

BARFORD NEWS

NOVEMBER 2013

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Parish Council Notes

THE MEETING TOOK PLACE at 7.30pm on 2nd October 2013 at Barford Village Hall and was attended by Cllr Hobbs, Cllr Best, Cllr Bullard, Cllr Eden, Cllr Stiles, Cllr Turner and Cllr Woolgrove. Also attending were Mrs R Watts (Clerk).

Apologies for absence: District Cllr O'Sullivan.

Bridge – Mill Lane: The step on the far side of the bridge in Mill Lane is eroded and the Parish Clerk has reported the matter to Oxfordshire County Council. She has received confirmation that they will inspect the area.

Murreys Lane: Two large Leylandii at the top of Murreys Lane are causing some residents concern because they appear to be dangerous. The Parish Clerk has written Oxfordshire County Council Highways to enquire whether or not the trees belong to them or whether the trees are privately owned. She has received an acknowledgement that they will inspect the area.

Woodworms Hilton: The hedge alongside Woodworms Hilton was in need of being cut back because it was obscuring the view of traffic coming out of Lower Street. The Parish Clerk had written to the owner and he has dealt with the matter.

Invitation to County Councillor Fatemian: The Parish Clerk had written to County Councillor Fatemian once again a) asking for his comments on Oxfordshire County Council's proposed school transport changes and b) inviting him to attend monthly Parish Council meetings as his predecessor had done. Unfortunately she has still not received a reply from him. Councillors expressed their disappointment with the lack of response or contact from County Councillor Fatemian and asked the Parish Clerk to report their dissatisfaction to the Leader of Oxfordshire County Council and Sir Tony Baldry.

First Aid Courses/Defibrillator: Cllr Hobbs is still waiting for a formal quotation from Mr England.

Community First Responders: Community First Responders are volunteers who are trained and equipped by the ambulance service to answer certain types of medical emergencies in their local communities while the ambulance is on its way.

There is good evidence to suggest that if people are trained to help someone while the ambulance is on the way, more lives are saved and, because the volunteers operate in their neighbourhoods, there is every possibility they will arrive before the ambulance. The two day training course is free. Cllr Hobbs had put a notice in the Barford News asking for volunteers but so far he has not received any response.

Village Hall Request for Funding: The Parish Council had received a request from the Management Committee asking for funds towards a large programme of maintenance and other works. Councillors agreed that some financial support would be agreed once timescales, figures, grants and quotations have been submitted by the Committee.

Secretary of State's Decision on the Bloxham Planning Appeals: On 24 September the Secretary of State approved both the Mintondale Development's Appeal on land south of Milton Rd, Bloxham (85 houses) and Gladman Development's Appeal for land off Barford Road, Bloxham (75 houses).

Councillors noted that a decision is awaited for the following:

Appeal by Miller Homes – development in Tadmorton Road, Bloxham (60 houses).

Meeting of the Parish Council in January 2014: The January meeting in 2014 will fall on New Year's Day. It was unanimously agreed that the meeting should be cancelled.

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)**Planning Applications Received:**

13/01384/F Goodchild, 1 Red Roofs, Lower St, Barford St Michael. Timber framed car shelter adjacent to dwelling and timber summer house to rear of garden. No objections.

TCA Applications Received:

13/00268/TCA Miller, Rock Cottage, High St, Barford St Michael. T1 x Cotoneaster – fell. T2 x



Purple Plum, reduce height by 6' and shape, reduce northern crown by 5', reduce southern crown away from roof to give 4' clearance, crown thin by 5% and install cable brace to splitting limbs. T x 3 Hazel – remove branches from shed. No objections.

Planning Applications Withdrawn:

13/00964/F Maddan, Worton Grounds Farm. Creation of new farm access on to B4031. Withdrawn by applicant on 26 September.

Approved TCAs:

13/00219/TCA, Churchill, Applea Banks, Lower Street, Barford St Michael – T1 Walnut, remove 3 lower branches and crown thin 15%, Granted 18th September 2013.

13/00209/TCA Elvidge, The Old Post Office, High St, Barford St Michael, T1 & T2 x fir – fell, T3 Acer Drumundi – prune back by 30%, Granted 18th September 2013.

Any Other Business: Volunteers had recently gone to West Close to pick up dog faeces left behind by inconsiderate dog owners and numerous bags had been filled. This is an area where children play and dog owners must clean up after their animals. Details of inconsiderate owners not cleaning up after their animals should be sent to the Parish Clerk. These details will be passed Cherwell District Council. Please also respect farm fields in Barford St John.

Oxfordshire School Bus Action Group' is willing to speak to an open village meeting.

Parish Councillors are invited to attend the Remembrance Sunday Service at 9.00am on 10th November at St Michael's church.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, 6th November 2013 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.25 pm.

The above is a report of the council meeting..

Draft Minutes are displayed on the Parish Council noticeboard one week prior to the PC Meeting and until replaced by the next set.

200 CLUB SEPTEMBER DRAW

£25.00, No. 110, South Newington Ladies

£15.00, No. 125, Mrs. T. Smith

£10.00, No. 107, Helen Cox

£5.00, No. 163, Jo Purton

(Drawn at a WI Meeting)

OCTOBER DRAW

£15.00, No. 162, Jess Romain

£10.00, No 107, Helen Cox

£5.00, No. 87, Brenda Twigg

(Draw took place at a Whist Drive)

The Poppy Appeal

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY this year is on Sunday 10th November. Another year has

quickly gone by but the need for generous donations to the Poppy Appeal has not lessened. Servicemen wounded in the recent conflicts and their families still need help of all kinds. In addition there are still servicemen from 1939/45 war, Korea, Malaysia, Falklands, both Iraq wars and other smaller conflicts like Sierra Leon and they and their dependants still need your help.

The official Poppy Appeal starts on Saturday 26th October (although you may see the Prime Minister and Members of Parliament wearing poppies some time before that), and continues right up to Remembrance Sunday.

Between Saturday 26th October and Saturday 9th November volunteers will be knocking on your doors asking for a contribution to The Poppy Appeal Fund. Barfordians have always been well known for their generosity and long may that continue. Your contribution will be used by the Royal British Legion to help the Servicemen and their families who are in need.

In return for your generosity you will be given a Poppy to wear. Wear it with pride.

PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY

B.E.L.

Poppy Collection Organiser for the Barfords

£1,500 & Counting!

THANKS TO THE support of the village, £1500 has been raised by sales of the Barley 'cross the Swere' CDs and the two concerts! The most recent concert was thoroughly enjoyed by all of those who were there, and it wasn't as cold as the launch concert in December!

This means that a further £600 will be shared between Barford Churches, Nepalese Orphanage, the Village Hall and Shepherd & Bakehouse Trust.

