SOUTH NEWINGTON NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2026

BUMPER FLOWER SHOW REVIEW ISSUE



What is this panther doing in St Peter s Close? Find out inside!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **Tuesday 6th October 7.30pm, Extraordinary Parish Council meeting, village hall**
- **Sunday 11th October Harvest Festival 5pm, church**
- **Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th October 2 - 4pm, village hall plans exhibition**
- **Tuesday 27th October 7pm, Tuesday Talk by Tim Catton, village hall**
- **Saturday 31st October 6.30pm, Halloween Supper & Quiz**
- **PLUS more talks and Christmas plans inside!**

Newsletter written by Nicky Smith, not official views, mistakes my own etc., NFDSmith@gmail.com

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

As autumn draws in, it is lovely to be able to share another South Newington newsletter and update from the Parish Council.

In May, Vanessa Doyle stepped down after eight years serving on the PC, five as Chair. She gave a great deal of time and energy to the village, carrying forward work begun by the previous Chair on drains and flooding, overhead electrical cables, and the many smaller issues residents regularly bring to the Parish Council. We are very grateful for all her hard work and commitment.

I served as interim chair between May and September, and at our most recent Parish Council meeting Moh Cassimjee was elected as our new Chair. We wish Moh all the very best in the role.

It s been a wonderful summer, and the annual Flower and Produce Show was equally wonderful. Organised and laid on by the Flower Show Committee, it is a special village event every year. Thank you.

In August, the village drains were due to be inspected by camera to identify why High Street and Moor Lane become a continual stream during heavy downpours and, in the worst cases, sends water down towards the pub and beyond. Unfortunately, the lorry broke down on its way to the village, so this work has now been rescheduled for December.

Other ongoing work includes continuing to press for the overhead electrical cables along Tink A Tank to be put underground; looking into a speed-triggered sign to warn drivers about the bend on the A361 and help reduce the number of cars leaving the road and colliding with the pub; and finding practical ways to manage the maintenance and repairs needed for the children s play equipment on the Pole Axe.

In September we were notified of a planning application for 10 homes on the site of Barford Road Farm and we have arranged an extra village meeting to hear your views before the PC responds.

Finally, as winter approaches, please do check your nearest salt bin. These are made available so that we can grit streets in the village in the event of severe frost. Please let us know if the one near you needs to be refilled.

That s it in terms of updates. Enjoy the rest of this newsletter.

Stephan Lucks

Editors note

To add any items to a PC agenda or raise any issues, emails should be sent to the clerk (email address below) and arrive two weeks before the meeting in order to be added to the agenda. In addition to the Extraordinary meeting on Oct 6th, (agenda below) meetings are usually monthly, with dates and agenda published in advance on the village website and posted on the noticeboard.

The best way to notify Cherwell council of potholes, trees or other highway issues is to use the portal: www.fixmystreet.com.

To submit a planning application or comment on one go the Cherwell website: www.cherwell.gov.uk

SOUTH NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Email: clerk@southnewingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

To members of the Council:

You are hereby summoned to attend an Extra Ordinary Parish Council meeting on Tuesday 6th October 2026 at 7.30pm in the village hall for the purpose of transacting the following business:-

Agenda

26/68. To receive apologies

26/69. To discuss planning application 26/01222/OUT, 10 new dwellings, including 3 affordable dwellings and associated garages, on previously developed land at Barford Road Farm, Barford Road and agree a response

26/70. Public participation session (Members of the public are invited to address the council. The session will last for a maximum of fifteen minutes with any individual contribution lasting a maximum of 3 minutes)

26/71. To discuss the purchase of a highway sign 21.09.26

Please note, this is a public meeting and you may be filmed, recorded or published.

CHURCH NEWS

The church continues to welcome visitors to regular services, for special occasions and to see the Medieval wall paintings. Just a few extracts from the visitors book give an idea of how far and wide people come to see our little church.

28/06/26	Kelly Hemphill	Toronto, Canada	Beautiful! I loved the local touches.
17/07/26	David Coon, great grandson Jonas W Page	Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada	Special moment for me as Pages worshipped here for generations.
18/8/26	Max Todd	Fringford Manor	Beautiful and evocative and so much information. A jealous churchwarden.
21/09/26	Ivor and Joanne Wilde	Piddington, Northamption	Touring churches mentioned in Simon Jenkins 1000 Best Churches . Thank you for being open.

It takes a small army of people to keep the church open, clean and welcoming with flowers. This wonderful group of people were invited to a special service on Sunday 13 September to thank them for their time and contribution. With some nice hymns and prayers, a short service, plus drinks and canapés afterwards, it was a very convivial occasion.

If you would like to be involved, or have any questions about church, faith, services or events you can always email Dale our vicar, dalegingrich@hotmail.com or contact either of our church wardens in the village, Claire Swan and Tim Catton.



The next special service is the Harvest Festival on Sunday 10th October at 5pm.

Please bring any harvest contributions for Banbury Young Homeless People (BYHP) and any harvest decorations to the church any time the week before or on the Sunday.

