

South Newington Newsletter
Autumn 2016

Editor: Alan Briggs – 01295 721104 abba11131@gmail.com

Printing: Joyce Aydon

South Newington Parish Council News

Our new Parish Councillor, Darron Maddock, has taken over the responsibility for the Village Website and I am pleased to let you know that, thanks to his efforts, a new website has been developed, financed largely by a grant from Cherwell District Council. He has been able to transfer the contents of the old site across to the new one. He has downloaded all our Parish Council documents, so we are now up to date. At our next Parish Council meeting we will be discussing possible additions to the site with more information about the village. I urge you to look at the new site by going to **southnewington.co.uk.**

We are making progress with the siting of a defibrillator in the old telephone kiosk and, the very observant of you, may have seen a notice in the kiosk, stating that the Parish Council has applied to "adopt" the site for a defibrillator. We have been awarded a grant of £2,499.00 from SSE to buy one from the Community HeartBeat Trust.

The Parish Council have also agreed to put two bins for dog waste in the village; one next to the noticeboard and one at the end of Sands Lane, on the edge of Julian Barbour's field. Thank you Julian for allowing us to place it there. These should be emptied each week.

As part of my attempts to delegate more, the PC have appointed Rob Lawrence, as Chair of a Planning Sub-Committee and he has already been busy on our behalf. We welcome Hugo Brown as our new Cherwell District Councillor and he attended our last PC Committee Meeting and later walked around the village with me to look at a recent planning application, which was subsequently withdrawn.

Finally, a plea to everyone to remove your bins from the side of the road within 24 hours of them being emptied, as this makes the village so much tidier. Also, we have decided to alter the request in the Village Welcome Pack and ask that any lawnmowing/strimming or other noise related activities be finished by **1pm** on Sunday and not midday as previously stated.

Peter Thomas. Chairman

The Parish Council can be contacted via email at:
southnewingtonpc@btinternet.com.

Welcome to the Village
A plea from the Editor: If new neighbours arrive, please make them welcome **and** let me have their names if possible. Then I can deliver their Welcome Pack and include them in the next Newsletter. Thank You.

Verena Barbour.

On behalf of the Barbour family, I would like to thank all those who came to her funeral on July 27th and/or sent condolences. We were very touched by the attendance. It was a lovely farewell to Verena and brought so many of the village together. We were very lucky with the weather, especially for the burial and tea afterwards in the garden of College Farm. If anyone would like a printed copy of the eulogy for Verena, please call me on 720492 or email julian@platonia.com. Several people said they found the story of her life and long confrontation with Alzheimer's both interesting and inspiring.

Julian Barbour

Church Fabric Report

There is only one thing to report since the last Newsletter. A very small amount of remedial pointing work at the base of the chancel walls was carried out by Weldon Stone after the original mortar used was found to be unsatisfactory. This work was paid for using retention monies from the original contract.

There are no further projects at present, routine/regular maintenance tasks on both the church and churchyard will continue to be undertaken as required.

Penny Carey

South Newington Occasional Singers

Many of you may have heard our group perform at the village Queens Birthday Paty, and also the Flower Show. I hope you enjoyed it! We certainly had fun rehearsing and performing and are delighted to say that a new term is starting on Sat 17th September in the village hall. We are very grateful to Stuart Dunlop for being our conductor, it is amazing good luck that we have UEA's Director of Music living in our village, and that he is prepared to give up his Saturday mornings to lead our group.

Singing music and being part of a choir has many proven health benefits, and we hope we are a friendly, low pressure group where you can come along and sing and see if you enjoy it. Its £5.00 a week, we have a professional piano accompanist, and as you know a superb conductor so please do drop in if you fancy giving it a go. Everyone is welcome, you don't have to be from South Newington to take part. We start at 10.30 am on Saturday morning, have a coffee break at about 11.15 and finish at 12.00.

