

# BARFORD NEWS

APRIL 2012

[www.barfordnews.co.uk](http://www.barfordnews.co.uk)

Price 30p where sold

## The Barfords Clean Up Day Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> April From 10.00a.m.

Teams of volunteers will be asked to cover small areas of the village, picking up any litter and debris that they find.

This is always a very fine and happy community event. With a bit of luck there will be the usual enthusiastic attendance by Mums, Dads and children



This is YOUR opportunity to do your bit for the village by giving it a Spring Spruce Up. If you can spare an hour or so in the morning, then do come along to the Village Hall at 10.00am to collect plastic bin bags, and protective tabards, please bring your own old gloves!

Tea, soft drinks and delicious doughnuts will be served to all volunteers on their return to the Hall. **All helpers are requested to gather in the Village Hall at 10 a.m. to be allocated the areas for cleaning.**

There will also be a group photo of all the happy workers to be published in the May Barford News.

## BARFORD OPEN GARDENS

With Scarecrows too!!!  
**On Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> May**  
**2pm till 6pm**

Please contact Gunilla/Annie if you would like to open your garden

All shapes and sizes welcome!!

The more we have opening, the more visitors we can attract.



**Scarecrow  
competitions for  
Children and Adults**

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



## Scrumptious Teas

Contributions of cakes and/or plants  
Gratefully received

All proceeds to village charities

Offers of Gardens and/or Cakes to:  
Annie Radford 01869 338 338  
Gunilla 01295 720 521

## Parish Council Notes

The meeting took place at 7.32 pm on 7<sup>th</sup> March at Barford Village Hall and was attended by Cllr Hobbs (Chairman), Cllr S. Best, Cllr P Eden, Cllr L Styles, Cllr S Turner and Cllr R Woolgrove. Also attending was R Watts (Clerk), County Cllr R Jelf, District Cllr P O'Sullivan and three members of the public.

**Correspondence:** A new mapping and reporting utilities entitled '*YourCherwell*'. This is an intuitive online mapping utility allowing you to view digital mapping of anywhere in the district, right down to household level. Search by address to reveal planning applications, local political boundaries, crime and policing, house process. Go to [www.cherwell.gov.uk](http://www.cherwell.gov.uk)

There is now an online form where anything from missed bins, graffiti, rubbish, etc. can be reported to Cherwell District Council. Use the '*Report It*' icon on the front page of the Cherwell District Council website.

A final demand bill from Thames Water and addressed only to "Allotments, Barford St Michael" has been received by Cllr Hobbs, courtesy of Royal Mail. The Original invoice was not received by Parish Council. Cllr Hobbs is dealing with Thames Water Customer Services.

## Parish Matters

**Grass Cutting Contract** – Of the 22 requests for Tender documents, 7 tenders were received. Prior to the meeting the Clerk had sent Tenders to Councillors for information. Following a lengthy discussion it was unanimously agreed that the contract should be offered to Thomas Fox Landscaping, Kirby Farm, Whatcote subject to satisfactory references being received. The Clerk will write to unsuccessful Contractors.

**Stopping-up Order Woodworms Hilton.** The Clerk reported that she had posted a copy of Department for Transport's draft Stopping-up Order for Woodworms Hilton on the Parish noticeboard. Following discussion it was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council had no objection to the revised order.

**Register of Local Tradesmen.** The Clerk had put an advert in January Barford News inviting painters, carpenters and builders to contact her with a view to being put on a Parish Council Register of tradesmen willing to quote for *ad hoc* Parish Council repairs. She has received one reply from SRG Building Services, Church View, Church Lane, Epwell. No local tradesmen have responded

**Village Furniture.** After a general discussion it was agreed that the Clerk will ask SRG Building Services for an estimate for refurbishing all the seats in Barford St John & St Michael, including the damaged VE/VJ day seat outside the Village Hall. If the latter can be refurbished it will be re-

sited in the village. A new seat will be situated outside the Village Hall in commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee..

## Diamond Jubilee

There was a general consensus that the airfield at Barford St John is not a suitable site for a beacon. Cllr Woolgrove reported that Tony Collier is willing to have a metal beacon on his land at Iron Down Farm. He will not allow an open fire to be used. However, the planned date of 4<sup>th</sup> June clashes with Barford St Michael Village Bar-B-Q and Ceilidh.

Cllr Hobbs reported that he had received a letter from Gunilla Treen, Secretary of the Village Hall Management Committee, outlining planned celebrations for 3rd and 4<sup>th</sup> June. The letter also asked the Parish Council to consider purchasing 108 Jubilee mugs for children in the two villages (sample provided). Cllr Hobbs proposed that the Parish Council will buy the mugs as on previous celebratory occasions, seconded by Cllr Bullard and unanimously agreed.

A further request to plant a Jubilee oak tree in West Close was also discussed. Two sites in West Close had been suggested and it was agreed that site to the east of the field be chosen.

Cllr Eden expressed concern that that Parish Council matters were being discussed by Councillors before and outside of Parish Council meetings. This related particularly to an email sent by Cllr Hobbs to Councillors outlining details in an email from the chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee with contents similar to those in the letter subsequently received from Gunilla Treen (mentioned above). Cllr Hobbs insisted that he was simply disseminating information and suggested that the matter be included in the agenda for the April meeting.

## Planning Matters

Details of planning applications can be found on the Cherwell District Council website [http://cherweb.cherwell-dc.gov.uk/publicaccess/tdc/DcApplication/application\\_searchform.aspx](http://cherweb.cherwell-dc.gov.uk/publicaccess/tdc/DcApplication/application_searchform.aspx)

This site does not include 'Notice of Intent' for tree works in a Conservation Area (TCA)

**Applications:** There were no new applications

## Approved:

11/01895/F Warner, Mead Farm Bungalow, Barford St John, side extension

11/01889/LB Satchell, Crown House, Church Lane, Barford St John, 2 storey and single storey extension to north

12/00033/F Hobday, 6 Bishops Close, Barford St Michael, single storey front and rear extension

### Any Other Business

Cllr Hobbs reported that the Annual Parish Meeting will be held in the Village Hall on Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> April 2012 at 7.30pm

Cllr Woolgrove reported that the hedge belonging to Mr & Mrs Purton, opposite Hillside and going up past the seat in Barford St John needed cutting back from the road.

