

BARFORD NEWS

JULY 2014

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Parish Council Notes

THE MEETING OF Barford St John and St Michael Parish Council took place at 7.30pm on 4th June 2014 at Barford Village Hall and was attended by Cllr Hobbs, Cllr Eden, Cllr Campbell, Cllr Styles, Cllr Turner, County Cllr Fatemian, District Councillor Williams and Mrs R Watts (Clerk). Apologies for absence: Cllr Best and Cllr Bullard.

Parish Matters:

Weed Killing: Thomas Fox Landscaping have been requested to carry out weed killing in certain areas of the village and will do so when the weather permits.

Sound System for Village Hall: Gunilla Treen, on behalf of the Village Hall Management Committee, has informed the Parish Council that VHMC wish to purchase a new sound system for the Village Hall. Councillors agreed that they could go ahead with the order as the cost will fall below £2,000.

The Notice Board at Barford St. John is in a state of disrepair. The Parish Clerk has contacted a number of companies who supply outdoor noticeboards but all appear to have lockable doors. Councillors feel that an open fronted noticeboard would be more suitable.

Wooden Play Equipment on West Close: Councillors met Mr Trevor Stuart, who has installed such play equipment on various sites, in West Close before the Parish Council Meeting in the Village Hall. Councillor Eden declared an interest as he has worked with Mr Stuart. Councillors will visit sites in Steeple Aston, Middle Barton, Somerton and Ardley to see the equipment supplied by Mr Stuart on these sites. Mr Stuart will submit a quotation for equipment once it is decided what is required. It was agreed that interested villagers would be invited to form a sub-committee to consider fundraising and applying for grants.

South Newington Road Sign: Cllr Turner reported that a previous repair to the road sign had resulted in a wooden baton at the rear of the sign warping and pushing the sign off the posts. Mr Turner has replaced the wood and repositioned the sign at a cost of £13.53 to the Parish Council. Councillors thanked Mr Turner for his efforts.

Planning Matters:

Details of applications can be found on the Cherwell District website <http://cherweb.cherwell-dc.gov.uk/publicaccess/tdc/DcApplication/apsearchform.aspx>. This site does not include 'Notice of Intent' for tree works in a Conservation Area (TCA).

Planning Applications Received:

14/007/52/F Springfields, The Green, Barford St Michael. Replace existing flat roof with lean-to-roof.

14/00769 Retrospective Application: Coombe Cottage, 1 Rock Close, Barford St Michael. Wooden Children's playhouse. Cllr Styles declared an interest.

County Councillor's Report: Oxfordshire County Council is carrying out a consultation on future local transport requirements and will be hosting roadshows on

23rd June at 7.00pm in Banbury Town Hall and 30th June at 7.00pm in the Littlebury Hotel, Bicester.

Oxfordshire County Council has been allocated £459,000 to expand and deliver adult social care.

There will be congestion at Blenheim Palace for 18th – 20th June due to the CLA Game Fair.

Barbara Chilman from Oxfordshire County Council Education Department will be attending the Adderbury Parish Council Meeting on 24th June. Visitors are welcome.

District Councillor's Report: Cherwell District Council's Local Plan has been put back to December 2014.

There are plans to redevelop a number of redundant houses in Cherwell for affordable housing.

Any Other Business:

Cllr Eden reminded the Chairman that Allotment Tenancy Agreements need to be sent out to Allotment Holders.

Cllr Styles has received a complaint about the quality of the first grass cut. Councillors are aware that the first cuts are difficult until the daffodils have died down. Future cuts will be monitored in the usual way.

A new webpage has been designed so that dog fouling offences can be confidentially reported. This will enable Cherwell District Council's Enforcement Officers to target hotspot areas. Offenders who fail to clear up after their dogs can

receive an on-the-spot fine of £50, which can increase to £1,000 if the case proceeds to court. To report an offence visit www.cherwell.gov.uk/dogfouling

Residents can report defects in the highways to Oxfordshire County Council on <http://fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk> Once verified Oxfordshire County Council's contractor pledges to fix potholes within 28 days, 24 hours in an emergency and four hours for a severe category.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 2nd July 2014 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. This will be followed by a Village Hall Trustee Meeting.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Bakehouse or Shepherds Charity

Barford St John and St Michael
Charity Commission Registration No: 309173

Grants are made annually, at the Trustees discretion, to young people attending College or University or undertaking an apprenticeship.

The Trustees can be flexible when considering applications, including Students taking A levels. There is a maximum limit awarded.

In order to qualify, applicants should be under 25 years of age and they or their parents should be resident in the parish of Barford St Michael or Barford St John for at least three years.

Please give the following information on your written application:-

- 1) Your full name, age and address in Barford and state how long you have lived here.
- 2) Name and address of the College or University where you are planning to study.
- 3) Exact description of the qualification you are studying for, including length of course and subjects to be studied.

Address your application to:

Mrs Helen Honour
Clerk to the Shepherds and Bakehouse Trust
The Cottage, 5 Mead Road
Barford St John
Banbury, Oxfordshire, OX15 0PW

**Applications must be received by 30th
September at the latest.**

Update On Sunnycote/Hollytree Cottage Rebuild

As no doubt all will be aware, there's been little apparent progress on the cottages



recently. This is because there has been a major delay of 2 months arising from problems with the design of the roof structure (to support the new thatched roof) and procurement of suitable oak timbers. This has finally been resolved and work re-started on 9th June. Once the timber structure is done, in about 5 weeks, the scaffold roof will be taken down for the thatch to go on. So some real PROGRESS will at last be evident.

The current estimated completion date we've been given is not until 31st October. We're just praying there will be no more delays!.

Love Lavinia and David (Crowther)

From the Ex-Vicar!

I'D LIKE TO THANK Barfordians for their great generosity in respect of their presentation to me on my ceasing to be vicar. The Lords bicentenary burgundy was a brilliant (and delicious) idea and the sum of money you gave of an embarrassingly high magnitude. People have also been good enough to say and write some kind things about my time with you; these messages, too, I greatly appreciate.

