SOUTH NEWINGTON NEWSLETTER



The Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022

SUMMER 2022

Platinum Jubilee Picture Special

Newsletter by Nicky Smith

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

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

South Newington's summer got off to a great start with the wonderful Jubilee celebrations organised by Roz Rapp and a stream of all the usual helpers. Kerryn Chilling took some great photos for us, some of which you can see here and they will all be shared on the village email shortly

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the church art display, the village games and the general huge effort joining in. We are all looking forward to the Flower Show on the 6th August when we will do it all again!

Following on from Queen Elizabeth's II 70th Jubilee celebrations the Parish Council is discussing a commemoration in the village to mark the date. More details will follow shortly.

South Newington parish councillors met up in May with Planning Officers from Cherwell District council to review best practices and work out how we can best represent the needs to the village. We had a really productive session with the senior planning team and enjoyed getting a better understanding of the support they need from us whilst also seeing the best approaches to tackle our village requirements.

I'm sure you will join me in congratulating Nicky Smith and Stella Darke of the 'Style Council' as well as their team of helpers on a successful test patch for our re-wilding program at the top of Green Lane. More plans are afoot for pring 2023 based of their new knowledge.

The parish council will be using our next meeting to move forward with a few of the ideas from the 5-year plan we developed in 2021.

Please contact your parish councillors (Graham Smith, Mike Rapp, Stephan Lucks, Sarah Wilson-Medhurst and me) if you have any issues, we would also love to see you at the next meeting on the 27th September in the village hall.

We hope you have a lovely remainder of your summer.

Vanessa Doyle
Chair-person of the SNPC

WELCOME TO SOUTH NEWINGTON

It's always a delight to welcome new people to the village. If you know someone who has moved here recently, please drop an email to Southnewingtonnewsletter@gmail.com so that we can give them a mention. If I have missed you or anyone you know out, please let me know 😊

In this issue we say a warm hello to Sue and Graham Goldspink and their three children who have moved to the Old Post Office on Tinker Tank, while they look for a house to buy. Good luck on your mission and we hope you can stay in the village!

We're also delighted to welcome two sets of twins to the world. Congratulations to Jo and Adrian in Green Lane, on the birth of Penelope and Violet, baby sisters to Iris. And to Julia and David Streeter also from Green Lane we send love and best wishes on the birth of Sam and Ollie, their twin grandsons who have been born in New Zealand.

Ann Davey – Turner sent this nice photo of her patio and message for the newsletter:



I am very happy living in this village, enjoying making Bush House Lodge my home and thank you to all that I have met making me feel so welcome.

VILLAGE EMAIL

The village email list 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 what's on or planned such as road works/road closures, coffee mornings, church services, village quiz nights, the village supper club and other village meetings.

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 Sue can then add you to the email distribution group.

Who Is Your Information Shared 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.

VILLAGE CHURCH NEWS

This summer we were blessed to host a christening, and to celebrate the marriage of a young local couple.

We were also delighted to host an art exhibition in the church during the Platinum Jubilee Weekend. Many thanks to those who put their talents on display, encouraging us with the beauty and variety of their creations. The Annual Flower Show is looming large on the horizon and the village church will always offer a cool and tranquil welcome even on the hottest summer days. Plus also hopefully another display of art on the theme of beloved pets will also be there for all to enjoy.

We've adopted a schedule of worship services that includes an 11.15 Family Service on the 3rd Sunday of each month. We are planning to celebrate our village's Harvest Thanksgiving on 18th October as a family celebration, just a fortnight after we observe the Patronal Festival of the church on 4th October by inviting all our friends and neighbours from across the United Benefice to join us in worship. St Peter ad Vincula is your parish church in South Newington, somewhere to celebrate those significant occasions in your life whilst encountering the presence of God in a remarkable medieval village church.

Dale Gingrich, Vicar

PS From Claire Swan: The church is readying itself for the Flower Show but is crying out to be de-cobwebbed and un-flied!

I wonder please whether any of you would have a spare half hour at 10.00am on Thursday 4th August for a clean-up? Do just come to the church to help if you can help at that time.

VILLAGE HALL NEWS – JULY 2022

Development project

The management committee has appointed a local firm of architectural technicians to prepare drawings of the modified extension for the pre-application discussions with CDC and the subsequent planning application. Their draft plans incorporate the helpful layout suggestions made at the public exhibition and several other ideas that should simplify the project without compromising the overall objectives. We hope to submit a pre-application report to CDC by the end of July.