Cllr Eden reported that rubbish has collected in the lay-by at Bloody Bones Lane and along the Barford to Hempton Rd.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.05 pm.

The next meeting is on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2012.



### Fernhill Club

**D**ESPITE MISSING a couple of reports we are still very much alive and kicking. We have recently had a few new members, but would always welcome more!



We will shortly have a new programme printed for the coming twelve months.

During March we played carpet bowls, had a lunch at the Red Lion in Adderbury, played ten pin bowling in the hall and had another meal out. These events were greatly enjoyed by all.

On April 11<sup>th</sup> we are having a cookery demonstration by Kathryn Wheeler, then it will be our AGM on 25<sup>th</sup> April. Our new programme should be ready by then!

Come and join us any Wednesday afternoon, 2.30pm!

### Village Hall

### Management Committee



**The Annual General Meeting will**

**take place on**

**April 25<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 pm**

**in the Village Hall.**

**Everyone is welcome to attend.**

**Find out how we run and maintain  
your Hall.**

### Notes From Our Potting Shed - April

**F**OLLOWING OUR AGM in March we now have a new Committee, The Team is as follows: Stephen Bunce, who does the 'money bit', Trish Field, Linda Newbery, Janet Payne, Annie Radford and Gunilla Treen.

We are wanting to attract new members as well as old members who may have strayed off the garden path. This column will appear each month in Barford News in order to keep you all informed of our activities. Those of you who do not use a computer will not be left out as long as you make sure you read this column! You are also very welcome to contribute in the way of garden tips or anecdotes, or reviews of our talks and visits.

Firstly we want to remind those who have not paid their membership yet, to give Stephen £2 and then he can provide you with all the necessary cards. You can then go out and save money at some Garden Centres as well as attend all talks at a reduced rate. Friends are of course welcome.

We have already started planning in earnest for the forthcoming year. Several talks are being planned and also some interesting visits to gardens. Talks and visits are sometimes connected, there being three talks and three visits during any one year. Timothy Walker from Oxford Botanic Gardens will pay us a return visit giving us another entertaining talk..."In the Not-So-Bleak Midwinter".

We welcome suggestions for visits in the future. Details of these will be posted from Our Potting Shed and on Notice Boards as soon as they have been confirmed, so keep your eyes skinned!

Our annual OPEN GARDENS this year is to be on May 20<sup>th</sup>, earlier than normal. This will give a very different view of our gardens. We need as many people as possible to agree to open their gardens. Sarah Best has very kindly offered to host our PLANT SWAP just before, on 17<sup>th</sup> May, at her house in Barford St John. As we say, "BRING A PLANT AND TAKE ANOTHER ONE AWAY", or more than one if you want.

REMEMBER.....if you want to open your garden, big or small, wild or tamed, or wish to help with the teas, just contact Annie Radford on 01869 338338 or Gunilla Treen on 01295 720521 and then we can start to plan.

TIP OF THE MONTH "Go slowly, do not be impatient, watch the plants grow, get the mower working, enjoy your garden and find time to relax in it.



'By for now,  
Spade and Fork.





### 1st Deddington Brownies

**T**HINKING DAY is always an important day in the Brownie calendar, when we think about Brownies around the world. This year some of us wore our Brownie uniforms to school, and then at the weekend we joined with other Brownies, Guides and Rainbows from around the district, to spend an afternoon thinking about Brownies in the other countries of the Commonwealth. We had lots of fun doing singing, dancing, cookery and crafts from lots of different countries. We had another busy evening when we combined *raising* money for Katharine House, and *handling* money as part of our Number Fun badges. We invited parents to join us and served coffee and cakes, held a raffle, and gave an entertainment of campfire songs. An enjoyable time was had by all. Other evenings have been devoted to yoga, and to finding out about the work of the Blue Cross. There is never a dull moment at Brownies!

Lucy Squires

### Deddington CE Primary School News

**A**FTER A VERY BUSY TERM we are now looking forward to our Easter break. During the last month the school has celebrated Fair trade fortnight, raised money for Sports Relief and enjoyed Warriner Partnership activities and trips.



Our Fairtrade Fortnight was a great success due to the hard work put in by our Fairtrade group, led by Mrs Knox. The fortnight culminated in a special celebration assembly where we welcomed a visitor from the Windward Islands, who taught us the difference between a clutch and a bunch of bananas and how to peel a banana the correct way! After the assembly the Fairtrade group ran stalls selling fair trade products, there was even face painting on offer. The event was extremely well supported by parents and all money raised went towards the charity Traidcraft Exchange.

Year 6 have had the opportunity to take part in 2 Warriner Partnership events recently where we did rather well. The first event was a debating morning where one of our teams came joint first, the following week a group represented the school at the Warriner's Sports Hall athletics meeting which we managed to win! Year 6 really enjoyed the challenge of both events and a good time was had by all.

At the time of writing F1 are looking forward to their visit to Gaydon Transport Museum and Year 1 are very excited about their day of dance they are going to take part in. Soon too the whole school will be limbering up and making sure they've brought their running shoes for the Sports Relief Mile, a sponsored event which raises money for projects here and abroad. Each child will be completing a mile, younger ones will be walking it whilst others will be running, and some of our older children are being a bit more adventurous and plan to complete it in a variety of ways such as three-legged and cartwheeling! Myself and Year 6 are very excited about our residential visit to Yenworthy Lodge in Exmoor. This week long trip of climbing, walking and zip wiring should be just what they need before they really knuckle down to work and focusing on their SATs in May. Hopefully the weather will be kind to us!

Mrs Jane Cross, Deputy Headteacher



## Rainbows News

**H**INA MATSURI was a success! Lots of dolls for the Japanese Festival, including Barbie, china dolls, rag dolls, Japanese dolls and Action Man! Adrienne Baba very kindly lent us an Emperor and Empress doll for the occasion, so they took pride of place. The sushi making proved popular. The Rainbows all liked making it and most of them liked eating it! Some even went around looking for seconds...



We have been busy this spring and one of the highlights is a visit to Home Farm in Clifton. We were a bit earlier this year but we still saw quite a few lambs, including some very tiny newborns. Big thanks to Naomi Fenemore who shows us round each year; it's a very popular meeting!



