SOUTH NEWINGTON NEWSLETTER



Throstle Cottage, The High Street

Autumn 2024

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Edited by Nicky Smith. Please send any content for inclusion to
Southnewingtonnewsletter@gmail.com or Nicky@twelvepr.co.uk
or drop in at The Barn House, Green Lane

PARISH COUNCIL

As we see in the end of a rather lacklustre summer, we can instead look forward to cosy village evenings and hope for bright wintery days. We have lots to thank our village community for after another successful village flower show and a diary full of events in the village hall, including the regular coffee mornings. These take a lot of work and set up so thank you to everyone involved.

The Parish Council has had a busy summer working on numerous projects including planned repairs to the village via highways. Some of the work is still to be done and we are furiously trying to move forwards on the final project: our much-needed drain clearing. We have had some new road signage spotted around the village and have also managed to push for the necessary replacement of the chevrons outside the Barford Road entrance to the village.
In addition, we're supporting the 'Dark Skies' initiative and are thankful to Zoe Colegrave for her engaging and thorough presentation at a village PC meeting on the benefit of village light reduction to our wildlife. These can be small changes such as avoiding some unnecessary outside lighting, particularly up lights. There is more information on the village noticeboard.

Vanessa Doyle, SNPC Lead, 07972324512

CHURCH NEWS

The church continues to offer us all a place to visit, to sit or to admire the wall paintings, village crafted mosaic, flowers and architecture. Many people choose to sit and ponder
or to pray, which in turn can help them to resolve their worries and can bring them closer to God.

In order to maintain the sanctity of the church, so valued by many, the PCC continue to work together to preserve the building and its important contents. Within a few days, the bird cadavers will be removed from the wires in the louvres, the area cleaned up and the wires mended to avoid the distress of birds becoming trapped again.

In addition to this the Medieval Wall Paintings will be enjoying a small conservation project to preserve them to the highest standard possible.
December offers a chance to gather and celebrate each other, our village and our church. We all look forward to that special time together.

Claire Swan, Church Warden

Church Flowers

Thank you as always to the rota of ladies who arrange flowers in the church, with the kind support of Jean Tarver.

The church is open every day in Spring and Summer and weekends in Autumn and Winter. Visitors come from all over the world to see the medieval wall paintings and some, like Ronald, come for their own family or personal reasons.

A surprising number of visitors comment on the fresh flowers and how well cared-for the church is, so to everyone who plays their part in this, including arranging flowers and cleaning the church, thank you again.

The following letter with photo was recently left in the church by a visitor.

South Newington Church



Eliza Hartley b. 24.4.1863

In June I had the pleasure of visiting the beautiful South Newington Church. My previous visit was on the 3rd of August 1991 which is recorded in the visitors book. I have since moved to Tytherington, Macclesfield and today I am 85.

My grandmother Eliza Hartley was born a few metres from the main entrance of the church.
She was born on 24th of August 1863, died on the 26th of January 1951 and was buried at Manchester crematorium on the 2nd of February 1951.
I was 12 years old and remember her very clearly. I think she was baptised on Christmas Day in South Newington Village Church. I understand her father John Hartley was a wagon builder in the village.

On my visit I collected several items of interest to show my family. If any historian has any further information on the Hartley family I would be very pleased to receive it.

Yours sincerely, Ronald Clive

Editor's note – Apparently the Barn House on Green Lane was once a carter's business yard. Where it has one barn now, it used to have two almost facing each other. I wonder if this was the wagon business Ronald refers to? If anyone would like to contact Ronald with any information please contact me for his telephone number.

DATE	**TIME**	**CHURCH SERVICE or EVENT**
Sunday 1st Dec	8am	Book of Common Prayer (BCP) early morning service
Sunday 1st Dec	5pm	Tree Lighting and South Newington Occasional Singers (SNOS) with Folky Folk concert
Sunday 8th Dec	11.15am	Holy Communion
Sunday 15th Dec	5pm	9 Lessons and Carols with SNOS
Saturday 21st Dec	3.30pm	Christingle
Sunday 22nd Dec	8am	BCP
Christmas Day	11.15am	Christmas Communion
Sunday 29th Dec	11.15am	No service in South Newington, joint service in Milcombe
Sunday 5th Jan	5pm	Epiphany Carol Service with visiting choir

Coronation Mosaic

We're still working gently towards a visit from King Charles III to inaugurate our village mosaic which is now in the church and have received another letter from the Royal Household about the possibility.