External fund raising has started with a formal expression of interest in a government funding scheme for village hall developments, administered by ACRE (Action for Communities in Rural England) and a bid for a £10,000 grant offered in a competition by Wickes, the building supplies company.

Any ideas for local fund raising would be much appreciated.

Stella Darke, Chair

PLATINUM JUBILEE

A huge thank you to everyone who helped us celebrate the Platinum Jubilee in style. Her Majesty would be proud of us!

The photos hopefully are a good reflection of what a great weekend of activity and fun we had with the following activities

- Beautiful display of artwork and letters to Her Majesty in the church
- Open Gardens
- Royal Ascot Day Racing
    - Egg and Spoon
    - Three legged
    - Sack Racing
    - Hobby horse racing
- Street party
- Decorated village hall with historical display from village archives
- Cutting the cake

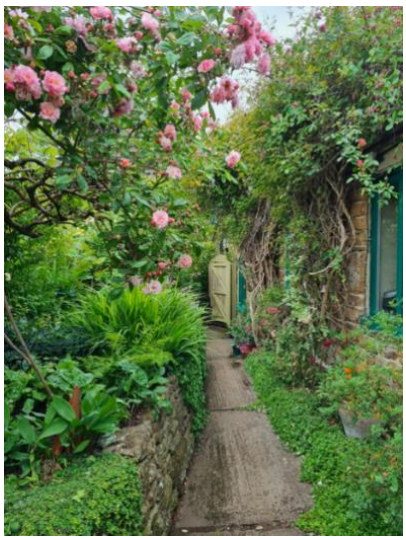
ART IN THE CHURCH





OPEN GARDENS





The nine open gardens in the village raised £1096.43 for Katherine House Hospice





A warm welcome awaited in the village hall







ROYAL ASCOT What a winning smile!



Eggstremely good fun



Steady hands required



It’s in the bag for these youngsters!



BEST HAT Top notch effort from the men

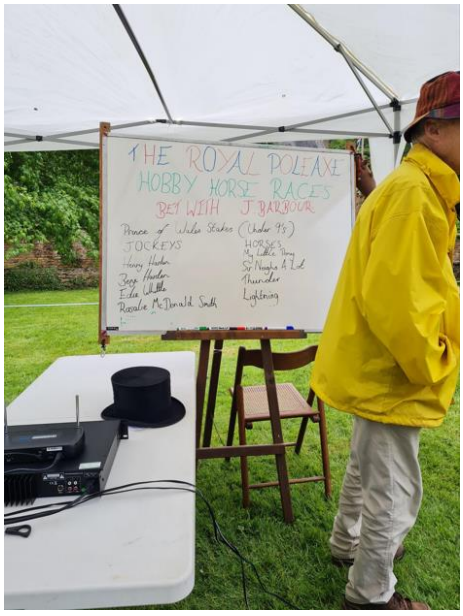


Lovely ladies hats and smiles





BEST HAT WON BY STELLA DARKE



"BET WITH J BARBOUR" Sir Neighs A Lot was popular in the Price of Wales Stakes (Under 9's) and a lot of money went on Harden Fast in the adults race.



Under starters orders



OVER NINES PRINCE OF WALES



MEN'S RACE A lot of jockeying at the starters line





LADIES, a friendly but also fiercely ridden race



ADULTS THREE LEGGED RACE Experienced at running while hobbled



TUG OF WAR It's all about team work



Huge thanks to our photographer Kerryn for stepping up on the day, but who's that up the ladder?





STREET PARTY and street scenes; wouldn't be a proper British street party without some rain

THE FLOWER SHOW SATURDAY 6th AUGUST

Now that we're all recovered from the excitement of the Jubilee Weekend it's time to get ready for the village 'jewel in the crown' of events, the annual Flower and Produce Show.

We hope as many people as possible will take part, entering flowers, vegetables, crafts, art, jams, cakes and so on. There are 78 categories so something for everyone to enter, so please look at the list of categories and see what you can include.

Entries can be submitted online via the village website https://www.southnewington.co.uk/south-newington-flower-show-on-line-entry/ or on Entries Night at the village hall from 6 – 8pm on Thursday 4th August. The form to use is inside this newsletter.

The Show will include all the favourite activities including children's games, dog show, tea tent with homemade cakes and refreshments, a variety of stalls and an exhibition of pet portraits in the church.

Thanks to the very generous support of villagers there are two separate rather special raffle draws this year at the show. One raffle is for a voucher from Dubarry for £400 to spend on any items from its range of beautifully crafted country clothing and footwear. Dubarry has an outlet in Enstone so the winner can come and choose from the shop or buy online if they prefer.

