



JULY 2025, No:417

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Notes from the Chair

Usually when Wimbledon comes around you can guarantee that the weather will turn and rain will interrupt the play. Not so this year, which also bodes well for the Fête on Saturday.

After last year's trying conditions it looks set fair for this weekend. I hope everyone will come and join the fun on the Green on Saturday.

Best wishes,

You can phone Christopher on 340358 or you can email him using: chair@north-aston.co.uk



A last call for donations and support for this month's Village Fête. We are still much in need of the following items:

- Books in good condition
- Good quality Bric-a-Brac and nearly-new second-hand goods
- Bottles and cans etc for the Tombola
- Plants for the Plant Stall
- Cakes and home-made biscuits for the Cake Stall & Refreshment Tent

Please leave any non-perishable items for the Bookstall and Bric-a-Brac in the Old Bakery. We need top quality books and genuinely collectable or nearly-new items for the White Elephant. You can also leave bottles, cans, sweets etc for the Tombola, and items of old china for the China Shywhich may, or may not, happen, depending upon 'stock'.

Cakes (both for the Refreshment Tent and Cake Stall) and Plants & Produce should be taken direct to the Fête on the Saturday morning.

Raffle tickets have already been sold door-to-door, but if you missed the call, then they can also be purchased on the day.

Profits from this year's Fête will be shared between the Church and Village Funds, including contributing towards the cost of the new large gazebos.

If you can help with erecting the marquees, there will be a working party on The Green from 6.00pm on Friday 4th. For further information, please contact Christopher on 340358 or check the village WhatsApp group.

One of last month's Aunt Sally gatherings attracted some unexpected attention, in the form of a troop of Brownies, who'd been to the village to explore North Aston Organics with their Brown Owl. Having completed the tour, they'd congregated back on the Green awaiting collection. They couldn't resist the temptation of watching grown-ups



throwing sticks at "Aunt Sally", and asked if they could have a go! Some of the mums then stayed on for another game and a chat. If you'd like to try Aunt Sally, watch out for updates on the village WhatsApp group.

Cover: Once again, fortune smiled upon the village with the return last month of the Mikron Theatre Company. This year's cast of Robert Took (Guitar), James McLean (Accordion) and Catherine Warnock (Clarinet), with Georgina Liley (inset, with Catherine and James) performed Hush Hush! — a story about the codebreakers of Bletchley Park. An audience of around 100 gathered on the Green, some with picnics, many with wine or beer, and enjoyed an evening of comedy and song, with some history thrown in for good measure. If you missed them, they'll be back at The Plough, Wolvercote on the 31st July (Operation Beach Hut) and The Boat at Thrupp (Hush Hush!) on 1st August.

Mail to: info@north-aston.co.uk

Planning

There are no new applications this month, and just a couple of updates to previous notifications. To examine these in detail, search for "North Aston" on the CDC Planning Register web page at www.planningregister.cherwell.gov.uk/

Nicholson Nurseries, The Park, North Aston, OX25 6HL. An application has been made to refine the existing permit regarding the opening hours for the Yurt. Ref: 25 / 01469 / F

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 imminent. Ref: 25 / 01294 / DISC

Jericho House, Somerton Road, OX25 6HX. The application to reduce the crowns of three trees within a conservation area has been approved. Ref: 25 / 01202 / TCA



Following the meeting in Duns Tew Village Hall last month, it was only a few days before the first groundworks crew arrived in the village. At the same time work was well under way in Duns Tew, and Gigaclear's contractors have since started digging trenches in Middle Aston and Somerton.

In last month's issue residents were invited to register with Gigaclear in order to be kept informed of progress, but "an issue with our internal system" meant it didn't go to plan, and notifications weren't circulated. Hopefully that has now been rectified. If you haven't yet done so, then you can register here: www.qiqaclear.com/locations.

One concern already raised relates to the potential loss of a much-treasured phone number when switching service providers - a process that may become necessary if you're to take full advantage of the FFTP high-speed connection. Michelle Tanfield, Community Engagement Manager for Gigaclear, has explained that the trick to avoiding this outcome is to ensure that your existing contract overlaps with any new contract by at least a month. That may cost you a month's additional subscription to your current provider, but should secure your number. The application form from the new provider will also include a check-box where you can request retaining your existing number, so it's important to ensure this is ticked, and to quote the phone number.

Most of the works scheduled for the first two weeks of July will be taking place in Duns Tew (Middle Barton Road, Main Street and Hempton Road), and Middle Aston (through the village) and there are no works currently anticipated for North Aston. None will involve road closures, but there may be temporary traffic lights or stop-go boards.

