SOUTH NEWINGTON NEWSLETTER



Olivia Brecknell, granddaughter of Lin and Amba Brecknell

SPRING / SUMMER 2019

Editor: Nicky Smith, SouthNewingtonNewsletter@gmail.com

Parish Council News

In the last newsletter I mentioned that I was due to meet the Project Manager from the A361 Safety Improvement Scheme. On 16th January I met with the Communities' Officer and our County Councillor, George Reynolds.

We discussed the access to the A361 from the Slibber and the access to the Barford Road when travelling north from the Chipping Norton direction.

With regard to the Slibber/A361 junction, I asked the Project Manager to cut back the vegetation on the corner going around to the bridge over the river Swere, widen the carriageway by one metre on the church side of the corner and remove vegetation west of the Slibber on the A361 bank. With regard to the Barford Road junction, I have requested that the signs be renewed and vegetation cut back on the western side of the A361 from the junction up to the 30mph sign.

I have yet to hear a formal decision as to the outcome but I have recently written to the Project Manager to request an update.

In addition I mentioned in the last newsletter that the Highways Department was going to look down the drains in the Barford Road and the High Street using fibre optics. I have not yet heard whether this has been carried out, despite many attempts to speak to the Drainage Officer but I will persevere!

At the last Parish Council meeting it was agreed to improve the Poleaxe by renewing the borders, beds and hedges, together with cleaning off the moss from the cushion mats under the play equipment. We also intend to put in a disabled access ramp for the main gates and install a handrail on the steps up to the Poleaxe and Green Lane. We also want to renovate the seats and the table and repaint the gates. We intend to finance this through grants from Landfill Tax and from the County Councillor's fund.

I will keep you informed of progress and would be happy to discuss the project with anyone.
The next Annual Parish Meeting will take place on 16th April at 7.30pm.

Peter Thomas,
Chairman.

**Other parish council members are Sarah Wilson-Medhurst (Vice-Chair,) Vanessa Doyle and Christine Coles (Parish Clerk)*

Church News

The list of services in South Newington for Easter are listed below. Everyone welcome.

Holy Week and Easter Services

14th April – Palm Sunday 11.15am Procession with Palms & Holy Communion South Newington
16th April – 8.00pm Simple Said Holy Communion South Newington
21st April – 11.15am Easter Holy Communion South Newington
28th April – 12 noon South Newington Annual Parochial Church Meeting following Morning Family Service

There are many other services taking place for Easter Week in the Bloxham, Milcombe and South Newington Benefice, please look in the church porch to find out the times and location.

Bloxham has started work on plans to adapt its church into a 21st century environment, whilst retaining its beauty and architectural significance. Proposed improvements include a kitchen, toilet facilities, more flexible and comfortable seating, new heating and lighting and enhanced audio-visual facilities.

As the church is the largest indoor space in the village the idea is to allow it to play an enhanced role as a community hub and the Parochial Church Council (PCC) is keen to liaise widely with schools, clubs & societies, residents and other local churches. The consultation process will start soon.

Dale Gingrich, vicar

The Flower Show Saturday 10th August

Looking forward to this year's Flower and Produce Show!

Although it is not quite Easter the Committee have already started to put things in place for this year's event which is taking place on Saturday, 10th August.

One of the most important tasks is the compilation of the Schedule which involves persuading advertisers to take space, revising the classes and thinking of new ideas for stalls and attractions. If you have been to another village show and seen something that was innovative and could be lucrative as well, then please get in touch with a member of the Committee* as we are always looking for new ideas.

We are planning to have the well-loved favourites like the Dray from the Hook Norton Brewery and the Accidentals Brass Band to play for the crowd while the Dog Show and other attractions are taking place. As usual the seed potatoes and the sunflower seeds will be available from the church porch from
Saturday, 13th April so why not try and grow the tallest sunflower and the heaviest weight of potatoes from one seed potato in the whole of North Oxfordshire!

Although making preparations for the Show involves a lot of work for a number of people, watching the marquee going up, looking at the exhibits, having tea and cake on the Poleaxe is an integral part of what goes on at village shows all around the country every summer, come rain or shine. Let's make the 2019 Show a resounding success!