As you probably remember we held a limerick competition and against stiff opposition the offering from Joshua Hall & Tracy Rimmell was voted the winner.

A girl from Barford St Michael

Crossed the Swere on a large unicycle

But she failed to impress

When it caught in her dress

And she gave the whole village an eyeful!

Looking for something different for Christmas? The CDs are still on sale in the shop at £6 each and will be available from The George closer to Christmas.

Regards

Tony (Elvidge)



The Barfords Annual Christmas Lunch 2013

Saturday 30th November 12.45 for 1pm

This is open to all residents of the villages who are over 60, and their spouses/partners. Invitations will be sent out at the beginning of November to everyone that we know of who qualifies. If you are eligible to attend and you do not receive an invitation, please accept our apologies and let Aggie know (01869 338406).

Please can we have your replies by **Saturday 16th November**, even if you are unable to attend, so we can plan the quantities of food to purchase (and also please let us know about special dietary requirements ie. nut allergy, gluten intolerance etc). **PLEASE NOTE:** we are not planning on offering a vegetarian option this year unless informed of vegetarians attending.

Funding: We can only afford to run the event this year thanks to donations of cash from the Garden Club (from their Open Gardens) and from the Parish Council.

As last year, there will be a donations box available on the day for those who wish to make a contribution towards next year's lunch. Whilst this is purely voluntary, all donations will be gratefully received! Anyone with additional fundraising ideas please let us know.

Helpers: Although we have list of helpers who volunteered last year we are always keen to add new names to the list. So if you have some time to spare on the day or could make a pudding please get in touch with Aggie on the above number. It is always a lovely event and starts the Christmas season off in the village.

Aggie Morrison Booth, Mary Brodey and Sarah Best

DEDDINGTON HEALTH CENTRE FLU VACCINATION CLINICS

Book up to have a flu jab at the surgery

Saturday, November 2nd 9am–12pm

Weekdays: Mondays 5.00 - 6.00pm

Thursdays & Fridays 2 - 3pm

Those who are eligible for a flu jab:-

People 65 years old and over on March 31st 2014
Anyone with a long term condition : Asthma (if

on a steroid inhaler), COPD, Diabetes, Heart
Disease, Chronic kidney or liver disease;
Neurological Disease;

Anyone who has an organ transplant; on
immunosuppression drugs; on chemotherapy

People who have had a stroke

Nursing home residents.

Pregnant women

Main carer for elderly/disabled person

Children aged between 2 and 3 years old

Please note, flu vaccinations needed for your job
are provided by your employer.

Book up now and get protected from flu!

Phone for an appointment on **01869 338611**

Barford Village Hall Committee

THE 200 £ CLUB £

**Tickets for 2014 will be on sale shortly
£6.00 covers your Annual Subscription
and enters you In**

12 Monthly Draws Offering

Guaranteed Prizes

£5.00 £10.00 £15.00 Every month

£25.00 Once each Quarter

£50.00 Twice a Year

Christmas Bonus of £100.00

~ ~ ~

So Please – Have a go! And help raise funds to
maintain YOUR village hall.

For 50p a month you can really make a
difference!

~ ~ ~

Existing members will be contacted soon.

**New members - To reserve a ticket (or two!),
please contact Mariann on 338570.**

Barford Green Garden Club

Notes From Our Potting Shed

ON SATURDAY OCTOBER 5TH, 10 members visited Waterperry Gardens. We wandered around in small groups, admiring the incredible colours of many varieties of asters and looked at the apple trees and other parts of the garden which is quite large. It did not rain but the light was rather dull and apart from the asters many people felt rather disappointed in the general appearance of the garden. We have decided that some sort of discussion should take place after such visits, over a cup of tea! There are no more visits planned for this year...roll on 2014.

Any ideas for visits would be most welcome.



Dates for your diary.

Monday November 4th: 7.30 Village Hall. OUR LAST TALK OF THE YEAR. Talk on Design Ideas for Small Gardens, by Peter Richardson of Preston Bissett Nurseries. FREE TO MEMBERS...£3 for visitors

Things to do this month, as always everything depends on the weather! In last year's diary I have put the last lawn mowing as 7th December!

1. Keep clearing up fallen autumn leaves Cut back perennials that have died down
2. Cover tender plants with fleece or if you can move into the greenhouse if a frost.
3. Finish planting bulbs
4. Harvest last of the apples
5. Prune climbing roses
6. Order seeds for next year and plant sweet peas in greenhouse.
7. Last chance to mow lawns and trim hedges in mild areas
8. Tidy up your borders ready for winter.
9. Keep feeding the birds regularly and keep seed heads available for them if you can

Seed Orders

Did you know that seeds can be ordered through the Garden Club? Rodney Hobbs has kindly agreed to organise the orders for us through D T Brown, and if enough of us take part there will be a 10% discount. Seeds bought in this way are postage-free, and each customer receives free labels and trial packets of seeds.

Catalogues can be ordered on-line (<http://www.dtbrownseeds.co.uk/>), or, if you can't do this, Rodney will have a few available (phone 01869 338078).

D T Brown can also supply onion sets, shallots, garlic and seed potatoes. For non-seed items there is a postage charge of £3.95 for the Club's whole order.

All orders should be with Rodney by December 1st at the latest, please.
Till next time - happy gardening.



'Bye for now'
Spade and Fork



VILLAGE HALL MAINTENANCE DAY SUNDAY 24 NOVEMBER 10:30 – 12:30



we'll be painting, cleaning, washing, fixing, de-cluttering, sorting, weather-proofing the Village Hall & tidying the garden. There's plenty to do and your help would be enormously appreciated.

If you can spare any time on the day please contact Lucy Norman on ☎337678 or lulu.norman@btinternet.com



Thank you
Village Hall Management Committee

1st Barford and Deddington Rainbows

WE HAD A LOVELY WALK from Adderbury to the windmill in Bloxham Grove on a gorgeous sunny afternoon.



There was lots to see, elderberries and other plants to identify and not too many hills to walk up! Flapjack and a drink halfway kept everyone going.

There's still lots of fruit in the hedgerows this year, but we made feeders for our gardens to help birds over the winter. Very messy, sticking bird seed to peanut butter, so it was lucky the weather was nice again and we could make these in the village hall garden!

The girls spent a meeting giant junk modelling and made a bus together. It was Eloise's brainwave although the initial ambitious plan was to make a double decker. It was fabulous anyway, with seats for everyone and Paige was especially good as a bus stop... They spent the rest of the meeting happily making various vehicles and houses from the boxes (as per the truism) and then played 'squash the box' so we could fit everything in the recycling bin. Possibly even more fun than the junk modelling in the first place.