If you have any questions, you can contact Gigaclear's 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.

North Acton Gardening Club

Greetings all gardeners! In spite of the heat, our plants and vegetables keep growing ... hopefully, so plans are afoot for this year's Flower & Produce Show.

It will be held on Saturday 30th of August, starting at 2.30pm. All the usual categories are there, and an entry form is attached to the newsletter.

It's not too late to start planning, and here are just some of the categories you could enter:

- The Chris Tuffrey Cup: The Largest Tomato
- A Trug or Basket of Mixed Vegetables
- The most handsome cucumber!
- Cookery classes, including Jams and Marmalades
- Lemon Drizzle Cake
- An alcoholic home-brewed beverage
- A house plant in a pot or a spray of Roses
- A Decorated Cupcake for the under-sixteens

Entries for all the usual vegetable and floral categories will be welcome, including the ever-popular Spud-in-a-Tub.

Even if you don't enter any of the categories, please do come and join us on the day for tea and cake and take part in the judging. For further information please contact Tuck on 347727 or email tuck56h@gmail.com



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June's winners were:

1st Prize (£10): Les Parry (#73) 2nd Prize (£5): Rosie Nicholson (#77)

Congratulations! The 'grace' period for lapsed members has now ended, but it's not too late to resubscribe ... or join for the first time if you'd like to become a member! Contact Bev for further details: Telephone 347434 or email info@north-aston.co.uk.

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

On the Roads

There has been a sudden spate of activity regarding our local roads, including a well-attended meeting at the Fox Crossroads at the end of June between OCC Highways, our new County Councillor, Gareth Epps, and representatives from Duns Tew and North Aston.

The discussion focused on how best to tackle the widely recognised dangers of the junction, which is frequently the site of serious accidents, typically between cars trying to turn off or cross the main road. There was yet another three-car collision there just a few days previously. Fortunately injuries were minor, but there have been far more serious incidents there over the years. Finally, after more than 20 years of lobbying by both villages, there appears to be a possibility of a resolution.

This arises thanks to so-called Section 106 funding. Linked to planning applications and new builds, this requires a developer to mitigate the impact of their project on the local community, often by providing infrastructure or services. We now know that a further 8000 homes are planned for Heyford Park, and with that will come significantly more traffic. Much of that, heading north or west, will pass through North Aston and arrive at The Fox.

The value of that 106 funding is now deemed sufficient to consider not only the imposition of traffic calming measures within North Aston (as explained later) but also to tackle the thorny issue of the crossroads.

At the meeting it was agreed that the "Rolls Royce" solution would be to install traffic lights. Perhaps surprisingly the additional infrastructure and construction requirements of a new roundabout would actually cost more, even if it sounds simpler. So OCC will investigate the possibility of traffic lights, but already concede that the cost may still be prohibitive.

That leaves alterations to the basic road infrastructure as being the most likely answer. The idea is to do away with the current road markings and revert to central dotted lines, allowing cars turning right off the main road to go around each other, sideby-side, rather than meeting head-on. By changing the alignment of the white lines around the junction to suggest far wider lanes both sides (principally by moving the Duns Tew "give-way" line back several feet) cars driving through on the main road will have more room to pass any vehicles turning off. Two island refuges above and below the junction will help to protect turning vehicles as well as offering safer crossing points for pedestrians.

This dovetails with plans to address safety along the entire length of the road from Kidlington to Banbury, but astonishingly, despite being the most dangerous junction on the road, there is currently no mention of this in the extensive draft review of the A4260 corridor. Modified speed restrictions, yes, but a safer crossroads? Nothing, and that needs to change!

There is still time to get the Fox included in the final Vision Zero plan, but we need to pile on the pressure. If we have a mass response from our two villages, then we might achieve something. To do this, we are all encouraged to complete the online survey at https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/kidlingtonbanbury_a4260_speeds2025. The deadline is Friday 4th July. If you miss the cut-off, then you can express your concerns directly to our County Councillor by sending him an email on gareth.epps@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Which brings us on to Traffic Calming. We have received outline 'plans' from OCC for proposed traffic mitigation through the village. These take on board the extensive discussions we've had as a community over the years which, at the conclusion of the most recent survey (now some years ago!) concluded that three "build outs" would be the most acceptable solution. One would be on the western approach, just past Bee Cottage, with priority for cars leaving the village. A second would be on the north side of the Green, opposite New Cottages, and the third by the Fountain, on the south side. Whether a fourth is required, below the Manor, is debatable, but all this can be discussed at the next Village Meeting! Please be sure to attend.