We made pottery flower baskets for Mother's Day under the guidance of Sandi Turner. The girls chose the type of flowers and leaves they wanted to use and painted the whole thing in colours of their choice, so they look fabulous once they've been fired and were a completely unique gift. It's another meeting that we couldn't do without help, so grateful thanks to Sandi for giving up her time for us. We made tea cup cards to give too, complete with teabag inside, and it was fun decorating them.

Hazel Neal and Nikki Bruce, 01869 337822

## Deddington and District History Society

**O**N 14 MARCH WE HAD a return visit from one of our most popular speakers, Liz Woolley. She spoke to us on the common lodging-house in Victorian England. By the early nineteenth century common lodging-houses were well established in English market towns and cities. In the 1840s their numbers grew rapidly in response to the rising demand for cheap accommodation as more and more people travelled in search of work. Common lodging-houses had an evil reputation, certainly amongst middle-class commentators, and by the 1830s they were considered a serious social problem: overcrowded, unsanitary dens of iniquity where delinquency and dishonesty were encouraged, stolen goods were exchanged and incendiary political opinions might be spread. They were reputedly centres of sexual depravity and dreaded as sources of infection and contagious disease. They also represented the antithesis of the Victorian view of family and 'home': squalid, raucous and lacking in privacy.



Using examples from Oxfordshire, Liz investigated the truth of those claims and cast common lodging-houses in a more positive light by looking at the economic and social functions that they fulfilled in relation to the supply of industrial and agricultural labour, to patterns of migration, to retailing, to the treatment of the poor and to the provision of popular entertainment.

In April we shall change gear dramatically, with a talk by Muriel Pilkington on 'The Mitfords in the Cotswolds'. Everyone is welcome to join us at the Windmill Centre at 7.30pm on Wednesday 14 April. On 9 May Matt Armitage, director of Tooley's boatyard in Banbury will talk about the history of the boatyard. On 6 June we have arranged a private visit to Rycote Chapel and gardens, near Thame. We shall provide details at our April and May meetings.

Chris Day

### March 200 Club Draw

£25, No 83, Brian & Tess. Dodwell

£15, No 141, The Palmer Family

£10, No 24, Steve Cook

£5, No 122, Rick & Barbara Alan

The Draw was made at a Whist Drive  
All winners live in St. Michael

### 1<sup>st</sup> Deddington Scout Group Cubs



**T**HE CUBS completed their 1<sup>st</sup> stage emergency aid badge, the Sixers acted as casualties who were 'treated' by the rest of the pack. We also celebrated Founders day by learning about Baden Powell's life, finishing up with cake & candles.

Home Help came next, the cubs learned to make tea (in a pot), sew on a button, iron & fold their neckerchief & wash up.

The Cubs learned about what it was like to be a Wolf Cub in 1916 as they tried some of the tests required to gain the One Star award, flags, saints, somersaults, the national anthem & much more.

Two of our teams that entered the district Scrapheap Challenge came 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>, well done to all the boys who entered. They will now go on to represent us in the county event.

Jo Churchyard C.S.L.  
338071

[jochurchyard@hotmail.com](mailto:jochurchyard@hotmail.com)

### Scouts

**T**HE SCOUTS have been working for their 3<sup>rd</sup> stage Emergency Aid badge, this includes, getting help, dealing with burns, bleeding, hypothermia, heat stroke, shock etc & one of our district trainers visited the troop to cover CPR. We also staged some incidents with our casualties over acting outrageously, if they can deal with them they can tackle anything!

Several of our Patrol & Assistant Patrol Leaders attended a training day to help them with all aspects of leadership.

Coming up – swimming at Spiceball & an Easter hike.

Pete Churchyard S.L.  
338071

[pete.churchyard@btinternet.com](mailto:pete.churchyard@btinternet.com)

### Open Gardens Scarecrow Competition

Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> May



Entry Forms for the Scarecrow Competitions  
will be delivered to all those who took part  
last year.

If you plan to have a go for the first time this  
year please contact Maggie Eden 338835 or  
Mariann on 338570 to receive your form(s)

Separate Competitions for  
Children and Adults

### THANK YOU

to everyone who attended  
Erika's Coffee Morning  
and helped to raise  
**£115**  
for Mary's Meals

### Deddington PFSU and Village Nursery

**S**PRING IS SPRINGING! The PFSU children have been growing things indoors and out, observing tadpoles, and finding out about vehicles. The Nursery



children have been learning about the weather, seasons and the alphabet. We have also made Mother's day cards and hunted for Easter eggs. It has been a good month for fund-raising. Thank you to everyone who supported our jumble sale, by helping, donating or buying. You helped us to raise a whopping £1700! The Go-Karting event at Formula Fast in Banbury has raised £1000 so far. Thank you to everyone who joined in and to Neil Skinner for doing most of the organising. Our summer fund-raising party is on Saturday 7th July. Put the date in your diary now!

Lucy Squires, 337484

## Further Change to Hall Booking Clerk Takes us back to where we were!!

Due to additional family commitments Lorraine has had to hand back the duties of Booking Clerk to Sam Harding. So it's back to where we were!

See Hall advert on page 23 for details



**The Warriner School Farm**, Bloxham, Banbury,  
Oxon OX15 4LJ. Tel 01295-721471

Website: [www.warrinerschoolfarm.org.uk](http://www.warrinerschoolfarm.org.uk)

Chris Holloway, manager at The Warriner School Farm, is pleased to announce that we will again be hosting our popular Warriner School Farm Trust **Farm Open Weekend**

on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April, from 10am to 4pm on both days.

- The farm is one of the largest school farms in the country
- The Warriner School Farm relies on the generosity of our benefactors
- The farm recently won the prestigious Bayer-FACE 'Farm to Classroom Award'

The event will have a wide range of attractions:

- An opportunity to meet our farm animals including cows and calves, goats, ewes and lambs, horses, donkeys and poultry.
- Watch chicks hatching in an incubator.
- Try your hand at bottle feeding a lamb.
- Rural craft demonstrations – lace making, spinning, weaving.
- See our restored historic shepherd's hut, set out as it would have been when in use at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- Horse drawn wagon rides.
- Tractor and trailer tours around the farm.
- A range of hands-on activities for kids.
- Sheep shearing demonstrations.
- Plant sales.
- Sale of a range of items depicting the Farm and our animals.
- Warriner School Farm meat sales.
- Vintage and modern tractors and machinery.
- A chance to have a go at pond dipping in our purpose-built wildlife pond.
- BBQ of farm meat, teas and cakes.

