

# BARFORD NEWS

MAY 2011

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## Parish Council Notes

**T**HE MEETING TOOK PLACE at 7.32pm on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2011 at Barford Village Hall and was attended by Councillors Hobbs (Chairman), Best, Bullard, Eden, Styles, Turner and Woolgrove. Also attending was Mrs R Watts (Clerk)

Apologies for absence received from County Councillor R Jelf, District Councillor

P O'Sullivan, Mr A Maddison

The Clerk had written to Mr & Mrs Purton of the Manor House, Barford St John regarding the overgrown hedge by the 30mph. The hedge had been cut back, which had improved visibility. Councillors expressed their thanks for the works that had been carried out. It was noted that there was still a stretch of hedge bordering the highway which, when fully in leaf would branch out over the road.

A letter has been received from The Military Vehicle Trust who would like to place a plaque at RAF Barford St John commemorating the 70<sup>th</sup> year of its opening. The airfield is important as it was chosen by Sir Frank Whittle for development flights of his jet-engined fighter, later to become known as the Meteor. Although the Parish Council would not be able to help financially, it was agreed that the Clerk should invite the Trust's Chairman, Mr Tony King to the June meeting to discuss their proposals

Speedwatch in the two villages – only four volunteers have come forward. The project is therefore not viable. PCSO Nicki Dale is to be advised of this.

The Green - Councillor Woolgrove had spoken to Mick Cook about the possibility of digging a trench 1 metre deep and 18" wide the length of The Green, then backfilling with stone. Mr Cook is of the opinion that large vehicle would just scatter the stone and therefore he declined to quote for the works. Following a lengthy discussion around other options it was resolved that there was no appropriate action that could be taken to solve the problem.

High Street - Councillor Hobbs advised the meeting that Mr Maddison had again raised the question of damaged verges in High Street and the possibility of kerbs being raised. Councillors recognised that this was a problem in both villages

but following a lengthy discussion it was resolved that there was no appropriate action which could be taken to solve the problem.

## 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](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)

**Approved:** 11/00099/F Edginton, Avalon, Horn Hill, Barford St Michael, erection of two-storey rear extension.

**Approved:** 11/00039/F / 11/00040/LB Mitchell, Barford House, Horn Hill, Barford St Michael, external ramp.

**Approved:** 11/00038/LB Mitchell Barford House, Horn Hill, Barford St Michael, change of flooring from natural stone to Amtico type.

**Approved:** 10/01849/F / 10/01924/LB Brown, The Red House, The Green, Barford St Michael, re-roofing of existing stone outbuilding and construction of garden shed.

**Application:** 11/00198/F Hill, Wormwoods Hilton, change of highway land to domestic use. Councillor Hobbs had received an email from Mr Hill complaining about Parish Councillors objecting to the proposed change of use of land. Councillors unanimously agreed that they had reached their decision following careful consideration of the plans and from numerous representations from villagers. The comments made to Cherwell District Council Planning Department were fair and the Council stood by its original view that a stopping-up order would open up the future possibility of the area being hedged or fenced off, obstructing the views of traffic and spoiling an area of particular beauty leading to the bridge and the countryside beyond.

Since the last meeting Councillors had met with further complaints from Mr Daly and many more villagers about the proposals. It was noted that the Parish Council would be prepared to maintain the land if the Highways Department wanted to transfer the land to them.

## Any Other Business

Councillor Turner reported that signs had gone up indicating that Cherwell District Council dog wardens were undertaking surveillance in Murreys Lane following concerns raised in the Barford News about dog fouling. Councillor Hobbs confirmed that Mark Harmon from Cherwell District Council had left a telephone message

advising him that surveillance would last for a few weeks.

Councillor Styles asked whether or not the Parish Council had considered organising a street party for the Queen's Jubilee in 2012. This matter to be discussed at a later date.

Councillor Bullard reported that there was a dead badger on the side of the road by the bridge.

Councillor Hobbs reminded councillors that the Annual Parish Meeting will take place on 20 April 2011 at 7.30 in the Village Hall.

It was noted that potholes that had been marked out in white paint indicated that they are due for repair.

The village spring clean will take place on 7 May 2011.

The next meeting is on 4 May 2011.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.43pm.



## The Barfords Clean Up Day Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May From 10.00a.m.



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

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

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

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

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

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

**(We buy the doughnuts!!)**

## Digital TV Switchover Are you ready?

**Get all your questions answered  
Barford Village Hall**

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May  
3.00pm - 7.30pm**

**Blinkhorns**

audio visual home entertainment  
01295 259859 www.blinkhorns.com



get set for digital   
For more information see our article in The Link

## Local intergenerational opportunity

Are you over 50? Or do you know someone locally who is? Would you or they like the opportunity to bridge the generation gap by spending one hour a week on a Friday afternoon with a small and friendly group of fellow volunteers and young people at The Warriner School? The school is working with Full Circle, an Oxfordshire-based charity that has set up fourteen extremely successful and ongoing intergenerational groups in schools around the county, bringing older and younger people in local communities together for mutual benefit, friendship and lots of fun. Examples of what older people have said about Full Circle are:

"One of the best experiences has been seeing a whole lot of new faces. It's easy to get out of touch, but I've made new friends"

"It lifts my mood. I come in for an hour and go away feeling brighter"

"I have gained confidence and new skills as well as friendship, enjoyment and a sense of satisfaction at making a difference to children's lives."

The group will be run by a trained facilitator, and volunteers will be supported by Full Circle's Volunteer Coordinator. For further information please contact Ruth Stavris at Full Circle on 01865 246456, or email [ruthfullcircle@gmail.com](mailto:ruthfullcircle@gmail.com). More information can also be found at [www.fullcircleoxon.org.uk](http://www.fullcircleoxon.org.uk).



**Children and older people together**

# BARFORD OPEN GARDENS

With Scarecrows!!!  
on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> May from 2.00 to 6.00pm



*Please get to work on those scarecrows - the more we have, the more visitors we can attract -*

**Competitions for Children and Adults**

~ ~ ~  
**Six lovely village gardens and the allotments will be open this year**

There will also be a range of interesting plants for sale at Stonehaven  
and, of course, scrumptious cream teas at the Manor.

