

NORTH ASTON

News

August 2025

#418



NORTH ASTON NEWS

AUGUST 2025, No:418

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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

It seems typical that just as the school holidays start the weather has broken, but perhaps it is a relief that it is not quite so hot – and the trees are certainly enjoying the rain that we have had.

The cricket is exciting and the Lionesses are European Champions – enjoy the rest of the Summer.

Best wishes,

You can phone Christopher on 340358

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

Christopher

North Aston Fête

Congratulations to everyone who worked so hard last month to make the Village Fête such a success. Despite being smaller than it was a decade ago, the event continues to generate significant income for the village and for the church. This year's Fête raised over £3000, which will be shared equally between Village Funds (to help cover the cost of the two new gazebos) and St Mary's. Here are the results for each stall or activity, with costs taken into account:

Children's Games	£19.02	Tombola:	£434.20
Aunt Sally	£68.50	Bar:	£69.65
White Elephant:	£179.70	Welly Wanging:	£84.00
BBQ:	£225.25	Entry/Programme:	£382.00
Raffle:	£797.90	Ice Cream:	£104.00
Plants	£268.40	Cake Stall:	£225.50
Tea Tent:	£412.10	Books:	£123.00
Total:			£3,393.22

Photos courtesy Miranda Doggett and MP



Don't miss Tea & Cakes in the Church on the afternoon of the 24th August, and then the Flower & Produce Show on the 30th. See next page!

Cover: It's time for the annual Flower & Produce Show! Check out the best blooms in your garden, and prepare a floral display for Saturday 30th August. Photo: MP.

Planning

There are no major 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/

3 Greenside Cottages, North Aston, OX25 6HU. A request has been made to amend the details of a previously approved plan to replace certain windows and doors within the property. Details under Ref: 25 / 01881 / NMA

Juniper House, Somerton Road, OX25 6HX. An application has been made to remove a deteriorating conifer hedge to the side of the property and to reduce the crowns of three other trees within a conservation area. Ref: 25 / 01894 / TCA

Nicholson Nurseries, The Park, North Aston, OX25 6HL. A decision relating to the application to modify opening hours for the Yurt was expected at the end of July. Ref: 25 / 01469 / F

3 Greenside Cottages, North Aston, OX25 6HU. A Discharge of Condition 4 request relating to replacement windows and doors has been approved. Ref: 25 / 01294 / DISC

North Aston Gardening Club

The **North Aston Flower & Produce Show** will take place on Saturday 30th August from 2.30 pm until 4.00pm.

Now that we've had some rain at last, hopefully all our crops will start improving and be ready in time the show! If you would like to enter, please complete an entry form and return it to Meadow Cottage by 6.00pm on Sunday 24th August. Forms were included with last month's issue of the News, but you can print out your own by requesting a PDF file from info@north-aston.co.uk.

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.

Entries for all the usual vegetable categories will be welcome of course, but even if you don't have an allotment, there are cookery and floral classes that anyone can enter. Here are just some of the categories that you could try:

- A Single Rose
- Five Blooms from your garden
- A Houseplant or Garden Plant in a Pot
- A one-pound jar of Home-Made Jam or Marmalade
- Lemon Drizzle Cake or Three Scones
- An alcoholic home-brewed beverage
- A Decorated Cupcake for the under-sixteens

Check the Entry Form for others. Children are especially welcome to join in! The only rules are ... exhibited plants must have been yours for at least three months, and jams or preserves must have been made, by you, since September 2023. There's a special Junior Cup award too.

It would be great to see lots of entries this year, but even if you don't wish to enter any classes, do come and join us on the day. You can take part in our unique judging system and enjoy a cup of tea on the Green. Hopefully many of you will be able to make it and we can all enjoy this annual event.

Further information from Tuck: 347727 or tuck56h@gmail.com



Who doesn't like a slice of cake with their tea! It was lovely to share cake and a catch-up during July, and the occasion raised £177 towards the cost of the village's new gazebos.

So it's happening again on the afternoon of Sunday 24th August. That's the Bank Holiday weekend, so if you've family and friends visiting, bring them down to the church. We're hoping that the weather may be more encouraging for walkers and cyclists this time, so do please spread the word. We're looking forward to seeing lots of you there!

St Mary's Church, North Aston

Sunday 24th August, 2-4 pm



NORTH ASTON ORGANICS

In the car park behind the Old Bakery

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



Too busy? Why not try our Veg Box Scheme?

Fresh vegetables delivered straight to your door!

