

# BARFORD NEWS

FEBRUARY 2017

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Price 50p where sold



## BARFORD VILLAGE MARKET SATURDAY 18th FEBRUARY 10AM – 12PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Back again after our Christmas break

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Andy Gill and his fantastic pots

\*\*\*

Joan with her beautifully gift wrapped chocolates, perfect for Easter

\*\*\*

Paddocks Farm, with their lovely selection of sausages, burgers, bacon etc.

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Plus a good range of local producers selling eggs, savouries, cakes, bread, honey,  
dairy produce, preserves, greetings cards and wrapping paper

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Fairtrade items, hand knitted woollies and made-to-measure items

.....and for the birds we have seeds, mealworms, sunflower hearts

+ Angus & Lucy's bacon butties/bacon & egg butties/breakfast butties

TEA AND COFFEE SERVED ALL MORNING FROM THE KITCHEN

## PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

A meeting of the Parish Council took place at 7.30pm on 4<sup>th</sup> January in Barford Village Hall and was attended by Cllrs Hobbs, Turner, Eden, Styles, Hanmer, District Cllr Williams and Mr Best (Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer).

**Minutes of the last meeting:** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2016 were unanimously resolved as an accurate record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

**Co-option of new Parish Councillor –** Chris Chairman was adopted as a Parish Councillor in a unanimous vote.

**County Councillor's Report:** There was no report from County Cllr Arash Fatemian.

**District Councillor's Report from Cllr Bryn Williams:**

**Bloxham Neighbourhood Plan -** The Bloxham Neighbourhood Plan has been adopted by Cherwell District Council.

**Free Parking –** There is free parking in all CDC owned car parks in Banbury after 3pm during January 2017.

### Parish Matters:

**Speed monitoring –** The clerk is waiting for Nigel Clarke from OCC Highways to contact him.

**Bus Survey –** There were 9 respondents to the survey who wanted bus services to Banbury, Bloxham, Chipping Norton, Deddington & Oxford Parkway. This information will be discussed with Our Bus Bartons but it was thought that it was unlikely that the demand would be sufficient to provide a viable service.

**Signs –** The clerk has asked Cherwell District Council to repair or replace the street sign at the bottom of the Rock and will also ask them to repair or replace the Lower Street sign opposite Barford St Michael Church.

**Swere Clearance –** Volunteers are requested for the river clearance that will take place on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> February at 10.30.

**Footpath Liaison –** A volunteer is sought for liaising on all footpath matters in the parish. Please contact David Best if you are interested in doing this on 01295 720566 or [davibest-barfordspc@gmail.com](mailto:davibest-barfordspc@gmail.com).

**Date for the Annual Parish Council meeting -** The date for the 2017 meeting is 26<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

### Planning

Application 16/00325/TCA, Dyers Farm – Approved by Cherwell District Council (CDC).

Application 16/02161/F, Mead Bank – Returned to CDC with no objections.

Application 16/02283/F, George Inn – Returned to CDC with no objections.

Application 16/02287/TPO, Dyers Farm – Returned to CDC with no objections.

### Finance

**Payments in the month -** The Clerk sought approval to pay cheques totalling £853. This was approved unanimously.

**S137 Grants –** An invitation to apply for S137 Grants is published in the Barford News The deadline for applications will be the end of March and a decision on grants taken in the April meeting.

**2017-18 Precept –** It was RESOLVED unanimously to adopt the budget with the lower Precept.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February** at 7.30pm in the village hall.

### FOOTPATHS OFFICER

There are many footpaths in and around our villages and it is important that they are kept in good condition and available for use by anyone who wishes to walk them.

To get good feedback on the state of our footpaths the Parish Council wish to appoint a **Footpaths Officer**. Ideally it would be someone who walks the paths fairly regularly (maybe one of the many villagers who walk their dog daily) and could feedback on any issues to the Parish Council or Oxfordshire County Council footpaths officer as and when necessary.

There would be no need to attend meetings on a regular basis.

If you are interested please contact:  
David Best, Parish Clerk on  
01295 720566 or email  
[davidbest.barfordspc@gmail.com](mailto:davidbest.barfordspc@gmail.com)

## BARFORD PICTURE HOUSE



Our next film of 2017 will be on February 25th.....not to be missed... Highly recommended by a couple of our cinema goers. This is our black and white film of the season. EMBRACE OF THE SERPENT, made in 2015. Ciro Guerra's visually majestic film pays tribute to the lost cultures and civilizations of the Colombian Amazon.

At once blistering and poetic, the ravages of colonialism cast a dark shadow over the South American landscape in EMBRACE OF THE SERPENT, the third feature by Ciro Guerra. Filmed in stunning black-and-white, SERPENT centres on Karamakate, an Amazonian shaman and the last survivor of his people, and the two scientists who, over the course of 40 years, build a friendship with him. "Embrace of the Serpent" occasionally flashes forward to another expedition undertaken in the 1940s, when a much older Karamakate (now played by Antonio Bolivar Salvado Yangiama) reluctantly accompanies another explorer, an American named Evans (Brionne Davis), on a similar trek downriver in search of a special plant. (Guerra's script, co-written with Jacques Toulemonde, was inspired by the real-life accounts of Theodor Koch-Gruenberg and Richard Evans Schultes, alter egos for the Western explorers we meet here.) who travelled through the Colombian Amazon during the last century in search of the sacred and difficult-to-find psychedelic Yakruna plant. This secondary thread is less harrowing and more elegiac in tone, sounding a sad, lonely lament for a lost civilization and a cruelly plundered landscape, brooded over by a older, wiser and wearier Karamakate whose resignation has not stunted his righteous indignation.

**Doors open 7.15, film starts at 7.45**

**Bring your own chairs if you wish and any drink other than tea or coffee which is provided free of charge**

**Contact for Picture House is Gunilla on 01295 720521 .....Tickets £4**



### **RUBBISH & RECYCLING COLLECTION DATES {*always a Tuesday*}**

**31<sup>st</sup> January.....blue 'n' brown**  
**7<sup>th</sup> February.....green**  
**14<sup>th</sup> February.....blue 'n' brown**  
**21<sup>st</sup> February.....green**

### **THE HORSE CHESTNUT LEAF MINER PROBLEM IN THE PARK (SOUTH NEWINGTON ROAD)**

You may be aware that the conker trees are suffering from a moth blight at the moment. After consultation with an authority on the subject, I have found that if we can move the leaves away from the base of the trees it will help eradicate the problem. The larvae exist in the fallen leaves until spring so if we can remove them early enough we should be able to stop them getting into the trees again.

