

BARFORD NEWS

APRIL 2010

www.barfordnews.co.uk

Price 30p where sold

BARFORD ST MICHAEL

**Village
Market**



All the usual tempting stalls
plus

Owls Galore!!

Saturday, 17th April

Come along to discover the fascinating world of the owl. Expert, Rod Smallman, will be on hand to answer all of your questions, and will be bringing some of his own owls along with him. Don't miss this chance to get up close and personal with some real owls!



**The Barfords
Clean Up Day
Saturday 10th April
From 10.00a.m.**



Teams of volunteers will be asked to cover small areas of the village, picking up any litter and debris that they find.

This is always a very fine and happy community event. It is hoped that there will be the usual enthusiastic attendance by Mums, Dads and children

This is YOUR opportunity to do your bit for the village by giving it a Spring Spruce Up. If you can spare an hour or so in the morning, then do come along to the Village Hall at 10.00am to collect plastic bin bags, and protective tabards, please bring your own old gloves!

Tea, soft drinks and delicious doughnuts will be served to all volunteers on their return to the Hall.

All helpers are requested to gather in the Village Hall at 10 a.m. to be allocated the areas for cleaning.

There will also be a group photo of all the happy workers to be published in the May Barford News.

(We buy the doughnuts!!)

Barford St John and St Michael ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

will be held at **7.30 p.m.** on **WEDNESDAY 28th APRIL** in **THE VILLAGE HALL**

followed by **THE VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING EVERYONE WELCOME

come and have your say about parish affairs Refreshments provided

Parish of Barford St John and St Michael - Parish Council Elections

The Parish of Barford St John & St Michael has to elect 7 Councillors in May to serve on the Parish Council for the next 4 years. Guidance from the Returning Officer for District and Parish Council Elections is available from <http://www.cherwell.gov.uk/elections2010>

Parish Councils are at the heart of a thriving local community and form a key part of the democratic process. They give people a say at a very local level on proposals which affect them. They are involved in providing local facilities, such as playing fields, open spaces, and village halls and, in conjunction with the County and District Councils, may also be involved in traffic calming schemes and other local initiatives. They represent the views and needs of their communities across a wide range of issues. They have a legal right to be notified of all planning applications within the Parish boundary and they must be consulted fully by the District Council. This means that Parish Councils can influence strategic planning issues and a range of other important matters affecting the communities they serve.

Parish Councils are statutory bodies. Members are elected for a term of four years and councils are funded principally by an annual precept (budget estimates for the next financial year are calculated and the net amount (the precept) is added to council tax). The precept is paid to parishes in two six-monthly instalments.

Barford St John & St Michael Parish Council meets on the first Wednesday of every month (except August). An individual Councillor (including the Chairman) cannot make a decision on behalf of the Council. Therefore, cooperation between Councillors to achieve the best possible outcome for the community is the key to the success of the Council and the basis for a rewarding contribution. Importantly, this involves listening to the views of other Councillors and getting broad agreement on the best way forward. Parish Councillors do not get paid, but are able to claim expenses for some duties in certain circumstances.

Still Interested?

Becoming a Councillor is a rewarding and valued form of public service. Councillors have to balance the needs and interests of their residents, voters and local council - all of these groups will make legitimate demands on your time. Councillors contribute to the work of the Parish Council by:-

- having a say about the things they care about;
- putting forward ideas for better services;
- responding to the needs and views of their constituents;
- seeking the best outcome to local issues; and

- getting involved in decision-making by voting.

To **qualify** to be a parish councillor you must be a British citizen, a citizen of the Irish Republic or a citizen of any member state of the European Union, over 21 on the day that he/she is nominated as a candidate, is on the electoral roll, has been resident in the parish, or within 3 miles of the parish, or working full time in the parish for at least 12 months prior to the nomination or election day.

A person is **disqualified** from holding office as a parish councillor if they have been declared bankrupt in the past 5 years and have not repaid their debts, they have been convicted of a criminal offence and sentenced to more than 3 years imprisonment within the last five years, they incur illegal expenditure (when acting as a councillor) of over £2,000, or are found guilty of using corrupt or illegal practices.

If you are interested in standing for election, please contact the Parish Clerk for a Nomination Paper. This must be returned to her no later than **Wednesday, 7 April** to ensure that it reaches Cherwell District Council by 12 noon the following day. Late nominations will not be accepted. If, after the last time for withdrawals (12 noon Tuesday 13 April), there are not more candidates than seats, then the candidates nominated will be elected in an uncontested election.

Note: The complication this year of course is the Parliamentary Election. A date has not been set but increasingly looks like going ahead on 6 May. Should this be the chosen date, Cherwell District Council cannot by law run a Parliamentary Election, District Elections and Parish Elections at the same time and the Parish polls will be postponed until Thursday 27 May.

Rosemary Watts, Foxglove Cottage, Kings Road, Bloxham (01295 722647 - evenings)

Clerk to Barford St John & St Michael Parish Council



1st Deddington Brownies



MARCH HAS BEEN a month of celebrations, starting with making daffodils for St David's Day and finishing with the enrolment of four new Brownies. In between we made Anzac biscuits as part of our celebrations for Thinking Day, when we thought about our Brownie friends around the world. We also celebrated Mother's Day, making cards for our Mums and then attending the Mother's Day service in Deddington Church.

Lucy Squires

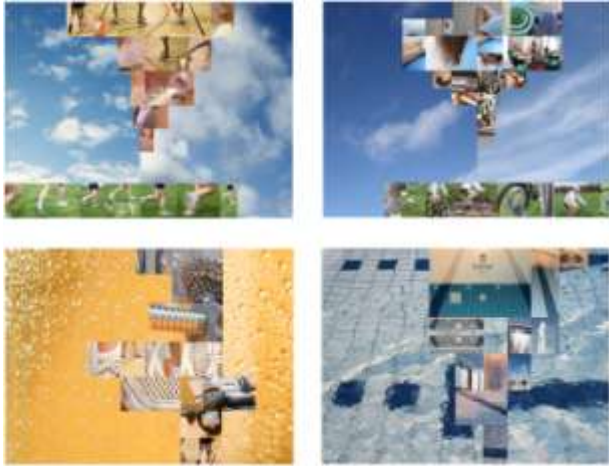
Dick Barford Update

PROFITS FROM the Pantomime for last year were £1,324.29.

This is to be shared between Barford Village Hall and the Helpless Children Mother Centre, In Kathmandu, each will receive (£662.15).



