

BARFORD NEWS

JANUARY 2011

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Parish Council Notes

THE MEETING TOOK PLACE on 1st December at Barford Village Hall and was attended by Cllrs Hobbs (Chairman), Best, Bullard, Eden, Styles, Turner, and Woolgrove. Also attending were Mrs R Watts (Clerk), Mr G Parker and Mr J Langlands.

Declarations of Interest:

It was noted that dispensation had been given by Cherwell District Council to Cllrs for discussions about Village Hall finances.

Cllr Woolgrove abstained from voting on the Grant to Warriner School Farm, which was discussed under the heading of Budget.

Clerks Report:

Mr and Mrs Purton of The Manor House, Barford St John, have trimmed back the hedge. The trees still need cutting back. The Clerk will ask when the works will be finished.

Oxfordshire County have cut back the shrubbery on The Rock.

Highway Marking Safety Improvements are now complete.

Cherwell District Council has fitted a new nameplate for Lower Street.

The Clerk has contacted Sarah Aldous at Oxfordshire County Council Highways to advise her that works to the access to West Close via Murrey's Lane; which she said would be completed by the end of November, had not commenced.

The Clerk will contact Thames Water reference water flooding out of/onto the main road through Barford St John. During cold weather this was icing over and causing a hazard to road users.

Parish Matters

Oxfordshire County Council have proposed a monthly rural run-about advice bus bringing a wide range of information and support on Council Services to rural areas. There is no cost to the Parish. It was therefore resolved that the bus could stop at The Green.

The Citizens Advice Bureau have vacancies for volunteers. Details have been forwarded to Barford News.

Oxfordshire County Council have given advanced notification of footway re-surfacing works on Broad Close. It is proposed that works will be from 7th December for 12 days, weather permitting.

Oxfordshire County Cllr David Robertson has asked for villagers to vote for fast reliable broadband of at least 2mbs. To do so please see www.racetoinfinity.bt.com

Planning Matters

Details of planning applications can be found on the CDC website

http://cherweb.cherwell-dc.gov.uk/publicaccess/tdc/DcApplication/application_searchform.aspx

This site does not include 'Notice of Intent' for tree works in a Conservation Area (TCA)

10/01607/LB Woodworm Recording Studios – Conversion and alterations to recording studio to form dwelling and alteration of vehicular access.

After discussion it was unanimously agreed to object to the plans. One of the reasons being that the plans were insensitive to the conservation area and surrounding listed buildings.

Notice of Intent TCA: 10/00301/TCA – The Old Bakehouse, Horn Hill. Bramley Apple, prune 15%; Oak, remove lower limb; Maple, fell. No objections.

E-Consultation – Planning Applications.

Cherwell District Council is introducing a new web-based system, which will allow Parish Councils to access, view and comment on planning applications. It was resolved that the Parish Council would prefer to receive hard copies. A letter will be sent to the Planning Department.

Reports from Meetings: Cllrs Hobbs and Bullard both attended the Parish Liaison Meeting at Cherwell District Council offices on 10 November and reported on E-Consultation – Planning Applications.

Budget/Precept 2011 – 2012. Cllr Hobbs circulated draft budget papers for 2011-2012 for discussion. It was unanimously agreed that in the light of current financial restraints the precept for 2011-2012 would remain at £7,000. Discussions around this decision led to the draft budget papers being slightly amended. An amended budget will be presented to the Parish Council meeting for approval on 5 January 2011.

Barford Village Hall Future Budget Proposals; a discussion took place around the proposals of the Village Hall Management Committee on 3rd November 2010 for the Parish Council to increase its annual contributions to village hall funds. It was unanimously agreed to increase the S137 payment for 2011-2012 from £200 to £750. This sum would include payment of insurance, electrical testing and fire extinguisher checks.

The Parish Council will continue to use the village hall for monthly Parish Council meetings free of charge. A further review of these decisions will take place in December 2011.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.30pm.

The next meeting is on 5 January 2011.

Barfords Village Website???

IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED that a village web site should be created to act as a 'portal' to the various sites that have grown up in the villages. It would have an easy address to remember, such as 'TheBarfords', and would be no more than a photo of the village, which could be changed at regular intervals, and links to all the other sites e.g. Facebook, Barford News, etc.



If anyone is interested in having a link to their site, or providing photos, please contact the Editor of the *BN*.

Museum To Host Fantastic Photos

THE ROYAL PHOTOGRAPHIC Society's international print exhibition has a reputation for excellence going back over 150 years. Now the Society's 153rd annual exhibition is touring venues from London to the Shetlands - and it's coming to Banbury Museum.

The exhibition, in partnership with Allen & Overy LLP, shows off the best photographs from over 3000 entries snapped by over 600 photographers worldwide, who competed for a share of the £7000 prize. The competition has built up a reputation for its breadth of genres and styles - artistic, documentary, portraiture and natural history. Innovative, cutting edge work can be seen alongside traditional prints.



The Lost Arch, Scotland 2009 by Michel

Cherwell District Council's portfolio holder for environment, recreation and health, Cllr George Reynolds said: "Banbury Museum is no stranger to stunning, thought-provoking photography. Now the Royal Photographic Society pictures are set to continue its long tradition of bringing the best exhibitions to the town."

The exhibition is open Monday to Saturday, 10am to 5pm, 11 December to 22 January, except 24 to 28 December and 1 to 2 January. Entry is free. For further details phone 01295 753752 or visit www.cherwell.gov.uk/banburymuseum



Roger E. Lees

21 March 1943 – 18 November 2010

We were sad to learn of Roger's unexpected death.

Since moving to their new home at 'Bay Trees' in February 2008 Roger and Sandra entered into village life. They quickly became popular and well known to many of us. Roger will be greatly missed by everyone who knew him.

We send our love and sympathy to Sandra, and to both families.

M.Y.

~ ~ ~

Sandra would like to thank everyone for the many cards and letters of condolence that she has received since Roger's death. It is comforting to know that so many friends are thinking of her.

Clearing Snow From Outside Your Home

PEOPLE HAVE EXPRESSED concern that it may be illegal to clear snow from outside their home and doing so could lead to being sued by pedestrians who injure themselves on your pathway. Government advice is that pedestrians have a responsibility to keep themselves safe.

'The snow code - tips on clearing snow and ice from pavements or public spaces

Pay extra attention to clear snow and ice from steps and steep pathways - you might need to use more salt on these areas.

If you clear snow and ice yourself, be careful - don't make the pathways more dangerous by causing them to refreeze. But don't be put off clearing paths because you're afraid someone will get injured.

Remember, people walking on snow and ice have responsibility to be careful themselves.'