Volunteers are therefore required to help clear as many leaves as possible from around the conker trees along The Park (South Newington Road). I am hoping to get as much help as possible on **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2017 at 10.30 am**. Meet by the gate to the big barn before you get to the trees. Bring along your rakes, big black sacks, or any receptacle to take the leaves away for burning, anything else you think might help to clear the leaves. Hopefully this action will bring the trees back to a good condition for the future. We probably won't be able to clear them all but we can give it a go. Otherwise we are going lose more and more of the trees.

**Contacts Rodney Hobbs 01869 338078 and Ray Cox 01869 337736**

## **SOME NOTES ON THE HISTORY OF THE GEORGE INN - PART 3**

### **THE ARRIVAL OF JOSEPH MURREY**

In 1813 Sarah Morrey nee Prickett, widow of Wroxton, left property in her will to her children. This consisted of a house barn and garden. The eldest son John Morrey was to pay the other children £80 (about £2500 in today's money) between them if he kept the house for his own use, subject to Sarah's sister and unmarried daughter living there. If not the house was to be sold and the proceeds divided among the children. Joseph Morrey (later Murrey), born in Wroxton in 1792 was then a young stonemason. It is likely that he had family in Barford: a John Morrey owned what is now Appletree House at the end of Horn Hill and some farmland in the village in 1808. A Samuel Murrey, of Barford St Michael married Joanne Ford also of Barford in 1816. Witness was Nathaniel Murrey. This suggests that Samuel and Nathaniel were Joseph's brothers, also named in Sarah Prickett Morrey's will. Samuel was born in Wroxton in 1790. Note the spelling change.

Therefore it seems that Joseph is probably established in Barford by the 1820's. He may have used his legacy from his mother to set himself up in business as a stonemason or he may have been in business with his brothers.

In 1826 he married Martha Tims from Deddington, and it the couple set up home in Barford. Their first child Joseph was baptised in Barford in 1826.

The years 1815 -1836 were difficult for agriculture. The boom caused by the Napoleonic Wars was succeeded by depression. There were rick-burnings and riots against farmworkers' jobs being replaced by machines. Agricultural labourers were starving. It was only by 1836 that things started to get better. However, Joseph must have been successful in his trade, perhaps travelling long distances to work on building for those who still had money. He bought the George building and its surrounding land in 1831. It may be that given the depressed state of agriculture he was able to buy the property at a bargain price. With Enclosure, there would not have been the demand for large farmhouses in the village at a distance from the newly allotted and hedged fields.

Six more children were born to Martha and Joseph, four surviving infancy. The George, probably now called "Murrey's", was once more full of children.

### **The George becomes a beershop**

Sadly Joseph died in 1862. He had become a respected figure in the village, being the parish clerk. His widow Martha stayed on in the George with her son Thomas, also a stonemason. The 1871 census shows that she is running a grocer's shop. The next household is that of Thomas and Ann Croft who are described as beer retailers. It may be that the Crofts are running their beer shop from the George in conjunction with Martha's grocer's.

There is some evidence that the Crofts owned or occupied a cottage on land which is now adjacent to the village hall garden so the beer shop may have been run from there. But it would have made sense for Martha to share her large premises and get some rental income. The Crofts were probably related to the Crofts who kept the Crown Public House in Barford St John.

Beershops were a form of licenced premises introduced in 1830 whereby any person could obtain an excise licence (ie not from the justices) to brew and sell beer from their house at a cost of 2 guineas. It was an attempt to steer the poor away from gin to the more healthful drink of beer. There had been two other beershops in Barford during the nineteenth century: the Rock Tavern, and the Pole Axe at the top of Murrey's Lane. By 1869 a justices' licence was once more necessary.

In 1872 Martha died aged 69 and is buried in the churchyard.

According to the 1881 census Joseph and Martha's son John, a stonemason, his wife Martha and their 4 children appear to be living at the George, with Mrs Croft, beer retailer as the next door household. The family then move to one of the two cottages at the Warren, and William Murrey, John's younger brother, his wife Caroline and their seven children move into the George by 1891. William was a carpenter and wheelwright. He and his family had lived in London, and later Banbury, presumably following job opportunities. Mrs Croft died in 1889 and it appears from the Banbury Guardian that William was the executor of her will, and may have been its beneficiary, as it seems he became owner of the land which is now the village hall garden and adjacent cottage which was previously owned by the Crofts. More information in the Oxford Journal indicates that William became the licensee of the beerhouse in 1890. After his death aged 55 in 1895, Caroline had the licence transferred to her. Brother John died the same year. In the 1901 census Caroline is living at the George with 4 of her children and is described as "beer retailer Pub". So the Murrey family has taken over beer selling from the Crofts. Their business is now probably the only licenced premises in Barford St Michael.

Caroline died in 1905 aged 63. Her son William Oscar Murrey, carpenter and builder, took over the licence for the beershop.. In 1901, Ernest, another unmarried brother described as a farmer had also been living at home. He married Emily Bates in 1908, and in that year he took over as licensee of the beerhouse. His brothers William, James and Arthur, all unmarried, had moved out to premises on the Green (could this have been "the Homestead"?) where they carried on business as builders painters and decorators.



## THE GEORGE.....CONT'D

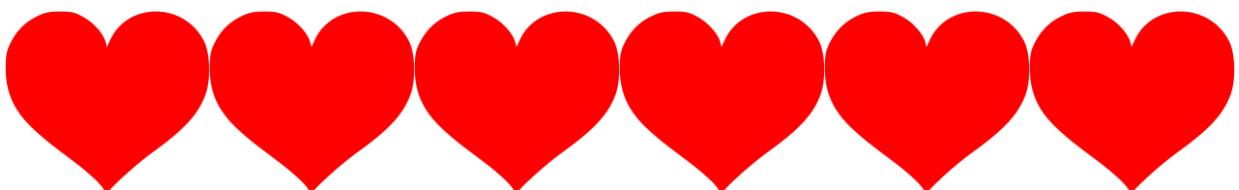
In 1911 Ernest and Emily were described as beer retailers. It seems from reports in the Banbury Guardian that Ernest also carried on farming. They had two children at that time, Ernest and Edith.

