ISSUE 87 – OCT 2025

UPDATE

THE NORTHAW AND CUFFLEY PARISH COUNCIL MAGAZINE

Working Together for Our Community

It has been wonderful to see our community coming together over the past few months. On Sunday 10th August, I had the pleasure of attending the Northaw & Cuffley Bowling Club for the Chairman's Cup, where I was delighted to present the trophy to winners Mick Manzi and Roy Blunden, and the runners-up prizes to Pauline Smith and John Clarke (see the full write-up and photo inside this edition of Update). The Parish Council has proudly supported this competition for many years, and it is always a joy to recognise the skill, dedication, and sportsmanship of our local players on such a special occasion.

Beyond sporting events, the Parish Council has been actively engaging with local organisations to ensure that the voice of the community is heard and supported. On 11th August, we met with representatives of Cuffley Football Club to discuss issues and improve communication. On 15th September, we welcomed members of the Northaw & Cuffley Residents Association to discuss matters important to residents. These meetings are a vital part of our work and help strengthen the links between the Parish Council and our local organisations.

Looking ahead, we are excited to announce a new initiative to improve community engagement: the launch of the **Northaw & Cuffley Parish Council WhatsApp Bulletin Group**. Starting in October, the group will provide residents with updates on parish news, events, meeting dates, and urgent notices such as road closures or utility works. This is an information-only channel, so you won't receive unrelated messages, just clear, concise updates from your Parish Council.

To join the Whatsapp Bulletin Group, simply scan the QR code above.

Your name and number will only be visible to group administrators and saved contacts, in line with our Privacy Policy -**https://northawcuffley-pc.gov.uk/privacy-policy/**

If you need assistance, please contact the Parish Clerk at **clerk@northawcuffley-pc.gov.uk** or Office Manager at **office.manager@northawcuffley-pc.gov.uk**

We warmly welcome contact from all local organisations and community groups. If you would like to meet with us, to share your ideas, or discuss ways we can work together, please get in touch with the Parish Clerk at **clerk@northawcuffley-pc.gov.uk**

By actively collaborating with local organisations and embracing new ways to communicate, we aim to make every resident feel truly connected, informed, and involved in shaping our community. Your voices and ideas are vital to our work, and we encourage you to join us at upcoming events, meetings, and initiatives. Together, we can continue to strengthen the sense of community and make Northaw & Cuffley an even better place to live, for everyone.

Councillor David Sive

Chairman, Northaw & Cuffley Parish Council

HEIGHT BARRIERS

At the time of printing, nearly £10,000 has been expended in 2025 on the repair and replacement of the security barriers at various Council managed properties within Cuffley, due to damage caused by careless drivers.

The height barrier at Maynard Place car park, which was written off in 2024, with repairs completed in January, was written off again in an accident in July requiring replacement of the crossbar. Luckily, on this occasion, we were able to recover the money required for these repairs from the driver of the vehicle responsible.

However, the security barriers at the two entrances at KGV have both failed, following years of incremental damage, inflicted during various incidents when limited repairs were carried out on an ad hoc basis.

These have to be replaced, and this money has to be found from Council reserves.

In an attempt to reduce the ongoing maintenance cost for the barrier at the entrance used by the Football and Bowls Clubs, we have replaced the separate gate and barrier with a combination unit.

This also features a higher barrier, with a knock bar placed at the previous barrier height, and we have reduced the barrier width and moved the whole structure further into the car park, to make it more visible to traffic turning in from Northaw Road East.

We have also added traffic calming to this entrance, in an attempt to slow down vehicles coming off the road into KGV.

Parish Council Grants – Don't Miss Out!

Calling all local heroes!

Is your voluntary organisation working hard to make a difference in Northaw or Cuffley?

Could a cash boost help bring your project to life?

Well, good news – there's still time to apply for a Parish Council Grant!

Deadline: 5pm, Friday 31st October 2025

Grants of **£250 to £5,000** are available to support projects led by community groups just like yours. Whether you're running activities, improving services, or launching something new – we want to help you make it happen!

Don't let funding hold you back – seize this opportunity to power up your project.

Northaw & Cuffley Parish Council values the incredible work voluntary organisations do to keep our community thriving. For the 2025/26 financial year, we've set aside **£10,000** to support local initiatives.