More information on the following link: www.direct.gov.uk/en/N11/Newsroom/DG_191868

Ed's Postbag (via email)

Dear Ed, could you please place this letter of thanks in the next Barford News?
To the Organisers, Chefs and Waitresses (and Grass Roots):



May we thank all of you involved with the Barford Christmas Lunch on Saturday 4th December for a really "splendiferous do". The food was absolutely wonderful and beautifully cooked – well deserving of a "Barford Michelin Star". The wine was plentiful and free-flowing – consequently, the voices got louder and louder. As for the singing (I suppose you could call it singing) – it was **robust!** Our table had a rather cheeky minx of a waitress who delighted the men folk in particular with her jolly banter – much laughter and a very good time was had by us all.

Once again, thank you all so much for the time and effort you all take to give so many people such an enjoyable time.

Best Wishes, Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year to you all – from the 'particularly noisy table' and all those who attended.

Thank you,

~ ~ ~

Poppy Appeal: Final Results 2010

The thanks of the Royal British Legion goes to all Barfordians who contributed so generously to Poppy Appeal. It was as always another good result. A total of **£608.05** came from door to door collections (£421.13), static points (£27.37), the Remembrance Service collection (£105.00) and wreaths (£55.00). This is an increase of £30 over 2009 from the same sources which in these straightened times is wonderful.

With the conflict in Afghanistan persisting and focusing our minds, the need for a successful Poppy Appeal to provide essential financial help for the wounded and their families remains very important. Fortunately Barfordians are well aware of the reasons for giving to this very worthwhile appeal.

Thanks must also go to those uncomplaining regular volunteers John Langlands, Barbara Greenwood, Verna Lane, Jim and Aggie Booth, Ann Budd, Helen Honour, Barbara Alt and Martin Winter who collected your money. All were very persuasive in encouraging Barfordians to be generous.

Readers may be interested to know that the overall collection for the Bloxham Branch of the Royal British Legion was £6,300.00. This includes not only us and Bloxham but Hook Norton, South Newington, Milcombe, Wigginton and Swerford

Bernard Lane.

Poppy Appeal Organizer for the Barfords

200 PLUS CLUB DECEMBER WINNERS

- £100.00, No 120, Barbara Brown
- £50.00, No 190, Erika Smith
- £25.00, No. 63, Sonia Cook
- £15.00, No. 183, Mitchell Family
- £10.00, No. 118, Barbara Moulton
- £5.00, No. 188, David Tew

The Draw took place at the Christmas Lunch

From the Vicar

A HAPPY NEW YEAR? Well, some years are better, some worse than others, but we can be fairly sure no year will be all plain sailing. What can we do to prepare ourselves for the times in the year ahead when the skies darken, the wind and the waves get up and a storm crashes over our head – money troubles, difficulties in our relationships, illness, bereavement? One thing we can do is look back to Christmas and its central message, 'God with us as one of us'. God's loving concern for us is such that, rather than keep aloof, he takes our nature upon himself in an act of total solidarity with us and immerses himself completely in our predicament, storms and all - for the first Christmas was the start of Jesus' way to the Cross.



If we believe God behaves like this, believe that he loves us this much, we ought to find it easier to endure the tough stuff this year will bring. We can reflect that a God who loves us is in it with us, nothing of himself held back. We can further reflect that there would be no point in him being in it with us if his presence were unable to make a difference. And if the troubles of this coming year have to do, as they may well, with something we've got wrong, with our capacity to mess things up, we can reflect that the God whose love changes everything at the first Christmas can lovingly change us too. The God who loves us is also a powerful God. His love, in fact, as Easter tells us, is powerful enough to conquer even sin and death. That awareness offers a deep peace for us in the very midst of the storm. Neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come, will be able to separate us from the love of God.

A Happy New Year to you all!

Hugh

01869 349869; vicarhugo@hotmail.com

New Rural Education Centre to Open at Warriner School Farm

The Warriner School Farm team is delighted to announce the opening of the new Warriner Centre for Rural Education. It is a substantial new build and a major part of the Centre is now completed and will be ready for use by our students and visitors at the start of the new term in January 2011. The building comprises:



- classroom with computers and lab facilities, for use by our own Warriner School students studying Rural Studies and Environmental and Land-based Science.
- separate resource room for delivery of our wide range of outreach workshops and activities to visitors from other schools and groups within the community.
- kitchen, toilets and additional hand washing trough with boot/wheelchair cleaning area.
- display area for our extensive collection of historic agricultural equipment, including horse and tractor drawn vehicles and machinery. Unfortunately, due to a lack of funding, further work is required to allow us to use this area of the building. Eventually, part of the display area will become a rural skills workshop, for teaching and practicing traditional techniques.

Farm Manager Chris Holloway is very excited about the new development. *“For the last decade, the Farm has struggled with limited disabled access, and outdated classroom and toilet facilities. With our new fully accessible building, we look forward to being able to meet the needs of our increasingly diverse range of visitors and students for many years to come.”*

Warriner School Farm, Bloxham, Banbury, Oxon, X15 4LJ

Telephone: 01295-721471

Email: farm@warriner.oxon.sch.uk

Website: www.warrinerschoolfarm.org.uk

Farm Manager: Chris Holloway



*Come along to
The George
on 22 January*

and help Tony Ecclestone celebrate his birthday from 7.30 onwards. There'll be live music throughout the evening from Chameleon and "Adderbury's best Beatle tribute band", the Paperback Writers. Special guest appearances from ace young guitar player James Leigh and hard rock guitarist Dom O'Riley (tbc).

Come down, buy Tony a pint and bet on how much he can drink before he forgets what song he's playing!

Singing For Pleasure



We are back to meeting on Monday evenings again.

Our first session will be at 7pm on Monday, 17th January, in the Village Hall.

Hope to see you then!

Santa Visits the Village Christmas Market

At our last Village Market of the year the mulled wine was flowing and the mince pies eagerly gobbled up.



With carols playing in the background the festive mood turned to excitement as Father Christmas came to join us.

Fresh from his whistle-stop tour of the village escorted by Pete Eden, Santa set up his grotto on the stage and soon had the children joining him to receive small presents.



There will be no market in January but we look forward to welcoming our loyal customers to the next market which will be held in February, more details in next Barford News.

*Happy New Year To All!
From the Market Team*

Fernhill Club Invite
You to join them for the film
'Miss Potter'



The life and Works of Beatrix Potter
2.30pm, Wednesday January 19th
In The Village Hall
Everyone Welcome
£2.00



I WAS GOING TO SAY that December was a quiet month after all the parades and centenary celebrations, but any one that's been to a Rainbow's meeting knows that's not really true!

