SOUTH NEWINGTON NEWSLETTER



South Newington church, from Charles Ludlow

SPRING 2022

Newsletter by Nicky Smith

Please send news, views and photos to Southnewingtonnewsletter@gmail.com

PARISH COUNCIL

After what has felt like a very long winter, the South Newington Parish Council members are very happy to be looking at some lovely spring and summer plans with lots in discussion around our new Style Council and plans underway for the Queen's Jubilee in June.

The South Newington Parish councillors met up in December, away from the usual scheduled meetings, to think about what we could do for the village, outside of those meetings which tend to be formulaic and reactive. We wanted to develop a schedule of longer-term projects and try to find a way to fit them into our limited budgets over future years.

Our rolling South Newington 5-year plan was born; please feel free to discuss with me anything you think should be on that plan. The plan sees us investigating numerous ideas including for example moving the village to 20 mph, adult training equipment on the poleaxe and new white gates as you leave the village on the Barford Road eastwards.

So far in 2022 we have also set up our first sub-committee, the 'South Newington Style council', which will look after all things bright and beautiful in the village. This committee, whose members are generously offering their time, may call on you for some physical help on starter projects starting with a re-wilding test, a Spring village clean up, and working out how we can better look after the village bonfire site.

Other projects for the summer are the setup of a Youth Committee, we would like to invite all the under 16 year olds in the village to meet up this summer (details tbc) and discuss what ideas and improvements they would like to see implemented in the village.

We hope you have a lovely Spring and Easter.

Vanessa Doyle, Chair-person of the SNPC

Next meetings of the Parish Council are planned for: 22 March, 28 April, 17 June, 19 July, 27 August, 22 November.

If you have any questions or topics you wish to raise you should email them at least ten days in advance of the meeting to vanessasnpc@hotmail.com or Clerk to the council southnewingtonpc@btinternet.com

A NOTE ABOUT THE PARISH COUNCIL

Being on the Parish Council is one way of showing you care for our village and our community. You could call it civic duty, giving back or putting some good karma out there.

The reason South Newington is special is because over the years people have done their best to maintain its best qualities and enhance its environment and facilities for people now and in the future. Being on Parish Council is one way of doing this. This has over the years caused passions to be inflamed because people don't always agree on what this should be. But one thing is clear, people can only do things within the law.

So please don't abuse Parish Councillors in person or online. Unlike certain people in high office, local Parish Councillors can't do want they want and have to follow the rules on issues such as planning.

The same applies to planners who are paid to work at the council. They too are only applying the law. A recent report[1] found that council planning officers are subject to stress and burnout due to abuse from the general public.

So please be nice to people and focus on changing the law if you have an issue with how it is applied, rather than harassing people who are only doing their job, or in the case of South Newington Parish Councillors, their volunteer work.

GARDEN WASTE COLLECTION



The Parish Council asked for a reminder to be included in the newsletter that from March 1st brown bins won't be emptied unless you have signed up to an annual collection service. It costs £40 per year per bin.

To sign up for the service you need to register online at this address: https://www.cherwell.gov.uk/info/10/rubbish-and-recycling/872/payable-garden-waste-collection.

Once you have registered, you're sent a 'welcome pack' which includes a sticker that you have to put on each brown bin you have paid for.

This picture here shows what the bin sticker looks like.

From March 1st you will no longer be able to put food waste in your brown bin, but should use the silver food caddy you should have been given already.

[1] https://www.planningresource.co.uk/article/1736903/planners-detail-experiences-stress-burnout-abuse

VILLAGE BONFIRE

Please remember that the bonfire is **DO IT YOURSELF** facility.

DO

- Burn your own materials as soon as possible.
- Take care not to scorch the surrounding hedges and trees.
- Leave the bonfire and area tidy.

DON'T

- Dump material that won't burn easily.
- Make the bonfire too big - burn the existing heap before adding more.

NEW PEOPLE IN THE VILLAGE

A warm welcome is extended to all the people who have joined the village recently.

Ann Davey Turner has moved into Bush House Lodge on the Wigginton Road.

