

SOUTH NEWINGTON NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2025



The Dog Show

BUMPER FLOWER SHOW ISSUE

SAVE THE DATES

Guided tour of College Farm 2pm and 3pm Saturday 11 Oct

Supper Club & Quiz 7pm Friday 31 October

Mile's Breakfast Butty 10 – 11am Sunday 30 November.

PARISH COUNCIL

As we see the end of a rather lovely summer, I'm sure we are all looking forward to cosy village evenings and hopefully bright, dry, wintery days. We have lots to thank our village community for over the last couple of months after another successful village flower show and a diary full of events and clubs in the village hall, including the very special, regular coffee mornings. These take a lot of work and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the volunteers who run these as well as all the supportive coffee drinkers!

The Parish council has had a busy summer working on numerous projects including refurbishing the village notice board, preparing the village for winter by checking salt bins and furiously trying to pin down Highways for essential drain clearing (happening any day). We have focused on keeping our village low traffic and are working hard to find ways to happily co-exist with the North Oxfordshire Top Soil Business on the Barford Road. Keeping village roads safe, now and in the future, remains a priority.

Vanessa Doyle

South Newington Parish Council Lead

CHURCH NEWS

The church continues to welcome visitors from all over the world to see its rare medieval wall paintings, and, we recently discover, has been featured in 'The Rest is History' podcast Christmas special as one of the top ten churches to visit in the UK.

In terms of actual church services and religious activities, we are lucky the church is still open for services, with the first seasonal special services coming up:

Harvest Festival Family Service

Sunday 28th September 2025, everyone welcome!

Please do help decorate the church with produce of the Autumn, pop in any time on Saturday 27th September or the week before with your seasonal arrangement.

Also, please do drop in with any donations of food or cosmetics you can spare, which will be given to Banbury Young homeless project.

By the time this newsletter reaches you, the Harvest Festival Service may have already taken place. So here, in very good time, are the services for Christmas:

Sunday 30 November	Book of Common Prayer	8am
Sunday 7 Dec	Book of Common Prayer	8am
Sunday 7 Dec	SNOS Concert & Folky Folk Christmas tree lighting	5 or 6 pm TBC
Sunday 14 Dec	Carol Service	4.30 pm TBC
Sat 20 Dec	Christingle	4.30 pm TBC
Sun 21 Dec	Family Communion	11.15 am
Thurs 25 Dec	Christmas Day Family Communion	11.15am
Sun 28 Dec	No service	
Sun 4 Jan	Epiphany Carols with visiting choir	5pm

Church clear up



The 'services in kind' clear up on Sunday 14 Sept saw gutters cleared, ivy removed, wood-wormy baskets chucked out and stone work cracks filled in. Thank you!

It's a shame the rain then washed all the mortar away but hopefully next time it'll be sunnier for longer and it will stick...Thank you again.

Save the birds

Many of you will have noticed the heartbreaking sight of birds stuck in the church tower netting. The RSPB are aware and the police were called out and have visited too.

£1,500 target - save the birds – hire the cherry picker and steeple jack to take down the netting that traps the birds. This is the money needed to help end the birds suffering.

Ride & Stride £195

Flower Show £250

49 Club £500

Total £945 already raised

We just need to raise another £555 and Julian Barbour is kindly holding the following activity you might enjoy to help us get there. If you have any fund-raising ideas to help reach the £1,500 target please contact Claire Swan.

Ride & Stride

A record £390 was raised this year for Ride+Stride. Thank you to all the generous sponsors who helped make a significant contribution to the bird netting fund raising. £195 will go direct to South Newington for this, and £195 to Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust (OHCT) who organise the event.

Guided tour of College Farm

Julian Barbour is kindly offering a guided tour of his home on Saturday 11th October at 2pm and then again at 3pm to raise money for the bird netting.



College Farm is the oldest and best-preserved house in the village. Built for the Box family in the seventeenth century not long after the end of the English Civil War you can see the date stone with initials E B and D B for Edward and Dorcas Box, with a P set down between D and B probably for Philip their first child. Inside, the house retains many original features including rare, ornamental window latches, while also including new touches such as the circular desk commissioned from John Makepeace.

The tour will last about 45 minutes and is 'at your own risk', including climbing the upper steep spiral stairs if you wish to see the charming attic rooms.