The other raffle gives the opportunity to win one of eight items including a personalised Smythson Portobello Notebook worth £200, a meal at the local pub The Duck on the Pond worth £50, a hair cut from popular local hairdresser Charlotte Stroud also worth £50 and five other generous gifts.

You can buy raffle tickets at Entries Night or on show day.



Also don't forget to enter your pet portrait to the church display on a theme of 'Animals we love or who love us', to coordinate with the Flower Show. The church is open every day but do drop your pictures, drawings or crafts about pets in at the church on Saturday morning from 8 am.

SEE YOU THERE!

SOUTH NEWINGTON FLOWER & PRODUCE SHOW 2022

Programme of Events

08:30 – 10:00	Exhibits to be set up at the South Newington Marquee
10:15	Marquee closes for judging
13:30	Show opens + Barbeque
14:30	Dog Show
15:30	Announcement of the judging results and prize winners
16:00	Auction of Exhibits
16:30	Show end

Schedule of Classes

1 CUT FLOWERS		*Note: Retain some foliage on the stems of possible.*	
1		Hydrangea Heads	*vase of 3*
2		Dahlias	*any type, vase of three single blooms*
3		Gladioli	*3 spikes*
4		Miniature arrangement	*4" / 10 cm max overall*
5		Fuchsia Heads	*4 floating in a small dish of water*
6		Marigolds	*four blooms*
7		Seed heads	*vase of mixed seed heads*
8		Rose	*one specimen bloom*
9		Annual flowers raised from seed	*one vase of one kind not included in the above*
10		Sweet Peas	*annuals six stems*
11		Hardy Herbaceous perennials	*one vase, one kind*
12		Container of mixed garden flowers	

Delphiniums: Spikes are preferably shown with side shoots removed. Spikes should be in good condition, long, tapering or columnar in shape, with at least two thirds of florets open. Should be staged with a minimum of 100 mm of stem visible below the bottom florets and carried out to present upright spike with clean foliage inserted to conceal packing.

Gladioli: Select straight, well balanced spikes still carrying bottom floret. Ideally 1/3 of each spike in full flower, 1/3 buds in colour and 1/3 grees bud. Remove secondary spikes.

Roses: Select blooms with a well-formed centre, free from blemishes, with strong stems and healthy leaves.

Sweet peas: Select strong spikes with well-spaced blooms, each one fully open and fresh with long, straight stems in proportion to the size of the blooms.

2 POT PLANTS			
13		Flowering plant	
14		Fern or foliage plant	

3 FLORAL ART		*Note: 2 ft / 60 cm space allowed, except miniature*	
15		Modern flower arrangement	*using either fruit or vegetables*
16		Arrangement of foliage	*no flowers*
17		Miniature arrangement	*4" / 10 cm maximum overall*
18		Floral Arrangement	
19		Flower Arrangement	*5 single flowers and foliage*

4 FRUIT			
20		Plums	*six*
21		Any other fruit	*one dish, one kind*

5 VEGETABLES		*Note: Rooted vegetables must have leaves cut to 3" / 7.5 cm length*	
22		Beans, broad or long pod	*four pods*
23		Beans, French	*four pods*
24		Beans, runner	*four pods*
25		Beetroot	*three*
26		Carrots	*long rooted, four*
27		Carrots	*stump rooted, four*
28		Courgettes	*four (length 4 - 6" / 10 - 15 cm)*
29		Shallots	*large, six on a plate*
30		Shallots	*pickling, six on a plate not exceeding 1" / 3 cm diameter*
31		Lettuce	*two of the same variety*
32		Marrows	*a pair, max. length 12" / 30 cm*
33		Onions	*spring sown, four*
34		Onions	*grown from sets, four*
35		Potatoes	*white, four*
36		Potatoes	*coloured, four*
37		Tomatoes	*four on a plate*
38		A pair of vegetables	*same variety, not included in classes 22-37*
39		The masterchef's choice	*minimum of four varieties*
40		Largest vegetable marrow	
41		Four varieties of cut herbs	*in small, named individual pots*
42		Misshapen Vegetable	

Potatoes: Choose even sized tubers of similar shape. White potatoes are all white. Coloured potatoes have coloured marks. Use potatoes that have no scab marks. Wash the potatoes without breaking the skin.

