

NORTH ASTON

News

June 2025

#416



NORTH ASTON NEWS

JUNE 2025, No:416

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CDC Local Councillor

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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

One of the great village get-togethers is our annual Fête, which this year takes place on 5th July. There will be food, drink, games and a raffle with huge prizes.

If you have ideas for additional prizes for the Raffle or Tombola we would love to hear from you. Mark it in your diary and come and join the fun and enjoy a delicious burger in the sunshine!

Best wishes,

You can phone Christopher on 340358

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

Christopher



The Village Fête is just a month away. If you haven't already, then please could you start saving the following items:

- **Books** in good condition, by 22nd June at the Old bakery
- Good quality **Bric-a-Brac** and second-hand goods, also by 22nd.
- Bottles and cans etc for the **Bottle Stall**.
- Plants for the **Plant Stall**.
- Unwanted china and crockery - see below!

Last year the **China Shy** proved to be very popular, but it relies upon a generous supply of old plates and china. We cannot stage the Shy without! Please can you search out any unwanted china, especially plates, but anything will do, and condition and pattern doesn't matter. If we don't get enough then we'll simply not be able to stage the event!

Thanks to everyone who replied to the WhatsApp poll about stallholding duties. Chris will be contacting you shortly to confirm which one you will be helping with.

We could still do with more big prizes for the raffle, which is one of main fund-raisers of the event. If you or the company you work for can offer a suitable prize, please let us know.

As explained last month, donations for the Bookstall and the White Elephant need to be dropped off at the Old Bakery by 22nd June. In addition, the Bookstall will **NOT** be accepting CDs and DVDs. Similarly, the White Elephant is not an excuse for bypassing a trip to Ardley tip. Items need to be either in great, as-new condition, or genuinely *collectable*.

Towards the end of this month we will be asking for cakes, to go with the teas, such as scones and cup-cakes and also larger cakes to be sold individually. They'll need to be freshly baked in the days before the Fête.

Profits this year will be shared between St Mary's and Village Funds. For further information, please contact Chris on 340358 or respond to messages on the village WhatsApp group. Please also watch out there for updates.



Cover: Work on re-thatching Greenside Cottages nears completion. In a move to improve longevity of the new thatch, top-quality water reed (*Phragmites australis*) has been used instead of regular straw. MP

Planning

Just a handful of amendments this month. To examine these in detail, search for "North Aston" on the CDC Planning Register web page at www.planningregister.cherwell.gov.uk/

3 Greenside Cottages, North Aston, OX25 6HU. A Discharge of Condition 4 request, relating to the replacement windows and doors to the property, has been submitted. A decision is anticipated in early July. Ref: 25 / 01294 / DISC

Jericho House, Somerton Road, OX25 6HX. An application has been made to reduce the crowns of three trees (two Sycamores and a Holm Oak) within a conservation area. A decision is expected before the end of the month. Ref: 25 / 01202 / TCA

3 Greenside Cottages, North Aston, OX25 6HU. The request to carry out re-thatching of the property in water-reed rather than straw has been approved. Ref: 25 / 00945 / NMA

2 School Cottages / 4 Hall Close, North Aston, OX25 6HT. The application to carry out canopy and limb reduction to Maple tree has been approved. Ref: 25 / 00955 / TCA

Nicholson Nurseries, The Park, North Aston, OX25 6HL. The application to permit extended opening hours for the Yurt has been approved. Ref: 25 / 00459 / F

Duns Tew Drama Group presents ...

MÉNAGE À TROIS

An evening of two one-act plays
and a two-course meal

27th & 28th June ~ Duns Tew Village Hall

Doors & Bar Open from 6:45 pm

Curtain up at 7:30 pm

Tickets £17.50



Book tickets online at:

www.ticketebo.co.uk/duns-tew-drama-group

Full Fibre Broadband is arriving here SOON



Those who attended a public meeting in Duns Tew Village Hall on June 2nd will now be up to speed on what will be happening here in North Aston over the next few weeks and months. Full Fibre to the Premises (FFTP) is coming to the village, and it **will** affect you, so please read on ...

