

BARFORD NEWS

MARCH 2012

www.barfordnews.co.uk

Price 30p where sold

Parish Council Notes

THE MEETING TOOK PLACE at 7.38 pm on 1st February at Barford Village Hall and was attended by Cllr Hobbs (Chairman), Cllr S. Best, Cllr P Eden, Cllr L Styles, Cllr S Turner and Cllr R Woolgrove. Also attending was R Watts (Clerk)

Apologies for absence received from Cllr T Bullard and County Cllr R Jelf.

Declarations of Interest: Cllr Woolgrove declared an interest in Planning Application 11/01895/F Warner, Mead Farm Bungalow, Mead Farm, Barford St John – side extension

Parish Matters

Matters Arising not elsewhere on the agenda:

Cllr Hobbs reported that he met with Fiona Bartholomew (Planning Consultant) and Mr & Mrs Hindle at Turnstile House, The Rock, Barford St Michael on 6th January (planning application 11/10711/LB). He had found it useful to discuss the plans with those present. Conservation Officers were also on site. Cllr Hobbs took the opportunity to ask Mr Hindle about a sycamore tree on the property, which had looked dead last summer. Mr Hindle said that he would wait until the spring to see if it showed any signs of life and if dead he would arrange for it to be felled.

Stopping-up Order Woodworms Hilton. Cllr Hobbs reported that Mr Bill Jones, the new owner, had advised him that he has been waiting for site plans from Mr Hill's architect but unfortunately the architect had ceased to trade. Mr Hill's application had also fallen. It therefore remained for Mr Jones to re-apply for a Stopping-up Order and he planned to put an application to the Department for Transport when new plans had been drawn up. Mr Jones only intends to apply for a Stopping-up Order for the existing drive, plus an 8 foot strip to allow for extra parking. The Parish Council will discuss the matter further when the Department for Transport contacts them.

Maintenance of Street Furniture.

After a general discussion it was agreed that seats in Townsend, outside the Village Hall, Fernhill, Riverside and Barford St John need attention. It was unanimously agreed that the VE/VJ seat outside the village hall should be repaired and all others re-furbished. Cllr Hobbs will speak to local

tradesmen and ask them to contact the Parish Clerk with a view to going on the tradesmen's register. They will then be invited to quote for this work.

A resident has generously offered to contribute £200 towards buying a new wooden seat for Barford St Michael to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Elizabeth II. Cllr Hobbs will discuss the matter further.

Grass Cutting Tender.

The Clerk had placed an advertisement in the Banbury Guardian and Banbury Review at the beginning of January and has received 17 expressions of interest. Tender Packs have been sent to them all. The closing date to tender is 12 noon, 17th February 2012.

Repairs.

The Clerk had placed an advert in January Barford News inviting painters, carpenters and builders to contact her with a view to being put on a Parish Council Register of tradesmen willing to quote for *ad hoc* Parish Council repairs. She has received one reply from SRG Building Services, Church View, Church Lane, Epwell.

Dog Fouling

This continues to be a problem in West Close. Owners are respectfully reminded to clean up after their dogs. People should report breaches to the Clerk or any Parish Councillor.

Beacon for Diamond Jubilee

Cllr Hobbs reported that RAF Croughton is happy to consider allowing the Parish Council to light a beacon on the Barford St John airfield to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee. This site was only one of two or three possible locations. Cllr Hobbs will discuss the matter further with their Community Liaison Officer. Other possible sites are the top of Iron Down and Steepness. Cllr Woolgrove will speak to land owners.

Planning Matters

Details of planning applications can be found on the Cherwell District Council 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)

Applications:

11/01895/F Warner, Mead Farm Bungalow, Mead Rd, Barford St John – side extension. Cllr Woolgrove, having declared an interest in this application, refrained from making any comment. No objections.

12/00033/F Hobday, 6 Bishops Close, Barford St Michael – single storey front & rear extension. No objections.

Approved:

11/01658/LB Satchell, Crown House, Church Lane, Barford St John – conversion of part of stable to ancillary accommodation.

Any Other Business

Cllr Hobbs reported that the Annual Parish Meeting will be held in the Village Hall on Tuesday, 10th April 2012 at 7.30pm

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

The next meeting is on 7th Mar 2012.

COFFEE MORNING
In aid of
Mary's Meals
Wednesday, 7th March
At Erika's
2 Church Cottages

Mary's Meals began by feeding 200 children in Malawi. Today they feed over 600,000 hungry children every day in 16 countries across the world. Where Mary's Meals is provided, there is a rise in classroom enrolment, attendance and attainment



Please come and leave a Small donation
Thank you

200 CLUB WINNERS
FEBRUARY DRAW

£15.00, No. 125, Mrs. E. Smith, Townsend
£10.00, No. 38, The Mitchell Family
£5.00, No. 57, Chris Callow

Draw took place at Carpet Bowls

Village Hall News

OUR WINDOW PROJECT has now been completed.

We received a large grant from Viridor Waste Management for this project the remainder having been raised within the village.



Thank you again to everyone who donated. Fairmitre Windows have carried out the work to a very high standard, replacing all windows with double-glazed units. The workers have been cheerful and efficient. Now we will certainly notice a difference in both the temperature and appearance of our Hall.

We are also very grateful to Bernard Lane and Peter Leney who navigated their way through Cherwell Planning Department, Grant application procedures and a myriad of extraneous details!

Apologies to everyone who had to re-schedule their times in the Hall but we are sure it was well worth it. A list of all donors has been placed in the Hall.
G.T.

Bloxham C of E Primary

FOR THE FIRST TIME for five years pupils' attendance last term was above 95%, which is a real improvement.



Year 5 World War II Play: Well done to all of the Year 5 team for their outstanding World War II production.