Email: northastonorganics@gmail.com

Tel: ((01869)) 347702

visit the website at:

www.northastonorganics.co.uk



NORTH ASTON 100 CLUB

July's winners were:

1st Prize (£10): Sarah Jane Brown (#139)

2nd Prize (£5): Harry Evans (#62)

Congratulations! We're now back into the regular routine of monthly 'draws', but it's not too late to 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!



At present the only bus service operating directly out of North Aston is the monthly run to Deddington Farmers Market. This is offered by OurBus Bartons, and stops by the fountain at 09:52 on the fourth Saturday of each month. There's time for just over an hour's shopping at the market, and then return.

Up until 18 months ago, the company did call at North Aston on a Wednesday (Route 5 to Chipping Norton via the Tews) but in the last review of the timetable this was withdrawn due to a lack of passengers from the village. John Chisnall of OurBus Bartons has suggested that they'd consider restoring North Aston to the schedule if there were sufficient regular passengers to support it. If you think you might use the service, please let us know, and we can pass on that request to him.

The company does offer a regular service from Steeple Aston to Chipping Norton on a Wednesday and to Bicester on a Friday. They are also looking for volunteer drivers. If that appeals, contact OurBus Bartons on 01869 699 699 or check the website at www.ourbusbartons.org.uk

It's fresh beef time! North Aston Farms has fresh organic beef back from the butcher. It's arriving in two tranches – hung for 21 days, and then hung for 28 days. Some stock will appear in the Honesty Shop, or you can order online through the website. Email northastondairyoffice@gmail.com for info.

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



News from TVP

Matthew Barber, the current Police & Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley, has published his latest Annual Report, marking one year into his second term.

He notes the following key achievements:



- A 13% reduction in neighbourhood crime (Vehicle, theft, burglary, robbery).
- The number of funded neighbourhood police constable posts more than doubled to 328.
- Victim support was enhanced through the Victims First Hub including support to over 1,700 domestic abuse victims.
- Knife crime has been down by 7%.
- The overall number of killed and seriously injured incidents on TVP roads has reduced by 18%.
- The number of repeat shoplifters targeted increased by 65% with an increased outcome rate of 19%.
- Rural crime offences reduced by 17%.
- Surveys suggest trust in police rose by 12% to 72%

"My focus remains steadfast in delivering my plan to Protect Communities, People and Property, ensuring that national directives are integrated effectively into the Thames Valley, safeguarding the independence of the PCC role, and maintaining a policing service that reflects the needs of our communities."

"I remain committed to working closely with the Chief Constable, our partners, and the public to build on our achievements, address emerging challenges, and continue our mission to make Thames Valley a safer place for all."

To view a copy, visit <https://www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/our-information/reports-and-governance/annual-report/>

NORTH ASTON FARMS & DAIRY

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

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

Find out more at www.northastonfarms.co.uk

North Aston Nature Notes

With Stephen Rees

Goodness me, where to start! July was a bit of an interesting and uncomfortable month. It has been really hot at times, but also really dry, and I mean *really* dry! The ground is all cracked, there is no grass, and some trees are dying too. Where I work we are already having to feed our animals with supplements and hay, which we don't normally do until the end of September. I feel for James and Vicky, who are trying to keep their livestock going without using up too much winter fodder. What we really need is some steady rain to help all of our farms and gardens.

Even my goldfish tank, which is fed from the rainwater downpipe, is suffering from lack of oxygen. Thankfully, Moby Dick, my white goldfish, is still doing well, putting on weight, and nearly eating from my hand.

Apologies for such a gloomy start, and so on to more brighter things. Yep, it's been really hot and dry, but also we didn't have much wind to speak of during the spring. One result of this is that the blossom didn't get blown off the trees like it did last year, and consequently the apple trees are hanging heavy with ripening fruit, the walnut trees have lots of nuts, and there are loads of damsons and crab apples. The oaks are brimming with acorns, and there are berries of all kinds in the hedgerows.

This is all good for us, but more importantly, it's really good news for animals and birds. A generous crop will see them through the winter, which I'm predicting now (although hopefully I'm wrong!) is going to be cold and very wet!

That hot, dry and windless spring has also meant that our garden (well, Wendy's garden!) has been absolutely full of butterflies. It's the most I've seen in years. All the common ones have been flocking round anything with blue or purple flowers, including our lavender, catnip and buddleia, but we've also seen many more Brimstones and Fritillaries, Meadow Browns and the lovely-named Gatekeeper butterflies this summer. It's been a real treat, standing at the window in the kitchen, doing the washing up, and watching them. It's the best display for years.