Tracey Schilling and her family moved into Winter's Grace, 2 the Old Farmyard, High Street (The Forsters old house next to Emma and Stuart) and asked for the following message to be included in the newsletter:

Thomas and I have moved from a village in South Northants with our two daughters, a cat and a large Golden Retriever, Monty. You can't miss him as his very white coat is usually covered in mud at the end of a walk.
We are loving being in the village and its surrounds, and only wish we had moved here sooner!
We'd like to give a shout- out to Fenbury Plumbing who have done some great work for us.
Kind regards,
Tracey Schilling

We're looking forward to welcoming **Millicent and Mat** moving in soon to Jasmine Cottage on Moor Lane, Janet and Phillip Page's old house (they might as well get used to hearing it described like that!). Mat is from Little Tew and is a physiotherapist, which is making people with various muscular skeletal complaints very excited.

Apologies if you've moved here recently and haven't been given a shout out! Please let us know via Southnewingtonnewsletter@gmail.com

OTHER NEW ARRIVALS

Ana and her dog Rosie can often be seen walking in the village. Rosie is a brood dog for Dogs for the Blind and recently had a litter of ten puppies. The first pup arrived at 11pm on 28 December and the last at 5am on 29 December 2021; 6 boys and 4 girls, weighing from 360g-440g. Ana shared this news below.



Rosie is a textbook great mum! 😇

Whilst cleaning the pen for another visit from Guide Dogs for the Blind, I found one of the pups under Rosie, with milk spilling out of it's mouth!

He was lifeless; no movement or sound when I lifted his limped body! So I constantly massaged him gently and then decided to give him the "Kiss of Life" and my interpretation of "CPR". His body ballooned slightly from my blowing air into him and with the constant CPR, he opened his mouth and stuck his tongue out!

Eventually a sound was heard and as soon as there was more of a response from him, I gave him to Rosie to lick (who'd been standing beside me all the time, with a sense of concern in her) and continued to massage him! I nicknamed him "Lazarus".

For a while milk bubbled out of his nose sometimes but when he started eating solids, this stopped! He's about a week behind the others in size but still as feisty! He is absolutely adorable (as are the others), but there's a sense of cheekiness in him!

He left as a healthy pup with his 9 brothers and sisters; weighing from 2130g (Lazarus) and up to 3640g.





VILLAGE EMAIL

Did you know that the village has an email distribution Group?

The village email is used to notify villagers about things going on in the village.

Some emails come from the Parish Council e.g. to inform villagers of Parish Council Meetings and other matters.

Other emails will keep villagers informed about are road works/road closures, coffee mornings, church services, village quiz nights, the village supper club and other village meetings.

You will also get information about the fantastic South Newington Flower Show and of course this year there are events being planned for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Whilst there are usually notices on the village notice board, if you don't happen to pass by the notice board you may miss out.

If you wish to join the village email distribution group please email Susan Robertson using the following email address: **susanrobertsonSNEM@gmail.com**

You will need to provide your name, address and email address and we can then add you to the email distribution group.

Who Do We Share Your Information With? The information will not be shared with any other organisations.

How Do I Opt Out? If in the future you wish to opt out, simply send another email to that effect to **susanrobertsonSNEM@gmail.com** and your details will be deleted.

NOTE: Due to data protection rules you cannot ask on behalf of someone else that they be added to the village email distribution group.



FLOWER SHOW SATURDAY 6th AUGUST

Please keep the date free for the South Newington Flower & Produce Show on Sat 6th August.

A list of categories and activities will be circulated in April but here are a few notices for now:

Potato competition – collect a free seed potato from the tin in the church porch (from Sunday 13th March). Plant them in a pot, and then bring your pot to the show tent, to see who has grown the biggest crop.

Sunflower competition – collect your sunflower seeds from the tin in the church porch, and plant them out in a sunny spot in your garden. Judges will come round at show time to measure and see who's won the prize for the tallest sunflower.

Front cover competition – design a front cover for this year's Flower & Produce Show! Please email or post your entry by Sunday 3rd April to Amanda at amandablythesmith@gmail.com

Church display – this year the display in the church during the show will be 'Pictures of pets' which can be photos, drawings or paintings. Do start your art works of your beloved now and bring them along to the church on the morning of the show.



There are plans afoot for an action-packed weekend to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee in South Newington. Keep the dates in your diary: June 2,3,4,5 and pray for sunshine.