Any contributions of plants and/or cakes gratefully received!

**All proceeds go to village charities.**

## Barford Challenge

### Six Counties Ride

JUST A QUICK NOTE to keep everyone up to speed on the ride. Glynnis and myself have ridden the route to fine tune check points and mileage. When I say ridden, I mean in a car, we would have gone on the bikes but with maps and stuff we took the easy option.

The good news is everything works out well for stops and distances (exactly 100 miles). The half way stop will be at 'The Wharf' pub at Fenny Compton. They are very keen to help, with a large car park and garden next to the canal. We won't be telling you any more of the route than that until you turn up on the morning of the ride other than it's nearly all down hill and the prevailing wind will be behind you all the way.

We will have a meeting down at the pub after a Wednesday night ride soon - so keep your eyes out for an email when we have a date.



Pete

Welcome

To

Alison & Stephen Drummond  
new residents in  
High Street

We wish them every happiness in their new home

### Do You Have An Old 'Henry' Or Equivalent?

The Village Hall Management Committee need to replace our 'Henry' with a better, newer man! We need him to keep the hall spic and span for you all. Any strong vacuum would do., but it must be in good working order and spares must be available. We are prepared to pay for it. Please contact Gunilla on 01295 720521 or Peter Leney on 01869 338992.



## Barford Green Garden Club

### Talk on 31<sup>st</sup> March

Garden Club members and guests enjoyed a very entertaining and informative talk by Timothy Walker who is the Director of the University of Oxford's Botanic Garden, on 31<sup>st</sup> March in the Village Hall.

A record breaking audience of 38 roared with laughter at Timothy and his wife's exploits in establishing a large and spectacular border in their garden, which adjoins Christ Church meadows in Oxford. His abilities as a stand up did not disguise his considerable erudition and practical experience which meant that everyone came away both informed and inspired.

Various members asked for a list of his top ten plants, which Sandi had thoughtfully noted, so here they are. I've added brief descriptions as a memory aid:

**Dictamnus Albus** : Burning bush, scented white flowers, up to 90cm

**Euphorbia var. 'Cognata'**: large vivid green inflorescences

**Cirsium Rivulare** ; Thistle heads, dark pink to 300cm.

**Oriental Poppy** var. 'Patty's Plum'

**Amsonia Salicifolia** : star-like steely flue flowers , to 90cm

**Geranium phaeum var. 'Samobor'** : mourning geranium

**Thalictrum 'aquilegifolium'** or 'delavayi' (album): clouds of mauve, pink or white flowers at 1 metre or more.

**Astratia 'maxima'** or 'Hadspen Blood': clump forming, lobed leaves, domed flowers.

**Clematis vit.** 'Etoile Violette'

**Allium 'moly'** or 'Globemaster' : yellow ornamental onion.

Other plants mentioned included:

**Physocarpus opulifolius 'Diabolo'**: shrub with spectacular purple foliage and pinkish flowers.

**Leucojum vernum** (snowflake)

**Baptisia australis** : Long flowering perennial, indigo blue flowers at 1.5metres

**Paeonia mlokosewitschii** (Molly the Witch) yellow

**Clematis recta 'purpurea'**

**Phlomis tuberosa 'amazon'**: tall pink Jerusalem Sage to 120cm

The consensus seemed to be that people would like to hear him speak again, perhaps about plants or plant hunting, so we'll try to arrange it.

Janet Payne,  
Committee Member

## Open Gardens Scarecrow Competition

Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> May



Entry Forms for the Scarecrow Competitions will be delivered to all those who took part last year.

If you plan to have a go for the first time this year please contact Maggie Eden 338835 or Mariann on 338570 to receive your form(s)

Separate Competitions for Children and Adults

## Deddington CE Primary



THE MONTH OF MAY is a quiet time at school due to Year 2 and 6 taking their end of Key Stage SATs and the rest of the school taking Optional SAT assessments. Therefore the school's contribution to this publication this month is a review of our production of The Wizard of Oz by some members of Year 4...

We were very lucky to see Deddington Primary School's production of The Wizard of Oz. We thought it was a very first-class play! We thought that Dorothy (Heather Rumsby) was astounding, we thought the lion (monty Ng) was hilarious and the scarecrow (Angus Sinclair) and the tinman had fantastic voices. All the actors were extremely realistic and emotional. The lyrics were very well spoken- you could hear all the words!

We thought the production of the show, from the dancing to the acting, the costumes to the make-up, the singing to the props, was excellent.

This play was the greatest play yet out of all our plays. Overall we thought it was an extraordinarily 'wizard' production!

Reviewed by:- Harry Turberfield, Patrick Mitchell, Archie Sinclair, Theo Smith and Dan Turner (all Year 4)

## WI News

**M**EMBERS WERE ALMOST outnumbered by 18 visitors and guests at our March meeting all eager to learn of the adventures of Mick Bullard and member Jill Hopcraft, who were part of a small group trekking to Everest Base Camp.

After a minor, but none-the-less worrying technical hitch at the beginning we settled to enjoy Mick and Jill talk us through their stunning photographs which recorded their trip. Jill adding to the atmosphere by wearing a traditional Nepalese costume borrowed from Maya Moore. The story began on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2010 with a flight from Heathrow to Kathmandu which was followed on 18<sup>th</sup> by the start of the trek proper, and a flight to Lukla, the gateway to the Everest region where they met their crew of 5 sherpa porters who would accompany them for the rest of the trip.

Fourteen days of trekking at first through lush vegetation at 8,561ft then on up beyond the tree line, climbing more than 1,000ft on several days, eventually reaching over 18,000ft. The route took them through truly magnificent scenery, passed through several villages, taking in some local tearooms and traversing several suspension bridges, some of them rather precarious and all giving priority to Yaks! Day nine took them across glacial ice to their target destination of Everest Base Camp, offering wonderful views of surrounding peaks of Cholatse, Tabouch and Kwande.