Our new term dates are
Sat 17th September to Sat 10th Dec
Half term break, Sat 22nd to Sat 29th Oct. No choir on these two Saturdays

We're hoping to give our first ever Christmas concert this year, so watch this space!
Nicky Smith

49 Club Winners

Date	Amount	Number	Name
28th May	£20	59	*Rollover*
4th June	£35 + £20	30	Bruno Brown
11th June	£20	03	Mike Fenner
18th June	£20	47	Linda Curtis
25th June	£20	18	Andrew Wells
2nd July	£35	13	Richard Whittle
9th July	£20	12	Lilian Clifton
16th July	£20	41	Michael Maskey
23rd July	£20	25	John Britton
30th July	£20	48	Gordon Hands
06th Aug	£35	08	Bill Burles
13th Aug	£20	38	Gill Brounger
20th Aug	£20	17	Dorothy Hands
27th Aug	£20	08	Bill Burles
3rd Sep	£35	37	John Braithwaite

There are still vacancies if you wish to join the 49 Club - just £1 per week with a chance to win £35 (first Saturday of the month) or £20 (other weeks), or even more if there is a rollover! Our year starts in March but you can join any quarter - minimum subscription is £13 for a quarter. Contact Paula Staples paula.staples@yahoo.co.uk
Or 01295721104.
A big thank you to all who continue to support the 49 Club - your subscriptions cover the cost of insurance for our village church.

Paula Staples

An Invitation From Barford St John & St Michael Women's Institute

Barford WI is an active group of over 30 ladies from both the Barfords and surrounding villages. We meet on the second Wednesday of each month in Barford St Michael Village Hall at 7.30pm and visitors (£4) are always very welcome. In October our talk is entitled 'Blood, Bikers and Babies – saving lives since 1981'. In November we'll be learning about our speaker's passion for pearls. Then in December, with Christmas approaching, we'll be entertained by the Adderbury Ukes. If you'd like to come along, we would love to see you.

For more information contact: Jill Hopcraft (01869 337229) or Christine Hall (01869 338659).

The Cotswold Decorative & Fine Arts Society

The Cotswold Decorative & Fine Arts Society's lecture on 12 October is "Durer, Genius of the Northern Renaissance" by Eveline Eaton. Albrecht Durer - arguably the most important Germanic artist ever - was not only an exceptional painter and draughtsman, he was also the first to write on art theory in the German language. The lecture begins at 11.00am with complimentary coffee/tea from 10.15-10.45. Non-members are welcome, no need to book (suggested donation £8). Bradwell Village Hall, Burford OX18 4XF.

On October 26th there will be a special interest day on "Athens and Rome: A Tale of Two Cities" by Paul Roberts. The day is from 10.45-3.15, consists of three lectures and is held at Bradwell Village Hall. The cost is £30 (£33 for non-members) to include coffee in the morning and a light lunch. Booking is essential,
contact: programme@cotswolddfas.org.uk.

Oxfordshire Water Blitz

Volunteer for Oxfordshire's Water-Blitz
Volunteers needed for one day only! Schools, local groups and individuals are invited to take part in the county wide water blitz. Check the water quality of your local stream, pond, ditch or river and help build a water quality picture for Oxfordshire.

For your free sampling pack register today by emailing:hilary@wildoxfordshire.org.uk and join in on 3rd October.

EarthWatch have volunteered to handle the data and map all results on their global water-hub with the resulting data available to everyone involved.

FREE fortnightly Environmental Email Bulletin:

For the latest conservation news, evening talks, or an afternoon of volunteering, plus jobs and training **SIGN UP** to Wild Oxfordshire's email bulletin. Just click on their website www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk

South Newington Flower and Produce Show

I hope that you all enjoyed this year's Show and thank you all for the feedback you sent to the Committee. The takings on the day were about the same as last year and we anticipate that we will make a surplus of about £500 which is an excellent result. We shall be making a donation to the Village Hall (to cover hire of the hall and crockery) and we are liaising with the Parish Council to buy a new bench for everyone to enjoy on the Poleaxe. We have already had a meeting to discuss this year's show and to start to plan the event for 2017. Please make a note in your diaries - the date will be 12th August!

Paula Staples

South Newington Murder Mystery

Thank you to all who entered the Mystery which was enclosed with the last newsletter. The competition is now closed.

In total we raised £60 for Cancer Research UK. All the entries submitted were correct. Congratulations to you all. The lucky winners were Daisy, Freddie and Bridget Read of Lavender Cottage who win a £10 WH Smith voucher. If anyone would like additional copies for your own entertainment, then please contact the Editor (details on front cover).

Village Email List

Please sign up to the Village email list if you haven't already done so. It's a very useful way of letting you know about events, incidents, Neighbourhood Watch topics and a host of other stuff.

Remember the Street Party?

The following is a light hearted memory jogger for those who were there and for those who weren't, a reminder of what we missed.

Queen's 90th Birthday Party.

