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VIRTUAL THURSDAY CUPPA MORNING.....Because the Thursday Cuppa Mornings can't take place at the moment in the village hall, we've started to host a virtual 'coffee and chat' on Thursday mornings using the Barford WI's Zoom licence. You can join and leave any time from 10:30 to suit yourself. It usually lasts for about an hour and currently there's a group of eight or so regulars (male and female), but you're very welcome to join in occasionally.

It doesn't matter if you've never been along to the Cuppa Mornings. With so many people at home during the lockdown and with less incentive to be outside in the cold, you might just like the opportunity to see some friendly faces. If you're unaccustomed to using Zoom, we can help you get started.

If you'd like to join us, please contact Christine Hall (☎ 338659 or hall94.christine@btinternet.com)



THANK YOU BARFORD DOGGIES Ghillie & Friends 2021 calendar

I have visited residents at The Ridings Care home for the last two years with my Pets as Therapy dog Ghillie sadly since the first lockdown last March, those visits had to stop. I wanted to find a way to support the residents in maintaining their relationship with Ghillie. A visual memory and so the concept of a calendar sprang to mind!

I had the idea of including other dogs. I started asking fellow dog walkers in the village if they would like to get involved. Thirty volunteered, sending in their pictures of dogs and birthday dates. We ended up with 2 to 3 dogs per month.

I would like to say a HUGE thank you to all those Barford pooches and their owners for the support and encouragement they gave with such enthusiasm!



At a time when care homes have been really under pressure fighting this horrible epidemic. you can see from the pictures – our little calendar brought a lot of joy to many people.

www.petsastherapy.org

www.anchorhanover.org.uk/our-properties/ridings-banbury





TONY COLLIER
15 July 1937 – 25 November 2020

Tony spent his childhood days in Yorkshire near his mother's family farm. There, life up on the Wolds instilled in Tony a lasting love of the countryside and its agriculture. It was from that early age that he knew he wanted to farm. He would tag along behind his grandfather and cousins learning everything he could about the local wildlife and farming practices.

In 1945 Tony's father returned from serving as a Padre in the war and he became a Methodist Superintendent based in Hungerford. Tony then attended Kingswood School in Bath, a school designed to provide education for Methodist Ministers' sons. In Tony's words: "I was a fairly average pupil, excelling in rugby and cricket and spending most of my spare time breeding rabbits for the school laboratory and the local scientific lab. I was paid half a crown each for the rabbits which was a princely sum!"

He left school aged 17 in 1954 and worked long hours as a Farm Pupil on a pedigree Ayrshire dairy farm earning 10 shillings a week.

In 1955 Tony attended the Berkshire College of Agriculture which he loved, studying all aspects of farming. He gained experience by working on various farm enterprises including as shepherd to John Cherrington who was a presenter on BBC's Farming Programme at the time. There, his wage rose to £12/week plus van, cottage, sheepdog, horse and house cow, plus a bonus on lambing and shearing. After 2 years, Tony changed direction and became a tractor and farm machinery salesman for T H White of Devizes. It was here that he took up rugby again playing regularly for Bath. After subsequently working for International Harvester Tony applied for a job on Power Farming where he launched his writing career, eventually becoming Technical Editor a year later. The work suited him well, being virtually his own boss and travelling extensively overseas.

Six years later, in 1969, Tony became a freelance journalist based just outside Henley on Thames, and started up in Agricultural Public Relations forming Four Seasons Publicity, which is still running today. Tony then saw a gap in the market in 1971 and launched a new magazine, Farm Contractor. This journal is also still thriving as Farm Contractor and Large Scale Farmer. It was during this period that Tony and Stephanie met and in 1982 they moved to Iron Down and married in 1985. Tony spent nearly 40 years at Iron Down and early days there were hard work with long hours juggling the publishing business and farming. Friends who called in often found themselves roped into helping with sheep dipping, shearing, moving sheep or carting bales. Over the years Tony kept Hereford cattle, sheep, chickens, Gloucester Old Spot pigs, sold eggs and tomatoes and was prominent in developing the butchery as well as running the arable side of the farm. For the first Christmas on the farm, Tony smuggled in the first Iron Down Gloucester Old Spot as a surprise Christmas present!

As well as his great love of farming, Tony was a bit of an adventurer. He loved visiting farmer friends in New Zealand, where he enjoyed White Water Rafting but drew the line at bungy jumping. He supported the England Rugby team when they won the World Cup in 2003 in Sydney returning again, to support England in the 5 day Final Test Match which England won along with The Ashes in 2012. A few years ago he volunteered to crew on the replica of the HMS Endeavour – which was commanded by James Cook on his first voyage of discovery. Tony enjoyed being involved in the local community acting as a judge at ploughing matches in the area as well as judging the local allotment competition. He was a regular contributor to Barford News writing the 'Down on the Farm' articles which were done with his usual wry sense of humour. He also had a weekly egg round which was a good excuse for a gossip with friends.

Tony was thrilled to become a Grandpa in September and in the last couple of years, despite health issues, he spent many a happy hour sitting in his conservatory watching the wildlife from his window. There he enjoyed reading, battling with the crossword, cooking up mad money-making schemes, chatting to friends and putting the world to rights. They were happy days.