CHRISTMAS CHURCH SERVICES

Yes, it's only October but this is the last newsletter this year, so here s the church services and events coming up. The date to turn on the Christmas tree lights date is still to be confirmed.

Sun 11 Oct	5 pm	Harvest Festival
Sun 8 November	9.30 am	Remembrance Sunday Service (Bloxham)
Weds 11 November	10.50 am gather	11am South Newington War Memorial
Tues 1 Dec	5.50pm	First advent window opening at the church
Thurs 3 – 5 Dec	10 – 5 pm	Christmas Tree Festival (Bloxham)
Sun 13 Dec	5.30 pm	South Newington Occasional Singers (SNOS) Concert with Folky Folk
Sun 20 Dec	5.30 pm	Carols & Readings
Friday 25 Dec	11.15am	Family Christmas Communion
Sun 3 Jan	5.00pm	Epiphany Carols with a guest choir

RIDE & STRIDE



A massive thank you to everyone who supported Ride & Stride this year. Organised by Oxfordshire Historical Churches Trust (OHCT) this annual event sees most churches open across the county, with refreshments laid on to welcome sponsored visitors.

The money raised is to protect the fabric of historical buildings, and South Newington has benefitted from £1,000 s over the years to help repair the building.

This year, thanks to your amazing support dear villagers, £490 was raised. Thank you again.

Tamsin, Julianne and Nicky set out to ride from South Newington

49 CLUB

The 49 Club exists to support the Church Repair Fund. So far this year, thanks to the generosity of Club members, we have already donated £1,000 to the repair fund. We'd love to donate more, but lower Club numbers this year, mean we'll only be able to donate a further £300, unless we're particularly unlucky and our numbers don't come up!

Here s the list of recent winners:

06-Jun	50	No winner	
13-Jun	44	Toby & Karen Harris	£20
20-Jun	44	Toby & Karen Harris	£20
27-Jun	24	Steve Richards	£20
04-Jul	47	Anna Guard	£35
11-Jul	41	Peter Thomas	£20
18-Jul	10	Judith Denby	£20
25-Jul	50	No winner	
01-Aug	29	Amanda Blythe Smith	£35
08-Aug	43	Carmen Guard	£20
15-Aug	7	Geoff Lennox	£20
22-Aug	3	John Britton	£20
29-Aug	55	No winner	

The Club currently has 39 members, while there are now 59 Lottery Bonus Ball numbers (we base our winners on the bonus ball in the first draw). For £52 per year, you have the chance to win £35 for the first draw of the month, and £20 for subsequent draws.

The Club year runs from March to February, so half year membership is now open at £26. If you'd like to join the Club and support the upkeep of our beautiful church, please get in touch with Zoe Colegrave at zoedavidson@sky.com or WhatsApp to 0771 8536275.

Available numbers include: 15, 16, 20, 39, 46, 49, 50, 51, 52, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59. Is one of them your lucky number?

If you d like to see your name as a recent winner, get in touch with Zoe!

CHRISTMAS ADVENT CALENDAR WINDOWS AROUND THE VILLAGE

Thank you so much to those who have done windows in the past and given so much enjoyment to all of us in the village to help raise money for Thrive OX7, a charity that supports young people and families who are struggling in the area.



For those who are new to the village, we will be opening a different window (locations will be confirmed on the notice board outside the church) every Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday throughout December at 5.55pm to kick start the festive period.
These are decorated windows created by our talented South Newingtonians and enjoyed by all. It s a lovely way to get to know the village and eat your fill of mince pies!
If you would like to create a Christmas window this year, then please send Roz an email rozmuirie@hotmail.com. THANK YOU!

POPPY APPEAL 2026

Thank you for all your generous donations last year, we raised a fabulous £442.32 for the Royal British Legion.



As a family we visited Pegasus Bridge in Normandy this summer, and it was very moving to see the wreath in remembrance of the Oxford and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry and 6th Airborne Division pictured to the right here.
Our local soldiers had such a critical part to play in the liberation of France in 1944.

I will be collecting for the Royal British Legion during the weeks 26 October and 2 November. Unfortunately, we cannot take card payments, so please could you bear this in mind.

If for any reason I miss you, please don t hesitate to pop to the Duck on the Pond where there will be a donation box with Poppies as well.

Many thanks
Roz

THE VILLAGE HALL

Plans are progressing well for the Village Hall development project and all in the village are invited to come and view our proposed planning application at an exhibition in the Hall from 2 - 4pm on 24th & 25th October.



Plaque in the village hall above the mantel piece

Fundraising continues, with the series of talks, kindly arranged by Nicky Smith, with speakers generously giving up their time in aid of the development project, being well attended and a great success.

Coffee mornings have continued over the summer, and we received a bumper donation from the Lennox's, from the raffle held at their summer ball. Monies donated through these village events have covered the costs associated with developing the plans and completing the surveys necessary to get to the point of being able to seek planning consent.

The Village Hall Committee is hugely appreciative of all the contributions made by those in the village.

Zoe Colegrave

The next fundraising supper club and quiz will take place on Saturday 31st October, with you all warmly invited...Halloween Fancy Dress is optional, but encouraged! £20 per person, for a main course, pud and cocktail on arrival, with all proceeds going to the Village Hall project.