Joan Sprittlehouse, a member of the local Spinners and Weavers Guild, showed us how to make felt. We stayed surprisingly dry (it involves a lot of warm soapy water) and each Rainbow went home with a felt necklace they'd made. They all looked fabulous, and the girls were very pleased with them. I think we'll be doing felting again!

The charity responsible for the upkeep of several buildings in Deddington invited the Rainbows and Deddington Brownies to a party with Colonel Custard at Deddington Town Hall. He was really very funny and the girls loved his magic show. Definitely highly recommended for parties!

We had our annual DVD night at Squirrels house(!) where the girls watched a film and ate popcorn. They actually kept quiet enough to watch the film this year, and didn't even drop much popcorn for my dogs to Hoover up afterwards!



Fernhill Club News

WE HOPE THAT YOU all had a good Christmas and we would like to wish you a happy New Year.



Fernhill Club held a raffle at the village market in November where we raised £72, many thanks to all who helped and contributed.

On 24th November we spend a lovely afternoon in the company of Banbury handbell ringers. On 1st December we had lunch and skittles at Sturdy's Castle, then had a lovely meal at Hanwell Arms on the 8th.

15th December was our last meeting until 19th January, 2011, this was our own Christmas party in the hall where we were entertained by David Clarke with a Christmas singalong.

At a loose end on a Wednesday afternoon? Why not make a New Year's resolution to come and join us, starting on January 19th with a film about Beatrix Potter.

Mary

We finished the term with our Christmas party- thank you to the Deddington Guides for making us a 'pass-the-parcel'. We played games, hit a piñata full of sweets and danced a lot! Sandi Turner brought the fired pottery angels back for the girls to take home in time for Christmas. They really look fabulous and the girls and parents are delighted with them; thank you again Sandi.



We meet again on January 14th. Please do put your daughter's name down as soon as possible if you'd like them to come to Rainbows- it's never too soon! Rainbows are 5 to 7 years old, but the waiting list is long and has 5 year olds waiting for a space; reserve your place now!

Hazel Neal (Squirrel) 337822, hmkn@sky.com
and Gillian Colmer (Rabbit)

Barford 200 Plus Club

THE 200 PLUS CLUB is a sort of mini lottery run by the Village Hall Committee to raise much needed funds for our Village Hall.

Each numbered ticket (cost £6.00 per year) is entered into a monthly draw with prizes ranging from £5, £10, and £15 monthly, to the quarterly additional prize of £25, then £50 each six months. The top prize of £100 is drawn in December.

As oil and maintenance costs rise, the income from the 200 draw gives an important boost to our funds. Your £6 (only 50p a month) can make a real difference, so, if you haven't done so already, please consider buying a ticket. There is still time to purchase before the first draw takes place on 14th January. Contact Mariann on 338570.

VHMC

NATIONAL JAM WINNER At WI Jam Festival



We were delighted and very proud to have an Oxfordshire winner at the NFWI Jam Festival in November. Sue Myburgh, Bloxham WI, came out the Supreme Winner in the 'Jam with a Difference' class with her Quince and Apricot Jam.

Sue had been given lots of apricots and quince by an elderly friend and had been trying out all sorts of recipes to use them and came up with this winning combination. Sue is pictured here with all the jams in her Class and her jar is at the top.

Congratulations Sue!

(Sue is Chairman of the Bloxham Country Market and is a regular producer there.)

Church Questionnaires

A very big 'thank you' to all who responded to the PCC's questionnaire that was delivered in the autumn. Of the twenty responses that we received, there was an almost universal feeling that a morning service was preferable to the current afternoon slot; this was an awkward time for families preparing for school/having their tea etc.

It was harder to discern consensus over the sorts of services that people would like to be made available to the village. Three would prefer more *Book of Common Prayer* services, with less informality and jollity (while another complained of the "doom and gloom" that they encountered in church). Similarly, several respondents expressed their desire that children be kept under control and the 'sign of the peace' to be abandoned. Five, however, wished to have more child-friendly services with greater informality and experimentation. Certainly, even those who desired a more child-friendly services and greater informality (five respondents) stressed the need for sufficient structure "to make it feel like a 'proper' service" that appealed to all generations. There was broad agreement that a Sunday school would be a very positive addition to the church's life. Evidently, whatever changes might be made to our current provision, there will be a need to balance these differing views.

There were some interesting suggestions about using the church in different ways for the community. People seemed enthusiastic for the space to be used for concerts and art/craft exhibitions, and several respondents wondered whether it might be a possible venue for the village market. As several pointed out, however, such projects are currently hindered by the pews and the lack of toilet facilities; it is not clear how the church would be used as a community space alongside the facilities enjoyed in the village hall.

In terms of finance and fundraising, several respondents questioned the need to keep both churches open, and wondered whether it might be better to focus our efforts on Barford St Michael. In terms of fundraising events, there were the suggestions of a harvest supper, an Easter tea, a children's Christmas dinner, and taking a percentage of stalls' profits should a market be established.

The Parochial Church Council will consider how these views might be implemented in the next month or so; if you have any further views that you would like us to consider, do get in touch.

Dan (curatedan@gmail.com or 338582)

Barford Picture House

OUR NEXT FILM will be on **22nd January 2011**, it has been chosen by our audience. **Monsieur Hulot's Holiday** was released in 1953, directed and starring Jaques Tati. A comedy highlighting the misadventures of a gauche Frenchman spending his obligatory August holidays at the beach. It highlights the character of the French 'en vacances'.

The following film will be on **26th February**, again chosen by our audience. **Casablanca**, released in 1942 is an American, romantic drama, starring Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman. Featuring the songs "It Had To Be You" and "As Time Goes By", it is a classic film to be enjoyed by everyone.

The FINAL FILM of the 6 will be on **26th March** and will be announced in January. We are hoping to extend our season by another 3 films, in April, May and June. the Film in May will be a MUSICAL. Entry to the films is £4 to cover the Hall costs. Bring your own favourite tippie! Doors open 7.15pm and films start at 7.45 pm.

Contact: Gunilla on 01295 720521

Deddington PFSU and Village Nursery

As I write we are in the last few days of term and enjoying the build up to Christmas. The PFSU children took part in a production of 'Born in a Barn' with the F1 children at Deddington School, which was performed to an admiring audience in Deddington Church. The children sang beautifully, looked great in their animal costumes, and we were very proud of them. The Nursery children put on their first-ever Christmas play at the Nursery, which was also a huge success. Children at both sites have been busy making secret things for Christmas and have decorated the rooms to look really Christmassy. We have also enjoyed Christmas parties at both sites. A new innovation this year was two Christmas shopping days where parents were able to leave their children with us for a long day and head off to the shops. This was much appreciated by those parents who took advantage of the service.