Ideas are still being hatched and if you'd like to get involved, suggest an idea or event, or know more, please contact Roz Rapp from the Wiggy Road rozmuirie@hotmail.com

Please don't wait to be asked, do volunteer! As you can see from the activities below there will be lots of help needed and you know what they say: "Many hands make light work." 😊

Thursday 2nd	**Art exhibition** A celebration of art from young and old villagers on display in the church. Themes and categories to be confirmed
Friday 3rd	**Open gardens** All different shapes and sizes of gardens in the village open to raise money for Katherine House Hospice. Please open your garden for this great cause – we'd really like some new 'hidden gems' so please do offer to take part.
Saturday 4th	**Royal Ascot** morning Hats: wear your special hat for a hat parade and competition for best hat with a coronation theme. **Street tea party** lunch Bunting, bakes, beer, sandwiches etc., bring your own tea party on the road around the poleaxe. **Horse racing** afternoon: design and race your own hobby horse. Place your bets with the village bookie on the winning horse!

Sunday 5th	**Sports Day** from midday Games for children and adults including egg & spoon, three legged race, wheelbarrow and piggy back racing. **BYO Picnic in the Park** **Croquet Tournament afternoon** Doubles competition

The photos below are from South Newington's celebrations for the Queen's Coronation in 1952/53. Do you know any of the people in them?





It has been suggested that the gentleman in the hat and dark coat, above right, at the front is Mr Tom Harper. Is the lady holding the doll (or is it a baby?) Mrs Hambidge?

Please do email any corrections or further suggestions, and share any Jubilee photos you may have of the Coronation or other earlier Jubilee celebrations to: Southnewingtonnewsletter@gmail.com

OTHER VILLAGE EVENTS

Supper Club - 30th March

The village supper club in February was a great success. Over 20 people came and enjoyed a fun evening of good food and sparkling conversation. The next one is planned for Wednesday 30th March at the Duck on the Pond. Look out for more details on the noticeboard and village emails.

Coffee & croissants at the Duck on the Pond - 7th April

Having been on hold over winter, due to the colder weather and Covid, spring brings renewal. The weather getting better, hopefully, we plan to restart them in April. The first one is scheduled for Thursday 7th April, 9.30 to 11 - in what we hope will be glorious sunshine. There may even be some

baby ducklings on the pond by then - some wild ducks and coots have been seen nesting in the rushes.

Quiz night Friday 25th March - in aid of the Village Hall redevelopment fund

Sue Robertson and Andrew Wilson have kindly offered to run our next quiz night at the Duck on the Pond. Tickets will be £15 per person for teams of up to four people, including a chilli supper (meat or veggie). The food will be served from 7.30 pm with the quiz starting at 8. Tickets can be bought/ordered in advance from the pub. Pre-booking helpful.



49 CLUB

The 49 Club provides lucky members with weekly prize winnings - the weekly prize is £20, or £35 for the first week of the month, based on the lottery numbers.

As well as giving prize money it also raises money for the church repair and insurance – something which has proved essential as a result of Storm Eunice damage.

Thanks to all members old and new for supporting the South Newington 49 Club this year and please do renew or start a new membership.

Subscriptions for 2022 are due in February, with the new lottery year kicking off in March. There are several numbers spare, so please consider joining the club if you have not yet done so. It is a bit of fun and a prize is always a happy delivery through your letterbox!

Membership is £52 per year, or £26 for 6 months.

The easiest way to pay is via a bank transfer to the 49 Club account:

Account number: 16589289

Sort Code: 52 21 31

Reference: Your Surname (important please or I won't know who the payment is from).

Alternatively, please deliver cash, or a cheque (payable to South Newington 49 Club) to Judith Denby at Orchard House, Green Lane.

Please do contact me on 07866 630454 or judithdenby@hotmail.co.uk if you need any further help.

I look forward to delivering many more winning envelopes to your doors!

Many thanks

Judith

STORM EUNICE

How was Storm Eunice for you? Jaynie Ford from Paradise House is close to Wiggington but in the parish of South Newington, and Jaynie sent news of what the storm brought in there.

Eight Jacobs lambs were born at Paradise Farm during storm Eunice. Our team went out during the height of the storm to bring mums and babies safely into our stables for shelter. I'm glad to say all ewes and lambs are doing fine.





Did you spot what came off the church during Storm Eunice on the front cover photo? Luckily it fell inside, onto the church roof so we didn't have a Hot Fuzz moment (a nasty accident).

SOUTH NEWINGTON OIL BUYING GROUP

If you use oil for your domestic heating boiler or range, did you know that in the village we have a buying group which arranges a bulk order once a month between September and May.