We would like to invite you to come along and join in with the fun – they promise to be a couple of great family days out!

## Jubilee Celebrations

We have received lots of offers of help but still need more!

**Please get in touch if you can help with preparations beforehand or on the day.**

please contact: Gunilla 01295 720 521,  
Peter 338 992, or Mariann 338 570



## 'COME AND SING'

## MIKADO

**SATURDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> JUNE**

**D**eddington Festival is organising a 'come and sing' event as its main Saturday evening concert. Following on from the success of *Carmina Burana* in 2010 and *The Armed Man* in 2011, local musical director Martin Quinn will again be leading workshops during the day, and conducting a concert performance in the evening. This year the chosen work is the popular *Mikado* by Gilbert and Sullivan.

Members of choirs from all over north Oxfordshire and beyond will be joining local residents to rehearse in the morning at the Windmill Centre, then in the Church in the afternoon. For the evening performance they will be accompanied by a professional band, and soloists from the *Akeman Voices* chamber choir will take the lead vocal parts.

Anyone who has some experience of choral singing and some ability to read music is welcome to be part of the Chorus. The cost for the day's workshops will be £15, to include the hire of music, and audience tickets for the evening performance will be £10.

For more information and a registration form, please contact Elsa Williams:

[elsawilliams@btinternet.com](mailto:elsawilliams@btinternet.com), 01869 337238





## 1<sup>st</sup> Deddington Guides

IN JANUARY, three Deddington guides went to Foxlease in the New



Forest near Southampton to attend an American themed Baden Powell Adventure Weekend, and this is their account of the weekend.

*'Foxlease, which is a guide centre, is a very grand white house, with several floors and lovely views. The rooms all had ensuite bathrooms and were named after either counties like Oxfordshire and Essex or countries like South Africa. All of the meals were served in the dining room and we really enjoyed them, they were very nice and well presented.'*

*When we arrived we were asked to choose two activities to participate in from a choice of low ropes, archery, crates, abseiling and climbing. We chose low ropes and archery. Low ropes entailed following a rope course to encourage team building as you need confidence with your team mates on the ropes. We had to carry a cup of water around the course without spilling, the whole team had to stay in the same part of the course and you weren't allowed to touch the floor. We won and ended with covering the other team with mud.*

*We learnt lots of techniques on the weekend including how to shoot arrows and played lots of games. The other Guides came from all over the UK including Milton Keynes, Guernsey, Southampton and Portsmouth.*

*We felt a bit nervous before we went as we thought we'd be the youngest. As soon as we arrived we felt at ease as we made friends quickly. At the end of the weekend we felt pleased that we had completed the challenge, but sad that it was over and we had to leave new friends.*

*We would recommend it to others because it was a great weekend away and worth it to make new friends'.*

This term has been busy – cooking and eating pancakes, enjoying lots of patrol activities – planned by the guides. We celebrated Thinking Day – an international occasion with Guides, Brownies and Rainbows from the whole district. We raised some money for guides overseas and learnt about the Commonwealth.

We had fun playing games, learning some First Aid and mapping and worked towards the agility badge. We are just about ready now for our annual entertainment to raise money for charity .

Maggie Rampley 01295 810 069

Marion Trinder 01869 340 806

Catherine Black burn 01295 258 008

The 'Cuppa Morning' girls invite you  
to their **EASTER**

**RASCALS Children's Disco**

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> April**

**5pm till 8pm**

**All Ages Welcome**

**All Tickets £1.00**

**Available at Thursday Cuppa Mornings**

**Or from Tomasin 338667, Zalie**

**338152, or Jo 338 844**

**Under 16's must be accompanied by an adult**

**Licensed Bar -**

**Kids swap their ticket for a soft  
drink**

**April 28<sup>th</sup> 2012**

**Jane Eyre** P.G.

**Coming to a cinema near you!!!**

**Barford Picture House**

**Doors Open at 7.15, Film starts at 7.45**

**£4 and £3 for under 16's.**

Based on the novel by Charlotte Brontë sometimes regarded as an important early feminist work, written in 1847. This romantic film drama stars among others

....Judie Dench, Mia Wasikowska as Jane Eyre, and Michael Fassbender as Rochester.

Directed by Cary Joji Fukunaga, it was filmed entirely in England; London, Derbyshire, Chatsworth and Haddon Hall.

Missed it on the Big Screen, or want to see it again?

Contact...Gunilla on 01295 720521 for more info.



### With Power Comes Responsibility

A new battery collection initiative is proving extremely popular with Cherwell householders who have doubled the amount they recycle.

Cherwell District Council teamed up with battery recycling contractor, Valpak, to launch the scheme in December.

And the first batch sent off weighed in at 1,885kg – almost two tonnes, compared with the 950kg the council would have expected to collect from recycling bank sites.

Councillor James Macnamara, Cherwell's lead member for environment, said: "I suspect there were many who had old batteries rolling around in drawers, waiting to go for recycling.

"This scheme has given them a chance to have a clear-out and help the environment in the process.

"With all of the electrical items people received during Christmas, I suspect there will soon be plenty more batteries being sent for recycling."

Since 2008, following a European Union directive, it has been mandatory for people to recycle batteries.

The directive states that by next year a quarter of all batteries must be collected but the figure will rise to 45 per cent by 2016.

This is important because many batteries contain harmful metals such as lead, mercury or cadmium.

If sent to landfill they break down and the metals can leak into the ground, potentially causing water pollution.

Every home should have received a battery recycling bag with its winter copy of Cherwell Link, the publication which keeps residents informed of council services.

All they need do when they have collected some batteries for recycling is put it out with their bin or boxes.

When this is picked up by refuse collectors they will deliver a new bag, funded by Valpak.

Other types of bag – such as sandwich bags – can also be used or batteries can still be dropped in the containers at recycling banks.