Plea from Mrs. Bilsbarrow: 'I am looking for donations of books please. I am particularly looking for reading materials for boys. So dig out the unwanted annuals, football magazines, joke books, encyclopaedias, information books and boy orientated novels then send them in to school. Please ensure that all books are in good condition.

Foundation Request: Do you have any toy cars in good conditions with all their wheels that you would like to donate to Foundation? We would be very grateful for your help.

Good News: Two students who left our school in 2005 have been offered places at Oxford and Cambridge Universities to study Psychology and Engineering. It is always really good to hear about our past pupils achievements. If you have any information about past students that you would like to share, then we would love to hear from you.

FOBPS: Our first event will be the return of our Brilliant Bingo Evening in the school hall on Friday 23rd March. Doors open at 6pm and play starts at 6.45pm. Licensed Bar plus food . Easter Egg Raffle and Cake Sale on 30th March. We will have a bacon sarnie stall at Bloxfest on May 12th. Summer Fete on 16th June will have a Diamond Jubilee theme.

Extract from school newsletter

BARFORD ST JOHN AND ST MICHAEL

Jubilee Celebrations

Organised by villagers for villagers



SUNDAY 3rd JUNE

MONDAY 4th JUNE

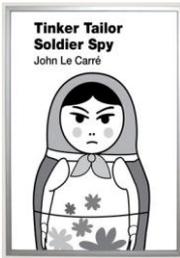
SUNDAY 3RD JUNE.....will start with a special **JUBILEE SERVICE AT ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH AT 11.30** followed by **THE BIG LUNCH**. This is an idea from the Eden Project with the aim of getting as many people across the UK to have lunch with their neighbours in a simple act of community, friendship and fun. So prepare a lovely Jubilee picnic and get yourselves over to **WEST CLOSE AT 1 PM**. There will be an official naming of the **Jubilee Oak Tree**.

MONDAY 4th JUNE.....will take place around the Village Hall. There will be **Games** for all ages starting at 1pm...probably including Tug of War, Duck Race, Wheelbarrow Race, Sack Race, Rounders etc. All these will take taking place on the field behind The George. The George will be open for drinks. Two Bouncy Castles will add to the fun. These games will be followed by a **JUBILEE TEA PARTY** for children of 16yrs and under and presentation of **JUBILEE MUGS**. In the evening there will be a **JUBILEE BBQ** at the Hall with a Bar and **Ceilidh**. There will be some Live Music to accompany our celebrations.

TUESDAY 5th JUNEwill be a relaxing day for all villagers to enjoy as they wish, watching the **River Pageant** in London, in the afternoon or other events.

March 24th

Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Sailor...?



NO....



Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy

Coming to a cinema near you!!!

Barford Picture House

Doors Open at 7.15, Film starts at 7.45
£4 and £3 for under 16's.

Based on the 1974 British spy novel by John le Carré, this film, made in 2011 has a star-studded cast....John Hurt, Gary Oldman, Colin Firth, and Benedict Cumberbatch.

Let George Smiley lead you through the story of espionage. Missed it on the Big Screen, or want to see it again?

Contact...Gunilla on 01295 720521

Enrolment on the Church Electoral Roll

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will take place on 25th April 2012 at Barford St Michael Church at 7.30 pm. I would be grateful if anyone who wishes to be added to the Church Electoral Roll, which will be displayed on the notice board in the church porch, to get in touch with me.



This means that you can vote at the APCM for those who you would like to take on the offices of churchwarden, church electoral roll officer, PCC members, etc. and is an important part of the way in which you would like the future of your churches to be implemented.

Your presence at the APCM would be much appreciated, to put forward your views on the running of your churches.

Cubby Brett
Churchwarden
01869 338300

Deddington Writing Competition

THE WRITING COMPETITION run in conjunction with the Deddington Festival, Oxfordshire, is open to all and offers a cash prize for the winner and runner-up in both the story (up to 2000 words) and poetry (up to 36 lines) sections. Additionally all whose work is shortlisted will receive a critique from the judge to help them towards more writing. The theme for the competition in both categories is open.



The closing date for all entries is 16 April 2012. Full details can be obtained from Hugm34@btinternet.com or by sending a stamped addressed envelope to *DWG Competition, 7 The Daedings, Deddington, Banbury OX15 0RT*

Sylvie Nickels

Deddington Writers' Group

Listen to stories by members of the Writers' Group on www.deddingtononair.org/dwg.html



Barford Village Market

**Open for Business Again
Under New Management!!**

Saturday 17th March

In the Village Hall, 10-12 noon

All the usual stalls

Artisan breads, Eggs, Cheeses, Preserves & Chutneys, Meat
Joint Produce, Cards, Turned Wood, Jewellery, Fairtrade,
Handicraft items,

plus Something new each month

Not forgetting Tea/Coffee & Bacon Butties!!

3rd Saturday every month except August

**So come along and support YOUR local market
All Profits for Village Hall Maintenance**

**A Community Based Idea That Is Developing Into
A Rural Phenomenon**

IT IS OVER A YEAR since we first publicised the concept of a Community OIL Buying group in the Barfords. The success has been quite compelling, over 20 residents have saved an average of 5ppl on their orders:



"How many times have people called you a 'miracle worker'? I'll certainly add one more! Many thanks." Paul Turner, Barford

"In the face of unethical energy pricing and Government neglect of effective regulation, community-buying is the way forward!" Trevor Arrowsmith, Barford

"Our 1200 litres of oil was delivered promptly and efficiently. Good news. It was good value too! You may quote me." Adrian Brett, Barford

"I am very relaxed about buying heating oil as a community because I know I'm getting the best deal. It's that simple." Andrew Chapman, Barford

It is run by Chris Pomfret from Wootton, who has built the venture from a 20 member group in his village to a phenomenon that appears to be spreading across the UK. Not only does buying your heating OIL via his group, called Community Buying unLimited, support the amazing work the ORCC does across the county, but buying from the ever expanding list of services also helps other ventures and rural issues too. For example buying your rock salt and compost helps a micro rural business run by young people that are making the step up off the NEETS list. The next phase will include: LPG, Electricity & gas, logs, coal and maybe whatever else it is you want to buy – why not suggest something. Chris can be contacted at chris@community-buying.com

With support like that of The Eden Project, Tim Smit: "Chris inspired me to really look into this...we believe we can help roll this model out across the UK", it will be fascinating to see just where this leads.