It just remains for me to wish you a very Happy New Year, from everyone at Deddington PFSU and Nursery.

Lucy Squires
337484



Is it Global Warming?

If there is a subject which the English never fail to talk about it is probably the weather. Was last winter particularly harsh? Maybe there are some

villagers whose memories probably say the answer is yes — but in others the reply probably from longer memories would be "not compared with one they could remember" - Take 1947? January through to March. In North Oxfordshire on the 6th January snow began to fall and fell on and off on more than fifteen days during the rest of month with a depth of 7" and with strong winds gusting up to 50 m.p.h. causing drifts of 20 feet in the villages around Barford, people found themselves walking on the hedges.

In February the weather worsened and became the coldest on record up to that time. Snow by then had reached a depth of 10". The temperature only rose above freezing for two days in a month. It became impossible to keep the roads such as they were clear of snow and the drifts reached the windows of the upper floors in some of the cottages and villagers had to dig themselves out of their front doors. Factories and shops remained open and children struggled to school, everyone helped friends and neighbours working together, sharing and shopping. March brought more blizzards and gales and more snow causing such a solid layer on top of the hardpacked snow one could walk on the surface of the snow. The middle of the month brought high winds, then rain and finally thaw, bringing about flooding not to be experienced since in the area.

Supplies of food and coal had become scarce, being held up and the potatoes in the clamps were frozen. In one village a resident spent his time 'clearing snow earning himself pocket money and managed to rescue one family in a farmhouse who had been without food for three days. For those with electricity it was unavailable for much of the day and villagers relied on collecting wood for heating.

Probably more villagers will remember the winter of 1962 when on Boxing Day snow started to fall and with blizzards the drifting built the snow up to 25 feet in places with telephone and power lines collapsed and roads and railway lines blocked. During January the temperature during the day rarely rose above 0°C. and on one night fell to - 16°C. February brought further blizzards making most roads again impossible. Early March saw a rise in temperature and a thaw finally. When the roads cleared the damage cause could be seen - nothing new there then! It has been recorded as the severest winter since the late 18' century. So what of 2010/2011?



VILLAGE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCH – DECEMBER 2010

60 PEOPLE ENJOYED the Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch on Saturday 4th December. The menu was Mushroom soup with crusty bread; Venison and beef with port and apricots, potato and celeriac mash, spicy red cabbage and peas accompanied by quantities of excellent wine. Then came Fruit salad and cream, Mince Pies, Christmas cake and coffee or tea. During the lunch Magic Martin moved from table to table performing some really close up magic which kept us mystified. After the lunch, there was further entertainment from Katherine Lucas from The Mill Town Singers, ably supported by our own Glynnis. The 'Twelve Days of Christmas' will never be quite the same for many of us, in particular the 'Partridge in a Pear Tree', which was sung with great gusto and showed some of our neighbours in a new light!



The hall had been beautifully decorated by members of the VHMC (under the guidance of Gunilla) and the atmosphere was very festive and everyone seemed to enjoy the occasion.

A HUGE THANK YOU must be said to everyone who worked so hard to make the day such a success. Firstly to Sarah Best, Mary Brodey and Aggie Morrison-Booth, , and who plan the whole thing, thanks also to Maggie Eden, Tessa Dodwell, Claire Castéran, Emma Brodey and Ella Booth (we like to start our volunteers at a young age for this event), for setting up the hall.

A very big thank you who gave up their day and wine, and stayed These were: Kathryn Glynnis Eastwood, Winter, Claire Turner and Liz Callow.

Another thank you to salad makers: Barbara Crowther, Nicola Hetta Nicholson and

Also we are very Brown for helping with

and on the day, Lorraine Langlands for making and donating the delicious Christmas cake, Sandi Turner for making the excellent mince pies. Finally, thank you to the 'Grassroots' who provided the grant which made a major contribution to funding the lunch this year.

A truly wonderful village occasion with ladies of all ages (from the age of 10 upwards) giving their time, effort and enthusiasm to entertain us to another memorable Barford 'do'.



to all the waitresses, to serve the food behind to clear up. Wheeler, Lyn Daly, Lizzie Eden, Rachel Castéran, Lauren

the Barford fruit Allen, Lavinia Harte, Maria Rees, Hazel Neal.

grateful to Sue the cooking before



Grassroots grants are managed by The Oxfordshire Community Development Foundation which is a charity run by local people that makes grants to other voluntary groups across the county.

Grassroots supports any type of non-profit group that's taking action to make life better for local people, from urban to rural, everywhere in Oxfordshire. They provide grants for all kinds of activities or equipment that will help people to help themselves and to build stronger communities.

Local Police News

THERE WAS AN aggravated burglary at premises just outside Deddington. This was a particularly disturbing incident whereby items were taken from the house and a vehicle was stolen. The vehicle was located by police and was then involved in a pursuit which eventually resulted in the arrest of a male. Enquiries are ongoing by Banbury CID. There has been a further Burglary in the village where access was gained by an insecure front door. The good news is I have arrested two males in connection with this incident. It is important to remember to keep valuables hidden from view, including presents from the festive period. Most burglars are opportunists and target houses that look unoccupied. As the evenings are getting darker we would like you to take a few simple precautions to keep your home secure whilst you are out. Please take a couple of minutes to log on and watch this short YouTube film to show what you can do to help keep your home safe.



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vizJ5POWjT4>

The rural Pubwatch scheme has had several meetings and is progressing well. The scheme is run in conjunction with Thames Valley Police Licensing Department and Cherwell District Council. The team will be looking to develop this initiative within the northern villages in the New Year. For further information about this, please contact PC Becky McLeod on 0845 8 505 505.

The team have conducted test purchasing operations within the villages. This involved young people, under the age of 18, going into public houses and premises selling alcohol to determine whether they would be served alcohol. There were a number of premises visited and we are pleased to say that none of them sold any alcohol to our underage volunteers, which is very reassuring.

Have Your Say online

You can now send non-emergency messages to us using the online form that is available on the Thames Valley Police website. A number of people have already sent their concerns using this method. For you to do that please follow the link <https://reportonline.thamesvalley.police.uk>

Please allow time for us to get back to you as we do check our mail box only at certain times of the day.

Members of the team will be available on Monday 21st February in Hempton outside the Church between 0900-1000 hours. Please come along to meet the team and discuss any issues or problem within the community.

PC 6600 RICHARD MILLER

Gruesome Discovery

A Horn Hill resident recently found what she thought was a large red rubbish bag, in the ditch, beyond Summer Ley near the Sewage Works. On closer examination she found it to be a roe deer stag, with the head cut off (+antlers presumably) and body skinned. It had obviously been recently done because the flesh was still very red!

