SOUTH NEWINGTON NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2026



View of South Newington by Hugo Richardson

INSIDE! LOTS OF DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Supper Club & Quiz
Coffee Mornings
***NEW* Tuesday Talks**
Meteorological Weather Station Private Tour
Flower Show August 1st

Newsletter by Nicky Smith. News, views to NFDSmith@gmail.com

PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council would like to share the following updates with residents:

Drains

Sadly you will have noticed drains in the village failing and overflowing creating what looks like a stream off the High Street and running down Moor Lane. These issues have been raised with the Highways but they are claiming a question mark over responsibility for field run-off and failing drainage, and we will continue to monitor the situation and clear the drains repeatedly to try and contain the issue. Please take care in affected areas and report any urgent issues directly on FMS (Fix my street), the more we do this the easier it is to prove we have a significant issue.

Spring Clean

A community Spring Clean is being planned for the end of March, with the date to be confirmed asap via email and on the village WhatsApp. We hope residents will join us in helping to keep our parish looking its best. Further details will be shared soon.

Potholes

While we have fared better than some neighbouring villages due to the hard graft put in by our village FMS super user, potholes are beginning to reappear. Please take extra care when travelling around the parish and continue reporting any significant issues on FMS so they can be passed on to the highways authority.

Field & Dogs on Leads

The “dogs on leads” signs in the field have come and gone. While requesting dogs be kept on leads at all times may feel extreme to some, we kindly ask that owners ensure they have control of their dogs at all times. If you are using the footpaths, please be especially considerate of other users, including walkers, children, and those who may feel uncomfortable around dogs.

Bread Bench

The Bread Bench continues to thrive, and we would like to extend a sincere thank you to Ana for her ongoing positivity and commitment to keeping the area tidy. Her efforts are greatly appreciated by the whole community.
As always, thank you for your continued support in helping to make our parish a pleasant and considerate place for everyone.

Vanessa Doyle
Tel 07972 324 512 / vanessasnpc@hotmail.com
Chair, South Newington Parish Council

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

The big village hall news for this issue is the wonderful addition of the Supper Club, initiated by Zoe to help raise funds for the village refurbishment.

The first supper was on the theme of Halloween and raised an amazing £1,100. The second supper was Mexican themed and also raised a huge £1,200. Not forgetting Miles' Bacon Butty Breakfast which raised £300.



Spot the spider at Halloween Supper



Hands up who likes a Mexican evening?

Thanks must go to all the chefs, artistic designers, quiz designers, bottle washers and guests who made these great events happen.

NEXT SUPPER CLUB DATE FOR YOUR DIARY "If music be the food of love...."
Sunday lunch and quiz Sunday 17th May

Organised by South Newington Occasional Singers (SNOS) a Sunday lunch of musically inspired food and accompanying quiz. Fancy dress optional but there will be a prize for the best ABBA outfit, Elvis impersonator, Mozart maestro etc.

Please note this is actually a Sunday lunch and quiz, timing TBC but probably 1.00 - 3.00pm tickets £20 each including quiz

BENEFICIAL PRIZE DRAW

Beneficial is part of an insurance company. They run monthly prize draws where a nominated charity wins £1,000.00. Chipping Norton Theatre won a draw last year. It's understood the secret is to get lots of people to nominate the charity. Could you help boost our chances of winning by nominating South Newington village hall (no cost involved!) Just type in "Benefact Movement for Good" into your search bar and the page comes up. Click the £1,000 draw option and enter in 304368 to find our village hall.

Find the charity



Thank you! Zoe

NEW FOR 2026 – South Newington Tuesday Talks

As part of the fund-raising activities for the village hall, a new and exciting series of monthly talks is being organised. Each month a different person from South Newington will describe their working lives, and you will be amazed at what fascinating and inspiring insight will be revealed.

The talks will take place in the village hall, with each person giving a presentation, followed by time for Question & Answers. With a welcome drink and nibbles provided, rather than asking for ticket entry, donations will be invited as a thank you, with all money raised going to the village hall fund raising campaign.