We'd like to produce an illustrated record of the names of people who helped create the mosaic together with the date of the Coronation, to be hung in perpetuity in the church, next to the mosaic.

This will be our 21st century contribution to sit alongside those from the 13th, 17th, 18th 19th and 20th centuries which are still on display in the church.

This is a photo of the sort of thing we have in mind, on the wall by the altar. If you completed any part of the mosaic please get in touch to confirm you are happy to have your name included in the inscription which will be commissioned soon.

49 Club – lottery ticket fund raiser

So far this year, the Club has donated £600 to the Church Repair Fund and we hope to double that by the end of the year.

Here are the latest winners for Q2, June, July & August.

Week	Number	Winner
01-Jun	9	no winner
08-Jun	59	no winner
15-Jun	22	no winner
22-Jun	34	Graham & Nicky Smith
29-Jun	6	Gill Brounger
06-Jul	13	No winner
13-Jul	59	No winner
20-Jul	44	Toby & Karen Harris
27-Jul	58	No winner
03-Aug	7	Geoff Lennox
10-Aug	12	Zoe & Miles Colegrave
17-Aug	49	No winner
24-Aug	45	Dale Gringrich
31-Aug	54	No winner

Pleased to say that we're at 37 members of the Club, but would be delighted to grow this back to the original 49 to include the new bonus ball numbers that go up to 59…that way we'd have a winner every week!

Numbers currently available are: 9, 13, 16, 20, 27, 35, 39, 42, 46, 47, 49, three of which were winners this quarter!

If you're new to the village, or been here ages but never got round to joining, please do! You can have a pro-rata rate for the remainder of year. The annual cost is £52.00

Zoe Colegrave zoedavidson@sky.com

What is the 49 Club money spent on?

The 49 Club is a fabulous way to help maintain the fabric of the church. This year £600 has been given to assist with the preservation of the nationally important wall paintings. These paintings, dating from the 13th century, have to be monitored carefully as their condition can change for instance, due to extreme weather conditions, something the village knows all about! The Lithgow Partnership, who are conservation specialists, are due to commence a cleaning and conservation process on the paintings shortly.

Without the generous support of the 49 Club this important work could not happen. Thank you all for your support.

David Swan

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

The village hall upgrade plan continues to move forward gently. Meanwhile here is a photo of a peafowl outside the village hall, kindly sent by John Braithwaite.



John is one of a team of people helping to progress the upgrade plans.

Stella Darke is the current chair of the Village Hall Committee but is due to stand down next year.

If you could step up and help run and also protect our beautiful village hall for future generation please do contact Stella: darkestella@gmail.com.

If you would like to book the village hall for an event, please contact Louise Hands on 07813 901616 or email louisehands80@hotmail.com.

Village Coffee Mornings

Our regular monthly coffee mornings are a wonderful chance for villagers to get together and catch up over delicious home bakes and fresh brews.

Last month, in September, Judith and Becky hosted a marvellous event in aid of the Macmillan charity and raised impressive donations of over £600. Judith's cinnamon buns have now reached mythical status so we're already putting in orders for next year!!

The dates for the rest of this year are:

Thursday 17th October – hosted by Sue Robertson and Stephen Anderson.

21st November – hosted by Tracey Schilling.

The December event will be a bit earlier in the month on Thursday 5th December. Claire Swan will be hosting a Christmas Fayre to give us all the chance to stock up on festive goodies. More information nearer the time.

Penny Price, Coffee Morning Organiser

Village choir

The village choir, South Newington Occasional Singers (SNOS), is busy rehearsing this term in readiness for its Christmas concert which will be held at 5.30pm on 1st December in the church.

We have many new seasonal songs and carols, along with old favourites in this winter's repertoire. The Folky Folk will, as has become tradition, add to the festivities with their wonderful toe-tapping tunes.

Everyone is invited afterwards for refreshments and to celebrate the lighting of the Christmas tree with a blessing by Dale and carol singing.

Save the date, and meanwhile if you are tempted to find out more about this lovely village choir, why not come along one Saturday morning to the village hall for a taster? Please contact Steph Rew for further details. (stephrew99@gmail.com)

Editors note – men, don't be shy, give us a try! SNOS has an unusually robust bass section and would especially welcome more men to join our two wonderful tenors.

Beetle Drive

Another excellently entertaining village event in the village hall was the Beetle Drive, Harvest Supper & Flower Show quiz night which took place on October 4th.

Organised by the Flower Show Committee the evening, which included supper for 52 people, involved a huge amount of work.