Sadly, Ernest died in 1918 aged only 46. Emily carried on as the licensee but in 1920 the George was sold to Hickmans, the Chipping Norton Brewery. Emily remained licensee and she remarried AW Hanks a local agricultural dealer who took over the licence. It was probably at this time that the name "the George" was introduced. The Hanks eventually retired and there was a succession of licences until the brewery-first taken over by Hunt Edmunds of Banbury and then Mitchell and Butlers- sold the pub and surrounding land into private ownership in the 1970s.

### CONGRATULATIONS!!

To Alan and Kath Hand of Broad Close  
On Celebrating their 65th Wedding Anniversary  
22nd December 2016

Pictured left on the day and right 3 years ago with their family



**TUESDAY LUNCH CLUB  
21<sup>st</sup> FEBRUARY 2017  
12.30PM for 1PM**

**MENU**

**MAIN COURSE**

**Roast Loin of Pork  
With Apple Sauce and Sage,  
Spring Onion and Apricot  
Stuffing**

**Served with Roast Potatoes  
Or**

**Mediterranean Vegetable  
Plait**

**Served with Boulangère  
Potatoes**

**Both served with Leeks in  
Cheese Sauce, Carrot &  
Swede Mash and Broccoli**

**DESSERTS**

**Apple and Blueberry Crumble  
and Custard**

**Or**

**Chocolate Mousse with  
Bailey's Cream and a  
Macaroon Biscuit**

**FINALLY**

**Coffee & Tea**

**Price £5.00**

**As usual please bring your  
own alcoholic drinks to have  
with your meal**

**Please ring Anne & Mick on  
01869 337074, or email**

**[mickpearson1@outlook.com](mailto:mickpearson1@outlook.com),**

**by Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February**

**Please Note: if you do not  
receive a reply to your e-mail,  
we haven't received it so  
please call us**

**BARBARA ANNE BROWN  
12th May 1938 – 4th January 2017  
Passed peacefully away at  
Holly Tree Cottage  
which had been her home  
For over 30 years**



*Welcome*

**To the Giles family  
John, Jo, Jacob and Jessica  
who recently moved in to their  
new home in Broad Close.  
We wish them all a happy time  
in the Barfords**



**SHEPHERDS & BAKEHOUSE CHARITY**

A big thank you to all involved with the carol singing around the village which is such an enjoyable event for both singers and listeners. Your generous donation will help us to continue supporting young people.

Thank you once again for a donation from the Whist Drive – these regular payments are very gratefully received.

Thanks also to the individuals in the village who make personal contributions to our work.

A Happy New Year to you all on behalf of the Trustees and those we are able to support.

**CLERK - CAROLE COPPIN - 01869 338937**

## IT'S INTERVIEW TIME.....

**WHO:** Rodney Hobbs, Chair(man) of the Parish Council and really awful joke-teller

**FROM:** The Green, Barford St Michael

**Q. how long have you lived in The Barfords?**

*A.39 years in St Michael and previously 2 ¾ years in St John.*

**Q. favourite thing about The Barfords?**

*A.The fact that everyone is included from the day they arrive.*

**Q. where were you born?**

*A.Far across the seas - Cowes, Isle of Wight*

**Q. last meal, 3-courses.....?**

*Home made vegetable soup  
Roast Beef +++++  
Fresh Fruit Salad*

**Q. best day of your life?**

*A.26 July 1986 The day I got married*

**Q. dinner party guests, dead or alive..pick 3?**

*A.Other than a 25 year old blonde, brunette and redhead!*

*Andrew Taylor Still – Founder of Osteopathy*

*Dmitri Mendeleev – First formulated the Periodic Table of elements*

*James Martin – He can cook (and Dance)*

**Q. dream holiday and why?**

*A.Cuba obviously....Sun, sand, sea and .....snorkelling*

**Q. favourite film?**

*A.2001 : A Space Odyssey*

**Q. what really makes you mad?**

*A.The use the word Chair instead of Chairman. We belong to the Human race not the Hu race.*

**Q. which Super Power and why?**

*A.When you're happy you don't need a superpower*



**CHRISTMAS CHURCH SERVICES** A candlelit, beautifully decorated Barford St Michael church was packed for the annual carol service on Sunday 18th December with standing room only, we even had to squeeze one family in next to the organ! Deddington Brass provided all of the music for the carols and played an excellent arrangement of 'Mary's Boy Child' part way through the service.

With a mixture of Bible readings and thought provoking poems the Christmas story was imaginatively retold.

The ever popular Crib Service on Christmas Eve saw Revd. Annie & Sally Barber create an impromptu nativity play, complete with dressing up! Midnight Mass later on Christmas Eve provided a more formal service culminating in Communion very early on Christmas morning.

Thank you Revd Annie, a lovely group of services bringing the true meaning of Christmas to us all.

**Tony Elvidge - Churchwarden**



**BARFORD GREEN GARDEN CLUB  
NOTES FROM OUR POTTING SHED  
FEBRUARY 2017**

**HURRY HURRY HURRY.....SEED ORDERS can still be submitted, Rodney can take more seed orders in AT THE BEGINNING OF FEBRUARY still with the possibility of discount? Please order as soon as you receive this Barford News. We did well to reach 50% discount this time.**

Coton Manor in Northamptonshire will be a visit planned for bluebell time as it is particularly impressive. Keep a look out for dates.

**OUR AGM is on February 13<sup>th</sup>** at 7.30 in the Village Hall. Following this we will have a talk given by Margaret Murdin, Chairman of the British Beekeepers Association Trustees. The title of this talk is 'A GARDEN THAT BUZZES' This promises to be fascinating and of interest to anyone who has a garden.