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It's Written in the Stones

Some years ago I undertook some genealogical research for one of my clients, who wished to know more about an early 20th century artist, Marcel Frischmann. There was very little online about Marcel, other than the fact he was born in Poland, and he might have died in London, or perhaps it was Australia, sometime in the early 1950s. As a semi-professional genealogist, I love the challenge of uncovering the background to an artist, revealing their family history and creating provenance for their works.

This one proved to be more difficult than most, but ultimately, very rewarding. Using birth and marriage records, census returns, old electoral registers and, in Marcel's case, military archives, I built up a history of the man and his family. It turned out that Marcel Frischmann had, in later life, Anglicised the spelling of his name, and it was almost by chance that I came upon records for Marcel *Frishman*... no 'c' and no doubleenn at the end. They proved conclusive, and confirmed his birth in Lódz in Poland, in 1900, and his death in New Barnet, London, in December 1952.

He had been born Marcel Bonislaw Frischmann, and moved from Poland to Germany as a child with his Jewish parents. He'd grown up in Germany through the 1920s, and studied engineering, but his passion was art, and he enrolled at the Berlin Academy. There he met Margarethe Kroch, a graphic artist and sculptor, and they married in Leipzig in 1923. They moved to Munich, where Marcel worked for a satirical magazine, drawing and sketching at a time of intense political sensitivity in Germany. In 1933, with the rise of the Nazis and increasing antisemitic tension, they fled Germany for Brussels, via Denmark. There they joined a growing population of Jewish refugees, and a son, Martin Julius, was born in 1936.

They were forced to return to Germany in 1939 but, out of necessity, it was a brief visit, just long enough to renew their visas and claim asylum in Australia, where Marcel had relatives. They fled Berlin days before the outbreak of war, a journey fraught with danger when an SS commander mistook Marcel for an old school friend. For an hour, Marcel pretended to be that friend, drinking and joking in a nearby bar. It worked, and Marcel and "Grete" boarded the *RMS Ormonde* in Toulon and headed for Melbourne where, in 1942, Marcel enrolled in the Royal Australian Air Force.

They lived in Australia for about 12 years, with Marcel working principally as a photographer and earning election to the Royal Photographic Society in London. Then, in 1951, they reversed the emigration process, and sailed back to Europe with Martin, and arrived in Liverpool on 9th April. Marcel's initial plan had been to travel to Holland, and gave his intended address as Amsterdam, but instead they settled in New Barnet. They became members of the Abbey Arts Centre, which was a popular focus for Australian artists after the war.

Tragically, only months later, Marcel died of a heart attack on 28th December 1952, aged just 52. Margaret subsequently moved from Barnet to Marylebone and thence to Belsize Park, where she died in June 1972. Their son Martin married an Italian-born lady, Federica, in 1989, but passed away in 2016.

I thought that was my job done. I'd established a timeline for Marcel as an artist, and filled in many of the important blanks. Then, just over a year later, I received a message, via the Ancestry website where I'd hosted my research. It came from a lady in Germany, Elke. She works on a programme known

as the *Stolpersteine Project*, created to keep alive the memory of the expulsion and persecution of the Jews by the Nazis. It achieves this by the laying of commemorative brass cobblestones in the streets. Engraved with names and dates, they are set into the pavement directly outside the homes where Jews, Sinti, Roma and other persecuted people once lived before being seized by the Gestapo.

She was trying to trace any living relatives of the Hammerschmidt family, who had lived in the Charlottenburg district of Berlin. Fritz Hammerschmidt, a noted lawyer and art collector, had married Ernestine Frischmann, Marcel Frischmann's younger sister. Unlike Marcel and his young family, the Hammerschmidts had not been fortunate. Fritz, his wife Ernestine, and Marcel's mother Eugenie had all been rounded up in March 1944 and despatched to Auschwitz. Elke had found my research and assumed that perhaps I was related — it's a common assumption that anyone carrying out detailed genealogy must be related to their subjects! I set her straight on that, but she wondered if I had discovered the whereabouts of Martin's wife, Federica. At the time I hadn't, and tracing living people is often much harder than finding long-dead ancestors, but I promised to try.

It took me four months! I discovered the name of Martin and Federica's daughter, with staff records of her at several London hospitals, but on contacting each of them in turn, drew blanks every time. However, those records enabled me to work backwards, to Federica, and by chance, I found what I assumed was an old telephone number for her. On 7th February 2023 I dialled the number. Hesitantly, someone answered. I explained why I was calling, and who I was searching for. To my relief, it turned out to be Federica herself, and she was delighted to have been found.