A local policeman advised that taxidermists want stags heads and the skin can be sold. The meat is left behind as it cannot be sold without a license! Another neighbour saw the same just north of Deddington, by the side of the road. Worrying as they are obviously being killed silently, at night. If you see anything suspicious please contact our local police.

Thank you

To the Townsend couple
Who handed me
£20.00 at the Christmas Party
As a donation for
Barford News Funds

WANTED! VIPS!

Fancy joining the ranks of VIPS and being somebody really special?

Well now's your chance, we are on the look out for **VIPS!**

Volunteer
Independent
Parental
Supporters

Just what makes an Independent Parental Supporter so important? Any parent of a child with Special Educational Needs will tell you what a difference it makes when they have someone with them at a meeting about their child's education; someone who can take notes; someone who can explain the jargon; someone who listens and someone by their side.

Join the VIPS and you could make a real difference!

FREE Training is provided, so you're not thrown in at the deep end.
ALL expenses paid so you won't be out of pocket.

Interested?

For more information and dates of next training course available,
phone **Parent Partnership Oxfordshire**
on **01865 810516**
or e-mail parentpartnership@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Christmas Ceilidh

WHAT A FANTASTIC NIGHT!. The Christmas Ceilidh was a raging success. The hall was packed.



The band (Old Mettle) were amazing. The food (The Buffet Company) was fantastic. The dancers (including Pete Eden) had a whale of a time. In fact this was a really wonderful village night.



Thanks to everyone concerned for helping make it a brilliant night. We raised around £500 in aid of the Kathmandu kids home.

And - thanks to all those that turned out to support us. 'Strictly' - eat your heart out!!!!

LSD

1st Deddington Brownies

ON A FOGGY NIGHT in December the Brownies were thwarted in their attempts to gain their 'Star-Gazer' badges! Instead they remained inside and learnt all about looking at the stars and about some of the names of the stars they can see in the skies. This included lying on the floor and looking at the stars projected on the ceiling above. We are waiting for some starry nights in the Christmas holidays to see it all for real. Our final meeting of the year was a Christmas party. We enjoyed making Christmas tree decorations and playing Pass the Parcel and other games.

Lucy Squires
337484

Recycling Foil

In response to an enquiry, our local council have said that foil could be recycled in the blue bin provided it was collected into big enough 'portions' and made into a solid 'ball' so that it could be separated from ordinary paper in the sorting process. So keep saving your foil until you have a decent sized 'lump' then put it into your blue bin along with your waste paper.



Deddington CE Primary School

My name is Clive Evans and as you may already know, I will be the Headteacher at Deddington Primary School from January 2011. I feel very privileged to have the opportunity to join such a wonderful school community and I am very much looking forward to working with the parents, the staff, the Governors and most importantly, the children.

I have been a teacher for 17 years, Deddington being my fifth school. I spent 11 years working as a senior leader in 2 Oxfordshire schools before moving just across the border to Northamptonshire for my current role as Headteacher of Chacombe C.E. (Aided) Primary School. I have lived in Banbury for 12 years, am married to Tracey and have 2 sons, Ethan who is 8 and Jude who is 6. When I used to drive through Deddington on my way to a previous job, I often looked at the school and reflected upon how I would one day like to be the Headteacher. I am delighted that this has now become a reality.

The world is changing at a very fast pace and children need a range of skills, both academic and personal, to prepare them for future challenges. I believe that enjoyment should be valued as highly as achievement and that children should be surrounded by a rich, engaging curriculum within an environment and culture which celebrates individuality and diversity.

As a team, we will celebrate, maintain and develop upon the many achievements already realised by the Deddington school community. As a school community that achieves together, works together and faces challenges and change in a positive manner, we will be a happy and successful school.

Clive Evans, Headteacher



Grandpa, Tell Me Why?

A tongue in cheek composition written some twelve years ago, the inspiration coming from one of my young grandsons three and a half years of age.

At that time I picked him up from my daughter's house in Banbury at lunchtime, bringing to my home in Barford so that my wife could look after him for the afternoon while mum worked.

To make his journey more interesting for him as he sat in the rear of my car in his child safety seat, I would point out various places or points of interest to him, and I always received a quick response with his questions, as the song suggests. Especially so with The Butcher Man (Frank) who, at the time, stood outside Eagles Butcher Shop near the junction of Milton Rd and Barford Rd in Bloxham.

Frank now takes pride of place outside Paul Eagle's shop in Deddington Market Place.



B.E.R

Grandpa Tell Me Why?

Lyrics & Music by B. E. Rogers

VERSE: {ONE}

Grandpa why do church clocks reach up to the sky? And
Grandpa does the cockerel on the steeple ever fly?
Grandpa why does the butcher man laugh as we go by?
Grandpa, tell me why?

VERSE: {TWO}

Grandpa is the butcher man, made of wood or stone?
Does he stand outside his shop, because he's all alone?
Grandpa he's always laughing, I've never seen him cry
Grandpa, tell me why?

VERSE: {THREE}

Grandpa why did Grandma have to die
She didn't even tell me, she didn't say goodbye
Grandpa Mummy tells me, she's in a better place
But why oh why do tear drops keep running down her
face?

VERSE: {FOUR}

Grandpa when I die will I see Grandma again?
Will she tell me funny stories and kiss me now and then?
Grandpa why do we die?
Grandpa, tell me why?
Grandpa, tell me why?

VERSE: {FIVE}

Grandpa why does the moon come out when I go up to
bed? Grandpa when I wake up the sun is there instead
Grandpa what is magic? Is it things up in the sky?
Grandpa, tell me why?
Grandpa, tell me why? Tell me why?

Thanks to Brian for the above lyrics, he also wrote the music so maybe we can give it a run through at our Singing sessions! Ed.

The Cartwright Archive –

A Collection Saved For The Nation

A new display about a unique archive capturing seven centuries of local heritage is going on show for the first time at Banbury Museum.

The Cartwright of Aynho Archive is an outstanding, irreplaceable collection of family and estate papers extending from the medieval period through to modern times. It's an insight into the heritage of south Northamptonshire and north Oxfordshire, revealed in the lives, activities and interests of one family.

Members of the family had illustrious careers as diplomats and soldiers and the archive contains fascinating information about the Civil War, political issues in Europe and the First World War. The Cartwright Archive display can be seen at Banbury Museum during normal opening times until 15 January before it tours venues in Northamptonshire. Admission is free.