A special thank you must go to Gordon Waddell (extraordinarily smooth, fresh, hand-sieved mashed potato,) the legendary Colegrave brothers, Miles and Laurence, (150 perfectly cooked sausages and delicious gluten free gravy,) and Zoe Colegrave (a million peas, and vegetarian choices and also the fabulous, fun Flower Show Quiz.)

Also thank you to everyone who brought delicious desserts on the night, the washers up, the table layers, the speech makers and not forgetting the two Grahams who ran the Beetle Drive.

Of course most of all thank you to everyone who came along and played Beetle Drive (congratulations to Jonah Cassimjee who won the cup), took part in the Quiz and also played Heads & Tails.

FLOWER SHOW

South Newington Flower Show has been described as "the best traditional flower and produce show in Oxfordshire" and we are proud of the delightful event our village puts on every year in August. Next year's show will be on Saturday 2nd August.

Below is a version of the talk our Treasurer, Julia Streeter gave as part of the Beetle Drive and Flower Show Quiz in October.

We had a wonderful show this year on a perfect summer's day.

Thanks to the weather and everyone's generosity our takings were up, with the show making £5550. This is a really good result and much better than last year, when as you may remember it rained all day and the show only just broke even.

We had 70 people enter and a total of 333 exhibits. While that is marvellous and the marquee looked amazing, we would encourage everyone to take part, and for everyone who takes part to enter more things.

It would be great if we could have a hundred people enter next year and get our exhibits up to 500. All the committee are here to help if you have any questions.

Our costs are constantly under pressure, as are everyone's as we know. We are extremely grateful for all the donations we receive, be it a bottle for the tombola, a cake, a prize for the raffle, a tractor to sit in, a barn for storage, electricity for the tea urns or time to man a stall.

Thank you to everybody who gave. In particular we'd like to thank Geoff Lennox for covering our printing costs and Toby Harris for his sponsorship and all our local businesses including Heath Farm Cottages, North Oxfordshire Top Soil, and the Duck on the Pond for their raffle donations.

We are looking for more sponsorship as well as raffle donation for next year and if anyone can help or has any ideas, please see any one of the committee.

The primary goal of the show is not to raise money but to keep running the show for the community and have reserves to cover bad years. It's an event which brings us together and allows us to celebrate village life and the wide and wonderful range of flowers, vegetables, garden and kitchen produce, crafts and companionship which we are so lucky to enjoy.

The cost of running the show this year was £3000. While we need to buy some new equipment such as pop-up marquees and keep money some in reserve to ensure we have a Flower and Produce Show for many years to come, we do like to make some donations if we can.

This year we're pleased to give £150 each to the Village Hall, South Newington Church Buildings, Bridewell Gardens in Wilcote (they provide social and therapeutic horticulture in a working garden to adults living in Oxfordshire) and Macmillan Cancer Support.

Thank you again for all your support.

Julia Streeter, Treasurer.

A full list of all the local organisations who supported the show this year is given below. If you can support them by giving them your business in the year ahead that would be the perfect reward for their generosity.

- ♥ Heath Farm Holiday Cottages, near South Newington
- ♥ North Oxfordshire Top Soil, South Newington
- ♥ The Loft Beauty Rooms, Bloxham
- ♥ The Duck on the Pond pub, South Newington
- ♥ Wykham Park Farm, near Bodicote
- ♥ Quince & Clover Wedding Caterer and Café, Great Tew
- ♥ Hot Dog Grooming, South Newington

If we have missed any gifts or givers from this list, please accept our apologies and contact southnewingtonnewsletter@gmail.com or Nicky@twelvepr.co.uk for a shout out in the next edition of the newsletter.

Here, as a reminder that the sun did shine sometimes this summer, and what a great day we had this year, are some photos from the show back in August.





Opening the show L-R : The welcoming entry party waiting before the crowds arrived; Zoe with John Britton, an ex Chair of the Flower Show and weatherman extraordinaire giving his opening speech; the opening floral flourish in the marquee – 'best hydrangeas' category.




Cherry and James ran the book stall and helped the show look blooming marvellous.




Girls and boys enjoyed the day and we all liked the Hooky Shire horse, but where was the beer?!




Which one was the most popular, the Tea Tent or the Bottle Stall?
With special thanks to David for running the Bottle Stall, ably assisted by his merry gang of helpers including Geoff, and to Tracey and her rota of helpers on the Tea Tent





South Newington ladies, Gill and Claire, showing us how to have fun at the show, and Jonah expressing how we all feel on winning a cup.