On returning to Kathmandu there was time for sightseeing in Bhaktapur and then a visit to the Helpless Children Mother Centre which is the orphanage that so many of us help to support.

Mick and Jill took turns to give us a truly fascinating account of their trip, the photographs were superb and the evening was greatly enjoyed by everyone who attended. Our thanks to them both.

At our May meeting we will have a brief review of the two national resolutions covering proposed library closures and mega farms. This will be followed by a talk by Barbara Gray who will be giving us an introduction to the wonderful opportunities to be had at the WI College at Denman, which runs many hundreds of courses and is open to non-members as well as WI members. Visitors welcome to join us for the evening.

M.Y.



## Fire Station News

**W**E HAVE HAD a very quite month with only 11 Fire Calls 5 were standbys to other stations, 4 false alarms and two RTC, One of the RTCs involved a car and a van the crews had to use the hydraulic cutting gear to remove the door to extract the causality, luckily the casualty only had minor injuries.



By contrast we have had been busy with new recruits, we have had 4 enquires to join us, and we could find ourselves with a maximum complement of Fire fighters.

Our present Station Manager Gary Mattingley is also on the move, he is off to the warmer climates of Abingdon, we all wish him well, at present I am not sure who his replacement will be.

If you have not had time to please have a look at our new notice board under the town hall, it has all our contact details and our latest fire safety campaigns.

Chris Fenemore, Watch Manager  
Deddington Fire Station, 338281

## Paperback Writers' Gigs

**I**F YOU ENJOYED the Paperback Writers' gig at the George in January (or even if you didn't) you may want to catch them again at one of several local events they'll be appearing at in the coming months.

The Barford and Adderbury based band was formed as a 'one-off' for a charity fund raiser last year, but proved so popular they keep getting asked back for more.

You can see them at:

Bloxham's Bloxfest on 7 May

Adderbury's Party in the Park on 2 July

Banbury Canal Day on 2 October

Banbury Folk Festival between 7 and 9 October.



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## Deddington History Society

THE APRIL MEETING, which was well attended, was an illustrated talk by Tony Hadland, who, for many years, has been involved in museums and their maintenance, himself for a long time at the Vale and Downland Museum at Wantage.

He began by pointing out how well Oxfordshire is provided with museums, the present number being forty and still increasing, forty and still increasing at the latest count. It is probably the best county in the country for the number of museums.

These can be categorized in some four types, the City museum such as the Ashmolean and the Oxford Museum of Natural History, the town ones such as the Wallingford, the Witney and the River and Rowing at Henley. Then there are the smaller ones under the class of village museums, these include Bloxham and Swinford. The last would come under the heading of private museums such as the Pendon Museum, the Hook Norton Brewery and the Didcot Railway Centre. There are many more of course making up the forty at present.

Tony Hadland then went into the detail of how museums acquired their collections and exhibits, viz; by gifts, from beneficiaries from will and sometimes by purchase. In the case of gifts he pointed out these can sometimes be an embarrassment, the item can be too big to be accommodated, too expensive to maintain or sometimes too numerous, as he said there are far too many "Victorian flat irons knocking about" going free.

The question of finance is another important matter especially in the current economic climate, large City Museums such as the Ashmolean can be self supporting but many rely on outside finance to exist. If they rely solely on the amount of entrance fees with possibly money from a cafe or gift shop they find it very difficult and the funding from Town Councils can be very limited. Banbury Museum being a case in point at the moment.

There are some museums which are privately owned either by a company such as the Castle Unlocked in Oxford, the Pendon Museum and the Rail Way Centre at Didcot, this has successfully grown over the years and is now one of the largest of its type in the world with many visitors every year.

The talk was well illustrated with many slides of exhibits from some of the larger museums as well as the premises, the new extension of the Ashmolean being one.

For anyone who wishes to pursue the subject and/or visit any of the forty museums there is now a booklet covering all of them which includes an open competition for the under sixteens.

A.M.



Congratulations

To

**Tomasin & Gary Atherton**

On the safe arrival of

their beautiful baby boy

who weighed in at 7lb 7oz on

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April

We wish him (no name as yet) a long, healthy and happy life.

## Deddington PTA News

THE PTA WHEELS are whizzing along in preparation for our next big event – *The 7th Annual Deddington Walk* which will be held on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May. This year's exciting theme is “Can you rise to the Challenge!?” Our marshals will be out and about on our **new** route handing out more of our infamous trump cards together with a few surprises! Make sure you are there to collect the brand new set!! Once again we will be starting from the Windmill Centre where sizzling hot bacon butties will await your arrival. Upon completion of the Walk there will be more food, a bar and entertainment laid on for your enjoyment back at the Windmill Centre. Please remember to book early to secure a free food voucher! We hope to have some lovely warm sunshine in which to bask after burning off all those calories walking!! Entry forms are available by phoning 01869 338468, emailing info@deddingtonchallenge.co.uk or by downloading a form from our updated website – [www.deddingtonwalk.co.uk](http://www.deddingtonwalk.co.uk). As usual, there will be 3 levels of walk – a toddler trail, a family walk or a challenging 12 mile hike – so there is something for all ages!! This Walk is NOT restricted to school children – anyone can come along and join in the fun! We look forward to welcoming you!

Finally, another reminder for our school fete which will be held on Saturday 18th June. It is shaping up to be a bigger and better event than usual with new attractions! More details next month.....

Janet Watts, 01869 337135



# Congratulations

To Barford News's very own Marathon Girl Becky Dyson  
who finished the gruelling 26.2 miles in a very respectable 4hrs.22 minutes



## From The Vicar

**R**OIGATION SUNDAY, when we ask God to bless the growing crops and the young animals, is the most obvious feature of the church calendar this month (29<sup>th</sup>). It's a wonderful feast day, especially in the country and we shall celebrate it this year in Barford St John (4.00pm). There's also a sequence of Saints Days at the beginning of this May - St George, for instance gets knocked off his normal April 23<sup>rd</sup> onto May 2<sup>nd</sup> because the Church doesn't celebrate Saints Days in Holy Week, there being even more important things to think about then. Saints and Rogation notwithstanding, however, you could say that May this year is pretty ordinary in church terms. You could say that, but you'd be wrong, because all May is Eastertide.