Tracey Bullard
For Barford Playground Committee



GLIMPSES

Four photographic panels designed by Barford photographer Gunilla Treen for New Spiceball

This set of brightly coloured panels welcome all visitors to the New Spiceball Leisure Centre. They show 'Glimpses' of many physical activities enjoyed both inside and outside this building.

The photographs are designed to be explored and appreciated from all levels and can be viewed more closely from the walkways upstairs. The colours have been chosen to reflect surrounding areas of the central rotunda. Many are deliberately abstract, most showing only a small part of the activity undertaken.

Gunilla also had work commissioned and chosen for new Churchill Cancer Centre in Oxford. The theme for these was 'Bringing the outside in'. The images are designed to be uplifting for patients and visitors and are in small consulting rooms and reception area. Recently several photographs were chosen for the Neuro Dept. of John Radcliffe Hospital's West Wing. Many of these images feature BARFORD ALLOTMENTS and The Park. The theme for these was 'Open Spaces' Once again they are for various sites within this department.

View more of Gunilla's work on:

www.gunillatreen.co.uk

Barford Churches APCM

THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH Meeting will take place in St Michael's church on Tuesday 27th April at 7.30.

This is the time for you to give the PCC your views on how you would like the churches to be run and to offer your help to keep them open. We are in dire need of people to join the PCC, to act as churchwarden, treasurer, sidespersons, cleaners, etc and general help in the day-to-day running of your churches. The last request for help produced a tiny response which was very depressing.

You don't have to be 'churchy' but any assistance would be much appreciated. It's wonderful to see so many people coming to the Christmas services and using the churches for baptisms, weddings, etc but in order for them to be there for those events they have to be looked after for the rest of the year. So please think about offering some help, however little, and come to the APCM on 27th April to give us your support.

Cubby Brett (Churchwarden) 01869 338300



Childrens Easter Activities

Children aged 5-11 years come along to Deddington Parish Church to have fun in craft workshops, cooking, music, chess and games on Thursday 8th April, 10-12.30pm For application forms please contact Caroline Tindale (337962), Janet Watts (337135) or Sarah Boss (338536) or additional forms can be collected from the Church. Please give your application forms to Caroline, Janet, Sarah or Jane (and NOT to the School office) by Monday 5th April at the very latest.

We believe that keeping a high ratio of adult helpers to children is the secret of the success of these Activities. So we would very much appreciate it if more mums and dads could help this Easter. If you can possibly do so on any of the Activity days, please phone Jane Green on 337837.

Barfords W.I.

Photography with a Difference

An illustrated talk by
Gunilla Treen

Please join us at
7.30pm

Wednesday 14th April
In the Village Hall



At the W.I. Meeting



Visitors £3.00

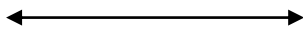
Today's Women working for
Tomorrow's World

Garden Club – Bumblebees Talk

I am sure the presentation on Bumblebees at the Garden Club on Monday 9th March could have left none of the 23 of us there in doubt as to the present plight(!) of the Bumblebee.

We all left concerned about the threat to Bumblebees and their habitat and keen to do what we can in our own gardens and allotments to grow flowers attractive to them. It is good to know that we, in a small way, have contributed to the work of the Bumblebee Conservation Trust through our donation to Richard Hopkins who kindly came to give the presentation to us.

Annie Radford
BGGC Committee



Thank You

What a wonderful surprise it was to receive beautiful hanging baskets full to the brim with spring flowers.

These were accompanied with cards to each of us, showing scenes from the Barford Market, containing good wishes from everyone.

Now there is a new beginning to the Market, to coincide with spring. Thank you to everyone and we wish you all the best of luck and good cheer.

We shall be visiting to check you out!

Anne and Gunilla

the story of.....

eXPANDING suppers

.....once upon a time two people asked four people for a two course supper...then these four people each asked another four people and so the EXPANDING suppers was born.

Everyone who is invited makes a voluntary contribution (minimum £5) You can invite whoever you like and this way you make new friends. If possible, each supper event should be made within one month from the last one.

Eventually, everyone in the village who wants to take part will have had a great time and helped to raise funds for our Village Hall. You may be invited more than once! These suppers will be starting **soon**, so await your invitation!!!

The suppers can be very simple and you can ask your guests to bring their own drinks.

Good times with good friends will make good memories and much needed funds for our Hall.

EXPANDING SUPPERS inc.

For information/advice:

ring Gunilla on 01295 720521

Raising Funds for Our Village Hall

Save our Planet – Tip

Washable Nappies: Every day in the UK eight million disposable nappies are sent to landfill and won't degrade any time soon. An alternative solution is to use recyclable or real nappies. Check out the Real Nappy Campaign (www.realnappycampaign.com) run by the Women's Environmental Network. Washable nappies can be reused by other babies via a Nappy Library scheme (www.wen.org.uk).

Parish Council Notes

SIX COUNCILLORS ATTENDED the meeting of the parish council on 3rd March. Also in attendance were County Councillor Ray Jelf and District Councillor Paul O'Sullivan. There were no other members of the public.

Councillor Hobbs having decided the warmth of Cuba was more to his liking than the current English climate left Councillor Lane to chair the meeting.

The Minutes of the February meeting were passed without amendment and duly signed. There were no matters arising.

In her report to the council the clerk said the problem of the school bus using the South Newington route had been resolved and it was now going via Fern Hill.

No firm date had been given by Steve Wood for monitoring the vehicle speeds down The Rock but it was in hand.

The CDC Draft Local Development Framework was now available to councillors and the public in hard copy from the clerk

CDC had designated late March and April for the District Spring Clean and would provide gloves, pickers and plastic sacks on request to parishes taking part. This event in the Barfords was normally sponsored by Barford News and the clerk was asked to contact Mariann Young regarding a suitable date in April. As soon as a date was confirmed notices were to be put in Barford News and posters on all the parish notice boards. It was hoped that there would be the usual enthusiastic turnout of parishioners and children.

Due to various factors no progress had been made on the marking of roads and erection of halt signs in the parish. Councillor Jelf said that County Councillor Rodney Rose had responsibility for this area of activity in OCC and he would arrange to meet Councillor Rose with Councillor Lane immediately.

West Close was then the subject of discussion. Since acquisition of the Close the council had wrestled with the problem of making the area attractive to children. A solution offered was shorter grass to allow children to play ball games and to run about easily.