Ordering oil as part of the group can save you up to 3 or 4 pence per litre, on a minimum order of 500lt. The scheme works by combining individual orders into a single quantity, which is used to obtain a bulk order discount from a supplier; there is no fee to be part of the group. No payments are made to or through the group, it is the responsibility of individuals to settle their accounts with the supplier.

If you would like more details or wish to join the group, please contact Stephen Anderson by email: sn.oil.club@gmail.com.

BREAKING NEWS RE OIL PRICES

Due to the war in Ukraine, Stephen circulated the following note on 7 March :

The heating oil price is extremely volatile and presently, it continues to rise daily: current range is between 96p/lt and 110p/lt. As a result suppliers are not quoting a pence per litre price on bulk orders. If they do take a bulk order, it is on the basis that the delivery price will be provided to you on the day of your delivery. The suppliers I have spoken to suggest it is better to place your orders direct with them, which will provide you with a fixed price and a delivery date.

Bulk discount saving will revert as soon as possible.

CANDLE-LIT CIRCLE DANCING IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Dance Leader: Tracy Lean

Organiser: Stella Darke

Every fourth Thursday in the month

7.30 – 9.00pm Fee £5

Next session March 24th 2022

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.

Hand sanitiser will be provided.

Numbers restricted so please book by emailing Tracy: tracylean@gmail.com

For any further information contact me, Stella : darkestella@gmail.com or 01295 720096

April session will deviate from the usual Thursday to FRIDAY APRIL 29TH

IN MEMORY

Brigadier Michael Pritchard

We remember with fondness Michael Pritchard whose funeral took place in January. The service was well attended with family, friends and neighbours and members of his old regiment the Queen's Royal Hussars. Michael bought the Old Forge in the 1960's and played a very significant part in the village community, particularly the church, throughout his life.

Michael always read clearly and sang loudly in church but was notably silent at the 40th anniversary of VE day when villagers were sharing their memories of the day. When asked why he didn't speak up Michael said "Oh I remember the day very clearly. I was standing in a tank leading a convoy driving through the streets of Berlin, but I didn't think it was the occasion to mention it."

Working with a small group including Laurence and Penny Carey, Michael was instrumental in securing grants which raised over £400,000 for the church. Thanks to their efforts the church was restored inside and out, and its famous medieval wall painting protected for many generations to come.

THE VILLAGE ARCHIVE

Laurence and Penny, who live at the Wardens Post in Moor Lane deserve a special shout out as they hand over the reins of the village archive to James Durley on the Barford Road after their many years of careful husbandry. It is thanks to the Careys that we have a record of the names and inscriptions of all the headstones in the church yard, and that it and the village archive is in such good order today.

THE DYSON SOCIETY

The Dyson Society was set up in 2003 to arrange talks in the village hall on historical subjects and to arrange visits to places of interest. The society set up and organised the village archive. A few years ago it became more difficult for our small society to get the best speakers without paying full professional lecturer's fees and it was decided to close the society and hand over ownership of the archive to the Village Hall Committee, but still managed by Laurence Carey. He has now handed over this task to James Durley.

Much of the old material in the Archive was provided by Julian Barbour who had been accumulating it and caring for it for many years. The Archive lives in filing cabinets in the village hall. The material includes legal documents such as old leases and mortgages, deeds etc, probate documents – wills and inventories back to the 16th century. There are photocopies only of the older documents and some transcriptions. The original old documents are mostly held in the County Archive. There are also maps, and more recent letters and invoices.

There is information and maps about the 18th century Enclosures.

There are many photographs of people, views, events in the village and many of the church. A lot of this material is from the Packer and Taunt photographic collections. (The negatives of which held in the County Archive).

There are a few paintings and drawings, including a church interior before the uncovering of the famous wall paintings and a delightful water colour of the little stone bridge over the river Swere before its recent very sad and unfortunate demolition. The items in our Archive are listed under the donors. There is a need for someone with the patience of a saint to create a subject index.

Laurence Carey



Bridge over the Swere by Frances May Whitehead circa 1885, South Newington vicar's daughter.

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Development Project

The exhibition on 6th and 7th November of the options for reconfiguring the lean-to service area of the village hall was well attended. The option recommended by the hall management committee found general acceptance with helpful comments on particular aspects of the internal layout. The committee is assessing with its advisors the practicality of alternatives suggested.

