

BARFORD NEWS

AUGUST 2012

Price 30p where sold

Get Ready For Another Great Village Weekend



VILLAGE BAR-B-QUE & BAR



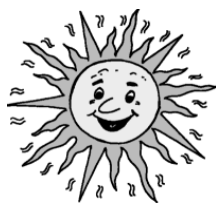
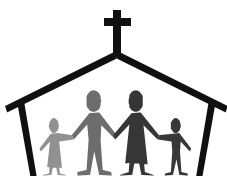
**BANK HOLIDAY SUNDAY
26TH AUGUST**



**6pm onwards
In the village hall gardens**



Barford St Michael and St John - Church Fete



starting at 2pm **Monday 27th August**
at **The Manor House**

Games and competitions

Bouncy Castle

Bottle Stall Plants

Raffle

Books

Toys,

Delicious Teas by the moat

~ ~ ~

Including

A Companion and Novelty Dog Show



Parish Council Notes

THE MEETING TOOK PLACE at 7.30pm on 4th July 2012 at Barford Village Hall and was attended by Cllr Hobbs, Cllr Best, Cllr Bullard and Cllr Eden. Also were attending Mrs R Watts (Clerk) and, for part of the meeting, County Cllr Jelf and District Cllr O'Sullivan. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Styles and Cllr Woolgrove.

Handrail at top of Murreys Lane: The Clerk had reported the need for a handrail along the footpath at the top of Murreys Lane to Sarah Aldous at Oxfordshire County Council.

Thames Water – Allotments: Cllr Hobbs reported that Justin Hulbert, Escalation Team Manager for Thames Water had failed to respond to many important points in his letter of complaint (12/67/5 refers). The Clerk has received further meaningless invoices and a letter threatening court action. Cllr Hobbs proposed that, in the absence of co-operation from Thames Water, he should now write to the Consumer Council for Water. This was seconded by Cllr Eden and unanimously approved.

Grass Cutting: The Clerk has written to Thomas Fox Landscaping to complain about the verge on the sharp bend opposite Bloody Bones Lane, Barford St John, not having been cut. Cllrs complained that the grass in West Close was not short enough; the verge from the St John sign up to Bloody Bones Lane had not been cut; the verge in Church Lane, Barford St John needed to be cut further up towards the church. The clerk will again contact Thomas Fox Landscaping reference these matters.

Brass Plaque for VE & VJ Days & Diamond Jubilee Seat: The Clerk tabled a sample of plaques from Memorial Benches UK. Cllr Bullard proposed that two 5" x 2" brass plaques should be bought 1) In Commemoration of VE & VJ Days 1945 and 2) In Commemoration of Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee 2012. This was seconded Cllr Best and unanimously approved.

Jubilee Beacon Site: At the previous meeting Cllr Woolgrove suggested that the Parish Council acknowledge Mr & Mrs Collier's generosity in allowing the Parish Council to have a Jubilee Beacon on their land. Cllr Eden proposed that a small gift of appreciation be bought for them. This was seconded by Cllr Bullard and unanimously approved. Cllr Best offered to purchase and deliver the goods. The Clerk will write a letter of thanks.

Public Participation: District Cllr O'Sullivan asked if there had been any complaints from residents about the new Oxfordshire County Council Dial-a-Ride Service. There had been none as yet.

District Cllr O'Sullivan said that a Conservative Group meeting will be held in Barford village hall on 13th July at 6.30pm for 7.00pm. Sir Tony Baldry MP will be speaking. Residents are welcome to attend.

Planning Matters

Details of planning applications can be found on the Cherwell District Council website http://cherweb.cherwell-dc.gov.uk/publicaccess/tde/DcApplication/application_searchform.aspx

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

Approved:

12/00539/F – Langlands, 20 Broad Close, Barford St Michael – extension of time limit 09/00486/F

Approved TCA:

12/00109/TCA Tree Works, Barford House, Horn Hill, Barford St Michael, granted 11/06/12

Grant of Agricultural Prior Approval: no previous notification

12/00763/AGN – R C Baker Agricultural Contractors Ltd, Springhill Farm, Barford St Michael, erection of grain and general store building, granted 20/06/12

Any Other Business

Cllr Eden reported that bushes growing down The Rock are becoming a hazard to road users. The clerk will inform Oxfordshire County Council Highways Department.

Cllr Bullard reported that she had received a complaint about dogs being allowed to foul the area around and over the bridge at Barford St Michael Mill. Dog owners are requested to pick up fouling after their dogs around the village and also where they are allowed to run free rather than being kept on a lead.

Cllr Woolgrove had reported to the clerk that he is concerned about a couple of elderberry bushes which are now growing over the path which runs between St Michael and St John. Councillors will check the area when they next go past.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on 5th September 2012. There will be no meeting in August.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.55pm.



Treasure Hunt

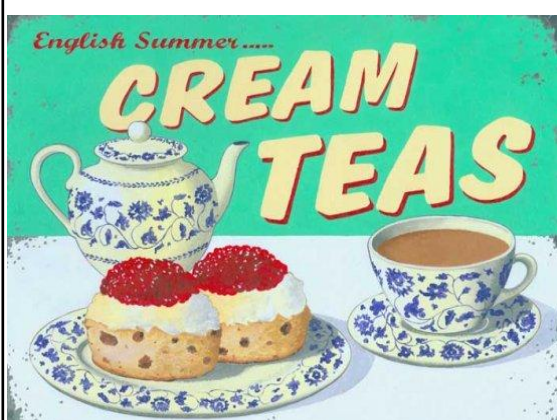


Are you aged 5 - 11 years?

Looking for something to do in the summer holidays?

Come and try the church treasure hunt - this will be taking place throughout the month of August (Starts 1st August).

Collect a quiz sheet in the church, follow the clues to find the answers in the church and churchyard, leave your quiz sheet in the box to be checked and you could win a prize!