**TO DO IN FEBRUARY** The other coldest month? But Spring is in sight....this month there are signs of the approaching spring, with bulbs appearing and wildlife waking up as light levels and temperatures increase. There's plenty to do indoors this month to prepare for the season ahead. Outdoors, as the garden comes to life again, it's time to prune shrubs and climbers, such as *Wisteria* as well as evergreen hedges. Top 10 jobs this month.....Prepare vegetable seed beds, and sow some vegetables under cover; Chit potato tubers; Protect blossom on apricots, nectarines and peaches; Net fruit and vegetable crops to keep the birds off; Prune winter-flowering shrubs that have finished flowering; Divide bulbs such as snowdrops, and plant those that need planting 'in the green'; Prune conservatory climbers such as bougainvillea; Cut back deciduous grasses left uncut over the winter, remove dead grass from evergreen grasses.

Now to the lawn...If the weather is warm, you may need to start mow. Set the cutting height at its maximum, and only mow when the grass is dry. Re-cut lawn edges to crisp up the appearance of the garden and save work later in the season. Turf can be laid, provided the soil is not too wet or frosty. Work from planks, to avoid compacting the soil.

Do not walk on the newly laid turf and leave undisturbed for several weeks to allow new roots to establish. Prepare seed beds for new lawns to be seeded later in the spring, but only attempt this if the ground is not too wet. Continue to look out for moles.

Their activity increases in February, as this is the mating and nest (fortress) building season. Remove the largest hills and re-firm the ground before overseeding with grass seed in spring. Keep brushing away worm casts, as they can be troublesome at this time of year.

Lots to do as usual, but lighter days are coming.

**HAPPY GARDENING IN 2017  
SPADE AND FORK**



**DEDDINGTON PFSU AND VILLAGE NURSERY**

A belated happy new year to you all. Our Christmas festivities were lots of fun and we were delighted to raise over £1800 at the Christmas Fayre in Deddington Church. Thank you to everyone who supported us. This term we are thinking about various topics including animals and Chinese New Year. The PFSU children have been welcoming a number of pet visitors to pre-school including kittens, dogs and even a horse! We hope to visit the May Fu II restaurant, as part of finding out about Chinese New Year, later in the term.

Lucy Squires | 337484

**200 Club results  
January draw**

£15, 103, Wolfgang Alt

£10, 165, Simon & Sophie Hanmer

£5, 51, Jane Gannon

The draw took place at  
Thursday Cuppa morning

## PARISH COUNCIL GRANTS

The Parish Council sets aside a sum of money every year for distribution to village organisations in need of financial support.

Any village organisation can apply for a grant (though there is no guarantee that the application will be successful!!)

**The timetable is:-**

**Grant applications must be submitted to the Parish Clerk by 31 March 2017**

**Applicants may, if they wish, present their case to the Parish Council at the meeting on 5 April 2017.**

**The Parish Council will decide on the grant applications at their meeting on 3 May. Applicants may be present at this meeting but will not be allowed to comment on their application.**

Application forms and guidance notes are available from the Parish Clerk,  
David Best 01295 720566 [davidbest.barfordspc@gmail.com](mailto:davidbest.barfordspc@gmail.com)

or the Parish Council Chairman

Rodney Hobbs 01869 338078 [barfordparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:barfordparishcouncil@gmail.com)

**WINTER WALK 2017** Well the weather could not have been worse, it rained cats and dogs but still you wonderful people turned out and joined the group regardless. I was imagining being left with gallons of game soup and a stack of French sticks. But thankfully you came and ate heartily and made it all worthwhile.

We had our usual hard core walkers, our attendees that just come for the soup and the people who just send a donation. Whichever group you belong to - thank you. We raised over £200 and that will all go towards the kids in Kathmandu.....T'committee.



## Down on the farm

Farming media has been full of reports from the annual Oxford Farming Conference just lately with headlines mostly about Brexit and how this will affect the industry. According to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) secretary Andrea Leadsom EU bureaucratic red tape costing £5 million can be shredded once we pull out. Excellent news that was somewhat tarnished by her adding that DEFRA may need more resources to cope. Frankly if red tape is to be scrapped one would have thought some of the administration – i.e. DEFRA – could go the same way. Pressed on what the additional expenses might be Mrs Leadsom gave one of those typical politic-speak answers: “We are looking,” she said, “at all the issues around resourcing, including the cost of certain scenarios.” From which we can reasonably deduce she hasn’t a clue.

Interestingly there was a quote from the letters page in the same magazine from a reader who stated: ‘Europe is a bloated, bureaucratic, bankrupt disaster about to implode on its own corruption.’

Don’t you just wish people would say what they think!!

There was the usual yapping from pressure groups about the danger to our wildlife and countryside given a farming situation free from EU legislation. Frankly having witnessed the bulldozing of so many fields and hedges around Oxfordshire to make room for houses I consider such moaners are probably shaking their fists at the wrong people.

In the meantime we soldier on. Unfortunately several new outbreaks of bird flu’ in England have seen extensions to the quarantine period in which our laying hens have to be isolated from wild birds. The latest date is now the end of this month. It has made a bit of a chore out of what was formerly an easily managed enterprise. They need mucking out at least twice as often, – which means fighting ones way into the hen house without birds escaping – they eat more and the water drinkers need constant re-fills.

We can, however, continue to brand the eggs ‘free range’ until the end of February. After that, if the quarantine persists, we shall have to revert to ‘farm fresh’; we trust our many customers will understand the reason.

Otherwise things are pretty quiet on the farm aside from odd maintenance jobs, paperwork and pig feeding. The breeding ewes will come in to the building either at the end of the month or early March, depending on the weather.

The next big job (aside from lambing and planting 40 acres of spring barley) is to extend the pig breeding and rearing facilities to cope with new Meat Joint customer contracts that are starting this year.

**Tony Collier, Iron Down Farm**

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### **DROP IN COFFEE MORNING EX SERVICEMEN’S HALL, BLOXHAM**



Thanks to the kind co-operation of the Ex Servicemen’s Hall management committee, the WI will continue to provide a ‘Drop In Coffee Morning’ for everyone each Friday morning from 10am – 11am. Providing an opportunity for the community to socialise.