Tickets are £10 minimum, in advance only from Nicky Smith and limited numbers. Please call or message 07771 785228 or email Nicky @twelvepr.co.uk



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 it 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.

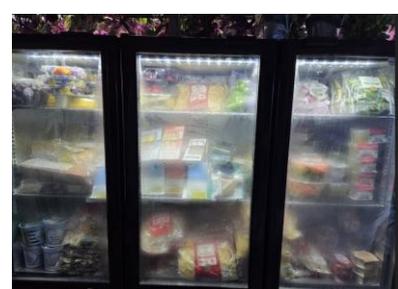
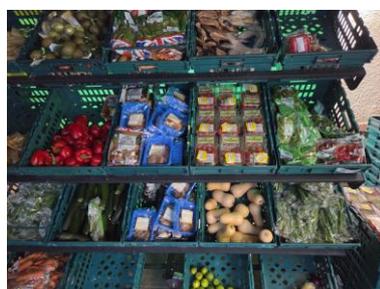
<u>Date</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Winner</u>	
07-Jun	56	No winner	
14-Jun	46	No winner	
21-Jun	15	No winner	
28-Jun	4	Carlie Philby	£20
05-Jul	15	No winner	
12-Jul	14	The Hardens	£20
19-Jul	15	No winner	
26-Jul	18	Bridget Reed	£20
02-Aug	56	No winner	
09-Aug	23	The Swans	£20
16-Aug	37	The Cassimjees	£20
23-Aug	5	John Braithwaite	£20
30-Aug	16	No winner	

The Breadline project

The Banburyshire Area community Food Pantry is one of the front line Redistributors of food assistance in Banbury, and supports over 400 families each month.

Ana collects food and produce for them and what they're not able to take is left by the church bench for villagers to take, in exchange for a voluntary donation. So far we have raised between £5,000 - £6,000 for the Breadline project which is a remarkable sum. While it's obviously a huge amount of work for Ana she says "Couldn't have done ANY without the support of SN! 👍"

The Breadline project has recently undergone refurbishment, helped in part by our contribution, these photos from Ana show some of the work and new refrigeration.



VILLAGE HALL

RINGING THE CHANGES AT THE VILLAGE HALL



The whole village joins with me in sending a huge thank you to Stella Darke for her eight years as Chair of the Village Hall. As Stella mentioned in the last newsletter, the hall is a delightful venue, whose characterful features we all enjoy and appreciate. Those involved in its upkeep and development, do so for the benefit of all in the village and I know it is valued by all who use the hall. Happily, Stella will remain on the Committee; a great relief to me as I step into the large boots I have to fill.

Louise Hands, a long-standing member of the Committee, takes up the role of Vice-Chair, and will continue to manage hall bookings. We're also delighted that Candi Giacchetti has joined the team in the role of Secretary, and thank Dorcas Cassimjee who has supported this role over the last year and has now stepped down from the Committee.

Other Committee members are: Rob Waters (Treasurer), John Braithwaite (remaining on the Committee to oversee the Development Project), Dale Gingrich (our representative for the church) and James Durley (our archivist). I'd like to say thank you to you all, and to the hall Trustees, for welcoming me into the team and helping me get up to speed with everything.

With vacancies filled, we now turn our attention to the future and the plans to enhance the hall space and usability. Fund-raising is underway. Thank you to all who have donated so far through the popular Coffee Mornings, the Flower Show (£250), the rounders game (£220) and various event raffles (Geoff Lennox's party raffle £240). More activities are planned; Bacon Butty Sundays, a Supper Club starting on Friday 31st October, quiz night and more.

Demonstrating active fund-raising of our own will help to secure funding from entities such as The National Lottery, English Heritage & the Platinum Jubilee Fund. If you have any fund-raising ideas, please let me know!

Zoe Colegrave, Chair of the Village Hall Committee

zoedavidson@sky.com

Development project

We continue to prepare the information that CDC will require in our application for planning permission and listed building consent

An ecologist has surveyed the building to check for signs of bats roosting and carried out an 'emergence survey' to see if any bats appeared from roosts in the building in the evening. It appears that the hall is not used by bats, which is good news for the project.

An arboriculturist has carried out a tree survey. We have not yet had her formal report but her findings so far suggest that we may have to make some minor changes to our planned hard landscaping in parts of the garden.