The council was not unanimous in its opinions. There was no certainty that cutting the grass short would achieve the purpose of making the Close more child-friendly. The counter argument was that West Close was a recreational area for the parish. Parishioners, particularly young mums and dads had often commented that length of the grass inhibited children playing and prams being pushed. Whilst it was an empirical solution if cutting the grass lower was not tried no one would know whether it was an answer.

The clerk had sought advice from the contractor. At present he was contracted to cut the Close every 21 days from April at a price of £85.00 per cut. His recommendation was to mow every 12 days (an extra six cuts) which would achieve a playing field level of cut. This would obviously entail a commensurate additional expenditure

A proposal to implement the extra cuts for this year and then re-examine the problem in the Autumn was passed by four votes to two

There was also discussion about the need to eradicate the weeds in the Close. In previous years the abundance of docks and other weeds in the grass had been a matter of comment. The contractor had advised that two sprays would suffice. The advice of Councillor Woolgrove was that regular cutting would suppress the weed and spraying should be unnecessary.

It was agreed that weeds should not be sprayed.

There were no planning applications for discussion but the clerk had received notice that approval had been given to close Lower Street whilst alterations to the highway were made outside "Red Roofs". No date for the closure was available.

There were no reports of meetings attended; however Councillor Bullard the parish rep on the local Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) commented that recently she had been contacted by the Chairman of that organisation asking why she was not attending meetings. As she had had no notices of meetings, no minutes nor any other contacts she had been unable to attend anything. Telephone calls to Deddington police station for information and advice had failed to improve the situation. The clerk was asked to investigate.

Payment of bills to the value of £173.31 in respect of the clerk's remuneration and the water rate for the allotment were past unanimously and the cheques duly signed.

In Any Other Business it was noted that the tree leaning over the bridge was still causing a problem. The clerk was asked to contact CDC copying any correspondence to the owner of the land on which the tree grew.

Councillor Woolgrove commented on the increase in fly tipping near to the air field. The clerk is to contact CDC about the problem.

Two parishioners had expressed worries about the graves at the Methodist Chapel now that work had commenced on renovating the building. Councillor Woolgrove as a Trustee of the Chapel gave assurances that the contractor was being very careful and that the graveyard would have neat railings and be well protected.

The chairman reminded councillors that the April meeting would be the last of this council. Elections were due in May for the new council. He asked that councillors do as much as they could to

advertise the election and encourage parishioners to use their franchise when the day arrived. Maybe even stand for election as a councillor. Notices would be put in Barford News and around the parish advising parishioners of the date and how to apply to stand as a councillor.

There being no other business the date of the next meeting was set as Wednesday 7th April and the meeting closed.

B.E.L.

For Sale



Baby continental (Giant Rabbits)
£45 each

Please call on 01869 338048
or 07866808626

With every sale £5 will be
donated to Shepherds & Bakehouse charity

Fernhill Club News

IT'S LOVELY TO HAVE the longer daylight now, spring flowers bursting out and by the time you read this Easter will be almost here. So Happy Easter to you all!



We have had a good month. Our annual meal at Wyatt's Farm was a very happy occasion, we all enjoyed the very nicely presented meal and the staff were very welcoming.

Don't forget there will not be a meeting at the village hall on April 14th as we are going to the Warreners Club at Upper Heyford to a performance of Irish Dancers, followed by tea and cakes; travelling with Dial-a-Ride.

Please join us if you would like a friendly, happy afternoon, Wednesday's 2.30-4pm in the village hall. If in doubt phone me, Maureen Holden, 337138, you would always be made most welcome.

Deddington CE Primary School

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE the Easter break is upon us already! The end of term has been very busy this term due to performances, trips and residential.



Year 2 have enjoyed a Singing Day which we hosted this year, we were joined by other Year 2s from Christopher Rawlins, Bishop Carpenter and Dr Radcliffe's. The children worked hard all day and then in the afternoon had the opportunity to perform in front of parents- it really was a fun day for them. Our Year 5 were invited to a science day at Tudor Hall they had a great day out, it was well organised, very educational and extremely enjoyable.



Daniel Brady & Mika Catania at Yenworthy

During March our Year 6 went on their residential to Yenworthy Lodge which is situated next to Exmoor National Park- as always the trip was a great success. The children had many opportunities offered to them- such as climbing, rock pooling, night walks, map reading, problem solving activities etc. I am pleased to report they approached everything with maturity, enthusiasm and displayed brilliant team work and cooperation.

Our annual Performance this year is 'Annie' which at the time of writing is in its last stages of rehearsal, we have decided to put on 3 evening performances and 1 matinee performance this year due to the high demand for tickets last year. The children have been fantastic, learning their lines very quickly and showing great commitment to the show. The whole school is really looking forward to the performances.

Mrs Jane Cross, Deputyhead
A request from our Energisers- they are collecting unwanted, but in good condition, glasses (spectacles) and will be re-using them by sending them to other countries. There will be a box outside school to deposit them in.

The 6th annual
Deddington Walk

You'll Never  Walk Alone

Sunday May 16th

Enjoy a 12 mile walk, or a family stroll
and day out, with BBQ, bouncy castle,
& bar. Tickets - **Great new route!**
adult £7, family -

**For further details, contact Heather 01869
338347, email deddington@cherwell.co.uk
or visit www.deddingtonwalk.co.uk**

Organised by Deddington PTA (reg charity number 1052715).
All proceeds to local Deddington Youth Projects.

Families Film Club
At the
Village Hall???

Would you be interested
in a Saturday afternoon film
club for children
accompanied by at least one
Adult??

The Village Hall
Entertainment Committee
would like your views.

Please contact Gunilla
01295 720 521
gt.designs@btinternet.com


The Katharine
House
Hospice

Registered Charity No. 297099

SUPPORT
YOUR LOCAL
HOSPICE LOTTERY
FOR JUST £1 A WEEK!

OVER
£100,000
RAISED EVERY YEAR



1ST PRIZE - £1000

2 X PRIZES - £100

2 X PRIZES - £50

5 X PRIZES - £20

10 X PRIZES - £10

EVERY WEEK

Contact Wendy Crosse in Fundraising

Telephone : 01295 812161

or write : East End, Adderbury, Banbury, Oxon, OX17 3NL

or email : lottery@khh.org.uk

or download an application form from our website:

www.khh.org.uk

Deddington & District History Society, Drove Roads in the South Midlands

BRUCE SMITH stepped into the breach following a mix-up with the scheduled speaker—as he put it tracing the drove roads takes much wild guess work and adventure—if they were not Roman roads or salt ways they were often drove roads—and Deddington is particularly rich in them and the more you know about them the more interesting they become.