Work by Gigaclear's contractors has already started. For the purposes of this project, Duns Tew is being considered the 'hub' for the new fibre network, which will extend outwards from a primary cabinet close to the junction of the Middle Barton and Duns Tew roads, just west of the dual carriageway. Groundworks will then distribute the fibre, like the threads of a spider's web, to include all of Duns Tew, North Aston, Middle Aston and most of the outlying properties in between. This will involve digging trenches alongside roads and footpaths, through fields, and along hedgerows. There will be some disruption, and the occasional carriageway closure managed by traffic lights, but it will all be worthwhile in the end. Gigaclear hopes to have the project completed by Christmas.

There are several important numbers and email addresses to note. Firstly, if you wish to be kept updated on progress (and this may include details pertinent only to your property), then it is important you register with Gigaclear. Visit the website and complete the process: www.gigaclear.com/locations.

Gigaclear is keen to stress that this in no way constitutes an obligation of any kind. It is purely a conduit for sharing information, and you can opt out at any time.

If you have any questions, you can contact their Customer Operations team by phone or email:

■ Telephone: 0370 774 0537

■ Email: networkbuildqueries@gigaclear.com

If doing so, you'll need to share your postcode, so that they know which property you're referring to.

One important aspect to bear in mind is that the new fibre will follow the route of existing cabling, wherever feasible. Yes, there will be underground ducting along all the principal routes, and many homes will have direct access to this. However, a number of properties which currently access broadband and telephone through overhead cables, supported by telegraph poles, will have new fibre cabling that follows this same route. Those hoping that the old poles and overhead cabling would disappear may be disappointed. As Gigaclear explained to the meeting, they do not own those cables, which belong to BT or Openreach, and so they cannot remove them. However, looking further ahead, the analogue telephone system is to be phased out in the next few years, so the old cabling may become redundant soon anyway.

After you've registered, explore the website, where you'll find lots of informative pages that explain what's involved. We shall also have articles in the *News* over the coming months.

The 100 Club Renewals

It's the end of the 100 Club year, and a new one is about to begin! With apologies for their delayed distribution, please keep a lookout for renewal envelopes. These should be dropping onto doormats in the very near future. Please return yours as soon as you can.

If you've never participated before, then please do join in the fun. It's all in a good cause, and raises valuable funds for the village. The chances of winning really are much better than the lottery! Call Bev on 347434 or email info@northaston.co.uk for more information.



May winners were:

1st Prize (£10): Wendy Rees (#63)

2nd Prize (£5): Pat Parry (#74)

Congratulations to you both! It is now time to renew - see above.
Please return your envelopes as soon as possible. It's worth it!

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



The Bee Orchids (*Ophrys apifera*) have appeared in The Park again.

MP



**Steeple Aston
Choral Society**
presents

Curtain Up!

An evening of
Stage, Screen and Pop Classics,
Folk Sings and Sing-a-Long

Sunday June 21st
from 7 pm in SA Village Hall

Tables available from 6:30, seating 8 to a table
Bar with wine, beer, soft drinks and nibbles

Tickets: £12 (Children under 16 Free)
from Margaret Bullement
01869 347346 or email: mtheb749@gmail.com
or at the Village Shop

MIDDLE ASTON OPEN GARDENS

Saturday 7th June - 2pm - 6pm

- ★ Parking available at Middle Aston House
- ★ In aid of Steeple Aston Church Roof Appeal
- 6 Gardens for £6 ★ Refreshments
- ★ Dogs allowed on short leads

Queries: vmcstedman@btinternet.com
Tel: 07817 025948
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Find out more at www.northastonfarms.co.uk

It's all a bit Hush Hush!