The building historian has given further helpful advice on the potential replacement stairs to the gallery. As a result we are looking at alternative designs to discuss with CDC.

We have had an initial budget cost for the project from a firm of quantity surveyors. The total figure suggests that the project should be fundable if carefully phased and with some voluntary work – which is very good news.

Although not part of the development project hall users may be pleased to know that we are looking at ways to end problems with locking and unlocking the front door.

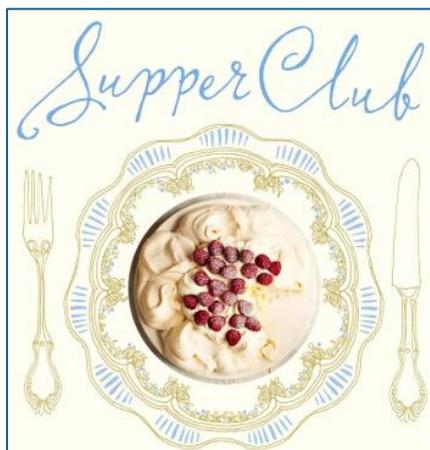
John Braithwaite

The Village Hall Development Fund is seeking to raise a substantial amount (£200k) to enable the renovation of the hall kitchen, loos and storage areas and improve accessibility for all.

Editors note – Barford St Michael raised £250,000 for their church roof and restoration so it can be done!

SUPPER CLUB AND BREAKFAST BUTTIES

The fund raising for the village hall has started with two great events and more to follow. The hugely popular harvest supper will kick off with a new name – the Supper Club, plus Miles' Bacon Butty Sunday will be a regular feature for extra fun on Sunday mornings



The supper club kicks off at 7pm for a Halloween-themed evening on Friday 31st October, Halloween fancy dress optional (but why not?!).

It will include a drink on arrival and two-course meal, including a quiz. Bring your own drink/glasses £20, with all proceeds going to the Village Hall.



Mile's Bacon Butty Sunday is confirmed for Sunday, 30th November.

He'll be in the Village Hall from 10 - 11 offering bacon buns and hot drinks.

£5 for a bacon bun and a choice of tea, coffee or hot chocolate, (we'll have croissants on hand for anyone who doesn't want a bacon bun).

All proceeds from both events will go to the Village Hall refurbishment fund. To book tickets for either please email zoedavidson@sky.com or speak to Zoe or Miles.

Village Hall Bookings:

For all bookings contact Louise Hands – either by phone 07813 901616 or by e-mail: louisehands80@hotmail.com

VILLAGE HALL COFFEE MORNINGS

Anyone passing South Newington Village Hall on the morning of the third Thursday of each month (except August) will see a hive of activity and hear the sound of laughter

and lively chatter. This is, of course, our monthly coffee morning, eagerly anticipated and well attended by the village.

The coffee mornings are hosted by volunteers who not only give generously of their time but also bake delicious cakes and provide fabulous prizes for the regular raffles

In May, Sue and Peter Thomas were hosts along with Sue Robertson, June saw the lovely trio of Gill Brounger, Marijke Jones and Lin Brecknell, all of whom have been generously contributing for many years. Candi Giachetti, Cally Willoughby-Ward and Nicky Smith entertained us in July. The most recent coffee morning in September was run by Judith Denby and Becky Harden, in aid of Macmillan cancer fund. Judith's cinnamon buns (pictured below) have become the food of legend!!

A huge thank you from all of us to everyone who hosts these mornings. The village just wouldn't be the same without them.



Judith and Becky's famous cinnamon buns from the Macmillan coffee morning.

The coffee mornings have raised over £1,100 this year towards the village hall, and this year's Macmillan coffee morning was a record breaker making £625 for the charity! Thank you again Judith, Becky, Freya and Carli for hosting the Macmillan coffee morning and everyone who came along, or kindly donated.

FLOWER AND PRODUCE SHOW

Financial Statement

Thank you to everyone who gave, helped, bought and entered to make this year's show one to remember. I think we can agree it was the busiest show we have had for a long time. The sun shone, the band played, and the village came together, as only South Newington can, to celebrate all the efforts of the gardeners, cooks and creatives in our midst. Well done to all.

The show raised £6.4K which was about £1K more this year than last year.