In
Maggie's garden.
(Next to the village hall)

Sunday 2nd September
3.00 – 5.00

Fundraising for the
Helpless Children's Mother Centre/Nepal

Plants Wanted



Do you have any
spare plants
that you would be willing
to donate to the
Plant Stall at the Church Fete?
If so, please contact
Mariann on 338570



Welcome

To
new Broad Close residents

Lynn, Chris, Alan and Elaine

We hope you will all enjoy living in
Our lovely village

BARFORD ST JOHN & ST MICHAEL W.I.

SIX MONTHS HAVE PASSED since our last report in BN, and much has happened during that time. Our numbers have grown rather like Topsy, taking us from 24 to 36 members, which won us a £100 prize for achieving the highest growth of any W.I. in Oxfordshire.

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Our programme has been interesting and varied, in January we welcomed thatcher and bread maker John letts, who has 'used his loaf' to create bread from traditional grains grown locally. Later in the month we held our Annual Dinner at 'The Horse & Groom' in Milcombe. February brought the 'dancing vicar' in the form of Rev. Christine Turner, who spoke with great enthusiasm about her younger days dancing with the world famous 'Frank & Peggy Spencer Ballroom Dancing Formation Team'. She brought along dancing shoes and some of her very colourful frocks which had yards of net and thousands of sequins all sewn on by hand, and we were suitably impressed to see that she can still do high kicks with very little effort!

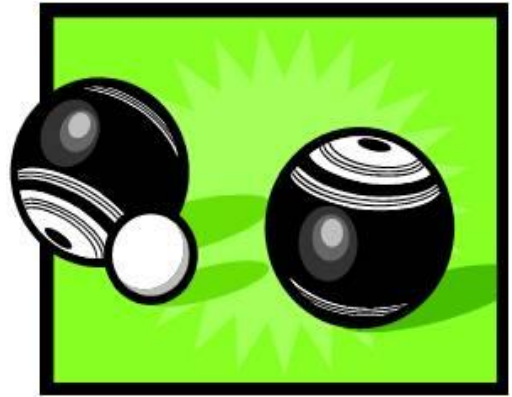
At the Annual Meeting in March our new President Helen took over from Betty and the committee was elected for the year. Several of us enjoyed an 'Evening with John Craven' with Adderbury WI. Next came a film and very entertaining talk by an Oxfordshire member who had taken part in a women's bike ride through India. May brought Gillian Cane to tell us about The Mitford Sisters, and June saw several members being made up by two young beauticians from Cedar Therapy of Deddington. June, of course, also involved our members in running Jubilee events, Duck Race, Family Games, Children's Tea-Party and the BBQ and Bar. Later in the month a group of us went to see 42nd Street at Oxford New Theatre and had a great time. At our July meeting Carrie O'Regan gave a cookery demonstration, making a delicious Parsnip and Apple Soup, Sicilian Caponate, Pasta Salad with a Soured Cream Dressing a splendid Spinach and Cream Cheese Roulade. Carrie also gave us some very useful tips.

Still to come this year are some excellent speakers, an outing to Kelmscote Manor, an evening with Adam Henson at Oxford Town Hall and a theatre trip in December to see Starlight Express. We meet next in September for a Ploughman's and Quiz. Visitors always very welcome to join us.



All this and not a hint of Jam or Jerusalem!!

Carpet Bowls Re-Starts



Tuesday 11th September
7.15pm

In the Village Hall

Don't be shy
Come along and give it a try!

HELP NEEDED!

After many years of devotion to the Village Hall our Secretary, Gunilla Treen, has decided to step down from the post to allow her to spend more time on her other interests. I am delighted that she is going to continue to sit on the committee, but it does mean we need a new Secretary.

The position is rewarding with lots of job satisfaction: the hours are incredibly flexible and you will have a great bunch of colleagues to work with. All this for absolutely no pay so we are offering the ultimate tax avoidance scheme! If you would like to help please contact me:



Peter Leney
The Potteries
High Street
Barford St Michael
Tel: 338992. Email: peter.leney@gmail.com

Only with the support of members of our community who are willing to give their time to help can our hall continue to flourish.

From The Vicar

A and particularly to the presiding genius, Dave Wheeler (see Dave's report elsewhere in this issue). I wasn't able to be there for the whole evening but it was great to come and find things still going very strong at around 10.00pm, the volume serious and the ground shaking slightly. And the sausages were superb. The Church is very grateful for the boost to its finances (more than £2000) and all the work that went into the event.

On funds, it's good to know that the proposed Barford Jubilee CD is on track (again, see elsewhere). Thanks to Tonies Ecclestone and Elvidge for taking this forward. 'Ecclestone and Elvidge' - a firm to conjure with!

Mid-August I'm going to Sweden for four months at the invitation of the Bishop of Oxford. The idea is that I learn Swedish properly. My wife is half-Swedish and we go to Sweden a lot, so I know a fair number of Swedish words, but putting them into sentences is currently beyond me. I should be able, after the 4-month course at St. Sigfrid's, a Church adult education centre, to make a better contribution to the Diocese of Oxford's link with Växjö Diocese. Why bother with such a link? (Sweden - who they? - other than a habitual problem in international football competitions.) Well, taking the Swedes seriously may offer us much. For instance, women bishops and gay marriage are on our national and CofE agendas and the Swedes have been there and got the T-shirts. The Church of Sweden has women bishops and it is not an issue. The Church of Sweden also now conducts gay marriages and, though there are dissensions, it doesn't look as if it is going to fall apart over the matter. The question of gay marriage is really difficult for the Church, but I think what took the Swedish Church to their present position was the perception that you can't hope to be a national church (as both they and we in the CofE want to be) and yet be massively out of step with national opinion. And then, less churchily, there's that 'Scandinavian model' (high-tax, big welfare) which offers an in some respects attractive alternative to the way we as a nation seem to be going. We need to be talking to such people and you can't talk satisfactorily, especially about spiritual matters, wholly in English - good though the Swedes are at English.