APPLY TODAY

Email: **clerk@northawcuffley-pc.gov.uk**
Or post to: 7 Maynards Place, Cuffley EN6 4JA
Full details, requirements, and application forms are available here: https://northawcuffley-pc.gov.uk/grants/

Let's work together to make our community even better!

Refurbishing King George V Playing Field, Cuffley

Shaping the Future of Our Community

Reminder: Final date for your responses is 5th November

Following the initial online consultation, held between 11th November 2024 and 15th January 2025, Northaw and Cuffley Parish Council is now moving forward with the next stage of consultation for the refurbishment of King George V Playing Field.

To build on the valuable feedback already received, the next stage for this collaborative project with Groundworks East is a supplemental survey, to help establish a final list of priorities for improving the site.

This is your opportunity to help shape the future of this much-loved community space.

The aim of the refurbishment is to:

- Make King George V Playing Field more accessible
- Increase opportunities for activity and recreation
- Ensure it can be enjoyed by everyone in the community, now and for generations to come

We encourage all local residents to take part in this important survey—especially if you didn't have a chance to respond during the first consultation.

Your input will directly influence what facilities and features are included in the final design.

Tell us:

- What would you like to see added or improved?
- How would you and your family like to use the space in the future?

Paper copies of the survey are available from the Parish Council Offices, and the Library, during their normal opening hours, for those who prefer not to complete it online.

Let's work together to create a vibrant, inclusive space at King George V Playing Field for everyone in Cuffley.

NORTHAW & CUFFLEY BOWLING CLUB

On Sunday 10th August Councillor David Sive, Chairman of the Parish Council attended Northaw & Cuffley Bowling Club for the Chairman's Cup and presented the trophy to winners Mick Manzi and Roy Blunden (see photo) and runners-up prizes to Pauline Smith and John Clarke.

The Parish Council has supported the Chairman's Cup competition for many years and we are always pleased to welcome the Chairman on this special occasion.

Our outdoor bowling season was completed at the end of September following a very busy year. For the second year, John Dowler was the Hertfordshire Mens County President, meaning the club hosted several prestigious County games, and fortunately this year near all of them were played in fine weather.

The next outdoor season commences in April, but if you are interested or would like to know more about the club please come and visit us at the clubhouse on Friday 5th December, commencing at 10am, for our Christmas Coffee Morning, or our January Coffee Morning, Friday 9th January 2026, or see our website: **www.nandcbowlingclub.co.uk**

You can find us at: King George V Playing Field, Northaw Road East, Cuffley, EN6 4RD

Monday Morning Ladies Badminton

We meet every Monday morning to play badminton in Cuffley Hall from 11 til 1 pm. We are a friendly group of ladies and enjoy lighthearted games of badminton and a break for coffee and a chat. If you would like to join us or would like more information, phone Jan **07850233854**.

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR LOCAL PCSO

The nights are getting certainly darker and now is a good time to think about making sure your home is safe from burglars this winter. If your home is empty, even for short periods of time, we recommend giving your home a lived-in look by using timers on lights. Investing in doorbell and external Wi-Fi cameras is also a relatively cheap way to keep your home and valuables safe.

In some exciting news, we are pleased to have welcomed the famous Knife Angel to Hertfordshire for the very first time. Created by Alfie Bradley at the British Ironwork Centre, the 27-foot sculpture aims to raise awareness of knife crime and promotes an anti-violence message. It is crafted from more than 100,000 knives and blades confiscated by the UK's 43 police forces. The Knife Angel will be in Welwyn Garden City town centre throughout October and there's a month-long programme of intensive anti-violence youth engagement across the county. If you've not yet had a chance to see it, you have until 30 October so don't miss out!

Find out more at **www.herts.police.uk/knifeangel**

PCSO Jo Woods

Improvements to the Local 242 Bus Service

In January, after concerns that the service may be cancelled, UNO buses took over the number 242 bus route.

From then, this local service running through both Northaw and Cuffley, was extended from a rush hour only service, to include additional hourly daytime services for Monday to Saturday which run throughout the day.

