SOUTH NEWINGTON NEWSLETTER



AUTUMN 2017

Editor: Alan Briggs abba11131@gmail.com

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Parish Council News

In April of this year Oxfordshire County Council bid for money for the A361 between Chipping Norton and Banbury under the Safer Roads Fund. Their bid included 273K for re-surfacing the roads within the village, 5K for clearing vegetation and 29K towards a proposed 20mph speed limit and solar studs on the carriageway that runs through the village. We await their decision!

On a separate issue Burford Town Council have applied for there to be a ban on HGVs over 7.5 tonnes using the High Street. Kenneth Gray, representing this Council, came and gave a talk to an Extraordinary Parish Council meeting recently and told us about their proposals. We support their application which could result in less HGV traffic coming through the village and we will be writing to Oxfordshire County Council with a request for additional signage, south of Burford, directing traffic to Banbury via. the A40 eastwards.

We have received some good news, passed on from George Reynolds, our OCC representative. He has reassured us that the Alkerton Tip will remain open for another 7 years, thus avoiding longer trips to other sites.

After several attempts to keep the lower play area of the Poleaxe free from moles, we have at last been successful in removing the culprits who made the most recent hills. No doubt further mounds will appear, so watch this space!

Peter Thomas,
Chairman.

THANK YOU, from Harry Thomas

A big thank you to everyone in South Newington, who supported me by buying my home-made chocolate orange cookies. I was making and selling them as part of a Young Entrepreneur project at school (I am in Year 6) to raise money for charity. I baked and sold just over 1000 cookies and I have raised £242.30. In total, my class raised over £1000 and half the money is going to Cancer Research and half to Dogs for Good, a charity which trains assistance dogs for people with physical disabilities and children with autism. I was overwhelmed by the generosity of people in South Newington, many of whom not only bought my cookies but also gave an extra donation for the charities. I loved doing it. Thank you.

Harry Thomas (aged 10)

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 subject "Waterblitz" and join in on Monday 2nd October.

EarthWatch have volunteered to handle the data which will be available to everyone involved. To get a FREE fortnightly Environmental Email Bulletin with the latest conservation news, updates on the Autumn Waterblitz 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

Clare Mowbray, Wild Oxfordshire

CDFAS Lecture Program

On October 11th 2017 the Cotswold Decorative & Fine Arts lecture will be "The Glories of English Watercolours" by Ann Clements. And on November 8th it will be on "Colonial Architecture in India" by Anthony Peers. December 13th is "Angels from the Realms of Glory: The Wilton Diptych and the Roof of Westminster Hall" by Mark Cottle.

NOTE NEW TIME AND VENUE: 11.30-12.30 with coffee from 11.00am at Warwick Hall, Church Green, Burford OX18 4RZ. Non-members welcome (suggested donation £10).

Fix My Street Is Not Just About Potholes!

You may not be aware aware that Fix my Street is a charity. They produce lots of activity packs for community groups which include useful stuff like:

- Poster and flyers to print out
- Tips for writing an article about FixMyStreet for your local paper or parish magazine
- Dog poop flags
- Instructions for including a feed of local FixMyStreet reports on your website
- Ideas for letting more people know about FixMyStreet.

The activity packs suitable for community groups, scouts, schools can be found at https://www.fixmystreet.com

South Newington Occasional Singers (SNOS)

Our happy group of singers is going strong. Following a break for summer we started the new term on Sept 9th and will be giving a concert in Milcombe on Sept 30th as part a special day of activities in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. This is what SNOS will be singing on the 30th September at 2.30 pm in Milcombe. Do come and hear us and support this great cause:

- Clare Benediction
- Hallelujah
- Vivaldi Gloria
- Wonderful World
- Here Comes the Sun
- Mozart Ave Verum
- You Raise Me Up
- When I'm 64

Then our next concert will be in South Newington Church for the lighting of the Christmas tree lights on Sunday December 10th early evening. We'll do a few favourite Christmas tunes plus carol singing for everyone round the tree, with mulled wine and refreshments.

There's now between 20 – 30 who meet on Saturday, with Stuart Dunlop from South Newington our conductor and Joe Cummings our piano accompanist. We are incredibly lucky to have such outstanding professionals in our local area (Joe is from Kings Sutton) and are very grateful for their continued support.

New members are always welcome, there's lots of laughter as well as singing and also a free cup of tea or coffee! 10.30 –12.00 Saturday mornings, £5 weekly fee. Any questions ask Nicky Smith at the Barn House or call her on 01295 720228, or speak to Elizabeth Wheeldon, Moore Lane.