Root vegetables: Choose vegetables that have no brown or green tops. Wash the roots carefully without damaging the skins. Choose roots which are roughly the same size and shape. Avoid parsnips with rusty brown marks. After washing clean where the leaves join the root with a pointed knife and remove any yellowing or broken stalks. Cut the leaves to about 75 mm above the top of the root and tie to make a neat finish.

Courgettes / Marrows: These need to be even sized, ideally with their flowers still attached. Cut leaving a small piece of stem.

Tomatoes: Choose firm even sized fruit. Cut the tomato stem leaving a little stalk and the green bit on.

Onions / Shallots: Don't leave until the last minute, lift early and allow to dry. Rub off the loose skins when dry. Sometimes peeling the skins is required but do not damage the skin below. Cut the stems leaving enough to be able to turn over and tie with either raffia or string. Don't tie too early as the stems shrink. Slice the roots off close to the bottom of the bulb.

Beans: Make sure your beans are young as the Judge will snap them to see if they are stringy. They need to be the same length and shape. Leave a little bit of stalk on.

Lettuce: Pick two that are about the same size and shape. Pull the lettuce keeping the roots on. Remove any damaged or yellow leaves, but not too many. Wash the lettuce including the roots. Trim the roots slightly. Lettuce should have firm hearts.

6 COOKERY & PRESERVES			
43		Lemon orange lime curd	*one plain jar named with screw top*
44		Jam	*one plain jar named with cellophane top*
45		Honey	*clear or set, standard 1 lb / 454 gr screw top jar*
46		Marmalade	*one plain jar named with cellophane top*
47		Jelly	*one plain jar named with cellophane top*
48		Decorated or iced cake	
49		Flapjack with a twist	*men only*
50		Banana loaf cake	*any recipe*
51		Fruit Scones	*six on a plate*
52		Victoria Sandwich	*classic*
53		Fruit infused spirit	*one bottle named variety*
54		Chutney	*one plain jar with screw top*
55		Salsa	*any in a bowl*
56		Eggs	*three*

Unless specified, exhibits should be shown on a white plate. The majority of marks are awarded for flavour/aroma but internal condition and overall appearance are also taken into account.

Cakes: Should be well risen, even in shape and baking. Any fruit should be uniformly distributed. A domed top with slight cracking is acceptable for light fruit cakes. The cake should not bear any cooling rack marks.

Jams, conserves, etc.: The flavour, consistency and colour are all judged but some account is also taken of the jar, which should be labelled given the contents and the date, month and year of making.

7 CRAFTS		*Note: Crafts can be tapestry/hand embroidery/hand sewn/machine sewn/knitted or crocheted/ceramic metal or wooden*	
57		Article	

8 PHOTOGRAPHY		*Cup for best exhibit*	
		Photographs can be digital or traditional cameras but must be unmanipulated prints no larger than 7" x 5" / 18 x 13 cm, or up to 10" / 25 cm panorama. Content takes priority over technical competence.	
58		South Newington	
59		Insect	
60		Instagramable meal	
61		Trees	
62		Jubilee picture	
63		Storms	
64		On the move	
65		Land or waterscape	
66		Wildlife	

9 NOVELTY		*Note: Open to all ages*	
67		Adult colouring - see picture provided	
68		Grow a sunflower	
69		Plant a potato	*pot size max. 12" / 30 cm*

10 CHILDREN			
Under 16			
70		Gingerbread character	
9-13 years			
71		Garden on a china plate (9-13)	*with only natural flowers and foliage*
72		A decorated cake	*can be a bought cake*
73		Colouring entry - see picture provided	
5-8 years			
74		Garden on a china plate (5-8)	
75		Three decorated biscuits	*can be shop bought biscuits*
76		A rainbow collage using natural materials	
Under 5			
77		Thumb print picture	
78		Picture using natural materials	

OTHER AWARDS

- Ladies - most points
- Men - most points
- Floral Art - Best Flower Arrangement
- Best cake in show
- Most exhibits staged
- Overall best exhibit
- Best in fruit and veg
- Children under 5: Most exhibits / points
- Children 5 - 8: Most points
- Children 9 - 13: Most points

How to enter

Please refer to the South Newington website for our new and easy-to-use entry form with which you should **register your exhibits electronically** for one or more of the 78 classes listed above. The entry form will also ask you for your email address so that once you have submitted your entries **you will receive a confirmation email** containing the selections you have made. Simply bring a copy of your confirmation email (printed or on your phone) to our **Registration Night** at the **South Newington Village Hall** to receive your show card(s) and pay the applicable entry fees.

https://www.southnewington.co.uk/south-newington-flower-produce-show/

Note that the new entry form on our website will not be accessible before 1st July 2022. **Entries can be submitted until 3rd August 2021.**

Competition entry pricing:

Adults: £1 per class, capped at £10
Children: 50p per class, capped at £5

Entrance to the show: £2.50 for adults, £1 for children

We encourage all payments to be made by card (card readers will be available during our registration night and at the entrance desk on the day of the show).