Hazel Neal
01869 337822



Barford Service of Remembrance

Sunday 10th November

09.00am St. Michael's Church



theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

CHOCOLATE WORKSHOP With Simon Read of 'Experience Chocolate Ltd'



7.30pm
Wednesday 13th November
In The Village Hall

Visitors welcome to join us £4.00
At our WI Meeting

Dogs in the Churchyard

I WOULD BE GRATEFUL, on behalf of those who very kindly mow, if people would not let their dogs foul the churchyard. It would help if you could keep dogs on the lead in the churchyard and, if they do foul the grass, that it is then picked up and disposed of in the bin opposite the steps. The mowers find it disgusting having to pick up before mowing the grass, and the visitors to the graves have to avoid the mess also. Not pleasant, but if dogs are loose in the churchyard it's bound to happen.



Cubby Brett
Churchwarden

Barford Picture House

NOVEMBER 16th

Our second film of the new season will be
SILVER LININGS PLAYBOOK.



A Romantic, comedy drama film...so it has everything! It is rated a suitable for 15 yrs and over. Starring Robert De Niro, Jennifer Lawrence and Bradley Cooper and made in 2012, it deals with mental health, therapy, neuroses and the love that results.

Several categories were nominated but Jennifer Lawrence won Academy Awards Best Actress. Several other awards were made from the British Academy Film Awards and various other organisations. The soundtrack includes music by Stevie Wonder, Bob Dylan and Johnny Cash, Dave Brubeck Quartet, Jessie J, Nina Simone and Johny Mathis ! This film has become a great box office hit.

£4 On the door unless you have bought a season ticket at £20 for all our 7 films this season.

Bring your own chairs and alcohol if you wish.



Babysitting!

Hi, I'm Tilly and I am available for babysitting,

I live in Broad Close Barford St Michael.

I am 1st Response First Aid trained.

You can call me on 01869 337822 or on my mobile at
07557 095681.

Deddington CofE Primary School News

TERM ONE HAS FLOWN BY, October being particularly busy, a lot of after school clubs are up and running now, including- Choir, Musical Theatre, Art and Crafts, Football and Tag Rugby! The clubs are very well attended and enjoyed by all. There has been a Year 4 Trip to the Harry Potter Tour at Warner Brothers Studios. Year 4 enjoyed this trip to support them with ideas for their creative writing. They spent time in the educational classroom as well as seeing all of the different parts of the studio tour. Year 1 also enjoyed their day at Woodstock Museum in the dinosaur park, they came back very animated and with lots of ideas to support them in their class topic about dinosaurs. Both classes worked perfectly and represented our school extremely well indeed.



On the sporting front a group of Year one and two pupils took part in a multi skills activities afternoon designed to test their agility, balance and coordination. Our pupils were led through activities by the sports leaders at The Warriner-a successful afternoon was had by all! Sibford School hosted a Year 5 and 6 triathlon competition, the triathlon is a sporting challenge, comprising of swimming, cycling and running. Milly Foster, Tom Bruce and Joe Sydenham represented Deddington, competing against other primary schools in the Warriner partnership. All three enjoyed their day and special congratulations go to Milly Foster and Tom Bruce who came second place in their categories! Mrs Lynch, our PE coordinator, recently organised a whole school cross country event, involving every single child in the school, it was a wonderful morning and it was heart-warming to see the amount of support our children offered each other, plus the determination to complete the course- all managed it! Those who did particularly well will go forward to represent the school at a Warriner Partnership Cross Country event later this term.

This month we are looking forward to our Fireworks evening on November 8th organised by our hard working and enthusiastic PTA. Myself and Mrs Sharland will be hosting a maths and literacy afternoon for parents. Our choir will be performing in St Marys on November 11th for the annual Children Singing for Children concert organised by The Rotary Club. I have a feeling this term will be as busy as last!

Lastly, I would like to mention 3 boys who are Members of the Deddington Colts Under 10s

football team: Dominik Bagot, James Duffy and Joe Sydenham, who were presented with an award, along with the rest of the team, for fair play last year. Mr Jeremy Finch who, along with Ian Churchill, coaches and manages the team, thought the fair play virtues displayed by some of our Year 6 pupils throughout last season were worth everyone knowing about. Joe also received the individual player award for fair play. The school is very proud of the boys and as members of my class I know the accolade is very well deserved.

The school is collecting vouchers from Morrisons to be used for school allotments

Mrs Jane Cross, Deputyhead

Deddington and District History Society

OUR SEPTEMBER SPEAKER, Carol Anderson, was forced to withdraw at short notice having broken her hip. We wish her a quick recovery and hope that she will be able to come and give us her planned talk in due course. Since it was too late to find anyone as interesting as Carol to step into the gap our members were forced to listen to a lecture given by the Society's Chairman. They bore the ordeal with patience and good humour. He spoke about the history of the parish as an institution, from its beginnings as an ecclesiastical unit through its heyday (16th century to 19th) when it was responsible also for a whole range of local governmental matters, from road mending to poor relief. The parish was the forum where the great bulk of the population, denied access to the parliamentary franchise, could have a voice; even women. Many of the parish's more significant powers were transferred in the late 19th century to other bodies, notably the newly formed county councils, but of course the parish remains with us and, though diminished, continues to have significant secular and ecclesiastical functions.

Colin Cohen, founder-member of our society, will be returning on 9 October to speak about his late father Kenneth Cohen, 'The spy I hardly knew'. What began as a routine piece of family history research developed into something more significant when Colin discovered what his father had never told him, viz. that he had run secret agents into France during the Second World War and was MI6 Controller for Western Europe after it.

As ever, all will be welcome at our monthly meetings, which take place at 7.30pm at the Windmill Centre.

Chris Day (Chairman) 337204
Moira Byast (Secretary) 338637

Deddington Guides



WE HAD FUN getting into our new patrols – we held proper elections to choose the patrol leaders. We helped each other sorting out the patrol boxes and re-stocking them with all the materials we will need. Our new names are Puffins, Elephants and Parrots.

We have all chosen our ‘go for it’ projects for the term. Puffin patrol are finding out about planning a party – we’re hoping to put on a dressing-up ‘spooky – do’ for Halloween with apple bobbing etc. The Elephants are finding out about chocolate! Difficult task ahead!! and the Parrots are planning activities connected with animals!

So far we’ve had a super pet evening, when everyone brought in small pets – guinea pigs, rabbits, tortoises, snails, a duck, and even a chicken! We all had a chance to handle the pets and learn how to keep them.

We have joined either the knitting or sewing club – we’ve really enjoyed it – learning how to knit squares to start with, for a blanket and then mittens or wrist warmers. In the sewing group we’ve learnt blanket stitch and are starting to make a needle case. It was also a change to chat and build friendships. As the Puffin patrol said ‘we are like one big happy family!’

Written by the Puffin patrol with help from guiders:

Maggie Rampley 01295 810069

,Marian Trinder 01869 340806.

Catherine Blackburn 01295 258008

Looking ahead – ‘sub-aqua’ taster session, glamour evening, yoga and science discovery!!

