk) for more information.

 **100 CLUB**

April winners were:

**1st Prize (£100): Catlyn Taylor (#70)**  
**2nd Prize (£5): Josh Potts (#10)**

Congratulations to you both! It will soon be time to renew - see above - or join up for the first time. It's really worth it!

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



**BLOOMS & TUNES**

**Flower Displays and Live Music**

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May**  
**10:30am - 4:30pm**

*with children's activities and refreshments*

**Duns Tew Church, OX25 6JP**

Entrance £5      Under 16s free

*Proceeds in aid of St Mary Magdalene Church, Duns Tew & Katharine House Hospice*





*Martin Lipson, Chair of the MCNP Forum, offers an update on the recently published MCNP Review:*

We're pleased to inform you that the Review of the Mid-Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan has now been published, and we would welcome your comments and feedback on it. The Consultation remains open until Friday, 23rd May 2025.

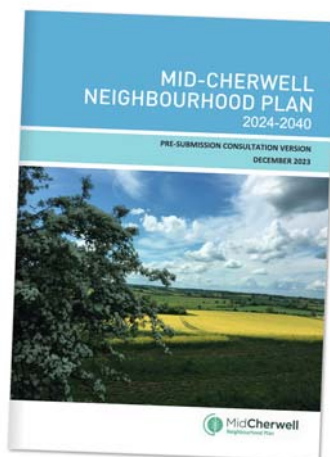
Please follow this link to go to the consultation website: <https://mid-cherwell.org.uk/reg14/>.

The updated Plan includes several important new planning policies, including the allocation of housing sites in some of the villages, aimed at meeting the needs of local people. There are also policies protecting the Mid-Cherwell environment, its landscape and biodiversity, and we've added more Local Green Spaces and more Local Gaps for protection from possible future development.

We want to know what you think about the new Plan: we have tried to make it as easy as possible for you to respond with our online questionnaire. If you prefer to use email or post to respond, a downloadable form is available on the website.

We have also printed a limited number of copies of the Plan document\* and copies will also be available to examine at Deddington, Bicester and Banbury Libraries.

(\* If you wish, you can ask Richard, our Parish Secretary, to view the village's copy of the Plan document.)



St James Church of Somerton presents...

## A Rock & Pop Choral Extravaganza

**With a Special Surprise (not to be missed)**

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May**  
17.00 (prompt!) -18.30  
with a 10 minute interval

**Tickets £20**  
Available online  
Or  
Text Alison Smith: 07920 017460

(Purchases on the door will be subject to availability)  
Light refreshments  
**All under 18 free with paying adult**



Raising funds for St James Church  
[somertonparishcouncil.gov.uk/ve-day-in-somerton](https://somertonparishcouncil.gov.uk/ve-day-in-somerton)



There are musical fund-raising events being staged in several of our neighbouring communities this month. As well as Duns Tew's "Blooms & Tunes" (17th-18th May), Middle Barton has a Tea Concert with string quartet on the 4th May (see back page) and Somerton is staging a *Rock & Pop Choral Extravaganza* on May 10th. If you'd like to attend Somerton's event, you can purchase admission tickets online: <https://givealittle.co/c/1GFc2ZGJA2Eb8NlhAE6buS>

# NORTH ASTON FARMS & DAIRY

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

Order online	Visit our shop	Join a milk round
<p><b>Fresh beef boxes</b> plus individual cuts of beef, lamb and rose veal, ice cream &amp; more!</p> <p><b>Free delivery</b> within 15 miles (on orders over £40) or collection from the farm</p>	<p><b>Open 7 days a week</b> 8am - 7pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fruit &amp; veg -</li> <li>- Meat &amp; dairy -</li> <li>- Cupboard essentials -</li> </ul> <p><b>Find us at:</b> The Old Bakehouse, North Aston, OX25 6HX</p>	<p><b>Twice-weekly deliveries</b> Monthly invoice Reusable glassware Delivery before 7.30am</p> <p><b>Milk, yoghurt &amp; cream</b> plus extras including bread, butter, eggs, juice, meat &amp; ice cream</p>

Find out more at [www.northastonfarms.co.uk](http://www.northastonfarms.co.uk)



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# North Aston Nature Notes

## With Stephen Rees

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April saw spring arrive, and the countryside do its change once again. The weather has been changeable too, with lots of wind, rain, hot days and really cold days, but now it seems to have settled down a bit, thank goodness.

