

BARFORD NEWS

MAY 2012

www.barfordnews.co.uk

Price 30p where sold

Parish Council Notes

The meeting took place at 7.32pm on 4th April at Barford Village Hall and was attended by Cllr R Hobbs, Cllr S Best, Cllr T Bullard, Cllr P Eden, Cllr L Styles, Cllr S Turner and Cllr R Woolgrove. Also attending Mrs R Watts (Clerk), County Cllr R Jelf and District Cllr P O'Sullivan

Parish Matters

Mr C Cox had applied to be on the Parish Council's Register of Local Tradesmen.

Village Furniture - The Clerk reported that Mr C Cox from Barford St Michael had submitted a quote for repairing the seat by the bridge and stripping down and re-painting all village seats in the sum of £745. He was not prepared to repair the broken seat by the village hall. SRG Builders from Epwell had submitted a quotation for the same work in the sum of £770. They were prepared to repair the VE/VJ Day seat by the village hall for £220. Councillors unanimously agreed to accept Mr Cox's quotation and to remove and dispose of the VE/VJ Day seat. Clerk will write to SRG Builders thanking them for their interest.

Grass Cutting - Thomas Fox Contractors had carried out their first cut of the season and Councillors were pleased with the standard of work.

Electronic Communications - Cllr Eden made a formal complaint about the email Cllr Hobbs had sent to six Councillors and the Clerk before the March meeting about proposed Jubilee celebrations. In his opinion it was too detailed and contained Cllr Hobbs' own views on the subject matters. It is his view that correspondence should not be circulated or discussed before a meeting as this is not open to the public. He pointed out that Cllr Woolgrove did not receive Cllr Hobbs' email because he is not on the internet. Cllr Woolgrove said that he felt discriminated against because he did not receive the correspondence.

Cllr Hobbs said that he did not accept Cllr Eden's criticism. He then read his email out to the meeting, saying that it had been sent out before the March meeting only to allow Councillors time to think about the various subject matters and the potential costs involved. It made it clear that the

matter was to be discussed in full and any decisions made at the open Parish Council meeting on 7th March. He further stated that Parish Council meetings would be exceptionally long if correspondence and planning applications could not be circulated beforehand and extra meetings would be necessary to discuss planning applications on occasions. One Councillor said they found having the information in the email in question in advance of the Parish Council meeting helpful. Under Any Other Business Cllr Woolgrove asked for 'Electronic Communications' to be put on the Agenda for the next meeting on May 2nd.

Woodworms Hilton - Cllr Hobbs reported that the Highway Authority had refused Mr Jones' revised application for a Stopping-up Order because there were utilities on part of the site. Mr Jones was going to submit another application leaving out the land in question. The plans were then shown to the Parish Council who had no objection to the revised plan. The Clerk was asked to write to the Department for Transport confirming this fact.

VE/VJ Day Seat - Councillors viewed photographs and descriptions of benches to replace the VE/VJ Day seat. Councillors unanimously agreed to purchase the new Alexander Rose seat, the full cost of which £539.10 (inc VAT), and gratefully accept a donation of £200 from a generous parishioner towards the cost. It was agreed that a plaque commemorating VE/VJ Day and the Diamond Jubilee would eventually be placed on the new seat. Please note:- the Parish Council can reclaim the VAT on this seat.

Jubilee Beacon The national date and time for lighting a beacon will clash with the VHMC Ceilidh. However, lighting a beacon could still go ahead if an organiser could be found and costs could be agreed. Cllr Woolgrove will speak to Mr A Collier again to see if the matter can be progressed in any way.

Handrail at top of Murrays Lane - Cllr Hobbs reported that a villager had complained about the lack of a handrail by the shallow steps at the top of Murrays Lane. Councillors agreed to make a site visit to assess the risk.

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:

None

Approved:

11/01710/F & 11/01711/LB Hindle, Turnstile House, The Rock, Barford St Michael, demolition of outbuilding and garden wall, replacing with one and a half storey extension with glazed link to original house; re-opening of existing blocked up internal doorway.

Notice of Intent TCA:

12/00080/TCA – Dodwell, 2 Rock Close, Barford St Michael; T1 Fell Ash; T2 fell unidentified species. One Councillor objected to the ash tree being felled, 6 Councillors had no objections.

Any Other Business

Cllr Best asked why the grass verge in Church Lane, Barford St John was not included in the grass cutting schedule. This was historic but the Clerk was asked to obtain a quotation from Thomas Fox for carrying out work in this area.

Cllr Styles reported that recently there had been a constant stream of tankers emptying waste into the Thames Water tank by the stream. There had been a sewage problem in another village and waste was being transported to Barford St Michael for disposal. The Clerk was asked to write to Thames Water to ascertain exactly what the site is designated for and whether or not this situation was just a one-off.

Cllr Hobbs reported that a number of heavy vehicles are coming down Fernhill into the village. Councillors need to consider whether or not Highways should be asked to put a weight restriction on this road.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held at 7.30pm on 10th April in the Village Hall.

The next Parish Council meeting is on 2nd May 2012.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.48pm.

BARFORD OPEN GARDENS

With Scarecrows too!!!
On Sunday 20th May
2pm till 6pm

Seven lovely gardens will be open



Scarecrow
competitions for
Children and Adults

**Summer bedding plus a
range of
Vegetable and perennial
plants for sale at bargain
prices at Stonehaven.**



Scrumptious Teas

Contributions of cakes and/or plants
Gratefully received

All proceeds to village charities

Contact : Gunilla 01295 720 521
Or Annie Radford 01869 338 338

**Open Gardens Scarecrow
Competition**
Sunday, 20th 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

THE BARFORDS JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

SUNDAY 3RD JUNE.

11.30am special JUBILEE SERVICE AT ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

1pm in WEST CLOSE - THE BIG LUNCH. Prepare yourselves a lovely Jubilee Picnic and get yourselves over to WEST CLOSE AT 1PM for an afternoon of community, friendship and fun including the official planting of the JUBILEE OAK TREE.