We are so incredibly fortunate in North Aston. Our village is surrounded by glorious countryside. We can admire the fine architecture of our buildings. We can enjoy the wildlife that shares this corner of Oxfordshire with us. We can also be grateful for the annual return of The Mikron Theatre Company! There are some communities who'd give their eye-teeth to have a travelling theatre of such renown set up stage on their village green, and perform for them, year after year. This year's players, Georgina Liley, James McLean, Robert Took and Catherine Warnock, follow in some illustrious footsteps. Former Mikron actors include the likes of Buffy Davis (Jolene in the *Archers*, but also seen recently in *Signore Volpe*, *Doc Martin* and *The Trial of Christine Keeler*, among many other credits), Mark Strickson (Peter Davidson's companion Vislor Turlough in *Dr Who*, and now a renown producer of wildlife documentaries) and Mark Williams (Arthur Weasley in *Harry Potter*, *Father Brown*, and a key member of *The Fast Show*). This year's show is entitled "Hush Hush!", and draws the audience into a world of secrets, songs and cyphers through the heroes of Hut 3 at Bletchley Park. Peggy Valentine arrives there in 1940, 18 years old, headstrong and gifted. Finding herself in a world of boffins, soldiers and debutantes, Peggy has to shoulder the burden of high pressure war work whilst navigating a new world of feuds, friendships and growing up in a frame of absolute secrecy. As the war rages on in Europe, the stakes are raised for Peggy and her friends as they work to protect their loved ones.

The show starts at 7pm on Friday 20th June. Bring a picnic or a bottle of wine (or both!), something to sit on, and prepare to be entertained. There will be a retiring collection.



A view of the lake — just part of our glorious surroundings. Elizabeth Harvey-Lee

MIKRON

THEATRE WHERE YOU ARE

Hush Hush!

A
BLETCHLEY
STORY

**The Green
North Aston**

BRINGING
THEATRE TO YOU
Since
1972

JUNE 20
7:00 pm

North Aston History Notes

With Stephen Rees

Okay, so over the years I might have told you all some pretty longishly tall tales. I may have stretched the truth once or twice. I may even have made things up completely, but only in the pursuit of entertainment and fun ...

The story this month is true, completely true, and I will try to tell it how I, as a little boy still in shorts, remember it. Most of you will know about it already, but for those who have lived here less than 35 years it may come as a surprise.

One school day morning in July 1978 I was woken up really really early by my two big brothers jumping onto my bed. My bed was under the window looking out over the Village Green, and they were clambering over me to look out. Mum and Dad were there too, so I knew something must be up, because the only time Dad came into our room was to give us a good hiding ... or when he was being Father Christmas.

"What's going on?" I asked. They told me the village was full of police, loads of 'em, and when I looked out, sure enough, they were everywhere! Policemen, dogs, cars, vans, the lot. What the heck was going on! Everyone was being told to stay in there houses.

Hang on! Does this mean we get to have the day off school? Wow! Hang on, hang on! This is North Aston. This can't be happening, not for real, can it? But it was happening, and it was for real. We were told by a policeman that all children would get a police escort to the school bus. Oh, flipping heck ... we wanted to stay and watch!

When we got to school we were greeted like celebrities by the other kids and the teachers, all wanting to know what was going on. So, what the heck was going on?

It turned out that some man had come from Banbury in the middle of the night and had stormed into one of the cottages beside the old school house (where Sue and Tuck now live), beaten up Richard, the farm manager at the dairy, and taken Richard's girlfriend Liz as hostage. The man had his five-year-old son with him too ... and a shotgun.

But this is North Aston, not London! Could this really be happening in our village?

By the time we got home from school the police had set up a cordon all around the green, and there were loads of TV crews, with big trucks and ariels all over the place, and lots of police controlling the crowds. We even found out that there was a police sniper in Deirdre's bedroom.

I'm just going to say that again, for affect. In North Aston, in DD's bedroom, there was a police sniper aiming a rifle out of



That man off the telly! In our living room! Flippin heck!

the window at Sue and Tuck's bedroom window. Well, not theirs at the time of course, but you get the idea. It was like some scene from a real, true-to-life Shakespearian thriller, and it went on for days. There was the occasional highlight, like when the man got angry and started smashing windows, and the police telling us all to lay down flat and not move.

One day I remember a lady (*the gunman's mother*) arrived with some police and begged him to give up. He did give up, eventually, after a long time, and within an hour or so, North Aston was back to being North Aston again, but flipping heck, it had been exciting while it lasted!