I have my first cup of tea in the morning sat outside in the garden, and it's been lovely to see the beech hedges change from brown to green over the days. It is always the same bit that changes first, and it's the section that gets the sun first and has it the longest through the day.

For my money, Wendy's garden is looking a real treat, with her Acer draping yellow-green over the grass and her apple in blossom. There are a few wild corners, full of nettles and dandelions, and I've never seen as many as there are this year. I think they look nice, but everyone I speak to hates them as a weed, but the bees love them, and that's good enough for me.

When we get our firewood for the year, all the snarly knotty bits that I can't be bothered to try to split are left in a pile down the bottom of the garden. As they slowly start to rot down, they attract the little birds that come to feed on all the insects and grubs. They're such fun to watch.

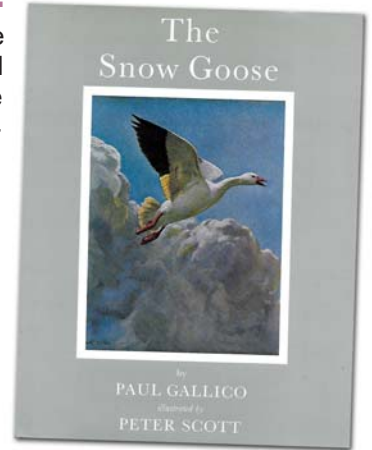
The Blackthorn blossom came big-time this year. Our hedge out the back (well, James and Vicky's hedge really, I suppose) looked like it was covered in snow. Most of the trees in and around our village are now heavy with leaf, and of so many different shades of green. Sometimes it just makes you want to stand and stare — back to my favourite poem again! *What is this life if, full of care, We have no time to stand and stare.* So true! I try to stand and stare as much as I can, and it's a good excuse to rest my knees a bit on a walk.

I think the best tree in our village this spring, that we have personally seen anyway, was Tony and Bev's cherry tree (below). It must have been the most beautiful display of the brightest pink blossom outside of Japan! It really was lovely for at least a week, and a credit to them both.



Down our track, and through the gate at the bottom, all the dog walkers will know there's a handsome apple tree that again is in full blossom. Touch wood, it hasn't all been blown off, and hopefully won't be before the fruit sets. It's a cooker and normally has a whopping harvest. Wendy and Trudy make the best apple pies from this tree. It was planted by David and Chris I think, goodness knows how many years ago, and Chris looked after it and bought it on.

For some reason we have been having geese and ducks fly over us in the mornings, calling to one-another and sounding beautiful. They make a good sight, and remind me of my favourite book, *The Snow Goose* by Paul Gallico, about a white goose in wartime, when the little boats went to evacuate the B.E.F.



We also have a Jay that comes and splashes about in Wendy's bird bath, and then stands and preens his lovely feathers. You don't usually see many this time of the year, and I know they're hated by keepers as egg-stealers. They may be Corvids, members of the *Corvidae* family, like crows, but they're still beautiful birds.

This reminds me that I still haven't seen a Swallow in North Aston yet this year, although I have seen plenty elsewhere. I also haven't heard a Cuckoo either, despite reports from everyone else and their dog last month! By way of compensation, we have seen our beloved Curlew, which has returned to our *special secret place*. There are two of them and, I have to admit, it was Wendy who spotted them first, on the meadow, but only by a second or so. You should have seen the look on her face! Living with my wife, everything turns into a competition sometimes ...