The show costs around £4K to run leaving us with £2.4K surplus. We are very grateful for all the help we were given for prizes, sponsorship and printing. This allowed us to keep the costs a little lower than the previous year. However, the pressure on our running costs continues to increase and we need to replace some signage and gazebos next year. Any ideas or offers of sponsorship for future shows are always appreciated.

That said, it is our turn to give back and this year the committee is pleased to be able to donate £750, split between the Village Hall, The Church Building, Bridewell Gardens and The Brain Tumour Charity.

Thank you again for all the support. Look out for our spring event in March/April – (details to follow) and please put Saturday 1st August 2026 in your diary – our next show. We want to see you there.

AI Poster Competition

The poster for this year's flower show was designed by AI. The winner of the competition to spot the mistakes was Jonah Casimjee who correctly spotted these ones



Cross between an alpaca and a person with a hat



Trombone coming out of man's face



People with no faces

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

The Village Hall Development Fund is seeking to raise a substantial amount (£200k) to .

RAFFLE PRIZES

We are very grateful to all the individuals and business who generously donated the raffle prizes for the show. Please thank them with your custom if you can:

- **Heath Farm Holiday Cottages, near South Newington**
www.heathfarm.com
- **North Oxon Top Soil, South Newington**
www.northoxfordshiretopsoil.co.uk
- **The Duck On The Pond, South Newington**
www.theduckonthepond.co.uk
- **Fisher German Property Consultants**
www.fishergerman.co.uk
- **Dubarry**
www.dubarry.com
- **Clarimore Beautique, Charlbury**
www.clarimorebeautique.co.uk
- **Jaffe & Neale Bookshop, Chipping Norton**
<https://www.jaffeandneale.co.uk>

FLOWER SHOW PHOTOS 2025



The opening speech and ribbon-cutting by John and Margaret Braithwaite



Cheerful men on the entry table welcoming visitors



Everyone taking their judging jobs very seriously, well nearly everyone



Our longest serving judges (vegetable produce) and newest judge (flowers and floral art)

CUP WINNERS GALLERY



Best cake in show, Penny



Best rose, Sue



Best miniature arrangement, Gill



*Man with most points, Julian
accepting for his brother David*



*Best flower arrangement
Julia*



*Garden on a china plate
Zoe (with Zoe)*



*Most points under 13
Jonah*



*Most points against Neil
in table tennis*



Overall best exhibit, Jean



Largest marrow, Candi



Best dahlias, Sue, and best remark: "I've waited 40 years to win this."



*Modern flower arrangement
Nicky*



Best craft item, Natasha



Best sweet peas, Claire



Under five most points, Olivia



Zoe won best in fruit & veg with this gorgeous basket of produce and also deserves a medal for being best show compere



Cab rides thanks to North Oxon Topsoil



Lucky Bill winning sweets and Geoff and Jane both winning great raffle prizes



Candi, Graham, and Abi all raffle prize winners



Show day visiting photographers and the wonderful Jubilee Brass Band



Men at work, David and Geoff on the bottle stall (plus Candi) and star auctioneer, David



Crowds of visitors; great games organised by Roz with Louise, Fran, Bill, Abi and Millie



The fabulous and incredibly hard-working tea tent team



Working tirelessly behind the scenes, Gordon on entries and show chair Amanda, plus treasurer and tent organiser, Julia

SOUTH NEWINGTON OIL BUYING GROUP

The South Newington Oil Group is run by Stephen Anderson. By consolidating your oil order with those of other members you benefit from obtaining a more competitive price per litre than if ordering directly from a supplier yourself.

Orders are prepared at the beginning of a month, typically, between September and May, inclusive. Towards the end of each month an oil request invite is sent round to all members asking if they need oil. Using a link to an online form, those who need oil submit their quantity by a cut-off date. Once that date arrives the quantities are amalgamated and the bulk quantity is used to obtain a best price from suppliers.

The overall timescale for an order from receiving the invite until delivery is up to 3 weeks. The Oil Buying Group does not get involved in the payments for deliveries – this is the responsibility of the individual members. Other queries about a delivery are also down to the member once the order is placed.

If you would like to join the Group or obtain more information about it, please contact Stephen Anderson by email at sn.oil.club@gmail.com

Local food delivery service

Some of you may have had a chance to try Josh's delicious massaman curry buns at the flower show, or the mushroom vegetarian alternative. As mentioned in the last newsletter Josh, who lives on the Wiggington Road, is a highly experienced chef and has given me a write-up about his food delivery service for anyone who's interested to try it.