The THAMES RIVER PAGEANT starts at 2pm on TV.

MONDAY 4TH JUNE

10.30am - NATURE WALK (of approx 1 hour) led by Basil Butler starting from the Village Hall. Children and Dogs welcome.

HOME FOR LUNCH

1.30pm till 4pm

FUN & GAMES FOR ALL AGES In The Field Behind The George Pub (courtesy of Dave & Sue Jelfs)

DUCK RACE

DECORATED WHEELBARROW COMPETITION on the

theme *“Jubilee*



Meets The Olympics”



CROWN COMPETITION organised by Rainbows

So get yourselves ready for **Rounders**, the **Duck Race**, **3 Legged-Race**, **Sack Race**, **Egg ‘n’ Spoon**, and more....

A film of **The Coronation** will be showing all afternoon in the Hall, **The George** will be open for drinks and two **bouncy castles** will add to the fun.

4pm CHILDREN'S JUBILEE TEA PARTY and presentation of **JUBILEE MUGS** for children aged 16 and under.

6.30pm JUBILEE BBQ with **BAR** at the Village Hall.

7.30pm CEILIDH, with music from **‘The Old Mettle Dance Band’**.

TUESDAY 5TH JUNE ...a relaxing day for villagers to enjoy as they wish.....

ORGANISED BY VILLAGERS FOR VILLAGERS

Congratulations!



To
George and Freda Parker
of High Street
who celebrate their
DIAMOND WEDDING
ANNIVERSARY
on 10th May

THE FUTURE OF OUR CHURCHES

AFTER ALL THE WONDERFUL support the village residents gave when we had to repair the Barford St Michael church tower, the parish finances remained fairly stable until this



year. However, we are now dealing with various major repairs which will cost us nearly £10,000 even after receiving a grant. As a result our two Barford churches are facing an imminent financial crisis. Our resources are so depleted that at the current rate of income and routine expenditure we will not be able to function beyond the next 18 months. The running costs of the churches have to be raised within the villages. There are no central funds and grants are only given as a contribution to projects.



We are therefore holding a **meeting in the village hall on Tuesday 29th May at 7.30 pm** to explain the situation more fully and to explore ways of improving it. Please put the date in your diary and come along to listen and to give us your thoughts and ideas.

The **future of the churches** is very much in your hands and we would like to hear your views.

Cubby Brett, Churchwarden
01869 338300

Diamond Wedding Congratulations
also go to

Alan and Gillian Maddison
of High Street

Who received the following message from Her
Majesty The Queen



I am so pleased to know that you are celebrating your Diamond Wedding anniversary on 19th April, 2012. I send my congratulations and best wishes to you on such a special occasion

Market Profits

From 2009-2011

Donated to village causes

Profits from the markets held during the above years have been donated as follows:

£100 for Jubilee Celebrations
£200 to Hall Windows Appeal
and

£636.56 to the Shepherds and Bakehouse Trust

Profits from future markets are being given to Village Hall funds, so please support your village market and help to maintain our hall.

The Warriner School Newsletter

I HAVE WRITTEN BEFORE about how incredibly lucky we are to have a farm within our school and this term the arrival of lambing has reinforced this in spades. We will also be opening our newly completed farm shop in May. Opening hours will be 3-5pm every Wednesday and 11-1 every Saturday commencing on Wednesday 2nd May so please come along to buy beef, pork, lamb and eggs.

As ever, the students have been up to all sorts of amazing things this term. Highlights include two of our students being shortlisted for the Saachi art prize in February and, although they did not win they both went to the exhibition and received wonderful comments about their work. Our Year 9 Youth Speak team under the guidance of Mrs Hopkins have won both the local and county finals. They go on to represent us at the regional finals and we all wish them very good luck. A large number of our students take part in Young Enterprise (usually aimed at post 16 students) and they have been touring Oxfordshire and Warwickshire making vast amounts of money on the way.

The news about our sixth form continues to be good. The County Council cabinet meeting on Valentine's Day debated whether to allow us to proceed to formal consultation and the vote was unanimous in our favour. Formal consultation is a four week process and will commence in May. Once again, I will be asking for your support nearer the time. The plans for our two-storey 6th form building are gathering pace and will be available to view very soon. The building will include 5 classrooms, a large common room, a study area & ICT suite and a kitchen area. Those Year 11 students who have chosen to stay on to study a combination of A level Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Maths, Further Maths or a diploma in Animal Management or Agriculture will take a lead in choosing the furnishings and colour scheme for the building.

We have the opportunity to offer teacher training places on School Direct in conjunction with Warwick University. School Direct is a new 12 month training route into teaching which allows you to choose the group of schools in which you train, with an expectation of employment at the end. If you or anyone you know is considering a career in teaching Design Technology, English, Geography or History then please let me know.

There has been so much going on this term and I hope this gives you a flavour of how we continue to go from strength to strength.

Dr Annabel Kay - Headteacher



Fernhill Club News

ON 11TH APRIL 15 MEMBERS had a cookery demonstration by Kathryn Wheeler, followed by tasting all the items – spicy rice, pinwheel pizzas, apple charlotte and orange upsidedown cake. We can't wait till she comes again! The 25th was our AGM.



On May 9th we are looking forward to hearing from Alan Brewer, an air steward, who says he started work in Downing Street, Farnham and finished at No. 10 Downing Street, London.

On May 16th we are hoping to go to Banbury College for a meal.

On 23rd May ladies from Woodstock Museum are coming over to tell us about 'The Country Village', they usually bring lots of artifacts to talk about and to show us.

Coming up we are expecting Mr. Paul Cann from Age UK, a strawberry tea, and Tim Williams giving us a talk about wills entitled 'where there's a will there's a way'.