Chris has lambs galore around the farm. They're looking so sweet, but will grow fast on the rich organic North Aston grass. While they're still small, do go and see them. Chris and his son Ben are very obliging people.

Even smaller, we've seen a few Brimstone butterflies flitting around the hedgerows, and our bee hotels are just starting to hatch out. They'll be busy soon, being filled again in the coming month. Enjoy spring!  
*Stephen & Wendy*

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### Running Reminder ...

A brief reminder to keen runners that the annual Four Farms Challenge is being staged on Sunday May 18th. There are distance options on 5k, 10k and 20k, following various routes around Deddington, starting from the old Castle Grounds.

The event is open to runners of all abilities, from experienced athletes through to fun runners and families. Any profits go to local charities. A great opportunity to explore the local countryside and enjoy some exercise at the same time!

See website for further details: [www.fourfarmschallenge.run](http://www.fourfarmschallenge.run)

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# North Aston Village Meeting

Monday 14th April 2025 ~ The Minutes

**Officers present:** Christopher Woodhead (CW, Chair), Stephen Walters (SW, Treasurer), Richard Hinzel (RH, Secretary).

**Those present:** Joanna Pochron (JP), Trudy Busby (TB), Clive Busby (CB), Mark Stay (MS), Jane Durnin (JD), Kildare Bourke-Borrowes (KBB), Bev Rees (BR), Tony Rees (TR), Sue Hatzigeorgiou (SH) and David Rogers (DR, CDC).

The Chair welcomed everyone, including David Rogers, CDC Local Councillor for Deddington.

## Formal Business

### 1. Minutes of Meeting dated 9th January 2025

The Minutes of the previous Meeting and AGM, as published in the *North Aston News* were approved (CW proposed, RH seconded).

### 2. Treasurer's Report

Th Treasurer reported that the NA Parish Account has funds – in round figures - of £6500 and the NA Village Fund has funds of £4500.

**Bank Accounts:** As reported previously, the new NatWest account is up and running and all funds have now been transferred from the Santander account. However the Santander account has not yet been closed. Santander has been instructed to do so. To bring the true balances up to date, the Treasurer has noted that settlement of three small petty cash receipts are outstanding and that they will be included in the 2025/6 year accounts whilst settlement has been made from a small Petty Cash balance.

### 3. North Aston Website Domain

In his absence, Marcus Potts provided an email detailing that for the last 20 years, he has been paying for the village website domain and email addresses. The cost for all now runs at approximately £60 per year. Attendees agreed that Marcus should be reimbursed and that going forward payments should be made through the village account for those services deemed relevant to the village's needs. SW will liaise directly with MP on reimbursement of any prior payments he has made as well as on all ongoing account payments.

### 4. FTTP Broadband

MP has been liaising with Gigaclear and reports that Michelle Tanfield from the company will be contacting all households in the village directly by post soon to advise on a community meeting planned for the end of April or early May most likely to take place in the Duns Tew village hall.

### 5. Mid-Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan Review

James reported no further updates but encourages everyone to go to the website to review in more detail. Anyone can leave comments via the website.

### 6. Traffic Calming

Howard Ionascu (HI) has been liaising with councillor David McHugh as well as representatives from Somerton and Ardley who also have traffic concerns and propose the three village jointly discuss with Oxford County Council the public consultation, as the cost of £3500 can be spread across all three villages.

NA also has £14,500 available to it through Section 106 from Heyford Park in consideration for the housing development so far completed. These funds are only accessible for payment of or towards the actual creation of any physical changes needed after due consultation and not towards advisory fees.

Councillor McHugh submitted a proposal involving chicanes which was included in the April issue of NA News. Much debate as to chicanes vs speed bumps vs speed platforms followed, with many differing opinions. There was something resembling consensus on the use of speed platforms, possibly with a chicane at each end of the village.