Badminton in Bloxham and the Ellen Hinde Hall

Could you vote for a local group in Bloxham, to help them win a grant from M&S?

The hall near the Elephant and Castle pub on Chapel Street was given to the village of Bloxham by a lady who grew up there called Ellen Hinde, to give thanks for her father coming home safely from the First World War, 88 years ago. Thanks to her kind gesture, the village has the hall as a wonderful resource to use, including a badminton hall, but there is no money for its upkeep or maintenance.

A group of badminton players from Bloxham calling themselves the Bad Girls, headed up by original bad girl Carmen Guard (brought up in the Barn House in South Newington) is campaigning to win a £6,500 grant from M&S for a new

modern, efficient heating system. Over a hundred people from ages 3 to 83 use the hall in Bloxham every week including ballet, badminton, boys brigade and circuit training.

It takes just seconds to vote, and you don't have to register or sign anything, just click on their group. The web address is www.mandsenergyfund.com/ then you select the 'central' region and scroll down the page to find their group, Ellen Hinde Hall, and click on it to vote. Voting is open til Oct 20th.

If you would like to join a group in the Ellen Hinde Hall or set up a new one please contact Carmen Guard on 01295 720339 or you can leave on message on www.facebook.com/EllenHindeHall. Also see if you can spot the Bad Girls' guerrilla marketing campaign around Bloxham including yarn-bombing shuttle cocks!

Village Rounders

2016 and 2015 village rounders days were both rained off, so expecting the same again this year after days of rain, no plans were made to play this year. Then – surprise! – the forecast said it would be a lovely day.

So at the last minute a game was organised in Barbours Fields off Sands Lane and a great match was played. Two teams, final score 9 – 3, one pair of ripped trousers, numerous nettle stings and lots of fun.

To help with your planning, there is usually a village rounders match – no entry fee, bring your own picnic or refreshments - on August Bank Holiday Monday. If it's raining it's cancelled.

If you want to be on the winning team next year we suggest you pick Stefan from Sands House. Another tip, get as many members of the Brounger family on your side as possible. Also avoid facing fast bowler David Swan.

Many thanks to Julian for the use of his family's fields and for umpiring.

The copper beech tree in the church yard

It was with such sadness that we saw a huge branch had been torn from the copper beech tree in the church yard in the first week of July.

Julian Barbour believes the tree was between 140 – 170 years old, and was planted at the same time as huge old beech tree which used to be in the Old Vicarage garden, and came down a few years ago.

The tree in the church yard was planted right next the grave with the iron railings, so it seems likely that the trees were planted in memory of the departed.

The tree was inspected and deemed unsafe and had to be completely cut down. There are some still some logs left which villagers are welcome to take, in exchange for a donation to church funds, as the PCC decided to offer an honesty system for the logs to help cover costs.

If you have had any wood, or will take some soon, please your cheque payable to "South Newington PCC" and give it to the vicar Dale (new vicarage Bloxham, or can be found in church most Sunday mornings at about 11am), or any member of the PCC – Tim Catton, Barrets, Green Lane; Peter Hudson The Old Garth; Venetia Elliot, The Old Vicarage, or Andrew Wells Springfield House.

Village Yoga

The Davis family of Moore Lane have four lovely children. Claire often playing the violin or fiddle at village events, including at the Taize church service and the highly successful concert with a reunion of the Clarion band which took place in the barn behind College Farm in South Newington recently.

Liz is a fully qualified yoga instructor as well as a practising nurse, and apparently always wanted to give a yoga class on the Poleaxe (Just FYI, it's not Liz who organizes the village yoga group on Thursdays, that's Sue Robertson). So

finally Liz did run her yoga group, on the Sunday morning after the Flower Show. It was going to be in the marquee but it was such a beautiful day, it was held outside in the sunshine, and it was a very lovely, inspired and inspiring event.

Many thanks to Liz for hosting such a special occasion.

A note about the Harvest Supper this year.

Last year the menfolk kindly organised it all, and what a fabulous, fun night that was. This year the ladies have been too busy to even ask the men folk if they will do it again this year. We have high hopes to get our act together by September 2018.

There is a however a special Thanksgiving service in the church on Sunday 24th September when, as well as giving thanks for the harvest safely in, we also want to thank all the people in the village who have done, and continue to do so much for the church. This includes Vince who winds the church clock and Jean Tarver who organises the Flower Rota. There are lots of other people who contribute to the church and the village community in other ways so we don't want to cause offence by singling out anyone and missing out others, so please do let the PCC know any names it should be aware of.