Another species doing well are the ladybirds — millions of them! They're in the house, the van, even in our shower — they're everywhere. Did you know that there are over 5000 different varieties of ladybirds? They're not my favourite insects though. That honour falls to stag beetles, but a close second are the mint beetles. There have been hundreds on our mint plants this year, looking like little gemstones.

Less welcome have been the wasps. We have both been stung, and it's not flipping funny! In a month's time they will be getting dopey, and that's when you have to be really careful that you don't stand or sit on them. Wasps become more aggressive late in the summer as access to their natural foods, like nectar from flowers, becomes harder to find, but their need for sugars rises. This drives them closer to our homes, seeking sweet substances at a time when the colony structure itself is falling apart. The queens leave, looking for somewhere to hibernate, leaving worker wasps to fend for themselves.



Photo: Angie Hanna



Much more encouraging is the hedgehog pool! We have found lots of it on our patio, which is great news. Wendy puts the cat food bowls outside by the tap, ready for cleaning, but I think the hedgehogs come and find them first.

I look after our district heating plant room and also do the pest control there, to keep on top of the mice in winter. To do this I had to go on a course, as you now need a license to lay bait of any type. The course was really interesting, and one of the main points they drove home to us was to try everything else we could to trap the vermin, but only use poisoned bait as a very last resort. Traditional traps with something like peanut butter are best, perhaps even shooting, combined with the removal of food and water and any nesting areas, but poison should be the very last resort. Most of it gets eaten by slugs, which are then eaten by hedgehogs, while any poisoned mice or rats that do die could be eaten by owls. A wiser bloke than me told me, years ago, that every action has a reaction. Food for thought, as they say, so please be careful with mouse bait.

That reminds me that there have also been plenty of rabbits about this year. They tend to go in a five year cycle, from being lots to almost none, because of Myxomatosis. On a positive note, our new little bantams have finally started to lay eggs. About blooming time!

Finally, before I bore you to tears, we were sat down in our summer house drinking tea (vodka and tonic?) when Wends calmly said, "Oooh look, the Green Man is watching us!" and pointed at the big old oak. I couldn't believe it. There was his two eyes and his grumpy face and scruffy hair and he looked angry, and it made me feel a bit anxious. I didn't need to worry though, as Annie assures me the Green Man is a good man, and a lucky thing too. It was a bit surreal though.

That's it then for this month. Chin chin, gin o'clock

Steve & Wendy

Gigaclear UPDATE



After a hectic couple of months, with frequent visits from the groundworks team, August looks set to be a little quieter, with no scheduled work from Gigaclear in the village. The underground ducting installed to take the fibre cabling has now largely been implemented throughout the centre of the village, and now links up with the previous BT infrastructure. A number of new rectangular panels have appeared alongside footpaths and around the Green, providing access to the buried ducting.

The next phase will see the network extended away from the main road, to bring the cabling closer to properties such as those in Hall Close and around the church. The schedule for that to begin has not yet been announced.

To be kept informed of progress, you can still register with Gigaclear: www.gigaclear.com/locations although, to be honest, there seems to have been very little information emanating from that source to date. However, if you have any specific concerns, 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.

STEEPLE ASTON & MIDDLE ASTON

133rd Annual

FLOWER SHOW

AND

FUN DOG SHOW

BANK HOLIDAY AUGUST 25th 2PM

Admission £2.50 Adults - Children U16 go free
Cash only event

Teas & Cakes Children's games Bowling
Hog Roast Bouncy castle Train rides Bar
Ice cream van Vintage tractors Local stalls

People of all ages and skills are
encouraged to enter the show.
For full details of how to enter follow
the link or scan the QR code:



www.steepleaston.org.uk/clubs-societies/gardening/



 **ROSARA**
at NICHOLSONS

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



The Church MATTERS



Make time for a Holy Day

This summer we have been blessed with wonderful weather here in the UK, and as the season has progressed, our garden's grass has turned decidedly yellow. As I write this we have just finished Fête season in the benefice, with three wonderful events across three weekends. Thank you to everyone who has helped create such fantastic afternoons, from the organisers, stall holders and visitors, without whom the fêtes couldn't run. Thank you. As schools break up, we begin the summer holidays, hopefully with the weather continuing to be glorious throughout the whole of August. Personally I'm looking forward to our family's holiday, and lots of fresh air out on our bikes.

Taking time to stop and rest is a biblical principle, written into the story of creation. On the seventh day the Lord rested. *By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.* (Genesis 2:2-3)

When we go on holiday, it is very tempting to rush around trying to see all the sights, try out lots of new activities, try all kinds of new food, and we rush around trying to make the most of our relaxing time. This is a trap I easily fall into, making the most of not being sat at a desk and trying to cycle as much as possible. I also usually take a big pile of books which I want to read (which only seems to grow between holidays).