From 1st September additional changes were announced, as the

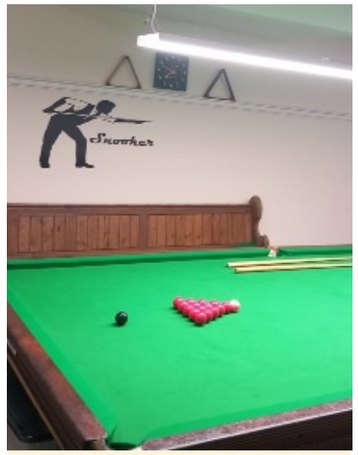
service was extended to run from Potters Bar to Hatfield Town Centre, The Galleria, and Hatfield Business Park, via Brookmans Park and Welham Green, when the route for the 242 bus service was adapted to replace the withdrawn section of the 610 bus route.

There have also been minor adjustments made to the Sunday service timetable.

At the time of writing, we are aware that details of these updated services may not appear in local bus stops, and we are in touch with the team at Hertfordshire County Council to arrange to get this information routinely update.

For full details of the amended service please go to the UNO website where a timetable can be downloaded. Link: **https://www.unobus.info/services/hertfordshire/242/**

Alternatively, there should be printed timetables available to pick up on the bus.



Kidston Institute

7, Northaw Road West, Northaw, EN6 4NW

The Kidston Institute is a Charity based organisation in Northaw with Table Tennis and Snooker facilities.

New members welcome.

A £52 annual membership allows unlimited use of the tables (outside of Pre-School hours).

For further information use the contacts: **thekidstoninstitute@gmail.com** or **07864 770914**

Northaw War Memorial

Lest we forget

This summer we commemorated the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day on 6 June and on the 15 August, the lesser remembered but no less important, Victory in Japan Day. Most communities were touched by the tragic loss of serving men and women during the Second World War, no less here in Cuffley and Northaw. The twenty men listed on the Northaw War Memorial made the ultimate sacrifice. Here are some of their stories.

Major James Garrard Black, Royal Army Service Corps.
The son of Beatrice and James William, a draper's buyer, James was born 1 November 1898. He served and survived World War 1, where he was a private in the Machine Gun Corps, receiving both the British War and the Victory medal.

Following the Great War, he travelled extensively to America, Canada and Africa in his career as Bank Official. He married Thelma Grace Amery in Edmonton on 21 January 1923 and they had a daughter Jean Thelma in July 1925. Sadly, after 15 years of marriage, his wife passed away in October 1938 at the age 40. At the outset of the War he was married to Elizabeth Black and they were living at 23 Tolmers Road, Cuffley.

He joined unit 308 of the Reserve Motor Transport Company in the Royal Army Service Corps

Dutch Troop Ship SS Slamat on fire with HMS destroyer Diamond picking up survivors: HMS Wryneck can be seen in the distance.

and served in the Middle East. On 24 April 1941, a convoy of trucks of the 308th left Argos heading for Kalamata to be evacuated to Egypt, following the collapse of the Allied resistance after the German invasion of Greece. Major Black remained at Argos with about 100 men where they waited on the beach at Nafplion, in the Peloponnese, for evacuation to Crete.

On the night of 26 April, they boarded the SS Slamat, a turbine steamship, converted into a troop ship which was part of a convoy evacuating about 3,000 British, Australian and New Zealand troops from Nafplion. As she was headed south in the Argolic Gulf, she was attacked first at 07.15 by Messerschmidtt Bf 109 fighters then Junkers 87 dive bombers and finally Dornier 17 bombers. A 250kg (550lb) bomb exploded between Slamat's bridge and the forward funnel, setting her on fire and disabling the water system so that the crew were unable to fight the fire. Another bomb hit her and she listed starboard. The order was given to abandon ship. As many lifeboats and life rafts were destroyed in the fire, the men swam clear of the sinking ship. However, the German planes circled and machine gunned the men in the water.

A nearby destroyer HMS Diamond rescued about 600 survivors and HMS Wryneck also came to her rescue and the two destroyers headed for Souda Bay in Crete. A. formation of Junkers 87 "Stuka" dive bombers attacked both ships, sinking them within minutes. Major Black died on the night of 26/27 April 1941, aged 42 years. The total number of lost souls from the sinking of the three ships was almost 1,000. Only 27 crew from Wryneck, 20 crew from Diamond and 11 crew and 8 evacuated soldiers from the Slamat survived.