A huge thank you in advance to everyone who has kindly agreed to give a talk and please do come forward and offer to give a talk to keep this programme going through 2027 Suggestion for speakers or topics to Nicky Smith.

Tues 12th May 7 – 8 pm	A life in law – a presentation on being a barrister and audience discussion on topical legal issues, such as the removal of jury trials and do we really want to leave the EHCR?	Mike Rapp
Tues 16th June 7 – 8 pm	The Olympian in our midst – what it takes and how it feels to compete in an equestrian Olympic event.	Diana McIlveen with Zoe Colegrave
Tues 7th July or 21st July 7 – 8 pm	Processed & Proud: the microscopic "cheats" that make food taste better.	Julia Streeter
Tues 11th August 7 – 8 pm	Blooming marvellous! The logistics required to support the world class international horticultural business, Ball.	James Durley
Tues 15th September	"This is your Captain Speaking!" From South Newington to Southern Italy and back in a day – the life of a commercial airline pilot.	Hugo Richardson
Tues 13th October	The art of creating miniature, working model buildings from one of the UK's finest architectural model makers.	Tim Catton
Tues 3rd, 17th or 24th November	Charity champions. A look behind the scenes at work which is often hidden – supporting women and teenagers in life threatening situations	Roz Rapp & Dawn Hodon
Tues 8th December	Applying Psychology at work: what psychology has to offer.	Stephan Lucks

South Newington Village Coffee Mornings

Our wonderful coffee mornings have continued each month through the winter, bringing a dash of warmth and cheer on the grey and wet mornings.

The autumn event in October was hosted by Sue Robertson and Steve Anderson, with Tracey Schilling and her daughter Kerryn kindly following in November.

Claire Swan and Carlie Philby organised an early Christmas fair with mince pies and local honey for sale giving us all a chance to stock up on Christmas gifts and goodies. In January all new year resolutions went by the wayside when we were tempted by Candi Giachetti and Nicky Smith's delicious cakes.

The weather's continued cold and damp through February, so Stella Darke and Louise Hand's home-made cakes cheered us all up.





Jacob and Cherry Durley at the coffee morning, to everyone's delight



A packed coffee morning – can you spot who's wearing the lampshade and guess why?

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. As well as the appreciation of all there, it is a marvellous opportunity to see and talk to everyone as they come in, along with raising much needed funds for the village hall.

Of course, the time comes when people move on and leave the village. We do need more volunteers. At the moment, we still have an opening for two or more people to host our December coffee morning, planned for the 12th or 17th December. If you would like to get involved please contact me, Penny Price, on 07780435249 via WhatsApp or text.

Future coffee morning dates for your diary are:

- 19th March
- 16th April
- 21st May
- 18th July



49 CLUB

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

As well as giving prize money, the club also raises money for the church repair and insurance, and most recently made a significant contribution towards the cherry picker to take down the netting and help save the birds.

If you don't have a number but can join the club, please do contact Zoe she would be delighted to hear from you! Membership is £52 per year, or £26 for 6 months. The new year started from March 1st but you can join at any time.

06-Sep	24	Steve Richards
13-Sep	10	Judith Denby
20-Sep	22	Alistair Downie
27-Sep	59	No winner
04-Oct	42	Anna Mann
11-Oct	53	Gini Gabbertas
18-Oct	19	Elizabeth Wheeldon
25-Oct	55	No winner
01-Nov	29	Amanda Blythe Smith
08-Nov	44	Toby & Karen Harris
15-Nov	25	Jane Lennox
22-Nov	35	Abi & Stefan Lucks
29-Nov	46	No winner

Numbers, 15, 16, 20, 39, 49, 50-52 and 54-59 are available so if one of these is your lucky number do join! Or perhaps you could join and make them lucky! Please contact Zoe to support this village club. zoedavidson@sky.com

CHURCH NEWS

A huge thank you to all the people who supported our fund-raising campaign to remove the external netting from the church tower windows, to prevent birds getting stuck there.