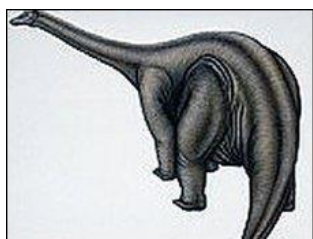
The new job in the Ironstone Benefice is going well in its early stages. There have been lots of fetes and PCC meetings (very short, these latter!) as well as the services, and welcoming people whose names I mostly can't yet remember. The great difference is a liberating sense of not having to worry so much about church life (perhaps that will come), though that life in Ironstone features the same lack of money as it did in Barford and there's even one parish which has two medieval churches, one of which it can't see as really financially viable. So not everything is new...

It's nice to be passing regularly through Barford and sometimes seeing familiar faces. I'm sure I shall be dropping in on some events in due course. In any case, you are often in my thoughts and remembered fondly there.

All good wishes,
Hugh

Dinosaurs of Oxfordshire

By
Paul Sargent



Bones of Cetiosaurus (above) were discovered in 1825 in Chipping Norton

7.30pm
Wednesday 9th JULY
In The Village Hall

Visitors welcome to join us £4.00
At our WI Meeting

BARFORD DUCK RACE

on July 20th.

Field will open at 2pm

First Race 2.30pm

Usual heats plus

'Run What U Brung Race'

So folks, come on down to the field. There will be a BBQ and all the usual entertainment and (yes you've guessed) it will be held in the usual place. Once again many thanks to Dave and Sue Jelfs for the use of the field.

All profits on the day go to the Barford Playground Fund.

T'committee

For those who don't know which field – it's the one behind The George. Ed

REMINDER

THAT

BARFORD VILLAGE SHOW

WILL BE HELD IN THE

VILLAGE HALL ON

SATURDAY, 16th AUGUST

Get working on those entries and

Gentlemen – Have a Go at the

Carrot Cake!

Full details/recipe next month

Deddington Football Club Under 13's

THE ABOVE LOCAL TEAM is stepping up from 9 - a side football league matches to 11 - a side next season and therefore need some new players.

We play in the Witney and District Youth League in the top division.

We would be pleased to see players of all ability join us and will give everyone the opportunity to play, improve their skills and have fun at the same time.

Our first training session will be at the end of July at Steeple Aston followed by our first social event - a 'World Cup' quiz.

Other social events include a pool tournament and a parents v kids skittles match will be arranged during the early season. We are a friendly bunch, with a strong team ethic and would be keen to attract similarly minded players to our squad.

If you are interested and want more details please contact

Rick Allen (01869 337863),
rick.allen@allenschofield.co.uk

or Mike Nelson (01295 810492)
mike.nelson1873@btinternet.com.

Cat seeks loving home

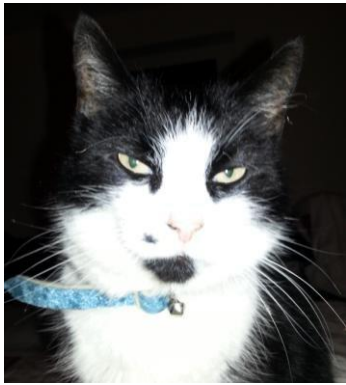
WE FOUND A very thin and hungry cat on our doorstep about a week and a half ago which has apparently been hanging around the area for three weeks.



A visit to the vets confirmed that she isn't micro chipped and possibly not neutered (though that will be sorted very soon!) She's now more a normal weight too.

If anyone can shed any light on where she's come from please let us know. I doubt she belongs to anyone in Barford because we feel sure that we'd have known by now if anyone had lost a cat. We'd love to keep her ourselves but already have two cats, one of which doesn't take kindly to new ones and has been upset by her presence.

If anyone can offer her a good home in the village or knows anybody who can please let us know on 077951 99569 or 01869 337850.



Lilly has gone missing.

She's 8 years old . She loves to hide and is very good at it, and her family are worried that she may have got shut in somewhere.

Please check garages and garden sheds.

If you have any news, contact the Hardings on 01869 338 669.



Four young Barfordians meeting up on the other side of the world. Craig Drummond, Jamie Archer Emma Nash (Craig's girlfriend), Lizzie Eden, Richard Cox.

Craig, Jamie, and Richard are all living and working in New Zealand at the moment. Lizzie was passing through on her travels.



Plant Sales Profits

**Thank you to all who supported
my plant sale on 8th June
and to those who bought tomatoes and
courgettes from my stalls at the bottom of
the drive throughout May.**

**Proceeds were: £110.00 from tomato sales
£326 from 8th June Sale.**

**The £110 goes to Barford News
The £326 will be divided between Barford
Churches and The Playground Group
(towards improving facilities at West Close)
Many, many thanks!**

Mariann



Tuesday Lunch Club

15th JULY – Menu

Honey Roast Gammon with Dijon and
parsley sauce

Or

Poached Salmon Fillet with an
Asparagus cream & white wine sauce

Both served with Sliced carrots and French beans
ratatouille and new potatoes

Sherry & Raspberry Trifle

Or

Apricot and Almond Tart with custard

~ ~ ~

£5.00 per person (Cash payment on day)

Pre-book by 8th July - 01869 337074

When booking please give your choice for both courses

Letter of Thanks

I WOULD LIKE to take this opportunity of thanking the people of the Barfords who voted for me in the recent District Council Elections. There was an extremely encouraging turnout of 46% of the electorate but an even more impressive and humbling majority of 57% of the vote in my favour. As stated ahead of the election, I have a hard act to follow in Councillor Paul O'Sullivan but will do my utmost to continue his good work in the ward. I also relish the opportunity to prove to those who opposed me that I am worthy of their support in future.

It will be a privilege to serve and represent you at Cherwell District Council.