Lieutenant Colonel Frederic Gerald Hayes, Royal Ordnance Corps.
Born on 19 July 1905, the only son of an Irish father, Frederick Thomas Hayes, a clothing contractor and Amy Beatrice Rayner a farmer's daughter born in Canterbury, Kent. Frederic married Dorothy Fleda Wallis at St Paul's Church in Winchmore Hill in March 1932 and at the outset of the war they are living at Tamarisk, Hill Rise, Cuffley, Herts. and he is a textile buyer.

Serving with the Royal Ordnance Corps in Malaya, commanding section 14, he was captured on 15 February 1942. As a Japanese prisoner of war, he was transported to Thailand on 17 May 1943. However, suffering from acute appendicitis, he was evacuated on 30 June 1943 to Tha Sao hospital in Thailand. As there was no ambulance available, he had to be carried 8 miles by a volunteer party of officers acting as stretcher-bearers. He died just over two weeks later on 17 July 1943, from amoebic dysentery in the Hospital, Tha Sao, Thailand. He was two days short of his 38th birthday.

He was mentioned in the London Gazette of 30 July 1946 in recognition services in Malaya in 1942. The King's commendation of the bronze oak leaf on his medal signifies bravery and meritorious conduct.

Pilot Officer James Frederick Leleu, RAF Volunteer Reserve
James was born on 20 July 1909 to father James Frederick, a fish salesman and mother, Maud, he also had 2 sisters Maud and Violet. At the outset of the war, he is married to Adele Carey and they had a son Guy, born in 1938 and were living at 60 Northaw Road East,

Cuffley. James was working as an ironmongery wholesale buyer in a builders' merchant and was also a part time ARP (Air Raid Precautions) warden.

He joined 9 Squadron, Bomber Command, based at RAF Waddington and is listed as an air gunner in a crew of 8, flying an Avro Lancaster III (left). Their motto was: **'per noctem volamus'** (We fly through the night).

Sadly, as they took off on a dark night (5% moon) on 6 April 1943, to undertake Bullseye training (night evasion exercise), it is believed the plane suffered total engine failure and crashed at Kenny Hill near Mildenhall, Suffolk. All 8 servicemen on board were killed.

Article by Paola Munns, Chair, Cuffley Community Library

1st Cuffley Scout Group News

We all had a busy summer with camps and activities for all our Sections. Our Cubs attended a Camping Skills Camp at Lees Wood where they learnt about tent pitching, firelighting and cooking, and knots and outdoor skills. There was a successful Group camp at Thriftwood, Brentwood attended by nearly 70 members, leaders and helpers with activities including crate stacking, axe throwing, climbing, zip line, rifle shooting and an assault course. In August, the Scouts spent a week in Norfolk at Eaton Vale camp site and undertook kayaking, climbing, hiking, a trip to Norwich and a zoo and watched Banger Racing!

Our Explorers spent a weekend in the Peak District hiking (mostly in the rain) in preparation for King's Scout Expeditions in the coming year. They also had a night hike around Hertford and Watton-at-Stone. We have all been making good use of our minibus which is proving to be a real asset to the Group giving us more flexibility and options for getting out and about.

This term, there will be more vegetable growing, opportunities to learn more practical skills, the Green Beret Competition for Scouts and Peak Assault competition for the Explorers. We will once again be supporting the annual Remembrance Service and Parade in Northaw on 9th November.

We are looking for new volunteers to help lead in our Sections and to take on supporting roles with fundraising, maintenance and administration across our Group. If you are interested we'd love to meet you! Please get in touch using the enquiry form on our website **https://cuffley-scouts.org.uk/join-us-enquiry/** or call **07784 861218** and leave a message.

We are again holding FESTIVE WREATH MAKING WORKSHOPS at CUFFLEY SCOUT HQ – check our website for more details and to make your bookings **https://cuffley-scouts.org.uk**

Cuffley Art Society

CUFFLEY ART SOCIETY began meeting around 80 years ago in the Cuffley Victory Centre, called the Cabin and then, when the Cuffley Hall, Surgery and Library was built in 1975, they met in Cuffley Hall. Our members still meet on Monday afternoons to paint together and we hold an Exhibition of our original paintings and cards in Cuffley Hall in October/November each year. We are a friendly group of artists of all abilities and ages. If you're interested in joining us you'll be very welcome.

Ring Jan on **07850233854** for more information.