It's such a shame that people stop celebrating the great feasts of the Christian year almost as soon as they have begun. Christmas is meant to last for twelve days but is lucky if it limps past the New Year (though admittedly Christmas gets celebrated for many days *before* it really should). Easter, the greater feast, is meant to last fifty days through to Pentecost and fifty days really isn't long enough to celebrate the extraordinary miracle of Christ's Resurrection. It's rather odd that there is still a fair amount of commitment to keeping Lent but that we usually make a lousy job of the fifty days of Eastertide, sinking speedily back into our ordinary routines. You would have thought it was easier to party than to fast, even in these straitened times. At least this year we have had that sequence of Bank Holidays at the beginning of Eastertide to help us stay out of our routines and in the festive mood appropriate to the Easter season (there's one/another good thing about The Wedding!). But now May stretches before us, doomed, if we are not careful, to feeling ordinary. Don't let it happen; keep the party going. There's nothing ordinary about Christ's rising from the dead. It changes everything for the better – for the best, eventually, with everything that is wrong and sad dealt with. So what's not, as they say, to celebrate? We certainly shan't be waiting for Rogation Sunday in the Church - we'll be partying hard every Sunday this month. Come and see how and join in!

Hugh

[vicarhugo@hotmail.com](mailto:vicarhugo@hotmail.com) 01869 349869

## Rainbows

**W**E STARTED March



making Native American 'dream-catchers' from willow circles, wool, beads and feathers which looked wonderful. It's amazing how different the girls' crafts look, given they all have the same materials to choose from. The Fenemore family very kindly let us descend on Home Farm again so that we could see the lambs, including one that was 10 minutes old! This is always a highlight in the Rainbow calendar, for the parents as well. I think we will have a few mums still coming even when their daughters are too old for Rainbows... We've sown cress in pretty patterns and planted nasturtiums in decorated pots for Mothering Sunday, attended the Mothering Sunday service in Deddington (we particularly enjoyed 'The Prodigal Mother' by the Boys Brigade Company Section!) and the St. George's day Parade in Banbury. As ever, the Rainbows were very smart and beautifully behaved; well done girls!

To finish the term, we had fun at the Castle Grounds in Deddington on a very warm afternoon, playing games; identifying wild flowers and plants and finishing with an Easter Egg Hunt organised on behalf of the Easter Bunny by Robin, with help from Millie and Connie.

We say goodbye to Indigo, Hannah, Lilli and Phoebe, who are all off to Brownies, but will be welcoming four more girls after the Easter Holidays.

Sadly, we also say goodbye to Gillian (AKA Rabbit) who is no longer able to be assistant leader due to increased work commitments. She has done a huge amount over the past few years to keep Rainbows running smoothly, with various family members helping out too, often at short notice (Thank you Stoat and Mole- you know who you are!) Thankfully, several mums have offered to step in and take over some of the various roles Gillian had, so my organisational skills are not going to be tested too far! 'Thank you' to them too.

If you are interested in a place for your daughter, please contact me as soon as possible- we have a very long waiting list.

Hazel Neal, 01869 337822,  
[hmkn@sky.com](mailto:hmkn@sky.com)

## Banbury Rural Neighbourhood Monthly Update

It has been another busy month for the team who have been continuing with speeding operations within the villages and anti social behaviour patrols in accordance with our Neighbourhood Priorities.



### Team News

PCSO Alford and PC McLeod attended the Rugby Tournament at Banbury Youth Rugby Club on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March. Anyone using the A4260 will know how busy the road was around that area and disappointingly there were a few drivers that were rude and abusive to those trying to facilitate entry into the car park but the children appeared to be enjoying themselves and it was a brilliant event.

PC Miller arranged an operation in conjunction with the Licensing Department to ensure that public houses and shops selling alcohol were doing so responsibly and ensuring they served those over the age of 18. There were 5 premises checked, unfortunately one ticket was issued to a public house for serving a 15 year old but generally the feedback was extremely positive. The mix of young people and alcohol can cause a number of problems for the police and residents as it generally results in anti-social behaviour and criminal damage, something we do not tolerate.

PC McLeod and PC Miller have held another surgery at Warriner School on 29<sup>th</sup> March. They started their surgeries in the school in September and it has been a really positive experience. Communication between the school and the team has improved and it enables us to support staff and pupils alike. We are there to offer support and guidance and to get to know the young people by promoting the positive and approachable side of the police. PC McLeod and PC Miller had numerous students asking what they needed to do to have a career within the police.

### Crime News

A burglary took place in Bloxham earlier this month whilst the resident was asleep. The intruders were disturbed and fortunately did not take anything. Obviously, this was an extremely traumatic experience for the resident. If you see anything suspicious or you have a neighbour that is vulnerable, make sure that you take the time to check on them or call the police if you see anything that you think is not quite right.

There has also been an attempted theft from a garage in Bloxham, the garage was accessed but it does not appear as though anything was taken.

There have been further thefts of fuel from heating containers and a theft of fuel from a car in Milton. Again, if you see anything suspicious then contact the police on 0845 8 505 505.

During a patrol of The Rise, Adderbury, PS Riddell confiscated alcohol from a male under the age of 18 who was drinking it in the play area.

### Contact Us

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>

### Upcoming dates

Members of the team will be available on the following dates and at the following locations, to meet and discuss any issues or problems within the community:

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2011 – 11am – 12pm – Bodicote Car Boot, Bodicote

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2011 – 11am-12pm Adderbury Methodist Church, Adderbury

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2011 – 4pm -5pm - The Rise, Adderbury

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April – 10am- 12pm- Adderbury Day of Dance, Adderbury

Should you have any problems or concerns please phone the Thames Valley Police non-emergency number on 08458 505 505 or email - [BanburyRuralneighbourhood@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:BanburyRuralneighbourhood@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk) In an emergency please dial 999.