Josh and the buns that sold like hot cakes. A selection of his fresh meals for delivery

Incredible local meal prep service, operating twice weekly to help you eat great food whilst removing the hassle that comes with it.

PACKED Meal Prep (www.packed.food) aka Chef Joshua Charles leans into the fresh, home-cooked meal service with an emphasis on high-protein and ‘no nasties’ cooking, he has years of experience as a head chef at great restaurants and is making waves with his health and fitness business.

The two main offerings include a Monday night delivery service of up to four different meals, where for just £6.50 per meal, you’ll receive his weekly menu which will be different each week. There are ‘protein packed’ and ‘lite’ versions of familiar dishes and free-from/vegan/veggie options also

Later in the week Josh has a bespoke offering (£9 per meal), where you can simply send a message, tell him what you’d like, and he will bring it to you in his style by Thursday evening or sooner.

Currently in between websites it’s best to just contact Josh directly with a call or message on 07446845032, or check out www.packed.food or @packed.mealprep instagram. He also is also a very experienced personal trainer working with a wide range of people committed to improving their health, and has a brand new gym in the village that you should definitely check out!

Keeping flexible

Another wonderful new activity in the village, in addition to the much-loved yoga on Wednesdays, is pilates on Thursdays. Both usually take place in the village hall, although with the lovely weather over the summer we were lucky to do our pilates in various gardens in the village.



Pilates in the garden, with thanks to Claire and David for their hospitality

If anyone is interested to try pilates on Thursday evenings Barb is happy for you to message her on 07771 821480 or check out her Instagram “pilateslifebyB”,

WELCOMING NEW VILLAGERS

The loveliest, most joyful news – we're delighted to celebrate the safe arrival of two South Newington babies.



Huge congratulations to Cherry and James Durley on the birth of Jacob in August. And a special thank you to James for delivering all the lovely table-top containers of flowers for the Flower Show, even as you waited for Jacob to arrive! Blooming marvellous.

And huge congratulations also to Harry and Faye on the birth of Oscar in April.

They say it takes a village to raise a child – well, we're ready!



Harry, Oscar's Dad said: "Oscar has been spoiled by so many people in the village and we feel very fortunate that he will be growing up in South Newington. Thank you for all the kindness you have shown us since he arrived! "

And it's lovely to welcome some grown ups too 😊 A warm welcome to welcome Gini and her two dachshunds at the Little Forge, and Julie and her two somewhat larger Bernese dogs to Jasmine Cottage next door on Moor Lane.

Cally and James have actually lived in South Newington before, but moved to Devon for the birth of their daughter Poppy. We're delighted you came back, bringing your beautiful little girl and also the dogs Algie (French bulldog) and Algie (black lab) to Tink a Tank.

And last but not least a big happy hello to Steve Richards and Nancy Harwick who swapped the bustle of Putney, London for our peaceful village life in May (their words, we think life in South Newington is one big social whirl 😄)

Google note: "Speaking of the "laughing crying" or "face with tears of joy" 😄 emoji, many Zoomers no longer use it. It seems to be common knowledge that this once-popular emoji is now used mostly by Boomers."

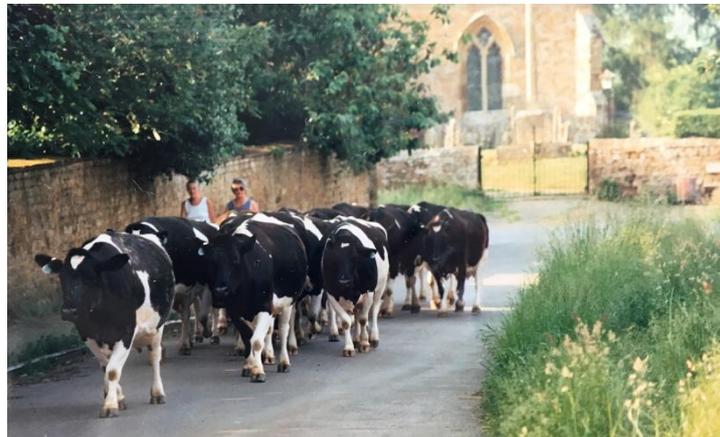
REMEMBERING PAST VILLAGERS

It is with great fondness and love that we remember Janet Page who died this summer. She was such a well-known and exceptional lady that it will be hard to do her justice here.