On the first Friday of each month there will be an opportunity to buy a limited range of baked goods, preserves and plants in season.

Orders for baked goods in the future contact Sue Myburgh on 01295 261480, email [susan.myburgh@btinternet.com](mailto:susan.myburgh@btinternet.com)

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**LOST** When the Christmas lights on The Green were taken down a torch was found clipped onto the security cable. We have no idea who left it there but if it is yours and you would like it back please let me know and tell me what colour it is - but please form an orderly queue!

**Rodney Hobbs 01869 338078**  
[barfordparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:barfordparishcouncil@gmail.com)

## ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The **Annual Parish Meeting** will be held at 7.30 pm on **Wednesday 26 April 2017** in the Village Hall.

The Parish Council Chairman will report on their activities during the past year and there will also be a report from the Chairman of the village charities.

The reports are followed by an 'Open Forum' when any villager can raise any topic relevant to the village, ask questions and make (appropriate) comments.

Where necessary points raised will be put on the agenda for discussion at the Parish Council meeting on 3 May 2017.

Apologies and written questions may be sent to the Chairman if you are unable to attend.

Hope to see you there

**Rodney Hobbs: Chairman**

01869 338078

[barfordparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:barfordparishcouncil@gmail.com)

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### BARFORD CAROL SINGERS

On Monday 19 December Cubby Brett and granddaughters Amy and Ella Upson and daughter Susie Upson, Mary and Emma Brodey, Guy Perry, John Christie and myself gathered to sing carols around the village. We started in Robins Close and moved to Broad Close, Townsend, High Street, The Rock and Lower Street before calling it a night. This year we collected in aid of our village charity The Shepherds and Bakehouse Trust. As a village, you should be mightily proud of yourselves as, in a short time (just over 2.5 hours) we collected £193.83.



I am sorry if you live in a part of the village that missed out this year but we were a very small band of singers and having sung gustily for over two hours we were exhausted!! It would be fantastic if next year we could have a band of twenty singers split into two groups to cover both of our wonderful villages, so come on you budding singers join us. It is a good night and next year we could reconvene at the pub for a well-earned beverage of some kind!!!!



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**VILLAGE CUPPA MORNINGS - EVERY THURSDAY IN THE VILLAGE HALL 10.00 – 11.45**

Just £1.00 per person pays for your cuppa and as many refills as you can drink including coffee, caffeine free, tea, fruit teas available - biscuits included in the price

Come down to the hall and meet up with friends and neighbours of all ages - Babies and children welcome!!

**FROM THE FIRE STATION.....**Happy New Year to you all and thank you for supporting our fire station in 2016. The crew was called out 332 times last year, compared to the 212 call outs the previous year, which is a significant increase. This makes us one of the busiest one-pump stations in the county. I think the reason for the large increase is that Oxfordshire fire control went regional and this has had an impact on our call outs. The new mobilising system will now send the nearest available appliance to an incident. This can only be a good thing as it means that it is a more effective service. Our busiest month was November with 42 callouts. Deddington fire station has been available for over 99% of 2016 and that deserves a very big thank you to the crew who put in a lot of extra hours to make this happen.

We have had more than our fair share of chimney fires in the past year. Our advice is to get them cleaned once a year - but that would be for light domestic use. If you use it on a daily basis or burn non-smokeless coal, then you should consider getting them swept more frequently. Your chimney sweep will be able to give you advice on when to get it swept.

Deddington fire crew have been on call all over Christmas and were called to a fire in the open on Christmas day. Luckily this was a small incident that was dealt with very quickly. There was also a house fire in Duns Tew. The fire started in an adjoining garage which was contained because of the fire door between the house and the garage being closed. If for some reason this had been left open, then the whole house would have been lost. Our advice is to always shut every door in your home before you go to bed or leave your property. If a fire breaks out this will give you an escape route and contain the fire to that one room. The other added bonus of having all windows and doors shut is the fire will have no source of oxygen and will go out. Never open a door that has a fire behind it because air will rush back into the room re-igniting it which will cause a back draft. This is when the room is full of combustible smoke and hot embers and when mixed with a fresh supply of oxygen creates a fire ball that will probably kill you.

Training has been as intense as usual with our BA (Breathing Apparatus) annual refresher upon us. Half the crew have already completed this with the other half having theirs

in February. All our BA training is now at the fire college in Morton in Marsh. This is a much better facility and we have already been using it for the past year or so. Our new compound where we practise car cutting procedures has been put to good use. This compound means that cars can be kept safely at the station and the crew can practise without making arrangements and having to go off station.

I would like to finish with thanking our community for supporting their local fire station. Our parish is very lucky to have such a very valuable resource right on their door step. Watch Manager Chris Fenemore who is in charge of Deddington fire station asked me to thank all the crew for their hard work in the past year and making our station one of the best stations in the county.

***Crew Manager Tim Parker  
Deddington Fire Station***



**DEDDINGTON  
BOOKWORMS  
MONTHLY BOOK  
REVIEW**

The Bookworms latest read, **Before I go to Sleep by AS Watson**, was another cracking read. It was this author's debut novel and didn't disappoint. Mysterious at the start, the story soon gathered pace and drew you straight in to a strange but believable scenario. With little twists and truths coming out as the storyline developed the reader was drawn into the book – knowing that there would be a seismic turn of events – but having to wait to the very end to find it. Some of the group felt the plausibility of it was somewhat stretched at certain points and the timeline waivered a little, but all in all a great debut novel scoring between 8 and 9 out of 10.

Bookworms are now reading **Guernica by Dave Boling**, there will not be a meet in January but February's will be on the first Monday with new members welcome.

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**HEDGEHOG MATTERS.** For the last three years I have regularly seen a hedgehog in and behind our back garden on Church Street. This has been fantastic to see as like a lot of people I have a fondness and fascination, for these little creatures which we don't see very often, not any more anyway

There have also been sightings this year on Lower St, Murrey's Lane and the bottom of Bishops Close and no doubt others have seen them too. The farm shop also said that a hedgehog reared four young in their garden in 2014 and another seemed to favour the end of Townsend that year. I have noticed a hedgehog behind us in late spring and into early summer and each year it seems to have stopped visiting after a few months. I wondered why and assumed that they had been killed on a road or by a badger or become ill. This year it did the same thing, much to my disappointment. The fact that it may have gone off to look for a mate or make a nest and raise young never dawned on me.