On Thursday 23 October Paul Silk from Wiltshire Steeplejacks came with a cherry picker and removed the external netting from all four tower windows.





This would not have been possible without the money donated by you all. Special thanks for significant contributions from the South Newington 49 Club, the Flower Show Committee, the tour of College Farm and generous individual donors.

Church flowers



While Paul was clearing the netting from the window, I wandered round the church yard and noticed for the first time that many headstones have pretty flowers carved into them.

How many headstones have floral carvings? The usual tenner for the first person to offer the closest guess!

Inside the church there are always fresh flowers, something visitors to the church often comment on.





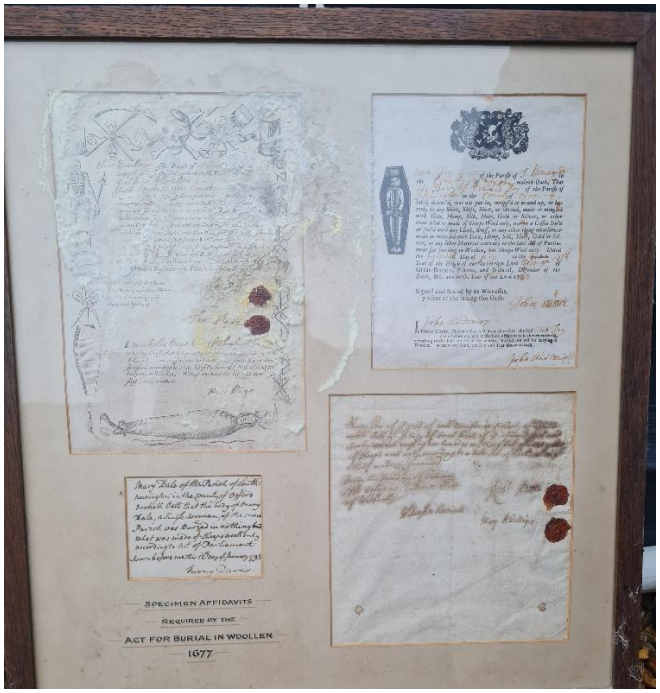


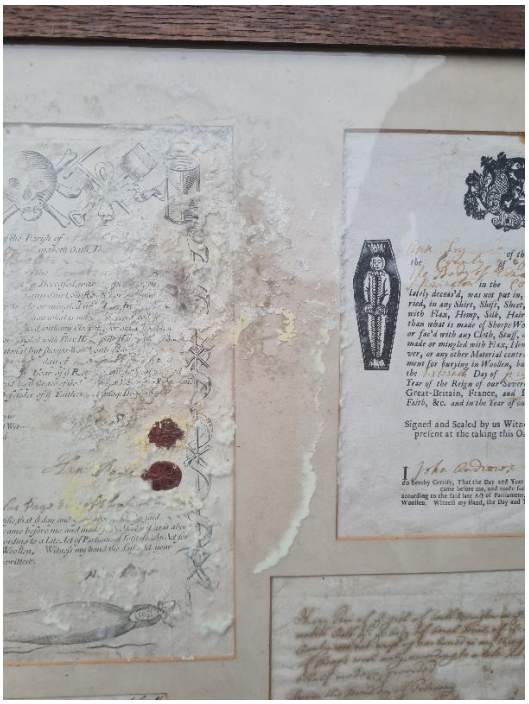
More thanks must go to all the ladies on the flower arranging rota, who, under the gentle leadership of Jean Tarver, keep the church looking cared for and welcoming all year round. The flowers are always appreciated because, even when the church is locked mid-week in winter, and it's colder inside than out, people phone up asking for the church to be unlocked so they can see inside.

Based on the visitor book in the past year people have visited South Newington church from places as far afield as Lake Charles, Louisiana USA and Kirikiriroa (Hamilton) New Zealand with Hua Hin, Thailand in between.