We hope that our new programme will be ready before then. New members welcome to join us on Wednesdays at 2.30pm in the village hall.

Mary Ashbridge 01295 252298

"Creating Change".

A talk

at the Adderbury Quaker Meeting house
on Sunday 17th June at 3pm.

Banbury and Evesham Quakers invite you to the Adderbury Gathering, our annual public talk at the Adderbury Quaker Meeting House at 3pm on Sunday 17th June, followed by afternoon tea. All welcome - no charge.

What is it about some times, places and company which help us to change? We hear from a speaker from Woodbrooke (a Quaker Study Centre in Birmingham), exploring how to create an environment where people can change.

This Quaker Meeting House is one of the oldest in the country - built in 1675 - and a very special place. It's off Horn Hill Road in West Adderbury - on the path to the Adderbury Cemetery.

For further information please phone Maria 01869 347179 (evenings).

Deddington & District History Society

Muriel Pilkington on the Mitfords in the Cotswolds

THEIR ORIGINS were not of our parish, but from the village of Mitford [= middle of the ford] near Morpeth in the eighth century and built on a mound in a loop of rivers. Had a knack of getting land and marrying well—the two not always unconnected, but they were not always good at being on the right side politically. Its unusual pentangle stone ruins still stand and were there before the arrival of William the Conqueror. They were twice evicted from the castle, in 1216 by King John for their part in the Magna Carta, and 60 years later for once again being on the wrong side. The Mitford shield, oddly, includes four moles, a play on the neighbouring township of Molesden.

In the eighteenth century they moved to Mitford Hall where they stayed until the twentieth century and some of the Redesdales still live in that area. They were benefactors of the church and endowed a local priory, which finally fell into disuse and now belongs to English Heritage.

In 1667 John Mitford came to London to help rebuild the City after the Great fire and was responsible for the new Royal Exchange [not the current building] and on the proceeds built a Padian mansion at Exbury where the family lived until the early nineteenth century when they sold it to the Rothschilds. His eldest son, John Mitford became Speaker and was made First Lord Redesdale in 1800 while his wife brought Batsford House into the family and they moved there in 1808. His son, also John, Disraeli upped him to an Earl and he founded the Heythrop.

He died childless, and the title with him and the estate moved sideways to Algernon 'Barty' Mitford, also ennobled as 1st Lord Redesdale 'of the second creation'. He was much involved in public works, but also married well and had nine children. He hated Batsford, pulled it down and rebuilt it as an Elizabethan mansion with all the accoutrements.

His children [and one illegitimate one by his sister-in-law] included Clement who was a less profligate manager of the estate. The second of four sons, David, was in the Boer War, where he lost his lung, but still lived to be 80. Three of the sons in turn inherited the title. The Mitford girls' father was invalided out and got a job as accountant at *The Lady* and married the boss' daughter.

Nancy, the first of the gels, was born at Batsford as were the next three. They continued as benefactors of the church, largely restoring Batsford church. Of three brothers, who went to the First World War Clement was killed and as a result

David, the girls' father, inherited the title and the expense of Batsford. They started a chicken farm, selling the eggs to Harrods, but sold the house as soon as possible after the war and moved to Astall manor where the children grew up, Debbo being born there. There was a combination of home education and boarding school: Unity, perhaps showing early signs of being tricky was sent away. Their church was the lovely Swinbrook Church where 'Farve' controlled everything, down to the length of the sermon and the collection.

David built the new Swinbrook House, now called South Lawn. The design was almost exclusively his, and the family hated it, marking the start of the end of the parental relationship. They sold Swinbrook in 1936 [David was not a money maker and gold prospecting in Canada had not been a success] and moved to High Wycombe, to a house belonging to Muv, his wife Sydney. They also owned Inckenneth House on an island off Mull and another in Rutland Square near Hyde Park and it was from here the girls 'came out'.

Nancy was better at earning money than her husband Peter Rodd and turned to writing with great success and is still a funny read. She decamped to Paris and had an ill-fated affair. Pamela had a career managing estates and married Derek Jackson [it was not mentioned, but they lived at Rignell, where the Mosely's stayed briefly when released under regulation 18b]. Brother Tom wanted to be a concert pianist, but became a barrister. He admired Hitler, so would not fight in Europe, but volunteered to fight in the Far East and died of war wounds in Burma. Diana had been the first to marry, to a Guinness, but she fell for Oswald Mosley, whose mistress she became and when his wife died married, at Goebbel's House. It was Unity, besotted with Hitler, who attempted suicide, and was brought back to England on a special train for her mother to nurse her at Swinbrook. Jessica, the communist, eloped with Esmond Romily. Later Esmond, from the USA, crossed into Canada and volunteered for the RCAF and was killed. Debbo, the sporty one, married Andrew Cavendish, who in 1950 inherited the Duke of Devonshire's title and Chatsworth, as his brother had been killed, and pioneered the opening of stately homes.

Our next meeting is at 7.30 on 9th May at the Windmills Centre when Matt Armitage will talk about Tooley's boatyard.

Deddington PTA News

THE ANNUAL QUIZ was a great success. Quiz masters Al Collins and Peter Hogben did a wonderful job and kept us scratching our heads for most of the night! Sam and Ed Sinclair made a fantastic chilli for us all and the PTA committee ladies treated us to some mouthwatering desserts. Stella O'Neill and her team ran the bar and Mark Swadling kept us in sound and vision. Huge thanks go to all involved. We are still waiting for final figures, but we hope to have raised in excess of £1,000, so well done everyone!

The bake sale held at school was incredibly well supported and we were genuinely touched by the huge amount of beautiful cakes and biscuits that were donated. The children had a fantastic feast during the afternoon, meaning parents didn't have much left to buy after school! Still, everything went and we raised a truly tremendous £225. Our sincere thanks go to everyone who donated a 'bake' and to the Year 5 and 6 girls who helped out on the day.