CHURCH MATTERS



At this time of crisis, we all need something to hope for, something which will make our lives more fulfilling and less troubled. For many of us it is the receiving of the COVID vaccine which, we hope, will enable the country to start recovering and help us all to return to "normal".



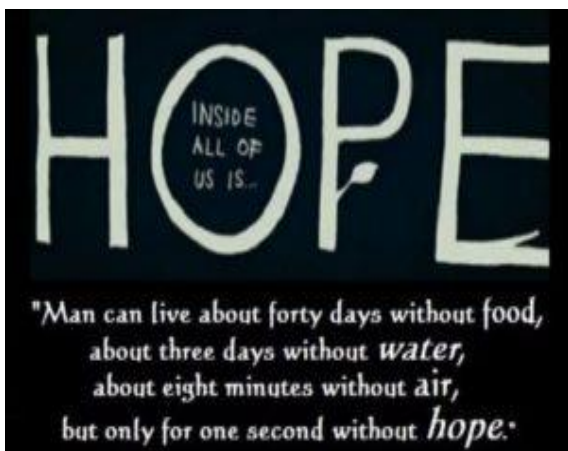
Hope can be the difference between success and failure. You can withstand so much if you know you have people who support you and are looking out for you. You can face just about anything, as long as you don't lose the hope that you can succeed. Even hope and faith as tiny as a mustard seed can produce mountainous amounts of blessings (Mark 4: 30-34).



We often meet the word 'hope' in the Bible. Frequently the psalms encourage us to hope in God – *Remember your word to your servant, in which you have made me hope (Ps.119.49)*. Jeremiah 29:11 says *For I know the plans for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*



Hope is a force. Hope is giving yourself permission to fail, reflect, learn, and retry with no expiration date. Hope is in nature. Each intake of breath and morning's dawn is nature's reminder that there is hope. Each new day provides mercy, fresh perspective, grace, and untapped possibilities.



Hope is a fighter. Hope may flicker or falter but doesn't give up. Hope reminds us that we are tough, able to withstand the tragedies and difficulties we experience in life.

Hope is the ultimate driving force. Hope will make you raise the roof, jump up and down, believe that your dreams are within reach, and your life is greater than your present circumstances.

Be encouraged to stay focused on Jesus. Be persistent. Pray for endurance. Know the Lord has a plan. And finally, be a reflection of hope to the world. Let people know where your hope, faith, and trust lies, sharing the light and hope with them.

Sue Addison - Churchwarden



to a lovely gentleman in the High Street
who gave us a cheque for Barford News
for £50, thank you so much.

Also, the two lovely families from The Rock
who asked for our bank details so that
they could make a
donation...Fantastic...!!!!

The BN Team



Thank You

We would like to thank everyone in the
villages for all the help and support we
have received. The kind gestures, along
with the cards and telephone calls have
been much appreciated.

Thank you.
Stephanie and family

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CONGRATULATIONS

to
Sarah and Chris Charman
of Church Street
on the birth of
Eliza Jane
on 14th December, weighing 7lb 2oz



we wish little Eliza a long,
happy and healthy life



WELCOME TO
Simon Somerville & Maureen Nolan
who recently arrived in Bishops Close
also
Kathy Gosling in Lower Street
we hope you will be very
happy in your new homes in our beautiful
villages



GREEN THOUGHT OF THE MONTH 2021 - A YEAR OF HOPE

In last month's article I expressed a hope that 2021 would not be dominated by COVID. Sadly, 2021 has begun with a swing back to extremely high levels of transmissions and tragically more deaths. With daily news of the terrible strain the NHS is under, we are back in a full national Lockdown.

This upsurge in cases is likely to continue for another few weeks before peaking. Things will become even harder before they get better. And yet there is cause for hope. The NHS vaccine rollout is promised to every adult in the UK by autumn, offering the hope of returning to a more normal and being virus-free by late 2021, or early 2022.

We also have an opportunity to look at the ways in which we've lowered the climate change impact of our lifestyles over the last year, through reduced commutes and car use, and how we can embed these habits in our lives.

Last month I explained that to help and support Barford residents we propose to create a sister organisation to Deddington Environment Network - **Barford Environment Network (BEN)**. Creating the group will allow us to access modest grant funding to help us move towards net zero carbon. If you're interested in joining this new group and helping to make our communities more sustainable as we move beyond COVID, please email me, explaining your areas of interest.

We will organise a virtual meeting to launch our group in February and aim to meet face to face when it is safe to do so. It would be great to have you join us. **John O'Brien**

Contact John O'Brien, Barford St. John resident, at e: john@lcm.co.uk or the DEN team at e: info@deddingtonenvironment.net or <http://www.deddingtonenvironment.net/> to express your interest in our existing or new group



Count Us In! On the subject of cutting down our carbon impact wherever we can, here's some useful motivation. **Count Us In** aims to sign up a billion people, each of whom will undertake to take one or more steps to reduce our carbon emissions.

"We have a choice, and what we do matters. We can act now to protect our livelihoods and our communities, and leave a world for our children that is worth living for."

The website offers a choice of 12 areas - or of course you can choose them all! For each, you'll receive advice, track your progress, and see how much carbon you're saving. Some are very easy, e.g. ***eat seasonal, reduce food waste*** and ***wear clothes to last***; others will take more commitment and/or expense, such as ***drive electric, green your money*** and ***tell your politicians***.

