SOUTH NEWINGTON NEWSLETTER



SPRING 2018

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Parish Council News

The cold weather this winter has done nothing to help the state of our roads in the village. A few potholes have been repaired but, as many have been ignored, despite the fact that they have been reported online. The Parish Council will be contacting Oxfordshire County Council to request that the worst parts should be re-laid using some of the million pounds that has been allocated by central government recently.

We are obtaining a quote for further tidying up of the overgrown shrubs and trees on the Poleaxe and have applied for consent to take down a Blackthorn tree because of its nasty long thorns. We will consider replacing the tree with a decorative tree, such as a winter flowering cherry.

The Parish Council are purchasing a fixed secure 'mobile phone' for the defibrillator. On this phone a button can be pressed which will connect via any available network to a 999 responder. We had to wait until BT reassured us that the phone box was not going to be replaced as previously advised. I hope that we don't have to use it however!

Peter Thomas,
Chairman.

Welcome to the Village

A warm welcome to the village to Nick Dunkley-Green and his wife Emma and children Taylor, Brooke and Charlee who have moved into 5 Barford Rd. And also to Hugh and Diana McIllveny in The New Coach House, Sands Lane.

Church floodlighting

Further to the note in the Autumn edition about sponsorship of the church floodlighting, it gives me great pleasure to record that this project was initiated in early 2015 by the Fabric Sub-committee of the parochial Church council. We, Michael Pritchard, John Gardner, Penny Carey and I, wanted to emulate the success of the Bloxham system. Our floodlighting had been neglected for some years, with our emphasis on the Doom painting restoration and the other major projects undertaken from 2011 through 2016. Thanks are due firstly to John Gardner and also to Alan Briggs for overseeing on behalf of the PCC, the electrical works involved both inside and outside the church.

This was a project close to my heart as for many years up to 2007, after we had moved to the village in 2001, I had to resume work as Finance Director of a bookselling company in Surrey. It was only when I drove down the High Street on a Friday evening after a week away and saw the beauty of our lovely church so brilliantly illuminated that I felt at home again.

Huge thanks to all, and to Paula Staples for having organised the sponsorship collection. Maybe we could now have the names of those sponsors and the reasons for the importance of the dates included in the Benefice Weekly sheet, alongside those of the Bloxham illumination sponsors.

Andrew Wells

49 Club

The 49 Club year closes at the end of February and in March we start another year.
Thank you all for your support in the past year. Whatever your luck in the last year, I do hope that you will want to participate in the new year. As you know. your contributions go toward paying for the church insurance, as well as covering the prize money. I'd like to thank Darron Maddock who kindly publishes the Club results each week on the South Newington website.

Here are the 49 Club winners for the final quarter in the current year.

	Date	Amount	Number	Name
1	02nd Dec	£35	52	Penny Carey
2	09th Dec	£20	19	Dee & Ron O'Connor
3	16th Dec	£20	14	Pam Bailey
4	23rd Dec	£20	41	Peter and Jane Perry
5	30th Dec	£20	34	Anne Edwards
6	6th Jan	£35	50	Lilian Clifton
7	13th Jan	£20	05	John Hadley
8	20th Jan	£20	47	Alan Briggs
9	27th Jan	£20	16	Jim Honeybone
10	03rd Feb	£35	38	Whittle family
11	10th Feb	£20	13	Peter Hudson
12	17th Feb	£20	56	*Rollover*
13	24th Feb	£20+£20	07	Keith Lobban