They were used for long-distance beast carrying, the Romans drove animals all the way from Belgium to Rome according to Pliny and donkeys came from Ireland to Islington to the fair, not to mention all the more normal food-stock.

A road was simply a strip of land between two hedges, but carried no steady traffic. The cheapest way to move beasts was on foot, until the railways came and more or less stopped the custom overnight. The animals recovered from the stress of the train much quicker than from walking—perhaps in three days rather than three weeks.



Their peak was the period from 1580 to 1850 from the midlands to the increasingly rich and hungry people of London, but most routes round here came from Wales

Many 'Lanes' and 'Drifts' were drove roads, Drift being an apt name the animals drifting slowly at perhaps 2 mph, 15 miles per day. Place names on the map indicate that they were on a drove road, for instance Ox-ford, Kine-ton

Coldharbour indicates a refuge for drovers, with fields for the cattle nearby. Pound and perhaps Holt (halt) and more obviously The Drovers' inns are other clues to points on a drive road. It was an intensive business with one person per 50 beasts and boys with dogs; the boys slept with the cattle and would kick the cattle aside after a couple of hours to find a warm place to sleep themselves! Drovers were tough, many started from farm stock and went back to the farm, it was a rough life on the road.

Drove roads tended to be on higher ground as it was better drained and the cattle did not sink in, and wide hedged roads are also an indication, perhaps 60 ft wide. The Welsh planted pine trees to mark a good inn and probably even carried pinecones with them to plant.

The Corgi, little dog in Welsh, was the drovers' dog of choice. Dogs would amazingly find their way home, being fed at the same inns as were used on the outward journey. Corgis are herding dogs and perform their duties by nipping at the heels; the dog's low stature allows it to avoid being kicked in the process. As herding dogs, Corgis work

livestock differently than other breeds. Instead of gathering the cattle the way a Collie would, by running around the livestock, Corgis drive the herd forward by nipping at their heels and working them from behind in semicircles. Seldom giving ground, if an animal should turn and charge, the Corgi will bite its nose, causing it to turn and rejoin the herd.

Drovers would choose the cattle from the farmer's field before they left and perhaps en route and agree a price, but the farmer would not get paid for months, until the drover came back. Some would choose to go bankrupt to avoid paying until a law of 1704 forbade this.

Banks were specially formed to cater for drovers, the Black Ox Bank only dealt with drovers and saved the carrying of lots of cash by issuing letters of credit, it survived 200 years and is now part of the 'Black horse' bank. It was founded in Llandovery in 1799 with its notes aptly depicting the Welsh Black breed of cattle. The drovers' regular and growing trade with London's Smithfield market became a convenient and relatively secure

way of transmitting bills of exchange readily discountable in London.

Animals were shod with 'Cow shoes': eight were needed per beast as they have cloven feet, but they rarely survive. As many as 60,000 beasts might start from south Wales, farmers having driven their beasts down from the valleys, cross the Wye and into England and on to Rollright and Aynho and on to Buckingham and thence London. There were also many local drove roads and intermediate markets such as Banbury, Northampton and Aylesbury, each with their own routes

C.C.

Jewellery by Rebecca

Beautiful jewellery handmade by Rebecca Greeves. Available monthly at Barford Village Market and online: <http://rebeccajewellery.wordpress.com>



The Great Guide Getaway to Switzerland

In the centenary year of Guiding, there are a number of celebration events happening. Emma Brodey, Tilly Neal and Rachael Winter joined other Oxfordshire Guides on a Guide trip to Switzerland in February, and visited Our Chalet, one of the four Guiding World Centres. While they were there, they had an early celebration of Thinking Day with 680 other Guides.

Saturday 13th February

The coach taking us to Switzerland left at 5.30pm. I was very excited, but we had a very long coach journey ahead of us. We stopped at Ascot, North Dulwich, West Wickham and Maidstone to pick people up. We got to the ferry almost at midnight. It wasn't a very interesting day. But it didn't matter because we knew that on the next day we would get to Switzerland!

Sunday 14th February

I had never been on a ferry before so I was quite excited. I felt a bit strange on the ferry because it was moving and I wasn't used to it, but Tilly was okay because she had been on one to go on holiday! Then we were going to drive on the coach the rest of the way to Switzerland. In the morning we had breakfast in a shop in France, but the shop sold food and we were eating our own so we were kicked out. Finally we got to Switzerland! We had lunch in a Swiss café, and then after a little bit longer on the coach we reached the hotel. I was put in a room with Tilly and four other Guides. That night we had a party because we had got there!

Monday 15th February



On Monday we went to Jungfrauoch, a very high mountain. Jungfrauoch means the top of Europe (but it's not the highest place!). After a long train journey up the mountain we then went to the ice palace. It was lots of connecting tunnels, and in the tunnels there were creatures carved out of ice. They were really good! Afterwards we went up to the very top of Jungfrauoch. We all had our picture taken underneath the Swiss flag. Then

Tilly, Natalie and I slid to the indoor building down an extremely bumpy hill!

It was a really fun day! There were some amazing sights at the top of Jungfrauoch.

Tuesday 16th February

Tuesday was our quiet day. In the morning we went tobogganing and made things out of snow. I made a sculpture of a lying down person with Jenny and Katya. We named it Sebastian. We then made the Guiding centenary 100 logo using people. In the afternoon we went shopping and swimming in Grindelwald. There was a waterslide at the pool, called "the black hole", which went outside and then inside again. It was really fun. I went on it about six times. After swimming some people went shopping and some people went to a coffee shop.

Wednesday 17th February



We went on a coach to Our Chalet. We had to walk the last bit because the lane was too narrow for coaches. There were several buildings at Our Chalet. We were sorted into groups; our coach was in the Eagles group. Then the World flag was raised. After that we played the WAGGS wide game. We had to do challenges like representing the centenary, drawing the world on a balloon and labelling the world centres, making up the world flag, and discussing worldwide situations in a short space of time. After the game we did Snow Olympics. After lunch we sang songs round a campfire. Then we were told the history of Our Chalet and had a tour. Then we lowered the flag and finished the day. We were given a special Our Chalet badge and we left. Our Chalet was the best day of the trip!