A typically English day. A day for dusting down all the national types and tropes and clichés, like 'What a typically English day!' and 'it'll clear up later', and 'it's brighter over Chippy', and 'it turned out nice in the end'. A day for stoic exchanges:

How are you?
Not bad.
That's it, well done!
Or:
'How's things?'
'Oh, can't complain'.

Can't complain. I'd like to but honestly, don't get me started. A day to lament the football but thrill at the rugby and anticipate the cricket. But above all the day, of course, for the village party in honour of the Queen's 90th Birthday. And so, of course, it began by raining.

On the way to Choral Matins (BCP), at the thirteenth century church (must-see wall paintings), with the new vicar (American), a leather explorer hat was to be seen instructing a small collection of waterproofs in the erection of the gazebos and canopies to ensure that, come hell or more likely high water, the birthday would be celebrated and happy. Sure enough, by early afternoon, the rain had by and large stopped, and an impressive array of sticks, buggies, picnic baskets, union jacks and silly hats (oh sorry, it's a crown) had made its way to the encampment that successfully banned traffic and tanks from The Town for an afternoon.

On cue, the church bells (O beatum Michaelem!) began the flat clang of warm-up, drawing the bells up in time for - amid corks a-popping – the right royal celebratory peal of a South Newington Grandsire Royal Triple Delight – or was it a Percy's Tea Strainer Treble Place Surprise Major? – anyway, it flowed over the assembly, who duly offered up a Health unto Her Majesty, with a Fa-la-la, and a La-La.

There are hats, and silly hats, and then there are mad hatters. The English do hats with aplomb. Fancy dress and party hats can be the silliest and most splendid. Their special moment arrives in the moment you forget you have them on. It was not possible to maintain young radical zeal in the face of my father in a paper hat. It is entirely impossible to have anything other than an ironic exchange with a woman in a jade[1] turban that is intermittently illuminated with fairy lights.

Sadly, the judge of the Crowning Glory Competition (adult class) failed to understand the concept behind my venerable bowler hat with patriotic windmills, so the milliners' prize went, with pardonable favouritism, to Ophelia-child-of-the-summer-of-love, on her way "to San – Fran – cisco" with flowers in her hair. Goddam hippies.

A member of the choir tried to get in on the act, threatening to wear a curly wig. 'It's what I do for a living', he protested innocently, 'wear wigs', as the choirmaster frowned and opined that it was perhaps

[1] an amazonite

best to move on…….Even the vicar had a go, with a holey relic of a straw hat that had never really aspired to life as a Panama or a boater, more like something from the great plains of Nebraska, or the pages of Huckleberry Finn.

An egg-and-spoon race brings out the best or the worst in the national culture, depending on your view of culture and your take on the state of the nation. If you go for the individualist, competitive thing, if you are, in short, the sort who will spy an advantage or business opportunity to be had in, say, hedging a bet on smashed eggs, broken heads, and a winner who takes all, then eggs and spoons R 4 U. It also helps if you can run naturally on casters, have sharp elbows, a mobile thumb, and have no concern for the rules of the road. If however you are a more broadly consensual type, with a preference for the arm-round-the-shoulder, we-can-work-this-out, collectivist approach, then such activities will test your principles and faith in human nature to destruction. Suffice it to say I was just grateful that everyone had not gone home by the time I got back. In my defence, I did comfort a stray dog, rehome a pigeon, and raise £3,000 for comic Relief on my oological peregrination, which is All Good.

The choir – minus the wig – did what choirs do, in country practice, they sang like larks, wisely sheltered under canvas, unlike the rain-swept RCM chamber choir who, under apocalyptic skies over the Thames, defiantly sang Land of Hope and Glory at the Queen on the occasion of her Diamond Jubilee. Mellifluous and euphonious, our very own songsters flew us over the rainbow where bluebirds fly, and brought a moistness to the Brigadier's eye, and oh yes, why, oh why can't I?

Otherwise, in the course of the afternoon I learned that Dorothy's husband is a Wolves' fan (so at least he wears more or less the right colours), that Bridget has hollow legs, that the Brigadier doesn't rate tanks any more, that these days kids do more hip-hop than hop-scotch, and that thirty-eight years after discovering that Carole's great aunt had her first married home, like us, in Milcombe, there is once more a Honeybone at the bottom of my garden.