## Barford Picture House



*"Well that was really the worst thing I've ever seen!" "Horrible"*

*"WOW that was absolutely FANTASTIC, worth waiting for."*

These are just two of the comments received after our last film, Blade Runner. It just shows that you really cannot please all of the people all of the time, but as long as some of the people are thrilled, that is all that matters; discussions are generated and views exchanged...all part of the Barford Picture House experience.

MAY 21<sup>st</sup> will be our last film until the autumn. We will be showin '**THE SOCIAL NETWORK**', the story behind the development of FACEBOOK.

Doors open 7.15, film starts 7.45. £3 for previous Season Ticket holders, £4 others.

New film season will start in October.

Thanks, Gunilla



### **Barford Green Garden Club's Visit to Chastleton House Gardens**

**O**N SATURDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> APRIL 15 BGGC members and friends met Anna Derrett, the National Trust gardener, in the stable yard of Chastleton House to see what progress Anna has been making with a garden which had been largely neglected in the days of the last owners of the house from the 1950s until the early 1990s. We had enjoyed hearing about the plans of the Trust for the gardens when Anna came to give us a talk last autumn so we were looking forward to seeing how these plans were being carried out.

The Trust had taken over the property from the Clutton-Brocks in the 1990s after 400 years of 'make do and mend' by continuous generations of increasingly impoverished owners. The policy of the Trust is to keep the property 'as found' but in a state of conserved decay aiming to retain the other-worldly feel of how it was at the time it was taken over. It is with this in mind that, at the beginning of our tour, at the front of the house Anna explained that, although needing to cut back the ivy from the house and the walls, she planned to allow the tidiness of the present pathed drive bordered by well manicured lawns to become, as she whimsically put it, 'shabby chic'.

Anna escorted us round the gardens showing us photos of the overgrown state they had been in when she was appointed a year ago, as well as earlier photos showing the different styles of gardens imposed by generations before the Clutton-Brocks time in the house. The conservation plan that she is working on (she is the only paid gardener but happily has 30 or so volunteers) is to restore the gardens to health but also to retain the historical aspects of different areas of the grounds. Hence as part of her restoration work she is researching early varieties of fruit trees for the orchard and has reinstated two of the three croquet lawns, historically important because Chastleton was the home of the codified rules of croquet. Anna told us that her aim was to keep tidy but not attempt to restore the topiary to the figurations of the original garden. It seems that, at least during the Clutton-Brocks' time, a solitary local gardener

came with his shears once a year to trim them. Today it is hard to imagine what the shapes originally purported to be but as they are now they will stay!

We were too late to see the several species of snowdrop in the garden but we were able to admire the snakeshead fritillaries and the rare wild tulips. It was also of interest to be told that the Scots Pine, planted in the Jacobean period of the house, was there by custom to inform any of the Jacobite persuasion that they would be welcomed in the house.

I am sure we all felt what an enormous task Anna had taken on and were in admiration of her hard work and enthusiasm in her dream of bringing about a magical and secret garden



### **Deddington PFSU and Village Nursery**

**A**S I WRITE THIS the children are enjoying their Easter holiday club, which we are running right through the holiday for the first time this year. The end of the Spring term saw the Nursery children enjoying an Easter bonnet parade and the PFSU children having fun searching for Easter eggs around the garden. We also made cards and gifts for Mother's day, and enjoyed the early Spring sunshine! We have been lucky enough to obtain a grant for the Nursery garden and now have a fantastic new canopy, a soft play surface and new swings and slide. We will be celebrating with a family tea on 19th May from 4 to 6pm, at the Nursery, to which everyone is welcome. Next term the PFSU children will be learning about minibeasts and the Nursery children will be finding out about 'people who help us'. Our fund-raising Moulin Rouge party event (for adults!) will be held on Saturday 9th July. Please put the date in your diary and join us if you can.

Lucy Squires, 337484

Having recently completed a Creative Writing course, I decided to enter my first short story competition in Kings Sutton. I was surprised and delighted to be shortlisted. I thought you might like to read my story and I hope it inspires you to enter our local competitions such as the one in Deddington which is coming up soon.

Alison

### An Illuminating Moment

The crowded carriage was quiet except for the tapping of keyboards, incoming texts and rustling newspapers. Rachel put on her glasses and took out her manuscript. Slowly and with a critical eye, she re-read each word, her red pen hovering.

Gradually, her ears tuned-in to the only conversation in the train. Two girls opposite her were whispering excitedly about their outing the previous evening, switching between English and another language she didn't understand, possibly Hindi. She looked up. They appeared to be sisters in their early twenties, and they were travelling with an elderly lady and a toddler, who were sitting across the aisle.

The elderly lady, who didn't seem to speak English, was keeping the little girl amused by looking through the train window and pointing out things of interest. Suddenly, she pointed to a sheep and shouted, rather proudly, "guinea pig", causing her family to giggle. Rachel noticed a gentleman in a pin-striped suit raise his head and a faint smile temporarily replaced his early-morning aloofness.

Still giggling, one of the sisters unzipped a fuchsia pink and orange silk pouch and started to apply her make-up. Rachel watched the girl choose from the jewel-coloured eye shadows and followed her hand as she painted a black line around each eye, causing them to appear twice their size. The whites looked like delicate porcelain against her dusky skin. Her steadiness and accuracy suggested that this was a daily ritual. Rachel was watching an artist at work.

Aware that she was staring at the girl, Rachel shifted in her seat to look at the front cover of the magazine that the girl's sister was reading. Cheryl Cole smiled back at her. Her dazzling eyes and teeth contrasted sharply with her deep tan. Her L'Oreal hair caught the flashing lights of the paparazzi and her carefully manicured fingers clutched a sparkly evening bag.

Rachel removed her glasses, pushed aside her woollen scarf and well-worn, suede gloves and fumbled in her bag for her notebook. She looked out of the window and scribbled for a few minutes. Her train journeys had often provided snippets of ideas and interesting characters for her writing. She wondered where the family was going and she found herself exploring several plot alleyways as the train arrived at Marylebone.

As she reached the far side of the ticket barriers, Rachel looked behind her at the sombre morning rush. It was a sea of unsmiling gazes and the animated family stood out like a welcoming beacon.

