SOUTH NEWINGTON NEWSLETTER



SUMMER 2017

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Parish Council News

Over the last Bank Holiday weekend, the Village was blessed with good weather for the gardens that were opened in aid of the Katherine House Hospice, which resulted in a good turnout of visitors. Thanks to all those who took part, including the villagers who made cakes and served teas in the Village Hall. An excellent total of over £1,700 was raised over the two days that the event took place. A lot of visitors commented on how peaceful the village was and that they had never visited us before, despite driving through on the A361.

The Cherwell District Council have set up a Scrutiny Committee to look at the A361. Hugo Brown, a District Councillor, is on this Committee and has taken a keen interest in representing the views of the village, particularly in connection with the issues surrounding the A361. Hugo suffered a nasty skiing accident so we wish him a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing him again at our Parish meetings. Thanks to David Swan for giving us a presentation on the A361 at the Annual Village Meeting.

At this time of year the vegetation is growing apace and quite a few hedges and bushes are spreading themselves over pavements and verges. Please check your own gardens and cut back your foliage so that pedestrians and vehicles have a clear view, when travelling around and through the village.

Peter Thomas, Chairman.

St Peter ad Vincula. Church Illuminations

The external lighting for the church has now been repaired. There is an opportunity for anyone to sponsor the illumination of the church 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 by 1st of each month**. Each month's dedications will be displayed on the noticeboard and 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.

We have two dedications for June 2017:

Remembering all those in the Manchester tragedy who lost their lives or whose lives were affected – from the Maddock family.

In loving memory of Arthur Staples, born 11 June 1921 – donation from Tessa and Paula

South Newington Spring Weather – March, April, May 2017

'Spring is sprung and the grass is ris – I wonder where the birdies is'. Someone commented to me that there seemed to be a shortage of little birds this spring, and I tend to agree. We certainly have less in the garden. We do have a beautiful blackbird who regales us with lovely birdsong night and morning generally perched on the end of Millstream Farmhouse roof.Enough of the chat though –

what of the weather. A warmer spring than last year, and a much drier one. Let us start with rainfall. The following chart sets it out:

Mm	March	April	May	Total
2016 Rainfall	94.0	72.2	48.8	215
2017 Rainfall	55.1	8.8	60.4	124

The river height during the three months has been lower than usual and many of the spring crops as well as the grass have suffered. The wettest day was 17th May, a Wednesday which many will remember, perhaps. 17.8mm fell and all except 0.2mm fell in daylight hours. One other wet day was 3rd March with 11.8mm but apart from that very small amounts.

Because of the overall warmth of the three months, it is expected that the warmest day would be in May, and it was, with 26.3C on 26th. Surprisingly perhaps May produced the coldest night also, with -3.3C on 10th, and this was the one that took the blossom off my walnut trees by the river, and quite a few early potatoes suffered. A few days later we had the warmest night at 14.2C on 17th May. The deep soil thermometer one metre down is very slow to move, but that confirms the trend with 13.0C this year and 12.6C in 2016.

Average Temp C		Mar	Apr	May
2016	Max	9.4	12.2	17.3
	Min	0.3	1.9	6.3
2017	Max	12.8	14.2	17.8
	Min	3.8	1.9	7.1

The Daily Mail listed us as the coldest place in the UK on 17th March, and I received a few usual comments … are the pipes frozen? How deep is the snow? Etc.

I had a visit from the Met Office Regional Engineers based on Salisbury Plain on 18th April to fix the sensor on the concrete slab which records temperatures on concrete as against those recorded in the air, and in the grass. A malfunction showed up on their records, which I would never see. There was a rumble or two of thunder on 27th May but most of the rain from that storm went to Banbury.

I hope some of these notes are of interest, and that we shall move on to summer that suits everyone!! Fine day for the Flower Show!