While the value of used batteries is relatively low – the latest batch will bring in about £380 – every penny helps to keep council tax down.

"I would urge everyone to recycle as much as they can as it will help keep their bills down in the long run," added Councillor Macnamara.

Most types of household battery will be collected but car batteries are not included as they are considered hazardous because of their acid content.

For further information please contact:

Craig Forsyth, Tel: 01295 221639

Email: [craig.forsyth@cherwell-dc.gov.uk](mailto:craig.forsyth@cherwell-dc.gov.uk)

### Bloxham Primary School

BLOXHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL was inspected by Ofsted during the first week of February. You may well be aware from the national media a new inspection framework was introduced from January 2012 and, therefore, we are amongst the first schools to be examined under the new regime. We are delighted that we have been classified as a "Good School". The inspectors have highlighted many areas of real strength as well as a couple for future development which we will address to make our school even better.

These are some of the comments included in the report and letter to pupils:

Bloxham is a good and highly inclusive school that continues to place pupils' achievement and well-being at the heart of what it does. By the end of Year 6, attainment is above average in reading, writing and mathematics.

Pupils enjoy learning. They are enthused by their teachers who plan exciting activities for them.

Teaching is good and supports pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development well.

Teaching assistants contribute well to learning and especially work well with those pupils with specific individual needs.

The headteacher and staff have developed excellent links with both the pre-school and those in the children's centre

Pupils are polite and respectful towards each other and the adults they come into contact with. Pupils' good behaviour contributes positively to their learning and achievement and to the strong social and moral ethos of the school.

Parents' and carers' views of the school are positive and they are appreciative of the work the school does.

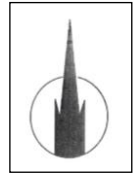
Your school is well led and managed. All senior staff and the governing body are ambitious for the school and totally committed and involved in school improvement.

The inspectors examined the most recent performance data for our school which confirms that last year our school is close to being within the top 5% of schools in the country. This is for both attainment and perhaps more importantly the progress that children make whilst at our school.

We are very proud of our school's achievement.

Roger Nowell Chair of Governors

Matthew Ingall, Headteacher



## 1<sup>st</sup> Deddington Boys' Brigade

THE 1<sup>ST</sup> DEDDINGTON BOYS' BRIGADE Company Section has had their first ever overseas trip during the February school holiday. Accompanied by seven adults, nine young people representing Deddington, Kings Sutton and Chipping Norton Boys' Brigade travelled to Mmabatho in North West South Africa. Our hosts were all based with the Church of the Resurrection which has existing links with St Peter and St Paul's Church, Deddington.

Two of our young people explain what the trip meant to them and some of the things we got up to!

Zac Coleman (age 17) writes: Our trip was truly awe-inspiring. We went from the cold, snowy winter of England to the bright and welcoming heat of South Africa. In the space of a week we saw countless new sights and experienced many incredible new things. From the moment we stepped off the plane we were in another world, and everything was new and exciting, from the roads and countryside, to the foods and even the handshakes.

We were warmly welcomed into the country by members of the Church of the Resurrection, who opened their homes to us. We all quickly fell in love with the country and its rich and exciting culture and background. The landscapes were beautiful, the animals magnificent and the food and drink was delicious. The people were friendly and laid-back, and every day brought wonderful new memories for each of us. We gained an understanding of this new culture, made a lot of new friends, and realized just how lucky we are in our lives at home when witnessing the sights in the slums and poorer areas of South Africa.

We visited schools, museums and a game park. We saw giraffes, lakes, deserts, oasis and more giraffes. We went through a lot together, from small mosquito bites, to lost luggage and near-assaults from rambling drunk beggars. We were swarmed by hungry children, accosted in the streets by excited citizens wanting pictures with us, "encourage" to sing and dance and laughed at by an

assemble of primary school students. And we loved every minute of it!!!

In conclusion, it was the most incredible week of my life, with never a dull moment. The weather was gorgeous and the country was unbelievable. When the week ended we returned home reluctantly, back into the cold of the English winter."

Jack Watling (age 14) writes: I was amazed at how cool Church was perceived to be and the joy that people got out of worship. I enjoyed a three hour service that felt a lot shorter because of the singing and dancing, although it felt odd not to be able to eat breakfast before it! My visit to South Africa was a life changing experience for me and has strengthened my belief. I will never forget it and am grateful to the Church for making this possible.

Chris Mitchell, Company Captain, 1<sup>st</sup> Deddington Boys' Brigade, says "our young people were fantastic on this trip and a huge credit to themselves, their families and to Boys' Brigade. The Officers and leaders would like to thank everyone who worked so hard to put this trip together and for the finance we received to help off-set some of our costs. Special thanks go to the families who so generously hosted us in their own homes and to the Church leadership in Mafikeng/Mmabatho who co-ordinated events in South Africa. We hope that this will be the first of many opportunities for our young people to travel abroad and experience the wider world."



### Step back 3000 years

**O**N DISPLAY IN Banbury Museum is a rare Bronze Age Hoard from Chipping Warden. This collection of 13 Bronze Age axes was found just seven miles from Banbury.

There are two types of axe to view, the socketed axe with single loop and the single looped palstave. Both types date from the late Bronze Age, from around 1000 to 800 BC. The axes would have been mounted in an L shaped wooden handle, a haft, allowing the axe to be bound with a leather strip. They may have been used to clearing of vegetation, prepare timber or in the butchery and preparation of meat and skins.



Cllr James Macnamara, Cherwell District Council's lead member for the environment, said: "This is a rare opportunity to see these magnificent items that evoke so much about the pre-history of our area. I want to thank the owner, Mr Houghton-Brown, for allowing them to be displayed and congratulate Banbury Museum on arranging this display."

The group were found together, so it's likely they represent a hoard hidden by a bronze smith. The metal in these examples contains lead as well as copper and tin. This is typical of the later Bronze Age - as lead made the bronze easier to pour into the mould, although the finished axe is softer. This easier process allowed smiths to supply an increasing demand.

Members of Banbury Museum Plus will get the opportunity to meet the finder and an expert from the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford. Email [banburymuseum@cherwell-dc.gov.uk](mailto:banburymuseum@cherwell-dc.gov.uk) or phone 01295 753752 for information.