When time was finally called on the whole delightful festivity, it was 'all hands to the pump'. Black plastic bag duty is of course essential, but a chap has to find



something manly to do, so I joined the chain humping weights into 'Netia's barn, until one alpha male started taking two at a time, and then one of life's high achievers made use of a wheelbarrow to carry several. Bet he did well in the egg-and-spoon. Anyway, I couldn't compete with that, so, loudly advertising that I was of pensionable age and had a wife and two dogs



to bring up, I quietly withdrew.

An hour later, walking one of my responsibilities back through the village, the place was deserted, as if the whole event had never happened. The only clue was a small chain of flower power from the prize-winning crown, rather prettily arranged on the grass verge. By now the evening sun had come out to bless the honey stone of this unutterably beautiful and magical place, and so somewhere there must have been a rainbow, and I'll wager there were bluebirds beyond, too. Even as grim events were unfolding for those of rainbow colours on another shore, for the moment at least, God was in his heaven, and all was well with the world in our particular neck-of-the-woods.
And it had, indeed, turned out nice in the end.

Tim Brierley.

(Photos from Angela Burns, cropped to fit.



Youth Club

After several years running the Youth Club in the village the Dunlop's have stepped down. The thanks of all parents whose children have benefitted from attending the Youth Club are due to both of them for their patience and hard work. Not just an 'evening a week' but a lot of paperwork and behind the scenes activities are needed to make a Youth Club the success that it has been.

At the time of writing, no volunteers are yet in place to continue this challenging but rewarding activity. Please come forward if you can help it continue.

Village Entertainment Committee

South Newington is well known for its lively community, not just for the Flower Show but a number of activities across the year such as the Rounders Match (weather permitting,) bingo, harvest supper etc.

Would you like to join a friendly group to help organise these or more? Debbie Gale has been a part of this group for many years and her kind and can-do approach, not to mention her prize winning scones will be sadly missed when she and her family move to the West country. We'd like to thank Debbie and her daughters for their great contribution to village life over the years.
If you have any ideas for events or enjoy helping or meeting others perhaps you would like to join the Entertainments Committee?

Please get in touch with Gill Brounger, Nicky Smith or Claire Swan.

Weather Report – Spring & Summer 2016
The weather report for Spring and Summer in the village covers 6 months as a result of changing deadline dates for the Summer edition. It is therefore somewhat briefer than usual – good job some may say!
For Spring rainfall, March was wet at 94mm. April close to average at 72.2mm and May was fairly dry at 48.8mm. The two wettest days were March 8th at 32mm and March 27th at 23.2mm. There was thunder on 7th May and March came in with gales on 2nd, 3rd and 4th, the latter two days bringing us some wet snow as well. Atlantic storm 'Katie' brought more gales on 28th March, although Katie was the last named Atlantic storm so far in 2016.
Frost was evident through March 7 April, not finishing till early May, with ground frosts present till the last week of May. Our warmest Spring day was 8th May at 25.4C and the coldest night was 6th March at -6.0C.
Rainfall in the Summer months produced a wet June at 91.5mm, followed by a very dry July at12.4mm and a dry August at 34.7mm. We had some severe thunderstorms and rainfall on the 14th and 15th June totalling 36mm in two days giving a boost to the June figures. There was more rain & thunder on 27th August although the heaviest rain was fairly brief. The Fete and flower Show was blessed with a lovely day and congratulations to those who organised it all. The height of the River Swere dropped from +6 to -3 between 1st June and 31st August. South Newington was the wettest place in the S.E. region on 15th June.
For those who like their summers hot, July 19th was the hottest day of summer at 31.6C. next best was 29.1C on the 23rd August, with all the summer months virtually frost free.
The Daily Mail recorded the village as the coldest spot in the country on 6th May and also on August 31st.
Finally the Met Office technicians visited on 23rd August to change sensors and adjust equipment as necessary.
Let us look forward to a season of beautiful Autumn colours with nature shown at it's best.

John Britton. 2nd Sep 2016

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IN SUPPORT OF
HELP *for* HEROES

CHARITY NO 1120920

15th October, 2016, at 7.00 pm

"KITCHEN SINK TO TOP DRAWER"

An entertaining Evening of extracts from English drama and poetry through the Ages

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Little people Big needs
OXFORD CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

TICKETS £15- including wine and refreshments
FROM: 01295 721029, or
gillian.brounger@btinternet.com

All proceeds from ticket sales and collections to be divided equally between Help for Heroes and The Oxford Children's Hospital.

Donations welcome from those unable to attend:
NatWest sortcode: 60-16-07, Ac.no: 75023865, Ref: charity