Jubilee Commemorative Mugs

To commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of HM The Queen we would like to present A Commemorative Mug to all children in the villages who will be under the age of 17 on 4th June 2012.

Mugs will be presented at the tea party
On Jubilee Monday (4th June)

If you wish your child/children to receive a mug,
Please complete the form overleaf
And return it to one of the addresses shown
below by 30th April
Or email details to

Peter Leney
The Potteries
Barford St. Michael
01869 338 992

Mariann Young
Stonehaven, Lower Street
Barford St. Michael
01869 338570

Peter.leney@gmail.com

Mariann.Young@btinternet.com



Mothing Sunday

Sunday 18th March

10.30am

Family Service

St. Michael's Church



**Come along and collect spring posies for
Mums, grans, aunties and friends!!**

We shall be making the posies at 10.30 on Saturday 17th March and would be grateful for as much help as possible. We would also appreciate flowers and greenery to make up the posies.

Jubilee Celebrations



Volunteers Needed for Each of the Following:

Decoration Of Hall, Garden, Village And Church

Tug o'War?.....To organise

Bouncy Castles..... to supervise these.

Wheelbarrow Race and 'Best Decorated Wheelbarrow' - to organise

Children's Tea Party sandwich, cakes and jelly makers, drinks, etc. Setting up tables, clearing away, supervising the event.

BBQ.....To purchase supplies of burgers etc. To be set up in garden .

BBQ Bar. To purchase supplies, Arranging of License if necessary.

If you, or your group are willing to help in any way, please contact:
Gunilla 01295 720 521, Peter 338 992, or Mariann 338 570.

Activities For Which Volunteers Have Already Signed Up:

Crown Competition will be organised by Rainbows

Sewing Group will be making 'A Special Something' for display

Duck Race – Arranged by Playground Committee

Barford Picture House will be showing some film footage, to be finalised.

Clearing and cleaning of Hall following the event.....Cuppa ladies

RoundersRick Allen, Brian Dodwell and families

Sad News of one Roe Deer

SADLY THE 'YOUNGSTER' appearing in the February issue of BN was put down in early February by The lady RSPCA officer who arrived within 30 minutes of a call from concerned residents.

She had gone down rapidly during the cold spell but closer inspection revealed that she was quite old –they can, apparently, reach ten years of age – her teeth were badly worn, her right ear was badly swollen & she was fairly heavily infested with lice which the officer explained meant that her immune system was deficient.

(Not a happy end, but at least the good residents of Mill Lane and Mill Corner did their best to help her when she visited their gardens. Ed)

Do you enjoy
**Patchwork, Embroidery, Knitting or something
Similar??**
Then join us at our
Sewing Workshops
Every Monday Evening, 6.30 – 9.30pm
In the Village Hall
No Teacher – Sharing Knowledge
Over a cuppa and friendly chat
Just bring along whatever you are working on
Cost £3.00 (£2.00 concessions)

Warriner School News

THE 26 JANUARY saw the publication of the 2011 school performance tables showing the achievement and progress of pupils at the end of KS4. It takes this long for last summer's results to be checked and verified by the Department for Education. I am delighted to report that not only do we continue to exceed the national average (58.9% A*-C with English and maths) but our achievement of 67% is our highest for a number of years (64% in 2008 & 2009, 62% in 2010). We would not achieve this level of success if it was not for the outstanding efforts of staff and students and I would like to take this opportunity to formally congratulate them all.

This term has seen the start of two programmes that I am really proud to be part of. Firstly, the Outstanding Teacher Programme is a national initiative where a small number of schools with outstanding teachers are licensed to train others in what makes an outstanding lesson. Our delivery is being led by Simon Conway, Margaret Hunter and Ian Tustian and includes delegates from a number of local primary and secondary schools. The first session was a resounding success and this is a wonderful opportunity for colleagues from primary and secondary phases to work together to improve their craft. Secondly, because we have many outstanding middle leaders, we are also part of a small number of schools delivering Middle Leader Development Training and again have brought together primary and secondary colleagues to take part. Both programmes recognise the many strengths of my staff and support our continued commitment to collaboration with local colleagues.

As promised, we undertook a far reaching review of Behaviour for Learning at the end of last term, incorporating the views of students, staff and parents. As a result we made a number of changes including moving the location of detentions, allowing students to read during detention and reducing the time tariff for lateness and lack of equipment. Feedback from students is that this is now much fairer. On 26th January I gave a presentation at a conference in London on B4L outlining what we did, why we did it, issues that arose and how we addressed them. We must be doing something right as it was the most highly attended session of the day and the feedback was really positive.

BBC Radio Oxford spent a morning with us in the middle of the term to talk to students and staff about our collapsed curricular days. Live interviews were broadcast every half hour and this was a wonderful opportunity to promote the great things staff and students get up to on these days. More



recently Lottie Keys was called upon to give an interview outlining all the things we are planning during this Olympic year.