All girls over 10 are welcome.

~ ~ ~

(As a guide ambassador and an ex-guide and guider I thought that readers may be interested in the new guide promise copied below – Ed.)

A Promise for all

The new Girlguiding Promise came into effect on 1 September 2013 following an in-depth consultation process. The new Promise is the core expression of our values: to be honest, helpful and considerate; to respect other people, develop your beliefs and have the courage of your convictions; and to face challenges, be a good friend and take action for a better world.

I promise that I will do my best:

To be true to myself and develop my beliefs,

To serve the Queen and my community,

To help other people

and

To keep the (Brownie) Guide Law.

Chief Guide Gill Slocombe explained, ‘Guiding has always been somewhere that all girls can develop their beliefs and moral framework, both inside and outside the context of a formal religion.’

From the Fire Station

WE HAVE BEEN called out 31 times in September which is looking like one of our highest call rates for as far back as I can remember. One of the reasons for this is the amount of availability we are offering. Deddington has always delivered a very consistent service, but with our recent extra crew additions, we now giving an average 99% cover to our community. We have had the usual mixed bag of incidents. We have been to some quite large structure fires but have managed to save them before they have been lost. We had a large agricultural spill in Barford St Michael which took most of the day and half the night to clean up causing a lot of disruption to the residents of the village “Thank you for your understanding “ Our kit for putting out chimney fires has been lying dormant on our fire engine for about the last six months and we never mention the words CHIMNEY FIRE! You see, once they start we seem to have our fair share of them. Well someone mentioned it the other day and sure enough here we go again. Chimney fires can be incredibly tricky to deal with and can quite easily and rapidly turn into a full house fire. The trouble is chimneys run right through the house terminating at the roof. They can quite often have beams and joists set into them and can quite often have cracks in them where cinders heat and smoke can get through and start to smolder away at the fabric of your building. The heat from a roaring chimney fire can crack your flue too! Our advice is if you use wood then use well-seasoned hard woods. I would recommend never using pine as it has a very high resin content which can line your chimney with resin and if you use non smokeless coal then the resin and thick black soot start to line your flue and they burn incredibly hot. We recommend getting your chimney cleaned at the very least once a year or twice if you use it regularly.

Congratulations to FF Emma Flint (formally Glover) and FF Nicky Isted on successfully completing their breathing apparatus training with both passing with flying colours. It’s a two week very intensive training environment, working in heat and smoke, learning all the skills necessary to rescue people from a burning building. Make sure all your smoke alarms are checked once a week and you should have at least one on each floor of your property.

Crew Manager Tim Parker
Deddington fire station



PTA News

THE PTA AGM was held on the 2nd October, the meeting was well attended and a new committee was successfully formed. Again this year, we are lucky to have some new people joining us but also to retain some of last year's committee, a good mix of old and new to take us into the new fundraising year.

We discussed full details of the many different and exciting things that the PTA helped the school to fund last year. The biggest investment of PTA funds was to provide a tyre park in the playground at school; it was installed over the summer holidays and has proved a very popular feature of playtimes.

I would like to thank my co-chair of last year Jo Watt for all her hard work; Jo has decided to step down as co-chair, but mercifully to remain on the committee. It was a great pleasure to work with her and I am going to miss her this year. Chris Kaye remains as treasurer, and we are all grateful to him for the hard work that he does.

Fireworks

The Annual fireworks display will take place on Friday 8th November, fingers crossed that the weather will remain dry. The display will take place on the school field as usual and we invite everyone to come along from 6pm in plenty of time to enjoy something delicious to eat and drink before the fabulous fireworks blast off at 7pm. The barbecue will be in action, as well as a licensed bar, hot drinks and homemade cakes, toffee apples (with thanks to the Co-op) and the children's bar selling drinks and sweets. The glow products will be out in force and our new popcorn machine will be out and about for the first time at an event - a delicious treat not to be missed.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the Farmers' Market team who very kindly provides us with both stalls and manpower for the fireworks event.

This year tickets will be available to buy in advance, a family ticket costs £10 and all tickets bought before the event will include a free drinks voucher. Tickets will be available to buy from Hamptons at the Market Square or via email at deddingtonpta@gmail.com.

With thanks again to all committee members (both old and new), all helpers and everyone for their continued support, we are looking forward to another successful and entertaining year.

Lucie Sydenham
PTA Chair



Ride and Stride

IT WAS A SHAME that only 4 people out of the whole of Barford St Michael and St John could manage to raise money for our church and for the Oxford Historic Churches Trust on the second Saturday in September. However between the four of us we managed to raise £298, half of which will be returned to our church funds. I am very grateful to Chris Cox and Guy and Anne Perry for joining me in this fundraising event, Chris walking on the country roads from Tackley via Steeple Aston and Duns Tew back to Barford, Guy and Anne walking round the churches of Oxford and I walked round the churches of Banbury (there are 15 of them although I didn't have time to do all of them).

If you want your churches to be there for you for christenings, weddings, funerals, carol services etc your continuous support is needed, and Ride and

Stride provides this opportunity for you to help out and, although our efforts have raised £149 for our churches, it is a small drop in the ocean.

There are many projects that the PCC would like to implement. We would like to install a sound system so that the congregation near the back of the church, and the organist, can hear what is being said at the front and we have had a quote for £6,500. This is not something we can do without substantial extra funding, but would make a tremendous difference to appreciating the services. We would also like to reduce some of the trees in the churchyard that have grown significantly in the last few years and make the inside of the church so gloomy we have to use the lights even during daylight hours. It also means that the properties around the churchyard are overshadowed by these large trees which make their houses and gardens gloomy also. There again, this is a big expenditure and not one that we can do without significant funding from the local community.

Therefore I would ask the parishioners of the Barfords to make more of an effort to support the various events that take place to raise funds for our churches, such as the Ride and Stride and the Barley 'cross the Swere Concert (there were very few Barfordians at the concert and it was really good entertainment), otherwise there will be no churches in the Barfords and that is a very sad prospect.

Cubby Brett
Churchwarden for the Barfords



Saturday 23rd November

10.30 – 4.00pm

Please come for tea or coffee and biscuits to help me celebrate my birthday, and leave a small donation for

‘Mary’s Meals’.

This helps to feed and educate hungry children in Africa.

Looking forward to seeing you!

Erika

2 Church Cottages

1st Deddington Scout Group Cubs



The pack has two new members, Ben & Noah who we hope will enjoy being at Cubs. We finished the scientist badge by making towers with spaghetti & marshmallows, it's amazing how many marshmallows a Cub can eat & how far a packet of spaghetti can be spread!

For our next topic we are making guys for the annual Shelterbox collection at Deddington market, this years theme is ‘Historical Deddington ‘starring, Odo, Gaveston & Daeda among others.