Everything you need is on the website: <https://www.count-us-in.org/project/>
Can we **count you in?** **Linda Newbery**

Green Thought of the Month is compiled and edited by Linda Newbery. If you have a green idea to share, please email L.newbery@btinternet.com.



‘Bibury’ by B.E.R. of Barford St Michael



**If I could wish myself away,
if only for one hour a day,
I know exactly where I’d be,
beside the River Colne at Bibury.**

**Beside the meandering River Colne,
that babbles over rock and stone,
whilst Cootes and Moorhen
they dab’ about,
at Russian roulette playing trout.**

**I’d walk the ancient ‘right of ways’,
that sever woods from grassy leys,
and deep in thought I’d take my stride,
to where the swans and cygnets glide.**

**And there beside the waterfall,
where plaintiff target pheasants call,
and Dickensian church bells ring,
I’d sit and muse....remembering....**

Brian Rogers wrote ‘Bibury’ having worked on a large country estate for a time. “The village itself took you back in time gone bye, sadly it is now a place where lots of visitors arrive spring and summer time making it a little more crowded”.

‘The Avenue’ by B.E.R.



**When feeling in a melancholy mood,
I often take the long meandering tree-
lined walk, The Avenue,
which drops down gently like a dried up
mountain stream.**

**Within a woodland valley-scape where
progressiveness lies half asleep,
and country folk eek out their lives,
bereft of modern-ills and ties,
tall elongated trees spring up at either
side, where ere I walk content to look, and
not talk, at Constable’s idyllic scene on
hand, within the Cotwold’s valley grand.**

**In springtime there’s a different hue all
along the Avenue,
a radiant sea becalms the troubled mind,
no better drug a man can find,
than standing still amidst the swells of a
million sweetly scented bells.**

**With springtime gone and summer here,
the rhododendron reappear,
and all along the road to Tew,
a different scent, a myriad hue.**

**Shimmer out to pierce the inward eye,
of each and every passer-by,
to send them on their Jocund Way,
towards the Tews and a better day.**

Brian wrote ‘The Avenue’ about 40 years ago having walk along the mile long tree-lined route to Great Tew from off the Chipping Norton road. “At the time the bluebells were in full bloom, it was so peaceful down in the valley”.

LiberHouse Garden Buildings

New for 2020. Our Studio Multi

With an internal floor area of 20 sq m (215 sq ft) our Studio Multi offers a range of possibilities

This can be a space for a home workshop with plenty of room for workbenches and machines.

Alternatively, with the addition of a WC and kitchenette area, it could be a home office or studio space.

Adding a shower room and a kitchen makes a possible granny flat or guest room which can also be used for holiday/Airbnb lets.

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DEDDINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Here at Deddington Primary School, we hope this newsletter will find you all as well as possible in these extremely difficult times and circumstances.

We are of course open to some of our pupils whose parents are Key/Critical Workers. We are so delighted to be able to have these children with us in school. Those children who are learning remotely from home are already working hard too, and are able to 'see' each other periodically when talking and working with their class teachers and Teaching Assistants. This is an amazing thing we are able to do this time during Lockdown, which we were unable to do previously last year.

The children remain in bubbles as with last term and they are incredibly good at following all social distancing measures, using gel on their hands regularly throughout the school day and so forth.

We are so very lucky to have such fantastic families and pupils here at Deddington. We would like to thank them all massively, for their continuous support with school and home learning, during the current situation.

From all of us at Deddington Primary School we are sending you our very best wishes. Please take good care of yourselves over the coming weeks of continued Lockdown.

Denise Welch

NEONICOTINOID PESTICIDES – Setting the Record Straight Concerning Honey Bees

Neonicotinoids have been used as a seed dressing for years. They replaced the older pesticides which were sprayed on the crops and it was thought that the newer products would be cleaner and more targeted. They get into all parts of the plant as they are “systemic”.

However, in 2018 millions of bees were killed by neonicotinoid pesticides in Germany and as a result the EU banned neonicotinoids for OUTDOOR use.

They remained legal for indoor use in all of the green houses and poly tunnels in Southern Europe. These are used to grow tomatoes, peppers, strawberries etc. and are so big they can be seen from space. The crops are pollinated by bumblebees because honey bees won't work “indoors”, they just go for the light and try to get out.

The bumblebee colonies are bred in Holland specially for this job and have to be kept inside. (The UK also imports hundreds of the bumblebee colonies for indoor pollination). The workers die off naturally at the end of the summer and the queens are killed. This is to stop dilution of the gene pool of the local bumblebees.

If a grower wanted to use neonicotinoids on an outdoor crop they had to apply to the EU for “emergency authorisation”. Between 2018 and the end of 2020 the EU has issued 67 “emergency authorisations” for the use of neonicotinoids outdoors but none of the applications were from the UK. The UK has issued none, until now. This is the first. The authorisation is for 120 days for sugar beet in Eastern England for a crop wholly purchased by British Sugar.

This issue is not Brexit related.

13 EU nations, including France, Germany, and Belgium, have just issued similar authorisations for their own sugar beet crop.

Sugar beet is harvested before it flowers so the bees will not be harmed by this crop.

But....This neonicotinoid, thiamethoxam, will stay in the soil in small quantities for years. To overcome this issue the request for authorisation to the British Government (which I have seen) specifically states that only non-flowering crops will be planted in the rotation for several years.