Preparations for our Open Farm Weekend are well underway. This takes place from 10:00 am until 4:30pm on 28th and 29th April. Those of you who have been before know what a great day out this is so please put the date in your diary as you will not want to miss out.

Dr A Kay, Headteacher

**COME AND JOIN US –
Next Meeting 7.45p.m
Thursday, 15th March**



**Armed Forces Family & Friends Support Group
(Bloxham)**

We are families and friends of Armed Forces Personnel. We get together regularly for informal chat and refreshments to meet others in the same situation, to listen, help and support each other.

Please contact Sue and Paul on 01295 722097 for more details. (No costs involved just support and friendship!).

Deddington and District History Society

OUR FEBRUARY SPEAKER, Gareth Richard, devoted his talk to Victorian censuses and the uses to which they can be put in reconstructing past communities. The first census was commissioned in 1801 because the British government, faced with an all-conquering Napoleon Bonaparte preparing an invasion, had no accurate estimate of the size of the UK population and therefore of what size army would be available for the defence of these islands. Incidentally, the Ordnance Survey began work at the same time, commencing with a survey of the south coast because no-one really knew where most favourably to position defence forces. So, we had no accurate maps of the south coast and we didn't know how many troops would be required or even available to defend it. The tradition of muddling through is long if not very distinguished! Over time censuses became more and more detailed, allowing us to some extent to reconstruct Victorian communities. Gareth went on to tell us what he had already discovered about Deddington (declining from net migration in the later 19th century, as many poor families sought opportunities in industrial centres here or in countries many thousands of miles away to the west or the south). Gareth is continuing his research, and we hope to hear more in due course. our next meeting is on 14 March at 7.30 when Liz Wooley will be with us again and will talk on Oxford lodging houses.



The music's flowing, the burgers are live, the drinks are hot....

Barford's BASHⁱⁿ the BARn Sat July 14

Further info: www.levesoninquiry.org.uk/barfordnews

Barford Green Garden Club

THE AGM TOOK PLACE on Monday 27th February but as the deadline for March Barford News was 15th February it was too late to do an AGM report and full details will therefore appear in the April edition of BN.

I will let you have details of the new committee , and a list of events for 2012.

Visit to Janet Cropley's garden. For those of you who attended Janet's talk 'Winter Gardening' last November, we have now arranged a follow up visit to her lovely garden. Details are:

**Sunday 25th March ,
morning visit 10.30am ,
cost £5.00 per head**

I recall after her most interesting talk many of you indicated you would like to visit her garden and 2012 is the last year she is opening to the public so your only and last chance !!

Letters have gone out to members but non members most welcome , just give me a call if you are interested.

Jill Bunce 337577 or jill@ridleymarreco.co.uk



Rainbows News

BURNS NIGHT was a big success; nearly all of the girls enjoyed the swede and the haggis especially. No bagpipes unfortunately, but we played some games with a Scottish theme after the girls helped peel the potatoes. We've had a Promise evening, talking about why we make promises and how we could do our best as we promise when we join Guiding. There should have been lots of tidy bedrooms that week!

We are looking forward to starting after the half term break making a special surprise ready for Mother's Day and then we are going to celebrate Hina Matsuri, the Japanese Doll Festival. It's held on March 3rd each year and is also known as Peach Blossom Day. For our festival the girls are going to bring a doll of their own for the place of honour on the stage instead of the traditional Emperor doll and his courtiers which are not readily available in Barford! As ever, food is involved and we will eat special cakes and assemble (smoked salmon) hamaguri sushi which has the symbolic clam shape (and looks quite easy- no rolling mats needed!) We might even manage some origami; we'll let you know how it goes!



Hazel Neal
01869 337822

Deddington CE Primary School

AS WE ENTER MARCH the school is still thinking and talking about this year's production of Aladdin. All 3 evening performances were well supported, despite some challenging weather conditions. As always the children were amazing and rose to the occasion. Alicia and Phillip Rumsby have worked so hard to make it such a success. Alicia has great vision and absolute confidence in what the children can achieve, it's been hard work but a lot of fun too. I feel it only right for share some of Year 6's thoughts about being part of such a special event in the school calendar:

"I have had an awesome time. It has been difficult at times and has needed a lot of perseverance" Imogen (Narrator)

"I have had so much fun and don't feel so shy anymore." Sophie (Harem Girl)

"It went brilliantly. One of my favourite parts were the Narrators, they were clear and opened the show brilliantly with their fabulous voices" Henry (Genie)

"It has been an amazing experience...The other star of the show was Alicia because she gave up her time to help us" Tom C (Guard and Stage Hand)

"This production has made me more confident about performing and gave me a chance to do something I would never be able to do anywhere else." Victoria (Iago)

"It has been a great experience for me and it has raised my confidence and has given me the opportunity to act and to get more into drama" Rhys (Guard)

"I wish I could do it again. Working with everyone else made me work harder and made me try my best. Jafar and his right hand parrot (Iago) were very, very, funny!" Hattie (Narrator)

"Cameron and Tasha, who played Aladdin and Jasmine, did so well, they really put the chemistry into their part" Alice (Razoul)

"The Genie was hysterical with his excellent voice and funny looks, he put the laughter into the show" Alex (Narrator)

"I think that this production was the best yet, so much effort has gone into it." Alfie (Guard)

"We are very lucky to have Alicia and Philip helping us, they have made me do the best I can." Maddie (Baker)

All the children involved had a fantastic time and realize that hard work really does pay off! For my Year 6 class it was a very special final production and an experience which will remain with them for a very long time I am sure.

Mrs Jane Cross



'Thank you'

To the kind person who found an envelope addressed to me and put it by my front door.

It was full of old family photos, some going back to the late 19th century, and had been sent to me to scan. The cousin who sent them came to collect and drove off with them on the roof of her car and I guess they fell off somewhere in 'the park'!