Thank you,
Bryn Williams.

Sign Up For New Nordic Walking Course

A NORDIC WALKING COURSE will offer people the opportunity to try something new as part of Cherwell District Council's Go Active, Get Healthy initiative.



The four-week course will take place at **Kings Field in Bodicote** every Tuesday evening from July 8, lasting from 6pm until 7pm.

The course will give people the opportunity to learn the correct technique from a qualified Nordic



Walking UK instructor which in turn will increase participant's fitness level.

Nordic walking has grown into a popular and sociable form of exercise which enables people of all ages and health levels to improve their fitness. Unlike trekking or rambling, Nordic walking poles are planted behind people to propel them along which engages the upper body and makes walkers lighter on their feet. This helps to improve fitness levels, tone up and lose weight.

The course will run every Tuesday on 8, 15, 22 and 29 July from 6pm – 7pm. Places cost £20 and poles will be supplied.

For more information or to book call Anne Tustian on 01295 221607 or email anne.tustian@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

Banbury Rural Update

Team and Crime News

This month the team have been busy on the area, attending as many Public Parish Council meetings as possible so that the community get an opportunity to raise issues to us directly.

We will continue to do all we can to tackle the issue of speeding within our villages, but if you are willing to help us set up a speed watch group or would like to volunteer yourself, please contact us on

BanburyRuralNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Neighbourhood Watch

Please consider joining your local Neighbourhood Watch. Neighbourhood Watch is all about people getting together with their neighbours to take action to cut crime.

How does Neighbourhood Watch work?

Neighbourhood Watch schemes are community initiatives owned and run by their members. They work by developing close liaison between neighbourhood households and the local police. It is an active partnership.

Neighbourhood Watch schemes can:

- Cut crime and the opportunities for crime.
- Help and reassure those who live in the area.
- Encourage neighbourliness and closer communities.

For more information on how these schemes work, their benefits, and running a scheme in your local area, please contact your local Watch Administrator Deb Hextall at Banbury Police Station, deborah.hextall@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk.

TWITTER and FACEBOOK

You can also follow us on Twitter @_ThamesVP alternatively you can give us a 'like' on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/thamesvp>

THAMES VALLEY ALERT.

Receive free local crime alerts and crime prevention advice by signing up to Thames Valley Alert today. Visit www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk

Have Your Say – meeting

- 10th July 2014 0815-0915 – o/s The Shop, New Road, Milcombe

You can contact the team by emailing:

BanburyRuralNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

or you can call us on 101 our non-emergency number. Please dial 999 in an emergency.

PS 5406 Becky Fishwick





Barford Big Lunch on 1st June

A great time was had by all! About 75 people came along with their picnics to enjoy another gloriously sunny day. Thanks to Gunilla and everyone who helped to make it such a successful and happy village event.

1st Deddington Guides

WELL, OUR GOOD LUCK with good weather on Tuesday nights continues!! We also appreciate weekly how privileged we are to be enjoying the out of doors in such a beautiful part of the country!



We hiked from Adderbury to Deddington one warm evening. Then, after half-term, we had a brilliant meeting organised by Elen S, one of our senior guides working on her Baden-Powell award. The guides were invited to bring a friend and then it was 'Ready, Steady, Cook'! We cooked over open fires and had some very nice variations on a Bolognese and pasta theme. Some very strange pancake creations – but well done guides – not an easy challenge, but great fun and teamwork!

Thank you to Janet and Brian Bond for kindly allowing us to use their garden.

Our third challenge was making shelters at Horley Scout campsite. We loved being in the woods and made some very good shelters and enjoyed the 'assault' course also.

We'll have more outdoor activities to tell you about next month!

1st Deddington Guides leaders are:

Maggie Rampley, 01295 810 069

Marian Trinder, 01869 340 806

Catherine Blackburn, 01295 258 008

Banbury Museum News

Prize Trails & Other Activities

Early Summer Prize Trail - Head over Heels, until 12th July 2014

Find the objects in the gallery to claim a prize! Suitable for children of all ages, although children aged 6 years and under may require adult support. £1.75 per trail booklet incl. pencil and prize.

Teddy's Museum Adventure - Help teddy find all his favourite objects.

Toy Trail - Look for all the toys hidden in the museum.

All trails (excluding the prize trails) cost 60p, include a free museum pencil and are available during museum opening times.

Drawing for All Art

Suitable for all ages. Free.

Come and be inspired by the museum collections and create your very own masterpiece.

Materials and inspiration provided!

Small Talk Activity Backpacks

Perfect for children aged 3 - 5 years old. £1 per backpack.

Explore the museum with the help of Sally and Simon, our special puppets, and our ever popular themed activity backpacks.

Welcome

To

John and Tanya Young

Who have just moved into
their new home in Townsend

We hope that you will be
very happy here and
enjoy living in our lovely villages.

Don't Miss

Barford Village Market Saturday 19th July

10.00 – 12.00 In the Village Hall

**The Meat Joint prize winning faggots,
sausages and meat**

**Artisan Breads, Scones, Preserves,
Farmhouse Ice Cream,**

**Grange Farm Cheeses, home-made
Quiches and Fresh Eggs**

**Fairtrade items food and craft stalls
Wooden Planters and Garden Sundries
Beautiful Alpines (weather permitting)**

Joan's Bargain Plants

plus one or two new ones!

**Bacon Butties/Bacon & Egg Butties
Add a Sausage for a Breakfast Buttie!!**

Not forgetting Tea/Coffee

All at Bargain Prices!!

**Come along and support YOUR local
market**

All profits for Village Hall Maintenance

Fernhill Club News

WE HAD A LOVELY open day
which was spent outside on
a beautiful summer afternoon.



Some of the members played scrabble,
others dominoes or cards and others just happy to
sit talking to each other in the lovely sunshine.

They all said it was a lovely afternoon but sadly,
only one person came to visit.