Sadly, the Deddington Walk is taking a year off this year, but the committee promises it will be back next year as usual.

The next date to ensure you have in your calendar is our annual fete, which will be held on the school field on Saturday June 16. We are continuing with last year's timings – 12.30pm till 3.30pm – so make sure you don't miss it!

This promises to be an exciting event with sheep racing, the ever-popular quad bikes, 'Lane Change Digital Scalextric Racing', face painting and much, much more. Amazing Animals are coming along again too – what will they bring this year?

Each class will be organising and running a stall as usual so do come and support our children and have a great time with lots of fun! The PTA is also dreaming up some great new side stalls. The barbecue will be ready and sizzling – just in time for lunch – and then why not try one of our delicious cream teas later in the afternoon, while watching one of the events in the arena? Of course, we will have our usual licensed bar (including Pimms!)

We look forward to welcoming you to the fete and thank you all for your continued support.

Melissa Chadderton, Chair
01869 349936

melissa@rhubarbcreative.demon.co.uk



May 26th 2012 Harold and Maude 15

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.

Missed it on the Big Screen, or want to see it again? Made in 1971 this is a dark, comedy film directed by Hal Ashby. Ranked 45 on American Film Institutes list of 100 Funniest Movies of all time. Starring Ruth Gordon and Bud Cort it tells the story of a rich, young man obsessed with all aspects of death. His life is changed forever when he meets lively septuagenarian Maude at a stranger's funeral. This was to have been shown last November but had to be postponed.

This will be the LAST film of our Season.

Hope you enjoy it.

1st Deddington Scout Group Cubs

OUR VICTORIOUS TEAM from the district Scrapheap Challenge competed in the county event coming a very creditable 3rd, well done to all of them.

We have tackled the Scientist badge over the past weeks, the Cubs made volcanoes out of paper plates & glass jars (geology) before mixing bicarb, paint & vinegar for the eruption (chemistry), they dissected a daffodil (botany) & grew cress on cotton wool.

We are fast entering camping season & are making plans for the District Camp at Horley in May based on athletics & Olympics.

Jo Churchyard C.S.L. 338071

jochurchyard@hotmail.com

Scouts

AT THE END OF LAST TERM, some of the Scouts made a number of fire beaters from broomsticks & carpet, useful to take when cooking outdoors & at camp. We also took on the job of delivering the leaflets for the low cost housing survey, the boys counted, folded & delivered around 900 leaflets, which will count towards their community award.

We took advantage of the free swimming at Spiceball as an Easter treat, a bit of messing about combined with testing for the 1st & 2nd swimmer badge.

Pete Churchyard S.L. 338071

pete.churchyard@btinternet.com

Barford Green Garden Club Notes From Our Potting Shed

ON A BEAUTIFUL MARCH morning, nine members visited Janet Cropley's garden, **Hill Grounds**, near Evenley. Janet visited us in the autumn to talk about winter interest, and now we explored her lovely garden and admired the yew walks and hellebores, flowering shrubs and a productive vegetable plot, while Janet served coffee and answered our questions. She also dug up pieces of plants on request, in return for a donation to her favourite charity, Herefordshire Association for the Blind, so several of us came away with roots and shoots to plant in our own gardens.

That same day, a **Willow Garden Structures workshop** was held at Gunilla's house. Our tutor Sue Benenson, a sculptor, was excellent. Thirteen people spent a very sunny afternoon in the garden, building obelisks, arches and other plant structures. There was much fun, a lot of laughter and great technical skills were learned. Such skills came to good use when everyone tried to take their structures home in the backs of their cars and trucks! Another workshop could be organised next year if enough people were interested.

Sarah Best will be hosting our annual **Plant Swap on Thursday May 17th at Street Farm, Barford St John at 7 p.m.**

All members are welcome – bring a plant, or plants, and take others away. It's a great chance to try out new species and to swap vegetable seedlings at this early stage of the season. Please bring a bottle with you (alcoholic or otherwise).

This will be closely followed by the

Open Gardens and the Scarecrow Competition on Sunday May 20th.

We hope to have a range of gardens open to view, including some new ones, and if last year's very varied and enterprising scarecrows are anything to go by, there will be a lot to see and admire. Teas will be served at the Manor, there will be a plant stall at Stonehaven, and we're hoping for a repeat of last year's lovely weather. If you're willing to open your garden, please contact Gunilla or Annie; to enter a scarecrow, please let Maggie know by Friday May 18th for judging on Saturday; and if you can help by making tea, washing up or contributing a cake, or by donating plants to the stall, we'd be very grateful.

On **Wednesday 25th July**, we are invited to **Ball Colegrave Trial Grounds**, in West Adderbury, to see their spectacular displays of fruit and

vegetables grown from seed. Admission is £2 and the grounds are open from 4 to 8 p.m.

We are planning a visit to **Rousham** on the afternoon on **Thursday 16th August** – look for more details in the next newsletter – and have also booked **Timothy Walker** of Oxford Botanic Gardens to give a talk on **Tuesday November 6th**. We hope to see you at some or all of our events!

Tip of the month: Don't be in too much of a hurry to put your tender plants outside – remember last year's hard frost at the beginning of May!

Phone numbers for our events: Gunilla Treen, 01295 720521, and Annie Radford, 01869 338338
For scarecrow entries: Maggie Eden, 01869 338835



Spade and Fork



Welcome!

To

Helen Taylor

who has just moved in
to Church Street

We hope Helen will enjoy
Our village life



Barford Village Market

Saturday, 19th May

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



The Mitford Sisters
A Talk by
Gillian Cane

7.30pm Wednesday 9th May
In The Village Hall

Visitors welcome to join us £3.00
At our WI Meeting

1st Deddington Guides



A BIG THANK YOU to those who supported our puppet show entertainment. Those who came or made donations £100 was raised ... for our chosen charities – Cancer Research, Katharine House Hospice and Great Ormond St Childrens Hospital. Many guides made thoughtful and mature mini-presentations about the charities of their choice, before voting. Well done guides.