Colin Cohen

1st Deddington Brownies

OUR FIRST FEW meetings of the year have included making bead hearts for Valentines Day, finding out about the Commonwealth, and making puppets for Chinese New Year. We have also enrolled several new Brownies. We look forward to celebrating Thinking Day, attending the church service in Deddington on Mothers Day and to our forthcoming charity fundraising entertainment evening. If you know a girl who would like to join Brownies when she is seven please contact Brown Owl, Anne Kent, on the 1stdeddingtonowls@hotmail.co.uk. We still have a waiting list.



Lucy Squires

Easter at the Village Market

NOW THAT THE Fairtrade stall is becoming a regular feature at the monthly market, readers might like to know that the 'Real Easter Eggs' will be available on next market day, 17th March. The 'Real Easter Egg' consists of a 125gr fairtrade milk chocolate egg which, unlike any other Easter egg on the market, includes a booklet telling the story of Easter and why it is such an important day for Christians. At £3.95 the egg makes an ideal Easter gift for children, godchildren, friends and family. But come and see this and other Easter gifts and ideas or to be sure of your 'Real Egg', reserve them in advance by calling Hugh Marshall on 337761 or email deddingtonfairtraders@gmail.com to collect on market day.



H.M.

Deddington PFSU and Village Nursery

WHAT A BUSY TERM! The PFSU children have been thinking about animals and have had visits from several pets. Thank you to everyone who brought in their dogs and gerbils and even a horse! We also wrote letters to the vet and were delighted that she agreed to visit us. Thank you Juliet.



We celebrated Chinese New Year with puppets, music, dance, lucky money, lanterns, costumes and food. Thank you to Sarah Banes who helped us with our celebrations and to the May Fu II restaurant who hosted our visit.

This term the Nursery children have been learning about numbers and talking about the story 'Each Peach Pear Plum'. Thank you to everyone who attended our Quiz Night in January. A fun time was had by all.

Don't miss our jumble sale in Deddington Church on Saturday 3rd March from 11am to 1pm. Donations of good quality bric-a-brac, children's clothes, adult's clothes, and toys would be welcomed.

Lucy Squires, 337484

The 'Cuppa Morning' girls invite
you to their

EASTER

RASCALS Children's

Disco

Saturday 7th April

5pm till 8pm

All Ages Welcome

All Tickets £1.00

Available at Thursday Cuppa Mornings

Or from Tomasin 338667, Zalie

338152, or Jo 338 844

Under 16's must be accompanied by an adult

Licensed Bar -

Kids swap their ticket for a soft drink

Hot Dogs & Burgers for Sale

Bringing The House Down – A Family Memoir, By David Profumo

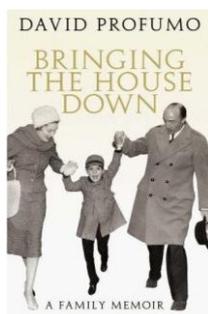
HERE IS PROBABLY NO DIFFICULTY for those of middle or later years to make the title and the author add up to remind them of the story of the 1960's which has almost become a matter of history. When the News of the World said it was to run the memoirs of Christine Keeler some ten years after events the infamous proprietor Rupert Murdoch was accused of being "A money rubbing-muck raker" and his reply was 'The Profumo Story will never be dead' - it's part of history. (Nothing new there then)

David Profumo however, has arisen above all the lies and truths of those events and written a truly interesting biography of his family life helped by the many letters left by his Mother who was a great correspondent and later in life a diarist.

The first part of his book covering the years before he was born deals with the life of his Mother who was famous for those years as both an actress and a film star - Valerie Hobson. Her first jobs in the theatre was under-studying the leading actresses in several London productions. Her first film part was in February 1934 in *The Path of Glory* she turned seventeen that March. Subsequent to this success she became subjected to the notorious experiences of many actresses in the film, industry and later said "that sexual blackmail was endemic and remained the dread of her life in those early days" Her first role was to be Estelle, in *Great Expectations* but in the event by the time she arrived this had gone to Jane Wyatt and Valerie Hobson was given the part of Biddie this never actually came to the screen as her part was eventually left on the cutting room floor. During the ensuing years she made many films, one of the first being 'The Drum' filmed in colour, this being a novelty at that time in the early thirties

During this time Valerie had married Anthony Havelock-Allan who was working in the industry, sometimes as a director. As David writes, the only real masterpiece that his Mother acted in was 'Great Expectations' with Alec Guinness which won two Oscars.

Her marriage began to break up when her husband found himself smitten with another lustrous actress, Kay Kendall and by mutual agreement they decided to live separately. It was at this time that his Mother first met John Profumo who was then working on his constituency of Stratford on Avon and had invited her to open a charity function as his new found friend 'a film star'. They continued to meet after always very discreetly - M.P.'s in 1948 were not expected to dally with married ladies.



John Profumo was born in 1915, the fourth son of Baron Profumo whose family origins were Sardinian, the name being a metonym for a maker of perfume. After schooling he received an offer from Brasenose College, Oxford to read law and during his time there learned to fly with the University Air Squadron. In December 1937, aged 22, he became the youngest prospective parliamentary candidate on the Conservative Party Central Office List.

In June 1939 he signed up as a Territorial, which formed as the 20th Light Armoured Brigade. In 1940 he was sent for by Neville Chamberlain who suggested he fought the Kettering by-election; he agreed on the proviso that he could fight it in uniform. He won with a majority of over 11,000 and so began what he called a curious double life as a junior officer and an M.P

After the war Valerie Hobson returned to film making and while still married to Havelock Allan, renewed her friendship with John Profumo. They agreed that to avoid unpleasantness they should not meet until she was divorced. After completing 'Kind Hearts and Coronets', her last film. She played Mrs Anna on stage in 'The King and I' which became a tremendous success. Following her divorce, Valerie Hobson and John were eventually married 1954. John became Secretary of State for War in 1960, when all the troubles at Cliveden arose.