Also coming up is the White Sheet Walk, around Bloxham, lots of small boys with sheets over their heads wandering around the streets being entertained by ghastly tales.

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

Scouts

The Scouts have been joining in with the Fire & Ice programme compiled by a group visiting Iceland, this involved Vikings, earthquakes, geysers, sagas, foraged foods & chocolate.

We then moved on to the communicator badge & have so far looked into, sign language with a visit from Moira Byast & a session of charades followed by a topic on mobile phones. Morse code will be coming shortly.

The boys have also rewritten our code of conduct & established contact with an Australian group in Evandale Tasmania, the nearest place to Deddington Tas. with a scout group.

Pete Churchyard S.L.

pete.churchyard@btinternet.com

Our group AGM will be held at The Windmill on Nov 21st where we will be announcing exciting news regarding the development of the group.

Parish Web Site



FOR A WHILE Rebecca Dyson has maintained a page on the Cherwell District Council web site with basic details about the village.

See <http://www.cherwell.gov.uk/barfordpc/>

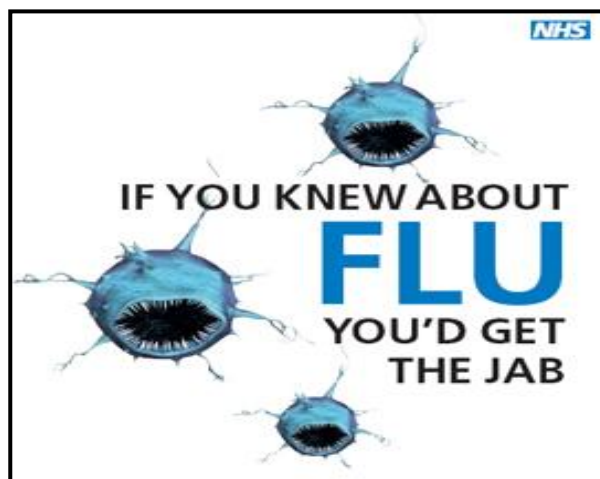
Unfortunately Rebecca wishes to step down from this role and we would like to thank her for all her efforts. We are now looking for someone else to continue that work or maybe construct a slightly more elaborate village web site. This would be a valuable and interesting exercise for someone with at least basic web skills.

If anyone in The Barfords would like to take on this role would they contact myself or the Parish Clerk.

Rodney

Rodney Hobbs (Chairman) 01869 338078 or barfordmail@gmail.com

Ro Watts (Parish Clerk) 01295 722647 or rwattsbarfordspc@hotmail.co.uk



Fernhill Club News

MEMBERS REALLY ENJOYED the film ‘Miss Potter’, shown by Age UK in the village hall on 9th October. The rest of October we played Newmarket (it's a real gambling den) then carpet bowls and Bingo. In November we have an outing to Wyvale

On 13th November we have Mr. Martin Sirot Smith of Sulgrave Manor, the subject being Christmas Customs. Everyone welcome.

With the increase of Lotto prices Avril has given up the regular collecting of instalments from members.

Meetings are at 2.30pm in the Village Hall.



Down On The Farm

THE MAD RUSH to get autumn cultivations and drilling completed before the weather broke turned out to be unfounded with blue skies and warm temperatures continuing long after we had put the equipment away for the winter.

After a few false starts the rain finally came in sufficient quantity to get our winter wheat away and give the stubble turnips a much needed boost. They have come on well but badly needed some moisture to start filling out.

Unfortunately our work load and anxiety over a change in the weather caused me to miss the Harvest Festival Service (sorry Hugh) because I was still ploughing up old grass accompanied by no less than seven Buzzards, five Kites and seagulls galore. Neither Buzzards nor Kites appeared afraid of the tractor so it was fascinating to see such birds really close up, although it does not alter my opinion that they are becoming too numerous for their available food source.

I can't ever recall seeing dust trailing behind the plough but it did so this autumn such was the dryness of the soil under the turf. Indeed it would have ploughed a good deal better (and easier) with a bit of moisture. The plan is to re-seed one of the fields after stubble turnips into grass and put the other two into spring barley which should come well after a winter of sheep droppings. Then, next autumn, we plan to put the steeper land back into grass and continue with arable on the rest.

The steep land is not the easiest (or the safest) to work and I shall not be sorry to see it back into grass. It is nice soil but its profile is not really suited to arable cropping and I have to say that the downhill runs on a tractor do tend to raise the odd bead of perspiration!

Having sat around smothered in boredom for almost a year the rams have been dusted off and turned out with the ewe flock. This is usually the time when they decide to fall gravely ill or become chronically lame but this year they seem to have managed to avoid both. However we are well aware that they are not dissimilar to farm machines which only go wrong when you use em!

The Gloucester Old Spots are doing well and a lot of them are still enjoying the great outdoors without their customary rooting habits. This spell of wet weather will soon change that as the soil becomes easier to root and worms wriggle closer to the surface.

Incidentally, thanks to Pete, Andy and Leon for the residue from their cider making - the pigs thought the apple mulch was absolutely wonderful; much easier to cope with than the whole fruit they find in the orchard!

Tony Collier, Iron Down farm

Welcome

To

Lee and Lesley Cox

Who have just moved into

Church Street

also to

The Craig family,

Edward, Amalie and children

Patrick and Hugh

Plus Teddy (7 month old Lab)

Who are soon moving in to

Their new home in Mill Lane

And to

Rupert and Tanya Dawes

with their two young sons

Harry (5) and Toby (3).

now living at Blackingrove

We wish them all a
very happy time living here
in our beautiful and friendly village

Hall and Fernhill Trust

Barford St John and St Michael

Each household in receipt of a state pension and having three years residency in the villages of Barford St Michael and St John will qualify for a small amount from the above trust.

The year end for the charity is October 31st, with the distribution of monies in December.

A list of likely beneficiaries is held but persons wishing to ensure that their name is on the list should contact the Clerk of the Trustees:-

(Mrs Helen Honour, The Cottage, 5 Mead Road, Barford St John) before 31st October.

Barford Village Market

In the Village Hall, 10-12noon

Artisan Breads, Cheeses & Olives

Home-made Scones, Preserves,

food and craft stalls!

Decorative Glass by Hespera Ltd. - Phoenix Cards.

Farmhouse Ice Cream, Fairtrade items

Saturday, 16th November

All at Bargain Prices!!

Not forgetting Tea/Coffee & Bacon & Egg Butties!!

We hold markets on the 3rd Saturday every month (except August)

Come along and support YOUR local market

All profits for Village Hall Maintenance

Katharine House News

TASTING EVENING & CHRISTMAS FAIR

**Thursday 14th November, 5pm-8pm,
Wykham Park farm Shop, Wykham
Lane, Banbury**



Taste all that Wykham Park has on offer for Christmas and a fabulous Christmas Fair with stalls offering Gifts, crafts, honey, chocolate, clothing, hospice merchandise and Christmas cards. Proceeds to KHH.