Sue Thomas, Secretary

**Flower Show Committee members are Claire and David Swan, Amanda Blyth-Smith, Graham Fewster, Lisa Schulz, Penny and Gordon Waddell, Mike Fenner, Becky Harden, Nicky and Tim Catton, Amanda Hall, Sue Thomas.*

The Duck on the Pond

Gin tasting

From what we can recall, the gin tasting went well, certainly some of us now consider ourselves experts and feel the need to drink it regularly to keep our skills up to date.

Huge thanks to Gordon for organising an educational and entertaining evening.



South Newington Occasional Singers

In March we took part in the Chipping Norton Music Festival and you will pleased to hear we did South Newington proud. We sang in the 'small choir' category and the adjudicator said our singing was "a very lively, entertaining and spirited programme which came across with sincerity and conviction". We also had fun celebrating in the Duck on the Pond afterwards.

Our next performance will be at BloxFest on Saturday, June 8th. We'll be singing some Rutter, Johnny Cash, some old Irish and English folk songs and probably some other pieces too.

If you'd like to try singing occasionally, and discover just why people love it so much, do come along any Saturday during term time. We sing in four voice parts, soprano, alto, tenor and bass, with a professional conductor, Stuart Dunlop and pianist Kieran.

We sing in the village hall from 10.30 – midday on Saturdays, it's £5.00 including a cup of coffee. We start again after Easter on April 27. No auditions and no need to read music - just bring yourself and your enthusiasm for singing.

Give it a try!

Elizabeth Wheeldon

WHAT'S ON ELSEWHERE

A little message from our friends across the fields, below.

Barford WI

The WI in Barford is a friendly, lively group but it would be even better if some South Newington ladies came along to join us! We have all sorts of different speakers and activities, and there is always time for tea, biscuits and a gossip at the end (or a glass of wine if we're feeling flush!)

On April 10th we have the Launton Handbell Ringers who will perform for us and also let us have a try, so earplugs at the ready for that bit perhaps.

On May 8th we discuss the resolutions the WI might support next year and have a few light hearted games.

On June 12th we have a craft workshop where we can all make a tassel, then on July 10th we have a talk from the Air Ambulance team.

We meet in Barford village hall at 7.30 on the 2nd Wednesday of each month and guests are very welcome to come along for just £5 to see what goes on.

For more information contact carole.coppin@hotmail.co.uk or call 07768 378758

Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue Service

Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue Service is looking for On-call Firefighters to join its team and have asked us to publish this in our newsletter.

Do you want to earn extra money, serve your community and save lives in a rewarding role? If so, a career as an On-call Firefighter might be just the thing for you.

On-call Firefighters are the backbone of the fire service and anyone can be one. If you're employed full-time, are a parent, out of employment or just have some spare time, you can respond to emergency calls.

On-call Firefighters are trained and paid for their time and service - and on average are expected to be called out two or three times each week for about an hour at a time - this can be at night or during the day.

They are looking for anyone over the age of 18, who is physically fit (this can be worked on), doesn't suffer from vertigo, claustrophobia or dislike the sight of blood. They need good common sense, to be enthusiastic, reliable and honest.

If this sounds of interest, please visit www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/oncallfirefighters

WHAT'S ON IN SOUTH NEWINGTON

Regular events

What	When	Where	More info
Table tennis	Monday eves	Village hall	Gill Brounger
Circle dancing	4th Weds evening of the month	Village hall	Stella Darke
Supper club	2nd or 3rd Weds eve of the month	Duck on the Pond	Gill Brounger
Coffee mornings	Thurs morning most months	Village hall	Gill Brounger
Yoga	Thursday eves	Village hall	Sue Robertson
Singing	Sat morning 10-12.30 am	Village hall	Elizabeth Wheeldon
Parish Council Meeting	See village noticeboard	Village Hall	Peter Thomas
Flower Show Committee	Now and then	Committee members house	Sue Thomas
Film Society	Quarterly-ish	Village Hall	Nicky Catton
Church Services	Sunday morning 11.15 am or 6pm	Church	Tim Catton or Tim Brierly

Coffee mornings

The coffee mornings raise money for the village hall up-keep, but most of all, offer a lovely way to meet people, have a good natter and nice piece of cake with tea or coffee.

The dates and hosts coming up are below:

Thursday 25th April — Joan Gianassi and Cathy Cockerill

Thursday 26th May — Jenny and George Smith, Pat Ebdon

Thursday 20th June — Gill Brounger and Dee O'Connor

Thursday 18th July — Roy and Joy Miller

Supper Club

The supper club, held in the Duck on the Pond is going well. Kindly organised by Gill Brounger with a special meal provided by Gordon and Penny, it meets once a month on Wednesday evenings. Every one is welcome, including people from other villages!