Swapping activities is not the same as resting, and we if we are not careful, we return from our holiday in need of a holiday to recover. As I attempt to get better at cycling, one of the things I have had to learn is the importance



of rest, so that my body can recover and adapt, growing stronger and therefore hopefully faster. It is a concept that is counter cultural, as we all strive to improve, by working as hard as we can. Yet rest is important, so that we can move forward. None of us would seriously contemplate not sleeping, we know that our bodies need sleep to repair itself ready for the next day. The same principle applies to the whole of our lives. In fact God commanded us (Exodus 20:1-17) to take one day in seven to rest, the Sabbath, making it a Holy Day (separate, a cut apart).

This summer I wish everyone a wonderful holiday, enjoying time with family and friends, visiting new exciting places. I pray that you also have Holy days, taking time to rest and relax, allowing your mind body and soul to recover.

God bless,
Harriet

Please note – my usual day off is a Monday.

Church Services in August 2025

NORTH ASTON	S.ASTON	TACKLEY
Sunday August 3rd		
10:30 am Joint Benefice Service Holy Communion	No Service	No Service
Sunday August 10th		
No Service	No Service	10:30 am Joint Benefice Service Holy Communion
Sunday August 17th		
No Service	10:30 am Joint Benefice Service Holy Communion	No Service
Sunday August 24th		
10:30 am Joint Benefice Service Holy Communion	No Service	No Service
Sunday August 31st		
No Service	No Service	10:30 am Joint Benefice Service Holy Communion
Sunday September 7th		
9:30 am Holy Communion, BCP	11:00 am Holy Communion, BCP	5:30 pm Evenson & Baptism

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

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.

Announcements

Deddington Farmers' Market

The Farmers' Market this month will take place on Saturday 23rd August, 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.

Steeple Aston Flower & Fun Dog Show

See the advert on Page 6, but the star local attraction for the Bank Holiday Weekend could be the SA Horticultural Society's annual show in Steeple Aston Village Hall and on the Recreation Ground, Monday 25th August 2025 from 2 to 4.30 pm.

Admission: £2.50 adults, with no charge for Under 16s. Head there to admire the vegetables, flowers, cookery, handicraft, photography and children's classes. Teas, hog roast, ice cream, children's games, bouncy castle, train rides, bowling, handicraft and produce stalls, sideshows and attractions. Cash-only event.

Open for all – Dog Show entries on the day, Flower Show in advance. www.steepleaston.org.uk/clubs-societies/gardening/

Bicester Green

Bicester's centre for Circular Economy and Skills, *Bicester Green*, is a shop for reconditioned and reclaimed hardware, household items, bicycles, and so much more. All the things made, repaired, refurbished and put on the shelves by the volunteers are for sale and warranted for 30 days, including refurbished electrical items and tools, bicycles, or wooden items made from reclaimed timbers, such as bird boxes, hedgehog houses, chopping boards etc. You can also drop off items for repair. The shop at 16 Sheep Street is open Tues-Fri 10 am to 4pm. www.bicestergreen.org.uk

August Birthdays

Trudy Busby
Thea Bourke-Borrowes
Eileen Gilmore
Louis Le Clercq
Jane McArdle
Freya Stay
Kate Symons



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.

Deddington Story Garden Challenge!

The *Story Garden* summer reading challenge is proving very popular, and can be joined at any time, so if you have children around over the summer, do investigate, and maybe sign up for their Collectors Folder. That includes stickers, book suggestions, quizzes and all sorts of fun. Check it out at the website: <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>

More good news! As well as the flourishing outdoors area at the library in Deddington, there is now a small community room available for local groups to use. It can be booked by speaking to the librarian (call in or phone 01865 816010). If it's for community use, then it's just a donation towards costs. It can be booked via OCC, but would then be charged at a commercial rate.

The library opening times are: Monday 2-7, Wednesday 9-1, Thursday 1-5 and Saturday 9-1. Find out more: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/oxfordshire-libraries/find-library/deddington-library.

Aunt Sally — Last Chance!

August is usually the last month when we can play Aunt Sally on the Green. By the end of the month, the nights will be drawing in, so now's the time to chance your arm! Dates this month; Wednesday 6th and 20th from 7:00 pm, but check the WhatsApp group for confirmation. Bring



along a keen eye, a bottle of beer or a glass of wine, and some enthusiasm, but experience is entirely optional!

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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