That was two years ago. On 3 April this year, in a special ceremony, the Stolpersteine stones for the Hammerschmidt family were finally set into the street in Berlin where they'd lived. Federica and another relative were able to attend, and I am honoured to learn that my small part in the process of finding them was acknowledged during the ceremony.

Of the four members of the family seized in March 1944, only Ernestine survived. She was "death marched" (*Todesmarsch*) 400 miles from Auschwitz-Birkenau to Ravensbrück, where she was finally liberated in 1945. She died in 1984. Her husband Fritz and their ten-year-old son Anselm both died in Auschwitz two weeks after their arrest, as did Marcel's mother Eugenie. Their four 'stones' now gleam in the cobbles of a Berlin street, to be kept brightly polished by passing feet at a site where such darkness once prevailed. *MP*



PCC Minutes

At their Meeting on 16th June, the PCC discussed:

Safeguarding. Sarah Godwin was confirmed as Safeguarding Officer & DBS administrator for the Parish. DBS is Disclosure and Barring, and is the successor to CRB. This is an essential element of the Safeguarding Policy & framework we have in place, which was reviewed and approved by the Meeting.

Treasurer. Tony Godwin was elected Treasurer in succession to Richard Bailey. He has since finalised the installation of a SumUp Card reader on trial in Church for all those people who would like to contribute to the Church via their credit/debit cards. This operates wirelessly.

Churchwarden: Richard Bailey was confirmed as our new Churchwarden in succession to Annabel Bevan. He of course joins Clive Busby in that role.

Health & Safety. The PCC had previously expressed concern about Clive working on the Church roof, which he has done for about 50 years. It has now emerged that anyone over 80 is not insured while working at height. It was therefore agreed that the PCC will employ a contractor to-do this work which is largely concerned with clearing gutters and downpipes, and making good defects in the roof covering.

Church Path. The preferred finish is a resin bonded substance. The quoted price for installing this is £10,000 and, although very desirable, it was felt it was too expensive at this time. Accordingly we will opt for plan B, which is to lay loose fine gravel or shingle to replace what used to be there, but has now almost entirely gone.

Roof lead. Anxiety about lead theft (and we have had it in the past) remains high. Insurance pay-outs are now limited

unless we have a roof alarm. An alternative can be to install CCTV linked to members' phones, which can ensure that culprits are apprehended quickly. Being investigated.

Fund-raising. The Church will do some fund raising events, with part of the proceeds to go to the Village Funds to assist paying for the new Marquees.

Harvest Festival. This is the next big service in Church. 10:30 on Sunday 28th September. At 3:30 the same day the Church will host a tea and cake party so we can all look at and admire the intricate and lovely decorations. Everyone of course is extremely welcome at both events.

Beryl Greenwood has retired from the PCC after a considerable number of years, many of them as Treasurer, and Annabel Bevan has retired as Churchwarden after a good stint in that role. The PCC thanked them wholeheartedly for their wonderful contributions.

Steeple Aston Church Fête

This year's Steeple Aston Fête will take place on Sunday 13th July, starting at 1:00 pm on Robinson's Close and in the Village Hall. It will end at 4:30 pm.

The event will again be opened by the motoring journalist Matt Watson. There will be a brass band, a dancing display, races and tug-o-war at 4:00 pm, followed by the drawing of the Raffle. There will, of course, be all the usual stalls offering gifts, jams, jewellery and crafts, plus beer tent and refreshments.

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











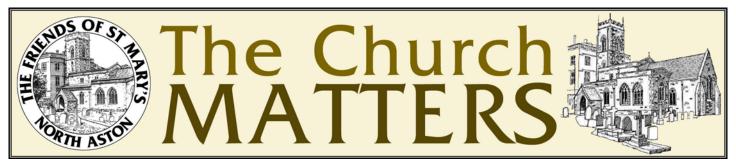
Our purpose is to connect people with climate and nature through meaningful experiences. We place people, principles and planet before profit.

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



What is your goal in life?

Welcome to July, and the British summer! So far this year we haven't had that much rain. However it is now the grass tennis season and one of my abiding childhood memories is of the "Rain Stopped Play" television notice. My mum is an avid tennis fan and life in our household would stop for the four weeks of "Queens", "Eastbourne" and "Wimbledon", as she watched as much tennis as possible. I remember the epic battles between Chris Evert and Martina Navratilova and John McEnroe and Björn Borg.