Janet lived in Jasmine Cottage on Moor Lane for seventy years, buying the cottage with her beloved husband Phillip just after they married in 1955. Janet moved to the area originally to work with the horses at Rignall Hall and remained passionate about horses and hunting throughout her life. She described South Newington as “the back of beyond” when she moved here from Tunbridge Wells where she was working at the time in a very smart livery yard.

It was always interesting to hear Janet talk about life in the village after the war and she was never without a well observed comment and choice turn of phrase to describe village goings on. She loved to get to know new people and marvel at how the area had changed, and towards the end of her life thoroughly enjoyed a trip to Soho Farmhouse to see the latest developments there.

Janet and Phillip worked incredibly hard as dairy farmers, with Phillip building the farm himself including the milking parlour and the bull pen in the Old Farm Yard where Harry, Faye and Oscar now live, and where her son Michael and their family lived when it was first converted for them.



Janet with her sister walking the cows for the last time, in 1988

Over the years Janet and Phillip bought land at either side of the village, which meant the cows had to walk through the village from their fields by the brook for milking in the farmyard.

Janet loved to chat, to laugh and in her younger days very much enjoyed dancing. She lamented the loss of dancing in South Newington and neighbouring village halls, (Over Norton was the best for dancing she said) but continued to enjoy socialising and

keeping up with news until near the end of her life. She would enjoy teasing her men friends including her neighbour Charles in this photo below, and Adrian also in Moor Lane, whose company she enjoyed enormously but I think Adrian will be amused to agree, she never had a good word to say about his dog, Lois.



L-R: Sue Davis, Charles Ludlow, Angela Burns, Janet Page

In fact, Janet, experienced with animals, rarely had a good word to say about the behaviour of other people's dogs, not surprisingly perhaps as over the years many of them had worried or even killed their sheep when Janet and Phillip kept them as well as cows. She herself had Jack Russels that she loved very dearly.

Janet suffered from several serious health issues in her life including whooping cough as a child, cancer which caused them to give up their herd of cows, and much later in life a dreadful car accident when she and Phillip were in a taxi and the driver blacked out. She was a strong lady who overcame set-backs, spoke her mind and loved to talk about village and society life, about horses and farming, and the pleasure she and Phillip found from building their dairy herd and life together.

Above all Janet enjoyed a good laugh with friends. She will be very much missed by all of us who knew her and are sorry that by her own choice she didn't have a funeral service where we could celebrate her long life and contribution to the village. I know she enjoyed the hymn 'All things bright and beautiful,' having complained to me one year when it wasn't sung at the Harvest Festival Service and there was a modern service ("Why on *earth* are we saying these American poems?") so perhaps we can think of her when we hear it next, or walk in the fields near the brook where she so often walked herself.

SHARING INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION

We have three WhatsApp groups for instant messaging across the village, plus the village email and website. If you don't know about them, here's an explanation.

“Chatter – South Newington”



This is for general, pleasant chat, observations, requests for help e.g. “does anyone have a tombola game I can borrow” or “can anyone recommend a plumber.”

“South Newington Cares”



Originally set up during Covid, this group is intended for important or urgent news and is meant to be a sort of rapid alert or emergency call for action.

“SN Breadline Project



This group is for people who want to be notified when new products are put out in the village by Ana, to raise money for the foodbank, Breadline Project in Banbury.

If you would like to be added to any of these groups, please contact Vanessa. If you would like to join in the email group all the details are below:

VILLAGE EMAIL LIST

The village email list notifies villagers about things going on in the village.

Some emails come from the Parish Council e.g. to inform villagers of Parish Council Meetings and other matters. Other emails will keep villagers informed about what's on or planned such as road works/road closures, coffee mornings, church services, village quiz nights, and other village meetings.

If you wish to join the village email distribution group, please email James Cameron using the following email address: snewingtonnews@gmail.com

You will need to provide your name, address and email address and James can then add you to the email distribution group.

Who Is Your Information Shared With? The information will not be shared with any other organisations. **How Do I Opt Out?** If in the future you wish to opt out, simply send another email to that effect to and your details will be deleted. snewingtonnews@gmail.com

NOTE: Due to data protection rules you cannot ask on behalf of someone else that they be added to the village email distribution group.