Sylvia Pugsley was our President for many years but now she has stepped down as our President but still takes great interest in the Society. She always entertained us with one of her poems at our Christmas Party. This was one she penned for our 2002 party:

"Painting for pleasure, moments to treasure.
Daubing with palette and brush.
This to me is how it should be.
Let the world go by in a rush.
Most of our lives we spend rushing around earning a crust or at least a few pounds.
But when all's said and done
We must each make time to follow our hobby.
Yes a hobby sublime.
We can capture a subject - be it what you will
Buildings, flowers, trees by the mill.
They are ours for the looking - richness indeed.
Tycoons and millionaires just take heed.
We must try to look, paint and draw every day.
You'll enrich your life in such a good way.
It beats grumbling about the weather or reading bad news - newspapers and the telly just gives you the blues.
So paint that picture - you can if you try.
Give one as a present or perhaps someone will buy at our next Exhibition.
You just never know. So come on fellow artists.
Get up and go. "

Celebrating 100 years!

On Saturday 13 September 2025 we held a party at Cuffley Community Library to celebrate the centenary of Hertfordshire Library Services. As one of 13 community libraries run solely by volunteers, we are immensely proud of the service and activities we are delivering to the local community, many of whom turned out to support us on the day (below). Cake and refreshments were available, children's crafting activities and a special commemorative film produced by the library service.

Coincidentally, we were also delighted to celebrate the 29 children who completed the Summer Reading Challenge of reading 6 books in 6 weeks. Here are some of them receiving their certificates and medals alongside our volunteers (left).

The volunteer team would also like to sincerely thank Northaw & Cuffley Residents' Association for their thoughtful donation for the purchase of materials for the children's holiday crafting (right). And so, looking forward to the autumn, please join us on:

Monday 27 October, 1pm: Who poisoned Frankenstein? The children are invited by PCSO Jo Woods to solve the clues dotted around the library to find the poisoner .Free, booking necessary.

Wednesday 29 October, 2pm: Children's holiday crafting Free activity but booking necessary.

Wednesday 29 October, 7.30pm: Ruth Cable will deliver part 2 of the talk about her mother's experiences of the Auxiliary Territorial Service during World War 2 whilst stationed in Cuffley. Booking necessary: Tickets are £1 and available at the library.

Finally, if you want to be part of the story of our library for the next 100 years, we are always looking for volunteers. If you can spare a few hours, every week, contact me at: **cuffleylibraryvolunteers@outlook.com** or pop in and speak to one of our volunteers.

Paola Munns, Chair of Cuffley Community Library Volunteers

Northaw Village Hall

Do you want to make a difference to the community?

We would like to encourage anyone who wishes to contribute to local life by joining our friendly and welcoming management committee. This only requires two hours of your time at four quarterly meeting and no particular age, skill or knowledge is required. Please consider contributing to the community by joining the committee - call **01707642393** or email **info@northaw-village-hall.info** for more information!

Northaw Village Hall For hire

Northaw Village Hall is at the heart of the community in Northaw and is available for hire at very reasonable rates for events and parties. Over the week there are a range of activities to join in with, including Martial Arts, Zumba, Greek Exercise Classes, Yoga, Pilates, and more.

https://northaw-village-hall.info/
Bookings: **bookings@northaw-village-hall.info / 07789558928**

THE NIGHTINGALE

Festival Floral Demonstration

WITH INTERNATIONAL FLORAL DESIGNER

Gill McGregor

Thursday 18th December, Doors open at 11am
Cuffley Hall, EN6 4JA
Tickets £32.50

An amazing demonstration, buffet lunch and chance to win one of Gill's arrangements.

Book your tickets at **nightingalesupport.org.uk/flower**
or call **0208 366 9674**

Registered Charity No: 1094435

NORTHAW COMMUNITY ORCHARD
A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

The Community Orchard is a public green space in the heart of Northaw for all in the parish to enjoy. We aim to provide opportunities for education, conservation and healthy living. Run and managed entirely by volunteers, the Orchard is open all day, every day, for the benefit of our community. Join our help-out sessions for gentle exercise in the fresh air! First Saturday in the month 10.30am to 1pm and a middle Thursday in the month 1.30pm-4pm (check website for dates)

Find the Orchard between No. 47 and 49 Northaw Road West or use the entrance in Church Lane (by the bungalows). Look for the Scout HQ sign on Northaw Road West.

For more information visit our website **www.northaworchard.com** or email **northaworchard@gmail.com**. If you would like to get involved with running the Orchard, do contact us.