We are trying to keep Fernhill viable, but this
may change as numbers dwindle. Only five of our
members are from Barford and two of those are
moving very soon. Everyone else comes from the
surrounding area.

On July 2nd we have a strawberry tea and on 30th
we are having a meal in the hall.

The advertised talk by Simeon Courtie due to take
place on 23rd of this month has been postponed
until a later date.

Visitors are always very welcome to join us at any
of our meetings in the hall, starting at 2.30pm.

Mary Ashbridge
01295 252298



**National
Trust**

**Something
Special for
everyone**

Upton House & Gardens, near Banbury
Catering Opportunities

Our sales are continually increasing here at
Upton House & Gardens, that's why we're
Looking for a supremely talented

**AssistantCatering Manager,
a seasoned Chef/Cook
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If these are opportunities which interest you
please contact Jane Roughley on
01295 670266 (option 6) or email
Jane.roughley@nationaltrust.org.uk

We look forward to hearing from you.

www.nationaltrustjobs.org.uk

Committed to equal opportunities.
Registered charity number 205846

1st Deddington Scout Group Cubs



We have been throwing ourselves into outdoor pursuits, laying trails for tracking & making animal plaster casts in Daedas Wood & practicing fire-lighting & backwoods cooking. Coming soon – a tour of Deddington church & a trip to the Rollright Stones.

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

Scouts

We too have thrown the Scouts (sometimes literally) into the outdoors, shelter building in Daedas Wood & a fire-lighting competition.

The 24 hour camp & hike to Horley went very well, no rain until night-time, which was fine unless you were in a hammock, like me!

We introduced the Scouts to ‘bum sandwiches’, don’t ask!

Coming soon- hike, village larks & The Rollrights.

Pete Churchyard S.L.
pete.churchyard@btinternet.com

Explorers

The plans for the auction are well under way with piles of boxes everywhere. The Explorers also constructed a ‘blind trail’ for the Scouts to follow & joined in the foul food experiment, making ‘arm-pit’ fudge.

Coming soon – bellringing, golf.

Pete Churchyard S.L.
pete.churchyard@btinternet.com

Thanks to all the boys who helped clearing wood at The Castle Grounds for Scout Community Week.

200 CLUB WINNERS MAY DRAW

£15.00, No. 72, Harry Romain

£10.00, No. 99, Di Burton

£5.99, No. 107, Helen Cox

JUNE DRAW

£50.00, No. 144, Sue Nickell

£25.00, No. 64, Ann Budd

£15.00, No. 86, Margaret Evans

£10.00, No. 172, Jeff Elliott

£5.00, No. 60, Les Hall

Thank you

To two village residents
For their Donations of
£10 and £20
For Barford News funds

Banbury and District Samaritans Appeal for Fundraisers



Can you help your local Samaritans branch raise funds to keep open our 24/7 service of providing support to people suffering from emotional distress, some of whom may be considering suicide?

We are an entirely voluntary, self supporting charity and need to raise nearly £30,000 a year to pay for rent, telephone bills, equipment and training etc. There are many ways you can help to raise money e.g.:

Holding a Donation Can at supermarkets and railway stations etc.

Delivering and exchanging about every 2 months a Donation Can to shops, pubs etc. in your neighbourhood.

Helping out at social/fundraising events e.g. providing some food for our annual Quiz & Buffet meal evenings; serving drinks etc.

Delivering posters, Flyers to shops, pubs etc.

Knitting/making craft goods to sell at our stalls.

Contributing plants to sell at our stalls.

Helping to sell at stalls.

Contributing Raffle Prizes (and asking others to do so!) for our monthly Bingo sessions and other events.

Helping at Bingo sessions at the Redlands Centre.

Joining our Bonus Ball scheme.

Promoting our “Add a Quid to the Bill” scheme.

Selling Raffle Tickets.

Holding cake and coffee mornings.

And lots more. I am sure you can think of something else you would like to do. Any help you can give means we can continue providing our 24/7 service.

If you feel able to help in any way at all, please contact me, John Haywood on 01295 257587 or e mail me at a.j.haywood@hotmail.co.uk for more information or to register your interest in helping with fundraising.

For more information about us go to
www.banburysamaritans.org

FOR SALE



Raleigh Cool Max Bike
16inch wheels,
Excellent condition.
Suit 5 year old
£10.00 or near offer
Barb Greenwood
01869 338 677

Pet sitting

My name is Connie Neal and I am 10 years old. I am trying to raise money to go on an international guide camp, so if you need your rabbits, hamsters or other pets to be fed while you are on holiday or if you need your cats to be fed and let out. I can also walk dogs with my 15 year old sister.



Please call: ☎ 01869 337822



There's still time to
Get out with
Your camera, taking
Pictures for the Village Show
Photography competition

Deddington CofE Primary School



AS WE ENTER our final term at school we are busy fitting in last minute trips, getting ready for the summer fete, sports day and also preparing ourselves to say goodbye to our lively, but lovely, Year 6

This term Year 5 are going to Chessington World of Adventures for a final outing, whilst Year 6 are off to Bournemouth to enjoy the seaside. F1 are looking forward to the Cotswold Wildlife Park and Year 3 has enjoyed trips to Chedworth Roman Villa and Sulgrave Manor.

Children are busy practising for our Sports afternoon which we are hoping the sun shines for! Likewise the plans for the summer fete are coming together, this year the PTA are planning a circus theme for the day, this will include our very own school dance squad who have a few surprises up their sleeves!

At the end of term we say goodbye to our Year 6, our Leavers Assembly in the Church is at 9.30am on the 18th July, this is always a happy and sad occasion, we are sad to see them leave but it is lovely to celebrate their success and share fond memories with them. We wish them all the best at their Secondary Schools and hope they keep in touch.

Mrs Jane Cross,
Deputy head.