John Britton

49 Club

Thank you to everyone who is continuing in the 49 Club for the second quarter (Jun -Aug). There are still spaces available so please contact me if you wish to join (£1 a week/£13 per quarter). The lucky winners in the last quarter were:

	Date	Amount	Number	Name
1	Mar 4th	£35	21	Jenny Rudnay
2	Mar 11th	£20	46	Bridget Read
3	Mar 18th	£20	43	Peter Thomas
4	Mar 25th	£20	28	Darron Maddock
5	Apr 1st	£35	14	Pam Bailey
6	Apr 8th	£20	21	Jenny Rudnay
7	Apr15th	£20	48	Michael Maskey
8	Apr22nd	£20	24	Nicky Catton
9	Apr 29th	£20	07	Keith Lobban
10	May 6th	£35	30	Bill Burles
11	May 13th	£20	52	Penny Carey
12	May 20th	£20	16	Jim Honeybone
13	May 27th	£20	33	Michael Pritchard

Paula Staples (01295 721104 or paula.staples@yahoo.co.uk)

Village E-mails and Neighbourhood Watch Alerts

It occurs to me that the splendid service provided by the village email service and the distribution of Neighbourhood Alerts (thanks to Darron Maddock) will not reach all the houses in the village for two reasons. One is that you may not have added your name to the email list and the other is that there are a number of villagers who do not have email. So please will anyone who receives an email notice or Neighbourhood Watch Alert take a moment to think whether your neighbours need to know about its contents. Thank You.

Editor

Welcome: To John Oxenham and Samantha Frewin the new occupants of Throstle Cottage. John and Samantha are seeking suitable garage/shed/barn space to rent for his motorbike. Please contact them at Throstle Cottage

South Newington Flower and Produce Show

I hope that by now you have all had a chance to look at the colourful Flower Show schedules that arrived through your letterbox. Additional copies are available near the noticeboard outside the church. Our thanks to Angela Burns who designed our lovely new cover.

Time is ticking away until Aug 12th – the day of the South Newington Flower and Produce Show – so plan your entries now! The schedule contains information about all the classes and how you can enter by email or in person. Don't forget that this year we will be staging two events in the church – a display by the Art Group and one on 'Childhood and School Days'.

We would love you to come along on Friday 11th to add your school photos, scarves, badges or even your school report to the display. Rumour has it that one person in the village has school photos that include Kate Bush!

Just before the Show we will be calling around to ask for your donations of bottles, books and bric a brac. We have some lovely raffle prizes this year and tickets are on sale already. We are also asking for all you lovely bakers who did such wonders for Open Gardens to kindly do another round of baking for the Tea Tent/Cake Stall.

Finally, a plea; in order for us to continue to make the event a success – can you lend a hand with the set up on Friday/Saturday morning? Or help during the Show by helping to run a stall for an hour or so? Or maybe come along after the Show to support takedown? Please let your favourite committee member know (listed on page 23 of the Schedule). 'Full training' will be given and we do really need some help so we would love to hear from you.

We look forward to a sunny and successful Show!

Paula Staples

Tap Water Into South Newington. (Starring the boys from the Emerald Isle.)

Kottler and Heron, was the name of the company that supplied our mains water through South Newington, well they did eventually, and it was a long job.

I can remember asking Norman Stevens, the Stevens boy's father at the Post Office one day, when I was there to collect Peter and Fred's cigarettes, and picking-up Hubert's pension in the brown envelope with the elastic band around it that I always took. "What are the big heaps of black cast iron pipes with Stanton stamped on them in white paint for, up on South Newington hill, where the army convoy with the tanks and armoured cars had parked for a couple of days the previous week" . Norman told me that they were for the new mains water that we were getting in the village that would do-a-way with the need for us to pump water from our wells. Old Reg Stevens, the boys gramp, was always pumping water from their well in the paddock of his, alongside "Tink A Tank" path, to fill old baths and troughs for his collection of pigs geese, hens, and calves, well, a menagerie really.

On the following Monday morning, well nearly dinnertime as we called it, it was only the "Poshies"(Gentry) in the village that called it lunch. (Spot of lunch what, they used to say); Anyway, a raggedy bunch of Irish men arrived in two old red Brook Bond tea vans. The men black with the dirt from their work, and a strong coating of mud on their boots, were seen calling around the village, at the farms, and from house to house, asking to see if there was anywhere they could lodge for the next few weeks, (six months or so it eventually took). Most of them ended up lodging at the Wykham Arms as I can remember, which was convenient for them, and the pub's profits.

(Photo Courtesy Trojan owners club.)



Tuesday morning came and they set to work digging the first trench, up by Milcombe turn, where the pipe crossed the road. It was hard going, with the ironstone, and it took them nearly two months with pick and shovel, to dig the trench, and lay the cast iron main down the hill to near the bridge over the River Swere, this is where the work really began.