Nicky Smith

49 Club

If you would like to join the village 49 Club then please get in touch! For just £1 a week you have a chance of winning either £20 or £35 (in first week of each month) while contributing towards the insurance for our village church. Unusually, this quarter we had the same winner for two consecutive weeks (Dawn Hodson) – it could be you next time!

Paula Staples

01295 721104

Winners for the last quarter:

	Date	Amount	Number	Name
1	03rd June	£35	48	Michael Maskey
2	10th June	£20	02	Carole Brierley
3	17th June	£20	42	Mary Adams
4	24th June	£20	24	Nicky Catton
5	1st July	£35	06	Terence Harper
6	8th July	£20	25	Debbie Gale
7	15th July	£20	23	Dawn Hodson
8	22nd July	£20	23	Dawn Hodson
9	29th July	£20	36	Bruno Brown
10	05th Aug	£35	27	Christine Dobbin
11	12th Aug	£20	17	Lin Brecknell
12	19th Aug	£20	03	Andrew Wells
13	26th Aug	£20	58	*Rollover*
14	02 Sep	£35 +£20	08	Harden family

Church Illumination

The church floodlighting has been repaired. There is an opportunity for anyone to sponsor the illumination to celebrate a birthday, wedding or anniversary or to remember a loved one. A donation of £10 will light the church for a week.

Please let me have your dedications before 1st of each month. Each month's dedications will be displayed on the noticeboard, the website and will be circulated to the village email list.

You can pay by bank transfer to Sort Code 40 09 02, Account Number 31812556 or in cash to Gill Brounger (Newton Cottage, Green Lane).

Thank you to those who have kindly made dedications in the last quarter.

Paula Staples

South Newington Flower and Produce Show

Once again, the second Saturday in August saw villagers gathering on The Poleaxe to view the exhibits in the marquee, visit the stalls and enjoy the finest afternoon tea - all in glorious sunshine. It was also lovely to see some former villagers in attendance (John & Magi Gardener, Debbie Gale and Ian & Pam Jordan). On behalf of the Flower Show Committee I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who worked hard to make sure the was a success. There would be no show without Advertisers, Sign-writers and Erectors, Exhibitors, Bakers, Judges & Hosts, Stallholders, Announcers, Auctioneers, Attendees, those who donated items and those who helped with the set up or take down. Thank you also to those who shared their Art or their Schooldays! Finally. a sincere thank you to Joyce Aydon who opened the show, judged the Children's Fancy Dress, presented the cups and the raffle prizes. One attendee declared the event to be 'South Newington at its best'.

We are planning a new stall for next year of South Newington produce. Maybe you like making jam or chutney and could use some of the bountiful autumn produce to make a few extra jars for the stall next year?

The Committee meet in Jan to prepare and plan the next show which will be on 11th August 2018. We look forward to seeing you there!

The Committee

Oxfordshire County Council: Waste Disposal Charges

Oxfordshire County Council's DIY 1,2,3 for free scheme is changing

The current scheme which has been running at their Household Waste Recycling Centres for 15 years allowed residents to deposit up to three non-household or DIY waste items for free before being charged a small fee of £1 for each additional item.

Non-Household and DIY waste includes such items as plasterboard, ceramic sinks and toilets, building materials, scrap timber etc, 25Kg hardcore sacks and the like.

From the 1st October 2017 this changes to a small fixed fee per item of £1.50 for most non-household or DIY items. Residents can still deposit household waste for free at their local Household Waste Recycling Centre.

More detailed information about the changes can be found online at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/chargeablewaste

(Any bets on an increase in fly tipping? Editor)

South Newington Weather Report.

Summer 2017 has been typically 'English' in South Newington, and many of us would not wish it to be any different. We had a few hot days, the hottest being the 30.7C on 21st June, followed by 30.1C on 19th June and a lot of days with the temperature comfortably in the 20's. The average temperatures for the three months brings July warmest at 22.0C, June next with 21.2C and August trailing at 20.4C. There have also been one or two cold days when daytime temperatures only reached 14.6C on 28th June and 14.4 on 8th August and no frosts apart from three very small ones on the grass thermometer. I found one reference in the daily press during the three months that South Newington was the coldest place in Great Britain on the night of 25th Aug with a temperature of 6.0C.