In September my neighbour and I both noticed that it was back again but later realised that this was a much smaller and less street wise hog – a juvenile or unhealthy adult. Then we both noticed a bigger hedgehog around at night too and after comparing notes we realised that there was a small, medium, and large hedgehog, sometimes around at the same time.

How excited were we, not only one but three had chosen to live in our midst. At the same time a dead one was seen on Murrey's Lane so at least four have been calling our village home this year. The State of Britain's Hedgehogs 2015 report (bringing together data and surveys by the People's Trust for Endangered Species and other organisations) shows that there are now less than a million hedgehogs compared to over 30 million in the 1950s. Numbers are declining by a few percent each year. It's estimated that by 2025 although we will still have hedgehogs their numbers won't be sufficient for a viable breeding population. There are good reasons why their numbers may be doing well in Barford and I plan to talk about this over the coming months. After spending some time studying at Tiggywinkle's Wildlife Hospital and attending the hedgehog conference last year to hear about the latest research I also hope to share some snippets of this with you as well as telling you the story of our hogs who have had an adventurous few months leading up to hibernation.

We believe that three of them are now hibernating, two along the hedge behind our houses on Church St and one in a neighbour's garden in her five star hedgehog house. We know that at least one is male and one is female, which is a good sign for the spring if they survive hibernation!

There is a lot that we can do as a village to help them and to help increase their access to gardens for food, mates and safe places to shelter, nest and hibernate and I'll be sharing this with you in a few ways over the coming months in the hope that you'll be as enthusiastic as me about trying to encourage their numbers in our village and help this dwindling species that everyone seems to love. - **Helen Taylor**



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## NATURE NOTES 156

Mid December seems like half a year ago, but that's Christmas and New Year for you! Nevertheless, it all happened and the 15th of December was when I concluded our last *N.N.* The 15th was indeed a gloomy, windless day of thick, overcast skies, but no fog. The earlier part of the month had seen frosts at  $-6^{\circ}$  and days at  $10^{\circ}$ . At the worst, winds had been mere breezes which, by the 15th, had become quite still, although fractional cloud movement had indicated south-west.

Sunrise on the 17th produced a rather beautiful orange glow, even though the sun was invisible due to high level mist. Later in the morning, it appeared for about 3 hours until it was lost once more behind cloud.

The 18th rose through a light overcast on a mild, very gentle NNE breeze. Nature-wise, the most amazing occurrence of the period was reported to me by Mrs Helen Honour – no less than *nineteen* Red Kites were hunting together close to the Bloxham road above Barford St. John! The only cause I can imagine was that a large deer, fatally injured on the road, had crawled through the hedge and died in the field!

The 19th dawned on a ground frost, with thick fog on higher ground under windless conditions. Sixty+ lapwings were feeding on emergent cereal below Rignell Hall. These birds seem to be a local flock that is reported quite regularly. Also, a Kite was noted hunting around the cottages at Swere Paddocks near Deddington.

In contrast, weather on the 20th gave a day of flawless sun. Admittedly, it was heatless ( $4.5^{\circ}$ ) and windless, but slight cloud movement was from SW. Coal Tits were noisy in St. Michael's Churchyard, appreciating the sun.

The next two days were varied, but characterised by  $-2^{\circ}$  of frost at night, the 22nd being the sunnier. On the 23rd the SW wind rose to a strong, gusty blow with rain in the afternoon.

The 24th was of sun through broken cloud all day, on a fresh SW blow. Kites seemed to be everywhere:- 1 above Horn Hill, 2 closely sparring above Iron Down and one in dispute with a Crow at Turnpike Cottage (B4031).

After Ian Hobday had reported a very large number of Linnets along the Milton gated road, I took a trip along there to see if I could spot them, but I didn't. I only found about 60 near the old bomb-dump corner.

And so at last, here was Christmas Day!

It was overcast, very mild, with light westerly airs. Through the afternoon, the wind rose to blustery with spotting rain, then becoming fine, dense rain after dark.

Clear blue sky after sunrise on the 26th became hazy later and a light breeze from NW arose. A clear, starry night produced a sharp frost down to  $-4^{\circ}$  at dawn on the 27th. This was an almost flawless day of  $7^{\circ}$  max. with light sky-haze minimally impinging on the sun until it set.

The next two days saw flawless sun (although delayed by fog on the 28th) following nights of hard frost at around  $-5^{\circ}$ . day temperatures did not rise above about  $3^{\circ}$ , and areas of 'black ice' were dangerous to both road and footpath users. *Nature* meanwhile was keeping very much in hiding and under cover.

The 30th also dawned on a frost of  $-5^{\circ}$ , but sun through mid-morning fell victim to variable fog, which became dense at night; however, the temperature held up at  $4.5^{\circ}$ !

And so, on the 31st, a frost-free day of overcast and a breeze at  $6.5^{\circ}$ , December and 2016 bid farewell forever! To my knowledge, only a Kestrel in a tree at Hempton kept vigil for the demise.

Despite the night's revels, New Year's Day was gloomy, wet and cold, with a breeze rising from NE! The 2nd was no better, but a clear night down to  $-1.5^{\circ}$  displayed a wonderful close conjunction between the new moon and Venus.

The next three days were cold and frosty, the 4th dropping to  $-6.5^{\circ}$  at night under a bitter WNW wind. The 5th rose on a flawless and windless sky that continued all day. The low morning temperature thawed appreciably by afternoon, but a penetrating, cold wind again brought frost down to  $-1.5^{\circ}$  at night.

