

SOUTH NEWINGTON NEWSLETTER



AUTUMN 2020

Editor: Nicky Smith. Send news and views to SouthNewingtonNewsletter@gmail.com

Neighbourhood Watch

The Parish Council is looking for someone to co-ordinate the Neighbourhood Watch.

It will involve being the administrator for the Neighbourhood Watch, receiving emails from the Neighbourhood Watch scheme and sending emails to villagers about Neighbourhood Watch matters which may be of interest to the village.

If you are interested in taking this on please contact Sue Robertson by email at snewingtonnews@gmail.com.

Parish Council News

In this edition of the Newsletter I am reporting about the Village Clock for which the Parish Council is responsible. The Village Clock is in fact the Turret Clock in the church and was made in 1741 and originally it was housed in St. John's Church, Banbury. It was transferred to South Newington in 1897. It was renovated for the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977 and the automatic winding mechanism was installed in 2000.

Over the past two or three years the clock has undergone various repairs and last year the mechanism for striking the quarter, half and three quarter hour failed. An attempt was made to repair the winding mechanism for the striker but it proved unsuccessful and the clock has remained silent ever since.

The Parish Council has obtained two estimates for repairs. One of these estimates was for £2,500 and the other one was for £8,500 but the more expensive one recommended that all three of the winding mechanisms should be replaced not just the broken one.

We contacted the Church of England Diocesan Advisory Committee who put us in contact with the Oxford Diocesan Clocks Advisor. I met with him two weeks ago and showed him the clock. He told me that he had, himself, restored a similar clock in Oxford which was reassuring. He has gone away and will contact other specialists for advice but his overall impression was that we should go for the more expensive quote in order to preserve the clock for the long term.

The Parish Council will keep you informed of the results of the report which should be available in the near future and what has been decided about the funding for the repairs. The most likely route is via the National Lottery. What is clear, however, is that it is likely to be sometime before the repair can be made but the clock is of such historical importance that not being able to hear its chimes again, would be very sad indeed.

Peter Thomas,
Chair, PCC

Want to share some news with the village email list? Or be on the receiving end of village emails and information? Send your news or email address to Sue Robertson
susanrobertsonsnem@gmail.com

Welcome to South Newington

We're delighted to welcome Iris, a baby daughter for Joanne and Adrian Perkins at New Garth, Green Lane to the village and to the world 😊

Flower Show

No news on the Flower Show front.

Church news

South Newington church continues to be open on Wednesday and Sunday for private prayer and a service on Sunday. There are always lovely flowers in the church thanks to a rota of kind people, led by Jean Tarver, who keep the church looking welcoming and cared for. It's open for everyone so do pop in and enjoy the tranquillity and sense of peace. Sadly we are all asked to wear a mask while inside the church.

Across the benefice church services during covid-19 times are as follows:

Time	Services 13th September	Services 20th September Harvest Festival
8.00am	BCP Holy Communion Milcombe	BCP Holy Communion Milcombe
9.30am	Family Communion Bloxham	Family Communion Bloxham
11.15am	Family Communion S. Newington	Family Communion S. Newington
6.00pm	Benefice Zoom Service	Benefice Zoom Service

The annual Ride & Stride organised by the Oxfordshire Historical Churches Trust was a great success this year on Saturday 12 September, helped by beautiful weather. South Newington had 24 visitors and we're hoping the event across the county raised even more than last year's £112,000. The money supports a programme of grants for church building repairs across Oxfordshire.

A newsletter each week with news of services, prayers and reading (and more!) is sent by email each week. If you would like to be on the email list just drop a quick email to office@bloxhambenefice.co.uk

Monthly Coffee Mornings

For the time being coffee mornings aren't taking place in the village hall, but before the current six person restriction was in place, Penny and Gordon hosted a lovely coffee morning at the Duck on the Pond which was enjoyed by a big crowd of villagers in the sunshine outside. Penny gave us a wonderful selection of the most delicious cakes, so we were truly spoilt.

Table tennis

Also sadly table tennis on Mondays in the village is also not taking place at the moment, due to very strict covid-19 rules eg no doubles, cleaning of bats and balls etc.

Supper Club

Similarly on hold and also Colin Galloway's outings. Hopefully resumed soon

South Newington Occasional Singers (SNOS)

Ditto not taking place. Although scientific research has proved that gentle singing is no more likely to spread covid-19 than talking normally, the restrictions about gatherings and size of space rule it out so still no singing for SNOS.

Yoga classes

These are taking place again, in two groups of five people in each class on a Thursday evening in the village hall. The groups are full but if you would like to be on the waiting list to join please contact Sue Robertson.
SueLRobertson@yahoo.co.uk

Art Classes

These are also back in the village hall but also full. Contact Bridget Reed for a place on the waiting list.