South Newington 49 Club - Mar 2018-Feb 2019 Assigned Numbers

1	Jenny Smith	19	Judith Denby	36	Peter Hudson
2	Linda Curtis	20	Mike Fenner	37	John Britton
3	Gordon Hands	21	Terence Harper	38	Harden family
4	Margaret Forster	22	Bruno Brown	39	Boucher Briggs
5	Andrew Wells	23	Britta Horsthemke	40	Darron Maddock
6	Stephen Anderson	24	Peter & Jane Perry	41	Dawn Hodson
7	John Hadley	25	Dorothy Hands	42	Debbie Gale
8	Carmen Guard	26	Alan Briggs	43	Dee & Ron O'Connor
9	Lin Brecknell	27	John Braithwaite	44	Frank Davis
10	Keith Lobban	28	Peter Thomas	45	Dale Gingrich
11	Michael Pritchard	29	Carole Brierley	46	Christine Dobbin
12	Mary Adams	30	Lilian Clifton	47	Sue Robertson
13	Pat Ebdon	31	Jim & Jean Honeybone	48	Swan family
14	Jenny Rudnay	32	Pam Bailey	49	Julian Barbour
15	Bill Burles	33	Bridget Read	50	Michael Maskey
16	Nicola Catton	34	Gill Brounger	51	Colin Galloway
17	Lois Atkinson	35	Anne Edwards	52	Peter Read
18	Penny Carey				

Paula Staples

Julius Rudnay

Thank you so much for your kind thoughts which have been such a comfort to my family and me at this sad time. Julius had much respect and admiration for the village and its various activities, and for those of you who did not know him well, I thought this might be of interest -

He spent his childhood in Budapest, and followed his father's respected profession of Architecture, studying at the University there. Because his degree, unlike those in the UK, incorporated both Architecture and Structural Engineering, he was invited to the UK by Ove Arup Civil Engineers to join their London office, and soon was offered British Nationality. At Building Design Partnership, he was appointed one of the first Project Architects to be involved in the rejuvenation of London Docklands, and after many years of architectural design, he decided to specialise in litigation as an Expert Witness, which had always interested him.

He was resolutely and unwaveringly loyal to the UK and its principles of freedom and justice, and was adamant that my performance to raise funds for a Charity, which so many of you with the encouragement of Gill Brounger supported so generously, should be in aid of Help for Heroes. It was a Charity close to his heart.

Julius had an extensive knowledge of science, music and the arts, and an intellectual grasp and tenacity on which one could totally rely. He not only offered his expertise, including work to the Village Hall to reinforce its structure, but he also contributed substantially to other fundraising within the village for which, in his quiet and understated way, he required no public recognition.

Thank you for your kind and thoughtful messages which are much appreciated.

Jenny Rudnay

Flower and Produce Show

We are off to a bracing start to Spring this year, to put it mildly, and all I can say is.... it can only get better!

This is however a great time to plan what you want to sow for the year ahead, and which flowers and/or vegetables will win you that coveted trophy at the Flower Show. Once the weather turns a bit warmer there will be a sowing frenzy.

This is then also a good opportunity to give you our new entries policy for this year's Show, as last year we had a few people approach us with late, late entries which we unfortunately had to turn away, but this year we have decided to add a 24 hour late entries slot so that, should you be swept away by the excitement of the competition, or the unrivalled last minute beauty of your Dahlia, you can still take part in the Show. Hurrah!

Once the Schedule is out we will open ONLINE entries (April). Entries night will be on Wednesday 8th August from 6 - 8 pm in the Village Hall.
Then from 8pm on that Wednesday evening until 8pm on Thursday 9th August you can enter any shows toppers ONLINE at £1.00 per entry! Your last chance to wow the crowds.

I hope that you are all excitedly planning your exhibits and what to grow to elicit some gasps of admiration. Exciting times!
Have fun and enjoy it.

Britta Horsthemke

PS If you are able to help us this year by baking cakes, running a stall, collecting bottles, taking an hour on the admission gate, would love to hear from you.

QUIZ NIGHT AT THE VILLAGE HALL



Following the successful Fish and Chip Quiz night at the Village Hall in November, another quiz night is planned for Saturday 28th April 2018. This time the quiz will have an Italian Theme with a Pizza Supper.

We believe the winning team from last time are ready to take up the challenge again, so now is the time to get together with friends and family and think about making up a team to take part in this fun event.