The hoard is on display until 3rd May.

#### Notes

#### Timeline

The Bronze Age began in c.2000 BC and ended with the introduction of iron from 800 BC, although the use of iron doesn't become widespread until 500BC.

The final building phase of Stonehenge 1600 BC.

The Minoan civilisation of Crete came to an abrupt end about c.1400 BC.

If the Trojan Wars really happened, they are likely to date to c.1200BC.



### Jubilee Commemorative Mugs A reminder that Orders for mugs must be received by 30<sup>th</sup> April

Telephone, Drop a Note in  
or email details to either:

Peter Leney  
The Potteries  
Barford St. Michael  
01869 338 992

or Mariann Young  
Stonehaven, Lower Street  
Barford St. Michael  
01869 338570

[Peter.leney@gmail.com](mailto:Peter.leney@gmail.com)

[Mariann.Young@btinternet.com](mailto:Mariann.Young@btinternet.com)

**HELP** .....seeking man or woman willing to GIVE a few hours of their time each month, in order to help me. I am attractive, secure and play a vital part in our community. I am not too high maintenance but need constant attention in order to look my best and give a good impression. Person must be honest, reliable, clean and tidy, with GSOH and initiative. Head for heights an advantage! Only over 18's need apply. Work will be varied. Suitable person must be prepared to turn their hand to anything. Could be shared by more than one person.

ARE YOU INTERESTED in giving some time to help me?

..... I am your VILLAGE HALL.

Contact:

Chairman VHMC, Peter Leney 01869 338992

or: Secretary, Gunilla Treen 01295 720521

### Anne Lattimore Bike Ride to India



£405,000 was raised by the women who took part in the Challenge; Ann herself raised £3,500 for the charity 'Women for Women'. Since completing the 'Ride India Challenge' she has taken part in another challenge - 'Cycle Jordan' and is currently training for 'Cycle Central America' in 2012.

**7.30pm Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> April  
In The Village Hall**

**Visitors welcome to join us £3.00  
At our WI Meeting**



## For Sale

<b>Carpet:</b>	5. 15m x 6.80-7.80m Colour plain mid Green. NB there are two small square cut holes (c 10 x 10 cm) in the centre which can be easily filled Otherwise good condition + underlay
<b>Mirror:</b>	55cm x 65cm Pine picture frame enclosing Mirror 36 x 46cm
<b>Television:</b>	Thompson 414ICC17 and stand (damaged). JVC C14ET1EK
<b>Computer Equipment:</b>	D Link ~Router DS L-G604T
<b>Bookcase;</b>	Pine. H 95cmx W 84cm D 17cm. Four shelves Pine H 100cm W 80cm D 30cm Three shelves
<b>Bicycle:</b>	Phoenix Probike 26"
<b>Dishwasher:</b>	Bosch S210 Dishwasher (Somewhat old but was working when last used)
<b>Miscellaneous:</b>	8 strip light bulbs unused 284mm S15s C 10 part used strip lights Set of old golf clubs " Bobby Locke" 8 +2 Drivers

Please make an offer. All proceeds will be given to Barford Village Hall

To arrange to see items:- Email: [ashmitchell@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:ashmitchell@blueyonder.co.uk), Phone: 07710 197824

### Chipping Norton First Aid Unit

Are you aware that there is a First Aid Unit in Chipping Norton, based at the Community Hospital? The First Aid Unit is open Monday to Friday between 5.00pm and 9.00pm and at weekends and on bank holidays between 10.00am and 9.00pm to provide a drop-in service – **no appointment necessary.**

Chipping Norton First Aid Unit  
Chipping Norton War Memorial  
Community Hospital  
Out-Patient Unit  
Russell Way, off London Road  
Chipping Norton  
OX7 5FA  
Tel: 01608 648 233



For the unit to stay open long term it needs to be treating more people locally for minor injuries and illnesses rather than them using other urgent care services such as A&E in Oxford or Banbury or GP out of hours. We have been asked to promote this service, so that it becomes more integrated with other local health services, to make it more cost effective.

**Please think before you go to A & E – could you use this service instead?**



### Chipping Norton Literary Festival

**C**HIPPING NORTON is to stage its first literary festival, with more than fifty authors appearing during the three-day-event. Between 20 and 22 April the town will be transformed into a literary haven for book-lovers, with something for everyone.

There will be workshops on freelancing, writing sex scenes and compiling memoirs, as well as author talks from household names such as Prue Leith, Joanna Trollope and Colin Dexter. Crime writers Mark Billingham and Dan Waddell will be discussing the perfect murder, whilst the Cotswold Gardens panel includes Sir Roddy Llewellyn and Robin Lane Fox. For the chick-lit lovers the Contemporary Women's Fiction event promises to be a lively affair, with best-selling authors Katie Fforde, Veronica Henry and Jill Mansell headlining the panel. On Friday 20<sup>th</sup> Chipping Norton schools will play host to authors of children's and young adult fiction..

A VIP drinks reception on Friday evening will get the ball rolling. Throughout the weekend the Town Hall will be packed with free community events including readings, Scrabble games, a book exchange and children's corner, as well as an opportunity to meet authors and publishers, or just read a book over a cup of coffee.

Full details of the festival line-up can be found on the website [www.chiplitfest.com](http://www.chiplitfest.com). Tickets are priced from £7.50 and can be bought online or from the box office on 01608 642350.

## Upton House and Gardens

**W**ARWICKSHIRE TOURIST ATTRACTION, Upton House and Gardens, threw open its gates for the spring season with a packed new program of special events. A special 'Year of Art' has famous artists visiting and exhibiting at Upton House, a summer of 1930s celebrations with champagne on the terrace and two Jazz concerts.



There is the popular 'Millionaires House Party' weekend 'Murder at the Mansion' and our famous Jazz evenings.

For those who enjoy the garden there is always something to see but especially the tulips on the terraces, the changing herbaceous borders and the National Collection of Asters are just some of the highlights.

Come along and have an amazing day out all year round for all the family.

Rachael O'Connor-Boyd, House and Collections manager, said: 'We hope people from all over the country, as well as our local visitors, will enjoy this very special 'Year of Art' along with the many other attractions at Upton House. And it's not just about paintings - visitors can also discover our outstanding, internationally important, collection of porcelain.'