While I'm away Curate Dan will be in charge (or as much in charge as the legal arrangements in the CofE allow him to be). This is a training opportunity for him which should give him a chance to feel more fully than is possible with me around what it's like to be a Vicar. If you'd like to help his training, lob a few brickbats his way! And I'm hoping that he and the Parochial Church

Council will put some things in place that surprise me when I get back shortly before Christmas. Cat's away....

Go well till Christmas,
Hugh



Friday 31st August

(then you'll still have Sat & Sun to enjoy)

End your summer Holiday with the...

'Church Yard Camp Out'

- Go on be brave!!

Bring your tent & Camp out in the church
yard, £5.00 to camp and enjoy
soup/baked pots.

Camp Fire too!

Kids - please bring an adult

Contact Sophie Holmes 01869 338184 for details.

Firewood Needed

For our Camp Fire
(details above)

At our Church Camp Out we
plan to have a camp fire
using a brazier.

Donations of suitable wood and logs
would be gratefully received
Please contact Sophie Homes
01869 338184
Email: jim_sophie@btopenworld.com

The Barford's Bash in the Barn



What a fantastic evening. If you weren't there you missed a great night out in Barford.

We raised £2,032 for our churches and over £200 for the Children's Centre in Nepal.

A big 'thank you' must go to all the Alt family for not only the use of the barn but their help and support before and on the night. Andy, Kevin and Peter on the bar. Leon and Pete for running the barbeque.

All the bands, SHOOTER, 2TWENTY2 and THE SILVERFISH plus a brilliant young singer BEN ROGERS, who all gave their time and services for free. An extra special thanks must go to Steve Cook for getting the bands together and providing such a great sound for all the musicians in such a challenging space.

But the biggest thanks must go to the people who rocked up on the night and enjoyed themselves. They made it all worth while.

Thank you Barford!.
DW

Whist Drive Proceeds

Village Whist Drives have raised a total of £115 in the six months to end of June. This has been donated as follows:

Barford Churches	£57.50
Barford News	£28.75
Shepherds & Bakehouse	£28.75

Regular whist drives are held fortnightly on alternate Friday evenings throughout the year in the village hall. New players are always welcome to come along and join in.

Avril Green & Judy Hobbs
(Sincere and grateful thanks to Avril and Judy for their continued support to Barford News)

Rainbows News

PLANS FOR MAKING the most of the summer weather have frequently had to be changed this term, though luckily the rain held off for our visit to Sapphire Alpacas. Many thanks to Val Tew for a lovely meeting. Once the girls had admired the brand new alpaca baby ('Rainbow') they were distracted by the stream, buttercups and rabbit holes (and alpaca poo!), but all thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The adults were more interested in the technicalities of raising alpacas, and came away knowing considerably more than we did at the start.

The District campfire had to be held inside this year (so no actual campfire- just a picnic and lots of campfire singing) which was a shame, but we made the most of it! We had a really good turnout and sang enthusiastically.

Torrential rain meant the walk was postponed until September and the cricket in West Close was changed due to a dreadful weather forecast. We made sitters (for sitting upon) for our campfire in September instead, but in the village hall garden as the weather was in fact glorious...We did finish with a quick game of French cricket before saying goodbye to Florence, who has been a super Senior Rainbow. Elize couldn't be at the meeting, but we sadly say goodbye to her as well. New Rainbows will be starting in September!

Hazel Neal
01869 337822



Diary Date for next month

Sat 8th Sept

'Oxford Historic Churches Ride & Stride'

A bike ride or walk for all the family

Contact Cubby Brett 01869 338300

Barford Green Garden Club

NOTES FROM OUR POTTING SHED

MANY DAYS have been spent inside, away from the potting shed, WAITING for the rain to stop!!!!!! St Swithin has no longer any influence it seems.

The water table is so high plants have been rotting and despairing. Plants that we were told to plant for dry conditions are in severe shock. Water butts are overflowing. The Jubilee Oak will have been well watered by nature.

Moments have been snatched to cut the grass or pick the fruit and vegetables. We are wishing we had staked things more carefully and pruned things a bit more.

Garden furniture has not been sat on and warm summer evenings have not existed, sun cream sits on the shelf and shorts are a rare sight!

However, we must still take care of our plants when weather permits and look longingly at gardening articles, magazines and television programmes for succour.

Let us hope that the weather improves for



Trip to Rousham August 16th 2pm

Members and friends are invited to come along to visit this unique local garden together. It is one of Monty Don's favourites (and he should know!). We'll meet there at 2pm in the car park – entry is by ticket machine payment of £5 per person. The post code is OX25 4QU, or follow signs off the Oxford road as you travel south.

What you'll see is a very unusual garden of great atmosphere. It has a number of early eighteenth century classical buildings and statues, with views of the Cherwell, as well as more traditional and accomplished gardening around the house with fine herbaceous borders, roses, fruit trees and a parterre.



The original garden was designed by Charles Bridgeman, a very early pioneer of the landscape style, and William Kent. It allows the visitor to progress from one building to another past a grotto, a lake, a bathing plunge pool and the assembled stone gods and goddesses. These early designers'

idea was to conjure up the spirit of ancient Rome in deepest Oxfordshire.

Although we will not, alas, be accompanied by servants bearing food and perhaps musicians as can be imagined might have happened in the eighteenth century, we thought it would be fun to bring our own picnic teas to share in one of these spaces.

Do come and join us!

By the time you read this we MAY have summer!



TIP OF THE MONTH


Cut off all rotten and dead roses and other flowers and cut some of the stem too. Some roses will flower again later in the year. Admire the large slugs and snails, the latter, *Helix aspersa*, were eaten by the Romans. Research first as to how to prepare them safely for eating.



'Bye for now'
Spade and Fork.



Red Cross Appeal Week

THANK YOU TO  **BritishRedCross**
everyone who gave so generously during the Appeal Week in May. The sum of £263 was raised, a little up on last year. Thank you too to all the collectors.