The siege ends. Photo: Shutterstock

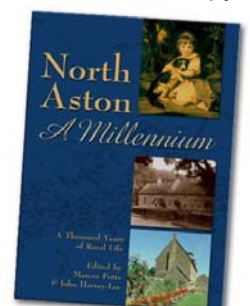
I was too young to know the word at the time, or understand what it meant, but it was all quite surreal, but it really did happen. I can remember the man off of the TV news sitting in our living-room, talking to Dad about it. He really was **THE** man off of the telly, and he was in our living-room! Looking back at it now I can see how awful it was and such a bad thing, but flipping heck ... a sniper in DD's bedroom. How exciting was that !

Stephen & Wendy

PS. As I write this, We're sat in our tent in a field in Derbyshire. We have a little owl on a post just in front of us, being constantly bombarded by swallows. Not long ago, we had a fox that was being mobbed by jackdaws, and getting really annoyed. Spring is a wonderful time.

A detailed account of the North Aston Siege can be found in "the book", starting on page 169. If you still don't own a copy, there are a few still available.

The siege lasted for almost five days. Liz, the first 'hostage' was swapped half-way through for one of the gunman's friends, who volunteered to take her place. The shotgun itself actually belonged, quite legally, to the farm manager, Richard, and by chance had been left in the bedroom.



North Aston Village EGM

Tuesday 13th May 2025 ~ The Minutes

Officers present: Christopher Woodhead (CW, Chair), Richard Hinzl (RH, Secretary). **Others present:** Joanna Pochron (JP), Clive Busby (CB), Mark Stay (MS), Kildare Bourke-Borrowes (KBB), Bev Rees (BR), Tony Rees (TR).

Purpose: A special Village Meeting to determine the need and financial viability of purchasing gazebos to replace the very heavy marquees which are becoming burdensome to erect and take down.

TR visited a company showroom in Bicester and obtained specifications for gazebos that are much lighter, easier to erect (two people only required) and believes they could be suitable for use when utilised with guttering and weights / securing accessories. 4m square gazebos cost circa £1,000 each including accessories. Two of these 4m square gazebos are roughly the size of one of the current marquees. If both marquees are to be replaced, it would require four of the 4m square gazebos. Larger, 4m x 6m and 4m x 8m gazebos are available, but it was felt that having more, smaller gazebos offers more flexibility, as they can be erected in pairs or stand-alone.

Everyone agreed with the Treasurer's concerns regarding financial outlay versus funds in the village accounts and what funds would actually be available, as not all village funds can be used to make such purchases. All attendees agreed that funds raised from the village fête this year would be allocated appropriately between the village accounts and the Church accounts depending on funds received.

TR suggested that instead of replacing both marquees this year, we could trial two 4m square gazebos to be used in conjunction with one of the existing marquees. It would be more manageable

to raise one marquee versus two, and we can ensure they are appropriate to needs prior to any further investment.

The purchase of two 4m square gazebos at a cost of circa £1,000 each was thus proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed. KBB has an established relationship with the supplier and has volunteered to take on negotiations in the hope of securing discounts or the inclusion of accessories at no cost. A thorough debate on colour ensued with white deemed as most appropriate.

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We invite you to explore our carefully curated Plant Centre and Rosara retail space featuring locally-grown, fresh cut flowers courtesy of The Chipping Norton Flower Farm. Enjoy generous hospitality from our Michelin-recommended Yurt restaurant and brand new Tiny Café.

To spark your curiosity, Rosara at Nicholsons offers a varied events programme consisting of dining experiences, seasonal fairs, talks, demonstrations and workshops.