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

For many years Sue Robertson has sent our village emails and also managed the village website. James Cameron has now kindly picked up this role, so this is the perfect moment to thank Sue for all her time and work over the years for the community. Sue's husband Steve still manages the village oil group saving us all money when we buy oil, so thanks again to both of you for all you do for the village.

SPECIAL EVENTS AND PEOPLE



Talking of people who do great things for our community, a shout out must go Zoe and Miles ("Village Legend") for all they do for us, including the Rounders Match and raffle which raised £220 for the Village Hall.

REGULAR WHAT'S ON IN THE VILLAGE

What	When	Where	More info
Table tennis	Monday eves 6.30 – 7.30pm	Village hall	Dawn and Neil hodsod@hotmail.co.uk
Art 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	Village Hall	Barb
Seated Yoga	Friday eves	Village Hall	Liz Davis
Book Club	3 rd Thursday of the month	Pub	southnewingtonbookclub@gmail.com

Coffee mornings	Thurs morning most months	Village hall	Penny Price Penella11@gmail.com
Circle dancing	4 th 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: Tim.Catton@epr.co.uk claire_ainley@hotmail.com

SOUTH NEWINGTON WEATHER

March, April, May, June, July, August 2025

My last weather report covering Autumn and Winter 2024-2025 took us to the end of February. I described a wet autumn and winter turning the village into a mud bath - from September to February 2024-2025 we had a total rainfall of 678.4 mm.

For this report, March to the end of August, we've had 145.2 mm, a virtual drought. But I can break this figured down a bit more.

The difference is tremendous. Bearing in mind that our average rainfall in the village is about 75 to 80mm a month, this summer's figures are:

March 2.4mm

April 23.0mm

May	16.0mm	Aug	23.2 mm
June	30.2mm	Total	145.2 mm
July	50.4 mm		

The total for the same months in 2024 was 420.2mm.

The very dry conditions have a large effect on trees and shrubs, and leaves are falling already. We may lose some of the larger trees because of the dry conditions regrettably as we go into winter.

Some of you will remember 1976 when the village sewerage system was put in. Temperatures have followed the dry weather with the sunshine and nationally meteorologists are talking of the hottest summer ever recorded.

In this village we saw a maximum temperature of 30°C on three occasions, 11 July and 12 August 31.9° C , 11 July and 31.1° C on 30 June 30. All these temperatures had some very warm days and hot nights before and after them.

Having said that we have been listed in the Daily Mail Extremes column as being the coldest place in the British Isles on the following days:

2 April -3.0°C	14 August 3.0°C
3 April 7.0°C	24 August 5.0°C
9 July 7.0°C	27 August 3.0° C
6 August 3.0°C	7 September 12° C

From the other end of the scale and from our thermometers we had our last frost this year on 23 May at -1.5°C

I am fortunate to be able to talk to various Met Office technicians now and again. The South Newington Station which is the most northerly station in the region and we are serviced by the office based at Larkhill on Salisbury plain. I understand that the longer a “station” runs in any one area the better, because the information for the area is building up all the time. I hope to be back with the next newsletter.

John Britten 11/09/25

COUNTY COUNCIL NEWS

Oxfordshire County Council sends an email of information they would like to share with our community. In summary the key points are:

Rail travel - creating a new strategy is being created for the future of rail in Oxfordshire. A survey, along with details of the plan, is available until 1 October:

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/railplan>

Better Travel webpages “packed with fun, local ways to get moving” :

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/better-travel

BetterPoints Oxfordshire app - a new app where people can earn rewards by recording their walking, cycling and public transport journeys, as well as other healthy activities.

<https://oxon.betterpoints.uk/>

Website for children and young people: Oxme.info

Whats App: three different channels - for news, latest careers and travel updates

BIODIVERSITY GROU

It seems a long time ago since Spring, but here’s a reminder of what a special year it was for primroses. With less frequent mowing and less use of pesticides, more wildflowers can grow, and this combined with the right weather seemed to have produced a wonderful display this year.

Can you spot where all these primroses were growing? Another £10 for the first correct set of answers, including spotting the odd one out and why.



One



Two



Three



Four



Five



Six



Seven



Eight



Nine



Ten



Eleven



Twelve

Verges

You might notice how wild the verge around the poleaxe was in 1988 when the photo below was taken of Janet Page and her dairy cows.