However, the real issues are:

1. Bayer, the German pharmaceutical company that produces neonicotinoids, exports them to third world countries. You can't use them outdoors in Europe without special permission (which has never been refused), but it's OK for poorer countries.
2. They are used legally and extensively in Southern Europe indoors, so are the bumblebees less important than the honey bees?
3. The Government is asking food manufacturers to reduce the amount of sugar in our diet. Do we need more sugar?
4. Beekeepers across the UK usually feed granulated white sugar to their bees in the autumn to ensure that they have sufficient food to last through the winter. Will it be contaminated by pesticides?

So, yes, we need to get this stopped but it is **not related to Brexit. It is a much bigger issue.**

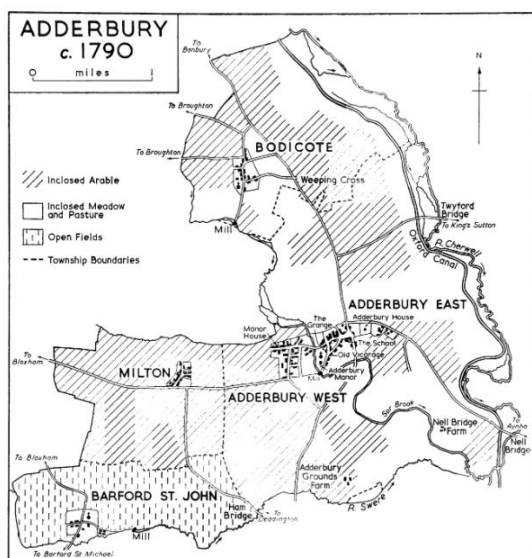
There is a consultation on the Government website. The charity for British beekeeping, The British Beekeeping Association, has details on its website. www.bbka.org.uk of demands made to government. Also, please read and then sign the petition at https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/569214?fbclid=IwAR2bnm6xmFgn_UvddgaxUgGxmzWIC_FZH B5089nKOioW93jFNrx4YswmDzYDiane



Margaret Murdin
Immediate Past President
BBKA

A SHORT HISTORY OF BARFORD ST. JOHN EXTRACTED FROM THE ADDERBURY HUNDRED

The ancient parish of Adderbury covered an area of 6,045 a. and included the townships of Adderbury East (2,058 a.), Adderbury West (1,160 a.), Bodicote (1,291 a.), Barford St. John (726 a.), and Milton (810 a.). It was reduced in size in 1855 when Bodicote became a separate ecclesiastical and civil parish, and again in 1932 when Barford St. John was joined with Barford St. Michael to form a new civil parish. The modern civil parish of Adderbury (East and West) with Milton covers 4,028 acres.



Barford St. John, the smallest of the hamlets, lies in the extreme south-west of the parish on either side of the Bloxham-Deddington road. Barford, like Adderbury, grew as two villages, Barford St. Michael and Barford St. John, divided by a river, the Swere. Only Barford St. John, generally known in the Middle Ages as North or Little Barford lay in Adderbury parish and Bloxham hundred. The name Barford derived from the Old English *bere*, meaning barley, compounded with *ford* because the river was fordable there.

Both Barfords lie at c. 350 ft. above the valley floor which is liable to flooding, so much so that the road over the bridge is sometimes impassable for motor traffic. In 1784 c. 30 families lived in Barford St. John, by 1801 there were 100 inhabitants, and by 1901 only 55. In the 1961 census returns it was included with Barford St. Michael.

The manor-house lies close to the church on rising ground. It was largely rebuilt c. 1920 on a long rectangular plan facing west with a wing on the north-east. It is of 2 stories and built of coursed ironstone rubble with stone end copings. The south

gable end seems least restored and bears a date panel with 1598, W.M.S. The square stone dovecot was built c. 1713 and the barn, 175 ft. long, to the south-east of the house, may date from about the same time. It was presumably this house for which William Gamock was assessed on 8 hearths for the tax of 1665. It is likely that the original manor-house lay south-east of the church and nearer the river. There are traces of the moat and earth banks of an early fortified dwelling.

Manor Farm or Moat Farm, perhaps the Belcher's house which was assessed on 4 hearths in 1665, dates from 1606 and bears the initials T. and A.B. on the south gable. It, too, is of 2 stories and is built of local material on an L-shaped plan with wings to south and east. Originally it consisted of hall and parlour only, but a newel-stair contained in a gabled stair-tower has been added. A 13th-century stone window of 2 lights has been reset in the ground-floor room in the west face.

Among other 17th-century buildings are the Crown Inn, remodelled in modern times, Mead and Street Farms, both in the village, and Barford Mill at the bottom of Coombe Hill. In Church Lane, close to the church, there is a house built on the 2-roomed plan, dating from 1680–90. Its doorway has a richly moulded architrave of stone.

In 1308 Roger Beaufeu settled the manor on the brothers Roger and Thomas Beaufeu and their heirs. It appears to have descended through several families until 1682 when it passed from Chamberlayne family to Sir Robert Dashwood on his marriage to Penelope, daughter and coheir of Sir Thomas Chamberlayne, Baronet.