Throughout the year visitors to Upton can experience the lifestyle of a 1930s millionaire. This is an interactive experience, giving a true sense of how the family of Lord Bearsted lived, researched from actual family archives and contemporary photographs.

Visitors can enjoy the 1930s 'upstairs downstairs' experience, with access to the attics and basements on special tours.

There are acres of stunning gardens to wander round, with borders full of colourful plant displays, some areas are gradually being returned to reflect the style of the 30's garden, along with a unique kitchen garden set amongst the formality. Some of the seasonal highlights are the Tulip weekend on the 14 & 15 April, the wonderful Bluebell Walk on Sunday 13

May and the National Collection of Asters which will start to flower from the 15 September. Visitors of all ages can follow the woodland adventure pathways and enjoy the fun and games of the natural surroundings or sit quietly and watch the birds flying in and out of nearby nest boxes.

The restaurant's new French chef, Gaston Demaecker, has planned new exciting menus using local produce to complement the high quality snacks and cream teas of which we are famous for. So scheduling your day to allow enough time for a real hearty lunch or light snack is highly recommended.

The Gift Shop and plant centre are the places to go to find those unusual gifts for family and friends or a few treats just for yourself. There are many interesting books on art, history and gardens and nourishing food items of jams, honey and local biscuits. The plant centre sells a good range of interesting plants including shrubs, fruit trees, herbaceous plants and roses. For those who just like to sit and relax we sell a wide range of out door furniture and complementary garden ornaments.

The gardens, restaurant and shop are open 11am-5pm, Fridays to Wednesdays. The house is open 1pm-5pm.

Normal admission prices apply. National Trust members and under 5s free.

Adults £9.95, Child £5.00, Family £26.00.

For further details call Upton House and Gardens on 01295 670266 or for the full program of events go to:- [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/uptonhouse](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/uptonhouse)

Thanks  
To the Broad Close couple  
for their donation  
of £25.00

also

To Cllr. Paul O'Sullivan  
for his continued  
and generous support  
For  
Barford News

# **Open Weekend ... Open Weekend ... Open Weekend**

## **Warriner School Farm, Bloxham**

### **Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> of April.**

- ☛ Lambs, calves, chicks  
piglets, horses, donkeys
- ☛ Tractor and trailer rides  
Horse drawn wagon rides
- ☛ Farm produce for sale  
Refreshments
- ☛ Country crafts  
Vintage machinery
- ☛ Hands-on activities for kids  
Pond-dipping



#### **DETAILS:**

Opening times:  
10.00am - 4.00pm Saturday  
10.00am - 4.00pm Sunday  
Admission charges:  
Family ticket      £12.00  
Adult                £3.50  
Child / OAP        £2.50

Come along and meet us, and join in with the fun! There will be lots to see and do!

# **Open Weekend ... Open Weekend ... Open Weekend**



## **Barford Village Market**

### **Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> April**

**In the Village Hall, 10-12 noon**  
All the usual stalls

Artisan breads, Eggs, Cheeses, Preserves & Chutneys, Meat  
Joint Produce, Cards, Turned Wood, Jewellery, Fairtrade,  
Handicraft items,

plus Something new each month

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

3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday every month except August

So come along and support YOUR local market  
All Profits for Village Hall Maintenance

## **Cuts & Colours**

by Carolle

Mobile Hairstylist

**Friendly Local Qualified Hairdresser  
offering the following services in the  
comfort of your own home**

Ladies Cut	£10.00
(with optional blow-dry)	£15.00
Childrens Cuts from	£ 5.00
Gents Cut	£7.00
Highlights/Lowlights from	£30.00
Colour Tint	£22.00
Regrowth coverage	£18.00
Semi-Permanent Colour	£15.00

**For enquiries or an appointment please  
telephone Carolle : 07954 053019**



## NATURE NOTES 104

**A**N EXPRESSION I DON'T REMEMBER from earlier times became prominent in weather forecasters' vocabulary as February dawned – a 'weather blocker'. It was highly descriptive of a huge high pressure system that became locked into place over NW continental Europe by a 'blip', a northward loop in the jetstream, that high speed, high level air current flowing west to east, that controls our weather. Because of its circulation, the blocker drew bitterly cold arctic air southward, right over the U.K. on a shriving easterly breeze. Sure, the 1st and 2nd were flawless, sunny days, but were they cold? They were! The 1st was 0° by day and -10° by night, the 2nd went down to -12.5° of intense frost on a clear, starry night. Nevertheless, a Kestrel was looking for supper on the verge near South Newington and a Buzzard, hunched motionless in an Oak beside the B4031 below Steepness at sunset, was still there in the after-glow, an hour later. Imagine my surprise when I saw him in exactly the same place at 11am the next morning! It crossed my mind that he might be dead and frozen to the branch, but as I went past, he spread his wings and slipped away.

By the way, how many of you recognised this brilliant sunrise on the 2nd, I wonder, as Candlemas Day?

*'If Candlemas Day dawns bright and clear,  
we'll get two winters in one year!'*

I love the double meaning of this old weather-saw, does it mean we'll get another freezing blast later in Spring? Or does it mean that we *always* do get two winters in a year – Jan. and Feb. at this end and Nov. and Dec. at the other?

Which ever way you like, as far as this year went, 'You ain't seen nothin' yet!'

The 3rd dawned on a lumpy overcast, virtually windless, the cloud dissipating by afternoon.

Next day, a fairly clear sunrise and another frost of -12.5°, steadily clouded over from the W on a freezing breeze. Whiffing snow flakelets started falling by 2.30pm, becoming moderate by 3.00 o'clock. I was driving (very carefully!) back toward the top of Irondown in the gloom as a Buzzard lifted up into the trees on the scarp edge. As I rounded the curve at the top of the hill, my lights caught what appeared to be four Dock leaves sticking up, right on the roadside edge. They quickly resolved into two pairs of Hares' ears! As I slowed, the two animals loped away slowly for a short distance, then stopped and watched as I drove slowly past! By next morning 75 – 100mm of snow lay everywhere!