LIGHTS OF LOVE

Our annual Lights of Love Remembrance Services will be held at St Mary's Banbury on Thurs, 21 November, 7.15 pm. Christmas trees will be placed in Horsefair, Banbury and in St Peter's Church, Brackley, and the lights will be dedicated to those being remembered. If you would like to dedicate a light in memory of a loved one please complete a dedication form and return it to the hospice by Monday, 4 November. Further details from Sheila on 01295 812161.

CHRISTMAS KNITTED

Our Christmas knitted novelties are proving extremely popular again this year and we'd be delighted to hear from anyone willing to knit them for us. For Christmas 2013, we are selling mini Christmas puddings, robins and Santa hats and are keen to receive as many as possible in the run-up to Christmas. Please call Fundraising on 01295 812161 for a pattern or download one from our website at www.khh.org.uk. We'd also be delighted to receive donations of Ferrero Rocher chocolates to fill our miniature Christmas novelties. Last

year's Christmas knitted fundraiser raised £3,000- can we beat it this year?

SANTA FUN RUN 2013

Entries are coming in thick and fast for our 4th Santa Fun Run on Sun 8th December at Spiceball Park, Banbury, but there's still time to apply! Adults £13, children £7 and under 6's free. Why not take part as a family, or get a team together at work? Application forms can be downloaded from our website a www.khh.org.uk and there is now the facility to apply online on our website, too! Alternatively, call fundraising on 01295 812161. Strict closing date Friday 29th November.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We have several fundraising events coming where we'll need help. We need volunteers to help marshal the Santa Fun Run on Sunday 8th December. This involves having a particular point along the course and ensuring that walkers keep on the route.

Our annual Town Centre Collection Day will be held on Thurs 5th December. Can you spare a couple of hours to hold a tin within Banbury Town Centre?

Our annual Christmas Bag Pack Day at Sainsbury's will be on Wed 18th December and we'd like to hear from anyone who'd like to take part. 1.5 hour slots will be available from 9.30am. Last year's event raised over £1,000 in just 6 hours! If you'd like to help with any of these fantastic fundraisers, please call Fundraising on (01295) 812161.

Thank you,

Sarah Brennan, Community Fundraiser



QUIZ NIGHT @ THE GEORGE

DATES FOR THE DIARY...

13/11/13

04/12/13

18/12/13 – CHRISTMAS QUIZ!

BRING A TEAM

OR COME & JOIN ONE!

THE CHANCE TO WIN MILLIONS!



Bloxham Country Market

CHRISTMAS TASTING MORNING

FRIDAY 8th NOVEMBER

10.00 – 11.30

Ex-Servicemen's Hall

Mince Pies,
Christmas Cakes
And more Christmas Treats

ORDERS FOR CHRISTMAS TAKEN

Deddington PFSU and Village Nursery

A WELL-ATTENDED AGM was held on October 3rd. A new committee were elected and thanks were extended to the out-going committee, particularly Alex Elvin who has served as our treasurer for the past two years. We were delighted to receive a donation for each setting from the Deddington Farmers' Market. Amongst other things, this has been spent on a fantastic set of wooden diggers and cranes, and some coloured sand. Both are being much enjoyed by the children so we'd like to say a huge thanks to the Farmers' Market for their generosity. We recently held a First Aid course for parents, which was attended by ten families. We hope you all found it useful and interesting.



Lucy Squires
337484

New Year Quiz & Curry Night Saturday, January 25th



CURRY

Barford Village Hall Quiz Night.
Time to get your brains in gear.

Back by popular demand..

After the great night we had at the last Village
Hall quiz night, we have
been talked into doing another one.

This time it's Quiz and Curry night.
Make a note in your diary/calendar

We will have to sell tickets and take firm bookings,
as last time we filled
the hall to capacity and this one will be no different,
so watch the
Barford News and notice boards for details of where
to book your tickets.
for times and other details.

Memories of National Service ... concluded

In case the whole picture is becoming too cosy, though, it's necessary to recall some of the many idiotic sides to life. For some arbitrary reason, greatcoats were to be worn on parade only after a date sometime well into Autumn: when, therefore, we had Station Parades in extreme cold earlier than this, there were invariably some people who keeled over. Some of us raised the matter, but were looked at as though we had suggested altering the orbit of Planet Earth.

Then again if, while outside and therefore wearing a cap, one came reasonably close to an officer, one had to salute. As officers had to salute back, the trick was, while, for example, crossing the parade ground, to curve one's route a bit nearer, to gain the satisfaction of assuming the initiative by making the officer salute. I never saw one officer who detected this ruse: so I do hope that they were wilier in confronting the subterfuges of the enemy.

A kind of sick humour revealed itself on some occasions. One person I knew had been on guard-duty at the gate, and had dropped the pole onto an officer's car, denting it significantly. For this he was put on a charge; and the prospect was not nice. He was rescued in a wholly unexpected way: the officer in question was killed in an air-crash. "They", however, had the last grim laugh: though the charge had to be dropped, the culprit was enlisted into the funeral party.

The man in charge of our section was Squadron Leader H.R. Tredinnick. He was the most softly civilian man I ever met in an officer's uniform: small, reflective and pleasantly vague, he ought to have been a (small-time) bookseller in Tunbridge Wells. This military world confused him – in particular, the marching. From time to time he was sent on a course to cure him of such charming practices as putting out his arm like a man on a bike, while giving the order, "Ri-ight! Turn!" It is consoling to record that all the courses failed.

He was married and, so he told me, had a baby daughter: on numerous occasions he asked me whether I would kindly baby-sit for them – and in this way I had a very comfortable house in which to spend an evening. Their Married Quarters were immaculate: and, though I was shown a door behind which this child apparently slept, I never heard so much as an infant intake of breath; nor saw any evidence on floor or sofa of babyhood in the house. I will never know whether this was the world's most contented child, or Squadron Leader Tredinnick ingenious beyond the normal in his kindness to an airman who would welcome a quiet space. Either thought is cheering.

He did have a sense of humour. At kit-inspection time, it took three grown men, the Squadron-Leader

himself, another officer and an N.C.O., to carry out this awesomely vital procedure in the protection of our nation. In my "Z Block" room, I happened to have a book of the paintings of Stanley Spencer, based on his experiences in the First World War – which includes a picture of a kit inspection: this I propped up in an alcove on my shelves. When I returned after the Inspection, I discovered that the book had also been inspected – and the picture now on show was "The Coming of the Three Wise Men".