Jazz up your Summer at Upton House

JOIN THE JAZZ PARTY at Upton House and Gardens on Saturday 12 July. Master the Charleston and other 1930s dances with our professional duo, Hoppin' Mad whilst listening to music from the jazz band The Charleston Five, part of the Charleston Chasers.

Adoring our lawns, our bar will be serving Pimms and Champagne as well as coffee. So bring a picnic, enjoy the music and have a dance as the sun sets in the beautiful gardens of Upton House.

Exclusive offer: Group discount for our local villages. Book a party of 10 adults before the day and we will only charge you for the price of 9!

Andrew Overton at Upton House said "We are really looking forward to welcoming our locals to a wonderful evening of jazz dancing and music. A perfect occasion to bring family and friends together in a beautiful setting on our lawns at Upton."

Gates open at 6pm with the party getting underway at 7pm. Prices are £17 on the door or £15 if pre-booked (£7 for 5-18yrs).

Booking is essential on 0844 249 1895 or online at <http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/uptonhouse>



Katharine House News

Baroque to Tango- Music at St. Mary's Church, Swerford. 7.30pm, Sat. 12th July

Arne Richards (Harpsichord & Accordion) & Isobel Knowland (Violin). Programme includes: Purcell, Handel, Biber, Scarlatti, Carolan, French Café Music, Music from Ireland, Scotland, Finland, Argentinian Tangos and more....! Tickets £12.00 available from Jaffe & Neale Bookshop, Chipping Norton, or email charlotte.douglass@care4free.net (includes complimentary glass of wine or soft drink). Don't forget to bring a cushion! Proceeds to Friends of St Mary's and Katharine House Hospice.

Three Spires Challenge

Adderbury Running Club's annual Three Spires Challenge will take place on **Saturday 12 July 2014**. This fun and rewarding event offers something for runners of all abilities, including a half-marathon, 10k run, half-marathon walk and a junior fun run. The varied and challenging routes will encompass a mix of road and country paths, taking in much of the wonderful local countryside, amid a friendly atmosphere. For more information, visit our website - www.adderburyrunningclub.co.uk - to enter online or print out an entry form. Details of how to volunteer your time as a Race Marshall on the day can also be found online. Part proceeds to Katharine House.

Festival of Open Gardens

Our Festival of Open Gardens continues **Sun 6 July**, 2pm-5pm, **Broughton Castle** (Nr Banbury OX15 5EB). Entrance £5 (children free).

Sun 6 July, 2pm - 6pm, **17 Twyford Gardens, Adderbury** and **Placketts, High Street, Adderbury**. £4 (entry to both).

Sun 13 July, 1pm – 5pm, **Middleton Cheney Open Gardens**. 1 The Moors Drive, 14 Queen Street, 19 & 21 Glovers Lane, Peartree House- Glovers Lane, 38 Midway, 20 Horton Road, 17 Horton Close. £5 entry to all gardens. Plant stalls, homemade teas, raffle and KHH stall at Peartree House. Dogs on leads only.

Sun 13 July. 2pm-6pm, **Ablington Manor**, Bibury, (nr Cirencester, GL7 5NY). Afternoon teas. We would love to hear from anyone who'd like to donate cakes or help on the day. Please call Nicky on 01295 812161.

Sun 20 July, 2pm-6pm. **The Old Vicarage, Main Street, Bledington** (OX7 6UX). Afternoon teas, plant sale and KHH stall. Entrance by donation.

Sun 20 July, 2pm- 5pm, **Thatched Cottage, Churchill** (OX7 6NW). Entrance by donation.

Sun 20 July, 2pm- 5pm, **Home Close, Kettle End, Weedon Lois** (NN12 8PW) and the **Old Barn, Weedon Lois** (NN12 8PL). £4 entry to both gardens. Cream tea and KHH stall.

Sat 26 July, 10am – 5pm. **Broughton Grange (25 acres) Wykham Lane, Broughton**, Nr Banbury (OX15 5DS). Teas & cakes, plant stall and KHH stall.

Ball Colegrave Open Evening 4pm-8pm Wednesday 23rd July, Milton Road, Adderbury



Public open evening with a chance to see beautiful trials grounds, patio displays and hanging baskets, with part admission proceeds to Katharine House. Entry £2.50 (children under 12, free).

Are you following us on Facebook and Twitter?

Our Twitter and Facebook pages are gaining followers daily and are an excellent way to keep up to the minute with our news and events. Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/katharinehouse and on Twitter you can follow us @khhosp. Come and visit and say hello!

Thank you,

Sarah Brennan Community Fundraiser

Don't Fall Foul Of The Law

RESIDENTS ARE BEING urged to report dog owners who fail to pick up after their pets as part of a crackdown on dog fouling.

Cherwell District Council has designed a new webpage where people can report incidents of dog fouling including details of the dog, owner and location.



The confidential service has been designed to help the council's enforcement officers target hotspot areas and fine owners who are caught failing to clean up after their dog.

Cllr Nigel Morris said: "Our officers can't be everywhere at once but our residents can. By providing us with as much information about the dog, owner, times and locations of dog fouling it gives us a better chance of being in the right place at the right time to catch people flouting the law.

"Cherwell provides free dog poo bags across the district so there is no excuse for owners to not pick up after their pet. This new, confidential form will enable people to provide us with the information we need to take action against those who deliberately blight the area for others."

Offenders who fail to clear up after their dog can expect an on-the-spot fine of £50 or if they refuse to pay and the matter is escalated to magistrates' court, offenders can receive a maximum fine of £1,000.

To report an incident of dog fouling or a persistent offender, visit

<https://webforms.ictmanagementservices.com/popup.aspx/RenderForm/?F.Name=HYszmMzvUTj>



Maggie's 50 3rd year 14th June Supporting the 'Maggie Harvey' Trust in aid of brain tumour research

The event was attended by Maggie's son Anthony and her daughter Ruth with her baby Lola. They thanked the participants and said how touched they were by the support and informed them that to date the Maggie Harvey Trust had raised over £100,000.