SOUTH NEWINGTON FLOWER & PRODUCE SHOW 2022

The Marquee will be open for **staging exhibits from 08:30 to 10:00 on the 6th August**. You can **donate your exhibits** to the end of the show auction. All you have to do is leave them in the marquee. If you want to keep your exhibit please ask for a colour dot to put on your show card. This will identify "not for sale" to the auctioneer.

The committee regrets that it cannot be responsible for any damage or loss affecting any exhibit. Any decision by the committee regarding any dispute over judging, staging, wording of classes or any other matter connected with the Show shall be final.



Dog Show

Back by popular demand! Entry fee: £2 per class

Waggiest tail — Dog most like its owner
Best dog couple — Dog fancy dress
Best turned out dog — Best child handler, under 12 yrs
Best veteran dog — Dog judge would most like to take home

Committee Members: *Amanda Blythe-Smith, Miles Colgrave, Becky Flowers, Graham Fewster, Harald Schulz, Julia Streeter, Lisa Schulz, Nicky Smith, Penny Waddell, Sue Thomas*

FLOWER SHOW MEMORIES AND OTHER OBSERVATIONS ON VILLAGE LIFE

Peter and Bridget Read have lived in South Newington since October 1960 in the thatched Lavender Cottage, Moor Lane.

They bought the cottage from Vi Parkes Smith and her twin sister, Twinny, who used to run a small private school from the cottage at one time.

Peter,who worked at Alcan and was renting a flat in Banbury, cycled round the local villages in the evening after work, looking for nice villages for him and his new bride Bridget to buy a house in. He decided South Newington looked promising!

Bridget remembers the village was very run down in those days, and many of the houses were derelict. Mill Stream Cottage, where Charles Ludlow now lives, was thatched at the time and had a big hole in the roof for example.

Both Peter and Bridget have played a central part in the village community life for many years. Bridget is far too modest to say but I think she served on the Parochial Church Council for forty years and a similar number of years as a Trustee of the village hall, a role she has only recently stepped down from. She was also a very active member of the WI when there was a village group, and together with Peter they set up and organised the much-loved Harvest Suppers in the village hall for many years – at least twenty.

Bridget still plays an active part in the life of the church here, and her thoughtful, gentle composition and reading of prayers is appreciated by all who hear them. Bridget gave up her job as a Senior Radiographer when she came to the village and raised her family, with two sons Simon and Tim both born here, but is also a skilled needlewoman. You can see her work in the church soft furnishings and she was also part of the group from the village who stitched the kneelers in the church. Each one of these kneelers is individual and has a story to tell, like the ones shown here.







Bridget remembers being asked almost as soon as she came to the village to help with the Flower Show, *(some things never change!)* "What an awful task I was given!" she said, being asked to judge the 'Best Baby Competition'. We don't have that category anymore, but others will remember that it was also a feature in the Banbury Guardian with a double page spread of Bonny Babies in Banbury.

Peter similarly has also served on many committees and been a good friend and neighbour to many villagers over the years. He kindly took the time to write down some reflections for the newsletter which are reproduced here and has promised to write up more memories and stories from the village, so we look forward to learning more soon!

REFLECTIONS ON VILLAGE LIFE BY PETER READ:

Flower Show

The Flower Show in the first week of August is always a popular and lively event. Over the last 60 years there have been changes to the format and one of the most entertaining in early years was the sideshow of bowling.

In the 60s and 70s bowling for a small live pig attracted much interest. On the morning of the Show I was given £5 to purchase a small baby pig which was first prize for the winner of the bowling competition. A similar bowling event for the ladies resulted in the winner receiving a tea service.



Bowling for the pig nearly always resulted in a tie which required a bowl-off to decide the eventual winner. This took place at the end of the show with much of the village sitting on the stone wall that surrounds the Poleaxe. More often than not the same finalists appeared, from South Newington, Rodney Williams, and Jack Taylor from Barford. It was a good way to finish the day.

School and the village hall

The village school was still operating in the first half of the 1960s and its proximity to the village hall was very convenient.