Thursday 18th February

On Thursday we did snow-shoeing in the morning. We had to attach mini-skis to our feet and hold sticks and walk through the snow. It was actually easier to walk without the snow-shoes on! They were very difficult in shallow snow. We made a sign saying OXON in the snow next to where we walked. At the top of a hill, we lay down on the snow and slid down the hill. It was really fun! In the afternoon we made igloos. We had to saw blocks out of snow, and then pack them against each other in a circular shape.



**Katharine House News
"Kathartic"**

**Art Exhibition and Auction to benefit
Katharine House Hospice.**

7.30pm, Saturday 24 April,

Tudor Hall School, Wykham Park

Katharine House Hospice is delighted to be the beneficiary of a unique and exciting fundraiser organised by John Marshall, of Sibford Gower. "Kathartic" will include an exhibition and auction of affordable artwork, created and donated by predominantly local artists, many of whom are nationally renowned. It will feature pieces from, amongst others; Andrea Bates, Pam Franklin, Ronnie Loxton, Anuk Naumann, Josephine Trotter and Claire Reika Wright.

James Lees of Holloways, Banbury, will auction the items and an artist in attendance will take commissions to paint portraits of guests' homes, kindly donating his fees to Katharine House. There will also be a raffle of sculpture, ceramics, wood sculpture and other paintings.

Tickets for the event are £10 to include champagne and canapés and are available from the Fundraising Office at Katharine House, on:

(01295) 812161.

Festival of Open Gardens,

Please come and join us for our Festival of Open Gardens. We have thirteen wonderful gardens opening for us this year as well as the Katharine House Hospice Gardens. Enjoy home made teas and visit the hospice stall. The dates and locations for April and May are:

- Sunday 4 April The Willows, Upper Heyford
- Sunday 18 April Thatched Cottage, Churchill
- Sunday 23 May The Beck, Duns Tew
- The Old Vicarage, Bledington

Hospice May Ball,

Sunday 2 May, Bloxham School

Tickets are now on sale for our popular May Ball. Music from the Blue Meanies. For tickets at £50 each, please contact Lucinda Lloyd on (01295) 720623

Bloxham Festival

**10am – 5pm, Saturday 8 May,
Old Bridge Road, Bloxham**

A festival to celebrate the community of Bloxham, with Katharine House as their chosen charity. Live music, stalls, arts and crafts, entertainment, refreshments and much, much more. Free entry. All welcome. For further information see the festival website on www.bloxhammayfestival.com or phone Sian Phillips on 07962 778984.

Valerie Carter, Community Fundraiser

Friday 19th February

We got the coach to Interlaken and spent the afternoon ice-skating. This was Tilly's first time going ice-skating. It was my third time. It was really fun! I fell over twice, but I really enjoyed going ice skating. In the evening we took a coach to the finale party. Six hundred and eighty Guides from all over the UK were there. We were given tokens which we had to give in to play different games. Then we celebrated Thinking Day (the joint birthday of Lord and Lady Baden-Powell, where Guides think about Girl Guides and Girl Scouts around the world). Girls from each hotel brought lanterns which we had made, and carried them up to the stage. People from Our Chalet then led a song to celebrate Thinking Day.

Saturday 20th February

On Saturday we packed up the coach (which took a while because all the adults made sure that the bags were put on the coach in order of Guide groups) and got ready to go home. We stripped our beds, swapped email addresses and took pictures. We'd made lots of friends. Tilly's new friend was Victoria from North Dulwich. Then we got on the coach to go home. Switzerland was fun, and I will never forget how brilliant it was, but it's really nice to be home too.

Emma Brodey

(Thanks to Emma for taking the trouble to write and for sharing her diary with us. Ed.)

Rainbows



WE SAY GOODBYE and good luck to Grace S. at Easter as she moves up to Brownies, and welcome Jemima who takes her place.

We've made quite a lot of things this term- flowery Mothering Sunday cards, American Totem poles for Thinking Day and Easter baskets with rabbits on. Spring is finally in the air, so we can make our annual trip to Home Farm in Clifton to see the lambs. Thanks again to Naomi and Ben and the rest of the Fenemore family for showing us round the farm. Last year we were lucky enough to see a sheep have twins whilst we were there, but there are always lots of newborn lambs to coo over even if the timing isn't so good.

Please contact Gillian or myself if you wish to put your daughter on the waiting list.

Hazel and Gillian 01869 337822

Barford Challenge

Date - Saturday 3 July 2010 starting at 12.00pm (Midnight - yes midnight, well its different and a challenge what more could you ask for?)

Route

Begin in the North Car park or is it the South one - anyway - we walk the ridge to the other car park where we meet our bikes and take them on a lovely downhill, wind behind us, (so Pete's says) ride to Evesham or just beyond - where we greet our canoes for a gentle paddle up the Avon to Bidford On Avon where there is a planned stop for a food break - and a natter. We proceed to Stratford Upon Avon where we jump enthusiastically out of our canoes and onto our recently arrived bikes for an invigorating ride back to Barford - taking in the view from the top of sunrising hill. (wait for me at the top please).



Pete and I are getting together to work out exact routes and cost /sponsorship, all monies raised will go to the Nepalese Orphanage.

Tracy and Jill are taking charge of refreshments and Paul Christmas is head transport manager - if you feel that the challenge is beyond you but would like to be part of the team then I am sure we will be able to use you so let us know.

Sunday Training has already started for those fit young ones!! they leave the village hall at 9.30 am sharp - we don't wait so be there if you wish to ride out with the group.

For the early birds we are setting off at 6.30 am again from the hall - at the moment its just me - Pete and Graeme have a date!! so please do join me come with a map and don't ask me to lead - my map reading skills are not as honed as my bossy ones, just ask Paul Howath!!

You will need a canoe for this trip and I need to know if you want me to attempt to hire you one by next Sunday 28th March - once I have got confirmation I will require payment in advance before you get your canoe - I will let you know the cost when you order



For further information contact me on 337021 or glynis.eastwood@talk21.com or see me on Sunday Early!!!!

Glynis

1st Deddington Scout Group CUBS



The Cubs have finished their astronomy badge by imagining what they would find on the planets & designing an alien being that could live there, let's hope the spotty, 1 eyed creatures never arrive here!

Our Mothers should be happy this year as the Cubs have made them 'cheques' to exchange for favours, among them, feeding pets, washing up & a hug, this will count towards their Home Help badge. We will be making Easter nests (messy) & looking into some spring traditions.