Tony Shrimpton played a huge part in organising the event this year. With the help of Pat Evans he put in a tremendous amount of work carrying out a risk assessment and producing a rider's pack containing riding instructions, a map and directions listing the hazards on route. 58 cyclists took part which was more than last year.

The route started at Barford St. Michael and took in Middle Barton, Somerton, Souldern and Finmere on the way out to Boycott Farm Shop which is on the outskirts of Stowe School estate near Buckingham.

On return the route took in Shalstone, Mixbury, Evenley, Charlton, Kings Sutton and Twyford before arriving back at Barford. St Michael.

The cyclists were supplied with the rider packs and emergency telephone numbers, and the route was marked with direction arrows. The route covered a lot of minor roads. The advantage of this was that it was mainly free of traffic. However, there were poor road surfaces, gravel and a number of pot holes in some areas along the way. The weather was very kind and mostly sunny with only a few drops of rain along the way.

There was a wide range of cycling abilities ranging from super fit to virtual beginners.

To accommodate this we had a staggered start and a number had set off before the official start.

The back markers were accompanied and we had five support vehicles with the drivers acting as marshals where the route crossed major roads.

The fastest cyclist was Jered Allcock who completed the 50 miles in 2 hrs 15 minutes beating his last years ride by two minutes.

There were sterling efforts from Barney and Tilly Neal aged 13 yrs and 15 yrs respectively who both again completed the course and are becoming Maggie 50 veterans.

Most taking part had done so before, but there were a number of new entrants, including Julie Aldridge and Sue Rust, Gary Steward, Chris Humphrey and five others who came with Chris and Mark Woodward all of whom were experienced cyclists.

Also there were a number who had never previously cycled any distance namely; Austin and Gwen Lawler. Gwen bombed round the route whereas Austin was slow and steady, but there was never any doubt he would complete the ride.

Peter Wheeler who looked very comfortable and was content to ride at a steady pace with others;

Gill Allcock who finished in a very respectable time of 4.5 hours; and Helen Taylor who was carrying two heavypanniers which a donkey would have struggled with and who doggedly refused any offers to retire and completed the course in 6 1/2 hours. She might have been the last back but she did it and she did it her way. What determination and what an achievement!

All completed the course except one who turned back at Somerton and poor Veronique Semple who ran into a pothole just outside Boycott Farm Shop. Veronique sustained minor injuries and was transported back by one of the support vehicles.

At the half way point the staff at Boycott Farm Shop had again prepared for our arrival. They welcomed us and had laid on the use of their marquee and supplied us with discounted tea, coffee and cakes.

In the evening we held the BBQ at the George pub which was superbly cooked by Tony Lowe and Ron Colley and served by their wives Barbara and

Maureen and Barbara's sister Teresa and we were looked after by the landlord Martin and his staff.

Prizes were awarded to Barney and Tilly Neal; Jered Allock (a brick to slow him down), Helen Taylor and Michelle Scanlan.

We did not actively seek local sponsorship but we have had fantastic support from the people of Barford St. Michael, the Banbury masons and the spinners from Banatyne's sports club, many of whom knew Maggie.

Finally a big thank to: Tony Shrimpton who donated a lot of the prizes on top of all the work he did. To Pat Evans, Stewart Crichton, Tony Bastable, Simon Williams; and Ray Potts, who manned the support vehicles and marshalled the junctions. To David Sewell and Matt Pryde who marked out the entire route with direction arrows. To Tony and Barbara Lowe, Ron and Maureen Colley and Teresa for the BBQ. To Boycott Farm Shop. To the George Public House and last but not least to all the participants and supporters.

As a result of every one's efforts we estimate we will raise approximately £1,500 which will be donated to the Maggie Harvey website: www.maggieharveytrust.com. The final figure will be published after all the donations have been collected.

George Williams



Deddington PFSU and Village Nursery

THIS TERM IS ALWAYS a busy one with lots going on and most of the children preparing for their moves up to the PFSU and to school.

The PFSU children will be visiting the allotments on Friday 11th July between 9.30 and 11.30am, and will be singing in the church service on Sunday 6th July.

There will be the opportunity for parents to party at our amazing summer event

**'A Night at the Movies'
on Saturday 12th July
from 7.30pm to 1.00am.**

Tickets at £20 include a welcome drink, live music with local band Indigo Child, hog roast and other entertainment.

The children who are moving up will be able to visit the Primary School and Deddington PFSU on Tuesday 15th July, and there will also be two open days for new PFSU parents and children on Tuesday 8th and Wednesday 9th July from 3.30 to 4.30pm.

Our holiday club will be running from 9am – 3pm weeks beginning 21st July and 28th July. Please return booking forms as soon as possible as spaces are limited. Have a great summer!

Lucy Squires, 337484



Jazz at the Castle

Traditional Jazz with the
George Huxley Jazz Band



Friday 11th July, 2014

7.00 – 9.30 p.m.

**Broughton Castle,
Nr. Banbury, Oxon**

*This is a ticket only outdoor event in aid of
AgeUK Oxfordshire Today!*

Join us and bring your picnic, drinks, chairs, rugs and
umbrellas (just in case)
to enjoy an evening of traditional jazz in the beautiful
setting of Broughton Castle
by kind permission of Lord & Lady Saye & Sele.

**Tickets £12.00 available from AgeUK Oxfordshire,
White Lion Walk, Banbury, Oxon. OX16 5UD.
Telephone 01295 278040.**

Oxfordshire – a great place to grow old in!

Registered Charity No. 1091529

Down on the farm

ROLLING THE SPRING BARLEY to halt the advance of the wire worm I mentioned last month seems to have done the trick. Some areas may not fully recover but in general there has been an improvement with the crop tillering well to cover patches of failure.

Our agronomist called recently and seemed pleased with the result. He usually arrives bearing a sickly plant and a cheerful smile which invariably means dipping into our slender resources to cover the cost of an expensive spray. But on this occasion both smile and sickly plant were absent and I was informed that all was well: no ravaging by pests or diseases.