The events at Cliveden have already been written about by, however to read David's side, being a very young boy he was immune from the news coverage and harassment suffered by his parents. Following John's resignation the family moved to Scotland but were still pursued wherever they went. At boarding school David became subject to bullying and ribald remarks and decided to find out the facts for himself but got little response from his father. After quite some time John Profumo came to be accepted as having paid his forfeit and his charity work allowed him to take his place in society again. Valerie found life difficult for some years but supported her husband throughout. David ends by saying that he always saw his parents lives together as one of great and enduring love.

After an apprenticeship in Hollywood during her teenage years, the beautiful Valerie Hobson went on to star in numerous British films before her stage triumph in 'The King and I'.

NATURE NOTES 103

THE NEW YEAR DAWNED on a bright morning of hazy sunshine and a fresh blow from SW. This spurred the Steepness Green Woodpeckers into episodes of laughter, but as the morning proceeded, they got fed up and went off to look for juicy morsels in the bark crevices of other trees.

For almost the rest of the day all was quiet with an apparent dearth of any wildlife, a state which had characterised most of December. It was mild, 10.5°. Then, in the evening, life returned to the empty skies as numbers of various crows gathered around the trees of Steepness, Ilbury and Hawk Hill in pre-roost evolutions and get-togethers to argue and acknowledge each other before taking off to circle again. This continued, numbers getting ever more sparse as each group dropped quickly into their roosting trees and fell silent. The last to roost were a few stragglers from about fifty Jackdaws that dropped into the top of Steepness.

In the now silent half-light, as I stood beside a hedgerow gatepost, I became aware of a host of whispering, twittering trills further down the hedge. As the sounds grew closer, I recognised them as the contact calls of Long-tailed Tits and, sure enough, in a couple of minutes the first birds were around me, clicking and trilling, as I stood motionless. In a few moments, between fifteen and twenty of these tiny black, white and pink birds were passing within inches of me, unaware of my presence! Very quickly they moved away along the hedge and into silence. . . I capped my binocular lenses, turned for home and toasted cheese. . . It rained after dark, but at midnight the sky was full of brilliant stars!

A bright sunny morning on the 2nd preceded a late afternoon of country-wide gales and storms, as an intense deep Low rushed eastward across central Scotland. For us this spawned a cold night (0.5°) of savage, gusting winds and stormy rain. This continued in the morning, ceasing quite suddenly with bright sunny spells around mid-day. The wind sank to a breeze by 1.30pm and produced a max. temperature of 6.5°. In turn, there was a wonderfully clear sunset with Venus in the west as the Evening Star and Jupiter, high overhead, very close to the half-moon. A cold night (1.5°) of brilliant starlight followed.

A clear bright sunrise quickly became cloudy on the 4th as a light breeze veered to NW where it stayed until the 13th. There was cloud and squally rain through the afternoon which was nicely contrasted with the Gorse and a few Primroses abloom in my garden! The day also brought the



encouraging news that our Editor's bird tables were again hosting Reed Buntings!

Next morning was clear and sunny with a high, gusty wind and a max. of 7.5°. However, afternoon cloud produced rain which, clearing after dark, ended the Christmas period with a 'Twelfth Night' of cold (1°) misty moonlight.

The 6th was greeted by a clear sunrise and it remained so for much of the day, although the temperature didn't rise above 7°. Toward evening a heavy cloud bank was approaching, borne on a warm front from SW. As I walked up the Worton road in the last glow of sunlight above the cloud bank, small numbers of Fieldfare were still feeding on hedgerow berries. Blackbirds and a few Songthrushes were going to roost and Robins were tweedling their last territory holding songs. The Worton road's faithful Bullfinches piped their wistful contact calls below Fernhill and, at the cross roads, the Long-tailed Tits performed their speed-dash along the hedgerow once more.

On this evening I was able to estimate the number of Jackdaws congregating before they went to their several hilltop roosts – I reckoned about 230. Suddenly a small male Raven appeared from Fernhill, croaking and flying toward Steepness. His calls were answered by the honking of a female on Ilbury and another on Hawk Hill. The male flew straight to Ilbury where a most touching and skillful courtship display took place. He was met by the much bigger female descending from a little higher up. The two birds glided in slowly circling flight, with only the slightest of wing movements. The big female descended until she was a mere 375mm (15") vertically above the male. There she appeared to almost mantle the male and together they synchronised and matched each other's every move. Occasionally, the male dipped steeply down to the treetops, then rose slowly to regain his position below the female. This all took place about 3m (10') above the bare treetops at around 4.20pm, until the birds were swallowed up in the twilight gloom. . . Wagnerian!

The 7th and 8th were really very beautiful, and the last day of this first week gave a temperature of 12°! It was also our Winter Bird Count. Duly, at 8.00am on the 8th, Basil Butler, Ian Hobday and myself, with two friends, set off to cover our allotted 100 sq. km. in the permitted eight hours. We found a surprisingly unconcentrated occurrence of birds, several species inexplicably absent, such as Yellow Hammer and Reed Bunting, and many in small numbers. We counted fifty species overall, which was pretty mediocre and due mainly to the absence of surface water (no ducks or waders) anywhere.

On the 11th there was a report on t.v. that sixty-two species of wildflower were now in bloom, which is amazing. I have to say that, in my opinion, that does not include the Barfords!