By the 5th, the day temperature had eased somewhat, with a few glimpses of sun. The snow,



slowly thawing between 10.00am and 4.30 pm, froze again on an overcast night of -1°. This continued on the 6th, now windless and with moderate fog and falling drizzle, only to plunge to -10° at night on the 7th.

The 8th was overcast, with a shriving, lazy E wind and a day temperature of -1.5°. I was delighted to have a small group of Goldfinches spending much time foraging the standing seedheads of Lavender and Evening Primrose in my garden.

After a night at -5.5° the 9th was overcast, windless and felt colder than its 0°. A friend of mine noted Nuthatches taking nuts from his feeders and storing them in mortar joints of a high stone wall – that's a new one on me!

Very small numbers of Redwings were still to be seen in open fields and hedgerows.

At about 4.30pm snow commenced with fine flurries and by 7pm it was snowing lightly but steadily and the night temperature was -3.5°.

The 10th was raw cold as a light SE wind had arisen. A bright overcast with short spells of wan sunlight induced a slow thawing – not to much avail, as a brilliant, moonlit night plunged to a bitter -15.5°. The coldest of the month!

The morning was one of intense cold and fog, but it lifted to a clear sunny sky and a negligible SE wind. I came across Ian Hobday at the top of Fernhill, where he pointed out a Buzzard on Steepness that he was watching, and also, intriguingly, a single Lapwing on the ground (of course) not far from the Buzzard. Oh for the days when our fields were graced by the displays and calls of many Lapwings!

Another night of deep frost at -13° ensued.

The 12th dawned overcast and with very light airs. It was a little less cold than recently (3.5°) and the frozen snow slowly thawed all day. Three Goldfinches continued to forage my Lavender and Evening Primrose seedheads, and on chatting to Brian Rogers, he told me of a flock of about forty of them that visited his and neighbouring gardens. What a sight – and sound!

On the 13th The wind went up to NW and hazy sunshine slowly clouded over, but the temperature went up to 5° and there was evening rain. Next day (St. Valentine's) was overcast, with breaks of cloudy sunshine, spoiled by a harsh northerly breeze. nevertheless the day temperature reached 6.5°. Walking around St. Michael, I encountered a flock of about fifty Starlings which was as big a flock as any I've seen around the village in recent times. I was also thrilled to find myself looking and listening to Brian's forty Goldfinches between Townsend and Robins Close.

The wind backed to NW toward sunset, but the night held up to 4° and the morning of the 15th was sunny and breezy with variable cloud, much milder than of late (10°). . . and I had the pleasure of disturbing a flock of about forty Redwing from trees beside the Bloxham road at the edge of St. John airfield, the biggest flock I've seen around the Barfords this year!

Next day was cloudy and bright with warm sun over mid-day. A negligible NW wind continued, and it felt warmer than the indicated temperature of 10°, but it became much fresher in late afternoon. The Bloxham road Kestrel maintained his traditional position on the overhead wires and a lone Buzzard kept watch over the Barley Lane/Park tee-junction in the chill of sunset.

Quiet, overcast conditions prevailed on the 17th with a temperature of 11°. A flock of 20 Redwing moved about the south of St. Michael and Arthur Murrey came up with the gem of five Widgeon grazing in the water meadows at St. John. This might be coming a regular spot in late winter for these attractive, whistling duck – let's hope so!

Steadily rising from 0° on the 13th, the night temperatures reached 5.5° on the 17th, but a rapidly moving cold front produced a rushing SW wind on the 18th. It was mild, but a heavy downpour in early afternoon brought clearing skies to a flawless late afternoon and sunset – and a night temperature of -2°.

In the clear night air, the planets Jupiter and especially Venus, were brilliant against the starry background. At this time Venus was much the further west, appearing as the 'Evening Star', but they were to appear increasingly close together over the coming weeks as the visual effects of their orbits interacted with that of Earth and the Moon. These effects were to produce some beautiful and spectacular sights over this future period.

The cold front did its job and a change of direction brought a chilly wind up to NNW, with a hard night frost of -6.5°! However, the female Hen Harrier put in an appearance to the west of the parish once more on the 19th.

Next day the wind backed a little to NW; there was low brassy sunlight at both ends of the day, separated by a dull overcast, but the temperatures had begun to ease.

The 21st saw the wind at WSW, and it was to dither unsteadily in a western quarter until the 26th. Daytime temperatures rose steadily to 14° on 23rd/24th and nights to 10°. There were good sunny spells and variable cloud, but the 22nd saw drizzle setting-in about 10.00 am, turning to rain and then tailing off once more by 2.30pm, to become an afternoon of drizzle.

During this mild spell, Kestrels, Buzzards and Green Woodpeckers were all active in their usual environs, and on the 24th, I encountered my first Bumblebee queen of the year. Awake from hibernation, she was house hunting amongst leaf-litter – a huge, booming Buff-tailed *Bombus terrestris*!

Alas, one had the feeling that these early Spring days were a little premature – but so welcome, all the same.

From 26th to the end of the month the wind settled into SW. Day temperatures averaged 10° but nights were volatile ranging from -1° (25th) to 6° (28th). The 26th especially was a beautiful, sunny early Spring day.

Over these last days, Green Woodpeckers were particularly voluble below Steepness, but the most cheering of all was to hear once more, the glorious music of Songthrushes, near and far, in the morning and again at evening. We had begun to feel some despair that the severe population crash suffered by these beautiful, quietly dressed, unobtrusive birds would become permanent. But thankfully, no. Whether there has been an influx from the continent, or wherever they have come from, I don't know. The fact is, they're here, and long may they be so!

And so, in this Leap Year, the 29th of February dawned on a light overcast and a non-existent SW wind. A persistent mist lent a little air of mystery to a mild, still day of 11°, as a fairly intense high pressure area lay over the south central U.K. The sun broke through in late afternoon to produce a clear sunset and the temperature fell to -2° as February slipped away during a night of drifting, rolling fog banks.

Ron Knight

## **A VERY BIG 'THANK YOU'**

**from Carol**

**(the one with the fractured hip)**

**to everyone for their get well  
messages, cards, flowers, gifts  
and offers of help –  
you are so caring and thoughtful  
and I'm proud to be part  
of this great community!**

*Carol*