Historical art restoration

While the church wall paintings are famous and attract visitors from far and wide we also have some very old decrees from King Charles II and Queen Anne on the walls, which are also interesting and rare.





Sadly after 348 years, a decree from 1677, shown above, has become damaged through damp which has seeped in through a crack in a wall buttress. You can see the mould which has grown on the picture frame in the above photos.

As we go to press, we are waiting to hear back from Oxford Art Restorers as to whether it will be feasible to restore the decree and how much it will cost. We are also waiting for a prolonged period of dry weather to repair the mortar on the church wall and buttress.

Easter church services

Easter falls early this year, and here are the dates for services in the Bloxham Benefice. Services in South Newington are highlighted in bold including the 8am service on Easter Day itself, Sunday 5th April.

29 March Palm Sunday
8.00 BCP Holy Communion Bloxham St Mary's
9.30 Procession with Palms, Passion Reading & Holy Communion Bloxham St Mary's
11.15 Joint Procession with Palms, Passion Reading & Holy Communion S Newington St Peter ad Vincula (5th Sunday in the month)

30 March Monday in Holy Week
7.30pm Holy Communion with Prayers for Healing Milcombe St Laurence's

31 March Tuesday in Holy Week
11.30am Midweek Holy Communion Bloxham St Mary's

1 April Wednesday in Holy Week
7.30pm Tenebrae Service S Newington St Peter ad Vincula

2 April Maundy Thursday
7.30pm Holy Communion with Washing of Feet & Stripping of Altar Bloxham St Mary's

3 April Good Friday
10.00am Walk of Witness beginning from Hawke Lane Chapel
12 noon Choral Meditation Bloxham St Mary's
2.00pm Last Hour at the Foot of the Cross S Newington St Peter ad Vincula
7.30pm Solemn Good Friday Liturgy Milcombe St Laurence's

4 April Holy Saturday
3.00pm Easter Garden, Egg Hunt & Sausage Sizzle Bloxham St Mary's
7.30pm Great Vigil of Easter Bloxham St Mary's

5 April Easter Day
7.00am Easter Rejoicing with Baptist Church in Bloxham Churchyard
8.00am BCP Holy Communion S Newington St Peter Ad Vincula
9.30am Festival Easter Communion Bloxham St Mary's
11.15am Festival Easter Communion Milcombe St Laurence's

OTHER VILLAGE NEWS

It seems ages ago now, especially as Easter is mentioned above, but here's a quick re-cap of Christmas, mainly so we can celebrate what a special village South Newington is, having so much fun around the festive season and also raising so much money for charity at the same time.

The village raised an incredible £3,585.80, with very generous anonymous matched funding shared between the charities we supported this year: Brain Tumour Charity, Lawrence Hospice Nursing, Cancer Research, Thrive North Oxon, South Newington Church and South Newington Village Hall.

The Christmas Card Charity

Many of you joined in with, or will be aware of the "virtual" Christmas Card Scheme in the village, where rather than giving each other cards, we make a donation to charity and share a warm feelings instead.

Gill Brounger sent a note on the scheme for inclusion here and is asking if someone will step forward and take over organising this from her going forward from this year.

A little history as to how this started… When we moved to South Newington in 1993 the practice in the village at Christmas was to give friends and neighbours cards. After a few years of doing this Lin and I decided a better idea would be to give to charity. About six others joined us and we collected £60 and sent it to a small children's Charity in Banbury. After 25 years and many other charities later, this year and with your kind generosity, we were able to give £1,245 to the Brain Tumour Charity.

*Now is the time to hand over to a younger and more energetic person, so if you are interested in taking it on, would you be kind enough to get in touch and let me know***.**
Gill Brounger

Advent Windows

Another feat of good organisation, Roz Rapp organised the Advent Windows, raising money for Thrive North Oxon which supports local children and teenagers in need. Thank you to Roz and every household who opened a window this year with festive refreshments and a fun count down at 6pm throughout December.