The following information might be of interest:

"Red Cross Centre in Banbury is based at Cherwell Business Village, Southam Road (the old Alcan Laboratory), telephone number 01295 258331. Medical loan equipment is still available from our Community Response Unit based in the car parking area at Morrisons Supermarket in Banbury on a Friday from 10.30am to 12.00 Noon. It is recommended that you telephone our HQ in Abingdon on 01235 552660 to reserve requirements so that they can be collected on the Friday following."

The British Red Cross is part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Readers may have seen recently on the television, pictures of their vehicles active in Syria.

Ann Budd

Barford Challenge 2012

Helpless Children Mother Centre, Kathmandu

This year the Challenge was truly a challenge. Pete and I went out (on our bikes) on Saturday 30 June to test this year's route, making sure that the maps matched what we were riding and that the clues we had written back in April were still OK (just as well as some kind person had removed one of our clues!!) The weather was predictably wet, and extremely windy. Nevertheless off we set and home we came some 10 hours later having stayed in the Pub at Fenny Compton a bit longer than was necessary. It was only when Maggie said that she had to get back home that we felt that we had outstayed our welcome and really should get back into the saddle. 30 miles into a head wind after a typical Pete Eden lunch break is no joke. But we made it home wet, battered by the wind and very tired. Not that we told anyone that! Word went out that it was a lovely ride with great views and a good stopping place for lunch and that really it was a doddle.

After a week of the most horrendous summer weather I think I have ever witnessed, from a warm day on the Thursday to torrential rain all day Friday, Pete and I were not holding out much hope for any riders to turn up on the day. But we had committed ourselves so we were stationed at the village hall at 6.45am to sign in and send off anyone mad enough to turn up. Our first madman of the day was of course our own Jeff Elliott followed closely by Andrew Jenkins (Lynsey's fiancé). In all 16 riders turned out and a great day was had by all.

George Williams had a mishap before he even left the village, his chain seized up and he needed to make a stop at home to mend it, fortunately he only

fell off once, a member of his team suffered a puncture and they still managed to finish in less than nine hours. A truly Olympian effort when you consider that on 21st July George is holding a party to celebrate his 70th birthday. Hats off to you George and a well earned Gold Medal, for determination and true grit.

Memorable comment of the day: when Pete mentioned to no-one in particular that 'you can ride as fast as you like but if you're going in the wrong direction then you won't get to your destination first'.

Bruce and Sean became bike wear designers with their fashionable bin liners worn under their lightweight jackets in an attempt to keep dry.

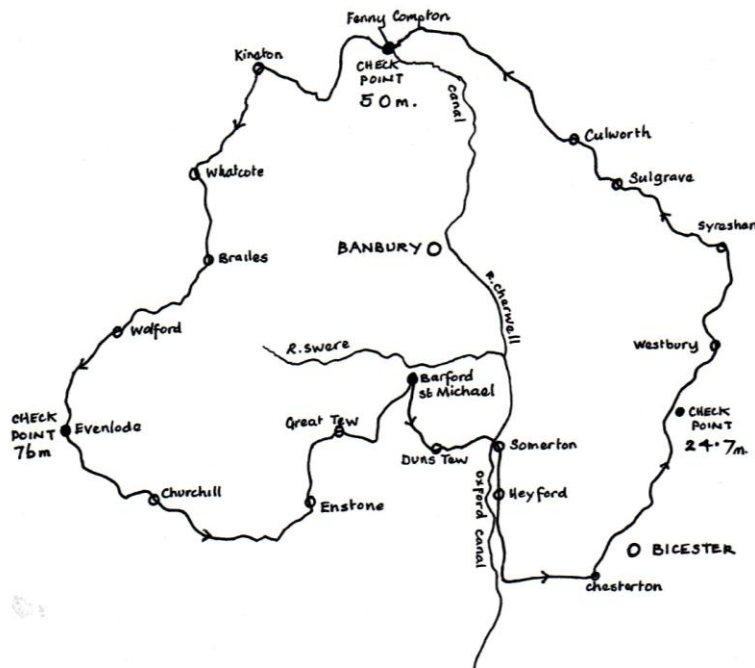
Team Winners again this year were Simon Hanmer and Sophie Lowe (Horn Hill) in a time of 6 hours 41 minutes, which included a 15 minute

time penalty for missing one of the clues. Ian Mundy and Marc Steenkamp came in second again this year. Both teams were very fast and incredibly fit but one team were better at map reading and stayed on the set route all the way!!

Ian repairing a puncture we did wonder if Mark W had let down Ian's tyre to give himself a few more minutes with his lunch!!

All agreed, after a few pints at the George, that the day had been great fun and a challenge. We raised £340.00 for the Orphanage, which is better than a poke in the eye with a blunt stick. Special thanks to Maggie Eden for giving up her day to 'man' one of the retrieve cars and Kathryn Wheeler who 'manned' our first check point. Most of all thanks to all the mad, keen and very slightly damp riders who took part on the day. Time to get ready for the next Challenge.

Glynnis



DEDDINGTON HEALTH CENTRE NEWSLETTER

GETTING RESULTS OF TESTS

This is a reminder that if you've had any sort of test done at the surgery or hospital: blood test, urine test, minor surgery where a specimen has been sent for analysis, XRay etc, it is important that you contact the surgery to get the result of the test.

You will usually be told how long you will need to wait before the results of the test are available. This maybe a short period of time, as in the case of most blood tests, or quite a while for XRay results, but it is important that you don't wait for a doctor to contact you with results, but you contact the surgery yourself.

The best way to do this is to ring the surgery and speak to our Reception staff. If need be, they will get Hayley our Health Care Assistant to contact you.

Alternatively, you could use our surgery email service via our website. Never assume that because you haven't been contacted, that everything is OK. Always take responsibility for getting the results of your own tests yourself.

ORDERING AND COLLECTING MEDICATION

Our Dispensary gets very busy, as many of you will have experienced. In order to save yourself time, then please be aware of those times when Dispensary is quieter.