Circle Dancing

Not taking place in the village hall for the time being.

South Newington Oil Buying Group

If you use oil for your domestic heating boiler or range, did you know that in the village we have a buying group which places bulk orders once a month over the winter season (except December)?

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

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

Stephen

Stamps

Here's something you can do safely at home:

If any one has any geographically inquisitive youngster, I have some old stamp albums going free, covering all non Commonwealth countries. First come, first served.

I have a large accumulation of current valid postage stamps of all denominations, and can happily stamp anyone's Christmas or other post, (including parcels) UK, Europe and worldwide at a decent discount. Bigger the total postage, bigger the discount!!..

Email me at a.wellsmail@gmail.com, or call 720388
Andrew Wells, Springfield House, Bakers Lane

Village Hall News

Resignation of Trustees

We are all very sad to say goodbye to Bridget Read and Linda Brecknell who have been our very committed and supportive Trustees of the Village Hall for 46 and 8 years respectively. We are arranging a leaving ceremony to express our gratitude.

David Swan, our remaining trustee, has fortunately found two willing volunteers to step into the breach, namely Judith Denby and Graham Smith.

Re-opening

At last we can open the Hall for events which can be held in a safe manner in line with Covid-19 guidelines and regulations.

The committee have been active in making sure that the Hall is suitably prepared: our new cleaner has done a Deep Clean using the relevant antibacterial products: the curtains have been removed to avoid a site of potentially cross-contaminating material; likewise the fabric covered chairs have been replaced by the old plastic ones which can be satisfactorily disinfected; hand-sanitisers are provided in the porch; kitchen use is limited to one person at a time and the relatively small amount of crockery etc needed for current use will be centralised in one cupboard and all other cupboards sealed closed; toilets to be used by one person only at a time so the other will be closed; notices abound to remind you of your responsibilities to avoid potential spreading of the virus and there is now a Covid-19 first aid kit in case anyone should develop symptoms whilst in the hall.

The hiring contract now includes a requirement for basic cleaning after use but our cleaner will also clean after use as necessary. It will be up to the hirers to monitor 2m distancing.

Under these new conditions it is now possible for the Yoga class to re-start on September 3rd and the Table Tennis group is thinking of re-starting soon.

We are hoping that it will be possible for an apple pressing day to be held sometime in October outside on the lawn.

Stella Darke

Village Hall Development

The community survey

The responses to the community survey have been fully analysed and a report on the findings is on the village hall section of the village website (southnewington.co.uk). Some of the main findings are described below.

Possibly unsurprisingly majority of survey respondents (61%) use the hall at least once a month – 44% once or more a week and 17% once a month. Just over a third (35%) had attended five or six different types of activity in the last three years and almost a fifth (19%) had attended between seven and nine. 16% of respondents had attended one activity.

The most frequently mentioned activities were quizzes (16% of mentions), committee or council meetings (13%), coffee mornings (12%), private events like parties, wakes or christenings (12%) and community meals (11%). Clubs like Art Group, South Newington Singers, Yoga got fewer mentions because they are have a limited number of members, some of whom do not live in the village and were not surveyed.

Respondents rated 18 key aspects affecting the usability of the hall on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent). An overall score was then calculated for each aspect. The heating, lighting and garden scored 3 (satisfactory) or above. Most other aspects, including the toilets, kitchen and access within the building (floor levels, door widths,

etc) scoring between 2.7 and 2.3, implying they ‘need improvement’. Access to the gallery and the suitability of the toilets for disabled users scored 1.9 implying they are ‘poor’.

Respondents were asked what they considered unsatisfactory about aspects they had rated ‘needs improvement’ or ‘poor’ and what improvements they would like to see. Lack of a level ground floor and the size of the kitchen were mentioned most. Several respondents made comments like “The premises need redecorating and refurbishing.”, and “Everything is a bit shabby “. But some expressed a liking for existing features despite this; for example, “Access to gallery is poor, but I like it the way it is!” and “I love our hall but think the majority of the facilities are rather shabby and out of date and need a really good facelift.”

The range of activities that people would like to see revived or introduced suggests that there is scope for the hall to be used more frequently and, possibly, by a wider range of villagers. The activities mentioned are shown in the table below.

Activity	Number of mentions of each activity
Community meals	6
Talks, Films	4
Garden Club, Youth Club, Live music	3
Event screening, Acting group	2
Tai Chi, Book club, Martial arts, Apple pressing, Dancing, Village shop, Jumble sales	1

Several respondents emphasised that having people willing to organise activities was as, or more, important than the physical facilities of the hall for making things happen.

The lack of dedicated village hall parking was mentioned several times and there was some concern that any increased use of the hall would exacerbate the problems created by on-street parking. The Village Hall Management Committee are clear that the development project should aim to make the hall more useful to the village and that it is not intended, and should not become financially necessary, to encourage greater use of the hall by outside hirers .