Here are some pictures from the Advent window opening:





Cally and Poppy wrapped up warm; the church window; a replica of the church and College Farm at Al and Candi's window opening

Christmas Concerts and Services

In December we had the South Newington Occasional Singers and Folky Folk concert with tree lighting, the Christmas Carol Service, Christingle and of course Christmas Day itself, making a busy and enjoyable time with singing and services in the church.





Some of the happy SNOS singers in church; Folky Folk supporting carol singing round the Christmas tree.

Thank you again to everyone who helped make these services happen, especially Claire and David Swan and Tim Catton who prepare the church, particularly for the Epiphany service in January where the church had hundreds of candles lit, making a very special atmosphere to accompany the lovely voices of the visiting choir.

SOUTH NEWINGTON PEOPLE

A warm welcome to William and Nancy Turner and their two children, Jude and Percy along with their dog William who have moved to the Barford Road. They have moved here from Deddington and we wish them many happy years in the village. William is involved with Four Shires Kitchens in Charlbury, shown here.



If you would like to describe your business to villagers or advertise in the newsletter do get in touch.

Pamela Jordan

In February the church was full for the funeral of Pamela Jordon who lived in the village for 27 years until 2016.

Pamela and Ian lived in Millstream Farmhouse on Moor Lane where Charles Ludlow now lives and played a very active part in village life. Pamela grew up in Chipping Norton and moved to London where she became a barrister and met her husband, Ian. She became the second ever woman to be made Chief Clerk to the Justices in England but was also very busy in the village. She was Village Hall Treasurer for many years, and served the church faithfully throughout her life, including on the Parochial Church Council and helping to organise the Church Fete. She and Ian, together with their daughter Lucy, made a happy and well-loved family in the village. Ian still lives in Bloxham where they moved to from South Newington, and we send him and Lucy our very best wishes.

Poppy collection

After 35 years, Jean Tarver has retired from being the local collector for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

This has been a magnificent effort over the years for which RBL are very grateful and we wish her and Ernie (Ernie also collected for 18 years) a long and happy retirement.

With thanks to Alex Severn for the above note. And also thanks to Roz who kindly stepped up with her sons Bertie and Felix to do the Poppy Collection in 2025. If you would like to help them in this work for 2026 (35 years' service not necessarily required!) please do let Roz know.

FLOWER SHOW

The date for this year's Flower Show is Saturday 1st August. Keep the date!!

Thank you to everyone who entered the colouring competition for the Flower Show poster. The overall winner is Lin Brecknell's granddaughter Olivia but the committee liked them all and would like to thank everyone who submitted a drawing. Thank you for taking part.

The brochure for this year's show will be delivered to your letterboxes in March, so you can start planning, planting and creating soon. We'd love to have even more entries than last year, making a beautiful display in the marque for everyone to enjoy.

Please don't feel your vegetables, flowers or product needs to be perfect, the fun is in taking part!

We already have some wonderful raffle prizes you can see listed here:

- Heath Farm Holiday Cottages, near South Newington
- North Oxon Top Soil, South Newington
- Fisher German Property Consultants
- Dubarry
- The Duck on the Pond, South Newington
- Clarimore Beautique, Charlbury

- Jaffe & Neale Bookshop, Chipping Norton
- Candy Kittens
- Wild at Heart, Chipping Norton
- Beehive Home, Chipping Norton
- The Living Room, Bloxham
- Cotswold Sweet Shopper, Chipping Norton
- Rowe Portraits
- Oats Health Food Shop, Chipping Norton

Top prize in the raffle is a stay in a holiday cottage at Heath Farm, half a mile from South Newington just off the A361 on the way to Chipping Norton. Heath Farm was listed in the Sunday Times as one of the 'Top 100 coolest places to stay in the UK' and has won numerous awards for the quality of its holiday accommodation, the most recent being 'Best Self Catering Accommodation 2025' in the Tourism South East Awards.



View of the courtyard and lake at Heath Farm holiday cottages.