By 1718 Barford had passed from the Dashwoods to Col. Fiennes Twisleton of Broughton, son of Cecily, *de jure* Baroness Saye and Sele. Its descent in the 18th century is unknown, but it apparently passed at some time to Twisleton's kinsmen the Viscounts Saye and Sele,

In 1879 it was sold to Sir Henry William Dashwood of Kirtlington, and in 1898 the latter's son Sir George sold it to Magdalen College, Oxford, who held it in 1965.

Barford St. John was not inclosed until 1794. Of the six proprietors the two largest were Sir Henry Watkin Dashwood who was allotted 287½ a. for his 20½ yardlands, and Michael Corgan who received c. 148 a., including 10 a. for tithes.

Although there was much tenant farming in the 19th century the break-up of the Buccleuch estate led to a temporary increase in owner-occupiers. In 1786 the duke was paying one third of the land tax of the two

Adderburys; there were 45 other landowners in Adderbury East, of whom 25 were owner occupiers; at Adderbury West the proportions were 26 and 10, at Milton 19 and 6, at Bodicote 34 and 12, and at Barford there were 5 owners.

Mills

The mill at Little Barford, or Barford St. John, was first mentioned in 1307, when it was held by Roger Beaufeu. In 1327 the lessee paid the second highest contribution to the tax. The mill followed the descent of the Beaufeu manor and was sold by Sir George Dashwood to Magdalen College, Oxford, in 1898. This mill too had ceased working by 1915

Churches

The likelihood is that Adderbury church was founded before the Conquest: the village was named after St. Eadburga. Adderbury, in the Middle Ages was the mother church of a wide area, including the chapelries of Milton, Bodicote, and Barford St. John. Barford St. John was amalgamated with Barford St. Michael in 1890.

Barford's ancient chapel, valued at £4 6s. 8d. in 1291, survived the Reformation and continued to be served by the Vicar of Adderbury or his curate until it was annexed to Barford St. Michael in 1890. The chapel of *ST. JOHN*, Barford consists of a nave, chancel, and south porch with an octagonal bell-turret over it. Of the original 12th-century church there remain the south doorway with chevron ornament and possibly the font. The chancel appears to have been rebuilt in the 13th century, the chancel arch and a two-light window in the south wall being of this date.

The decorated nave windows and two piscinae were inserted in the 14th century.

The church formerly had a tower which stood inside the nave at its south-west corner. Buckler's drawing shows that it was of medieval character, though possibly of post-Reformation date. The date 1622 was carved on the highest stage of the tower.

Repairs to the chancel were ordered in 1684, and these were evidently carried out for in Rawlinson's time there was a tablet bearing the names of the churchwardens and the date 1684. The chancel was again recorded as out of repair in 1752, 1755, and 1844. A restoration of the church was proposed in 1855 and carried out in 1864 in accordance with the plans of G. E. Street.

The tower was removed and was replaced by a bell-tower standing over the new south porch. A new oak Communion table was provided in 1861. There is an armorial tablet to James Belcher (d. 1722). William Cumming, M.D., gave a silver chalice with paten cover in 1746. The bells are 19th century. The churchyard was opened in 1838 on land given by the vicar. The registers are complete from 1771 for births, 1784 for marriages, and 1839 for deaths.

Schools

The first school to be founded in the parish was the free grammar school in Adderbury East, endowed by the will of Christopher Rawlins in 1589.

Barford was the worst served village in the parish. In 1815 there were 25 children needing education, but the numbers were too small and the tenant farmers were not well enough off to contribute towards the cost of a school. Some of the children went to a school at Barford St. Michael, which adjoined Barford St. John, but there were complaints in 1818 that the poor had not the means to educate their children. In 1852 a Church of England mixed school was established for the two Barfords at Barford St. Michael and a certificated mistress who had previously taught at Adderbury school was appointed. This school was closed in 1957 and the children were transferred to Deddington primary and secondary schools.



RUBBISH & RECYCLING COLLECTION DATES {*always a Thursday*}

4thgreen
11thblue 'n' brown
18thgreen
25th blue 'n' brown



**BARFORD GREEN GARDEN CLUB
NOTES FROM OUR POTTING SHED
February 2021**

THE ORGANIC GARDENER'S LAMENT

It's Spring again, let's sing again,
Go into the garden and dig.
Sow all those seeds,
Hoe out those weeds,
Before they grow too big.

Spud tops are green, fruit buds are seen,
That night we have a hard frost.
Will nature cope?
Cross fingers - and hope
That nothing precious is lost.

We thin each row, next day - oh no!
The cat has thinned them again.
And then we get,
Two weeks of wet,
Relentless, pouring rain.

Just look at that, the plants are flat,
Did the weatherman mention hail?
Leaves full of holes,
Fat slugs in shoals,
And there's a blooming great snail.

What's that we spy? Massed greenfly!
Where are the ladybirds?
Why do bugs spot
Our tiny plot?
It leaves me lost for words.

What's that you say? Storms on the way,
It can't be true - or can it?
It's the month of May
And it's snowing today.
What joy to be 'organic'

In spite of moggy and ground all soggy,
Hail, bugs, late frost and rain,
That's our OWN mud
On that home grown spud,
Next year we'll do it again.

Brenda Kirkham very kindly sent us this
poem.....Thank you, Brenda.

SPRING starts very early and there are already signs of new growth.