Speed outside of the villages, between the Oxford Road, on Somerton Road, and all the way through Ardley is currently proposed to be reduced to 40mph. There was suggestion that this should be reduced to 30mph. Likewise it was stated that similar consideration should be given that the NA to Middle Aston / Steeple Aston road be similarly treated.

HI will attend a meeting with OCC Highways on a date TBC where he will share this feedback and ask what is possible, what OCC recommends, what regulations require, whether there is further funding from the Council and exactly what/who carries out the work. More information and undoubtedly more debate to follow.

### 7. Mikron Theatre Company

Mikron has been booked to perform on The Green for Friday 20th June. "Hush Hush", a comedic play about Bletchley Park, will be performed. Details can be found on the Mikron Theatre website.

### 8. Village Fête

The Fête will happen on 5th July. Nick will again upload the list of roles requiring volunteers on the village WhatsApp and the next planning meeting will take place on April 29 at 7pm in the Old Bakery.

### 9. Marquees

Nicholsons confirm that they are happy for marquees and equipment to continue to be stored at their location. Discussion regarding the purchase of new marquees to replace the old occurred, and whether it would be viable to share marquees with Duns Tew (who currently don't use marquees) or any other local village that might, such as Somerton.

It was agreed that the village would look at possibly sourcing between three and five large pop-up gazebos as a more cost-effective solution, rather than replacing with more expensive larger marquees. TR would research this more.

### 10. Defibrillator

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

### 11. Any Other Business

**Easter Egg Hunt** – CW volunteered to organise this year's hunt.

**VE day – May 8** – There will be bell ringing at church and agreement for a gathering on The Green, with drinks, a minute of remembrance and attendees will be encouraged to share family stories. Bonfire on the green TBC.

**Village Clean up** – Rather than have one official day for this, villagers are encouraged to be vigilant and pick up rubbish whenever they see it.

**Millennium Book** – It was discussed that after 25 years perhaps an update would be welcomed. Discussion as to who would do this, publish the book, pay, etc lead to the realisation that it would become onerous, so no update is planned.

### 12. Date of Next Meeting

Confirmation of the date for the next Meeting will follow.

However, there will be an Extraordinary General Meeting on Tuesday 13th May to discuss, and vote upon, the possible replacement of the ageing canvas marquees. It is hoped that this will take place in the Old Bakery at 7:00 pm, but details will be confirmed nearer the time.



North Aston's Pop-up Pub, the unofficial "Baker's Arms", will be taking a summer break after this month. Friday 2nd May will be the last until September, with Aunt Sally on the Green taking over from next month. Bring your own drinks, a selection of your favourite nibbles, and relish the company of friends at The Old Bakery from 7:00 pm.





This year's Oxfordshire Artweeks will run from 3rd to 26th May, with over a thousand artists, makers and designers exhibiting and demonstrating their talents.

Dozens of artists' studios, pop-up galleries, glorious gardens, ancient churches, Oxford Colleges and

hundreds of other interesting venues will be taking part, and it's possible to drop-in, explore and admire for free.

In most cases, the artists themselves will be on-site to chat about their work, whether that's traditional painting, sculpture or ceramics, through photography and textiles, to woodworking, glass, mosaics and jewellery.

Locally, there are two sites in Steeple Aston: **Sue King** (Drawing and Mixed Media at the Garden Studio at 9 Bradshaw Close, OX25 4SA) and **Benjamin Downing** (Mixed Media at Old Butchers on Heyford Road, OX25 4SH). Middle Aston's **Deborah Nind** will be showing her wheel-thrown ceramics (at Flitch House, OX25 5RH) while, in Lower Heyford, there's **Dave Watts** with his pastel drawings and paintings (102 Freehold Street, OX25 5NT). There are also participants in Tackley, Kirtlington, Aynho, Barford and several in Bicester.