A small project working group has been formed to help carry the project forward. The management committee is grateful to the three volunteers for their input

The committee and project group are preparing a submission for pre-application discussions with Cherwell District Council planning and conservation officers and are assessing bids to carry out the detailed design and drawing work necessary to apply for planning permission and listed building consent and, when these are obtained, make the detailed drawings for building regulations approval and the construction work.

VILLAGE HALL AGM

The village hall annual general meeting will be held in the hall at 7.30pm on Thursday 31st March. All residents of South Newington parish are welcome to attend.

Stella Darke, Chair, village hall management committee

Quiz night Friday 25th March in aid of the village hall development fund

Sue Robertson and Andrew Wilson have kindly offered to run a quiz night at the Duck on the Pond to raise funds for the village hall development. Tickets will be £15 per person for teams of up to four people, including a chilli supper (meat or veggie).

Meals will be served from 7.30 pm with the quiz starting at 8.00pm

Tickets can be bought/ordered in advance from the pub. Pre-booking helpful.

Many thanks to Sue, Andrew, Penny and Gordon.

PUB NEWS



Farewell to Carla

Many regulars at the pub will know Carla, who recently left the Duck on the Pond to work in nursery care full time. Penny & Gordon and others clubbed together for some lovely leaving presents including a pair of Dubarry boots.

You can see Carla with Charlie and Lexi in this photo, collecting her boots from the Dubarry centre in Enstone.

TO AIR BNB OR NOT AIRBNB THAT IS A QUESTION

What is the single most popular subject of conversation in South Newington at the moment? Is it the weather? Ukraine? Fireworks? The Jubilee weekend? No, based on conversations while on a walk down Moor Lane to the brook, it's about 'AirBNB' and its impact on the village.

Who among us can say they have never stayed in a short term let or rental property? Probably we all have. But now suddenly it's our community that is the place for them. As soon as a 'For Sale' sign goes up the conversation follows with: 'I hope it doesn't go for AirBNB'.

Why is that?

Mrs Thatcher famously said: "There's no such thing as society."

What did she mean? Here's what she actually said in Woman's Own magazine:

"Society? There is no such thing! There are individual men and women and there are families and no government can do anything except through people and people look to themselves first."

Well on that basis we do indeed have a society in South Newington. We have individual people who do things. Different people who make things happen that we can all benefit from such as the art club, or yoga, or supper clubs, quizzes, the parish council, Jubilee Weekend, flower arranging, singing, or the jewel in our crown, the Flower Show.

All these activities require people to make them happen, and this is where AirBNB can change things. If an entire house goes to rental, it means one less family to form the community. It means more strangers in the village. In a small village like South Newington this can have an impact.

The phenomenon is well documented. Here's a quote from a survey conducted by the BBC:

"People were most worried about the sense of community being damaged, with this referenced more than twice as frequently as property values and affordability.

"This thing is changing the sense of place of the neighbourhood. It's changing the feel of it, with almost a revolving door of strangers," one resident said."

And another quote:

"In some areas STLs (short term lets) have hollowed out communities, put more pressure on the housing market causing prices to rise, and created other issues such as anti-social behaviour and noise."

Since we're quoting the BBC, here for a sense of balance is a response from Airbnb itself:

"For its part, Airbnb argues that it helps to diversify tourism by promoting areas that need visitors the most and reducing overcrowding in tourist hotspots. It says the money gained from hosting on its platform delivers economic and social benefits for families, communities and governments."

It has been suggested that “Limiting Airbnb to some version of its initial ideal of “home sharing” is crucial.”

What do you think? Email your views and response for the next issue to “SouthNewingtonnewsletter@gmail.com”

AirBnB Guidelines These were recently circulated on the village email list and are reproduced here:

Courtesy Part of being a responsible Host is helping your guests understand best practices for interacting with your community. When you communicate local rules and customs with your guests, you’re helping to create a great experience for everyone.

Building rules If your building has common spaces or shared amenities, let guests know the rules for those places.

House rules You can include your house rules on the Additional notes section of Listing details in your Airbnb account. Guests usually appreciate it when you share your expectations with them up front.

Neighbours It’s usually a good idea to let your neighbours know if you’re planning to host. This gives them the chance to let you know if they have any concerns or considerations.