The seeds from Kings ordered by our members have arrived, and been collected from Rodney. This was a great success as we ordered more than enough to qualify for the 50% discount, and Rodney can place another order towards the end of January if there's enough demand. We need only order £50 worth this time to benefit from the same discount, and spare catalogues and order forms are available if you need them. Thank you to Rodney for organising this for us!

Rodney Hobbs has asked me to pass on the latest information about the seed orders. To reply, use his email address: rshepersonal@gmail.com.

'Hi everyone, all the seeds from the first order have been collected and no problems have been reported to me. I've had interest from 2 people for a second seed order so, providing we can get to a minimum order value of £50, we will get 50% discount... I've still got some catalogues and order forms and I've put some in my porch as before.

Deadline for orders is Wednesday 27 January, so maybe deadline has passed by the time you get your Barford News? Not long before we can start sowing seeds and getting our gardens moving. Hope everyone is well and you're coping with the latest lockdown. Stay safe, Rodney'

Our Committee member Trevor Stevens has asked Cotefield Nurseries if they can give a discount to our members. Although they can't offer a special discount to our club, they do have their own loyalty programme which you can join on their website. Click on the Reward Club tab, register there and you will be notified by email when your card is ready to collect. This will entitle you to points, email bulletins and special offers..
<https://www.cotefieldnurseries.co.uk>.

JOBS TO DO IN AND AROUND THE GARDEN

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. Prepare vegetable seed beds and sow some seeds 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 reposition

those that need planting 'in the green': Prune wisteria: Prune hardy evergreen hedges and renovate, fill gaps in deciduous hedges: Prune conservatory climbers such as bougainvillea: Cut back deciduous grasses left uncut over the winter and remove dead grass from those that are evergreen:

General houseplant care.....Don't leave houseplants on windowsills behind the curtains on frosty nights, especially if your windows are not double-glazed. Stand houseplants on trays of damp gravel to counteract drop in humidity in centrally-heated homes. Water houseplants sparingly until they come into active growth with the advancing spring. Check that light levels are sufficient for houseplants. They will need light to carry on until the spring, and can easily be forgotten in a back or spare room that receives little natural light, or with the curtains left drawn. They are best moved to sunny positions until March.

All these tips are taken from RHS Website. More information can be found there.

AGM, this is normally held in February but maybe not in the usual way this year. We won't be charging a membership fee this year as we had so little to offer you in 2020 - so **your subscription won't need renewing until spring 2022. News about AGM will be sent to members.** Lavinia Crowther has decided to leave our Committee but will continue to be a member.

FUTURE TALKS and VISITS, we are hoping that some of these will be able to go ahead this year.

NEWCOMERS TO OUR VILLAGES, please get in touch about becoming a member of Barford Green Garden Club. In normal times we have lots of talks and visits, and the membership card gives you discounts at several garden centres.

Happy February Gardening.....sitting / planning / sowing, and we will be in touch again soon. Keep warm, take care and we shall see you soon.



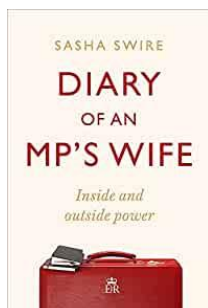
SPADE and FORK



VALENTINE'S DAY – A Few Interesting Facts....

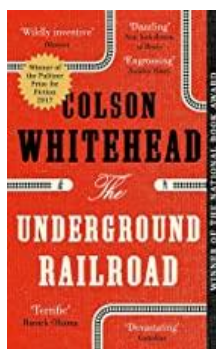
- ♥ There's many stories to where Valentine's Day originated from, but one of the most popular stories dates back to 270 A.D during the reign of Roman Emperor Claudius II. He prohibited marriage because he believed single men made better soldiers.....Bishop Valentine ignored the Emperor's wishes and continued to marry couples in secret until he was caught and thrown in jail for treason – he was executed on the 14th February, which is why we celebrate St. Valentine's every year.
- ♥ Approximately 1 billion Valentine's day cards sent each year around the world.
- ♥ The earliest record of a Valentine's Day card sent is by The Duke of Orleans who sent a card to his wife whilst he was a prisoner in the Tower of London in the 15th Century.
- ♥ The official saying 'Wear your heart on your sleeve' came from a tradition in the Middle ages where men and women would draw names from a bowl to see who would be their Valentine – They would then wear the piece of paper on their sleeve for a week.
- ♥ In Finland, they celebrate Ystävänpäivä on Valentine's Day which translates into 'Friends Day'. It's all about celebrating with your friends rather than with your partner.
- ♥ At least 9 million people buy their pets a gift on Valentine's Day.
- ♥ In the UK, people celebrating Valentine's Day spend on average £28.45 each, while in the USA, the average person spends around £172 for the occasion.
- ♥ Traditionally the 'x' symbol we use to indicate a kiss is believed to have its origins in the medieval times- where individuals not allowed to write their names would write an 'x' and then kiss it.
- ♥ Here's an interesting fact... Apparently, teachers always end up receiving the most Valentine's day cards.