Be inspired, entertained and surprised, and choose a treasure to take home with you! Check out the details and find a map on the website: [www.artweeks.org](http://www.artweeks.org)

## Email Scams

Hopefully residents are wary of these scams now — emails that purport to come from reputable agencies, 'reminding' you that your payment details need updating. TVP has issued warnings recently about a new spate, some involving TV licencing, others claiming to be from the DVLA regarding car tax payments. All will ask you to log-in to a website where you can "update your details". 99% will be fake; the sites intended solely to harvest your personal and banking details.

It's usually easy to check the true source. One supposedly from the DVLA was actually sent from [www.yum-o-licious.com](http://www.yum-o-licious.com), which was an instant red-flag, but if in any doubt, simply delete the message, and do not click any of the links.

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Man with a Van ~ House Clearances ~ Fully Insured



## A Thankyou from Josh ...

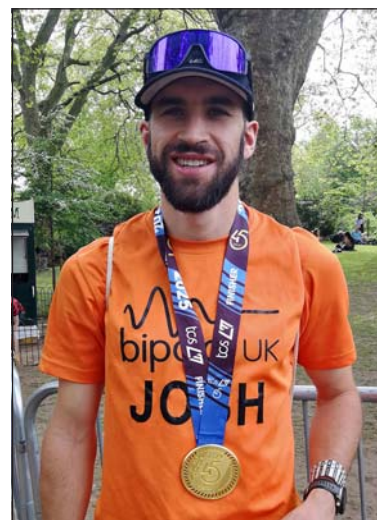
On the 27th April Josh Potts ran his first London Marathon, crossing the line in a little over four hours at the end of what everyone agreed was one of the most gruelling LMs in many years. The combination of unexpected heat, very still air, and over 56,000 runners made it even more challenging than usual.

When he signed up, Josh was not a runner. He rarely even jogged. However, once he'd overcome the surprise of gaining an entry, he was determined to tackle the event properly. "A year ago I couldn't have imagined doing this," he admitted. "I signed up as a bit of a joke. I had no running experience, but I really wanted to do this. I've trained so hard over the past year, running 4-5 times a week, doing multiple 10k and half marathon races, and then cracking down with a 16-week plan. I've been doing intensive strength training and completed multiple different types of runs every week. I also joined the most incredible and supportive running club, and even started going to the gym ... for the first time in my life."

He finished strongly, but not as quickly as he'd hoped. "I didn't achieve the time I trained for, but I've achieved so much else. I've raised over £1200 for BipolarUK, I've completed a marathon, and I've made some truly incredible life-long friends on this journey. The amount of support in the run-up, and during the race, has been absolutely incredible. I want to thank everyone who's supported me, including the people of North Aston, several of whom sponsored me through my JustGiving page. I was also delighted to get some notes in envelopes!"

Josh is determined that this is just the beginning. "I'm going to be training hard now for my next marathon. I've proved to myself that I can run the distance, and now I need to work on improving my time." He will be running the Bristol Half-Marathon later this month.

Josh's JustGiving page will remain open for a little while yet: [www.justgiving.com/page/joshlondon2025](http://www.justgiving.com/page/joshlondon2025)



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 Stay: 347806







Recent months have been fairly quiet, with calls ranging from fires at a waste recycling plant to a clothes bin.

One of the more challenging shouts came when we were asked to relieve appliances from Bicester and Oxford attending a fire at an industrial unit. This involved several electric forklifts that had caught fire while being recharged. When we arrived the fire had already been extinguished, but a lot of smoke was still inside. We were tasked with using our PPV (Positive Pressure Ventilation) fan to blow the smoke out of the building. Ventilation is a critical part of firefighting, not only once the fire has been extinguished but also while there is still a fire inside the building. This may seem counter-intuitive, adding air to a fire, but 'smoke', the product of combustion, can include highly flammable gasses, and these can combust if they get hot enough. Called a *flashover*, this can cause the fire to spread rapidly, making the fire worse and also increasing the danger for the fire crews inside. Thick smoke also makes it very hard for firefighters to see where anything is. In the thickest smoke you can't even see your hand in front of your face.