COFFEE MORNINGS

Our fabulous village bakers have been amazing this summer. Not only did we make and donate over three hundred servings of delicious home-made cakes for the annual Flower Show in August, many of you have also baked for the monthly coffee mornings.

We ve been delighted to have some new faces as hosts this year and it was especially good to have younger hosts when Toby, Ophelia and Ottilie Swan entertained us in June. Everyone was impressed with the delicious cakes and charming hosting.

October 15th will also see the coffee morning being organised by first timers . Thank you in advance to Sandria McEachron and Ana Undason for joining our elite team of hosts and offering to make and donate the cakes and raffle prizes for the October event along with Jean Tarver.

We re looking forward to another convivial meet-up and hoping for a good turn-out as autumn sets in.

There will be two more coffee mornings this year on 19 November and 10th November with warm welcomes and winter cheer to brighten up the winter mornings.

The coffee mornings are a marvellous opportunity to see and talk to fellow villagers along with raising much needed funds for the village hall. A huge thank you from all of us to everyone who hosts these mornings. Not only do they bake the most delicious cakes, they also donate an array of raffle prizes, as well as putting in all the hard work on the day.

Since our last newsletter we also have to thank Roz Rapp and Kirsten Suenson-Taylor, Sue and Peter Thomas, and Sue Robertson and Steve Anderson for hosting the coffee mornings. And of course thanks to Judith Denby and Becky Harden who not only hosted the September coffee morning and bring & buy sale but also completed the Cotswold Mighty Hike in aid of McMillan Cancer Support charity.

Of course, the time comes when people move on and leave the village, or are simply busy or unable to host. New volunteers are welcomed with open arms. There is always an experienced hand to host alongside you or simply provide support from the benches!

If you would like to help please contact me, Penny Price, on 07780435249 (WhatsApp or text).

TUESDAY TALKS

We are incredibly grateful to our speakers who have so generously given their time and shared their experiences with us in aid of the village hall refurbishment plans.

Mike Rapp, Diana McIlveen and Zoe Colegrave, John Britten, James Durley and Hugo Richardson have shown yet again what a lot of inspirational, brilliant people live in South Newington.





James Durley our August speaker with his fascinating insider s knowledge of international horticulture at Ball, and its special trollies. We love the trollies.

The question this month is - what have the Wandsworth Brewery, Whiteley s Shopping Centre, Cardinal Place London and Tom Cruise s latest film, Digger, all got in common?

The answer is Tim Catton, who has made models for all of them. Please do come along if you can, and don t forget your pound coin to play heads & tails. Donations in aid of the village hall.

Tues 27th September 7pm	The art of creating miniature, working architectural buildings, from one the of the UK's finest architectural model makers.	Tim Catton

Then our last two talks for 2026 will be:

November - Dawn Hodson and Roz Rapp talk about their work for the life-enhancing and often life-saving charities they work for.

December – Stephan Lucks talks about psychology in the workplace.

BOOK CLUB



We thoroughly enjoyed selling you all books at the Flower and Produce show. Thank you for donating so many great titles. We hope that you are enjoying your summer and autumn reading.
July s book was Small Changes by Marge Piercy, a 1970s novel about the lives of two women and the feminist movement of the time. Mixed reviews, most thought it was too long and hadn t aged well.

Kirsten busy on the book stall at the show

In August we had a water theme and read a great variety of books. Unfortunately, social lives prevented us from meeting up on the night but reports in September told of real-life adventures on the high seas, lots of swimming stories and the hidden life and secrets of rivers.

September s meeting discussed The Names by Florence Knapp. A novel which explores how much our names influence our lives and what might happen if only our parents had made a different choice. We found this an interesting idea and the novel was well written although some found the parallel timelines format difficult and the violent episodes unnecessary.

If this has inspired you to join us please do. We meet at 7.30 in the pub every 3rd hursday of the month. That s the same day as the coffee morning so easy to remember.

For October we are listening to an audiobook of a book we have read before to see how it changes our feelings about the book. November is My Husband s Wife by Alice Feeney and at November s meeting we have a pot luck distribution of Christmas reading to discuss in January.

BREADLINE BENCH



Not everyone in South Newington is on the WhatsApp group called SN Breadline Project but all of us have probably seen the cart outside the church gate, by the village noticeboard, often laden with food and flowers.

Collected by Ana from local retailers, people can take anything they like in exchange for a cash donation or online payment to the Breadline Project in Banbury. I asked Ana for an update on what it has achieved this year.

Since January 2026 , the South Newington bench and our local project work has raised approximately £2,550 for the Community Breadline Project. Thanks to your amazing community spirit and steady support, every penny goes directly toward vital initiatives.

Right now, our project focus is helping Breadline get a dedicated Rescue Van on the road. Local supermarkets offer hundreds of kilos of fresh, surplus food every week, but the team desperately needs a transit van to collect it all and deliver it to families in need. Every £1 we raise effectively buys a mile" towards their fundraising goal.