Several people kindly offered help with the development project and the Committee will be arranging a meeting with them when distancing rules allow.

Design of possible improvements

Architects Acanthus Clews from Banbury were chosen after a completion in 2018 to assist with the design of improvements. The measured survey they need to start work was completed on 3rd August and they will begin work when the drawings of the existing building have been finalised.

Village Hall chimney

You may have noticed that an area in front of the hall has been roped off. This is because a corner of the lower moulding of the chimney fell onto the path by the back door of the hall at the end of June. To fully assess to state of the chimney and the repairs required will almost certainly need scaffolding and the Committee is awaiting estimates for the work, listed building consent and a decision on possible grant assistance from Historic England before commissioning the scaffolding.

John Braithwaite

49 Club Winners

The 49 Club raises money for the Church insurance using lottery ticket numbers. It costs just £1 per week or £13 per quarter

04/07/20	13	Colin Galloway
11/07/20	22	NO WINNER
18/07/20	30	Pat Ebdon
25/07/20	15	Lilian Clifton
01/08/20	22	no WINNER
08/08/20	41	Judith Denby
15/08/20	21	no WINNER
22/08/20	12	Jenny Rudnay
29/08/20	16	Julian Barbour
05/09/20	32	John Braithwaite

If you haven't done already, please do renew or start a membership to the 49 Club. There are plenty of spare numbers and it is a fun and easy way to support our village community.

Contact Judith Denby judithdenby@hotmail.co.uk 07866 630454 if you would like to play - the cost is only £1 per week, giving you the chance to win £20 or £35.

South Newington Weather Report

June, July and August 2020

Every now and then South Newington villagers get a special little thrill when we're mentioned on the BBC as the 'coldest place in England' or sometimes the hottest place, but less often! This is because we have an official Met Office station in the village. Records were kept meticulously by John Britten at the Gatehouse on Moor Lane by hand until very recently, when readings were automated.

However John kindly gives us a summary of the official weather which is fascinating for those of us who are interested in the weather, and the report below is for summer is below.

One of the few things that the COVID-19 virus was unable to affect this summer was the weather. Our lovely English summer went on completely as usual and for those who like it really hot it was a good one!

We haven't ever recorded a max temperature of 35C before to my knowledge but it happened on 31st July this summer and it was a "one off" with lower temperatures before and after that day.

The other hot spell was the 7th, 10th, 11th, 12th August with temperatures of 31.2C, 31.7C, 33.1C and 33.8C respectively. This produced some very warm nights in the high teens, uncomfortable and sticky!

As is often the case the hot weather produced some thunder on the afternoon of 6th June but much more spectacularly with named storms "Ellen" on 20th and 21st August and "Frances" on 25th August both storms produced a very heavy spell of rain with the usual consequences of blocked drains and flooding with Moor Lane being the worst affected.

There was one particular lightning flash with immediate clap of thunder which indicates very close strike but I have not discovered where the strike was, does anyone know?

Rainfall was way above average in August 138.2 mm (45.6 mm last year) largely due to the storms. June was 77.6 mm and July 61.4 mm, close to average for the village. The wettest 24 hours however was in June on the 17th and 18th and we received 35.8 mm. Most of the rain fell overnight. The rest of the month was quite dry.

“Frances” brought us the most wind and it was the only Gale that I have recorded this summer with 42 mph recorded at the Gatehouse.

One of the things missing this summer was of course the flower show in August which is such an enjoyable event and I’m sure everyone will join me and hoping that next year we can get back to normal again. Autumn is coming in next and it can be a very pleasant season particularly the colours of the trees etc.

JHB

Flying over South Newington

Graham Fewster lives at Old Farm, next door to the Swans. Earlier this year he took the Swan’s son, Toby, out in his plane and Toby has written this story about his experience of flying over South Newington. It’s a great feature and it would be lovely to have more like it from villagers. If you have an interesting story or pictures please do send them across for the next issue to SouthNewingtonNewsletter@gmail.com

Flying over the village

Imagine flying over the village in Graham Fewster’s airplane?

Graham took me to Enstone in his car on a Sunday morning in July. We went to the hangar at the airfield and we looked at the planes and other air vehicles, such as, a gyrocopter which is a type of rotorcraft that uses an unpowered rotor in free autorotation to develop lift. There was a chipmunk airplane which is a two-seater one engine plane made shortly after the Second World War. There were also two model spitfires being made as well as Graham’s 1948 Piper Vagabond, registration G-AWKD.