Leaving the station concourse, she raised her coat collar and wrapped her scarf more tightly. She followed the shiny shoes, drenched briefcases and slippery umbrellas. Black cabs, grey despatch riders and grimy red buses swam by like sea creatures.

Rachel scuttled into the department store doorway and pushed her way inside. She stood in front of the lipsticks like a child in a sweetshop. After a few moments, she picked the brightest one on the display – *Sweet Paprika* – and took it to the till.

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## 1<sup>st</sup> Deddington Scout Group

### Cubs

**M**OST OF OUR TOPICS have been based around the Patron Saints, leading up to our St George's Day Parade, which was held early this year due to Easter etc.

On the first warm evening, the cubs ventured outside to try some tracking. The sixers & seconds laid trails of, sticks, stones, chalk & peanuts, which the rest of the boys had to follow. Of course being boys, they made the trails hard to follow, not quite the point!

We have also made Easter boxes & started learning basic knots.

Jo Churchyard C.S.L. 338071  
[jochurchyard@hotmail.com](mailto:jochurchyard@hotmail.com)

### Scouts

**O**UR HIKE TO BARFORD was a great success, we always manage to arrive on time, I'd like to think that was down to our fantastic skills but a bit of luck is involved, I'm sure!

During National Science Week we organised a number of experiments showing how parts of the body work. The scouts made an ear drum, measured their lung capacity & tried to identify smells while blindfolded.

Now we are mainly outside, the scouts are trying their hand at pioneering, the first project being a ladder which they used to climb into the playground, it was surprisingly sturdy.

Pete Churchyard S.L. 338071  
[pete.churchyard@btinternet.com](mailto:pete.churchyard@btinternet.com)

Thanks to all the boys who attended St George's Day Parade, a really good turnout at the beginning of the school holidays.



### 200 CLUB WINNERS:

April draw

£15, No. 190 Erika Smith;

£10, No. 128 Claire Cox;

£5, No. 008, Valerie Rogers.

## BARFORD GREEN GARDEN CLUB

### Plant Swap

**W**EDNESDAY 18<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm, Venue : Street Farm Barford St John, Kindly being hosted by Sarah Best.



Please join us for our annual plant swap evening. Bring along all those unwanted plants and a bottle and meet up with garden club members for this very popular and enjoyable evening



### Open Gardens (29<sup>th</sup> May)

Further to my letter of 7<sup>th</sup> March and April BN, only a few members have so far contacted me with offers of help. It is not too late !! If you will open your garden, bake a cake, help serving teas (opening times 2.00pm until 6.00 pm) or any contribution, I look forward to hearing from you asap !

A date to put in your diary : so far 6 gardens will open including the Manor House for those delicious teas and cakes, there will be a fantastic plant stall at Stonehaven, Lower Street, kindly being organised by Mariann Young, look out for those scarecrows too ! Cost £4.00 adults, children free.

All proceeds will go to village charities so if you can help please shout now or if not, do come along on the day to support us

Thank you !

Jill Bunce  
BGGC Secretary



### Fernhill Club News

**T**HREE WAS A QUOTE in the Banbury Guardian from the Windmill Centre in Deddington that '*no elderly person needs to be lonely or bored*' These same sentiments can be applied to anyone living in, or around the Barfords.

Fernhill Club meets at 2.30pm on a Wednesday, come along and find out for yourself or ring Avril on 338381, or Mary on 01295 252298 for more information.

Unfortunately our entertainers for 13<sup>th</sup> April had to cancel but we were more than happy with our substitute Michael Sands, who is a professional variety pianist, his playing was absolutely amazing. He played arrangements by Mrs. Mills and Winifred Atwell, all well known music.

We were all sorry to hear that Maureen is in hospital and wish her a speedy recovery.

This month we will have Bingo on 4<sup>th</sup> May, and Christine Turner will be entertaining us on 11<sup>th</sup> May with her story '*My Dancing Years*'. We will be playing cards on 18<sup>th</sup> May. Expect a new programme soon.

Mary Ashbridge, 01295 252298

Barford Village Show Schedule  
Saturday 13 August 2011

Vegetable & Fruit Classes		
1	Three Beetroot, with tops cut to <b>10cms (4ins)</b> approx.	
2	Three Carrots, long, with tops cut to <b>10cms (4ins)</b> approx.	
3	Three Courgettes	
4	Three Onions	
5	Five Shallots	
6	Three Potatoes of one variety	
7	Three Runner Beans with stalks	
8	Five French Beans with stalks	
9	Five Cherry Tomatoes	
10	Three Round Tomatoes	
11	A Cucumber, house or frame	
12	A Pair of Vegetables (same variety) not in other classes	
13	Five Single Assorted Vegetables	
14	Largest Marrow	
15	Three Apples of one variety, eating or cooking	
16	Dish of one variety of soft or stoned fruit	
17	Adult Fun Class: A Vegetable Animal	
Cookery Classes		
18	Six Flapjack pieces	
19	Four Fruit Scones	
20	Six Chocolate Brownies	
21	A Victoria Sponge Sandwich, <b>Raspberry jam, no Cream</b>	
22	Four Meringues	
23	A Dorset Apple Cake ( <b>men only</b> ) from the Barford Recipe Book (recipe to be printed in Barford News)	
24	A Jar of Jam	
25	A small pot of Lemon Curd	
26	A Jar of Chutney	
27	Sloe Gin (decanted into small bottle)	
28	Half a dozen eggs	
Flower Arranging Classes		
29	An arrangement in a candlestick	
30	A foliage arrangement <b>50cms (20ins) width</b>	
31	A miniature arrangement <b>10cms (4ins) overall</b>	
32	An arrangement for a Ruby Wedding <b>36cms (14ins) max width</b>	
Cut Flower Classes		
33	A single Gladiolus	
34	A Sunflower in a vase	
35	Three Dahlias	
36	Three Roses	
37	Four Marigolds (one variety)	
38	Four Fuchsia heads in a saucer of water	
39	Six stems of Sweet Peas	
40	Vase of mixed garden flowers, 6 varieties, (max.18 stems, <b>no oasis</b> )	
Crafts		
( NB Crafts must not have been entered previously in the Show)		
41	A Handmade Toy	
42	A piece of Jewellery	
43	A hand knitted or crocheted article	
44	A piece of needlecraft (embroidery, tapestry, patchwork, cross-stitch)	
45	You Made It, Let's See It (Handmade article not covered in other classes)	
46	Drawing or Painting: any subject, any medium (mount or frame optional)	
Photography		
(13cm x 18cm or 5" x 7")		
47	Hands	
48	In a Barford Garden	
49	A Door	
50	A Digitally Enhanced Photograph	
Children's Classes		
7 and Under Years (age to be stated on all entries)		
51	A Colouring Picture (available from the Post Office)	
52	A saucer of fruit (any modelling material)	
53	Four Chocolate Crispy Cakes	
54	A vegetable animal	
55	You Made It, Let's See It (Handmade article not covered in other classes)	
8 - 15 Years (age to be stated on all entries)		
56	A photograph (Any Subject, 13cm x 18cm or 5" x 7")	
57	A design for a Park (A4 size: landscape)	
58	A piece of handwriting (to be printed in Barford News)	
59	A drawing or painting (any subject, any medium)	
60	You Made It, Let's See It (Handmade article not covered in other classes)	