Lunches for the school were prepared by Miss Dean in the village hall kitchen and taken over to the school. Meals for the other local schools in neighbouring villages were prepared as well in the hall and transported in hot lockboxes to these schools.

This practice continued even after South Newington school had closed and as I was chairman of the village hall at this time, I was glad to see the monthly cheque from the Education Authorities going into the village hall funds as we had very little other income.

USAF

There was a large American base at Upper Heyford when we moved here. On some occasions this base could not provide adequate family accommodation for all the personnel. At these times families were put into rented accommodation in the surrounding villages. South Newington was no exception.

Generally the Americans were only here for about six months until a house was found for them on the base. One family, the Johnsons were a little different however. Mr Johnson was a teacher at the base and he decided to buy a house in the village as he expected to be here for some time. This proved to be correct and they lived here for many years at the School House becoming well integrated into the village and highly valued members of the community.

(*Many villagers will remember the F1-11 fighter jets that regularly flew low over us at that time from Upper Heyford. David Barbour painted the largest CND symbol in the UK on his barn roof at Heath Farm in objection. This caused the barn to be used as a route guide for the jets as it was marked on pilots' maps*. *There were often at least three families from the States in the village at any one time. Peter remembers one family who imported a huge American car but crashed it so often on our small roads that it was soon traded in for a Ford Anglia*).

Farming

When we came here there were at least five active farmers, Philip Page, Peter Page, Tom Page, Tom Harper and Clarence Butler. Now the only farming activities are small scale and centred around chickens and sheep. There is no working tractor in the village indicating how insignificant farmer has become in South Newington today.

Peter described a funny story about Peter Page who farmed at 'Barrets' on Green Lane where the Cattons now live. He was such a big strong man with large hands he once tossed a whole sheep over the wall into the Reed's house, and then jumped over the wall himself, being in a hurry to get the sheep out quickly .

Traffic

Since 1960 there has been a vast increase in the volume of traffic both in the village and on the A361. This has led to considerably more noise everywhere. In 1960 you could hear the water going over the lasher near the road bridge especially on a summer's evening. Not now.

With huge thanks to Bridget and Peter for taking the time to share their memories with us.

Other villagers have wonderful memories and stories of village life. Joan Giannassi (nee Clifton) who sells plants on the high street, has lived here all her life apart from the eight years when she lived in Geneva, working for the WHO, where she met her late husband Pierro. Joan was born in Jasmine Cottage on Moor Lane and has written a delightful account of the family's run up to the Flower Show. Sadly there isn't room for it in this issue but for now here's a photo of her father and other villagers from the Flower Show in 1960 with their prize winning cups.



L- R: Mrs Tew, Kit Hambidge, Beryl Hayward, Tom Clifton

BOOKS

The following message below is published at the request of Oxfordshire County Council

If you or someone you know is finding it difficult to get to the library, the Home Library Service can help!

Run by Oxfordshire County Council, the Home Library Service is completely free and delivers books and other library materials to hundreds of people across the county.

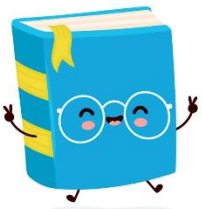
Friendly volunteers choose items you like and visit every three weeks to deliver and collect them.

The service is open to people who struggle to physically visit a library. It's also available on a short-term basis after illness or hospitalisation, and to people with caring responsibilities.

Registering is easy, simply call your local library or the Home Library Service on 01865 810259 or email homelibraryservice@oxfordshire.gov.uk

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/homelibraryservice

But also….



If you join your local library and get a card, you can login remotely. With your own personal ID and login details you can access and use all the library's electronic material, including archives, catalogues and online books.

What a wonderful public service! For more details about this ask Sue Robertson who knows all about it..

BIRDS, BEES AND BIODIVERSITY (Aka 'Style Council)

This group was set up to help restore and rebuild biodiversity in our village. Recent issues of the newsletter have reported how, in the lifetime of villagers, our stream has ceased to support any fish, where once we had at least twenty nests of house martins there are none, great flocks of sparrows have disappeared, no cuckoos sing in Spring and the number of many other species of birds are down or gone. Birds rely on insects for food, which rely on plants for their food in turn. The more we over-cultivate the land, and that includes mowing verges and using pesticides, the less biodiversity we have.

Perhaps you feel it looks messy, with scraggy verges all year round? Some species of butterfly such as the marbled white shown here, need an entire year in the life cycle of a plant in order to reproduce. Some will only lay eggs on nettles.*



Some birds such as the goldfinch, rely on dried seed heads to make it through the winter. Mowing, or even dare we say it, dead heading some plants at the wrong time of year, destroys the food for an entire range of insects and birds.