Reading recommendations from BARFORD BOOKCHAT



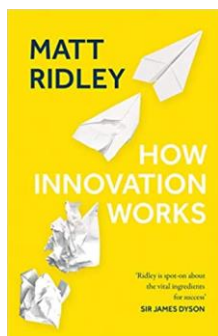
Diary of an MP's Wife: Inside and Outside Power by Sasha Swire: I hesitate to recommend this book. It brims full of ghastly characters and will only lower the reader's view of politics and the antics of modern politicians. But at the same time it is extremely well written and Pepys-like gives us an insight into the unravelling of the pre- and post-Brexit years both within the Tory party and the Westminster village. Sasha Swire and her husband Hugo (a former Devon MP and junior minister) were once besties with the tribe of 'Cameroons' (David, Sam, George etc) and she pulls no punches in telling the story of their rise and fall. So many political memoirs are tedious, because they have an eye not to offend or spill too many

beans. Lady Swire takes the opposite view, regularly going out of her way to take a swipe and the result is stinging, but often very funny. **Suzanne Franks**



The Underground Railroad by Colson Whitehead certainly isn't a comfort read, but at this time of social division and unrest in the United States it has a special resonance. The 'underground railroad' was a secret network that conveyed escaped slaves from the southern states northward to Canada and freedom. Whitehead treats it as an actual underground railway, an element of fantasy that somehow doesn't detract from the broad social sweep of the story or engagement with its characters and the terrible risks they take. We follow Cora on a journey that endangers not just her own life but those of everyone who helps her, as she leaves the brutality of a Georgia plantation in the tentative hope of a life to call her own. Masterful and gripping, exposing the ugliness of America's

past in which Britain too played its part. **Linda Newbery**



How Innovation Works by Matt Ridley: Innovation is the main event of the modern age and Matt Ridley, journalist and peer, tackles the issue with verve and analytical skills. The central theme is that innovation often disappoints in its early years only to exceed expectations once it gets going. There will be many failures along the way and Henry Ford famously commented that "Failure is only the opportunity to begin again more intelligently". Another great innovator, Thomas Edison, relentlessly focussed on finding out what the world needed and then inventing ways to meet the need rather than the other way round. True innovation requires genius but also marketing acumen and sometimes good luck.

Many successes cannot be predicted. Marty Cooper, who has as good a claim as anyone to have invented the mobile phone while director of research at Motorola in 1981, said "cellular phones will absolutely not replace local wire systems. Even if you project it beyond our lifetimes it won't be cheap enough". Ridley covers energy, public health transport (where innovations have been surprisingly few in recent decades) and computing, amongst other things and there is an excellent Afterword on Covid. **John Bowers**

Reviews are compiled and edited by Linda Newbery. For a book review every Monday, all by writers and independent booksellers, follow **Writers Review**: www.reviewsbywriters.blogspot.com



1st DEDDINGTON SCOUT GROUP

Cubs & Scouts

Oh dear, still unable to meet. We have had a couple of successful zoom meetings with both Cubs & Scouts, we played some games and had a go at making 'sparkle jars' and a flag, I'm still learning to navigate the technology! We will be continuing to run as best we can while looking forward to light evenings and the chance to camp out – even in our own gardens.

Jo Churchyard deddingtoncubs@gmail.com
Peter Churchyard
deddingtonscouts@gmail.com

Explorers

Well, unfortunately, with the current situation we are on Red Alert again. This means no face to face contact but as the Unit haven't met like that since last March to try and combat the virus we are ready for whatever we need to do to continue our Scouting.

Since the last newsletter we have all seen one another's kitchens whilst making pizzas and mug cakes, played Among Us which the leaders were less tactically competent than the explorers, had a 12 Days of Christmas photo challenge, had a Christmas Quiz, and completed Scoutadelic Spy Hunt 2.

We have an evening of the explorers setting the programme for the next term so will let you know what is happening next month. If you are interested in joining the Unit contact any of the leaders at spartanexplorers@gmail.com
<http://www.deddingtonscouts.org.uk/explorers.html>

Janet Duxbury
spartanexplorers@gmail.com



Deddington PFSU and Village Nursery

Both our settings are currently open to all our children who wish to attend.

We continue to respond to the ever-changing virus situation. We were happy that our Christmas activities went ahead as planned. We enjoyed our Christmas parties, and produced a nativity play and selection of Christmas songs which our families could enjoy on video. Our Christmas Fayre and on-line raffle has raised an amazing £1146 so far – thank you for your support.

Lucy Squires | ☎ 337484

Taken from December's Deddington News On-line

FRIENDS OF DEDDINGTON LIBRARY

Thank you once again to everyone who has bought our 2021 calendar. Sales are going well but because of the latest lockdown we were unable to be at November's farmers' market and the December one as well. Stocks are running low so don't leave it to the last minute to buy the remaining copies which can be bought from: Nellie and Dove – click and collect on 01869 336972 or their website info@nellieanddove.co.uk Julia Cork in Deddington on 07881 438930 Al Collins in Clifton on 07956 878124 and Janet Watts in Hempton on 07881 438930. Prices are £10 for A4 size and £7.50 for A5.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank our loyal Friends who contribute either monthly or annually to ensure our library can remain open. On that subject, we do not have a date from Oxfordshire County Council regarding the re-opening of the library but we know they are currently in the process of interviewing potential replacements for our much loved library manager, Stella O'Neill.