Most of the week was mild (days 9° – 11.5°) but nights were overcast and chilly (3.5°) with little to note except for deer barking below Hempton Hills and a Barn Owl hunting near Ilbury (thank you to Andrew Murrey for that record). On the 13th however, a large high pressure area centred over the U.K. redirected an almost non-existent wind to SE. Day temperatures fell to around 3° and nights from -7.5° to -9° culminating with severe frost at -10° on the 15th and 16th. As the high pressure slipped away the negligible wind veered SW but didn't raise the temperature above 1°. Nevertheless the overcast broke to allow a little colour at sunset and a brisk walk up the Park to the South Newington Road revealed a small but interesting selection of birds:- a Great Spotted Woodpecker at Spring Hill Farm and another at Cheney Manor; six each of Great, Blue and Long-tailed Tits with several Chaffinches in the Horse Chestnuts; seven Fieldfares and six Redwings, all facing the sunset at the Barley lane junction and, most intriguing of all, a pair of Ravens in the conifers at Rignell. I didn't see them, but both birds were quietly croaking to each other conversationally, in a constant rhythm, as if each was giving one croak per breath. I stopped to listen for many minutes but the croaking was continuous from my first awareness until I was out of earshot!

The 19th was a breezy, cold, largely sunny day. The wind veered through WSW to NW where it stayed until the 23rd. Meanwhile miserable, cold, wind-blown rain changed to a blustery blow with a cold edge, belying long sunny spells and a temperature of 10° on the 21st and 22nd. Apart from a Buzzard keeping low to the ground and a Green Woodpecker on Steepness, with a pair of raucous Jays at Barford House, there were few signs of life, even in sheltered places. A happy exception was a further appearance of the female Hen Harrier to the west of the Parish.

Around this time reports started to come in of a Roe Deer fawn sheltering under garden trees and undergrowth. It appeared to be uncomfortable and very unsteady, and people wanted to know if they could do anything to help it. My suggestion was to do nothing, because most likely its mother had placed it there and would return periodically to feed it and, if she felt concern, to move it. If humans interfered, the fawn might run off, or the doe may be frightened away by human scent. The fawn was probably alright, but if not, it's one of those unfortunate occurrences that happen in nature. Even so, if people felt really worried, they could

call the RSPCA. Thank you to everyone for their concern about the fawn.

This was also a time when the eleven year Sunspot cycle climaxed, producing extensive displays of the Northern Lights (Aurorae). It was hoped they might be seen this far south, but unfortunately, heavy cloud at night precluded this and the period from the 24th to the end of the month became increasingly unpleasant.

From the 24th to the 27th the wind backed to SW, often with fine, mizzling rain blowing in the wind and occasional bitter cold squalls.

In these bitter conditions Kestrels started to become very visible all over the place – at Hempton, Ilbury, Adderbury, the Barfords and the Barford-Bloxham road. Ian Hobday had some super sightings of birds of prey, including six Buzzards, two Kestrels and one Red Kite all in the air at the same time around Ilbury (not to mention a Raven)! Ian also found a pair of Little Owls at a traditional site and a Kestrel roost.

There was also an interesting story of a Red Kite feasting on dead Grey Squirrels that had been culled on a thinning out exercise.

In easier moments, the irrepressible Steepness Green Woodpeckers found something to laugh at, bringing a little lightness into the gloom.

Seemingly unaffected by the horrible weather conditions, several people remarked on the heavy crop of Hazel catkins forming in the hedgerows.

On the 28th the wind arose from NE and it became raw and penetratingly cold with day temperatures around 3.5° and nights not above -5°. Nature went into hiding.

The 29th dawned windless with fog, revealing occasional glimpses of pale sun through the day. The 30th was similar but produced a beautiful, clear sunrise of penetrating cold. A flat gloomy overcast ushered in the 31st, followed by that penetrating frost once more and January sank, shivering and silent, into an even colder February.

Ron Knight

Historical Fact From The 1500's

The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt. Hence the saying, "Dirt poor." The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they added more thresh until, when you opened the door, it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entrance-way. Hence: a thresh hold.

Deddington PTA News

FIRSTLY, A HUGE THANK you to all who bought raffle tickets to win our superb hamper at the children's Aladdin performances last month. We raised a fantastic £315.



The race is on to purchase tickets for the year's hottest event so far... the PTA Annual Quiz Night! As usual, this is being held at The Windmill Centre on Saturday 24th March. This is always a night of great fun and frivolity and tickets can be obtained from Debbie Grimsley by emailing orders@shoeland.co.uk or by phoning 07765 243748. Tickets are £9 per person which includes supper and there is a maximum of 8 people per table. Who will be the 2012 champions?

Other dates for your diary are the 8th Annual Deddington Walk on Sunday 13th May and our summer fete at the school on Saturday 16th June.

Thank you once again for your continued support.

Melissa Chadderton, Chair

01869 349936

melissa@rhubarbcreative.demon.co.uk

Exhibitions and events at Banbury Museum

For all events children 11 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

The Chipping Warden Bronze Age Hoard

Until 3 May during normal museum opening hours

Come and see on display for the first time a hoard of 13 palstaves (a type of Bronze Age axe), found in a field near Chipping Warden. Remarkable local treasures dating from around 1500 - 1000BC.

'Get Crafty' family drop-in

Pavement Pictures

Saturday 3 March 10.30am – 12.30pm and 2-4pm

Back by popular demand, come and create your very own colourful and creative chalk pictures outside on the museum pavement. Suitable for families with children aged 2 and over. £1 per family.

Monthly Archaeological Finds Surgery

Tuesday 6 March 10.30am – 4.30pm

Have your archaeological finds identified and recorded.

'Mad about Science' morning

Saturday 10 March Drop-in 10.30-1pm For all ages. £1 for each adult and child taking part.