Next supper Wednesday 24th April

If you'd like to join the club please get in touch with Gill Brounger telephone 01295 721029 or email gillian.brounger@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

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.

Winter weather in South Newington

December 2018, January and February 2019

The big question is, did we have a good Winter or a bad one in South Newington? I think we had quite a good one. I only needed to sweep paths once because of the snow, and we only had about 3 cm's coverage on 1st February. We have had no floods in the fields from the river Swere, and I only measured about 147 mm of rain over three months against 201.8 mm last year and about 155 mm the year before.

The most rain over 24 hours was on 18th December with 13.4 mm followed by 11.4 mm on 8th February. We can now see how wet 2018 was as a whole and I totalled about 706 mm which is just below the yearly average.

One of the bigger items of course is, how cold was it? Well again, we have had colder winters. The coldest night was 31st January when the thermometer dropped to -9.0 c and to -8.5 C on 3rd February. We had a week of cold weather at that time, just to remind everyone that it was actually winter!! Average day time temperatures were 9.7 c in December, 6.7. c in January and 11.3 c in February, so January was by far the coldest month of the winter period in the village. February has been breaking records in various places because of the very warm spell from 13th February onwards to the end of the month. The day time temperature was above 10 degrees from the 13th February onwards to the end of the month, and the warmest day we got to was 18.4 c on 27th and 18.0 c on the 27th. A very pleasant spell of weather for the time of year.

We did have some wind in the form of gales on the night of 6th, 7th and 7th and 8th February. I recorded a wind speed of 41 mph over those two nights, which is into the range of gale wind speeds. We have had a visit from a Met Office technician to test the equipment and replace some of the older items during the past few weeks but I failed to note the date he came. With the milder weather recently, I shall soon need to cut the grass to keep the station tidy.

That completes this report, and I am sure we are all going to enjoy a lovely Spring, but there is still time for some surprises if we get too complacent!

John Britten

LIFE IN SOUTH NEWINGTON

Janet and Philip Page

We began farming life in 1955. The cows were kept in the area which is now called the Old Farm Yard, behind Ivydene on the High Street.

The cows lived outside in those days, we had one field behind the dairy buildings which was owned by the church, 68 acres on the Barford Road opposite Simon Hambidge's place, and twenlve acres by the brook.

The cows came through the village as we moved them from pasture to the milking parlour.

When Philip and I started farming there were five different farmers with herds of cows in the village. When I say herds, it doesn't seem like a herd nowadays as people have to keep so many cows, hundreds and hundreds just to make a living.

We had a herd of ten which seems small but was quite big then, and twenty-five at the end. Tom Harper had three cows, he lived in the high street. Bert Wilkes, in the Catton's house, Barretts on Green Lane, he had some. Tom Page, in Spring Field House where Andrew and Caroline Wells live, he had about a dozen cows which walked up Bakers Lane to the land above there. Peter Page at Grange Farm on the other side of the road, he had better facilities than most at the time, he had about eighteen cows in his herd. Peter and Tom Page weren't related to Philip, but they were related to each other, first cousins. They married two sisters, and each one had twin children.

We began our herd with short horns, but soon after decided to go for British Fresian, the black and white cows, buying them in gradually. They produced more milk than short horns and also could go to beef. The cows you see now can't go for beef, there's nothing left when they're finished with them.

Our cows were the very best stock, Philip was very careful in studying the blood lines choosing the right stock. We worked over the years to ensure we always had a small but high quality herd.

We milked them at the back of Ivy Dene, the buildings are still there. Our son Michael lives in one of the houses in the Old Farm Yard, where he and Wendy sell their fresh eggs, and the dairy buildings are still there behind their house.

The cows were parlour milked, five at a time, starting at five in the morning, every day and again the evening. When we first started farming they were milked by hand, then we got a machine, and the milk was put into buckets and carried up to the dairy where it went into a churn with water running in pipes inside it to keep the milk cool. After that a new system was introduced where you put the milk into a big tank. That meant we had to build a good solid road to take the tanker when it came into the yard.