David Barbour, Julian's younger brother moved to Heath Farm from College Farm in South Newington. He gave up farming 50 years ago and together with his wife Nena and family turned the farm buildings into a slow food, organic Cotswold destination, surrounded by over 50,000 trees they planted which have now matured into an organic nut woodland.

Wild swimming, fishing, woodland yoga, hot tubs and croquet on the lawns are just some of the activities on offer to overnight guests, making this a very generous gift as the Flower Show top raffle prize.

Please do support all our kind prize donors with your custom.

OTHER NEWS AND VIEWS

Dark Skies

We are lucky in South Newington to live in a 'dark skies' area. This means we have no street lights, which helps to protect the natural darkness for the benefit of nature, including humans. In return we enjoy seeing unusually starry skies (when it isn't raining.)

As a help to wildlife and a courtesy to your neighbours please ensure your external lights are switched off at night and security cameras are angled down and not triggered by wind or left on accidentally all night.

SN Biodiversity Group

SOUTH NEWINGTON VILLAGE PUB



Did you know the Duck on the Pond now offers takeaway fish & chips from Wednesday to Saturday and a fresh bread morning service?

Here's more news from Hendrik, Julie, Viktorija and the team at The Duck on The Pond.

We now offer fish and chips takeaway Weds-Sat evenings, 6-8pm (for collection) 10% off for takeaways.

And if you didn't already know, we have a WhatsApp group for bread ordering. Just send us a message by the evening for next day collection of our freshly baked bread.

Don't forget coffee and cake served from 10.30am too £6.50 (homemade cake and tea or coffee)

As always, our dishes use local and sustainable ingredients from quality butchers and suppliers.

We will begin the kitchen garden growing season again for 2026 around early March to grow for the kitchen - including fresh salads, herbs, veg, and fruit. We also began growing our own cut flowers in 2025, this year hope to begin hosting PIY sessions and subscriptions.

We were able to grow flowers for our tables from around March to November last year, reducing the need to buy in flowers - another step to becoming more sustainable which I know a lot of people in the village care about.

If anyone has a need/desire to host any of their own workshops and or meet ups (we already have the book club) please do let us know.

We also launched our work from pub membership towards the end of last year. Get in touch for more details.

Our menus include:

A la carte menu (Wednesday to Saturday)

- *Bar menu (Wednesday to Saturday)*
- *Brunch menu (Wednesday to Saturday)*
- *Set lunch menu two courses for £28, three 3 courses for £32 (Wednesday to Saturday)*
- *Sunday lunch menu 2 courses £32 and three courses £40*
- *Children's menu is also available.*

We will be hosting several workshops and events. Examples of previous events include jewellery making and lunch, sound baths, wreath making, wine tasting evenings (to name a few).

Do keep an eye out on our website and social media pages:
www.theduckonthepond.co.uk

LONDON, PARIS, NEW YORK everybody's talking about SOUTH NEWINGTON

South Newington villagers might be amused to discover that their fellow villagers have twice appeared in the New York Times recently, and that we have living here in South Newington, as far as we know, the only person in the world delighted to have been cited in the Epstein files.

None other than Julian Barbour from College Farm was recently referenced in the case of David A. Ross who has had to resign his position at the School of Visual Arts in New York.

In an email from the latest batch of material released, it was discovered that Mr Ross said to Geoffrey Epstein:

An excerpt from an email from Mr. Ross to Mr. Epstein on July 12, 2009.

So funny to hear from you today. Last night I had a dream with you in it. Probably because I've been listening to lectures from this amazing British astrophysicist named Julian Barbour who writes about conflicting theories of time. … I'm up at our little house in Beacon … trying to figure out my future (yet again). Back in the city tomorrow. Lot's to discuss. Are you finished with the special sleep-away camp yet? Tell me a good time to call. … D.