Toby & Josh were part of the team that represented Banbury District in the county Supercub challenge. They listened to a story about a scientist who invented a time machine & then created a model from junk based on the story. Well done to the boys who were part of the winning team, you deserve your medals.

Jo Churchyard C.S.L. 338071
jochurchyard@hotmail.com

SCOUTS

The Scouts are well into their astronautics topic, the 3 patrols are making, a dome shaped shelter, a spacesuit & space food. We are hoping to go to the Science Museum during the Easter holidays, to see how the professionals do it.

We planned out the route for our 3 legged mile for Sport Relief which we are planning to run with the Cubs, a special prize will be given for the silliest hat worn during the race.

Pete Churchyard S.L. 338071
pete.churchyard@btinternet.com

Barford Village Hall Committee and *Salsa England* present:



Strictly Come Salsa!

Latin Party Night with
Salsa England Dance Co.

Saturday 8th May
7.30pm
Village Hall
Lower Street



The Latin rhythm is infectious and the music is truly uplifting making You want to dance all night long!! There will be demonstrations and Classes, plus the opportunity to practice all you've learnt

Tickets: £7.50 to include Themed Food

Available from the village shop

or Contact Claire Cox on 07986 462 315, or Mariann on 338570

Barford Film Club

Programme of films

7.45pm in the Village Hall.

Non-member welcome £3.50.

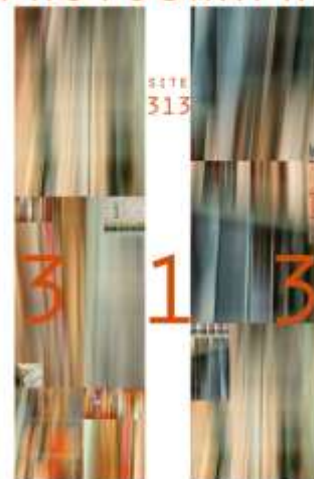
24 Apr - The Draughtsman's Contract

Originally produced for [Channel 4](#) the film is a form of [murder mystery](#), set in [1694](#). Mr. Neville, a cocksure young artist is contracted by Mrs. Herbert, the wife of a wealthy landowner, to produce a set of twelve drawings of her husband's estate, a contract which extends much further than either the purse or the sketchpad.

22 May is now 'In the Loop', A Comedy, directed by Armando Lannucci, written by Jesse Armstrong. Starring. The film draws on non-specific events to create a world that is terrifyingly familiar: The US President and UK Prime Minister fancy a war, but not everyone agrees that war is a good thing.

OXFORD ART WEEKS

gunilla treen
PHOTOGRAPHY



NARRATIVES, BOOKS AND SCREENS

22ND - 31ST MAY

22ND, 23RD 12-6PM.

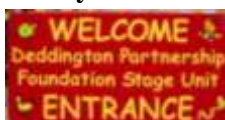
24TH-26TH 2-6PM.

29TH, 30TH 12-8PM.

BUTTERMILK COTTAGE
BARFORD ST. MICHAEL
NR. BANBURY OX15 0PL
01295 720521

Deddington PFSU and Village Nursery

AS I WRITE ANOTHER half a term has passed and it is difficult to believe that we are already more than half way through the school year.



This term we have been finding out about transport and have enjoyed visits from vehicles including a camper van and a big red bus. The children have loved sitting in the driving seats and had fun scrambling up the steep stairs of the bus. Thank you to the parents who brought the vehicles in. Never ones to have our activities restricted by our termly themes other highlights so far this term have included planting lots of seeds and plants in our garden and enjoying creative dance lessons.

At the children's request our role play areas have been turned into an airport and a castle and lots of imaginative play has been going on. In the next few weeks the PFSU children are looking forward to walking round and photographing Deddington, and to visiting the Fire Station. We will also be holding our annual Easter Eggstravaganza at the PFSU on Thursday 1st April, and our Summer Party (for adults!) at the Windmill Centre on Saturday 17th July. Don't miss either event!

Lucy Squires



337484

Can you help?

An appeal for memories from students of Oxford Polytechnic and the College of Technology

In 2015 Brookes celebrates its 150 year anniversary. We believe the celebrations should include and involve all alumni, from the College of Technology, Oxford Polytechnic, Dorset House, Lady Spencer-Churchill, Westminster, Oxford City Technical School or the university itself.

We are appealing for memories from all former students of all our past institutions. By sharing your anecdotes and photos with the Alumni Office you can help to illustrate the shared history of the entire Oxford Brookes community, and make 2015 an unforgettable celebration for everyone.

We are especially keen to hear from alumni with personal memories of John Henry Brookes for a biography celebrating the life of the university's spiritual founder.

Please email your memories and photos to alumni@brookes.ac.uk. We can also answer any questions you have about strengthening your relationship with Oxford Brookes, from updating you with news and events to helping you enjoy the many benefits available to all our alumni.

www.brookes.ac.uk/alumni

Deddington PTA

AFABULOUS EVENING was had by all at our annual Quiz Night at the beginning of March.



Everyone had a great time testing their knowledge against our brilliant Quiz Masters, Mike and Heather Ward and Alan Collins. We raised a whopping **£1450** so very many thanks to all those who so generously supported the event and also to those who helped make this such a successful evening. The scores were all very close but Bryce's Buddies from Clifton clambered their way to the top with a two point lead over their nearest rivals, Secret Seven!

The 6th Annual Deddington Walk –“ You'll never Walk Alone” –is on **Sunday 16th May and starts from 10.30am**. Once again we have a brand new route with new trump cards to collect and lots of excitement in store! The clue to this year's theme is in the title! And a reminder that **the Walk is open to all – not just school children!!** Make sure you don't miss out by registering early – visit www.deddingtonwalk.co.uk, email: deddington@cherwell.co.uk or phone 338347. There will be the usual sizzling hot bacon rolls to start the day and a delicious BBQ, bar and entertainment laid on for your return. Heaps of fun along with a bit of exercise - what better way to spend a (hopefully!) sunny spring Sunday?!!

Dates for your diary

16th May – 6th Annual Deddington Walk

19th June – School Fete

Many thanks for your continued support.

Janet Watts
337135

Barford Green Garden Club

Abbey House Gardens

A reminder of our visit to Abbey House Garden on Sunday 25th April



Please call me asap if you have not yet contacted me and wish to join us on this day time visit
Cost £6.50 / concessions £5.75

Banbury Garden Club

Lynnette from Banbury Garden Club welcomes any members and guests to attend their talk on 19th April, 7.30pm, cost £4.00, venue St Hugh's Church Banbury
Speaker Timothy Walker from Oxford Botanical Gardens

Jill Bunce
tel 337577 / 337550



Bringing you the latest news on British products in the supermarkets; here is our round-up for March.