There will be a special supplement with photos of all the Flower Show cup winners coming out in the New Year. And talking of cups, if you won a cup and haven't collected yours yet since it was engraved, please contact Cherry to arrange to pick it up: cherrydurley30@outlook.com.

VILLAGE TIDY UP

Vanessa helped us organise the annual village tidy up before the show, here are a few of the helpers getting organised. Thank you to others who turned up later and quietly did some more litter picking, and to Alex who made his own, very much appreciated, tidying up of the Poleaxe steps.



L- R: Miles, Zoe, Judith, Graham and Tim



Alex

Moving from summer to winter.....

DARK SKIES

A dark sky is a rarity nowadays, and benefits wildlife, such as the owls and bats we are lucky to have in the village, and also supports our own sleep patterns and well-being.

As clocks go back soon, could you review your outdoor lighting, to minimise light pollution? For example, make sure outdoor security lights are triggered by movement, rather than being set to

remain on all night, and ensure they cast light down rather than up or out, using the minimum wattage needed.

The Parish Council supports our village to be a 'Dark Skies Village' and the South Newington Biodiversity Group can help anyone who would like to check whether their lighting is disruptive, or who needs help in making any changes.

Zoe Colegrave has provided the following information, taken from the International Dark Sky Association

For billions of years, all life has relied on Earth's predictable rhythm of day and night, light and dark. It's encoded in the DNA of all plants and animals. Humans have radically disrupted this cycle by lighting up the night.

As we look ahead to the clocks changing at the end of October, and winter's shorter days and longer nights, here's a reminder of steps you can take to ensure you minimise light pollution and the negative effects it has on plants, animals and fellow humans.

We can all take positive action to combat the negative impact of light pollution. The International Dark Sky Association suggest a set of 5 simple principles that can cost-effectively help.



CHRISTMAS WINDOW ADVENT CALENDARS

Around South Newington in aid of Thrive Chipping Norton.



Can you believe it's that time of year! After such a stunning success last year raising over £200 it would be fabulous to have some festive windows again, but it has been suggested that we do some nights rather than all nights in December. I propose doing Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday evenings. You are of course more than welcome to do more if you so wish and we have enough windows, just let me know.

For those who are new to the village or who have not participated, this is simply a way for the village to gather during the run up to Christmas and celebrate through window decoration.

I'll draw up a list of those who wish to create a festive window and this will be put on the village notice board as well as emailed out to all on the village distribution list. Villagers gather around the appointed window on the specific evening just before 6pm so that the big reveal can take place when the church clock strikes the hour.

Please do email me with any dates that you would like to do a window rozmuirie@hotmail.com or if you have any questions.

It's my favourite time of year and I can't wait to see your amazing creations this year.

With festive cheer,

Roz rozmuirie@hotmail.com

QUIZ NIGHT AT THE VILLAGE HALL

Why not join us for a Quiz night at the village hall with a Pizza supper?



Date: Saturday 23rd November 2024

Time: 7pm to 9.30pm

Price: £7 per person includes Pizza.

Drinks: Please bring your own drinks and a glass. Cash prize for the winning team

Booking: Please contact Sue Robertson by email snewingtonnews@gmail.com or call 01295 722543 to reserve a place for you or your team

Why not make up a team with your friends? Ideally people should make up their own teams but if you cannot do this you can still come but will be on a table with others to make up a team. Good team size is 6 people.

Once you have reserved a place for you or your team, please drop the money round to:

2 Barford Road by Wednesday 20th November 2024.

Place(s) to be reserved by 5pm on Monday 18th November 2024; we cannot accept any bookings after this date.

News from Oxfordshire County Council

The Council sends a monthly email with information they'd like to be shared across its towns and villages. So here, very much summarised, is the news from OCC; something for everyone.

Energy saver app

Energy Saver App is a new, free mobile app from us that will help save money on home energy bills.

My Bus

MyBus offers almost unlimited bus travel across the county – all on one ticket. With access to over 150 bus services run by 12 different operators, MyBus offers a simple, joined-up travel solution for Oxfordshire residents and visitors. Daily or weekly travel around the county for a fixed price.

Care Leavers Week

Help support young adults who have recently left the social care system by being part of our careers event on Tuesday 29 October at County Hall, Oxford.

NHS Health Checks

NHS Health Checks give people peace of mind and help them stay healthy. It's free and takes just 30 minutes.

Morning after pill

In Oxfordshire, many are not aware they can access the morning after pill for free from some pharmacies.