By the 6th, *Nature* – especially birds – were very hungry. It was more mild, with rain from mid-day on a W breeze. Bas Butler reported a Kestrel active near his allotment, and two Herons worm-feeding on the new cereal below Rignell. The 7th was similar. but Sunday the 8th dawned on dense fog. This was the day on which Ian Hobday, Bas Butler and myself (with 3 friends) carried out our annual 8 hour bird count for the Banbury

Ornithological Society. We did struggle (but successfully) through the murk around the Barfords until the fog was clearing at about 11am. We were very pleased with our results around the Barfords (about 44 species) out of our total of 60 for the whole of O.S. SP43. Our best Barfords Parish species were probably:- Cormorant, Heron, Kite, Buzzard, Kestrel, Peregrine, Lapwing, Great Black-backed Gull, Tawny Owl, Green and Great Spotted Woodpeckers, Skylark, Treecreeper, Raven, Redpoll and Siskin. I think the most staggering event was to come across the 200+ Linnets that Ian Hobday had found much earlier, along the gated road! They were active and, basically, feeding on unturned stubbles near Coombe Hill. We were over-awed – also at their persistence in view of a small Peregrine that was looking for larger prey!

The next three days were similar. Fairly mild, broken cloud and a westerly breeze, about 6° by day and night on the 10th. At night on the 11th, the wind went a little north and the temperature dropped to 2°. After a chilly morning, with a little blue sky on the 12th, driving snow burst across the hills on Arctic air from the NW, at about 3.30pm. With more snow squalls through the night, snow lay to perhaps 25 – 30mm on the high ground – I think there would have been more had it not come horizontally! The overnight temperature was –1°. Snow flurries continued on the morning of the 13th, clearing by 11am. Broken sun followed on a very cold, blustery wind. A Kite did venture to the east of St. Michael by 9.30 am, and Bas said the tiny male Kestrel had re-appeared and was active near the allotments. On a cold and frosty following morning, a little low sun greeted the Kite over the east of St. Michael again at about 9.15am. The day continued thus, but rain began to fall in the small hours of the 15th. Now, as I conclude these *Notes* on the 15th, it continues to rain on a virtually windless (NW) chilly morning. Well, it *is* January!

**Ron Knight**



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**1<sup>st</sup> DEDDINGTON SCOUT GROUP**

**Cubs:**

Before Christmas the Cubs finished their Environmental Conservation badge by looking at renewable energy. We made a solar tower ( sun replaced by a light bulb ) & windmills – just for fun. Bird feeders were fashioned from plastic bottles, sticks & string. The highlight was our candle-lit parade from the Windmill to the Town Hall to celebrate the 100 years of Cub Scouts. We carried both our current flag & our old Wolf Cub flag & these were accompanied by Charlie dressed in an ancient Cub uniform, & very good he looked too. We have started this term by making catapults.  
[jochurchyard@hotmail.com](mailto:jochurchyard@hotmail.com)

**Scouts**

The end of the autumn term found the Scouts finishing the home skills section of the Skills Challenge badge, ironing, plug wiring & the mysteries of the train timetable! We followed this by making voodoo dolls ( not as nasty as it sounds ) & challenging the Explorers to an evening of games & puzzles everything from Space Hopper racing to a fiendish dice game. We finished the term with our usual Christmas film night.  
[pete.churchyard@gmail.com](mailto:pete.churchyard@gmail.com)

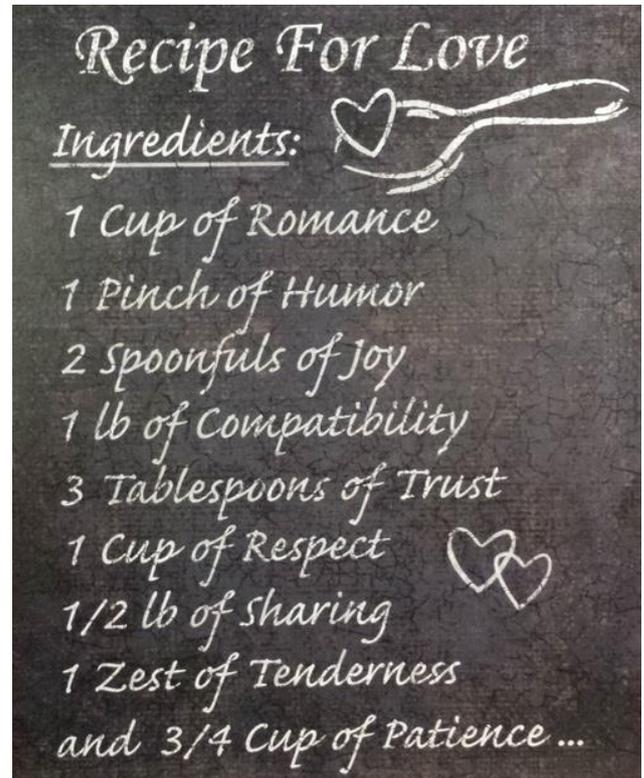
**Spartans Explorer Scout Unit**

Before Christmas we challenged ourselves to complete the Bloxham Circular Walk in the dark. No one was lost and the smell of our chip supper brought us to where the leaders were checking on us.

The Scouts challenged us to various activities for an evening. In most cases we managed to beat them, hooray!

This term a group of us are acting as the committee and arranging all of our activities. We're looking forward to doing some musical and physical challenges. Contact Janet Duxbury 01608 737959. [spartanexplorers@gmail.com](mailto:spartanexplorers@gmail.com)

Thanks to everyone who supported & delivered the Christmas Post this year, we raised £218, which will go towards our equipment insurance.