We have remained a dry area in the British Isles, when a great many areas are talking about a wet summer this year. All three months have recorded rainfall quite a bit below our average monthly which is about 65mm. June recorded 39.7mm, July 56.5mm and August the wettest at 58.7mm. The River Swere has had negative readings of the whole summer being about -2 on the scale on 1st June and -8 on the scale at the time of writing. That of course reflects the low rainfall and dry spring which left the soil very dry to absorb what rain we did get. Unfortunately the lawn has started to grow again now!!

Things have changed this month with the Weather Station itself. Our local Manager visited the site on 17th August to check instruments and make any needed alterations to equipment and removed all the thermometers that worked with mercury. The Met Office are removing all mercury from their sites because of difficulties with disposal nowadays. My days of readings every morning at 9 o'clock have really gone now, and the Station itself will continue with sensors for all the readings being regularly sent to the Met Office by telephone. I obtain a monthly statement of all these details and figures from them which will enable me to continue to write these notes for the Newsletter.

Autumn is upon us – my favourite time of the year, and I hope there are many enjoyable days to come. I will be back in December.

John Britton

A View Into The Past.

I think I was lucky to come across the stories by Anthony Prescott, about rural life in our village in the early 50's. I found them while looking for something else in a 'corner' of the internet that I hadn't come across before. Anthony has kindly allowed me to publish them and I hope that for those who remember those years that they are a welcome reminder of simpler but harder times. For the younger audience, they are a window to an age before most houses had any kind of TV or telephone, when children were allowed to take risks, learn from experience (sometimes painful!) and before 'stranger danger' became a dark shadow in a child's mind. Better days? I leave you to judge, but certainly enriched by an understanding of the natural seasons and the rhythms of life.

Editor.

Hay Making.



Photo Courtesy "Otterman"

My Mother Florence, "Florrie" Prescott, standing by the finished hay rick.

Have you ever smelt newly mown Hay? I doubt it!
Not hay that that had not been touched with a drop of anything from a can with skull and cross bones on, or been liberally salted with small white and grey pellets of artificial fertiliser. This hay in 1952-3 was full of natural herbs and grasses, red and white clover several types of vetches, coltsfoot, meadow sweet, a few buttercups daisies and dead and stinging nettles and a few spray docks that had got back in after pulling (One job keeping the

grass sweet was to have a session pulling the unwanted docks as they grew.) The only fertiliser used was from the cows that grazed the pasture.

About the end of May beginning of June the crop was ready to mow, the old Bamford mower was readied for the cut, this entailed removing and sharpening the knife with a sharp file in the vice on the bench in the tractor shed, each section being filed at a time, if any sections were loose they had to be re-riveted and sections that were broken removed and replaced with new ones. The fingers were straightened and set and all rust removed, the knife was then refitted and the wooden connecting rod checked for cracks, the nuts and bolts tightened, it was then greased up and old sump oil poured over the beam (the bar the knife and fingers was attached too). The swarf board was usually replaced with a new one, as it always got broken the year before reversing in a heavy crop. We then sharpened the spare knife and prayed for fine weather the next morning.

Yes the weather was set fair and the early sun had lifted the dew early, and the larks were singing in the bright blue sky above, with only a few billowing white clouds slowly passing by. The crop looked good and as soon as the problem of mowing the long wet hadland (headland) grass had been accomplished, with the need to run very slowly which did not suit the trailed mower as this set the speed for the knife, as power came from the turning wheels, this caused the knife to block and the only way was to, lift the beam reverse the mower a good distance back, get of the tractor and pull the stubborn jammed grass and docks from the knife. Then hope enough room for speed was built up to start back into the uncut grass again.

Once this first cut around the field was achieved, the problem usually got better as the sun had dried the moisture from the grass away from the hedgerow. The back swarf was always the worked offender. (The back swarf was the first swarf cut around the field cut in the opposite direction to the rest of the crop, you then had to cut the next swarf over which you had driven with the tractor the previous way.) The old Standard Fordson N was low to the ground and so caused problems with its sump dragging up hay that had been cut. But by the time the hadland had been mown as I say the strong warm sun had dried the main crop out, and so you could usually run around the field quite sweetly with not that many stops to unblock the knife again, the grass falling from the beam and swarf board into neat rows, and already starting to smell sweet. By the time the centre of the field was reached, a couple of grazing rabbits would run out of the last uncut crop, but fortunately for them Peter had left his four-ten shotgun at home. By two thirty the crop was down and time to go to the farmhouse for some dinner.
(To be Continued)