Smoke can also be incredibly toxic and can quickly kill anyone trapped inside. That's why we wear breathing apparatus. If we can remove the smoke using the PPV, we can reduce the chance of the fire spreading, lower temperatures, allow crews to move more quickly and safely through the building, and

increase the chances of survival for anyone trapped inside. However, this can only be done once the fire itself is under control and the correct safety procedures are in place. Our PPV works by creating a seal of air around the entrance to a building and then pressuring the whole compartment to force the smoke and other hot fire gasses out of an exhaust port, usually a window or door. In the case of this incident, we only had to remove the smoke to make it safe for people to enter not wearing BA, since the fire itself was already extinguished.

This incident occurred because Lithium-ion batteries were left on charge, unattended. Please, don't make the same mistake! Never leave anything charging unattended. Be sure to place it on a non-flammable surface and always use a genuine charger for the device.

Related to this, our crews were involved in a trip to Banbury fire station where we could use their smokehouse to practise BA wearing. We have also been doing some pumps and ladder drills. These involve practising pitching our big 13.5 m ladder (which weighs over 100kg) and operating our pump on the fire engine to supply water. We have also been doing some IEC (Immediate Emergency Care) training. We have all received a level of medical training that allows us to deal with casualties under basic medical and trauma conditions, and we practise this regularly to keep our skills sharp, as we don't always get that much experience of this in the 'Real World'.

Deddington FS is keen to recruit new firefighters. If you live or work within five minutes of the station, and are interested in joining the team, then email me, or call in for a chat on a Tuesday between 1900 and 2100 when we will be training!

*Ben Fenemore, Ben.Fenemore@oxfordshire.gov.uk*



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# The Church MATTERS



## Let the Bells Ring Out ...

On the 8th May we will be celebrating the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day (VE Day). The church bells at Steeple Aston will be rung at 6:30pm (and at North Aston from 7:00 pm) in celebration.

We are extremely fortunate within the benefice to have two wonderful teams of bell ringers and I love hearing the bells ring out whether it's on a Sunday, just before a service (at Steeple Aston and Tackley), or on a Tuesday evening as the ringers practice or other occasions including when we host visiting ringers.

The ringing of church bells has been used for centuries as a way of proclaiming news, both that a church service was about to start, and calling people to worship at a time when clocks were not common. They are also used to announce big news, such as the coronation of a new monarch, as local ringers did for King Charles' Coronation and more local news such as funerals and weddings.

As well as proclaiming cheerful news, church bells have been used to warn people of imminent danger. During the World Wars the ringing of the church bells was severely restricted, by the Defence of the Realm act. The ringing of the bells, especially in WW1, was reserved as a means of communication, their tolling would warn people that our shores had been invaded. At the end of both wars the church bells were rung in celebration.

With all our modern technology and news alerts, Church bells are no longer used to spread news. And yet, their ringing is still woven into our society, and I cannot imagine life without them. As they ring and we pause to listen I enjoy a beautiful moment of stillness, peace. As you listen to the church bells this summer, take a moment to enjoy them and think about what news you have to share be it happy or sad, and what you are thankful for, big or small.

If you would like to learn to ring, please contact our local Tower captains, or come along one Tuesday evening.

Please join us in SS Peter and Paul Church in Steeple Aston, following the ringing of the church bells on the 8th May, for a special VE-Day celebration service. When we will give thanks for 80 years of peace and pray for peace in the future.

The Peace of the Lord be always with you and those you love.