Look out for more details coming soon by flyer though your letterbox and on the notice board by the Church. We hope to see you there.

The Quiz Team

FLOWER ARRANGING CLASS

Would you like to learn how to flower arrange?
Your name could be engraved on one of he Flower Show Cups in August!
Would you like to help arrange flowers in the Church?

I have found a Florist who is happy to teach flower arranging.
All ages welcome and please do not feel this is for ladies only!

Please let me know if you would be interested in joining a class in the village hall.
I will then do my best to organise a class that suits you all.
Thank you
Jean Tarver
etandjt@btinternet.com

Candle-lit Circle Dancing in the Village Hall

Dance Leader: Rachel Arthur
Organiser: Stella Darke
Every fourth Wednesday in the month
7.30 – 9.00pm Fee £5

Next session March 28th

Do come and join us for these delightful evenings of gentle exercise, beautiful music from all over the world and a relaxed friendly atmosphere. We hold hands in a circle and all the dances are taught at every session. No such thing as mistakes, only variations. No need to bring a partner, just a willingness to have a go and some comfortable soft footwear.

Our wonderful and joyous village choir…….
AKA the South Newington Occasional Singers
Now just over 2 years old, the choir has 30 members and a regular attendance of over 20 enjoying the weekly Saturday mornings sessions in the village hall. Sadly, this term, we have been without Nicky, our founder and leader, who has been absent for personal reasons. We have really missed her (especially in the alto section!) and now realise just quite how much work she puts in to keep us so well organised.

Stuart, our incredibly professional and very patient, musical director, has kept us hard at work preparing for a concert in the village church and the Chipping Norton Music Festival. We sang there last year and received a 'Commended' award so are very much hoping to, at least, reach that standard again. It's not a competition, more of an opportunity to sing, which is what we all enjoy so much, also to hear a wide variety of other local choirs.

Last December, we had planned to sing in the church before the village Christmas Tree lighting but the unexpected heavy snowfall made it impossible for most choir members to even get to the village and sadly we had to abandon. We could hardly believe it when the 'Beast from the East' threatened our planned concert this time as well but fortunately the thaw started just in time and the concert went ahead. However, the temperature was still very low (possibly warmer outside the church than in!) and so we were delighted to sing for an audience of over 50 villagers, family and friends who so kindly came to hear us and then made some very positive comments afterwards. The event raised £320 from the generous donations to the retiring collection which will will be split equally between the church and Help Refugees, a charity being supported in the church throughout lent.

SNOS is for anyone who loves to sing, no need to be able to read music, certainly no auditions and no need to live in South Newington, so if you have any interest in singing or know anyone who might like to join us do please contact Nicky Smith on 01295 720228.

Thank you so much for your support.

Elizabeth Wheeldon

Village Hall News, Retirements, a Legacy and Improvements

The whole village owes a great debt of gratitude to Joyce Aydon who retired from her role as Chair of the Village Hall Committee at the AGM on the 5th of March after 42 years of service on the committee and 23 as chair!! Joyce was first involved with the Hall in 1971 when she ran the playgroup and since then helped bring the village together in many fundraising activities. She has been absolutely indefatigable in her commitment to seeing that our delightful village hall was funded, cared for and kept in good repair - and all this with her special brand of humour and kindness. She has conducted affairs with great efficiency, diplomacy and balanced judgement.

We are also extremely grateful to Jean Tarver who has been a highly valued Secretary for the last 9 years and also retired at the AGM. Together Joyce and Jean made a great team for many years hosting teas to raise funds, not only for the Hall but for Katharine House and Open Gardens.

The Committee and Trustees hosted a very jolly celebratory tea and cakes party with Prosecco and bouquets at Lime Farm Tearoom to show our appreciation of Joyce and Jean. They will be very much missed although we are thankful that Joyce will continue to be a church organist and that Jean will continue arranging flowers for our church. Happily Joyce is willing to be consultant on the chairmanship and Jean is still happy to help out if needed.