We cannot thank our neighbours enough for making this bench such a meaningful, life-changing success. Keep an eye out for upcoming updates, and please do stop by the bench to say hello!

Warmly,

Andy, Breadline project www.breadlineproject.org

Also from Ana, something to look out for in the months ahead….

BARGAIN HUNT

Guess who got picked from 150,000 Applicants to appear on Bargain Hunt?!! My friend, Ellen & I decided whilst having a spa weekend, to have a go! We did one unplanned video & just sent it off! A couple of months later, we were asked to complete some details & then had an online interview, and a month later, it was confirmed that they wanted us to appear on the programme!

We filmed the runaround (trying to find items to buy) at Lamport Hall in Northampton and were given an hour to find our items to sell! Several re-takes" of these items were made to ensure that the viewers had good shots of the items chosen, etc. It probably took about 2/3hours for our part of the filming, including adjusting my mic because I was a little loud"!

Our next filming was for the auction! This was carried out at Amalfi White in Derby.
This time I was told by the Producer that I had carte blanche" & could be as loud as I wanted! We filmed our bits" while the auction was going on; & I certainly made a few outbursts" to encourage the audience to buy our items! Later that afternoon, we filmed the winning teams and yes, we were allowed to keep our winnings! Did we get the Golden Gavel"? Watch this space! We will be on TV in 3-6 months time!

😉🤔 Ana

FLOWER AND PRODUCE SHOW 2026

South Newington Flower Show really *is* considered one of the best traditional shows of its kind in the county. The drayman from Hook Norton Brewery, now retired, used to visit all the shows in the area with his beautiful shire horses, and it was he who said it was the most unspoilt and pleasant of all the shows he went to.

Banbury Guardian News you can trust since 1838



South Newington's Flower and Produce Show is said to be the most popular event of its kind in north Oxfordshire

Set on the picturesque village green, tucked away from the road, the show features a grand marquee with displays of home-grown garden produce, home bakes and beautiful hand-crafted items as well as floral displays and a photography section.

The show s only aim is to bring our village together and keep alive the traditional of showing rural, home grown produce and crafts. We aim to make enough money to keep going and donate some money to local good causes; beyond that it s all just for the fun of the show!

But organised fun takes a lot of work!.. Although actually, behind the scenes, it s also quite fun. The meetings are nicely sociable and it s a great way to meet fellow villagers and play a part in helping our community. Plus, we have a great post show party! We hope you might join us! And we d love any suggestions for new ideas for updating the show. For example, it s the Olympic Games in 2028 – should we include our own Olympic Games on the Poleaxe as part of the show and to warm up in 2027?

The committee would love to hear from you! Amanda Blythe-Smith, Cherry Durley, Penny Price, Roz Rapp, Nicky Smith, Julia Streeter.

Treasurers Report

Saturday 1st August 2026 was another memorable show day, and the committee would like to thank everyone who helped make it such a success.

The show s main income came from the magnificent tea tent (over £1,700 of takings), our fabulous raffle (with over 700 tickets sold), and gate receipts (circa 250 visitors) from all our loyal supporters.

We had 420 entries this year generating over £450, up on 2025 numbers but we will aim for 500 next year! The two stalls run by committee for bottles and books took over £800 between them.

Our surplus this year was circa £2,300 — a great result made possible by the help we receive in covering some of the costs, such as printing and signage.

A particular mention this year goes to Applegarth Nurseries in Chipping Norton and to all our generous raffle prize donors. We are always looking for new sponsors, so if you have any ideas, please let the Flower Show Committee know: **flowershowsn@gmail.com**

We are also pleased to support the community by donating £1,000 this year, shared equally between the Village Hall, the Church Building, Bridewell Gardens, and Parkinson s UK.

Thank you again for all your support, whether as a volunteer, donor, or visitor. We hope you had fun. Please put Saturday 7th August 2027 in your diary for our next show — we would love to see you there.

Julia Streeter – Treasurer, on behalf of the South Newington Flower Show Committee.



Louise, Claudie, Nicky, Penny, Ana, Charlotte and Carli

The tea tent ladies, with team leader Penny Price, show off their fabulous new aprons. Huge thanks also go to Barbara, Dorcas, Elizabeth, Gini, Jane, Julianne, Julie, Karen, Marijka and Sandria who all helped to serve and clear up literally hundreds of slices of cakes and cups of tea and coffee.

And thanks to those who wanted to help but couldn't make the day including Norma, Tina Tracey, and Viv.





Left, above: Dog show judge supremo Tim Catton with best supporting judge Tina Gandy, plus Anjelica Catton and their pugs Walter and Otto.

Right: Graham Fewster in the dog show ring with his black spaniel Squire, whose tail wag is still the fastest in the show.





Left above: Huge shout out to Oxfordshire s table tennis champion Neil Hodson who together with his wife Dawn run the table tennis game at the Flower Show, and the table tennis club on Mondays in the village hall. In this photo above left, their son Luke (aka Hipfire" for gamers out there) tries to win: Most points gained from Neil . (Editors note – this is not easy, Neil really *is* a champion player.)