When phoning to make a 'Repeat Prescription' request, the quietest time to phone is in the afternoon before 3pm on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. The mornings are always busy and especially Monday and Tuesday mornings, so do try to avoid those times as far as possible. Remember, you can also make a Repeat prescription request via our website on the page called 'Repeat Prescriptions'.

When coming to collect a Repeat Prescription, then the best time to come is :

- when morning surgery has finished,
- before afternoon surgery starts
- after afternoon surgery has finished.

To be specific, the quietest times to collect prescriptions are between 12 midday and 3.30pm, and between 5.30 – 6.30pm.

Don't forget you can also collect your Repeat Prescription on Saturday mornings between 9am and 12 midday, which is also a less busy time at the practice.

REMINDER: FLU JABS START IN SEPTEMBER

Just a reminder that if you are aged 65 or over, have a long term medical condition, are pregnant or a carer, that our flu clinics are starting from Saturday, September 29th 2012 - **make a note in your diary.**

And finally.....

Did you know we have a **Lost Property Box** at the surgery. So if you have lost your hat or your glasses (etc) and have been to Deddington Health Centre not long before, do think of us when you are trying to work out where they may have been lost!

Maggie's 50

Thanks to a late donation the
final sum raised in aid of
brain tumour research was

£727

This was donated to the Maggie
Harvey website.

Many thanks to all the riders, helpers
and others who made donations.

George & Simon

Fernhill News

AFTER A LOVELY AFTERNOON on 27th June at our annual Strawberry Tea and Quiz at Mary's in Banbury our first July meeting was playing bingo. On 11th July we were educated and informed by Mr. Tim Williams, a specialist advisor in inheritance matters. He explained about the benefits and pitfalls of wills and estates in his talk entitled 'Where there's a will there's a way' which he delivered in an easy and amusing way. 18th July saw us returning to Sturdy's Castle for a game of skittles and, as always, a lovely buffet lunch. A picnic at Avril's and a game to play took place on 25th July.

On 1st August we will either play bingo, have a beetle drive or a quiz. For 8th August we are planning a musical afternoon. A trip to Hilltop Garden Centre in Witney Rd, Ramsden, is on the cards for 22nd August. Advance notice – 19th September – music and poetry from Maddy and Mo and on 22nd September Belly Dancers! Always nice to see new faces so visitors very welcome to come along to any of our meetings.

Mary & Avril



Please Note
There will be no
Barford Village Market
In August
We'll re-open for business
On 15th September

Charity CD coming Soon

YOU MAY HAVE READ in last month's Barford News about plans to produce a CD in aid of church funds and other local charities. Well the good news is that plans are now well advanced for both the CD and a launch event featuring Christmas music at St Michael's. It is hoped that this will take place in late November or early December. Watch out for further updates in future editions of the Barford News.



A moment to treasure forever!



There was great excitement for such a very proud and unique moment, as 36 girls from the top girls rowing school in the UK were invited to join the Oxford boat crew to form an archway with their blades for the final leg of the Oxford Olympic torch relay. Danielle Semple (pictured here third from the left) a Junior 13 from Headington School Oxford Rowing Club was part of the team watching the torch relay coming into Oxford's South Parks on July 9 2012. The weather was kind to everyone at the event which was so powerful and full of emotion not only for all those who were participating but also those spectating. The organisation for the whole event was absolutely fantastic and we must say a BIG thank you to those people working behind the scenes who very often get forgotten. There were some truly remarkable people involved, and no less than 67 year's young Malcolm who wheeled himself in on the very rough and uphill matt to reach the stage where the Olympic Cauldron was awaiting to be lit.

They also got a mention on Heart FM the following morning July 10, when they were reporting back on everyone's personal experiences of participating in this once in a lifetime event.

A memory that will stay with them forever!

Regards

Danielle and Veronique

(Danielle is 3rd from the left in the picture, Ed.)

1st Deddington Guides

We have as always on a Tuesday night been so lucky with the weather! It always clears up – the only rain we had was the night we met in the hall! On this occasion we learnt more camp skills.

We've also had fun making shelters in the woods, at Horley camp site – quite a challenge – shelters might have withstood a light summer shower, but I'm not so sure about this summer's rain!

Brownies aplenty! Joined us for the Annual Sausage Sizzle! The guides showed off their fire-lighting and cooking skills, and also taught the brownies about safety round the fire. A super evening was had by all!

Backwoodsman cooking was a challenge – no utensils – food in foil parcels cooked in the ashes – with varying degrees of success – but it was fun trying.

Rainbows, brownies and guides met for the Annual District Picnic and camp fire sing! The young leaders from Middle Barton did a grand job leading us all – we had a great evening.

The rain was pouring down – as usual. Our thanks to the Holly Tree Club for allowing us to use the hall at short notice – it saved the day!

So still to come this term – stream walking (or will that be flood walking). We will have to see nearer the time!

Then we're off to camp – beautiful farm site at Shutford.

Hope we won't be too rusty when we're back on 11th September.

Maggie Rampley 01295 810069

Marian Trinder 01869 340806

Catherine Blackburn 01295 258008



Girlguiding UK
girls in the lead

Eat Well in Cherwell

YOU'RE GUARANTEED to eat well in Cherwell

Eat Well in Cherwell is a district council-run award scheme that recognises food premises that offer healthy options on their menus and have excellent hygiene standards.

With concerns over the amount of sugar, salt and fat in our diet, and the effect it could have on health, many people look for healthier options and a healthy environment to eat their food in.

This year's Eat Well in Cherwell Awards took place at Bloxham Independent School on 20 March, where the council awarded 44 certificates, including five to businesses new to the scheme. They all meet the Eat Well in Cherwell criteria of:

- * healthy options on their menus
- * excellent hygiene standards
- * a commitment to ongoing food hygiene training.

There are three levels of award: Silver, Gold and, for businesses maintaining Gold Standard for five consecutive years, Platinum. A list of the current award holder is downloadable from www.cherwell.gov.uk.