Some of you may be aware that very sadly Julius Rudnay passed away recently. He was one of the first Project Architects in London Docklands and was well-qualified and happy to offer his invaluable expertise when the reinforcement of the Village Hall structure was undertaken several years ago. Thanks to his interest in the Hall and his generosity he has left a small legacy to be used exclusively for the maintenance of the structure of the Village Hall, for which the Committee and Trustees are most grateful.

The new Chair of the Committee is Stella Darke who lives at Chapel House and the new secretary is Pam Bailey who lives at Turnpike Cottage. They have both lived in the village since 1973 and over the years have been variously involved in activities for the village.

We need your ideas and thoughts about

YOUR VILLAGE HALL

Does it serve your needs?
Could it provide a space for your meetings networking, family, fun, something else ?

The Village Hall Committee is thinking about the potential that our beautiful historic Hall has for extending communal activities in new ways.

The Hall is underused. It may be that this is mainly for lack of individuals with the time and inclination to organise events, or perhaps everyone is too busy with their lives outside the village. If, however, you have ideas about what you would like to be happening in your village, there may be ways in which we could help by adapting the Hall to your needs.

Possible new or changed uses of the Hall might include:

- **A Film Society, for which the Hall would provide an ideal venue.**
- **It may be possible to turn the existing gallery into a separately accessed, comfortably furnished meeting room for small social gatherings**
- **Billiard and table tennis sessions/tournaments, (excellent bad weather fun) – tables available in our store**
- **Music practice room , (jam sessions) – the hall has excellent acoustics**

And if there was sufficient interest it could justify improvement of kitchen and toilet facilities as well as increased storage.

These examples are just to get you started! Do have a think about what you would really like to have in your Village Hall, whether you would be willing to give time to it and then lets think about how we could make it happen.

Please send your thoughts to me before the end of March by email darkestella@gmail.com
or put your thoughts on paper and put them through my door Chapel House, High St, South Newington, OX15 4JN

Thank you,
Stella Darke,
(Chair of the Village Hall Committee)

South Newington Winter Weather

Last year at this time I commented on the weather being almost 'spring-like' but that March could always find a few surprises. In meteorological terms the 1st March is the first day of Spring and this year perhaps the surprise was early in the month in the form of two intense weather systems. The 'Beast from the East' and storm 'Emma' coming together over the British Isles in the last 3 days of February. South Newington was on the south of the 'Beast' and the north of 'Emma' so we did not suffer as badly as some parts of the country. I'm sure that the extremely cold conditions from the 'Beast' providing two days when the temperature failed to rise above 0.0C will not be quickly forgotten. The strong wind was the culprit.

Overall the winter months were wetter than last year with 202.8mm of rain compared to 154.9 last year. This was totally due to December with 101.9mm, more than three times as much as last year. February has been a dry spell, well below average at only 27.4mm of rainfall. Prior to the recent snowfall the R Swere was well down, reaching 9 on the scale which is low for this time of year.

Average temperatures for the 3 months show that February was considerably colder than last year.

	2017		2018	
	Days	**Nights**	**Days**	**Nights**
December	9.0	0.0	7.6	0.9
January	6.7	-0.6	8.5	1.5
February	8.8	2.5	5.9	-1.8

Our coldest night was -8.6C on the 12th December, closely followed by -8.1 on the 28th February. We made the national press twice as the coldest spot in the British Isles on February 6th and 23rd. We had snow on the 10th December, a few flurries at times then more at the end of February. December was the windy month with gales from storms 'Emma' and 'Fionn' in the middle of the month followed by 'Georgina' toward the end of the month. All gave us winds greater than gale speed.

At the time of writing we are warming up slowly and heading for the lovely spring weather which I am sure will come soon, but March may yet surprise us.

John Britton 3rd March 2018