~ ~ ~

Real Accountability – making a real difference

Since April 2010, all Primary Care Trusts have a duty to report on consultations on commissioning decisions undertaken during the financial year. 'Real Accountability' shows how consultation and engagement have helped to shape and inform health services in Oxfordshire. From end of life care, improvements to patients experience in community hospitals to the enhanced medical services offered by some GPs such as dermatology clinics, we have asked people what they think, what we could do to improve and develop services. We have used that feedback to improve patient experience and develop services that really meet the needs of their users.

The examples in 'Real Accountability' also show the range of methods we have used to consult people, including online surveys, focus groups, public meetings, attending existing community groups and one to one interviews. As part of the consultation process we engage with different people, groups and organisations to make sure we reach as many relevant people as possible.

To find out more, read the report on the Talking Health section of the NHS Oxfordshire website: <https://consult.oxfordshirepct.nhs.uk/consult.ti/realaccountability/listdocuments>. Or, if you would like a paper copy please contact the communications and engagement team at NHS Oxfordshire email: admin.comm/ppi@oxfordshirepct.nhs.uk or phone: 01865 334641.

NATURE NOTES 93

OCTOBER WAS A MONTH OF TWO ENDS: mild start and finish; frosty in the middle! Starting on a SW wind, day temperatures ranged from 13° on 1st to 18° on 4th and 5th with nights 5° to 11°. The wind then backed steadily to SE on 7th, E on 9th, NE on 11th, through N on 13th to NW on the 14th. During this period, day temps. ranged from 15° to 19° (with, on the 8th, a high of 20°).

After September's Indian Summer, October has its turn with 'St. Luke's Little Summer' around his feast-day on the 18th. I think we must regard either this first fortnight of October, or the last week of October and first week of November, as the Little Summer, because the feast of poor St. Luke fell in the middle of the cold spell!

However that may be, temperatures started to fall away on 15th as the wind dithered between E, and NW until the 26th. Daytime temps. ranged mostly between 8° and 11°, but with a high of 14° on 17th. Night temps. were a different story (as they started to gild the leaves) with levels mostly below freezing, but ranging between 5° and -5.5°.

This cold spell was brought about by a large high pressure system north of Scotland. With an opposing low pressure system to the east over northern Europe, their joint circulations funnelled arctic air down across the U.K.

During the small hours of 25th the wind arose from SSW and brought gusty rain showers, heralding a return to the endless march of weather fronts that help determine our weather. This was to be the regime until the end of the month. Day temps. hovered around 11° to 13° and nights became mild with 10° on 26th falling away to 5° on the last night of the month.

And so, what was Nature doing in all this time? Answer? Not very much! In contrast to the previous day, the morning of the 2nd was bright with misty sun. Afternoon cloud gathered and cover became complete in the evening; but it was still and warm, a pleasant early Autumn day. A few small birds, Tits, Dunnocks and the like, foraged gardens and feeders. Everything else seemed to be out in the fields and hedgerows, recovering from breeding, moulting and fattening-up for winter. Surprising little spots of wildflower colour complemented the now, somewhat blowzy colours of the garden. Wasps and hover-flies browsed Ivy blossom and a few late butterflies (Small Tortoiseshell and Comma) visited the last Michaelmas Daisies.

Buzzards called often from various quarters, as did Green Woodpeckers. Jays became frequent visitors at the bottom of Hempton Hills as nearby apple trees shed their fruit.



During the evening of the 6th, a small, very attractive moth was drawn to my sitting room light, through the open door. It was a Barred Sallow; the wings were coloured creamy yellow with pale purple shoulders and outer margins. Its caterpillar feeds on Maple and Beech and the moth is a common insect in Autumn. I looked at it for many minutes before catching it in a jam-jar and freeing it outside.

Amongst the Buzzard and Green Woodpecker calls on the 7th, a Raven was croaking conversationally on Hempton Hills. Great Spotted Woodpeckers also put in an appearance below Steepness and in the Churchyard too. Tawny Owls were noisy below Steepness and in the vicinity of Lower Street.

On the 8th, with the wind now at SE, a mist was blowing on it in the sunset. This produced some very strange, but beautiful atmospheric effects. Slightly weird, faintly luminous and tenuous, pale cloud-like areas appeared as soon as the sun disappeared. In some ways very similar to aurorae, they appeared to wax and wane to a slow rhythm. They persisted long after sunset, as I looked out again and again to see them. On the 10th, I observed a similar, yet very different, phenomenon. On an easterly breeze, the sunset was one of singular atmospheric clarity. It was followed about one and a quarter hours later, in near darkness, by a bright, silvery afterglow, rising high into the heavens above where the sun had set. It persisted for over half an hour. Then it dissolved, in a matter of minutes. Again, I had seen nothing like it before.

I have tried to discover what the phenomena were, but to no avail. They were not the Zodiacal Shine (they did not form a cone along the plane of the zodiac) nor were they the Gegenschein, the Counter glow, as they were both in the west after sunset and not the east. What were they? I simply don't know.

As night temperatures began to fall away, yet leaving days relatively mild, one of the Steepness Kestrels was 'kee-kee'ing peevishly below Fernhill, whilst Bullfinches (they *love* that tall hedgerow) called along the Worton Road. On the slope of Steepness, Meadow Pipits piped weakly as they rose jerkily into the air.

As the day warmed on 15th, after the first night at 0°, a worker-Hornet was hunting around the low bushes in my garden. Later on, a Roe deer with a three-parts grown fawn was feeding on Steepness, and a pair of Ravens were croaking conversationally to each other on the hillside, the male from an Ash at the top and the female (in a guttural base) from an Oak at the bottom. Kestrels were active on the north and west of the parish, and

a lone Golden Plover called as it flew, high and erratically, south across St. Michael.

After the cloudless, chilly morning of 19th, the afternoon saw cloud building in storm formations. A flock of gulls, eight Lesser Black-backs and four Commons were circling elegantly on the leading edge of the first approaching storm.

These storms cleared to give brilliant moonlight; this was the period of night frosts interspersed with spells of rain. For instance the 20th, a night of -5° was soon followed on 22nd by a night of long, steady, gentle rains at $+5^{\circ}$!

On 23rd, Bas. Butler spotted four Buzzards circling at Ilbury and also a Kestrel close by. During a chilly night, I heard a Tawny Owl 'kewick'ing at 2.45am below Steepness.

The 25th was a stunning, flawless Autumn day, a little chilly and very still, from dawn 'til dusk. The night was the last one of frost (-3°) in the month.

By the 26th small numbers of Redwing, and also the odd Fieldfare, were passing over. Near sunset, I decided to see what was going to roost along the hedgerows and was rewarded by a small flock of Long-tailed Tits and a few Yellow Hammers doing just that, along South Newington Road.

The last three days were mostly wet, wet and wet; generally cool and with light airs. Everything seemed to be sheltering or hibernating and so, like September's end (without the wind) we were washed into November.