Since then, we have made all our verges tidier and tidier, having a huge impact on biodiversity. There are four verges in the village specifically left to grow wilder, and quadrat sampling has proved that they contain five times more plant species than regularly mown grass verges.

Proof of the positive impact on biodiversity from leaving verges to grow more naturally is this year's winner of the King Charles Cup for a wild flower arrangement in our Flower Show.



Winning wild flower arrangement



Stella at the show

Every flower in this arrangement came from the verges in the village. Stella just walked around the ‘wild’ verges in the village the morning of the show and arranged the flowers in a vase.

This simply wouldn’t have been possible from a “normal verge” so thank you for your tolerance of their scruffy verges appearance and please support more wildness where you can!

Dark Skies

South Newington is proud to have something many crave – dark skies. This means we don’t have street lights and therefore have much darker night skies which is better for us and wildlife, and lovely for looking at the stars. But you may have seen the recent village email about lights left on at night.

Security lights can be set to come on with movement, so please consider if you need to leave lights on all night – it badly affects bats and nocturnal creatures and is not good for you either.

CHRISTMAS WINDOW ADVENT CALENDAR AROUND SOUTH NEWINGTON



Thank you so much to those who have offered to decorate a window and to help raise money for Thrive OX7. If you would like to donate, then please visit the link below and leave a message saying it's for the South Newington Festive Windows. All going towards making Christmas a better prospect for those young people and families who are struggling in our area. THANK YOU!

[TotalGiving™ - South Newington Christmas Windows - Thrive OX7 - Fundraising Page](#)

Any questions then please email Roz rozmuirie@hotmail.com

Please come and join us to kick start the festive season at **5.55pm** on the specified evenings outside the relevant house for the big reveal at 6pm. There may even be a mince pie if you're lucky!

December

Tues 2 nd	Tim & Nicky	Church
Thurs 4 th	Carly	Hillside, Bakers Lane
Sun 7 th	SNOS Tree lighting	Church
Tues 9 th	Smiths	Barn House, Moor Lane
Thurs 11 th	Candi	
Sun 14 th	Carol Service	Church
Tues 16 th	Hugo	Applegarth, Moor Lane
Thurs 18 th	Becky	The Deans, Moor Lane
Sun 21 st	TBC	
Tues 23 rd	TBC	

With Festive Cheer! Roz

MUSIC

We live in a wonderful area for live music performance and events. Here are some of the events coming up which all have a link to a South Newington person.

- Chipping Norton Choral Society Concert for Choir & Strings Sat 29 Nov., 7.30pm
St Mary's Church Banbury, with 24 string players
- Come and Sing Faure's Requiem Weds 15 Oct 2-5pm rehearsal; 5.30pm
performance
St Michael's Church, Barford

- Iuventus Charity Christmas Concert Wednesday 3 Dec, 6.30pm
St Michael & All Angels Church, Summertown.
- South Newington Occasional Singers Christmas Concert & Tree Lighting Sun 7
Dec pm, 5.30 or 6.30 TBC South Newington Church
- Chipping Norton Choral Society Christmas Carol Concert Sat 20 Dec 6pm
St Mary's Church, Chipping Norton

SAVE THE DATE! A REMINDER OF EVENTS COMING UP SOON RIGHT HERE

Tour of College Farm

Saturday 11 October 2pm and 3pm

Tickets from Nicky Smith 07771 785228 or Nicky@twelvepr.co.uk

£10 ticket minimum

All proceeds to the Save the Birds netting fund

South Newington Supper Club

Friday 31 October 2025, 7:30pm.

Please join us for a Halloween Cocktail, two-course dinner and quiz for £20 pp.

BYO Drinks (and glasses).

Halloween Fancy Dress optional!

Please join us after Trick or Treating! 🎃

All proceeds to the Village Hall Development Fund.

Miles' Bacon Butty Sunday

30 November 2025, between 10:00 & 11:00am.

Bacon bun and a hot drink (tea, coffee or hot chocolate) for £5.

Croissants will be available as an alternative to bacon buns

All proceeds to the Village Hall Development Fund.

HALLOWEEN

Don't forget if you are happy to welcome / give a good fright to any visitors at Halloween leave a pumpkin or lit decoration outside your house. No pumpkin = no visitors.