Our village quiz kept us on our toes and we loved the Easter Egg hunt in Mr & Mrs Bouveries beautiful garden setting.

The guides were busy during the Mothering Sunday service providing colour parties helping with the collection, giving out posies and taking some to Featherton House.

The patrols continue to work well together – planning their own activities and having great fun together.

Preparations are underway for our hectic outdoor term we are planning cookouts, shelter building, bat walks, hikes, camps, stream walking (will the stream be there?) and taking part in District patrol overnight competitions and Jubilee celebrations!

Maggie Rampley 01295 810069
Marian Trinder 01869 340806
Catherine Blackburn 01295 258008

1st Deddington Brownies

LAST TERM WE JOINED other youth groups from the village for the



Mother's Day service in Deddington Church, and at Brownies we made cards and presents for our Mums. Following the Easter break, in May we are looking forward to taking our bikes to Brownies and to doing our Cyclists Badges.

Brownies meets on Monday evenings at the Windmill Centre and is open to girls aged 7-10 years old. If you would like to put a name on the waiting list or to find out more please contact Brown Owl (Anne Kent) on the1stdeddingtonowls@hotmail.co.uk

Lucy Squires

The Chicken Chronicles
(A Memoir)
By Alice walker



"What do Chickens like to do?"

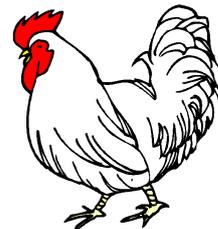
THERE MUST BE almost as many chickens as there are humans resident in Barford. And at this time of year, probably more eggs than the sum of both on any one day! So, this collection of short reminiscences – reflections – excerpts, from the life of Alice Walker, (author of *The Color Purple* - to use the correct American spelling) should find a warm reception in our community.

These 37 brief anecdotes combine information about compassionate chicken rearing, with Alice Walker's reflections and memories of her rural life.

"...I was astounded when a chicken strolled over and hopped up into my lap."

Although there is no evidence from their style, these approachable and characteristically warm pieces are taken from the author's blog. Each entry has a title, which despite the broadly chronological nature of the collection, tempts the reader to pick and mix – an added pleasure.

In conclusion, to answer the opening question, turn to the fourth anecdote ...



Trevor Arrowsmith
(The Chicken Chronicles is published by Weiden & Nicolson, London: 2011)

BARFORD'S BASH IN THE BARN

Sat July 14

The Silverfish, Shooter, plus band t.b.a.

Tickets £5 under 14s free

Barbeque and Bar

Manor Farm, Barford St Michael

Classic Car and Bike Show

Monday 7th May 2012
10.00 to 15.00

At Fritwell Village Hall
post code OX27 7QA



There is also an Auto Jumble, Craft Stalls, Book Stall, Tombola and refreshments available all day, including an ice cream van. Entry is free, to book a stall which is £5, contact **Bill Boyce** on **01869 346837**.

Bill would also like to hear from you. if you are intending to bring your car or motorbike to display

BARFORD ST MICHAEL CARPET BOWLS CLUB
FINANCIAL REPORT YEAR ENDING 31.3.2012

<u>INCOME</u>	£
OPENING BALANCE	1055.99
MEMBERS SUBSCRIPTIONS	425.00
MISCELLANEOUS	5.00
OTHER (WRONGLY CREDITED TO ACCOUNT BY GILL SMITH)	<u>470.00</u>
TOTAL =	1955.99
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	
HIRE OF HALL	450.00
REFRESHMENTS	22.00
DONATION TO BARFORD V. HALL WINDOWS APPEAL	50.00
MISCELLANEOUS	7.50
OTHER (REPAYMENT OF CREDIT ERROR TO GILL SMITH)	<u>470.00</u>
TOTAL =	<u>999.50</u>
<u>SUNDRY DEBTORS</u>	= 0.00
<u>LIABILITIES</u>	
TO HIRE OF VILLAGE HALL(10.1.2012 TO 27.3.2012)	= 216.00
<u>NET POSITION AT YEAR END-31.3.2012</u>	= <u>£740.49</u>
A.HAND	
TREASURER	
1.4.2012	

Banbury Rural Neighbourhood Team

Team News

PC Craig O'LEARY is coming to the end of his



5 month attachment on the Banbury Rural Neighbourhood Team and is due to leave at the end of April. He will be moving to the proactive cycle team still based at Banbury Police Station and we wish him well in his new role.

Auto Crime - YOU SAID....WE DID

On Friday 2nd March, Officers from the Neighbourhood team worked with volunteers from the Warriner School and our NAG Chairman to conduct a crime reduction operation in Bodicote. During the operation, approximately 14 vehicles were found to be vulnerable to being targeted by criminals, the owners were identified and advice given.

Rural Thefts - YOU SAID....WE DID

On Wednesday 28th March Officers from the rural team and roads policing department conducted a high visibility Automatic Number Plate Recognition Operation on the Milton Road in Bloxham. This operation was set up to target cross boarder criminals stealing metal from our rural communities. During the operation 1 vehicle was seized for having no insurance and two motorists were given fixed penalty notices for using mobile phones. No scrap metal dealers were seen or stop checked during the operation.

Crime News

Thames Valley police has just produced its annual performance figures. Once again this Local Police Area has achieved outstanding success and we have delivered all the performance objectives we were asked to achieve.

HAVE YOUR SAY

This month we conducted 2 Have Your Say meetings at Deddington Library & Hook Norton Font Cafe.