As spectators we enjoy watching these terrific tussles, marvelling at the speed they run around the court at, and the power with which they hit the ball. Equipment, rackets and shoes have improved over the years making tennis faster and more powerful. What hasn't changed is the dedication, and perseverance that is required for years behind the scenes for the players to become as good as they are.



All sports personalities have got up and trained daily regardless of the weather or how they feel. They have made sacrifices over the years, to prioritise their training like missing parties so they can go to bed early enabling them to get up train again in the early morning. Changing their schedule/life to fit around their training.

This is not easy and takes focus and dedication, not just for six months, but for years. Nor does it stop once they have become good enough to turn professional. Their life is a one of training and competitions.

My daily reading this morning was about staying sharp, staying focused. Life today is busy, with a hundred and one things to do every day. At times it can feel like we are being pulled in a thousand different directions. All of us at times have known the feeling of running around all day and yet at the end of the day thinking that we haven't

achieved anything.

Like the sports personalities we need to choose and prioritise what we want to do. Their goal might be to win Wimbledon, or an Olympic medal. Our goals may not be as prestigious or famous, but they are still important. Goals help keep us focused, to press on even when life is tough. What is your goal for your life?

Today as you enjoy watching your favourite sport, take a moment to think about the time they put in to get where they are. Think about how over the years that have stayed sharp, kept their focus on their goal. How can you stay sharp and focussed so that you can reach your goal?

God bless, 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 Richard Bailey, Tony Godwin (Treasurer), Vicky Taylor (Secretary), Annabel Bevan, Ginny Stay, Jane Jana, Jeremy Taylor, Kildare B Borrowes, Sarah Godwin co-opted.

Church Services in July 2025

NORTH ASTON	S.ASTON	TACKLEY
	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
	Sunday July 13th	
9:30 am Morning Prayer	No Service	5:30 pm Holy Communion
	Sunday July 20th	
9:30 am Holy Communion	11:00 am Holy Communion	5:30 pm Choral Evensong Dedication of New Organ
	Sunday July 27th	
9:30 am Morning Prayer	11:00 am Morning Prayer	9:30 am Family Communion
	Sunday August 3rd	
9:30 am Holy Communion Book of Common Prayer	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

Announcements

Deddington Farmers' Market

This month's Farmers' Market will take place on Saturday 26th July, between 9 am and 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.

Road Closure - Lower Heyford

OCC will be carrying out overnight repairs on the B4030 where it crosses the canal and railway. The road will be closed from the lane leading into the village to the traffic lights between 8:00 pm and 6:00 am each night, from Monday 21st July to Wednesday 23rd July. Cyclists and pedestrians will still be able to pass.

Bastille Festival, Caulcott

This is becoming an annual event! The Horse & Groom at Caulcott will again be celebrating Bastille Day with a three-day festival of beer and music, July 11th, 12th and 13th. There will be live music each evening and on Saturday and Sunday afternoons, and a tasty-sounding barbecue with French flair. Profits from the sale of festival beer glasses will go towards a new thatched roof. We know how splendid that can look! More details, visit www.horseandgroomcaulcott.co.uk.



Aunt Sally Wednesdays!

Watch out for updates on the village WhatsApp group for confirmed dates for Aunt Sally this month, every second Wednesday from 7:00 pm. Bring along a bottle of beer or a glass of wine, but experience and skill is entirely optional.



July Birthdays

Jane Durnin
Eddie Hatzigeorgiou
Robert Hite
Marc Le Clero
Marcus Potts
Colin Rainbow
Mabel Roberts
Laurence Sharp
Eileen West



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

Summer Reading Challenge

OCC is organising a Summer Reading Challenge for anyone with children or grandchildren at home over the summer, and Deddington Library is one of the venues that will be hosting the events between 5th July and 6th September.

The theme is 'The Story Garden', celebrating the great outdoors and exploring the connection between storytelling and nature.

Children need to pop along to the library and sign up. They will be given a *Story Garden* booklet to keep track of their reading. As they discover different library books and visit the library to share their reading experiences, they collect stickers. Children who complete the challenge receive a *Story Garden* certificate and medal. This year, children who finish the challenge will also get a golden ticket to enter a prize draw to win some fabulous prizes.

The librarian in Deddington has transformed the outdoor space around the back of the library building and is hoping everyone, but children especially, will come and enjoy it. There's also a weekly Lego Club (Monday afternoons) and *Rhymetime* for pre-school children will re-start in September.

The library is open Monday pm, Wednesday am, Thursday pm and Saturday am. Find out more: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/oxfordshire-libraries/find-library/deddington-library or check out https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/

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. © 2024.

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