Social tariffs for broadband and mobile

Social tariffs provide discounted broadband and mobile deals for people on government benefits. Anyone who qualifies could potentially save £180 per year on the average cost of broadband.

Free period products

The council is providing free period products in 18 libraries across the county, as part of a trial to help achieve period equality for all.

If you'd like to know more about any of the subjects mentioned above, please email communications@oxfordshire.gov.uk.

SOUTH NEWINGTON VILLAGERS

For those who suffer from the same affliction as Katie Smith (no relation) who recently featured on the BBC, *'Rightmove is my porn' - the addiction to online property search'* the number of properties currently for sale in the village is interesting, and we are always sorry when friends and acquaintances move on.

But on the bright side, lots of potential new friends are joining us!

We're delighted to welcome the following to South Newington who have moved here since the last newsletter was published in Spring:

Hello to all.

*I'm **Barbara Cary** and arrived at my new home, Northview, at the end of August. I can't begin to thank you enough for the very warm welcome you've given me. I'm absolutely delighted to be settling in to such a very special village, having arrived from Barnes, SW London.*

I'm a Pilates Instructor and many of you have mentioned that you're interested in a local class.

I've put some thoughts below, so do let me know what you think and hopefully we can get up and running soon.

In the meantime, I look forward to enjoying village life and all that our special little corner of the Cotswolds has to offer.

Thank you again for making me feel so at home,

Barbara

PILATES

Pilates is known as a "mind-body" exercise, developed by Joseph Pilates in the 1930's. It's quite different from Yoga. We concentrate on working from our core, with careful breath work to support this.

The Village Hall is free on Thursday evenings. Three Thursdays a month we could have an hour from 7pm. One Thursday a month, we would need to start at 6pm.

If you're interested, please send me a WhatsApp to 07771821480.

I'll then see what numbers are like and put us on a WhatsApp group for the fine tuning of it all.

My group class is a moderate form of exercise and all you'll need to bring is an exercise mat.

If anyone has specific injuries that you're concerned about, it would be better to work initially on a one-to-one basis, so do please reach out if this is of interest to you.

Thank you so much for all of your interest and enthusiasm. I look forward to welcoming you to the wonderful world of Pilates.

Barbara

Hi

We're ***Carlie and Simon Philby*** *and along with our little boys Hudson (9), Jasper (6) and black Labrador Audrey (another one for the village!) we've recently moved to Bakers Lane in South Newington from Australia.*

Carlie is an Interior Designer and Simon runs a brand consultancy. Hudson and Jasper are both very keen football players and we're all enjoying the lovely village community, walks and muddy knees already.

You may see Audrey / Houdini on Bakers Lane who keeps escaping our ever-increasing garden barricades! She's a friendly dog and is used to patrolling the front gate so hopefully if you come across her she isn't annoying. We are trying our best to keep her contained!

Anyhow, lovely to meet you all and look forward to getting to know you.

Graeme *moved from Glasgow to St Peter's Close in September, to be near his family who live nearby in Duns Tew, Fenny Compton and and Oxford. "I can't believe I moved from West Scotland to somewhere which is wetter" he said.*

Gordon is retired but busy with many interests including horse racing, with a racehorse stabled near Cheltenham

Alistair Downie and Candi Giacchetti *moved into East Bank in Nov 23.*

We arrived in South Newington from London via Great Rissington in 2019.

Al is from Scotland and Candi is from SA. Al's son Samson is 16 and comes to visit every few weeks.

We have an architectural practice based between Burford and London.

It's lovely to be living in South Newington and we feel very welcome and part of the community.

Thank you all.

If you have joined the village recently and would like to say hello, please get in touch. It's never too late for a friendly South Newington shout out 😊

In Memory of Pamela Bailey

Pamela, who had lived in Turnpike Cottage since 1974, died unexpectedly at home on August 30th, leaving her husband, Oliver, son, Matthew and daughter, Tara.

Very few of us in this village knew Pam well because she was so quiet and retiring and hated to attract attention. Her daughter specifically requested that no photograph should be included with this article because Pam, unsurprisingly, hated being photographed. So you probably didn't know that she had a first class honours degree in PPE from Oxford University, that she was very well read, particularly in politics and history, that she made the most inspired patchwork quilts and delightful knitted toys, that she was passionate about watching the Tour de France and was my most kind, generous and loyal support and friend for the last 50yrs.