The following dates have been arranged for Have Your Say meetings:

20:15 – 21:15hrs – Thursday 26th April, Bloxham Bridge Club, Parish Rooms, Bloxham

Contact Us

Should you have any problems or concerns please phone the Thames Valley Police non-emergency number on 101 or email BanburyRuralNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk. In an emergency please dial 999. For more team information visit our website at: www.thamesvalley.police.uk

Deddington PFSU and Village Nursery

WE MADE THE MOST of the warm weather before the Easter holiday. The PFSU



children planted the garden with flowers and vegetables, and the Nursery held an Easter bonnet parade. Thank you to Kate Oldroyd who cleared the PFSU vegetable garden ready for planting, and to all the Nursery parents for some amazingly imaginative hats! Holiday Club ran during the Easter holiday and was much enjoyed by the children who attended. Looking ahead, our Sports Day will be held on Friday 15th June, the PFSU will be leading the '1st Sunday' service in Deddington Church on July 1st, and our major fund-raising party is on Saturday 7th July.

Lucy Squires, 337484

PIT STOP CATERING

@

The Barford Village Shop



**Fresh Fish & Chips
Burgers, Pies & Specials**

**Every Saturday
5.30pm till 8.00pm**

Bloxfest

The 2012 Bloxfest takes place on 12 May. This year there will be four stages around Bloxham with live music from local bands starting at 11am and going through until about 11pm. Added to that will be craft and food stalls, Morris teams and loads more. Highlights this year include Linda Watkins on the Randall's Acoustic Stage, Stone Cold Mary on the Elephant Stage and the Paperback Writers on the Red Lion Stage. And it's all free. More details at www.bloxfest.org.uk

Tony Ecclestone, Communications officer
Cherwell District Council, 01295 227942
tony.ecclestone@cherwell-dc.gov.uk
www.cherwell.gov.uk

Deddington CE Primary School

DURING MAY the big focus tends to be SATs, Year 2 and Year 6 are working very hard at the moment and hopefully their hard work will be rewarded. In Year 6 we are also still remembering our very special residential trip to Yenworthy Lodge in Exmoor, it was a glorious week and such good fun.

Alex Clarke and Alice Collins in Year 6 would like to share their thoughts on the week:

‘Yenworthy was one of the most memorable and challenging weeks in Year 6- both mentally and physically. After an eventful 4 hour journey to get there we went straight onto the ropes course, followed by an evening walk across the moors to do some star gazing- in fact we were the last class to be able to get a glimpse of Venus from Exmoor, it will not be seen again for another 200 years! We even jumped borders, from Somerset to Devon! The following day was business day which focused on being a good team player and when needed a good leader too. The following 2 days we went outside the centre- we went on a moorland expedition, where we made fires and toasted



marshmallows; went coasteering over and under rocks (and got very wet); climbed cliffs on the beach and went rock pooling. On the final day we did the Lyn Valley River walk which was beautiful. Every evening was full of activities too such as orienteering- in the dark! We learned so much and enjoyed it at the same time; the instructors were brilliant and really encouraged us to do our best and the food was always mouth-watering and scrumptious- some of us even had 5 helpings in the evenings!’

Here are some more thoughts about Yenworthy from Year 6-

“An experience of a lifetime” Alfie

“Why did it have to end?” Emily

“I wish I could go back there” Victoria

“I would recommend it to everyone” Fynn

“It was fantastic and I wish it never ended” Jorgie

I think the class will remember their Yenworthy experience for a long time, they were absolutely fabulous, they met challenges head on, they laughed a lot and they were incredibly supportive of each other. I felt very honoured to be their teacher. Now let’s just get SATs out of the way...

Mrs Jane Cross, Deputy Head



Katharine House News

Open Gardens

Katharine House Hospice's own grounds and gardens will be open to the public on Sunday 27th May from 2pm-5pm. Teas and delicious home-made refreshments will be available as well as the hospice stall, plant sale and raffle.



Annual Spring Fair and Plant Sale

This year, our 20th Annual Spring Fair and Plant sale will be held on Tuesday 15th May, between 9am - 3pm at The Great Barn, Aynho (OX17 3AY). As well as fantastic plants, there will be home accessories, furniture, leather goods, gifts, jewellery, craft items, clothing, food items and much more! Entry is £3 and light refreshments will be available for a small charge.

Dates for your Diary!

Midnight Walk

Our sixth Midnight Walk will take place on Saturday 23 June at Banbury Cricket Club, Bodicote. Application forms are now available - these will be included in our spring newsletter. Forms can be obtained by calling Fundraising on (01295) 812161 or download a form from our website at www.khh.org.uk

Supermarket Collection Days

Do you have 1½ hours to hold a tin at our annual supermarket collection days in June? We will be collecting at Sainsburys on 15th June and at Tesco on 21st June. If you can help Please contact Wendy in Fundraising on (01295) 812161 or email wendy.crosse@khh.org.uk

Hospice patrons Lord and Lady Heseltine will be opening their gardens and arboretum in aid of the Hospice on Saturday 6th October

Tickets are £10 each and must be purchased in advance from the Fundraising Office (01295) 812161 and application forms are available to download from our website at www.khh.org.uk

We're on Facebook!

Our new Facebook page is now up and running and has regular updates about fundraising events, lottery results and general Hospice news! You can find us at www.facebook.com/katharinehouse.

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



The Story Museum celebrates and demonstrate the

power of stories to inspire learning, especially for the young. Since 2005 it has been working with more than 10,000 children, parents and teachers each year, many in disadvantaged areas. In 2014 it will open a new world centre of children's literature and storytelling in the heart of Oxford. The Museum's patrons are Philip Pullman, Michael Morpurgo, Michael Rosen and Jacqueline Wilson. The Story Museum is a pioneering charity and not-for-profit company.

The Story Museum, Rochester House, 42 Pembroke Street, Oxford OX1 1BP www.storymuseum.org.uk

Dark Angels

Dark Angels brings together business writers keen to keep their creativity sharp. Set up by John Simmons, Stuart Delves and Jamie Jauncey, Dark Angels runs workshops, courses and master classes which look at how to use words more engagingly and imaginatively within the business environment. www.dark-angels.org.uk

OTHER WORLDS

Making room for stories

Exhibition of intriguing collaborations between more than 20 pairs of writers and artists, turning an atmospheric, dilapidated building - home of the future Story Museum - into a giant storytelling compendium, with a surprise around every corner. In the heart of literary and historic Oxford.