Businesses who want to apply to join the scheme should email wendy.kingsbeer@cherwell-dc.gov.uk or phone 01295 221628.

Bag Some Bargain Baby Bootee

BANBURY MARKET WILL PLAY HOST to a regular a 'baby bootee' sale. The event will take place on the last Saturday of August and September from 9am to 4.30pm when baby items of all shapes and sizes will be on offer.

Anyone with good quality, second-hand baby and toddler clothes, toys and accessories items can take a half-pitch for just £10 or a full one for £20.

And traders in new baby goods are also welcome to join in with pitches priced £25 under the same terms.

The market has seen a few additions in recent months, including antiques stalls making an appearance on the second and fourth Thursday.

Jayne McKay, partner at Sketts, said: "Having a baby can be an extremely expensive experience and in these times of austerity, both new and more experienced parents could benefit from this."

Anyone interested in taking a stall will need to set up in time to start trading at 9am. They should email info@sketts.co.uk or call 01789 267000 for information or to book.

For further information please contact:

Craig Forsyth, Tel: 01295 221639

Email: craig.forsyth@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

Spring into action



Youngsters should consider taking a leap of faith this summer with a new trampolining club in Banbury.

Anyone aged between 6 and 17 can take part and all skill levels will be catered for, including absolute beginners. And who knows what heights they might eventually reach as trampolining is an Olympic sport?

This initiative is the result of a partnership between Cherwell District Council and Ricochet, a British Gymnastics-registered club.

"What better way to celebrate London 2012 than to get involved in an Olympic sport? "It is a fantastic chance for young people to have fun while getting fit so I'd urge them to take advantage of the free introductory session."

The club meets on Tuesday evenings from 6.15pm to 7.15pm at North Oxfordshire Academy. Visit www.ricochet-tc.co.uk for more information and to book a session email kbunyan@hotmail.co.uk or call 01295 758639.

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POST CROPREDY CHILLOUT

GEORGE INN, BARFORD ST MICHAEL
MONDAY 13TH AUGUST

BIG BALOOSH

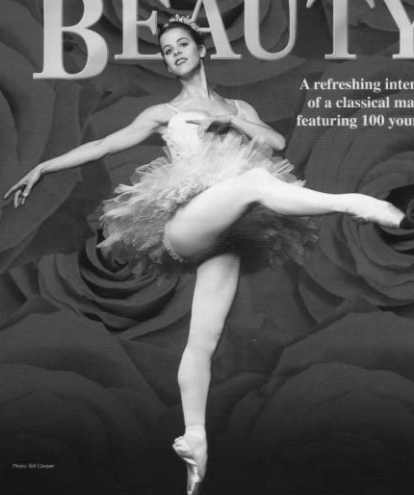
ROCKS THE GEORGE
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featuring 100 young dancers



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Evenings 7.30pm Saturday Matinee 2.30pm **ATG-TICKETS**
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Beer Rocks!

Cuppa Morning is
hosting a
“Grown-ups”
Beer and Band night.

Saturday 8th September

Eight till Late

Keep the date free!



NATURE NOTES 107

AFTER ENDURING THE WETTEST APRIL on record, one could be forgiven for anticipating an improvement in May. It was not to be. The mainly easterly winds of late April continued for the first week of May from NE, giving day temperatures between 8° and 13° with nights falling steadily from 5° on the 1st to -0.5° on the 6th. Yes, it remained often cold, but I only recorded rain on the 1st, 2nd and 7th, this latter, commencing about 10.30 am, was sometimes torrential and with sleet. It was almost incessant until the early hours of the 8th!

Even so, Nature started to wake up a little; a Buzzard was calling around Steepness and Great Spotted Woodpeckers were 'keck'ing in the grounds of Barford House. Bas Butler reported the remarkably noisy mobbing of a Little Owl by a Great Spotted Woodpecker, at some farm buildings. The Little Owl (which was nesting in one of the barns) was sitting on top of an electricity pole, getting some domestic peace. The Woodpecker also was nesting not far away, and suddenly took great exception to the Owl. 'Keck'ing, which quickly grew into veritable screaming, the Woodpecker flew numerous close passes at the Owl and even several times climbed the pole below the Owl, still cackling and screeching. The Owl remained supremely unperturbed at this rude behaviour and passively ignored the Woodpecker, who eventually became exhausted and flew off in despair. At which juncture the Owl, having surmounted the tirade, went leisurely back into its nesting barn!

I watched the Carrion Crow (see Crow v. Cormorant; April Notes) whose nest was below Steepness, harrying a Buzzard which was attempting to soar on a not very promising wind, until the Buzzard gave up the idea.

On the 6th, Basil had another good experience, this time a 'first of the year' by observing two Swifts flying around St. Michael village and a further five around 'The George'. Given the weather, this was quite surprising, and also because the House Martins had not yet arrived.

On the 7th the wind went to SW and stayed there until the 15th. Day temperatures rose appreciably, but nights were very capricious; for instance the night of the 9th was 12°, that of the 11th was 1° and that of the 12th was -1°, clear, cold and starry. The 8th was the warmest day so far at 20°, and between it and the 14th the temperature stayed fairly level between 15° and 18°. There were gloomy, dark days, but rain only on four 24 hour periods.

The 11th was a breezy, sunny day of fluffy cumulus clouds. It was the day the House Martins



arrived; one was promptly inspecting the artificial nest on the SE corner of my house and within a couple of days there were two!

On the 12th, Bas told me of more frantic and noisy mobbing of the Little Owl by the Great Spotted Woodpecker, with similar results. On a pre-Bird Count recce I spotted a Curlew on St. John airfield, the first for quite some years.

At this time the dearth of insects in general was becoming evident. No flying insects mean no food to catch for birds like Swallows, Martins, Swifts Warblers and Wagtails, no grubs and caterpillars for most of our garden birds (Tits, Dunnocks, Wrens, etc.) and one became aware of the horrific starvation possibilities in the days ahead.