Harriet

*Please note – my usual day off is a Monday.*



## Church Services in April 2025

### NORTH ASTON

### S.ASTON

### TACKLEY

#### Sunday May 4th

9:30 am  
Holy Communion  
Book of Common Prayer

11:00 am  
Holy Communion  
Book of Common Prayer

5:30 pm  
Evensong

#### Sunday May 11th

9:30 am  
Morning Prayer

11:00 am  
Family Worship  
and APCM

5:30 pm  
Holy Communion  
and APCM

#### Sunday May 18th

9:30 am  
Holy Communion

11:00 am  
Holy Communion

5:30 pm  
Evensong

#### Sunday May 25th

9:30 am  
Morning Prayer

11:00 am  
Morning Prayer

9:30 am  
Family Communion

#### Sunday June 1st

9:30 am  
Meet at the Fountain for  
Rogation Sunday walk

11:00 am  
Holy Communion  
Book of Common Prayer

5:30 pm  
Evensong

This schedule is reproduced in good faith. The Editor cannot be held responsible for any errors or changes. To be sure of all this month's services, please visit: [www.sntchurch.com/whats-on](http://www.sntchurch.com/whats-on)

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

More information is always available from:  
[www.sntchurch.com](http://www.sntchurch.com)

You can contact the Rector by phone on **01869 932224** or by email: [harriet.sntchurch@gmail.com](mailto:harriet.sntchurch@gmail.com)

You may also reach out to members of the North Aston PCC: Church Wardens: Clive Busby, ([casb@north-aston.com](mailto:casb@north-aston.com), Tel: 340470) and Annabel Bevan, ([annabelbevan@hotmail.com](mailto: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 next Farmers' Market will take place on Saturday 24th May, from 9 am to 12:30 pm.

### Dog Walking Service

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

### Dramatic Turns in Duns Tew!

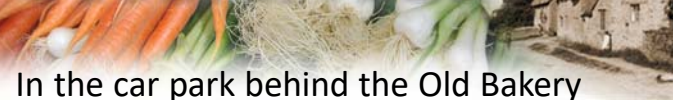
Advanced warning that the ever-popular Duns Tew Drama Group will be putting on their traditional Spring Production a little later this year. Two short comedy plays, with a musical interlude, will be staged on the 27th and 28th June. More details and booking details in next month's *News*.

### Blooming Tunes

Also in Duns Tew, but taking place on Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th May, the parish church of St Mary Magdalene will be hosting the village's annual "Blooms and Tunes" flower and music festival - see the advert on Page 3. Beautiful floral arrangements will sit alongside a programme of informal musical performances, with a different programme each day, ranging from choral pieces to instrumentals and soloists, duets and trios. The festival also offers children's activities plus a range of cakes and savoury snacks on the refreshments stall.

The festival will be open from 10:30am to 4:30pm each day, and entrance is Adults £5, under 16s free

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## May Birthdays

Linda Brown  
Clive Busby Hal Busby  
Holly Busby Iris Busby  
Sarah Godwin  
Oscar Le Clercq  
Deirdre Oakley  
Matthew Rees  
Oscar Taylor  
Bianca Waszynska



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.

### Mikron Returns!

The Mikron Theatre Company will be returning to the Village Green next month, with one of their new productions entitled "Hush Hush!", when you'll be able to enter a world of secrets, songs and cyphers as everyone gets to know the heroes of Hut 3 at Bletchley Park. There will be full details in next month's *News*, but for now, just make a note in your diary and be sure to keep the evening of Friday June 20th free.

### The Annual Blandford Menace!

A timely warning that the season for the Blandford Fly is already upon us. These notorious little beasts are now getting more daring, and entering homes, so please be especially alert. They rarely fly above waist height, so keep ankles and legs covered, especially on warm days, and watch out for these vicious little beasts whose bite can easily turn septic.

### Christian Aid Week, 11 - 17 May

This month sees the annual Christian Aid appeal, running from 11th to 17th May. Envelopes will be distributed around the village mid-month, and there will be a collecting box in the Bakery.

### Tea, anyone?

There will be an afternoon tea concert in the Alice Marshall Hall in Middle Barton on Sunday May 4th. Enjoy tea and cakes while listening to Mozart, Wallendorf and a dash of Beethoven. Refreshments from 3:15 pm, and the one-hour string quartet concert starts at 4:00 pm. Suggested donation is £8, on the door.

## North Aston News

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