We hope to welcome you soon.

www.nicholsonsgb.com | 01869 340342 | The Park, North Aston, OX25 6HL





Cotswold Classic
Vehicle Hire

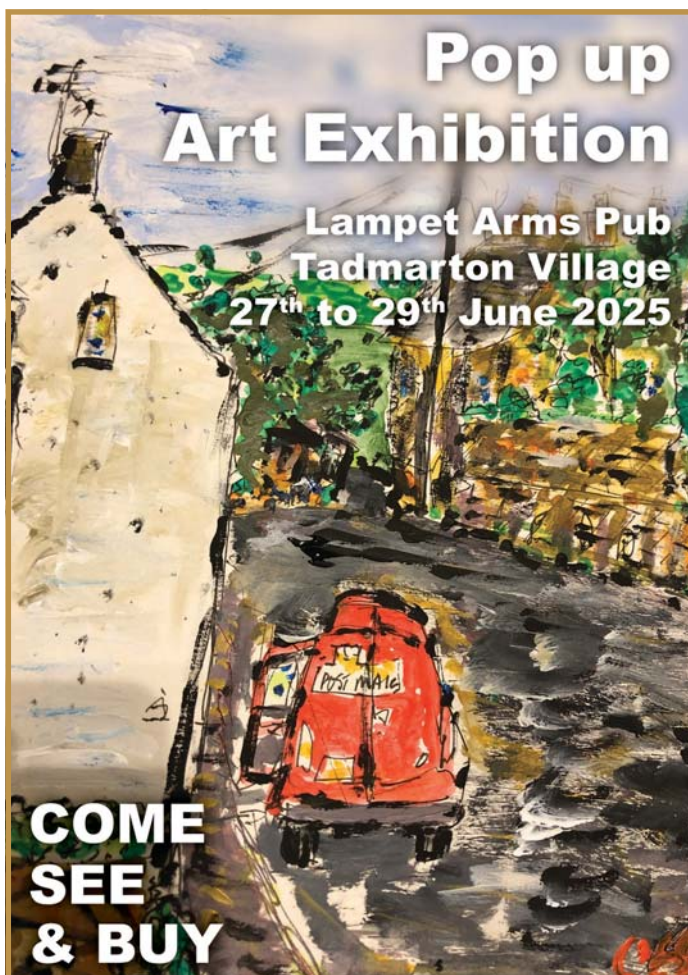
We are a brand new business, based out of Duns Tew, offering the opportunity to drive a 1973 classic MGB GT - a quintessential British sports car that is as fun to drive as it is spectacular to look at.

Treat yourself, a friend or family member to a day (or longer) in the beautiful Oxfordshire countryside. An ideal gift, wedding car, prom car, or just for fun, we are offering an introductory discounted price for those in Duns Tew and the surrounding area. Make the most of the summer weather and book today! Gift vouchers are also available.





Email: contact@CotswoldClassicVehicleHire.co.uk for more information including prices and terms.



**Pop up
Art Exhibition**

Lampet Arms Pub
Tadmarton Village
27th to 29th June 2025

**COME
SEE
& BUY**



A view of the thatchers at work on Greenside Cottage.

Howard Ionascu

Local Elections - The Result

The turnout on May 1st was just over 44% of the electorate of 7673. The results were as follows:

McLernon, Zoe: <i>Conservative</i>	1560 votes
Mylne, Nick: <i>Liberal Democrat</i>	916 votes
Oldfield, Helen: <i>Labour Party</i>	478 votes
Bliss, Aaron James: <i>Green Party</i>	370 votes

There were 78 spoiled ballots. Votes for the Conservative and Green candidates were largely unchanged, while those for Labour and Liberal Democrat had effectively swapped over. Zoe McLernon (Conservative) was duly elected.



The Church MATTERS



Working for Good

Sunday the 8th June is the festival of Pentecost, when we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on everyone. It is a wonderful story, when everyone who had gathered in Jerusalem suddenly hears the Disciples speaking in their own language, despite coming from numerous countries around the Mediterranean. Pentecost is regarded as the reversal of the Old Testament story of the Tower of Babel (Genesis 11:1-9). In the days following Noah and the flood, people all spoke the same language, and in their pride they decided to build 'a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves.'

On the 8th May many of us gathered to celebrate, commemorate and remember the 80th Anniversary of VE-Day. The Second World War saw nations coming together to stand up for the rights and freedom of others. Roy and Edwina shared their memories of the war, a time when people worked together (be it in the land army, or as an air raid warden) for a common aim.