Right above: Big thank you to the team organising the children s games including Roz, Abi, Millie and the Swans. Shown here, Roz and Ottilie admiring winning teddies and their new owners.





Left above: Best supporting acts, brothers Miles and Laurence Colegrave whose help with tent erections and taking down is so very much appreciated, and also a massive thank you to Gordon (in the middle) who does a huge amount of work organising the entries, points and prize winners for all the categories to the show.

Right above: Al making a SumUp cash machine look even more lovely than it is, with Andy Brown, hardworking weekend guest, on the admissions table.





Left: probably the most popular stall on the show, organised by David, with Simon, Geoff and Candi helping out.

Right: another cool cat, Moxie, checking out the morning preparations





Left: also providing a warm welcome on the admissions table, Graham Fewster, with Claire, David and Toby.

Right: the raffle table, where there s non-stop writing and chatting! Amanda, Gill, Claire and Lin

CUP WINNERS GALLERY





Left: Sue Best Dahlias - you wait 40 years and then two come along (winning for the 2nd year)

Right: Zoe best compere and also Best in Wild & Pollinator Flowers





Left: David best auctioneer and also Best Sweet Peas

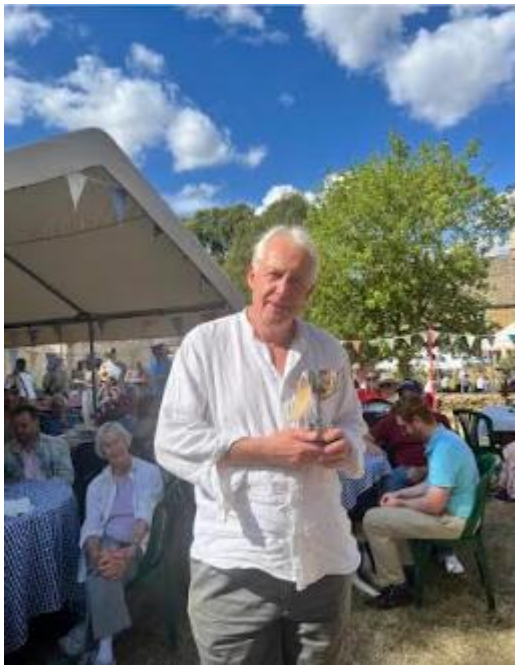
Right: Al, rightly proud of his cup for Largest Marrow





Left: Gill Best Miniature Arrangemen and also honorary Most cheerful person in the village

Right: Colette for Best Gladioli' and Best Floral Arrangement.





Above: Gordon -awarded top prize for amazing work behind the scenes with spreadsheets, and also the winner of two cups, Best cake in show and Best Gentleman s Baking'.





Left: Jean and Ernie, Jean winning Best Victoria Sponge.

Right: Toby accepting the cup on behalf of his wife, Karen, for Best Handmade Item.







Above: A hat trick of cups for the Richardson family, Cleo and Amy with cups for Most points aged 5-8 Best Overall Photograph and Garden on a Plate aged 5 – 8







Above: Jonah, winner of the most cups - Most points aged 9 – 13, Most entries staged and Garden on a China Plate' and also winner of Most enthusiastic supporter of the show.





Left: Peter, winner of the prize, together with his wife Sue, for house in closest proximity to the show tent, plus also winner of Most points – men

Right: Nicky, best matching dress and trainers (not shown) and also Best in Fruit & Veg

From flowers to trees…

FEATURED SOUTH NEWINGTON TREE

The large tree on the poleaxe you can see in this picture below is a cut-leaved oriental plane. It was planted to mark the Millenium together with the smaller pink hawthorn tree next to it, and the three oaks on the way to the brook on the right hand side as you walk down from the village.

Stella Darke was a tree planter in those days, and planted them along with thousands of other trees across Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire. She describes why the plane tree was chosen: After the beech tree came down in the Vicarage I thought we needed a statuesque tree, and this is a very majestic type. It was about 5 tall when we planted it, and it s grown beautifully well. Turns out it s very well suited to our new climate, being happy with heat and dry weather."



WELCOME TO SOUTH NEWINGTON

As well as the Flower Show it's been a busy summer in the village, with lots of new families moving in. We re delighted to welcome you all.



A very warm welcome to Hayley, Will and their son Monty who moved to the Deans in Moor Lane from Earlsfield in southwest London. Having grown up in the area, they met at Bloxham School and are delighted to have moved back.

Together with their golden cocker spaniel, Alfred, they have fully embraced the Good Life, generously offering spare eggs from their hens on their doorstep for passersby. Good luck for baby number two coming soon!

George and Sarah Barnes, with their son Boris and Shiba Inu dog, Luna, have also moved here from London, north London this time though, coming to Cherry Orchard in Green Lane after first staying in Ascott under Wychwood for a while to see if they enjoyed country life. They did, and here they are! We hope you find our part of the Cotswolds (North Cotswolds" is apparently the new definition) even more lovely to live in than Ascott under Wychwood.