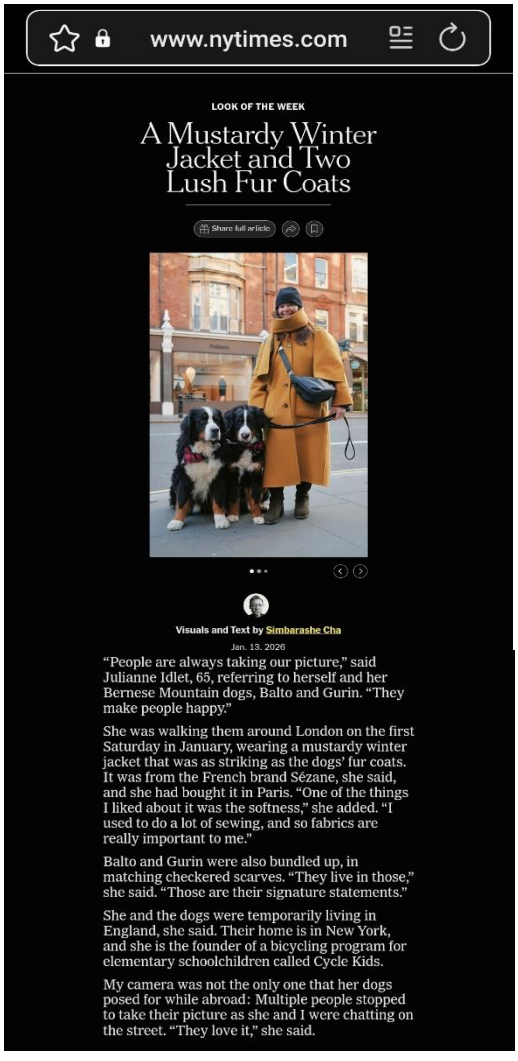
In his statement, Mr. Ross said that while he was director of the Whitney Museum in New York in the mid-90s, he was introduced to Mr. Epstein. "I knew him as a wealthy patron and a collector, and it was part of my job to befriend people who had the capacity and interest in supporting the museum," he said.

He said that he had emailed Mr. Epstein in 2008 after he was arrested and jailed on solicitation of prostitution charges in Florida "to find out what the story was because this did not seem like the person I thought I knew." Mr. Ross also emailed Mr. Epstein, he said, when his friend got out of jail. "He told me that he had been the subject of a political frame-up because of his support of former President Clinton," Mr. Ross wrote. "At the time, I believed he was telling me the truth."

"So funny to hear from you today. Last night I had a dream with you in it, probably because I've been listening to lectures from this amazing British astrophysicist named Julian Barbour who writes about conflicting theories of time."

The New York Times

This news came hot on the heels of Julianne Idlet, who lives in Moor Lane, who was featured in the New York Times for "Look of the Week."



Julie explained how this came about: " It was such a random thing - I had just left Marylebone train station and stopped at a sidewalk cafe for coffee - then continued walking towards the hotel and this guy stopped us and told us he was a fashion photographer for the NYTimes and could he take our photo - I laughed as I thought he was joking . I said only if I can take a photo of you with my dogs!"

The photo below is the one Julianne took of the photographer...



SOUTH NEWINGTON BOOK CLUB



The South Newington Book Club meets at 7.30pm on the third Thursday of each month at the Duck on the Pond to discuss our book or theme for that month, as well as having a jovial catch up over a drink.

We are always keen to receive new members, so if you like to read and are interested to join us; we'd love to see you there. Even if you don't manage to read the book – you're more than welcome!

No two months are the same, and we don't commit to all reading the one book every month. Every other month we choose a theme for the group to explore. We can interpret the theme in any way we like, so we can read something already on our shelf, or shop around for something that seems interesting. On alternate months we go traditional, and select one title which we all endeavour to read.

What we've been up to

We don't have a meeting in December as everyone is busy with Christmas activities. For our first meeting in January 2026, we read "Leave the World Behind" by Rumaan Alam.

For February, the meeting was about any book with a Spring related theme. Books chosen by members included "A Basketful of Snowflakes" by Peter Kerr, a book about a family who leave their farm in Scotland; "Spring" by Michael Morpurgo, the first book for adults he has written for a long time and was felt to be disappointing and an "Enchanted April" by Elizabeth Von Arnim – this was a bestselling book in 1922. It was recommended as joyful book to read and has been adapted to a film and play.