Noise Guests book through Airbnb for lots of reasons, including holidays and celebrations. Let your guests know how noise affects neighbours early on for a smoother experience.

If you’re concerned about disturbances to your community, there are different ways you can help limit excessive noise:

- Implement a quiet hours policy
- Don’t allow pets
- Indicate that your listing isn’t suitable for children or infants
- Prohibit parties and additional unregistered guests.

If your neighbours want to raise a concern to us directly, they can submit an issue through our Neighbour Tool.

Parking Communicate any parking rules for your building and neighbourhood to your guests. Examples of possible parking rules:

- Only park in an assigned space
- Don’t park on the road on Tuesdays and Thursdays due to street cleaning
- Street parking is only available from 7pm–7am

Pets First, check your lease or building rules to make sure there isn’t a restriction on pets. If you allow guests to bring pets, they’ll appreciate knowing good places to exercise their pet or where they should dispose of waste. Share a backup plan, such as the number of nearby boarding kennels, in case a guest's pet upsets the neighbours.

WATER COMMOTION

You may have noticed extra cars parked around the village and Moor Lane closed off to traffic at the end of February.

This was so that Thames Water could fix a burst water main. There wasn't actually any water above ground visible, so how was the leak spotted?

Thames Water take regular readings of the district water main in the middle of the night to gather a 'normal' base level reading. If the reading suddenly increases, a mains leak is suspected and an investigation crew despatched.

This happened in South Newington and sure enough, armed just with a 'listening stick with a wooden head' the crew found a leak just at the top of Moor Lane, which was repaired a few days ago.

WHAT'S ON

Art Club and Yoga are currently full but there is a waiting list.

Table tennis still looking for an organiser. Rumour has it this was very popular with the men, but now that a lady has stepped down from organising it, the group no longer happens. Is no one going to blink?

What	When	Where	More info

Table tennis	Monday eves	Village hall	NEEDS AN ORGANISER
Art class	Tuesday morning	Village Hall	bridget.read@icloud.com linda.brecknell@gmail.com
Supper club	2nd or 3rd Weds eve of the month	Duck on the Pond	Penny Waddell info@duckonthepond.com
Coffee mornings	Thurs morning most months	Village hall	darkestella@gmail.com
Yoga	Weds eves	Village hall	susanrobertsonSNEM@gmail.com
Circle dancing	4th Thursday of month	Village hall	darkestella@gmail.com
Singing	Sat morning 10-12.30 am	Village hall or Church	elizabethmwheeldon@gmail.com
Parish Council Meeting	See village noticeboard or website	Village Hall	Vanessa Doyle, chair vanessasnpc@hotmail.com www.southnewington.co.uk
Flower Show Committee	Now and then	Committee members house	Amanda & Graham, co chairs amandablythesmith@gmail.com gfewster@gmail.com
Style Council – village environs	Now and then	Committee members house	Toby Harris, Stella Darke & Nicky Smith darkestella@gmail.com Nicky@twelvepr.co.uk
Queens Platinum Jubilee Weekend	Thurs 2 – Sunday 5 JUNE	Committee members house	Rozz Rap & Graham Smith rozmuirie@hotmail.com graham@twelvepr.co.uk
49 Club	Weekly prize draw	Cash for the winner	Judithdenby@hotmail.co.uk
Church Services	Sunday morning 8am, 11.15 am or 6pm	Church	Church wardens: Tim.Catton@epr.co.uk claire_ainley@hotmail.com

LOCAL HISTORY

Have you noticed the new bench in the fields by Sands Lane, at the start of the public footpath to Barford? Did you know that there used to be a barn at the side of that bench, tucked in the corner of the field?

Part of the field was turned over to allotments during the war and the rest was farmed by Mrs Violet Barbour who lived at The Barn House on Green Lane.

The barn was built during the war as a temporary arrangement when stone was not available. The uprights were made from rough felled saplings and the walls from straw bales which were covered with wire netting. The work was mainly done by Mrs Barbour and her two eldest sons, John and Peter, with the help of 'Grampy' Harper, and the roof was thatched by Albert Charles, Derek Charles' Grandfather.

Although intended to be a temporary shelter it stood for many years, becoming a little shaggy and providing many nooks and crannies for nesting birds, until one dramatic night in July 1988. During a violent thunderstorm it was struck by lightning and burned down completely.

The black and white photo shows Mrs Barbour on the roof during building with four of her children, Julian sitting to one side, Carmen with pigtails next to John, and the smallest, David.