To begin with we had to push the plane out of the hangar onto a flat area to stop it rolling away. When starting up the engine, firstly, Graham rolled the propeller to test it before putting the key in the ignition. Once the key was in the ignition, he rolled the propeller three more times and the engine fired up. Speedily, he had to jump into the cockpit whilst I pushed on the back wing whilst standing at the back of the plane. Once the brakes were on, Graham gave me the thumbs up and I jumped in! We were on our way.

Taking off was bumpy, as we were taxiing on the grass. Then we had to wait for two minutes whilst a car was using the runway to time race, as well as a student training to be a pilot doing a 'touch and go'. During the take-off you would think it would feel strange, but I did not feel anything out of the ordinary.



We flew in the direction of Great Tew. Once we were over Great Tew, Graham offered me the controls which I jumped at (not actually jumping of course).

When flying you feel the vibration through the stick. I should admit the plane had dual control, so I was not flying solo. I flew to South Newington, which took about one minute from Great Tew, then I took the photo below and we circled the village. Being in the air and seeing the village below reminded me of the miniature village at Bourton on the Water. Next, we flew towards Bloxham. Graham gave me the controls and I turned to go due South to Blenheim Palace.



It was still quiet on the roads, so cars were few and far between, slithering like snakes along the tarmac tracks. Blenheim Palace from a bird's eye view was really interesting. We could see people walking around like ants without their army. The palace's roof was just a mass of grey. From Blenheim Palace we flew over John Churchill's statue. I did not have much chance to look out of the window as I was concentrating on the responsibility of flying the airplane.

We returned to South Newington in about eight minutes. Sadly, we could not do any loop the loops, but Graham turned very sharply so that we were flying on the wing. South Newington looked wonderful with people walking up the High Street and a couple of children running across the Poleaxe, but a very quiet pub which was closed, so we could not drop in for a drink and packet of crisps!

Within in five minutes of leaving South Newington we were back in Enstone, where I assisted the landing by holding the controls gently. As we touched down, it was a shock, as I was not expecting it to be such a jolt. Surprisingly, we were not on the ground for long as we had to do a touch and go.

It is just what you do; literally you land and take off again, then land once more. We moved towards the hangar where we switched off the engine by turning the key and then we got out from the cockpit and pushed the plane



back into the hangar. We had to make sure we replaced the fuel that we had used, then we closed the door and returned by car to South Newington.

It was one of the most exciting experiences of my life. Thank you very much Graham.

Sheep may safely graze

Over lockdown many of spent us more time than usual walking the fields and noticing the sheep and livestock, so I thought it might be nice to know a little more about them.

The sheep in the fields of South Newington belong to Michael Page, Tom Sammonds and Paul Stead.



Herdwick sheep

Michael's sheep are the black, more unusual looking ones, and they are a breed which is usually only kept in the Yorkshire and the Highlands called Herdwick. Michael said he was keeping them "as a challenge" but they have thrived here with every ewe having twin lambs born this year.

Tom and Paul both have a Welsh breed of sheep called Lleyns. Paul also keeps the alpacas which we enjoy seeing in the fields round here. The alpacas are a breed called Huacaya. The boys are currently in the fields by the Swan family at South Newington House, and the girls are in the other fields along the Barford Road where Paul and Val live. They are kept apart because, like most livestock, the males are always kept separate except at breeding.

Paul is also a driving instructor and his partner, Val, is a dog groomer. To enquire about having some local lamb meat next year, to have driving lessons or get your dog groomed call Paul or Val on 01295 721320.

Earthwatch

If you enjoy nature and want to play a more active part in protecting it for future generations, Earthwatch is looking for people to join its Naturehood scheme or become Community Leaders. One of its big Citizen Science activities is coming up soon, FreshWater Watch, on 25 – 28 September, and they're looking for volunteers to help measure water quality in the Thames area. All details are on line <https://naturehood.uk/> or <https://freshwaterwatch.thewaterhub.org/>

Home in South Newington

Peter and Bridget Reid moved to Lavender Cottage in Moor Lane sixty years ago this month. Peter and Bridget have both made huge contributions to the village and brought up their sons Simon and Timothy here. You may have noticed that Bridget was a Trustee of the Village Hall for 48 years, she also served on the parochial church council for 40 years, and the curtains she helped make in the church are still looking beautiful. These are just a few of the things I know about, there are so many more and I hope the Reids will write some memories for the newsletter for future issues. We wish them many more happy years in the village.

A little thank you I have been asked to include - to the anonymous poetry poster person - your poems on the village notice board are appreciated by many.

Also from the notice board, a note from Jenny Smith. Would any experienced riders enjoy taking her cob Jasper for a ride or exercise? Call 01295 720682.



Restaurant

Wed - Saturday:
12-2.30pm & 6-8.30pm
Sun: 12-5pm

Bar

Wed - Friday:
12-3pm & 5.30 - 11pm
Sat: 11-11pm | Sun: 12-6pm



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