For March we will be reading "The Nightingale" by Kristin Hannah – it tells the story of two sisters in France during World War II and their struggle to survive and resist the German occupation.

The book theme for April is Time.

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 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 or 6.30 – 7.30 pm	Village Hall	Barb Barbaradrennan@me.com
Seated Yoga	Friday eves	Village Hall	Liz Davis
Book Club	3rd Thursday of the month 7.30pm	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	See village notice board or website	Village Hall	Vanessa Doyle, chair vanessasnpc@hotmail.com
Flower Show Committee	Now and then	Committee members house	Amanda Blythe-Smith (chair) amandablythesmith@gmail.com
Biodiversity group	Now and then	Committee members house	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

SOUTH NEWINGTON WEATHER

My last report for the newsletter was on 11th September and covered the summer months. I once read somewhere that when two friends or acquaintances meet anywhere after some days, the subject first discussed would be the weather!

Right or wrong the last 12 months must have been in that category because it was either very dry in the summer or very wet in the winter and has regularly created numerous discussions.

South Newington weather station has received a "tidy up" operation this winter, with new posts and rail fencing around it and a much tidier outlook as part of a general overhaul. We often make the news in South Newington for a weather-related reason and I wondered if people might be interested to come and look at the weather station, and see the old manual reports that I used to make twice a day before the station was automated. Please let me know if you'd like to come and see the station, it would be a pleasure to show you round and help the village hall campaign.

PRIVATE TOUR OF SOUTH NEWINGTON WEATHER STATION JUNE 21st TBC

- Learn what meteorological metrics are recorded and how
- Read the meticulous traditional records kept before the weather station was mechanised
- Enjoy a unique insiders view of the South Newington weather station

The tour would be in the summer, perhaps the longest day, Sunday June 21st to be confirmed nearer the time.



With regard to rainfall, September brought us 69.6 mm of rain, October 71.4 mm, November 161.6 mm, December 105.4 mm and January 130.2 mm. The wettest day of the whole period was 14th November at 42.4 mm largely falling overnight. The average rain for the village is 70 to 80 mm per month so we had nearly a month's rain over that 24 hour period. January was well above normal, with 24.4 mm on the 8th, 19.2 mm on 15th and 15.6 on 26th. Flooding has been worse in the actual village than in the river meadows, where it has managed to stay mainly within the river banks. Compare this to the road drains in the High Street and Moor Lane which "gave up" long ago!

The Swere by Jonah Cassimjee

We have had some frost at times, the coldest being −5.3° C on 11th January and −5.1 on 26th November but we have seen lower temperatures in other years.



Frosty morning views by Adrian Atkinson

The Met Office have warned every one of several storms likely to bring problems to the country. We have seen the side or tail end of some of them in the village, the first being "Amy" in October, followed by "Benjamin" coming in from the Northwest in the last days of October and being mostly windy. We were lucky with storm "Goretti" a powerful storm named by a European Met Office and bringing us a cold and wet week. We had another storm named "Claudia" by Spain for wind, flooding in November, which brought much of that month's rain, but overall, I did not hear of very much severe damage around the village or throughout the villages close by.

As I write these notes, the snowdrops are particularly good this year and very soon, the lovely shows of daffodils will be with us in glorious Bloom. We shall also know how many trees and shrubs might have suffered from the dry summer, hopefully only a few.

I hope these notes are of interest for everyone and look forward to being here again in the summer and perhaps seeing some of you for the weather station tour in June.

John Britten.

KEEPING IN TOUCH!

We have a village oil buying group organised by Stephen Anderson which secures a more competitive price per litre than if ordering directly from a supplier yourself. If you would like to join please email *sn.oil.club@gmail.com*

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 Vanessa, SN PC Chair to join any or all of these 07972 324 512 / vanessasnpc@hotmail.com