The south west wind of late October continued for the first week of November, with same mildish, nondescript sort of weather. Hazy sun, very still conditions, lumpy overcast, blustery winds and fast moving clouds alternated with one another, and 12° to 14° day temperatures were complemented by 8° to 10° at night.

All Nature seemed to be in a state of suspended animation. Every clump of spent vegetation cleared from gardens harboured hordes of torpid Ladybirds (wholly Two- and Seven spot, in my case). The only note I made of any interest was the reappearance of a male Kestrel near the main gate of the airfield at St. John, on the 5th. Unlike my pal in Bodicote, who was entertained on the 2nd by one of the exciting Waxwing visitors from northern Europe, perching for several minutes at the top of a fir tree in his garden!

Saturday 6th was a beautiful, breezy Autumn day. It turned chillier after 2pm with heavy rain overnight, the temperature dropping to 0° . The wind moved to NE as a huge 'Low' passed over the U.K., reducing temperatures to 4° to 7° (day) and 3° to -2° (night) on the 8th and 9th. Next day, an equally fast moving ridge of high pressure raced across, bringing a pink sunrise and very light airs from due N. It culminated in a clear night down to

-4° , until another deep 'Low' roared in from SW, with rain and gales in the small hours.

The wind stayed in a westerly quarter from 11th to 14th with both day and night temps. dropping away to 5° and -5° respectively on the 14th.

After the morning storms of 11th, a warmer afternoon brought the impressive sight of a large Buzzard standing motionless on the steady westerly gale, near Deddington Mill. It was so obviously enjoying the experience, which it held for many minutes at a height of about 15m, before curving away down the hillside and into Daeda's Wood. I'm fairly certain that I saw the same bird two days later on a fine, sunny Autumn day, gliding over the R. Swere bridge north of Deddington.

By now, the winter thrushes were present in larger numbers, a mixed flock of some forty Fieldfares and ten Redwings passing westward over my garden about 8.45am on 12th.

The 14th sported a cloudy, brassy sunrise, very still with considerable layers of mist hanging over the valleys. A chilly, overcast afternoon gave way to a brilliant, exceptionally clear night, with a white frost on high ground by midnight and a temperature of -5° . In that shriving temperature, I saw again the apparition that never ceases to amaze me; the sight of fragile November Moths winnowing their slow way along country lanes in search of a partner.

On the night of 15th, the temperature dropped to -6.5° . A flawless, windless sunrise followed, but mist, developing through the morning, produced dank, penetrating cold. Banks of heavy mist continued to roll slowly through the Swere valley all day, thickening considerably by sunset. During the night a wind from SE arose, and by 1am Orion was glittering starkly, high in the southern sky. By dawn on the 17th it was raining! It continued wet, dank and drear all day.

After a clear, still, frosty night, the 19th produced a golden sunrise that became a beautiful Autumn day as the wind veered to WSW producing a temperature of 9° . Jays came into Townsend gardens for the windfall apples, as did a couple of Fieldfares. These latter demonstrated the most belligerent and vicious behaviour as they drove any other prospective feeders, such as Blackbirds, away. Again frosty (-2°) after dark, the November Moths were once more on the wing.

On the 20th the wind veered to NE and ushered in an extended period of deep frosts, becoming quite exceptional toward month's end, both by day and night, and continuing on into December.

A late afternoon walk up the Worton Road on 21st, revealed hedgerows full of birds going to roost. – tits, thrushes, Gold Finches, Chaffinches and, as so often below Fernhill, Bullfinches. The soft, plaintive calls of Bullfinches are peculiarly

penetrating and strangely dominant for such wary, secretive birds. The air was also vibrantly busy with the sound and movement of Redwings and Fieldfares.

On the 23rd an attractive sunrise loaned a pink edge to the clouds of a mackerel sky. It was very still and the clouds broke up to give a beautiful cold, crisp, day of late Autumn sunshine. An afternoon walk with friends around St. John provided Wrens busy in the rushes along the old course of the R. Swere, a resident Buzzard circling around the hedgerow oaks and plenty of berry-foraging thrushes. There were also three Roe deer in fine condition, feeding on Oilseed Rape in the old football field. Not over concerned by us, they nevertheless worked their way steadily uphill toward the airfield.

And now the low temperatures really started to cut in as a high pressure system approached the U.K. from the west. The temperatures went like this:

date	wind	day	night
23	N	5°	-5°
24	NNW	3°	-5°
25	N	1°	-8°
26	-	2.5°	-9°
27	NE	1°	-10°
28	NW	-3°	-10.5°
29	NNW	-1.5°	-4°
30	E	0°	-7°

The high pressure system had become locked into a static position over N Europe and was acting as a 'weather blocker', stopping warm air from the Atlantic blowing across the U.K. and causing persistent arctic winds instead.

Understandably, records were bandied about by the media – 'Coldest Autumn for forty years' etc, etc. And it was to go on . . . and on . . . !

Also understandably, Nature went into hiding – maybe the birds flew westward to escape – possibly even to Ireland. That is except for the visitors to our feeders and bird-baths.

Please keep them clean, unfrozen and fresh.

On the evening of 25th as I was about to drive into my entrance off Hempton Road, a large Fox came nonchalantly out of the hedge on the opposite side of the road. Without altering his step, he looked disdainfully at me and trotted off round the road into Townsend. I felt quite abashed – I was in a nice warm car!

Next morning, Venus herself as the Morning Star, was brilliant in the SE before and after sunrise. The sun, in a brilliant blue sky, shone all day.

On the bitterly cold morning of 27th, we awoke to a light sprinkling of snow with small flurries all morning. The afternoon sun did nothing to forestall the night's -10°.

After the coldest day yet, on the 28th, the night was also the coldest.

The early hours of the 30th produced a 2cm layer of snow, emphasizing how lucky we were to date, as we watched the horrendous problems caused by the huge and rapid falls of snow visited upon the rest of the country. This was further emphasized to me by a Buzzard calling loudly below the allotments!

Thus, wrapped in a lot more than swaddling clothes, we shuffled, skidded and (some of us, anyway) cursed our reluctant way into December.

Have a Happy and Prosperous New Year!

Ron Knight

A Little Tweet For Residents This Winter

WITH FORECASTERS PREDICTING another harsh winter, Cherwell District Council will be using a popular means of keeping residents informed of progress.

When heavy snow descended in January this year recycling and refuse collections were delayed as trucks could not safely navigate along the slippery streets.

And had the council's "CherwellRecycle" Twitter account been in operation at the time, people would have been able to see at a glance whether their collection was affected.

Councillor George Reynolds, portfolio holder for environment, recreation and health, said: "This is a fantastic facility which we think will save residents a great deal of stress.