Julian and Carmen, shown in the colour photo, still care for the field and recently commissioned the new bench, made with wood grown at Heath Farm just outside South Newington where their brother David now lives. The bench was made by Mon Barbour, David's son. They hope you enjoy sitting on the bench looking at the view of the avenue of trees which they have planted over the past few years. You can also enjoy the first flowers coming up which Julian has planted along the footpath.

SPECIAL FOR THIS ISSUE - TWO SEASONS IN ONE! Huge thanks to John Britten for this bumper report.

AUTUMN WEATHER: September, October, November 2021

Temperatures

Autumn came and went last year with a real mixed bag of weather. A mild September left a lot of the trees late shedding their leaves, which prolonged the pleasure of their beautiful colours. The average daily temperature of 21.0°C maintained a comfortable warmth and there were only nine days when

the temperature in the daytime did not reach 20°C degrees, with no night frost. October was much cooler as expected averaging 15.6 °C and still no night frosts. November was much colder averaging 10.0°C daytime and seven night frosts. The coldest night was -3.2°C on the 28th of November.

Wind and storms

The first named storm of the winter arrived just before the end of Autumn. Named 'Arwen' it hit the village on the 26th and 27th of November and came in from the North and East. This wind direction affects us more than the westerlies, which are more common in this area, because the village has the protecting hills on the South and West. Arwen brought winds up to 42 mph at The Gatehouse (probably more on the higher ground) and tried to give us a covering of snow which soon went away as temperatures rose and the precipitation turned to rain.

Rain and precipitation

September gave normal average rainfall of 72mm. October was very wet with 113.2mm and November was very dry with only 20.0 mm. The wettest day in Autumn was Tuesday 28th September when we had 31.2mm (over an inch) mainly in the daytime

Extremes

We achieved the 'weather extremes' column in the Daily Mail three times this Autumn. September 17th, September 23rd and November the 7th as the coldest spot in the UK. We have competition for this honour from RAF Benson sometimes which is not far away. We have occasionally been the coldest but never the warmest.

Winter weather: December 2021, January, February 2022

The autumn left us with a moderate Gale named "Arwen" on the 26th and 27th of November which raised my anemometre to 42 mph which is 3 mph above the Gale level. The storm came in from the North and East but little did we know then that "Arwen" had friends in the Atlantic ready to bring us much more serious winds at the end of January and into February.

First came "Malik" around 29th January, followed by "Carrie" on the 30th and 31st. These two went north of the village and we only received the tail end (wind speed both about 37 mph.) "Dudley" was next on the 16th of January (40 mph) followed by "Eunice" on the 17th and 18th February.

"Eunice" was the nasty one coming from the West and she brought the highest wind speed that I have recorded at 56 mph. "Eunice" was followed by "Franklin" on the 20th with 51 mph winds. These last two severe gales damaged property and uprooted trees in north Oxfordshire.50 mph winds at The Gatehouse, where we are protected from the South and West, indicate much stronger winds on the higher ground.

These storms receive interesting names, not always given by our Met Office because if they originate in other countries then the Met Office in that country will name the storm.

Overall the winter was a little warmer than last year and here are a few figures to back up my comments. Last years figures are entered in brackets for comparison

	Average max	Average min	Warmest day	Coldest night	Total rain
	Celius				*Millimetres*
December	9.1 (7.7)	3.3 (1.3)	14.9 (12.8)	-4.9 (-3.4)	52.4 (134.)
January	8.2 (6.2)	-0.1 (-0.2)	14.3 (13.1)	-6.2 (-6.1)	16.4 (119.6)

February	10.7 (8.5)	2.2 (1.1)	15.2 (15.6)	-4.2 (-6.9)	79.4 (61.2)

As the figures show apart from February, the winter was very much drier than last year. The wettest day was Sunday 13th February with 18.2 mm falling in 24 hours

Extremes

I am always interested in the weather extreme section of the daily paper and this autumn South Newington is featured on two consecutive nights February the 27th at -4.0 degrees C and the 28th at -3.0 degrees C and also January 28th at 1 degree C when the village was the coldest spot in the UK.

There is an old saying that if March comes in like it lamb it will go out like a lion and vice versa. It came in like a lamb so maybe we have a bit more winter to come we shall see.

See you in the Spring! John Britten



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