Phillip built the road, the cow shed and all our buildings by hand. There was an old Professor, called Bell, who lived in the village and owned several houses. He was always smoking and must have dropped a cigarette behind the wall of the dairy because one day the whole place went up in flames.

Philip rebuilt it all including a special bull pen. We had our own bull and reared our own calves and which was quite rare, because it's dangerous keeping your own bull.

We went to the pedigree sale in Reading, watching the stock, Philip having studied the lines, to bid for the animals we wanted. We'd spend the day at the sale and come home, milking the cows late, waiting for the bull to be delivered. That would be a long day when we went to the pedigree sale, after milking the cows earlier than usual to start the day in good time.

It was a hard life, but a good one. Philip would set off at 5am and bring the cows in and milk them. On Christmas Day it was an earlier start as the tanker driver would want to finish early himself to get home to his family. We also milked in the evening about 5.30 – 6pm. When we were hay making we'd have to do that in between milking the cows. It was a long day but always outdoors and has given us so much pleasure over the years. We worked hard but we had a lot of fun too, the village had a great social life plus we knew all the other farmers, and I loved to ride and hunt so we knew a huge number of people in the area.

I would walk with the cows, and always had to have as stick with me because the cows would fight with each other, they have very strong characters. You have to get in among them and keep some of them apart. Just like neighbours they have some they like and some they don't. We named all our cows. Daisy took an instant dislike to Pansy, they'd push one another into a ditch if they could, that's why I had to have a stick, or they'd push each other off the road , or give each other a dib in their most sensitive part. They knew what to go for, and have a go at their udders, so you'd lose a quarter. An udder is divided into four so you'd lose a quarter if they had a fight.

That was our life for 365 days of the year because you couldn't leave the cows. it was a good life and has given us much happiness and good health, we were very lucky .

We finished the cows in 1986 and the photos were taken by one of my nephews on the very last day we walked the cows through the village.

I would like to give a huge, special thank you to Janet for many happy hours reminiscing about life in the village and allowing me to share the history of their dairy farm with you here.

To celebrate our still thriving community, some of our local trades and crafts will be described featured. First up is SHM Autos.

Steve in South Newington

I did my apprenticeship for British Leyland at its Longbridge factory working in the research department building prototype vehicles. From there I moved to Gaydon when it was owned by Leyland.

After that I went into business for myself, first working in Aston Fields near Bromsgrove, and came to South Newington about twenty years ago, taking over from Bill Stocker who started the mechanic business here, in David Barbour's old agricultural buildings.

We've recently upgraded the site to make it warmer, more secure and bigger. Cars are much bigger nowadays so we had to make it bigger to actually fit the cars in! We now have an MOT bay for classes 4, 5 and 7 which is cars, minibuses, and light commercial vehicles like delivery vans.

It was big investment getting the MOT bays, and also you're constantly assessed to ensure you maintain standards which is good and keeps me on my toes, and the equipment has to be calibrated every six months. My wife Karen works here on admin and my colleague Ashley who used to work for Vauxhall. I've just started training on electric cars, so we can do MOTS on them too, that will start in the next twelve months.

I like working in a rural environment. I like getting to know people and developing relationship with a customers. Its not just one person in, one person out, I prefer to trust people and they trust me.

Next issue, a feature on our resident thatcher, Miles Colegrave. Meanwhile check out his handiwork on the Thatched Cottage, Barford Road, and other cottages in Swacliffe, Shutford and Radway









Why the to-do about dog poo?

Several people have asked that a reminder to dog owners to clear up their dog mess be printed in the newsletter. So here we go: please clear up your dog mess, even in fields and use the bins provided.

This is an extract from a letter published in Bloxham Broadsheet where a local farmer explained why he had had to put up some new fences to protect his sheep

Neospora is a new disease that is spread through dog foul. It is incurable and increases the likelihood of abortion in cattle. All female offspring of infected cows will also carry the disease.

Neospora is a protozoan parasite (i.e. a microscopic, unicellular parasite organism) that can invade, live and multiply inside animal cells. It is one of the most frequently diagnosed infectious causes of abortion in cattle worldwide.

The parasite is closely related to *Toxoplasma gondii*. Unlike *T. gondii*, which is an important infectious cause of abortion in sheep and goats, *Neospora* causes disease primarily in cattle and dogs. Another significant difference to *Toxoplasma* is that Neospora can cause repeat abortions in successive pregnancies and that the parasite is very effectively transmitted from an infected dam to its foetus.