We not only shared our parenting but had many a lengthy discussion about childcare, politics, and the state of the country over strong cups of tea. We braved the rigours of very basic camping holidays by the sea with our children, fortified again with flasks of tea or late at night with whisky.

Bloxham Primary School, where she worked as a TA, had the benefit of her wonderful skills with children and she was absolutely devoted to her grandchildren who paid her the most moving tributes at the funeral. Indeed, she is sorely missed by those who really knew her.

Pam is probably best known in the village for her meticulous work as clerk to the Parish Council for 17yrs, for her commitment as secretary of the 'Dyson Society' and finally as the secretary of the village hall committee. Julian Barbour has described Pam as a "superb" clerk although Pam herself never looked for any recognition. She was the best power behind the throne anyone could wish for!

Stella Darke

I found the metaphor for death in this poem, read by Oliver at the funeral, most moving and hopeful so I am including it as others may feel likewise touched.

The Ship

I am standing upon the seashore.
A ship at my side spreads her white sails to the morning breeze
And starts for the blue ocean.
She is an object of beauty and strength and I stand and watch her
Until at length she hangs down like a speck of white cloud
Just where the sea and sky come down and mingle at the horizon.
Then someone at my side says: "There! She's gone!"
"Gone where?"

"Gone from my sight, that's all"
She is just as large in mast and spar and hull
As ever she was when she left my side:
Just as able to bear her load of living freight to her place of destination.
Her diminished size is in me, not in her.
And just at that moment when someone at my side says,
"There! She's gone!" there are other eyes watching her coming
And other voices ready to take up the glad shout
"Here she comes!"

And that is dying.

SHARING INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION

As well as setting a few weather records, South Newington must surely set a few records for the most helpful, chatty and caring village.

We have a regular email distribution system for sharing news which is administered by Sue and James and meets all GDPR regulations, and two different village WhatsApp groups, plus no end of informal groups of people who look out for each other, run events, attend events etc - the very definition of a civil society. But to get to the point....

As winter approaches with possible snow and ice challenges, and maybe more flooding, Vanessa, on the Parish Council recently clarified the role of the two different WhatsApp groups.

For clarification and if you don't know about them, here's an explanation.

"Chatter – South Newington"

This is for general, pleasant chat, observations and friendly banter. Recent topics include 'whose black lab is this?', 'Does anyone know a good plumber' 'My Gigaclear internet is down, is yours?' and 'Look out the window now for Northern Lights!'

"South Newington Cares"

Originally set up during Covid, this group is intended for important or urgent news and is meant to be a sort of rapid alert or emergency call for action. If you would like to be added to either group, please contact Vanessa.

If you would like to join the email group all the details are below:

VILLAGE EMAIL LIST

The village email list notifies 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, 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.

There's also the village noticeboard where most village events are also publicised, plus the website www.southnewington.co.uk.

SOUTH NEWINGTON WEATHER

June July and August 2024

We are informed by the national press that "globally" this summer was the hottest on record. This comment caused me to take interest in the season on a wider scale than the village of South Newington. In fact, the UK has had the coolest summer since 2015 which indicates my feelings much more.

I have made a note below of the village figures over the last three years, shown below. They represent the average 24 hour maximum and minimum for each month. Some of the June 2022 readings were missed so average figures could not be relied upon for that month.

Average temperature in °C

	2024		2023		2022	
	Max	**Min**	**Max**	**Min**	**Max**	**Min**
June	19.7	14.9	22.8	14.6	18.7	12.7
July	21.4	15.5	20.7	16.0	24.6	18.1
August	22.3	18.3	21.2	16.2	24.9	18.2

The hottest summer day in 2024 was 29°C on August the 12th and in June 2023 it was 29.4°C . August the 12th 2022 produced 32.3°C in the only year we had four days in a row over 30°C.

Personally, I like the variations in temperature and climate in the UK which makes England the attractive country that it is to live in.

We can also look at the amount of rain over the same three summers. A "wet" day can mean light rain and/or drizzle which amounts to very little precipitation or it can mean heavy rain and storm as happens occasionally when we have a minor flood because the drains cannot cope

Average precipitation in mm.