Becky and Joe moved into Moor Lane in the summer from Wandsworth in London, bringing their British short hair cats Caeser and Atlas, together with their Bernese mountain dog, Atlas. Unusually, this is the third Bernese mountain dog to move to their cottage after Julianne s world-famous pair, Balto and Gurin, were temporary residents. It s great that Jasmine Cottage has attracted such interesting animals and their owners and hope they are all very happy in their new homes here.



Pets being such an important part of our lives, we re also delighted to welcome husband and wife vets George and Abi, with their son Jude, to Turnpike Cottage.

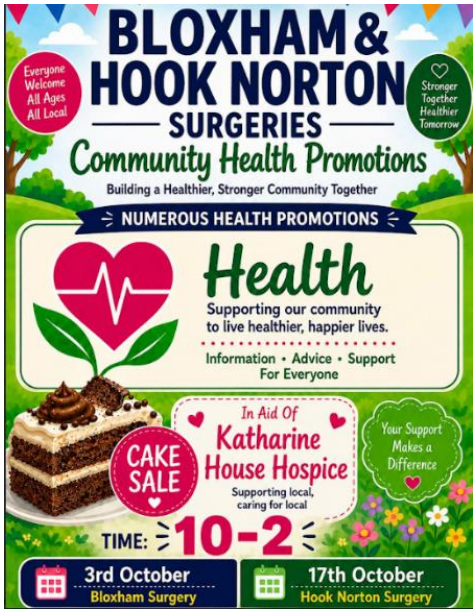
George grew up in Gaginwell and went to school in Chippy (I m going to out him here as Head Boy) and met his wife at Nottingham University. They lived just outside Carmarthen in West Wales before returning to the area and moving in recently.

And our third George to move to the village is George who together with Hattie has moved to New Garth inreen Lane from Sevenoaks in Kent. They both work in the superyacht industry, and obviously they are aware, yes, that South Newington is about as far as you can get from the sea

in the UK. They have found everyone very welcoming and are looking forward to welcoming their own new addition soon, with the arrival of Cecil their whippet puppy this week.

Last but not least, welcome to Claire and Tim Williams, with their pet Tweed, a Parsons Russel terrier, who have moved to Inglenook on the High Street from Chipping Norton. With grandchildren in Chippy and Yorkshire, they are already busy, especially as Tim is helping build an extension to their son s house but we trust, as Claire is a keen gardener, they ll find time to enjoy life in the village, and their lovely garden.

WHAT S ON NEARBY



South Newington villagers tend to be registered with GP practices in either Bloxham, Deddington or Banbury.

The Bloxham practice, which also includes Hook Norton surgery, is hosting two community health promotion events in October.

- Bloxham Saturday 3rd October 10 – 2pm
- Hook Norton Saturday 17th October 10 – 2pm

Open to everyone, regardless of which practice they re registered with, the events are designed to support staying well, preventing ill health and awareness of what support is available in the area. Joy Dansett from South Newington will be hosting a bowel cancer awareness stall at both events, so do pop in and say hello.

Barford WI

Everyone is welcome to come along to Barford WI meetings on the 2nd Wednesday each month.

- On 14th October we have a speaker telling us about the work of the Banbury Young Homeless Project.
- On 11th November we have a talk entitled The Shepherd's Stone, which tells the story of a shepherd who lived and worked locally.
- On 9th December it'll be a craft demonstration accompanied by mulled wine and mince pies.
- We also have a Line Dancing group who meet at 7.30 every Thursday. This is great fun - nothing too strenuous but we all have a good laugh, especially when we go wrong!

It would be lovely to welcome South Newington people. Either turn up on the day or WhatsApp Carole on 07768 378758 for more information.

Very many thanks
Christine and Carole

Cheaper, local electricity from Hook Norton.

Having recently switched from Octopus to Hook Norton Low Carbon (HNLC) for our electricity, I thought other villagers might like to know about this new scheme. It s cheaper, locally generated electricity. Over 160 homes and businesses have joined and are saving on average 25% relative to the energy price cap. I asked Tim Lunel from the club to write something for the newsletter.

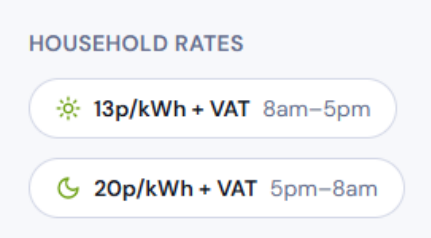
The Hooky Energy Club (HEC) enables local electricity consumers in Hooky and surrounding villages including South Newington to benefit directly from low-cost energy produced by locally-connected renewable electricity generators, such as the solar farm next to Sibford School and the anaerobic digester (AD) plant in Swalcliffe. The solar park was built by local farmer John Taylor and is now run by his son Ben Taylor. The anaerobic digester plant is run by James Taylor.

*We are setting the price for electricity at **13 p/kWh between 8am and 5pm** when the sun is shining and our community is powered by our solar farm partner Wattcrop in Sibford. This is half of the UK s energy price cap now .*

Hooky Energy Club s prices will stay exactly the same until April 2027. Then in April it will be us as a community not the energy supplier who will set the prices going forward to keep the benefits local.