Fun science activities for all the family, including the ever-popular slime making! A *National Science & Engineering Week and Oxfordshire Science Festival* event.

Look out for our series of family-friendly drop in activities over the Easter holidays

All are warmly invited to

The Friends of St Mary's, Bloxham 10th Anniversary Gala Dinner

Join us to celebrate the success of our first decade, 2002-2012!

- ❖ £133,000 raised to refurbish St Mary's
- ❖ Funding provided for vital spire repairs
- ❖ Windows Appeal fully financed by the Friends - restoration and protection of the church windows
- ❖ Over 40 fund-raising events held – concerts, dramas, exhibitions, trips, dinners
- ❖ 200 Club raising over £6,000 per year
- ❖ Over 200 members

Thanks to all our supporters – come along to help get our second fund-raising decade off to a great start!

Tudor Hall, Friday 20 April, 7.00pm for 7.30pm

Ticket includes drinks on arrival; four course meal with wine and coffee; plus entertainment from leading actress Rohan McCullough and concert harpist David Watkins

Dress: black tie

Tickets: £35 per person – contact 01295 720220 or 720432 or 722667 or 254185 to book, either individually, as a couple or a group

BLOXHAM BRITISH LEGION

POETRY & PROSE EVENING

(WITH A MILITARY FLAVOUR)



FRIDAY 9TH MARCH 2012 @ 7PM

BLOXHAM EX-SERVICEMEN'S HALL

£5.00 PER TICKET

AVAILABLE FROM:

BLOXHAM POST OFFICE (HIGH STREET)

BREAD AND MILK (CHURCH STREET)

ROD WALLINGTON Tel: (01295) 720385

Please come along and support your local branch on what promises to be an entertaining evening!



Katharine House News

Annual Hospice End of Season Sale 11am - 2pm, Saturday 10th March, Institute, Adderbury.

There will be many stalls selling good quality donated items, as well as hand-crafted knitted items, books, toys and cakes at our fantastic annual sale. A raffle and tombola will also be held, with some great prizes to be won! Tea and coffee and soup will be available for a small fee. All proceeds benefit Katharine House.

Easter Knitted Novelties!

Our miniature knitted friends (chicks, pets and people!) are now on sale-complete with Cadbury Creme Egg-from all our shops and Hospice reception, priced £1.50. As usual, demand is outstripping supply, and we would be delighted to hear from anyone who would like to contribute to our brood!

For those who are unfamiliar with our fundraiser, volunteers knit miniature Easter novelties which we then fill with a Cadbury Crème Egg and sell in the run-up to Easter. This is the 6th year we have undertaken this fundraiser- last year raised over £4,000! If you would like to knit for us, call Sarah in Fundraising on (01295) 812161 to receive a pattern. We would also be delighted to hear from anyone who might like to sell our novelties on our behalf.

Collegium Regale Concert

7.30pm, Saturday 31st March, St. Mary's Church, Adderbury.

Tickets are selling fast for this fantastic concert! Back by popular demand, the Kings College Cambridge Choral Scholars 'Collegium Regale' promise an unforgettable evening of music in this special concert. The group have received much acclaim within the musical world, both nationally and internationally;

"A sparkling display of virtuosic but balanced singing", says BBC Music Magazine, whilst the Sunday Times remarks on their *"luxuriant blend of voices"*.

For further information about Collegium Regale, please see their website at www.collegiumregale.co.uk

Tickets are £16 each and must be purchased in advance from Fundraising at Katharine House Hospice on (01295) 812161 or by emailing sarah.brennan@khh.org.uk. Application forms can also be downloaded from our website at www.khh.org.uk. Book early to avoid disappointment- Collegium Regale's last performance in aid of Katharine House was a sell-out!

A date for your diary!

Our sixth Midnight Walk will take place on Saturday 23 June at Banbury Cricket Club, Bodicote. £450,000 has been raised for nursing care from our five previous Midnight Walks and we're keen to make this year's event just as successful as its predecessors! Application forms will be available from the end of March.

Just Text Giving



We're delighted that Katharine House can now collect donations via your mobile phone. You can donate up to £10 (in any one transaction) via our unique number – KHOX17. So to donate £2, all you need to do is text KHOX17 2 to 70070. It's that simple and

you will receive an instant thank you message from Vodafone. All funds donated this way benefit nursing care here in Adderbury.

This is a really quick and easy way for people to donate smaller amounts direct to the hospice and is ideal when sponsoring family and friends at fundraising events. It has been made possible by a partnership between Vodafone and the on-line donation company, Just Giving and it is already proving popular with supporters. Our grateful thanks to all who support us in this way. Your donations really do make a difference.

Lottery

Why not join our Hospice lottery, for only £1 per week with a weekly top prize of £1,000! With nearly 4,300 members, we would love to boost our membership to 5,000. An extra 500 members could raise £26,000 per year for nursing care. If you are already a member, we thank you for your support and ask that you might consider letting your friends know about our lottery. For the person who has everything why not consider a lottery gift card for birthdays. To join, download a form from our website www.khh.org.uk or ring Wendy in Fundraising on 01295 812161.

Sarah Brennan

Community Fundraiser

Willow Workshop

**This workshop will take place
on Sunday March 25th
from 10.0 until 4.0pm approx.**

There are NO MORE PLACES.

The workshop will be in the Village Hall garden
or if inclement weather...inside the Hall.

Bring the following....

**WARM CLOTHES, GLOVES,
PICNIC LUNCH and
ANY BRANCHES YOU WISH TO
INCORPORATE**

and £30 EACH to cover the remaining cost,
after your £10 deposit.

Any queries...contact Gunilla on

01295 720521

or gt.designs@btinternet.com