Entry Fees: Adults 30p per class  
Children: 20p per class

# **Barford St Michael Village Market**

**All the usual stalls plus a few surprises**



**Sat. 21st May  
on the Village Green  
10-12 noon  
Live music featuring  
The Blue Coyotes**

## NATURE NOTES 96

**W**AS A LION ROARING AT THE DOOR on March 1st? No, it wasn't! Instead of a good boisterous westerly with driving storm clouds and flashes of sun, we awoke to a chilly overcast and a miserable, drivelling northeasterly that had set-in the day before. It was to last until the 6th. From the dreadful, misleading, strength-sapping rawness of the wind-chill at night, there were long daytime periods of flawless, heat-less sunshine. (Day temperatures 5° to 6°, nights 0° to -1°). Shirley Cederland reported the Reed Buntings and Yellow Hammer continued to visit her bird tables, but elsewhere everything was under cover apart from the usual gang of half-frozen Great Tits and Blue Tits, House Sparrows and Dunnocks at feeders – even the Jackdaws seemed clamped in their chimneys!

There were periods of madness however – that from the 4th to the 10th was one over which to grieve . . . ! From the earlier tedium of month-long relative mildness, we were suddenly presented, after a day of sun, with a night of white ground frost at -7°; followed by a day at 7° with drizzle coming on in late afternoon. This was followed by a night at freezing point. The sun broke through about 10.30am on the 6th, with long afternoon sunny spells – enough to get the Steepness Buzzards airborne and calling. This was followed by another night of white frost at -7°. A flawless sunrise was followed by a day of flawless sunshine, a slight easterly breeze and a temperature of 9° (night to day range 16°!). This daytime warmth was bludgeoned by a night of hard frost down to -9° (16°F)! The 8th was another warm day (9.5°) but following nights still sub-zero. On the 10th the day temperature had risen to 14° (58°F) – a range of 23° (42°F) over two days!

I belabour these weather notes because, had we only known earlier of these severe temperature variations of early March, we could maybe have defended against some of the wholesale garden destruction that followed.

On the 8th the wind adopted a haphazard swinging around W between NW and S as a system of cold fronts marched across the country. Night temperatures rose to 4.5°, with days between 11° and 14°. On the morning of the 13th there was gentle light rain at times, giving way to afternoon sun. Then, during a clear night, we were again hit by a white frost down to -7°!

Over this period, the Buzzards were active over Steepness (Rooks and Jackdaws permitting). My last sighting in Barford this year of a group of



Fieldfares (12) was in Barley Lane about 3.45 on the 8th, followed at 4.30 by a much more exciting experience, a Nuthatch was calling 'Toy, toy, toy – Toy, toy, toy' from the Lime and Yew trees in St. Michael's churchyard. It is many years since I heard a Nuthatch there.

On the 11th I noted 'A lot of damage done to less hardy shrubs by the savage frosts of earlier in the week, but most hedgerows now have a green mist of "bread and cheese" (Hawthorn shoots) on them'. Then on the 12th, I saw my first Brimstone butterfly of the year (albeit at N. Newington) and in my garden one or two huge Buff-tailed Bumblebee queens (*B. terrestris*) boomed around, looking for possible nest-building sites in the 14° warmth. Then about 4.30 next morning, a Tawny Owl was hooting below Steepness.

Now, on the 14th, the wind veered SE and became chill. Our editor reported a female Blackcap at her bird feeders along with the continued exciting visits of the Willow Tit.

On the 15th we entered a period of very still weather. Fog in the morning reduced visibility to about 200m, which only lifted very slowly, but mid-afternoon four Buzzards were soaring and calling between Steepness and St. Michael in a humid 13.5°.

Next day was similar; very still, fog with visibility about 300m, again lifting slowly, but remaining misty on high ground, despite a chilly NE breeze developing. I noted that Rooks' nests were now repaired and noisily busy, and, under the hedgerows, the first Primroses and Violets were in flower.

The 17th and 18th were twins; chilly, very still, overcast with morning drizzle and a mild sunny afternoon. Buzzards called from somewhere on Steepness but didn't seem to disrupt the industry of the little rookery. The blue and pink flowers of the *Pulmonaria* were now a major attraction for the *Anthophora* solitary bees. Small and bumblebee-like, the males are covered in pollen-yellow fur, the females are pure jet black, and are very agile and quick – real harbingers of Spring! But not yet! The development of a high pressure area close by induced a clear sunset followed by a rapid drop in temperature, and yet again, we were shrouded by a heavy white frost of -7.5°!

The 19th was a day of brilliant sunshine from sunrise to sunset, very still and with a sharp edge to the air, becoming frosty at sunset. It was a full moon and who could have failed to notice that amazingly large, bright golden disc as it rose? The moon's orbit is an ellipse, not a circle, therefore the moon's distance from us is not constant and on this

night it approached us more closely than at any time during some forty years! Because of its reduced distance, the moon's pull of gravity is slightly increased and some people believe that it was this that helped trigger the terrible earthquake and tsunami in Japan.