Accessing the tariff does not require any changes to the electricity connection to your property and is no different to switching energy suppliers or tariffs as is commonly done





The night time rate, shown above is 20p/kWh which is way more than Octopus at 8p/kWh so I asked (thinking about getting an electric car) and this is the reply I got:

Where you need to charge your car in the period from 5pm to 8am it will be at 20 p/kWh. While the headline rates for Octopus might sound attractive (and I've double checked and for your post code it is 8 p/kWh from 23:30-05:30) but it is more than offset by the very high price of 33 p/kWh for the remaining 18 hours of the day. We have carried out a calculation for one of our other members and even if he was only ever able to charge his car overnight he would save around 10% compared to the Octopus/EDF overnight low price tariff. If he was able to charge his car during the day for at least part of the time that he'd save 20% or more.

HEC can also help you access a £9,000 Government grant temporarily available (from 21 July 2026 to 31 March 2027) Boiler Upgrade Scheme for replacing oil or LPG systems with low-carbon alternatives like heat pumps if anyone s interested in that. We ve opted to fix a few of

the windows and the howling gales that blew in through them but a heat pump might be suitable for your home.

Go to www.hookyenergy.com for more information and for assistance with switching to Hooky Energy Club contact energy@hn-lc.org.uk

Note: it was easy to switch and I m not on commission!

Food waste – actually quite juicy news



Since we re on the subject of Anearobic Digestion (AD) plants I happened to be chatting to the food waste collectors from Cherwell Council last week, and learned some things my fellow villagers may also be interested to know.



Did you know we no longer need to put food waste in those special recyclable green bags? All our food waste goes to an AD plant in Cassington near Yarnton (shown above). The site has invested in a new piece of machinery like a corkscrew" which separates out plastic from the food so any type of plastic container, including carrier bags or hard clear plastic food containers, can be used to store food waste before it is collected.

Cherwell Council has made £1.4 million this year from its food waste collection, via selling the output from the AD plant. The methane from the bubbling food waste is used to make electricity, which is sold to an energy supplier (as per above the Hooky Energy Club example) and the liquid by-product, a soil conditioner, is sold to farmers.

Plus, food waste is the heaviest component of waste, and very expensive to dispose of (land fill is taxed per tonne) so taking food waste out of household waste also saves the council money. Food waste collection has allowed the Council to take the equivalent of £5 off every household Council tax bill this year.

Other music for our ears

Many of you may remember the Gales from Throstle Cottage on the High Street, and Ian Gale, the second airline pilot to live there before the third and current airline pilot to live there, John. (Not to be confused with the other airline pilot in the village, legend of the Lane and the skies, Hugo.)

Emily Gale asked to include this note in the newsletter.

My name is Emily Lloyd-Gale, and I grew up in Throstle Cottage. I spent 20 years in the village and have so many happy memories of the close-knit community, friendships, gossip and events. Those memories have always stayed with me and have found their way into my music.

I m delighted to announce the release of my first single, Garden Of Dreams. A song about growing up in the 90 s and early 2000 s, the dreams we have as children, and holding on to hope when life doesn t quite turn out as we imagined.

It feels particularly special to share this with the village that was such an important part of my childhood and my story. You can stream it on Spotify and Apple Music, or buy it on iTunes. Every listen, download and share would mean so much to me.

Actual amazing food





REGULAR VILLAGE EVENTS

What	When	Where	More info
Table tennis	Monday eves 6.30 – 7.30pm	Village hall	Dawn and Neil hodsod@hotmail.co.uk
Art group	Tuesday morning	Village Hall	bridget.read@icloud.com linda.brecknell@gmail.com
Yoga	Weds eves	Village hall	Geraldine Thomas southnewingtonyoga@yahoo.co.uk
Pilates	Thurs eve 6 – 7 pm	Village Hall	Barb Barbaradrennan@me.com
Seated Yoga	Friday eves	Village Hall	Liz Davis
Book Club	3rd Thursday of the month	Pub	southnewingtonbookclub@gmail.com
Coffee mornings	Thurs morning most months	Village hall	Penny Price Penella11@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	Notice board or website	Village hall	Moh Cassimjee mocassimjee@gmail.com
Flower Show Committee	Now and then	Village hall	Amanda Blythe-Smith (chair) amandablythesmith@gmail.com
Biodiversity group	Now and then	Homes	Nicky Smith NFDSmith@gmail.com
49 Club	Weekly prize draw	Cash for the winner	zoedavidson@sky.com
Church Services	Sundays 8am, 11.15 am or 5pm	Church	Church wardens: timcatton@gmail.com claire_ainley@hotmail.com

KEEPING IN TOUCH!

We have a village email distribution group for notices, please email James Cameron at: snewingtonnews@gmail.com to join and learn about GDPR rules etc.

Plus THREE WhatsApp chat groups for (1) Actual chit-chat (2) Official alerts & serious news and (3) Breadline deliveries to the bench. Please contact Becky Harden to join any or all of these groups.