Since the start of the year, in Steeple Aston, we have been working together to create a poppy cascade. Thank you to everyone who has been making poppies either by knitting, crocheting or making felt poppies and to those sticking the poppies to the netting. It was wonderful to see what can be accomplished when we lay aside our individual pride and work together.



Church Services in June 2025

NORTH ASTON S.ASTON TACKLEY

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
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Sunday June 8th

9:30 am Morning Prayer	11:00 am Family Worship	5:30 pm Holy Communion
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Sunday June 15th

9:30 am Holy Communion	11:00 am Holy Communion	5:30 pm Evensong
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Sunday June 22nd

9:30 am Morning Prayer	11:00 am Morning Prayer	9:30 am Family Communion
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Sunday June 29th

No Service	10:30 am United Benefice Holy Communion	No Service
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Sunday July 6th

9:30 am Holy Communion Book of Common Prayer	11:00 am Holy Communion Book of Common Prayer	5:30 pm Evensong
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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

80 years ago people worked together for peace. That peace was fought for, not only in battles on land sea and in the air, but also in the hearts and minds of individuals. Sadly the 8th May this year saw renewed tensions between India and Pakistan. Peace, is not the absence of fighting, or the silence of guns. Peace, genuine peace, starts within us, and begins with us loving and valuing ourselves, and our neighbours.

The Bible ends with a wonderful vision of a new creation where everyone, from all the nations, come together as one people to worship God. This year as we celebrate Pentecost I pray that we can all work together for the good of everyone.

Harriet

Please note – my usual day off is a Monday.

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

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

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 next Farmers' Market will take place on Saturday 28th June, from 9 am to 12:20 pm.

Dog Walking Service

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

65 Glorious Years!

Congratulations Norman & Eileen (Mum, Dad, Nan, Grampy, Great Granny & Great Grampy) on your 65th Wedding Anniversary (Blue Sapphire), 4th June.

All our love & Best wishes Linda, Andy, Tracy, Karen, Alex, Paul, Sarah-Jane, Becky, Noah, George, Arthur & Mabel.

NORTH ASTON ORGANICS

In the car park behind the Old Bakery

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Tel: ((01869)) 347702

visit the website at:

www.northastonorganics.co.uk

Take the Big Green Tour

As part of the Great Big Green Month series of events, there will be a tour of North Aston Organics on Thursday 26th June. Meet at the Old Bakehouse from 6:30pm to 8:30 pm. Free of charge.

On Monday 23rd June there will also be a talk entitled *Hungry for Change*, comprising a film and panel discussion in Orchard Barn at Nicholson's from 7pm. Donations welcome.

The programme is produced by the Four Villages Sustainability Network, bringing together environmental groups from Bloxham, Barford, Deddington, Duns Tew and Chipping Norton, all supported by Oxfordshire County Council. There are several events in all these villages. www.greatbiggreenweek.com

June Birthdays

Andy Brown

Adam Busby

Sebastian Fuoco

Connie & Archie Honess

Rourdon Jolly

Sue Hatzigeorgiou

Elizabeth Harvey-Lee

Alex Hatzigeorgiou



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.

Accepting responsibility ...

The request has arisen again for dog-walkers to pick up after their animals. This isn't just about paths within the village, or on the Green, but also out and about in the fields. Sadly, this request is aimed just as much at North Aston residents as it is at visiting dog-walkers, with even some well-known and respected local dog-owners seemingly oblivious to the crap their dogs leave behind.

The appeal is directed especially at those who walk their dogs around The Park and on land owned by The Hall, where their presence is accepted with generosity, and they're allowed to roam widely and feely. The culprits have been noted - you know who you are, and so do they. If you want to continue enjoying unrestricted access to the land, then pick it up!



Aunt Sally is Back!

The Green will be a little busier every second Wednesday from 7pm now that Aunt Sally is back. Check the WhatsApp group for confirmed dates. Bring along a bottle of beer or a glass of wine, but experience and skill is entirely optional.

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



North Aston News

The *North Aston News* is edited by Marcus Potts and designed and produced by CMC Graphics. It is printed by Nicholson's 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. © 2024.

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