On the day I was de-mobbed I went to Squadron Leader Tredinnick's office to have my papers signed: already in the room a young officer was sitting (dutifully upright in the room of this superior officer) and his business was set aside while H.R.T. initialled things. As he was doing so, he sat back with a quiet man's speculative sigh, and said in the murmuring casual way people do to someone with whom they have done business over long years, "Mm. It must be strange – to be leaving The Force."

I regarded him, quite fondly. "You ought to try it sometime," I replied.

The astonishment of a young officer at this exchange between a Squadron Leader and a mere S.A.C. was a delight.

This was but one example of a kind of rank-demolishing ease. An airman called Tom Bridger came from a family who were "in cars" – and he had a magnificent sports car, which he kept on the station. One day, he received a message from the Group Captain, requesting him to park his car in future beyond the vision of the Station Commander's Office, "because it makes me jealous." This was code for, "Hell! I may seem to be the Head of this show, and you are a miserable A.C.2 – but you have got things I'll never have!"

All was not, however, sweetness and light. Indeed, I have to confess that I have "a record." One evening when I was Duty Clerk (which meant being available should the phone ring) a Wing Commander, who had been working late in S.H.Q., called out that he had left a Secret File on his desk; and that I was to put it away. He left the building; and at the same moment his instruction left my mind.

The next morning I was informed that I had failed to carry out Important Instructions, and that I was on a charge. With a presence of mind that still surprises me, I instantly did several things: registered (inwardly) "Oh! My! God!" and yet managed somehow to look calm and vaguely puzzled: thought that no mere "erk" should be given sight of a secret file, and that the Wing. Co. was on dodgy ground; realised that there would be no use arguing that; thought that I needed a credible

excuse, and, imagining that the Wing Commander's last words would have been "put it away", thought I needed a lie that would rhyme; and said that I thought he had said, "it's going to rain". When I was marched in, hatless between the hated, "eft ight! eft ight! Halt" (as if like Banquo's ghost I could have marched on through the officer's desk), and was formally charged, no-one noticed that I'd come up with only a half-rhyme, or that I was lying through my teeth. I was "admonished". While my mouth agreed to the utter severity of my fault, my eyes noticed that the officer's body-language (as he told me of the seriousness of the matter, confirmed that he too thought that the Wing Commander (NOT widely liked) had boobed more seriously than I.

In some ways my own military incompetence after many months of National Service symbolised the uselessness of the whole two years. As I have said, the actual training could have been done in a matter of days, and what we did was of no great consequence. From time to time I hear people say that what "the youth of today" could do with, is a spot of National Service. I cannot agree: for a few people it was a means to a training they might not otherwise have got: but even these people were wasting most of their time, and a two year delay in anyone's life is a very bad idea. And yet: when the bizarre coincidence happened in my present home in Barford, that the telephone number allotted to us became (apart from the missing second number) EXACTLY the same as my National Service number, my reaction has been that it is not so much a horrible reminder, as maintained contact with a good friend.

Adrian Greeves.

(Adrian obviously did not enjoy his time in National Service, and was certainly not alone in his opinion, however, I do know that there were a great many young men who really benefitted from the experience and the training they received. Ed)

Another Great MacMillan Morning

**Well Done to Cathy Alsworth
for raising the wonderful total of
£560.00**

At her home in Robins Close

**£250 will go to Katharine House
& £310 to Macmillan Nurses**

~ ~ ~

**Thanks to everyone who supported
the event**

*Love reading?
Then you'll love...*

**Adderbury
Literary
festival**
22-24 November 2013

Friday 22
Pre-school story telling with Jeanne Willis
Amazing Adventures with Katherine Langrish
The Magical Worlds of CS Lewis Event
with Katherine Langrish

Saturday 23
The Scissor Creature with Julie Heam
Oxfordshire Carols Event with Dave Townsend
Murder, Espionage & Criminal Intent with Adrian Magson
Secrets and Shadows with Mark Mills
Exploring Midsomer with Chris Behan
Fairport Folk Event with Nigel Schofield

Sunday 24
The River Singers with Tom Moorhouse
Jambusters Afternoon Tea with Julie Summers

FOR FULL DETAILS AND TO BUY TICKETS
www.adderburyliteraryfestival.co.uk
All books featured are written by our visiting authors!

Christmas Craft Fayre

To be held at:
The Warriner School, Bloxham

Saturday 16th November 2013

2:00pm **5:00pm**

Christmas Gifts and Present Ideas including:
Jewellery, Cards, Candles, Handbags, Aprons & Bags,
Patchwork, Hair Accessories, Textiles,
Fair Trade, Essential Oils & Soaps, Stained Glass,
Raffle with Exciting Prizes, Cakes & Tombola
White Elephant Stall and Games
Delicious Homemade Afternoon Teas

Stall & Fayre Information: 01295 721055
Email: alison.bentley1@virgin.net
Entrance: £1.00, Children Free

NATURE NOTES 121

HOW LUCKY WERE WE to enjoy the continued warm, soft weather of late Summer and early Autumn through September and into the first two weeks of October - a continuous gentle spell of *seven* weeks duration. Given the generally awful weather of the previous 12 months, I think we all deserved reward!

The third week of September saw nights of 8° to 10°, days at 18° - 22°, despite a chilly blip on the 16th/17th of 5° and 14°. There was a little wet weather - small, violent, fast moving squalls on the 16th, rain in late morning on the 17th and morning drizzle on the 21st.

A Tawny Owl set up a short period of hooting after dark on the 16th near the Worton road. After that all was very still until the 20th, when I was delighted to host several Small Tortoiseshell and Green-veined White butterflies, a Red Admiral and two Commas on my Buddleia. On the same day Micky Bullard watched a Red Kite sailing around the village and I noted a Kestrel on the wires opposite St. John's airfield maingate. House Sparrows, as I'm sure you have noticed, have suffered a severe decline in recent years, however our editor has told me that she regularly gets a flock of 30+ feeding on her lawn in St Michael. Two other people have also told me of this sort of number around The Green and in Lower Street. Now, all three sites are relatively close and I wonder if all are the same flock 'doing the rounds'. So, if anyone else can solve the problem of duplicated Sparrows I would be grateful to hear from them. Interestingly, Bas Butler has told me of a similar sized flock in St. John which, with its farmyards and bird-watching feeders, has to be a separate flock. So perhaps a realistic estimate for the total Sparrows across the two villages is probably 80+ birds - excellent news!

By the 21st, a big High Pressure area was hovering over England bringing more settled weather. Many of us were looking at standing grain in the fields and wondering if there would be a big effort to get the harvest in while the weather held. Sure enough, for the rest of the month farmers were combining day and night to get the crop under cover and away. Many had already started discing in the stubble to prepare the ground for sowing and several were indeed sowing the winter grain, the headlights of their tractors bright in the dark of the countryside.