It's our 10th Anniversary Year!

We send a big **Thank You** to all who have supported us over the years and continue to do so. It has been quite a year with the very wet spring followed by a long drought in the summer. This presented challenges watering but also rewarded us with many butterfly species and a bumper crop of early fruit. We have been very busy with a number of enjoyable get-togethers: a **Community Picnic** in July, a **Moths Workshop** in August and our **Apple Day** in October.

Picture courtesy of NUX Photography

On **November 8th** we present a unique event. **'Voices From The Hedgerow'**

An evening of fun films, music and hedgerow-inspired refreshments at **Northaw Village Hall** from 5.30 - 8pm.

Tickets are free but to guarantee a place please book at
https://www.trybooking.com/uk/FGGB or call **01707 642393**
We couldn't do all this without the regular help of our volunteers so please do come along and join us!

Cuffley Floral Art Club

Cuffley Floral Art Club is the monthly venue for you if you would like to learn more about flowers, flower arranging and see expert demonstrator in action and participate in our occasional workshops.

We meet at Cuffley Hall, Maynard Place, Station Road, Cuffley EN6 4JA on the 2nd Tuesday of every month (except January and August). Doors open at 7.00pm for 7.30pm. During the evening you will enjoy watching a professional floral demonstrator who creates floral exhibits to be raffled at the end of the evening. We are a friendly club so please come and join us and enjoy the evening. For further information please contact **01707 889447.** We look forward to welcoming you.

DROP IN SURGERIES

Come and meet **Councillor Fiona Thomson** (Hertfordshire County Council) and **Councillor Barbara Fitzsimon** (Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council) at the Parish Council offices, 7 Maynard Place.

Do you have questions about your local services?
Your local councillors have agreed to run a drop in surgery for Northaw and Cuffley, at the Parish Council Offices in Maynard Place.

Proposed surgery dates:
Saturday, November 8th ,10.00 – 11.00am
Saturday, December 6th ,10.00 – 11.00am

Hertfordshire County Council

Responsibilities:

- Highways and Transport (Street lights, traffic lights, potholes)
- Household Waste Recycling Centres
- Adult and Children's Social Care
- School admissions, school meals and transport
- Children's Centres
- Fostering and adoption
- Disability support services
- Disabled parking (Blue badges)
- Libraries
- Trading standards
- Fire and rescue

Welwyn and Hatfield Borough Council

Welwyn and Hatfield Borough Council deals with issues relating to:

- Waste and recycling collections
- Fly tipping, litter and graffiti
- Allotments, woodlands and green spaces
- Anti-social behaviour
- Council Tax
- Parking and council car parks
- Council housing
- Homelessness
- Cemetery Services
- Benefits
- Public health and protection (Air and noise pollution, food inspections, H&S at work, licensing)
- Planning and building

Save the date

I'm afraid there will not be a December edition of Update this year. The next edition will be with you in February 2026. In the meantime, here are some dates for your diary:

- Grants applications close 31st October (see page 2)
- KGV Survey closes 5th November (see page 3)
- Remembrance service at St Thomas Church, Northaw 9th November
- Council meeting, Cuffley Hall 12th November from 7pm/19:00
- Lighting Ceremony, Maynard Place on 5th December (from 16:30)
- Council offices closed for Christmas from 19th Dec, reopening 5th Jan
- Council meeting, Cuffley Hall 14th January from7pm/19:00

How to get in touch with us

Northaw and Cuffley Parish Council, 7 Maynard Place, Cuffley, EN6 4JA

The Parish Office is open for your queries Tues-Fri 10:00 – 14:00/10am - 2pm.

These hours are dependent on staff availability, so please see notices in the office window for weekly updates.

I'm afraid that the office will be closed over half term (27-31 October) to allow for staff holidays.

Councillors can be contacted using the Council Members page on our website: **https://northawcuffley-pc. gov.uk/contact_us/**

Our Office Manager, Sally Griffiths, will be happy to assist with any general enquiries and can be contacted on **01707 875 825** or **office.manager@northawcuffley-pc.gov.uk**

Our Clerk, Lisa Peters, can be reached on **07375 962 772** or **clerk@northawcuffley-pc.gov.uk**

You can also find useful information, both on the Council and on Local Resources, at our website **www.northawcuffley-pc.gov.uk**