That's why we are trying to adopt a more considerate approach to mowing verges and tidying patches of land. Where it is safe to do so we are trying to leave them to grow with a cut only twice a year.

Five verges have been assigned to leave in the village and on two of them we conducted an experiment to compare the difference between cutting or not cutting the grass.

Science survey 30.04.22			
An analysis of a one metre square area of plant life			
To identify which plants are growing in the different areas			
Conducted by Fran Burles, Louise Burles, Nicky Smith, Gabriel Smith using the plant ID app "Picture this".			
Infront of Sands house	**Infront of Sands House**	**Under The Town sign**	**Outside the poleaxe by the cherry tree**
Uncut verge	**Cut verge**	**Uncut verge**	**Cut**
Common dandelion	Ribwort plantain	Creeping thistle	Common daisy
Bluebell	Lesser celandine	Creeping buttercup	White clover
Primrose	Common dandelion	Perenniel cornflower	Creeping buttercup
Purple deadnettle	Annual blue grass	Cow parsley	Common plantain
Cow parsley	White clover	Common dandelion	Common dandelion
Winter aconite		Great brome (a grass)	Korean lawn grass
Stinging nettle		Common velvet grass	Common velvet grass
Cleavers (sticky weed/ Goose grass)		Field bindweed	Spear thistle
Cuckoo flower		Ox eye daisy	
Annual bluegrass		Hedgerow cranesbill	
Orchard grass (tall)		Bitter dock	
Rockspray cotoneaster		White deadnettle	
Ground ivy		Cleaver	
English ivy		Woodland forget-me-not	
Red stemmed feather moss		Rescue grass	
Herb robert		Orchard grass	
Lesser celendine		Smooth cats ear	
Lesser periwinkle		Doves foot cranesbill	
Mouse-ear hawkweed		Corn speedwell	
Hoary plantain		Prickly lettuce	
Wood avens		Creeping jenny	
Early dog violet		Spear thistle	
Three coned leek (wild garlic)		Wild daffodil	
Ribwort plantain		Creeping bent	
		Mock strawberry	
24 different plants	**5 different plants**	**25 different plants**	**8 different plants**

erence

The difference was surprising! Sadly, the uncut verge in front of Sands House was accidentally mown shortly after this survey took place. To minimise the impact, the cut grass was taken away, because if left, grass adds too much nitrogen to the soil which encourages grass to grow at the expense of flowers and other species.

Have you noticed the stripey tape along the verge along the Barford Road, at the top of the Green Lane? This is special area of verge that has been set aside and planted to see the difference between three different approaches to verge management in terms of biodiversity:

- Ordinary cutting several times a year
- Mowing twice year and taking away the cuttings
- Not cutting at all and planting out a mix of native species

The aim is to see which supports the most biodiversity after one or two years.

We have asked for a plan of the verge cutting schedule from the Parish Council so that the set aside areas are not mown by accident at the wrong time of year again, and will continue to monitor and try and support biodiversity in the village, and hope you will do the same. Thank you for your support and tolerance.

If you would like more information about verge management this is a good place to look: http://www.barnsleybiodiversity.org.uk/verge_management.html

* The Big Butterfly Count 2022 is open until 7th August if you want to take part: www.bigbutterflycount.butterfly-conservation.org/

GARDEN NEWS

A little crop of garden news in this issue. South Newington House and Bush House both continue to welcome visitors as part of the Open Garden Scheme, raising a huge amount of money for Katherine House Hospice. A little bird told us that a famous gardener, none other than Alan Titmarsh, liked the look of South Newington House gardens so much he recently spent a day filming there. Not sure when it will be screened, but we do know that the beautiful gardens at Paradise House are featured in this month's House and Garden magazine. And any of you who remember Paula and Alan, who used to live in South Newington, will be interested to know that their new garden will soon be featured in Cotswold Life.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

GREAT PUMPKIN COMPETITION AND BONFIRE NIGHT

Saturday 5th November



James Durley kindly organised and grew baby pumpkin plants for the village. How's yours doing? The judging of largest pumpkin by girth will take place on Saturday 5th November in the morning, followed by a bonfire and fireworks party with a difference.

What's the difference? It's an idea from Balscott village where each household is invited to supply a giant or very pretty (and ideally silent) firework for the display in advance. The fireworks are laid out with names, and the donor household name called out before the firework or display is lit.