"Obviously when there is bad weather people want to find out whether their recycling and refuse will be collected.

"This often leads to our switchboard being inundated with calls at a time when the service is under pressure due to staff being unable to make it to work.

"But with our Twitter account there is no need for people to phone us for those details, all they need do is keep an eye on our tweets."

CherwellRecycle is regularly updated with a host of issues to do with refuse, recycling and energy efficiency meaning it is useful all year round.

The council also has a central "CherwellCouncil" Twitter account which carries regular news items.

Why not visit www.cherwell.gov.uk/social to find out more about the council's social networking options.

For further information please contact:

Craig Forsyth, Tel: 01295 221639

Email: craig.forsyth@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

News Release issued by Chief Executive's Office, CDC,
Bodicote House, Bodicote,

Local Councils Agree To Share A Senior Management Team

COUNCILLORS FROM Cherwell District Council and South Northamptonshire Council agreed to share a senior management team in an attempt to address financial challenges and protect valued front-line services. At their respective full council meetings yesterday (8 December), councillors voted in favour of the business case to establish a single senior management team to work for, and manage teams across, both councils.

Over the last five months, a joint working group with representatives from both councils has evaluated senior management posts. These include the chief executives, directors, heads of service, and senior staff that report to a chief executive or director. When preparing the business case, councillors considered other district councils who are already working together in this way, the protection of frontline services and the potential financial benefits.

After detailed discussion, councillors have agreed that the creation of a shared management team is appropriate for both authorities. The proposed new structure comprises one chief executive, three directors, eight heads of service, and three senior managers, with all fifteen posts shared by both councils. It is anticipated that this will save Cherwell District Council £3.4 million and South Northamptonshire Council £1.8 million over a five year period.

Leader of Cherwell District Council, Councillor Barry Wood, commented: "We are confident that the decision to forge ahead with plans to form a shared management team is the correct one and one that will enable us to begin to address the financial situation we currently face. At the same time we also want to preserve as many of the valued services as possible that our residents and businesses have come to rely on."

Leader of South Northamptonshire Council, Councillor Mary Clarke, said: "Councils are driven by the need to provide local services at an acceptable level and cost to local communities. We are committed to providing excellent services to our residents and, during an era of severe budget constraints, we believe that this approach is the right way to reduce our costs whilst continuing to focus on service delivery."

Cherwell's 50 elected members and South Northamptonshire's 42 elected members will continue to represent their respective wards and districts, and continue to independently develop policies, decide on strategic priorities and take decisions on areas such as services and funding.

For further information please contact:

Craig Forsyth, Tel: 01295 221639

Email: craig.forsyth@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

News Release issued by Chief Executive's Office, Cherwell District Council, Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury

Dementia Information Line & Website

Specialist information for people who have dementia and their carers



- Oxfordshire's dedicated phone line
- Open 9-7 Monday to Friday, answer phone at other times
- Access to current information and resources about dementia

Dementia Information Line



01993 700061

www.dementiaweboxfordshire.org.uk

Volunteers urgently required - please contact the information line for further details



Guideposts Trust in conjunction with Oxfordshire County Council

Historical Fact

In the 1500's Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May, and they still smelled pretty good by June. However, since they were starting to smell . . . Brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odour. Hence the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married.

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more...

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on the number provided, leave a message
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Wildlife Photographer of the Year Exhibition

Saturday 22 January to Sunday 13 March
£3.50pp/£11 Group/SO Live Friends Free
Open Monday – Sunday, 10am to 5pm
Science Oxford Live is delighted to host the 2010
Wildlife Photographer of the Year Exhibition. This
is one of the first stops on its UK tour, so don't miss
this opportunity to see more than 100 prize-winning
photographs from 18 competition categories.
Suitable for all ages

SCIENCEOXFORDLIVE



Events

Introducing the Insects (Talk)

Thursday 13 January
7.30pm, £5/SO Live Friends Free
Darren Mann, Assistant Curator of Entomology at
the Oxford University Museum of Natural History,
looks after the 5 million insects that make up the
UK's second largest insect collection. He will give
us a behind-the-scenes guide to the museum's
collections, with the help of some real examples –
both dead and alive!

Biodiversity – So What? (Talk)

Thursday 27 January
7.30pm, £5/SO Live Friends Free
It has become increasingly clear that different
species of plants and animals need to have a wide
variety of genes to maintain a healthy environment.
Taking examples from nature ranging from
cheetahs to Charles II, Dr Samantha Decombel,
plant geneticist and Director of PlayDNA Ltd, will
consider the implications of loss of genetic diversity
and why it really does matter.
01865 810006, Science Oxford Live, St Clements,
Oxford, www.scienceoxfordlive.com

Recycling in the top flight

The recycling efforts of residents in Cherwell
have put them in the top six per cent of
districts in the country. For the financial
year 2009/10, of 349 local authorities in the
country, Cherwell District Council placed twenty
first with a recycling rate of 51.36 per cent.

This has put it ahead of South Northamptonshire
and Daventry districts for the first time and placed
it second in the south east.

Its new food waste scheme has played a large part
in pushing up the amount Cherwell recycled from
49.66 per cent in 2008/9. But the rate should rise
significantly for 2010/11 as it will be the first full
year that food waste recycling has been in
operation.

Cllr George Reynolds, Cherwell's portfolio
holder for environment, recreation and health, said:
"The addition of food waste last year really has
helped us cut down the amount we send to landfill.
"But the credit must go to residents who do such a
fantastic job of sorting through their rubbish and
making sure they recycle as much as possible.
"This is a fantastic achievement which not only
limits the damage to our environment, it also saves
a huge amount in landfill taxes."

Each tonne of waste sent to landfill currently
costs the Cherwell taxpayer more than £60 and this
figure increases each year. Recycling items from
the brown bin and blue bin or box costs between
£10 and £25 per tonne and this is continually
reducing in price. And as the council deals with
more than 57,000 tonnes of refuse and recycling
each year it is easy to see the financial benefits of
recycling more.

Oxfordshire Waste Partnership co-ordinator,
Wayne Lewis, said: "It's great to see Cherwell's
recycling rate break the 50 per cent barrier.
"Services are always improving within the district
and with the continued efforts of the council and its
residents, I'm sure we'll see further improvement to
this already impressive figure."

For further information please contact:

Craig Forsyth
Tel: 01295 221639

Email: craig.forsyth@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

News Release issued by Chief Executive's Office, Cherwell
District Council, Bodicote House, Bodicote

Quotable Quote:

If it's green, it's biology; if it stinks, it's
chemistry; if it has numbers it's math; if it
doesn't work, it's technology. *Anon*