The 20th was the Spring (Vernal) equinox with, of course, exactly twelve hours between sunrise and sunset. So, from now until the Autumnal equinox we get more daylight than night, reaching a peak at the Summer solstice on the 21st of June.

The next five days were unseasonally warm for March, reaching 19° on 25th followed by night frosts (-2.5° on 24th) with the wind continuing its vagaries between NE and W through S.

During this period, things became more lively in the bird world. Shirley reported her Reed Buntings and Yellow Hammers still at the bird tables. Her Hedgehogs had also woken up and were nightly foraging the slugs and snails around the garden. I was drawn to my bedroom window on the night of the 23rd by the sound of two Wood Pigeons calling robustly against each other – at 3 o'clock in the morning!

The next day was warm and very still. For a long time two Great Spotted Woodpeckers were drumming against one another, one at the foot of Steepness, the other in a garden Ash tree in Townsend. Two Buzzards called and soared over Steepness, again unharried by the Rooks. Later in the evening, a mixture of quiet, trembly hoots and soft yodellings, sprinkled with baby-like squeaks indicated that a new family of Tawny Owls could be setting out on life's journey somewhere in the south of the parish.

From the 26th it cooled a little, but Tawnies called and Buzzards mewed and soared over Steepness and Fernhill, until the Rooks got annoyed and a punch-up ensued. Bas. Butler said he and others had watched two Buzzards building a nest in the west of the parish and Ian Hobday reported that the Cuckoo had called five or six times in the early morning from along Blackingrove – 25 days earlier than usual! – and not the only early Cuckoo report this year.

With night frosts and warm days the ground was becoming dessicated, much vegetation growth was slowing considerably and on the 28th I was prompted to write that the last significant rain had fallen on the 28th of February – not a desirable situation at this time of year! Nevertheless, Gold Finches and a few Linnets, plus so welcome a return after a year's disease-generated scarcity, Greenfinches, sang and fluttered around the village gardens. Jays squawked along Great Marsh,

Blackbirds and Songthrushes dashed in and out of hedgerows. In the churchyard the interesting, delta-shaped bee-mimicking, bee-parasitising fly, *Bombylius major* settled here and there at the edge of gravel paths, waiting for its solitary mining bee victims to give away their nesting burrows in the sunshine. Meanwhile back in my garden, the large white-tailed Bumblebee queens of *B. lucorum* were happily pollinating my Gooseberries.

On the 29th, a warm day despite the easterly breeze which, around mid-day died away and suddenly started to come from all directions in little gusts. Only a couple of miles away to the south and west, the edge of a very big storm of huge blue-grey clouds with mist to ground level, brought heavy thunder and hailstorms in the afternoon. Very audible and visible from the Barfords, we got not a drop! The 30th saw heavy rain-cloud cover all over, but it remained dry until mid-day when, on a light westerly wind it rained . . . for 15 minutes! The cloud broke to a watery sunset and, overnight, it rained again – on and off, and not very much, just a damping of the top half inch of soil. (12mm in newfangled).

Finally, on the 31st, a cool stiff south westerly brought overcast and racing clouds (was this the aforementioned lion turning up in place of a lamb, a month too late?). Generally sunny and warm, there were occasional threatening cloud banks through the afternoon. This is the weather I love, with marvellous displays of white Bullace and slightly less white Blackthorn brilliantly contrasted against purple-black clouds by an overbright sun. Magical, awe-inspiring and exciting! And so, after a mild, blowy, overcast night, March bumbled off to yesterday and April skipped in from where she had been hiding since last Spring.

Ron Knight

**Banbury Museum Special Exhibitions  
Graduate Art & Design Exhibition:  
'Then & Now'**

Highlights from graduates of Oxfordshire School of Creative Arts in Banbury  
Until 18 June (former graduates) and 25 June – 16 July (new graduates)  
Mon – Sat. 10am – 5pm (Bank holidays 10.30am – 4.30pm) Free

An exhibition in two parts, featuring a selection of the best artwork from new and former graduates of Oxfordshire School of Creative Arts in Banbury. Includes Fine Art, Graphic Design & Illustration, Design Crafts, and Photography.

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The 7th annual

## Deddington Walk

A challenging 12 mile walk  
Oxfordshire countryside, or  
or simply take the toddlers



around the beautiful  
a family ramble over 6 miles,  
on a stroll

### The Deddington Challenge

#### Can you rise to it?

### Sunday May 15th

Enjoy the kids  
“collectables” hunt,  
BBQ, bouncy castle, &  
bar. Tickets - adult £7,  
family - £17.50. Book  
early to secure free food

Great  
new  
route!

For further details, contact Heather on 01869  
338468, email [info@deddingtonchallenge.co.uk](mailto:info@deddingtonchallenge.co.uk)  
or visit [www.deddingtonwalk.co.uk](http://www.deddingtonwalk.co.uk)

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

**Red Cross Week**  
**1-8 May 2011**



**Be “One in a Million”**

Red Cross Appeal Week is a nation-wide annual fundraising event, during the week 1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> May, Collectors will be out in your Village, please be “One in a Million” and give generously. Your help makes a real difference to the lives of vulnerable people. Red Cross has been severely stretched this year from floods in Cumbria to Pakistan, earthquakes in Chile, Haiti and Japan and working in a host of other places, trudging through snow to the needy in Scotland, or lending wheelchairs and home nursing aids, helping people home from hospital; endeavouring to give those in crisis the help they need.

As little as £1 can feed a malnourished baby for a week | provide 375 litres of clean water in Pakistan | Buy a bandage to teach first aid | Provide six months counselling for a child affected by conflict in Sierra Leone | Buy toiletries for a family who have lost everything in a house fire. Log onto [www.redcross.org.uk](http://www.redcross.org.uk) to see for yourself!

Be “One in a Million” Please give generously and help Red Cross to raise £1 Million.

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