Chatter – South Newington"

There is a huge and usually entertaining volume of chat on our village What sApp group. Items looking for a new home, people looking for help finding recommended tradesmen, lost parcels, lost dogs, lost sheep, lost broadband connection, the colour of people s trousers etc., its all there.

A recent suggestion has been to set up a Check a Trader type section on the village website. The village website itself is having a few issues so not sure what is happening there – keep an eye out and I m sure James Cameron who runs the website will keep us informed.

The subject of lost parcels comes up so often, most recent being the disappearing parcel from Bill s doorstep. Or *was* it Bill s doorstep? It certainly wasn t his parcel! What are they getting up to down there in Moor Lane?



So here s an idea, should we have a central village delivery box, something like this one (available in a choice of colours) perhaps tucked behind the bench in the churchyard, or by the red post box?

This would save delivery drivers and recipients time and stress looking for addresses and lost parcels. Obviously the WhatsApp group wouldn t be quite so much fun, but what do people think? Should it be an agenda item for the next Parish Council meeting?

SOUTH NEWINGTON WEATHER Spring / Summer 2026

My last notes were written at the end of January and took in that month so I'm now looking at February to August 2026 to fit in with the newsletter for the village. I'm writing these notes in September so I haven't yet got that month's details to include.

Before looking at some very memorable weather so far this year, I want to thank all of you in the village who came along to the village hall on the weather station evening talk set up by Nicky for supporting us. It was a very rewarding evening for me and I hope everyone enjoyed it.

The Met Office technicians were here last week making sure that everything was as it should be. The period that I'm looking at from the rainfall point of view was very variable

Month	Rainfall mm
February	132.0
March	15.2
April	14.2
May	44.6
June	71.8
July	0.6
August	27.4

With the extreme heat in the village climbing to a maximum of 36.7° everything got very dry. That temperature was on the August 13th.

August went through three phases. A warm dry opening, a short intense hot spell in the middle and a cool end with a little rain. We were lucky in August where much of the country - not too locally - was fighting wildfires fires and getting short of water - I didn't hear of any serious fires in our area. The gardens suffered badly added to the hose pipe ban, and we will soon know how badly the large trees have suffered.

Believe it or not we actually had some frosts to report. They were in the grass thermometer which lays in the grass on the surface of the ground.

Date	Temperature °C
9 June	-1.1
11 June	-1.4
29 June	-0.2
3 July	-0.6
20 July	-1.8
7 August	-0.4

Obviously in the spring and winter months, these temperatures are common. It is surprising how the temperature down in the Swere Valley can rise and fall as rapidly and on occasions it can even deliver a frost. My yard does not show the sort of cooling that the fields do a bit further down, and it still feels very warm in the yard overnight and around Moor Lane itself.

I wonder how many people saw the total eclipse of the sun on 12th August? (*Editors note – Judging by the photos on the village WhatsApp group, everyone)* I only saw the darkening of the sky from my home but even that was quite impressive. Maybe some of you went to Spain to do the job properly (*they did, including John, one of our aforementioned airline pilots*) but the next one will be in 2090 I'm told, so we probably won't need to worry about that!

I will be back with some more notes for the next newsletter and I hope you will all enjoy the autumn run up to Christmas.

24 September, John Britten

AND FINALLY!! THE BLACK PANTHER

South Newington Safari: A Wee Tale from St Peter s Close

It s been a few years since a Beast of Burford sighting has been reported in the local area. That is until a few weeks ago when it showed up in South Newington, specifically on the lawn of 3 St Peter s Close! I jest of course.

Some of the eagle eyed amongst you may have spotted it stretched out in the grass. One of our canine population certainly did, stopping dead and refusing to carry on walking homewards believing the rather large stuffed toy to be real. The cats weren t fooled though, the usual air of indifference being displayed.

The contractors clearing out the aforementioned address had already had a bit of fun with the beast. They d laid it on top of their caged lorry and posed, presumably taking a shot to upload to Instagram, then later Tarzan sounds were heard. The animal antics didn t stop there though. A rubber rattlesnake also made an appearance - expertly and purposely placed next to my wheelie bin, so when I went to throw out my rubbish I d see it. Sure enough see it I did!



Freezing for a few seconds still wondering if it was real or not before laughing out loud that I was but a victim of a practical joke. Payback was in order! So I dragged the snake out and positioned it on the front doorstep for the contractors to later find but alas they didn t return. However, our lovely postman did find the snake! And he has informed me that it made him scream argh" and jump back - so that s a job well done on my part.

It now resides in the grass ready for the next unsuspecting person (or dog).

The panther? Well that s seemingly ran off into the wilds, last seen running towards Chippy…
As fun as all these animal antics were, one can t help but feel a little saddened that someone else s belongings have just been tossed out. Thrown into a truck, broken down and likely sent to the tip. Items that could have been salvaged or reused etc.
Needless to say it s been very chaotic down this end of the village, there was a lot of garden to cut back as well as emptying the house which has sat empty for nearly a year now.

So, it looks like we shall have some more new villagers to welcome soon although don t hold one s breath if the situation with No1 is anything to go by. The old adage – time will surely tell.

Emily Bonner