The 13th was our Summer Bird Count which is carried out over twelve hours every May. We have engaged in this (and the corresponding Winter Bird Count) every year since around 1977, along with other teams around the Banbury area covering the 1200 sq. km. between roughly Sarsden and Bicester (in Oxon) and Ashorne (Warwicks) and Badby (Northants).

'Our' 10 x 10 km. square is SP 43 with Milton just about dead centre! So 'We' being Basil, Ian Hobday and myself set off with two friends at 6am to see what we could find. We had a very good day counting 68 species (about six more than usual) 52 of those being from around the Barfords! Sadly, most were in rather small numbers and, notably, the Cuckoo was totally absent from our records (although they were recorded elsewhere). We saw nothing unusual and perhaps our 'best' birds were Little Grebe, Hobby, Curlew, Kingfisher, Nuthatch and Raven. All beautifully North Oxon!

The 14th had sunny spells with heavy showers especially in late afternoon. Bas said the Little Owls 'were very visible' outside their barn!

A wind change to NW on the 15th brought the day temperature down to 11° with a pre-dawn frost of -1.5° at night.

A clear bright sunrise on the 16th, with the wind still at NW, raised the temperature to 17° with 'summer' cumulus clouds and a spectacular sunset. Buzzards were soaring at a great height over St. Michael but many small birds (I particularly noticed insectivores – Tits especially) were scavenging around window frames, wood and brickwork, in fact any rough surfaces at all for spiders, woodlice, gnats and minute creatures. At this time of year, such behaviour does indicate starvation level for feeding young in the nest, as well as the adults themselves.

The 17th saw a return of the wind to SW. Mr. and Mrs. Turner listened to brief calling by the Cuckoo below Hempton Hills in the early morning

– the only record I know this year from this traditional habitat. How sad!

The 18th started overcast on a fresh SE blow. Hazy sunshine with a much milder feel occupied the afternoon, then rain after 4pm. Now, after six or seven days of twittering, arguing, scraping about in the nest and aerial dashing around, ‘my’ House Martins appear to be well settled once more in their artificial nest under the eaves.

And now, for the next nine days, I have no notes on the Barfords at all, except that during this time the minimum night temperature was 6° and the max. during daytime was 30° – pretty warm! This omission is because I was holidaying on differently beautiful Mull, with all sorts of non-Oxon birds on mountains, beaches, waters and 8,000 year old Caledonian Forest, untouched since the last retreat of the ice! Exquisite!

So, reopening the files on the 28th, I find the wind in the W, hot (29°) and humid. Bird song has almost ceased (except the dawn chorus) except for occasional notes from Blackbird and Songthrush.

Next day the breeze veered to E, then backed NE, hot and sultry. There were now records of Woodpecker nests (Green near the allotments and Great Spotted at the Old Vicarage) and Red Legged Partridge foraging on the allotments themselves.

Virtually windless, cumulus cloud built throughout the 30th, tense and humid from SW, reaching 23°. Thunder and showers in the afternoon produced a cooler and clear evening. After the showers there was a wonderful burst of united bird-song for about an hour. Those taking part included several Songthrushes, a Mistle Thrush (very uncommon this year) one or two Blackbirds, and many Chaffinches, Greenfinches and Goldfinches. Against this glorious background it appeared that recent weather had produced a flush of insectivorous offspring which Tits were busily foraging everywhere.

After a mild night of 11° the 31st entered with a high, thin overcast, much cooler than of late on a fresh NW breeze. Buzzards were active around Hempton; a Raven croaked on Steepness and a Great Spotted Woodpecker ‘keck’ed at Barford House.

And, after a slightly more pleasant month than its predecessor we waited, not without apprehension, to see whether May in its passing, would usher in a June more redolent of summers past.

Ron Knight

Book Review

Death Comes to Pemberley,

by P D James - Faber



THERE HAVE BEEN other attempts to write sequels to Jane Austen’s *Pride and Prejudice*, with varied success. I can’t say that this one pulls it off, though it’s an easy and engaging read with some clever plot details and surprises.

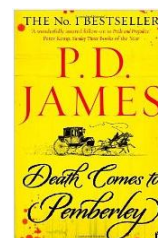
Elizabeth and Darcy are now happily married and living at Pemberley, with sister Jane and Bingley living close by. But the peace of these stately homes is abruptly disturbed when, on the eve of the yearly Queen Anne’s Ball, a carriage arrives containing the distraught Lydia Wickham, announcing that there’s been a murder.

P D James cleverly constructs her premise using minor characters from *Pride and Prejudice* and giving them back-stories and intrigues. However, the style is uneven. Having begun by introducing her characters Jane-Austen-fashion in terms of their income, status and family relationships, she then turns to something more like *Downton Abbey*, with “downstairs” gossip and scandals. Sadly, Elizabeth Bennett seems to have lost all her wit and spark, settling placidly into the role of wife and mother. But worse than this – there is a major flaw in the plot which makes the whole thing implausible. If you read it, see if you agree!

It’s a pleasant enough light read, but if you like Jane Austen you’re better off sticking to Jane Austen, and if you like P D James you will find more satisfaction in the Adam Dalgleish stories.

~ ~ ~

Would you like to review a book for *Barford News*? Contributions are welcome. If you have a book you’d like to recommend (or criticise), please write up to 250 words to send to Mariann.



Late Thanks

The Bouncy Castles at our Jubilee celebrations were kindly paid for by the Barford Market. Many apologies for not mentioning this in the ‘Big Thank you’ in July Barford News.

The Future Of Conservation

CONSERVATION COULD BE KEY to the future development of north Oxfordshire which is why Cherwell District Council is consulting on a new strategy.



North Oxfordshire is blessed with high-quality rural landscape, distinctive villages and market towns with their historic cores still intact and a wealth of traditional buildings.

With significant pressure to accommodate new development, it is perhaps important to understand and conserve what is special and use this in decisions about future growth and development.