Since its identification in the 1980s, *Neospora* has emerged as one of the most common infectious causes of abortion in cattle worldwide, resulting in significant economic losses and production inefficiency.

Gardening Tips for April

Lorem ipsum etc

Open Gardens in aid of Katharine House Hospice

South Newington
Saturday 4 May, 2019

Six gardens will be opening from 2pm – 5pm on Saturday 4 May to raise money for Katharine House Hospice.

Teas and cakes
Without doubt and with no offence to our village gardeners, the highlight of these afternoons are the teas and cakes!

The Village Hall is booked, but **volunteers are needed to serve teas and produce masses of cake**!

Please let Claire Swan know, as soon as you can, if you can help with either baking and/or serving teas and please specify which times would suit you between 1.30pm and 5.30pm.
Claire_ainley@hotmail.com/ 01295 721866

Tickets are £1 per person per garden or £5 per person for all six gardens. Tickets can be purchased at any open garden.

Bush House, Wiggington Road, South Newington, OX15 4JR



This charming two acre garden has emerged since 2011. Herbaceous borders, partner the driveway and the dual level ponds, fed by a stream. The terrace leads to a walled box parterre framed by Roses and Wisteria. The orchard is screened by a vine and rose covered wrought iron trellis. Tucked away, are two organic vegetable gardens, a greenhouse, fruit cage and fig house. A shelter belt of roughly one thousand broadleaved native trees, planted in stages from 2006, surrounds the pasture land. If you have any questions, you may find the owner in the summer house. Roberta would love to meet you, so please do come in for a chat.
Sorry no Dogs.

John and Roberta Ainley

South Newington House, Barford Road, OX15 4JL



An organic garden of interest with herbaceous borders offering all year colour, a formal 'box hedge' parterre with tulips then dahlias (possibly in between due to the mild Spring!). A kitchen garden managed with rotation and companion planting. The orchard with aged fruit trees around the 'wildlife pond' to view from paths carved out amongst the now past daffodils.
Please keep dogs on the lead as hens roaming freely.
David and Claire Swan

Springfield House, Bakers Lane, South Newington

An old established walled garden significantly redesigned in the last few years to reduce maintenance. Much new planting of trees, shrubs and roses in the existing beds.
Andrew and Caroline Wells

Wingate Cottage, The Town, South Newington, OX15 4JG

The gardens at Wingate Cottage are divided into two areas, an area which is planted as a traditional English Cottage Garden, with a selection of shrubs interspersed with perennials and annuals, with an ancient apple tree in one corner. Partitioned from the lawn and flower beds is an area of vegetable garden which includes raised beds and fruit trees. On the other side of the house is a patio garden which is walled and provides the opportunity to grow roses, have climbers and produce lots of colour by growing plants in pots. The whole garden was established four years ago.
Peter and Sue Thomas

College Farm, The Town, South Newington, OX15 4JG

House built in 1659 is Grade 2* listed. There is a large thatched barn, also dating from the 17th century. The garden has a pleasant enclosed feel and the property extends down to the brook through an attractive meadow surrounded by some fine trees.
Julian Barbour

The Barn House, Green Lane, OX15 4JG



An evolving walled garden with box parterre, herbaceous borders, wildflower meadow and raised beds.

Graham and Nicky Smith

Newsletter news

In the last newsletter I quoted our Parish Council as having £22,777.01 in the bank. This was not correct, being the figure for Tadmarton Parish Council which was inadvertently published on the South Newington website.

I'm pleased to clarify that the correct figure is a £4,122.69 balance per cashbook at 31 March 2018 and £5,020 in the business saver account.

I'm also delighted to say that the Parish Council has agreed to pay the costs for this newsletter to be printed three or four times a year. Many thanks our advertisers the Duck on the Pond and SJM Autos, whose support contributes towards these costs, and Vanessa Doyle who secured them.

Here's a reminder of my details if you would like to correct any factual errors about events; dates; who does what; news for the next issue; relevant photos; positive feedback or let me know about anything else of importance:

SouthNewingtonNewsletter@gmail.com

Nicky Smith, The Barn House, 01295 720228

Other exciting topics coming up in future issues – the church clock and its beautiful workings.

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Jenny Smith with her ponies Twinkle and Puffin. Twinkle is 25 and still lives in the field by the brook but is now harnessed with Jasper a black cob.