However, he added more cheerfully, there will of course be a need for an insurance spray for crops at ear emergence. We don't use chemicals unless we have to and while I don't mind spraying obvious ailments I jib at spraying something that may not occur, and said as much.

He replied with a couple of Latin names describing yield sapping diseases and warned of the consequences if they occurred. The trouble is that margins are now so tight that the last half tonne of yield, or less, may well be the profit. Consequently it is hard to argue against a final spray to protect the investment.

Like most farmers these days we employ an agronomist to help with decision making. Agronomy has taken leaps and bounds over the years and seen constant change in terms of products, regulations and even the problems that may not occur. As a result it requires specialist knowledge.

For the same reason we no longer own a sprayer, preferring to let my good neighbour Charlie Baker come and do the job and see to all the tiresome paperwork covering dates, wind speeds, temperatures, product requirements, crop growth stages and all the other things that I don't imagine anybody in authority ever looks at.

Actually I don't mind the discipline; correct use of crop chemicals is necessary and products now available are rigidly tested and highly selective. In addition the wide use of field margins growing wild flowers and indigenous plants has seen a considerable upsurge of insect life and the birds and mammals that feed on them.

Our own style of farming is best described as traditional in the sense that we are not intensive and have a range of enterprises mostly dependent on each other. But we do make use of technical advances when necessary. I know some people are keen on organic farming but I, personally, am not a fan if for no other reason that research has given the industry the opportunity to double, even treble,

productivity over the past fifty years to feed an ever burgeoning world population. A return to post war farming methods could not achieve that.

I recall a friend of mine on a visit to an organic farm some years ago; he scanned a field of sickly, weed infested wheat, shook his head and muttered: 'I've spent the last forty years trying not to farm like this',

Anyway I must go. The sprayer has just arrived with a tank full of insurance.

Tony Collier,
Iron Down Farm

Cherwell Satisfaction Survey

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL is once again asking residents for feedback on the services we provide.



The council has undertaken a satisfaction survey every year since 2006, using the feedback to continually improve services.

To take part in this year's satisfaction survey use the link on the council's website - www.cherwell.gov.uk Please contact the council if you'd prefer an alternative version of the survey.

If you live in the district we urge you to take part -. Your responses can be anonymous and we will use your feedback to make sure that your council continues to improve and give you the quality of services you require.

The survey contains 49 questions and should take no longer than 30 minutes to fill in. We'll ask you:

- how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with your area as a place to live
- your views on car parking
- your views on leisure facilities and activities
- how satisfied you are with waste collection and much more.

Anyone taking part in the survey can enter a prize draw with the chance of winning a hamper full of excellent local produce, worth £50. More information on email michal.gogut@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk or phone 01295 221575.

The survey closes on 11th July.

The hamper is funded by Cherwell Views Citizens Panel Project Team at SPA Future.

• Winner details can be obtained from SPA Future Thinking after Monday 11th August 2014.

NATURE NOTES 129

WAIT AND SEE! That's how I concluded *Nature Notes* on the 5th of May, regarding the weather. We didn't have long to wait - the changeable, stormy weather continued with Low Pressure in charge and quickly moving weather fronts until the 13th!



But, back to the 6th. A day of heavy storm clouds and warm sun on a SW wind, a daytime *max.* of 21.5° and 8° at night. Again, Sylvie Butler picked up a single Tawny Owl hoot in the early hours, this time from Lower Street. I suppose these odd calls to be simple contact calls, or attempts to get a reply from another local Tawny.

On the 7th, day temperatures started to drop as a cool WSW breeze set in; night temperatures stood consistently at 8°. The most significant 'spot' was a single Swift over St. Michael by Bas Butler - the first this year!

By the 8th the cool WSW breeze had dropped the temperature to 17°, bringing a thoroughly wet day. For the next three days the temperature stood at a chilly 16.5° and I noted a new phenomenon, at least in my house! Quite large *Tegenoria* house-spiders (probably not full grown) began to emerge and were travelling around the walls and skirtings by day as well as night. This behaviour has always been an autumnal occurrence in my experience -as the weather cools tangibly from summer. It leaves me wondering if this occurrence is due to the autumnal nature of the current weather.

And so the miserable conditions continued, but a little easing on the 10th brought to me, with great delight, the distant call of a Cuckoo from the east of the parish. Tony Bastable kindly brought in a glass jar, a large Hornet for me to see. It was initially believed to be of an aggressive Asian species that had recently been identified on the South Coast, but thankfully was later found to be a robust British queen!

Bas now stepped in with a master stroke, by spotting between Ilbury and Fernhill, a Marsh Harrier! This larger-than-Buzzard, dark brown female, denizen of the Fens and wet moors, was slowly and methodically scouring the fields looking for rodents, rabbits and birds close to the ground, on wings spread in a typical "V* shape -and why not? - after all the rain we've had!.

Sunday the 11th was the day of our annual 12 hour bird species count. The wind became a stiff, cold NW blow and two hours of rain, brightened to odd showers for the remaining ten!

In the 100 square kilometres that we cover (Barfords quite near the centre) we recorded 66 species and, although this is a good number in our square, individuals of each species were mostly, depressingly down. I suppose our 'star' species were Mediterranean Gull (rather like a Black-headed Gull), Whimbrel (like a small Curlew), Sand Martin (scarce in our square

through lack of nesting sites), Yellow Wagtail (once so common in damp 'unimproved' cattle-grazed water-meadows), Sedge Warbler, (nowadays a lover of insects among oil-seed rape) and Nuthatch, which we had the privilege of watching at the mud-reduced opening of its nesting hole, only at head height - thanks to the amazing, sharp eyes of Ian Hobday!

On the 12th chimney-nesting Jackdaws started harrying my House Martins, but I successfully discouraged them until peace was regained.