Look carefully at the **country of origin** when you buy ready-made meals. A Shepherd's Pie sold by Sainsbury's as part of its 'British Classics' range is made with lamb from New Zealand as is their Lancashire hotpot yet both carry a Union Jack on the packaging. Marks & Spencer is another culprit; their 'traditional favourite' Shepherd's Pie is also made with antipodean lamb. And Birds Eye's chicken dinner meal from its 'British Traditional' range is made with chicken from Thailand yet the product carries a picture of rolling green fields Sainsbury's claim to only use NZ lamb when lamb is out of season in the UK whereas M&S's policy is less clear. But this does illustrate the importance of looking carefully at country of origin labels before you buy!

Morrisons claims to be the first major supermarket to gain **Red Tractor** status across its entire fresh meat range. Morrisons already offers 100% British on all fresh meat and the addition of the Red Tractor guarantees it has been produced to the highest food safety, hygiene and animal protection.

Tesco is planting half a million **British apple** trees in Norfolk, Hampshire and Kent. The Evelina and Opal apples will be stocked in Tesco's Finest range between October and February.

Marks and Spencer has developed a new vegetable. **Flowersprout** is a purple brassica from Gloucestershire, which tastes like kale, and will be stocked in food stores until 31 March.

Expect to pay up to 19% more for your lamb chops as 30% of **British lamb** is now exported capitalising on the growth of lucrative export markets but hitting home supply.

Care about eating **British chicken and eggs**? Watch out for increased imports as China, Brazil, India, Argentina, Russia and the US – all of whose production regulations are less stringent than ours – are all increasing production **Yorkshire Pudding** is the latest product to apply for EU Protected Designation of Origin status.

A recent survey has shown that only 1 in 5 local authorities know what proportion of food they source comes from Britain; the same number have no policy in place at all for procuring British food. And four Government departments did not buy a single rasher of British bacon in 2008-09!

Spring is here so make the most from the first bloom:

Deddington Fire Station News

(written in February for March BN)

THE FIRE STATION has received 12 calls since the last report. We were called to a road traffic collision with one woman trapped needing extrication; an ambulance fire, which transpired to be a mechanical defect; a fire in a chimney that set fire to lagging surrounding the flue; another fire that spread from a chimney flue to set fire to floorboards and completely smoke logged two first floor bedrooms, fortunately the occupants were alerted by the smoke detector and called us early enough to stop serious spread. Another house fire, this time caused by the sun shining through a goldfish bowl onto a pile of papers and baby clothes. Have you checked your smoke detectors recently? Have you had your chimney swept? And please remember to keep the goldfish out of the sun!



Unfortunately Richard Day's 2 weeks basic training was thwarted by the snowy weather, consequently he is having to attend sessions in the evenings and at weekends which isn't ideal, but he is soldiering on with it, and we look forward to having him on the crew. Well done to Graham Harding for passing his Breathing Apparatus Team Leaders assessment last month and I am very pleased to report that our next generation of firefighters has been delivered over the last few weeks. We have to say congratulations both to Gary Barnet & Wendy on the arrival of baby Daisy, and also to Graham Harding and Sam on the arrival of baby Samuel."

Update for April issue: A further 19 calls incoming, which brings our total for 2010 so far to 52, higher than normal. Calls included one road traffic accident, a chimney fire, fire in a poultry farm, a grass fire and several false alarms.

Anne Waters
Watch Manager
Deddington Fire Station.
Mob: 07929 607 363

200 CLUB WINNERS:

March draw

£25, No. 61, Gina Mumford;

£15, No. 193; Hazel Neal;

£10, No. 141; Palmer Family;

£5, No. 123, Elliott Dyson.

The draw was made at Carpet Bowls night.

NATURE NOTES 87

HAIL FEBRUARY! Thus I concluded last *Nature Notes* – forlorn hope!. Once again we found ourselves trapped between a mass of cold air to northward and another of warm air to the south.



After a frozen, yet flawless sunrise, the 1st was a day of cold NW wind and equally cold unbroken sunshine. Another clear night of frost revealed Mars glowing pinkish orange, high overhead. It was worth getting the binoculars to resolve him into a tiny disc against the blackness of the night.

The 2nd was, of course, Candlemas Day –

*'If Candlemas Day dawns bright and clear,
We'll get two winters in one year!'*

It dawned overcast, raining and milder, but did nothing to prevent us getting two winters as we shall see! The wind went to a southerly quarter on 3rd but remained chilly. Night temperatures remained at or near freezing, although there was a small general rise in day temperatures – indeed 10°C was achieved on 5th! – a mild, breezy sunny day. Many birds were starting to abandon garden feeding stations. Some, notably Great Tit and Songthrush, were producing tentative snatches of song; Wood Pigeon and Green Woodpecker were calling, and a Tawny Owl was hooting below Steepness an hour or so before dawn.

From a frosty, still night, a cold NE wind sprang up early in the morning on the 6th. It stayed there, often bitter and raw and only eased a little by St. Valentine's day (14th). Nights remained below freezing, with days at only 2° to 3°C throughout this period.

I took a walk up the Park to the South Newington Road near sunset on 7th. A Buzzard called toward the Dingles, but what made me take notice was the huge volume of noise coming from a pair of Ravens at Rignell. I stood watching for half an hour as they croaked, barked and honked to each other, flying from tree to tree. This was obviously a nesting-intent confirmation of the mating display witnessed nearby, on 28th January by Bas. Butler (see last *Nature Notes* No. 86). The hen-bird was very much larger than the male – perhaps 20% I would suggest, with a much deeper, sonorous croak – a very big bird indeed! As the sunset was losing its colour, both birds took off and, still croaking, flew off over Mar Pool, disappearing in the gloom beyond Hempton.