The men then had to start using a huge Holman compressor to run the pneumatic drills to break through the tarmacadam surface and ironstone underneath, but shovels and picks still played their part and were used to finish the trench off. Each length of pipe was slotted together, and then a moulding clamp fitted around it, and then the joint was sealed with molten lead, this was heated in a large crucible over a makeshift fire in an old five gallon drum, until it became liquid. A last task before nightfall for a couple of the men, was to set up, and fill the square red paraffin fuelled warning lamps, and then go around lighting then with large spills, made out of rolled up newspaper. and by the way the men kept working most nights until it was too dark to see to work.

By the evening the men had earned their meal and pints down at the pub. The men each had their own individual character and got to be well liked around the village, as they were giving us running water from a tap, something we had never had before. Coincidentally the man that was fitting the piping and taps to most of houses was the landlord of the Wykham Arms, Tom Fisher, a plumber by trade. As the men progressed through the village they were kept alive with sandwiches, cakes, and cups of tea from the woman of the houses nearest to where they were working, and even from some from farther afield.

The Irish men worked blessed hard, from seven in the morning, till dusk each day, and were happy in their work most of the time, passers-by would get bursts of jovial banter from them, or be entertained by the boys singing Irish songs or doing a jig. Even when Mick, or was it Paddy, broke his arm jump starting the trench soil compactor, that had to be bounced into life until it fired and started, he still kept working swinging a pick with one hand, and up to his knees in mud in the trench.
The volume of traffic, or lack of it then, seemed to manage well with this disruption to their journey and often stopped to chat to the chap that was holding the wooden stop and go board, at their end.
Having this tap water did make a vast difference, to our life and we could now have two baths a week, in the old tin bath by the fire. It had just taken too long to prime and pump the water from the well in-the front garden in the middle of winter. So thank you Kottler & Heron and Mick, Michael, Paddy, and Sean. for your efforts making our lives better

Thanks to Anthony Prescott for permission to reprint this article which first appeared in 'The Otter'

Newsletter Printing and Distribution

Now that the Newsletter is published on the South Newington website I wonder how many of the houses in the village still want or need a printed copy delivered. Paula and I are happy to distribute if there is still a need and obviously for those without internet access, a paper copy through the letterbox is the only way to reach some villagers. Is it time to save some paper, some print costs and simplify distribution a little? Please let me know your views by email at abba1131@gmail.com or by phone 01295 721104.

Waste Bins

I've been asked to remind people that bins left out all week don't just look a bit untidy. They can give the impression that the property is unoccupied and attract unwanted intruders.

Dog Walking and The Question of Trinity.

What do our spaniel, Pentecost and the Rublev Icon have in common?
A disturbing wind and a spirited circularity of motion.
And the fact that Max (the spaniel) and I are standing in the early morning, gazing up the nave of the village church towards the altar where a benign ray of sunshine steeples in through the east window, silhouetting the cross, firmly rooted in its altar mount, while a breeze skitters through the leaves of trees mistily visible through the leaded lights behind.
Looking from one to the other, hearing each speak to the other, re-enacts the beauty of the famous fifteenth-century Rublev icon which depicts the Trinity, a work of art I came across on the Camino course down at St. James's, Piccadilly. The three angels who visit Abraham in Genesis 18, sit in silent communion around a table bearing a gold cup with a calf's head in it. They are generally believed to represent the Christian Trinity of one God in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, but their androgynous faces defy gender, and their positions in a circle deny hierarchy. Indeed, you don't look from one to another in separation; the three figures interconnect in strange and interesting ways, as if to fill in the gaps, and the cup seems to be variously blessed and shared between them.

So it is for me and Max as we watch the silent play of light over the compass points of the cross against the ripple of leaves: the perfect staging of the threefold experience that balances mind, body and soul.
Is there room in this perfect circle for the spectator, looking up, down or beyond?
All you can say is that, in the 7 o'clock light of another South Newington summer's day, circulating energy like a spaniel's tail, it's easy to empty the self in the very centre of that communion. You can more truly look and more simply be: 'Trinity' as verb rather than noun.
So as we move from "Pentecost" to "Trinity", and into that long summer of what in the church calendar is known as 'Ordinary Time', go figure: go 'trinity'. But mind you stay upwind of the spaniel.
Tim Brierley


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