Also on the 12th, the approach of High Pressure from SW brought improvement and a rise in temperatures. The wind slowly backed from NW to S by the 17th, but from the 14th, at 22°, the day temperature rose steadily to a dazzling 28.5° on the 19th. Such high temperatures so early, after such moderate temperatures to date could only mean trouble, especially as nights remained around a chilly 7°. Wildlife was not adjusted to it. There were a few Hoverflies, solitary Mining Bees and Digger Wasps around, although queens of Common and German Wasps became uncomfortably frequent visitors indoors. The butterflies were in evidence, but numbers were low with only a few Small and Green-veined Whites, Brimstones and Orange Tips locally. Many of the small tree-moth caterpillars on which nestlings are fed seem to have been decimated. There was, in any case, much loss of small bird broods.

Our editor was delighted at the performance of the Blue Tits in her two nestboxes, one of which produced seven young, and the other, five. She also had a fledging brood of Robins!

But this was in contrast to the story in the wild.

Nevertheless, on the 17th there was a probable new sighting of a Hen Harrier at South Newington - the first for a long time. But there were still no Swifts around the Barfords ...

Haze clearing to hot sun brought that aforementioned 28.5° on the 19th. It was so hot that everything hid and went into slumbers. The late afternoon brought an unusual atmospheric event, when low level condensation induced profuse drizzle from a clear sky! In cooler conditions later, this developed into isolated local showers. A Heron rose from the pool at Barford House and flew off westward in late

morning; and Ian Hobday heard a Cuckoo calling at the allotments.

Temperatures now started to reduce as a series of LP fronts came up from the south. The 20th reached 22° with heavy cloud later, but no rain. Bas Butler noted the Cuckoo calling from the water meadows near St. Michael Mill, and this was reinforced by Diana Muirhead who heard him at St. John. There was a rise of flying insects in the evening and I counted seven House Martins and (only!) two Swallows hawking around Townsend. A cool night of only 6.5° followed. The next day was clear with penetrating sun, but cloud increased through afternoon with heavy prolonged rain from midnight.

The 22nd sprang on a fresh S breeze. Sun through building cloud became a crashing thunderstorm and heavy rain during afternoon. The rain continued through night into morning, and, easing a little, through the afternoon, continuing steadily all night and through the morning of the 23rd. The air was very still, with barely a waver of breeze, from a few points E of S.

The 24th continued likewise, but by mid-day some blue sky peeped through the black clouds. However, frequent isolated showers persisted, but ceased for a cool evening. I spent some time listening to evening birdsong along Barley Lane and Fernhill, Blackbirds, Song Thrushes, Robins and Wrens lead the chorus, with contributions from Chiffchaffs and Willow Warblers. Yellow Hammers wheezed their breezy, simple, rustic little songs from the overhead wires and the drowsy conversational chatter of the Rooks provided the background. It was all very quiet, breezy and beautiful - an English evening as it should be!

A fresh blow from a few points W of S heralded the 25th with bright, hot sun and a some fairweather cloud! To match the birds' evensong, the dawn chorus was also still very strong, again lead forcefully (and in good numbers) by the Thrush family. In the afternoon, a hunting Buzzard hovered low over its prey, legs and claws extended, dropping like a stone behind the Fernhill hedge. I didn't see it again. A little further on, there was a Red Kite feeding at roadside kill near the Barley Lane junction. These birds were good to see as, like so much wildlife, numbers appear noticeably reduced against previous years. Being very poorly represented, bumblebees are a good example, so far this yea. Only the occasional small ginger *Bombus pascuorwn* and the even smaller red tail on black-with-yellow-bands *B. pratorum* currently on view.

And now, in this last week of May, we were to be assaulted from NE by another large LP system.

The 26th dawned overcast. Steady rain from mid-morning produced a chilly, wet day on a SE breeze that slowly backed to NE. Once again, there was drizzle - or steady rain - for the next three days. The night of the 27th dropped to 9° and then the following night rose to only 13°, but the humidity was 98%! Over these three days wildlife went back into cover, and I'm as sure as I can be, with only absence for evidence, that the insect world closed right down, with only a few species making progress. This meant that once more, insectivorous birds and mammals (e.g. bats) were put under stress, and broods lost. The 29th showed a lessening of rain and a little sun, encouraging a Red Kite to show itself over the entry road to Hill Farm on the B4031. The 30th was dry overcast, and mild all day. In the afternoon there was a knock at my door, and there was Claire Cox saying that, as she ran up Radwell Hill, a Little Owl sat on the overhead wires. This was great news as reports of this species around the Barfords are very low this year.

At last, the 31st dawned bright, overcast, mild and virtually windless. A little sun broke through mottled cloud about 10am - HP was again taking control It became warm in the afternoon sun, and, seemingly just to celebrate, a male Raven spent over an hour chasing young Jackdaws around Townsend, croaking and making lots of fuss. Whether he wanted to catch one I don't know - or was it just his blokish humour?

And so, over a chilly night of just 6°, an erratic and largely miserable May dissolved into June, on a clear sunrise, a hot morning, and light westerly airs; cloud did build through afternoon however.

The 2nd was a cloudy day, warm with high humidity, and the 4th was a thoroughly wet day. But on the 3rd and 5th I had some interesting bees in my garden The first was *Psythirus rupestris*, a large cuckoo bumble-bee. Black with a red tail, it resembles its host *Bombus lapidarius* but has cloudy black wings. The latter I have found very scarce this year because of waterlogged over-wintering sites. A second, smaller and less dark specimen appeared on the 5th foraging White Comfrey in my garden along with the recently arrived *B. hypnorum*. But earlier, to start the day off, there was the Cuckoo again, singing on Steepness at 10.30am! And here I'm going to finish these *N.N.* for now. I'm off to Scotland to look for Black-throated Divers and Slavonian Grebes -and there's packing to do. Will give you a quick resume next month! - plus *N.N.* from the Barfords of course!

Ron Knight