There'll be hot dogs and jacket potatoes provided in return for a small donation to charity, and it'll be Bring Your Own (BYO) drinks.

It's also BYO fire – villagers are invited to help gradually build the fire by bringing appropriate things to burn i.e. wooden things and adding them to the bonfire from the week before, so from Saturday 29th October.

More details will follow in time, but you are also invited to design a lantern (with the candle safely inside a glass jar, inside the paper lantern) to light the path along the trees to the bonfire site. This is an idea suggested by Julian: "A luminaria or farolito is a small paper lantern which is of significance in New Mexico and the broader Southwestern United States at Christmas time, especially on Christmas Eve."

WORLD EVENTS England thrashes Sweden!



Is England one victory away from holding the trophy for the first time in 56 years in the WOMEN'S EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP?

On 26 July 2022, at 20:00 BST England faced Sweden in the semi-finals for a place in the finals. The match at Bramall Lane, Sheffield started, lacking in energy. Manager Weigman said "they looked vulnerable and cagey at the start." However, England improved, with Mead's comforting goal, she controlled it and smashed it into the goal camera.

From then on Sweden were demolished by England's ruthless attacks. The defender Lucy Bronze came in with a storming header, shortly followed by the astonishing back heel that 'megs' the goalie and was scored by Russo.

As the crowd's excitement grew the team's skills elevated towards the closing minutes. The final goal was conceded by Kirby, chipping the goalie.

An outstanding performance by the lionesses. 4-0 Will they do it again on Sunday, 31st July?

Written by village football enthusiast Sebastian Harden aged 10.

RIDE & STRIDE Saturday 10th September



This annual event raises much needed money for the fabric of our church and many others in Oxfordshire. South Newington has received £1000's from the charity in the past ten years to maintain the building and its world-famous medieval wall paintings.

Churches are open throughout the day around Oxfordshire with refreshments available in many of them. It's a lovely way to spend the day cycling or walking between country churches, being sponsored along the way.

For a sponsor form or to take part in any way (welcoming, walking, making refreshments) please contact Nicky Smith at The Barn House, 07771 785228.

OTHER REGULAR VILLAGE EVENTS

Art Club and Yoga are currently full but there is a waiting list. Table tennis still looking for an organiser.

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

SPRING WEATHER IN SOUTH NEWINGTON 2022

March, April, and May 2022

Springtime in South Newington is nearly always a lovely part of the year and 2022 has produced a particularly good one. A bit too dry, but more about that later. Lots of wildflowers, daffodils bluebells, and the beautiful different greens of the trees shrubs and hedges starting their annual cycle. It all happened with the lifting of Covid rules giving so many opportunities to enjoy life again.

So was it a bit dry? Well, our average rainfall is between 70 and 80 millimetres per month. In March we had 50.8 millimetres with one very wet day when 25mm of rain fell on the 16th.

April was 21mm in total and not a drop between 11th and 30th. In May it was wetter with 78.6mm bringing it up to average.

The total for the three months was 150.4mm. The same three months in 2021 was 198.2mm and 82.4mm in 2020. May 2020 was extremely dry with only 2.6mm one of the driest months I have ever recorded.

To finish my wet weather comments, the Met Office informed us that South Newington was the wettest weather station in Great Britain on the 19th and 30th May, and the coldest on April 11, 15th, and May 6th and 14th. We seldom get as much coverage in the national press but it certainly pleases me when it happens.

Temperatures have been cool overall with six days exceeding 20°C in May and two in April.

Maximum average temperatures were May 18.1°C, April 14.6°C and March 12.2°C.

Last year they were 15 °C and 11.6°C and 11.1°C respectively.

The minimum temperatures which worry the gardeners with night frosts recorded eight nights of ground frost in May, the last being - 0.4°C on May 29th.

The warmest days were 21.4 °C on April 15th and 23.7°C on the 17th of May when you could almost take your jacket off!

Other extremes have been few and far between. We had some heavy rain accompanied by a thunderstorm on the 16th May about 11:00 pm, and a storm with hail about 6:00 PM on 30th May. The hail was normal size but did not lay about and do any damage. We had a gale recorded at 43 mph by my anemometer in early to mid April but regrettably I did not date it, but I have been made aware of any problems relating to it.

That about sums up my notes for spring 2022. If anyone in the village is aware of any weather event that I've missed please let me know at the gatehouse for inclusion in the next notes. I hope you will all enjoy a lovely summer at home or on holiday.

John Britten



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