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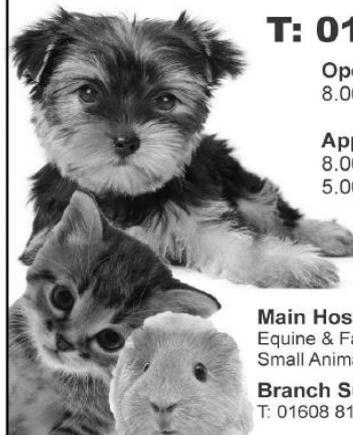


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**T: 01869 337732**

**Opening Times**

8.00am - 6.45pm (Mon - Fri)

**Appointments**

8.00am - 9.30am (Mon - Fri)

5.00pm - 6.30pm (Mon - Fri)



**Main Hospital - Hook Norton**

Equine & Farm T: 01608 730085 (option 1)

Small Animal T: 01608 730501 (option 2)

**Branch Surgery, Charlbury**

T: 01608 811250

In the event of an emergency all telephone numbers will  
transfer to the 24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE

**XLvets**  
Excellence in Practice

**RCVS**  
ACCREDITED  
PRACTICE

**XL** Excellence in  
Veterinary Care

**Volunteer Connect  
Community Transport Scheme**

Taking passengers of all ages, to medical appointments, social events, shopping trips and visits to day centres, clubs, relatives etc.  
The price is 45p per mile to cover the cost of petrol.  
Call us on 0300 3030 125 or email [transport@volunteerconnect.org.uk](mailto:transport@volunteerconnect.org.uk)

**Deddington Library (338391)  
Opening hours**

**Monday:& Thursday** 2pm – 5pm, 5.30pm – 7pm  
**Wednesday** 9.30am – 1pm  
**Tuesday and Friday – CLOSED**  
**Saturday** 9.30am – 1pm

**Buses:**

**Dial-a-Ride, door-to-door service** – operates Monday to Friday. Telephone requests at least 7 days in advance please to arrange pick-up 0845 310 1111.

**Deddington Farmers' Market  
Fourth Saturday of each month  
(Third Saturday in December)  
9am to 12.30pm**

Fresh meat, game, vegetables, eggs  
Mushrooms, fish, ,honey,  
cakes, pies and more  
Craft stalls in the church

**DROP IN COFFEE MORNINGS**

**Ex-Servicemen's Hall  
Bloxfordham  
Every Friday 10am - 11.00am**  
First Friday of each month  
a limited range of cakes, preserves,  
and plants available  
Celebration cakes and other special order taken



**Barfords Village Hall**

Offers the ideal venue for your events.  
A large room for up to 100 people  
audio/projection equipment and loop system  
Well equipped kitchen with cookers, freezer and fridge. crockery and cutlery for 80  
Bar area  
baby-changing equipment and disabled facilities.  
Secure garden with toddlers play equipment and space for a marquee and gazebos  
Suitable for parties, meetings, clubs, film shows, cuppa mornings, dances, demos, etc.  
**Details of rates from the booking secretary –  
Maggie Blackhall on 01869 338 938  
maggieblackhall@btinternet.com**  
Any day before 8pm

**Barford St. John and St. Michael Parish Council**

Clerk: - David Best

Street Farm  
Barford St. John  
OX15 0PR

01295 720566  
[davidbest.barfordspc@gmail.com](mailto:davidbest.barfordspc@gmail.com)

Chairman: Dr R. Hobbs, 01869 338 078  
Councillors: Mrs. S. Best, 01295 720 566  
Mr. P. Eden 01869 338 835  
Mrs. L. Styles, 01869 336 245  
Mrs. S. Turner, 01869 337 228  
Mr S Hanmer, 01869 337208

Parish Council meetings in the Village Hall. 1st Wednesday in the month at 7.30pm.  
There is a ten minute space for public participation.

CDC website: [www.cherwell-dc.gov.uk](http://www.cherwell-dc.gov.uk) – Parish Council minutes at [www.cherwell-local.com](http://www.cherwell-local.com)

## Village and local events diary

Diary dates to the editor by 15<sup>th</sup> of each month please

### Church services

#### Church of England February

- 5<sup>th</sup> Family Service @ 10.30am - BSM  
12<sup>th</sup> Holy Communion @ 09.00am - BSM  
19<sup>th</sup> Evening Prayer @ 04.00pm - BSM  
26<sup>th</sup> Holy Communion @ 09.00am – B'ford St John

**1<sup>st</sup> March – Ash Wednesday @ 7pm, BSM**

For details of Deddington and Hempton services phone  
Revd Annie Goldthorp, Vicar, Deddington with Barford,  
Clifton and Hempton on 01869 336880  
email anngoldthorp@yahoo.co.uk

#### Methodist Chapel

For details of services contact:  
Mr Robbie Pilkington  
01295 811367

#### Roman Catholic

Holy Trinity Catholic Church,  
26 London Road, Chipping Norton, OX5 5AX  
Phone: 01608 642703  
Parish Priest: Father Tony Joyce  
Email: holytrinityrcchippy@gmail.com

#### Masses:

Saturday - 6pm Vigil Mass  
Sunday - 10.30am Mass  
Weekdays Normally 9.15am, can be subject to  
change

### Regular weekly/monthly events

- Mondays** Brownies (Deddington)  
Boys Brigade band practice  
**Tuesdays** Guides (Deddington)  
Carpet bowls – Sept - Mar  
**Wednesdays** Fernhill Club  
1<sup>st</sup> week parish council (not August)  
2<sup>nd</sup> week W.I. meeting  
Boys Brigade (Deddington)  
**Thursdays** Open cuppa mornings  
Cubs (Deddington)  
Scouts (Deddington)  
**Fridays** Rainbows  
Whist alternate weeks  
**Saturdays** Village Market 3<sup>rd</sup> week (not Jan or  
Aug)  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday** Village Hall Management Committee

### Diary dates

#### February

- 8<sup>th</sup> WI 'Just Desserts' Talk  
12<sup>th</sup> Leaf clearing - South Newington Rd  
13<sup>th</sup> Garden Club AGM  
18<sup>th</sup> Village Market  
21<sup>st</sup> Tuesday Lunch Club  
25<sup>th</sup> Picture House 'Embrace of the Serpent'

#### March

- 1<sup>st</sup> Ash Wednesday – St Michaels

### BARFORD NEWS

Copy deadline 15<sup>th</sup> of each month

Editor: Lucy Norman 01869 337 678  
[barfordnews@gmail.com](mailto:barfordnews@gmail.com)

Treasurer and adverts: Caroline Bird  
01869 338 630  
[Caroline.Bird@sectormarketing.co.uk](mailto:Caroline.Bird@sectormarketing.co.uk)

### Police contact numbers

In an emergency call 999

Non-emergencies call 101

Textphone 18000

Banbury office 01295 754 541

Thames Valley Crimestoppers 0800 555 111