Rain, sleet and snow fell from mid-day until well after dark on the 8th, never laying despite appreciable flurries. It was at this time that Wood Pigeons started to fall victim to the horrible disease that has affected Collared Doves so badly in recent years. Germinating and mould-infested seed (from

around neglected bird feeders) on passing into the crop of a foraging bird begins to develop in the moist warmth. It swells rapidly, blocking the crop and setting up infections. The bird is unable to swallow and is choked by mucus and its swollen crop. Such birds appear fat but are, in fact, emaciated. Death is a horrible protracted combination of starving, choking and respiratory disease. Before succumbing, infected birds can spread the disease to others, even of different species, by visiting more feeding stations whilst they still have sufficient strength and soiling clean seed. **Please keep your feeding areas clear of spilled seed.**

On the 9th there was again massive noise from the Raven pair at Rignell. I saw the male near sunset moving slowly around the perimeter treetops and barking hoarsely, the female invisible but, from a constant position, answering in unbelievably deep toned honks. This time they did not fly off at dusk, and I didn't walk in that direction again for some time.

Next day there were two very strong storms of snow and frozen rain producing a layer about 12mm thick by 3 pm. There was a nice collection of small birds at Austin's Barns including a pre-roost flock of about twenty five Yellow Hammers. An intense black night of startlingly bright starlight followed – the air so dry and clear there was almost no suspended light pollution; it reminded me of night-time fifty years ago! Deep frost and icy surfaces didn't deter Muntjacs from squealing and coughing below Steepness at midnight.

The raw cold whiffled on. On 13th, a small Raven (I thought it looked like the Rignell male) crossed over St. Michael, croaking and performing diving display at about mid-day.

It was about now that I noticed what a marvellous abundance of golden Hazel catkins there were around the district, at least on hedgerow nuts that had escaped the blades of the flail cutter. Meanwhile, St. Valentine's Day dawned bright and milder. On stepping out to provide the birds' breakfast, I spotted, lying on the path under a bush, the body of a tiny Pygmy Shrew – Britain's smallest mammal. It bore no marks of attack and I assume it starved/froze to death. This shrew is so small that it must eat every two hours otherwise it loses so much body heat that it dies from hypothermia! It is only about the size of a human thumb and needs to eat its own body weight every twenty four hours. It is not as common as the Common Shrew, yet it can live on the heights of Ben Nevis, which the Common Shrew cannot do!

Sleet showers in afternoon didn't stop a Green Woodpecker from yodelling softly and conversationally on Steepness and after an angry,

ragged sunset the day closed with a Tawny Owl hooting below the hill a little before midnight.

Despite the cold, the activity of Moles, especially along road verges was very visible. In fact there were some prodigious hills, almost like the animals' breeding 'fortresses'. I wonder if the salination of verges by meltwater splash from vehicles, means that the generally frozen soil is still friable where it is wetted by salt water, and therefore available to worms and moles?

Throughout the next week a large area of low pressure to SW caused the weather to become more unstable with wandering winds and, despite continuing bitter nights (-7°C on 19th), a little warmer by day. This produced heavy rains and mist early in the week followed by heavy snow flurries later on. Late morning of the 18th in particular, witnessed a fall of the most enormous snowflakes many of us had ever seen, accumulating to about 43mm cover.

I was awoken about 6 am by foxes yapping in my garden on 20th and the cold continued with another light snowfall in the early hours of 21st. During this time Green Woodpeckers continued noisily on Steepness, Snipe and Woodcock were reported from along the Swere valley and Buzzards became very visible beside the roads. Birds started to resort to feeders once more and there were several reports of a female Blackcap from several gardens. Likewise, there were reports of a group of six Bullfinches (a quiet, secretive bird) visiting gardens in both Broad Close and Lower Street. A report of two Tree Sparrows visiting feeders on Broad Close was very welcome. These bright little birds, superficially resembling House Sparrows but with bright coppery brown caps and both sexes alike, were once much more numerous around the Barfords than they are now. Their decline is a mystery still under investigation.

The last week of February was characterised once more by huge masses of cold air to NE and warm air to SW and the continuous passage of intense 'lows' crossing the UK from SW to NE. There were appreciable falls of wet snow on 21st 22nd and 23rd, none of which persisted in laying. Turning milder, the rest of the week was mainly wet with squalls and showers, and a violent rainstorm on 27th. Wildlife virtually disappeared from view through this period and the only notes I made were of a Red Kite circling briefly over the Daedings at Deddington; six Canada Geese at Cheney Manor that seem to have persuaded (as these aggressive birds usually do) the resident pair of Swans to move elsewhere to nest; and a few notes from the Steepness Green Woodpeckers.

Thus, after chilly drizzle, a depressing, icily bedraggled 'fever-month' – February – crawled away on a very still, frosty moonlit night, that was for me, full of owls! I came home from Chipping Norton just before midnight and passed two Barn owls hunting the road verge, one near Rollright crossroads, another near the top of Irondown, and when I got home, the Tawnies were very vocal below Steepness. Marvellous!

During the 35 days from the 1st Feb., I had recorded only three nights above freezing. Ten nights were -4°C or below, the lowest being -10°C , and the average night temperature was about -3°C . No wonder that the news media impressed us that we had endured the coldest winter for 37 years!

That first week of March exhibited heavy night frosts culminating in -10°C consecutively on 6th and 7th! Days were sunny and around $7^{\circ} - 8^{\circ}$ but feeling colder on the wind as it moved from NW to SE and back to NE between the 1st and 7th.

Although Nature kept very much under cover, high pressure building toward the end of the week looked promising.

On the 3rd I encountered another Barn Owl hunting around Swere Villas, but apart from the odd Buzzard, the Steepness Green Woodpeckers and Rooks, a tiny Merlin sat atop a road-sign near Wykham cross roads and a flock of about 300 Jackdaws going off to roost from foraging St. John's airfield, everything appeared very quiet – even to be resting. The second week of March was almost identical; high pressure, a few sharp 'lambing storms', but everything very quiet on the 'observations' front – Kestrels well in evidence, one or two Buzzards – and near-abandoned bird tables. At least the ground was working well after all that savage frost

The third week proceeded in like manner. There was some courtship display in the flight of Goldfinch, Greenfinch (early!) and Chaffinch. All bar one night of the week was above freezing and with days of 11° and 12° generally, Thursday 18th brought the warmest so far – 14°C , and the arrival in my garden of my two first Bumblebee queens *B. lapidarius* and *B. terrestris*.

The Daffodils are short stalked and late, so is much else, but there is colour in the hedgerow wands of Dogwood and Withy. The Pussy Willow is bursting, the Oak twigs look knobbly and the Chestnut buds are sticky. Against the purple-grey of the Blackthorn there is a little white edge to the flowerbuds, so we are on our way! *Vivat Vernus!*

Ron Knight