The council has therefore published a Conservation and Urban Design Strategy for the district explaining its remit in these areas, illustrating what has been achieved so far and setting out the priorities for the next three years.

These include publishing 18 more conservation area appraisals and designating a new conservation area along the length of the Oxford Canal.

There are already 59 conservation areas and more than 2,300 listed buildings in Cherwell and the strategy shows what the council has done to protect these.

This work includes publishing conservation area appraisals and giving advice to owners of listed buildings.

In cases where such buildings are at risk, the council works with owners to bring them back into productive use but enforcement can be used as a last resort.

Calvin Bell, Cherwell's director of development, said: "Our high quality environment is vital to attracting visitors and inward investment and we need to work hard to ensure that we protect the best and manage change responsibly.

"This draft strategy sets out the council's priorities and we are inviting people to tell us whether they think we have got the balance right so that we can move forward with our Local Plan with confidence."

The council also tries to ensure that new development in the district reflects local building styles and materials by producing design guidance and working with developers' design teams.

Upcoming projects include guiding redevelopment at Banbury's Canalside and Bolton Road and at Wesley Lane in Bicester as well as the major urban extensions at SW and NW Bicester, Gavray Drive and Heyford Park.

To help keep design standards high the council intends to instigate a Cherwell Design Award, to establish a design panel of local professionals to review major proposals and support Conservation Area Advisory Committees for the larger conservation areas.

Members of the public are now invited to comment on the strategy at www.cherwell.gov.uk/conservation by Monday, 28 May.

Comments can be sent via email to design.conservation@cherwell-dc.gov.uk or post to The Design and Conservation Team, Strategic Planning and the Economy, Cherwell District Council, Bodicote House, White Post Road, Bodicote, Banbury OX15 4AA.

For further information please contact:

Craig Forsyth, Tel: 01295 221639

Email: craig.forsyth@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

Deddington PFSU and Village Nursery

DESPITE THE ALMOST continuous rain we successfully ran our planned summer term events.



Sports Day went ahead at the third time of trying, and was an enjoyable morning of races (including the infamous parent's race) on the school field. Afterwards we ate our picnics, and parents had the chance to purchase some very special china plates made by the children.

The PFSU children went on an outing to Deddington allotments, where they had the chance to see and taste some of the variety of fruits and vegetables that grow there, and to meet the resident hens. Thank you to the allotment holders that let us visit their plots. This term has also seen open afternoons and parent's evenings held at both sites. A move-up day for all the children moving from the Nursery to the PFSU, and from the PFSU to Deddington Primary School, was held in the last week of term. Good Luck to all our children who are moving onwards and upwards. Please keep in touch!

Lucy Squires, 337484

Let's try to make a difference!.

THE UNIVERSAL SHOPPER

She buys apples from New Zealand, although just
across the way
Is an orchard full of apples, which she passes every day.
Her mushrooms come from Ireland, a place called
Killybone.
Her carrots and tomatoes in the Netherlands were
grown.
From Italy some pears, and then some celery from
Spain.
There's butter from Australia, flour made from
Canadian grain.
Her milk has been collected from farmers far and wide
Then all across the country it has had a merry ride.

She gets strawberries out of season from the good old
USA:
And mangoes and papayas from X thousand miles
away.
From Denmark, ham and bacon; French cheese (a tasty
bite)
And a loaf that came this morning, after travelling all
night.
She must have new potatoes, although it is not Spring,
But never mind, Egyptian ones are right there in the
bin.
Her joint of beef from Scotland has journeyed far and
near,
From the farm, through various depots, until she
bought it here.

Her eggs? Well, where they came from, one simply
does not know,
They're taken from the shelf and quickly in her trolley
go.
Her purchases are all wrapped up in card and
cellophane.
She takes them to the checkout - where they're double-
wrapped again.
She uses lots of plastic bags to put her shopping in.
When she gets home and empties them, they'll all go in
the bin.
She drives home, round the corner from the
Hypermarket store.
Her bill was thirty-one pounds ten - the cost was much,
much more.

(Veronica-Mae Soar, a Devonshire WI member,
writing in support of the WI mandates on sustainability)
If this poem can encourage each of us to make even one
small change to our shopping habits, we would be
helping to make a difference. Support your local shops,
Farmer's Markets and Village Market!

Support your local Milkman

Celebrity chefs Jamie Oliver and Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall have called on shoppers to boycott some supermarkets over cuts to the price of milk.

They said if consumers do not stand behind dairy farmers many could go bust – putting the entire industry at risk.

Price cuts of up to 2p a litre mean it costs more for milk to be produced than it sells for on the shelves.

Jamie and Hugh warned that the countryside could also be under threat if traditional farms fail.

In a letter to the Times they said: "Dairy farming in this country is fast becoming unviable.

"Farmers can't take industrial action. Their daily commitment to their herd makes it impossible.

"How cynical of retailers to take advantage of this."

The National Farmers Union has warned MPs its members “will not have the heart to go into the winter” if the cuts stay.

What they wrote

It is shocking that many dairy farmers are to be paid less for their milk than it costs to produce it.

Dairy farming in this country is fast becoming unviable. Milk is a brilliant food but we have all lost sight of its value.

We pay more for bottled water than we do for milk - yet water bubbles out of the ground, while milk comes from livestock which need our care. How mad is that?

Dairy farmers can't take industrial action. Their daily commitment to their herd makes it impossible. How cynical of retailers to take advantage of this.

If the dairy industry expires, or becomes super-industrialised, it's not just thousands of family businesses that will go to the wall.

Our whole landscape is threatened. All over Britain the patchwork of hedgerows and grass fields owes its existence to the traditional production of milk.

It's time supermarkets stopped using milk as a loss leader.

And if they won't take that initiative, then perhaps consumers will consider moving their custom from those who offer milk at crazy knockdown prices to those who will commit to giving dairy farmers a fairer deal.

We're delighted to see the WI is already campaigning for just such action, and we urge everyone who drinks milk (that's pretty much all of us, of course) to do the same.