Bryn Williams
abw@brynwilliams.com



FIRE WALK FOR KATHARINE HOUSE –

MARCH 2021 - As the temperature drops, why not turn up the fundraising heat by taking part in our fire walk to help support people facing life-limiting illness in our community. You'll be walking over embers burning at a temperature that could melt aluminium - without any injury or pain. You'll receive all the training needed to take part on the night during a 1-hour motivational session. To find out more head to www.khh.org.uk/firewalk

VALENTINE'S DAY BALLOON RACE –

MARCH 2021 - Join our environmentally friendly virtual balloon race this March. Send your love someone's way with a heart shaped balloon they can find on Google Maps! Head to www.khh.org.uk/Balloon to find out more.

LONDON MARATHON –

OCTOBER 2021 - Are you looking for something to work towards this year? Have you always wanted to run a marathon? Why not take on the challenge and sign up today and take one of our two places to run in this year's London Marathon. Katharine House will be with you every step of the way... just head to www.khh.org.uk/london-marathon-2021 to find out more

OXFORD HALF MARATHON –

10 OCTOBER 2021 - The Oxford Half Marathon is a flat 13.1 mile route that winds around Oxford's most iconic landmarks. Secure your place on Team Katharine House (a team of 20) by registering at www.khh.org.uk/oxford-half-marathon

DOG FIRST AID COURSE – APRIL 2021

We're aiming to put on another Dog First Aid course in 2021. Dates are yet to be confirmed and places will be limited, so to ensure you are on our waiting list and top of the list to book a space head to www.khh.org.uk/dog to register your interest.

KATHARINE HOUSE DIGITAL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER – KEEP UP TO DATE WITH YOUR HOSPICE

Please sign up to receive our Katharine House digital monthly newsletter, which is designed to keep you in touch with what's happening at Katharine House Hospice, including news of our fundraising events and developments at the hospice. Just head to our website to sign up at www.khh.org.uk/newsletter

KATHARINE HOUSE HOSPICE LOTTERY

Would you like to be in with a chance of winning £1000 every week whilst supporting local patients and families!? Join in the fun and sign up to our weekly lottery today. Find out more at www.khh.org.uk/lottery



BOOKWORMS –

Deddington Library

Bookworms have continued to meet via Zoom once a month which has provided much needed light relief.

Over the last couple of months we have read and discussed **Memoirs of Childhood Reading** by Lucy Mangan and **Perfect People** by Peter James.

Two very different books; in *Memoirs of Childhood Reading* Lucy Mangan takes the reader through her reading 'journey'. Not enjoyed by all Bookworms but generally felt it is a nice book to dip into and remember those long lost days of sitting, undisturbed, for hours with your nose stuck in a book! Also a good prompt to remember books read.

In contrast, **Perfect People** is a compelling and thought provoking thriller. The story follows John and Naomi Klaesson who are grieving the death of their four-year old son from a rare genetic disorder. They desperately want another child, but when they find out they are both carriers of a rogue gene, they realise the odds of their next child contracting the disease are high. Then they hear about geneticist Doctor Dettore. Can his methods spare them the heartache of losing another child? Although a page turner, we thought the book was quite futuristic in parts making it hard to read at times. Worth a read though.

Bookworms, Deddington Library

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Victoria Online:

 @victoriaprentis
 @victoria_prentis
 /victoriaprentis
www.victoriaprentis.com

Contact Victoria:

Constituency:
 01869 233685
Orchard House
Hopcraft Lane
Deddington
OX15 0TD

Westminster:
 020 7219 8756
House of Commons
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victoria.prentis.mp@parliament.uk



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Barford St. John
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01295 720566
davidbest.barfordspc@gmail.com

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Vice Chairman:	Dr R Hobbs	01869 338078
Councillors:	Mrs. S. Best	01295 720566
	Mr P Cosgrove	01869 337552
	Mr. C. Charman	07796 544363
	Mr R Cox	01869 337736
	Mr. P. Eden	01869 338835

**Parish Council meetings in the Village Hall. 1st Wednesday in the month at 7.30pm
This is an opportunity for parishioners to bring questions or concerns to the meeting in person
CDC website: www.cherwell-dc.gov.uk – Parish Council minutes at www.cherwell-local.com**

VILLAGE AND LOCAL EVENTS DIARY

Diary dates to the editor by 15th of each month please

CHURCH SERVICES

**Church of England
February**

**Revd Annie Goldthorp, Vicar, Deddington with
Barford, Clifton and Hempton on 01869 336880
Email: deddingtonchurch.org**

Regular weekly/monthly events

Mondays	Beavers (Deddington) Boys Brigade band practice
Tuesdays	Guides (Deddington) Carpet bowls – Sept - Mar
Wednesdays	Brownies (Windmill - Deddington) 1 st week parish council (not August) 2 nd week W.I. meeting Boys Brigade (Deddington)
Thursdays	Village Hall Post Office Open cuppa mornings Cubs (Deddington) Scouts (Deddington)
Fridays	Rainbows
Saturdays	Village Market 3 rd week (except January or August)
1st Wednesday	Parish Council Meeting
3rd Wednesday	Village Hall Management Committee

Methodist Chapel

For details of services contact:

Mr Robbie Pilkington ☎ 01295 811367

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Mobile: 07766 711984

Masses:

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Sunday – 11.00am Mass

Weekdays Normally 9.15am, can be subject to change

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FEBRUARY

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Copy deadline 15th of each month

Editor: Lucy Norman 01869 337678

Dep Editor: Mariann Young 01869 338570

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