Answering a knock at my door, I opened it to find Trevor Stevens looking pleased and holding a sizeable bag containing something that was moving persistently. The opened bag revealed a beautifully



marked and vigorous Grass Snake! It was about 650mm (just over 2ft) long. Trevor had just picked it up in his garden and said that he knew earlier in the year of several batches of Grass Snake eggs, which is fabulous news! We chatted a few minutes and then Trevor went off to release this superb, inquisitive looking creature, its black tongue flickering, back in his garden.

A few Swallows wandered disinterestedly over the villages on the 22nd, obviously passing through from further north. I am intrigued by the rather early and sudden departure of our Swallows and House Martins this year - it makes one wonder! Buzzards, juveniles by their sounds, were noisy on Steepness and, in the warmth of our gardens, there was a late swarming of black Ants.

A flock of 20+ Goldfinches moved about St. Michael which I estimate to be a drop of 60% from those present last Autumn; small numbers of Green Finches also, and almost no Chaffinches at all. Starlings remain in very low numbers. Something is obviously very wrong in the bird world, almost certainly a combination of modern farming practices, including severe annual hedgerow trimming, two harsh years' weather and, of course, disease(s). Why can't we set up a regime of biennial hedge trimming on alternate years - half the hedges one year and then the other half next year - or even over three or four years?

Now to bird feeding:-

I CANNOT STRESS ENOUGH THE IMPORTANCE OF THOROUGH AND FREQUENT CLEANSING of our bird feeders - so much DISEASE is due to CONTAMINATED BODY FLUIDS AND PARTICLES from INFECTED BIRDS falling INTO FOOD ON TRAYS AND PERCHES.

Many people were hoping that the widespread absence of birds from our gardens pointed to their general dispersal into the countryside, feeding on the burgeon of seeds and fruits available in such a mast-year.

For the next week the persistent High Pressure continued to hover over the UK, held in place by Low systems to the N and SW. Temperatures held between a comfortable 17° and 21° (day) and 7° to 11° (night) and there was no rain. The wind dithered between S and SW, then swung to due E on the 27th for the rest of the month.

On the 25th we were very concerned at a heavy spill of agricultural pesticide along the road from the bottom of Worton Road right through Townsend. Deddington Fire Brigade arrived and closed off the affected areas to traffic very early in the afternoon. They remained in attendance until after 7pm when specialist contractors arrived to take over

the situation and scrub the road surface with copious water. This was immediately sucked up into an accompanying tanker lorry for treatment and disposal, but the yellow road surface that remained was a little disquieting.

The remainder of the month was very quiet. Grasshoppers (mainly *Chorthippus lineatus*) were still quite numerous, but this year I didn't record a single Roesel's Bush-Cricket, which were so common in 2011. I fear these well-built dark brown inhabitants of rough grass were decimated by the wet and cold of the Winter and Spring.

On the 30th, September mourned its own passing with morning drizzle, remaining dull, overcast and windless into the night.

October dawned very still with a heavy sky haze and only a wan sun-disc visible. At 16.5° afternoon was overcast and mild, with a negligible SE air. A Green Woodpecker was active and calling below Steepness. After overnight rain at 8°, the 2nd dawned overcast, cool and damp, and windless. Andrew Murrey spotted a Barn Owl sitting in the road about 5am, near Ilbury Farm, as he drove to work. With high pressure still in charge (but only just!) LP fronts kept the weather unsettled as they pushed in from SW. The faintest of SE breezes eased the cloud and mist away and the sun broke through in late morning to give a warm, humid afternoon, more like late summer than Autumn; it produced a balmy 20°. A starry night with patchy cloud then did not fall below 13.5°.

These first few days of October kept temperatures up (17° - 20°) by day and especially at night (12° - 14°). On the 4th, to balance the absence of the Roesel's Bush Cricket, a female Speckled Bush Cricket was basking on a lily plant in my conservatory. These smaller green insects, covered with minute brown speckles, frequently come indoors and stay, but that's no good for egg-laying so I moved it outside onto the Buddleia with plenty of bark crevices to receive eggs. It may sound ridiculous, but these insects, looked at closely, display most appealing eyes ...

But a new HP system was pushing up fast from SW on a boisterous blow. A clear starry night of the 4th brought Tawny Owls calling below Fernhill, and Bas Butler also noted others calling from north-east of the St. Michael. A sunny afternoon on the 5th brought two furtive Dunnocks into my garden - after so many weeks of complete absence - marvellous!

Over the next few days, temperatures held up around the 18° - 20° mark, but nights fell away to anything from 10° down to 5.5°. A beautiful sunlit morning on the 6th brought high streams of ice

crystals producing patches of brilliant prismatic colours around the sun, fascinatingly in their reverse order to those in a rainbow! I was delighted to spot a freshly emerged female Small Copper butterfly on the Michaelmas Daisies. There were also a few similarly fresh Small Tortoiseshells and Commas; now this really is looking into next year, for these are the very insects which will soon hibernate, to reappear as the days warm next Spring!

By the 8th the HP was passing toward the E bordering a large Low to NW and by the 10th temperatures had taken a real tumble. No longer the balminess of early Autumn, but a cold, gusty blow from the N at 11.5° (day) and 5° to 8° at night with cold showers and night rains. On the 10th, for the first time this year, the thin squeals of incoming Redwings from the N could be heard sporadically all day. In the cold, blustery wind of the 11th, I spotted a Kite soaring to west of the parish, and flocks of gulls (mainly Black-headed, but also a few Lesser Black Backs and Commons) following the plough.

From the 12th to the 15th a deep Low was, strangely, moving in from the east, the normal direction of weather movements being from SW at our latitude. A cold wet morning on an E wind eased and became milder to give a pleasant afternoon. However, by night-time all had returned to harsher conditions. The 14th was gloomy and wet (10°) and the W breeze strengthened to lashing rain storms from late afternoon and 5° at night.

Now as I close these notes on the 15th, a chill grey overcast cleared from NW around noon to give a sunny afternoon (12°). Today I was delighted to welcome a Robin into my garden! The first for many months. Now he sits 'tick'ing in the still-green foliage of a Lilac tree.

A flawless sunset is settling in the west and there is a sudden drop in temperature. I wonder if this will be the first frost of Autumn?

Ron Knight

Fireworks Night

Friday 8th November 2013

At Deddington Primary School

Gates open: 6pm. Blast off: 7pm

Adult: £4.00, Child: £2.00, Under 5s: Free
and Family (2 adults and 2 children): £10.00

Free Drinks Voucher with tickets bought in advance

BBQ and Kids Hot Dogs ~ Licensed Bar
Lucky Dip ~ Tea, Coffee and Cakes
Toffee Apples ~ Popcorn ~ Glow Products

Get there early and avoid the Qs.

Tickets available from Hamptons Estate Agents
in the Market Square.
You can also email deddingtonpta@gmail.com

This is an all weather event. No Sparklers and No Dogs.
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