May 1 - 27th (inclusive) 2012. For all ages. £3 entry for adults and children. On the door. Under 2s free. Special May Day opening.

The Story Museum, Rochester House, 42 Pembroke St, Oxford OX1 1BP

www.storymuseum.org.uk/otherworlds

May 1 - 27th (inclusive) 2012: Thurs 1-7pm; Fri 1-7pm, Sat 10am - 5pm, Sun 10am - 4pm.

Special May Day opening 9am - 3pm.

Admission:

£3 entry for adults and children. Under 2s free. Tickets on the door.

Visit our website - to enjoy books and stories at home, at school, everywhere <http://www.storymuseum.org.uk>

We are now also on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)

The Story Museum is part of the [Happy Museum](#) project, reimagining museums for a changing world.

Cath Nightingale

www.storymuseum.org.uk/otherworlds

The Story Museum, Rochester House, 42 Pembroke St, Oxford OX1 1BP

Vegetable & Fruit Classes

Barford Village Show Schedule
Saturday 11 August 2012

Cut Flower Classes

1	Three Beetroot, with tops cut to 10cms (4ins) approx.
2	Three Carrots, long, with tops cut to 10cms (4ins) 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, Raspberry jam, no Cream
22	Four Meringues
23	A Banana Cake (men only) Recipe in Barford News
24	A Jar of Jam
25	A Jar of Marmalade
26	A small pot of Lemon Curd
27	A Jar of Chutney
28	Sloe Gin (decanted into small bottle)

Flower Arranging Classes

29	An arrangement in a box
30	An arrangement with herbs
31	A miniature arrangement 10cms (4ins) overall
32	An arrangement for the Jubilee

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, no oasis)

Crafts

(NB Crafts must not have been entered previously in the Show)

41	A Handmade Card
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

(13cmx 18cm or 5" x 7")

47	A Jubilee Photo
48	Summertime in Barford
49	A Gate
50	A Digitally Enhanced Photograph

Children's Classes

7 Years and Under (age to be stated on all entries)

51	A Colouring Picture (available from the Post Office)
52	A Handmade Crown
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	4 Decorated Cupcakes
58	Design for an Olympic Medal
59	A drawing or painting (any subject, any medium)
60	You Made It, Let's See It (Handmade article not covered in other classes)

NATURE NOTES 105

DAWN OF MARCH 1ST ROSE on a dense fog with visibility down to around 100m. Overnight temperature had dropped to -2° so early morning was somewhat 'nippy'. The fog slowly burned off to produce a mild, still day of 11.5° that had the Green Woodpeckers in various places laughing with pleasure. Another frosty night of -1.5° preceded another foggy dawn followed by day-long hazy sunshine and more Green Woodpecker laughter, accompanied by occasional 'keck'ing from a Great Spotted Woodpecker. Mist started to form pre-sunset with a quick fall in temperature, but not below 2.5° overnight. At 5.45am on the 3rd, the Rooks were just waking up on Steepness and cawing complainingly at the early morning murk and rain. A sunny day of 13.5° followed with a negligible SW breeze, but it turned showery again in late afternoon. The highlight of my day, unfortunately not in the Barfords, was to encounter *THREE* now very uncommon, small farmland birds singing in a short stretch of roadside hedgerow near Chipping Norton. Corn Buntings! Their last Barfords locality was amongst the scrub and long grass of the old runways on St. John airfield and also nearby hedgerows. Now rarely seen, they are, in my opinion, the victims of many modern cutting and tidying-up practices and implements, both agricultural and civic, the latter suburbanising rural roads by intensive, full-width, verge mowing. Birds of similar habitat, such as many finches, buntings and warblers are also fast declining because of:-

- a) the fertilising of old grazing meadows
- b) overgrazing by sheep in all pastures
- c) the mass trimming of hedgerows by rotary flail (often at inappropriate times)
- d) the cutting of headlands, right into the hedge bases, particularly by rotary bladed cutters which obliterates early stages of much wildlife.
- e) the wholesale full-width cutting of roadside verges and hedges. Mowing a single swathe – full verge width where drivers' vision demands it – is necessary, but otherwise for the sake of wayside wildflowers, and creatures from tiny invertebrates to top predators, *please stop trying to suburbanise our country verges into lawns!*

Well, that's my moan over for today, so lets go back to early March, which saw the return of the Swans, with last year's cygnet, to the fishing moats (and the yard for free dinners) at Manor Farm. Meanwhile, the Canada Geese are there and they are aggressively territorial, so we shall have to wait and see if the Swans can hold sway. The 4th dawned with rain on a very cold NW wind, followed by a period of wet snow in late morning.



Afternoon showers followed as the wind veered N bringing a cold (0°) night, drifting cloud and a moderate wind.

The next three days were characterised by a NW wind, high and cold on the 5th, negligible on the 6th and mild on the 7th with light rain. This turned to bright sun by 11am quickly succeeded by high blustery storms delivering heavy showers from banks of cloud. Day temperatures rose from 8° to 10° but nights were variable, -4° , 4° and -1° .

Prime Merlin spotters Steve Cox and Pip Rogers notified a female dashing along the Bloxham road by the airfield on the 5th, otherwise all was quiet and Nature seemed to be holding back.

On the 8th the wind backed to W (with slight variations) and stayed there until the 22nd. Day temperatures ranged mainly from 10° to 15° with a high of 15.5° on the 11th and a night-time low of 8° on the 13th.