	2024	**2023**	**2022**
June	25.2	51.8	22.2
July	78.8	12.5	7.0
August	35.2	49.4	42.6

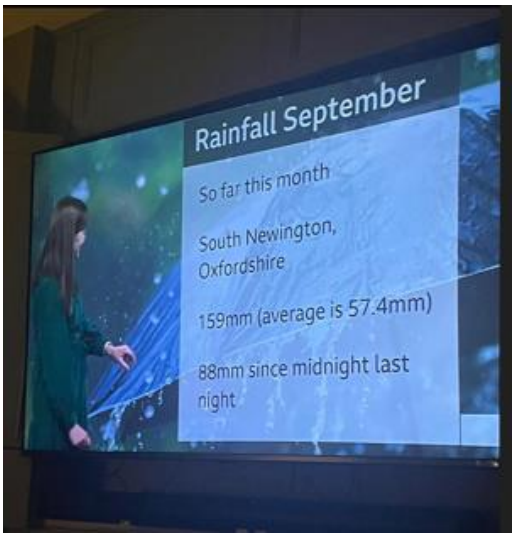
Over the past three years, July is the month that varies the most. I noted some thunderstorms and rain on the 14th June and at the night temperature dropped on the 19th August to 5.0°C making South Newington the coldest place in the UK that particular night.

Storm "Lillian" caught the village on the 14th and 15th of August and let us know "she" was here.

That is about it for the summer weather. My favourite season Autumn is with us and I hope to comment on that around Christmas.

John Britton 15/09/24

Readers will remember that John has an official Met Office weather station in his fields below Moor Lane. After years of keeping records by hand, the station is now automatic. It is thanks to this weather station, and of course its "extreme weather", that South Newington features so often in the news. In case anyone missed the most recent highlights on the TV here are a couple of photos.





Thank you to everyone who shared photos of the recent weather conditions in the village, here are two from Paradise Farm (on the road to Wiggington) plus a message from Jaynie.

From Paradise Farm

I would like to pre-warn all cat, dog and livestock owners that Paradise House is having a fireworks display over our lake on Saturday 2nd November at 6.35pm for approx 20 minutes.

Additionally…. Although I am not inviting South Newington!! If anyone is interested to watch it, it will be visible from several locations on the public footpaths that run through Paradise Farm.

This is NOT a public event though, and people should take extra care if they are on the public footpaths through paradise Farm in the dark.

On the subject of flooding…

I'm sure some areas of South Newington gave great photo opportunities regarding the flooding last week, but here are a couple of photos of the equestrian bridges on the public footpaths through Paradise Farm from Wiggington. Needed a boat to use this footpath for the best part of a week!





And our final weather-related photos are these two below. One of the striking Northern Lights taken on Saturday 12th October by Bill Burles, plus one of the pumping station by the brook.



The Northern Lights over South Newington.



Vehicles at the pumping station, pumping out sewage to prevent it overflowing after heavy rain.

South Newington Book Club

Who we are

The Book Club gather on the third Thursday of each month at the Duck on the Pond at 7:30pm. We are always keen to receive new members, so if you love to read and would like to join us once a month to discuss books and have a general catch up, we'd love to see you there. Even if you don't manage to read the book – you're more than welcome!



We alternate two different approaches for selecting our monthly read. One month we select one title which we all read (or start reading, or seriously consider reading). The following month we choose a theme for selecting a title for ourselves. You can interpret the theme in any way that suits you, so you can read something in your comfort genre, or push the boat out and go for something out of character.

What we've been up to

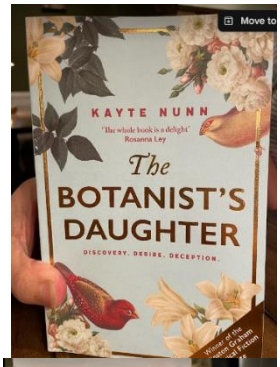
The book club have had a lively third quarter and are excited to share our group's reviews of the two books we all read for July and September. Thank you to Eleanor Lay for compiling our feedback for these two titles.

July

A Man Called Ove by Fredrik Backman (⭐ ⭐ ⭐ ⭐ ⭐)

Very popular among the South Newington book club, this funny, tear-jerking tale comes highly recommended. Ove, a widowed man in his 50s with a very negative outlook on life, lives in a small Swedish community when some new neighbours move in. His community chip away at his tough exterior through their incompetence with trailers, ineptitude with tools, inability to drive and insatiable need for assistance with the most seemingly mundane tasks. This moving tale of acceptance and community is a must read!

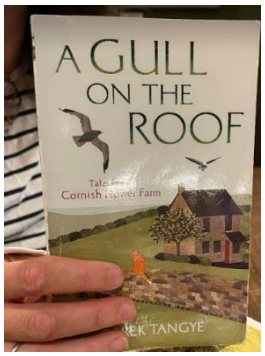
August

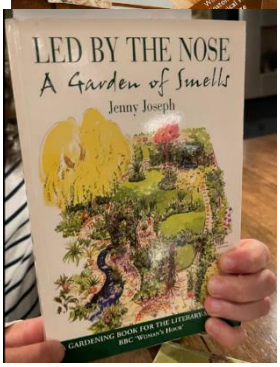


In August, we chose a theme of Plants and Flowers in honour of the annual South Newington Flower Show. We had a various selection of titles, with equally varying reviews.

We had some keen recommendations for *It Ends with Us* by Colleen Hoover, *The Moonlight Gardening Club* by Rosie Hannigan, *A Gull on the Roof* by Derek Tangye and *The Botanist's Daughter* by Kayte Nunn.

On the other hand, *Flowers for Algernon* by Daniel Keyes, *Black-Eyed Susans* by Julia Heaberlin and *Led by the Nose: A Garden of Smells* by Jenny Joseph received slightly more sceptical reviews.





September

Great Circle by Maggie Shipstead (⭐ ⭐ ⭐)

Following the lives of Marian, a young woman aspiring to be a pilot in the 20th century and Hadley, a wayward actress in the present day, *Great Circle* generated a mixed reception. An interesting premise often lost in the extensive descriptions which also acted to distract from the salient plot points. The story became faster paced and more enthralling as the book progressed and the distraction did allow for an unpredictable twist at the end which was universally enjoyed.

The two plot lines made the chapters somewhat difficult to follow and the link between the two, which was unclear until the end, often made Hadley's chapters feel superfluous. The use of first-person narrative for Hadley as opposed to third-person for Marian impacted how readers connected with each character, with most of the opinion that Marian was the more engaging and that this may have been intentional in distancing readers from Hadley. Hadley's character, being the less in-depth and only covering a short period of her life, gave relatively little background as opposed to Marian's narrative which was well explored and covered her whole life, making Hadley feel more like a side plot than a co-protagonist.

This made a nice change to other book club reads, with an exciting ending but in places excessive distraction from the story line.

What we've got planned

In October, the Book Club will be choosing titles under the theme of Travel. This theme seems to be quite far ranging. Non-fiction seems like the obvious choice, as the bookshop from *Notting Hill* springs to mind. However, we might see *The Girl on the Train* by Paula Hawkins, *The Time Traveler's Wife* by Audrey Niffenegger or perhaps something by Bill Runner. We'll have to wait and see.

Finally, in November, we will be reading *Lolly Willowes* by Sylvia Townsend Warner. This classic prose explores the themes of duty and female roles while throwing in a darker but whimsical twist towards the end of the story. Look out for our review in the next newsletter.

Come and see us

If you would like to be added to the Book Club WhatsApp group, and join in the literary fun, feel free to email Sue Robertson and Cherry Durley at the Book Club with your phone number, and we'll get you added. Alternatively, feel free to just show up at the Duck on the Pond, we'll be delighted to see you there.

southnewingtonbookclub@gmail.com

REGULAR WHAT'S ON IN THE VILLAGE

What	When	Where	More info
Table tennis	Monday eves 6.30 – 7.30pm	Village hall	Dawn and Neil hodsod@hotmail.co.uk
Art classes	Tuesday morning	Village Hall	bridget.read@icloud.com linda.brecknell@gmail.com
Yoga	Weds eves	Village hall	Geraldine Thomas 07584 571979 southnewingtonyoga@yahoo.co.uk
Seated Yoga	Friday eves	Village Hall	Liz Davis
Book Club	Thursday evening	Pub or Village Hall	southnewingtonbookclub@gmail.com
Coffee mornings	Thurs morning most months	Village hall	darkestella@gmail.com
Circle dancing	4th Thursday of month	Village hall	darkestella@gmail.com
Singing	Sat morning 10-12.30 am	Village hall	Steph Rew stephrew99@gmail.com
Parish Council Meeting	See village notice board or website	Village Hall	Vanessa Doyle, chair vanessasnpc@hotmail.com
Flower Show Committee	Now and then	Committee members house	Amanda & Graham, co chairs amandablythesmith@gmail.com gfewster@gmail.com
Biodiversity group	Now and then	Committee members house	Stella Darke & Nicky Smith darkestella@gmail.com Nicky@twelvepr.co.uk
49 Club	Weekly prize draw	Cash for the winner	zoedavidson@sky.com
Church Services	Sundays 8am, 11.15 am or 5pm	Church	Church wardens: Tim.Catton@epr.co.uk claire_ainley@hotmail.com