Bas Butler reported a Red Kite drifting around the allotments area on the 8th and on the 9th I picked up a Kestrel over Spring Hill farm drive. As I drove slowly down the Park I became aware of something running through the dead leaves on the verge under the Chestnut trees. When I got to within a few metres I realised it was a pair of Grey Partridges. They were the same colour as the dead leaves, and as I drew level with them (now *only two metres* away) they slipped through the hedgebottom and into the growing cereal. So tame, they must have been 'put down' for shooting purposes; let's hope they survive to nest and increase our so scarce native population!

On the 11th, our warmest day of the year so far, I recorded a Peacock butterfly, three Buff-tailed Bumblebees and even a few *Eristalis* Hoverflies in my garden (the 'wild patch', naturally!).

By now, a large, active high pressure area was above the U.K. It coincided with a peak of the Sun's 11-year 'weather' cycle, huge solar flares erupting toward the Earth. Extensive displays of the Northern Lights were expected; they didn't occur, at least not for us in the South Midlands, as there was persistent night-time cloud cover).

The 12th dawned on a dense fog which thinned moderately, but remained thick on the hills. This was the third heavy fog of the month and I was minded by the ancient saying 'Fogs in March is Frosts in May'. In other words, we a supposed to get the same number and intensity of frosts in May as we got in March – so, beware your tender garden plants come May!

Mrs. Sam Harding watched two Great Spotted Woodpeckers in her garden. Very likely a pair, these may be the same birds that nest around the allotments area. Also that day, I noticed that

immature jumping Zebra Spiders, and some Crab Spiders were starting to appear on warm surfaces, the Crab Spiders being too immature to identify.

The next three mornings were again foggy, the 13th with day-long mist and drizzle, but that didn't stop a Tawny Owl from calling before dawn on Hempton Hills.

In the clear night air, the planets Jupiter and especially Venus, were brilliant against the darkening afterglow of sunset, climaxing in a conjunction of the two on the 12th/13th, but the Aurorae remained elusive.

The 13th and 14th had such slight air movement that the eight weather vanes on Deddington Church were all pointing in different directions! Despite a little sun and a raw cold wind, the heavy fog of the 15th was rising and falling all day, but it didn't deter a frequently seen pair of Muntjac deer from making an appearance at St. John, whilst at St. Michael one of the Green Woodpecker pairs were noisy at the Old Vicarage.

The next five days were quite variable – some sunshine, some showers, and predawn frosts down to -3.5° . However, the lengthening daylight hours and rising temperatures brought more wildlife out from its lethargy and slumbers. (Including me!).

The Cherry Plum (some say Bullace) was now in full bloom. Larger, pure white flowers spread more sparsely on the twigs, open markedly earlier than Blackthorn. The latter displays an extremely dense mass of blossom, before any leaves, and is (usually) sullied by a pinkish-brown caste from the calyces. Also starting to show its silky, silver blooms was the Pussy Willow. These male blossoms, as they mature, become covered with a mass of golden pollen. This of course is highly attractive to early bees and flies, but for me, the excitement lies in the number and variety of medium sized moths they attract at night. Most are quite common but rarely seen. Two examples are the Hebrew Character and Twin-spotted Quaker, (there are many 'Quakers' named so because of their subdued colours). A Twin-spotted flew to my bedroom light on the 19th. After inspection in the morning, I put him outside where he flew straight down, burying himself low under a Sage bush! He was a beautiful, soft pinkish-brown, quite uniform all-over, with twin black spots near the outer edge of each forewing – hence the name! Sadly, large numbers of moth species like these are in steep decline for reasons I have given earlier.

Other interesting, often endearing, insects coming on the wing are the Solitary Bees. They are small, often of the *Andrena* or *Osmia* genera and

many prefer to make and provision tunnels in lighter soils and rough places. Others use old nail holes – or hollow canes – as some of you know from providing proprietary 'bee-houses'.

Back with the birds, I was surprised by a male Sparrowhawk that flew in front of me, only 150mm above the Barford road, for some distance through Bloxham. He diverted at the Milton turn!

Brian Rogers's Goldfinch flock was now up to 50-plus individuals, and there was a small, welcome increase in House Sparrow numbers. Buzzard and Green Woodpecker were also noisy in their usual haunts across the parish. Finally, early on the 21st, Ian Hobday enjoyed the results of an incoming migration of Chiffchaffs, with the birds singing from every shrub, tree and hedgerow in the area, prior to dispersal. Marvellous!

By now a large high pressure area centred on the U.K. had become slow moving under the northward loop of the Jetstream. This result was several days of SE airflow which produced unseasonably warm day temperatures. The nights were cold with some early fog. One such was the 22nd; a hazy sunrise gave way to heat-haze on the meadows lifting slowly to the hill tops. A Sparrowhawk in Bloxham dashed over Courtington Lane, Buzzards called around Steepness, the Chiffchaffs were numerous but more widespread and I was relieved to find a few Yellow Hammers along Barley Lane. Next morning, very thick fog slowly burned off to give a day of 18° . The warmth brought out the first Small White and Brimstone butterflies. The 24th produced a misty sunrise, 18° again, and my first ginger Bumblebee of the year *B. pascuorum*. Light frost and a heavy dew greeted next day's dawn. The sun was hazy, the day was warm and three Buzzards soared over St. Michael as a Great-spotted Woodpecker drummed below Steepness. A clear, starry night gave frost (-2.5°) with 18° by day on the 26th. Night produced another visual feast as the new moon, Jupiter and Venus were all in very close proximity. The 27th was a similar day. By now the High was moving slowly away westward and the day temperatures rose to 20° . Green Woodpeckers replaced the Great-spotted below Steepness and Chiffchaffs continued their oh, so welcome little song. But the magic was passing. On the 30th, the day only reached 13.5° and a flock of 120 Fieldfare on the airfield sent out an uncomfortable reminder of winter. As March dwindled to a memory, the day was overcast, with a cold wind; it only achieved 11.5° , and the month disappeared in a frost of -4.5° . Meanwhile a thin green mist was covering most hedgerows!

Ron Knight