

# BARFORD NEWS

DECEMBER 2011

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

Price 30p where sold

## The Barfords Christmas Party

come and enjoy an afternoon of festive fun with friends and neighbours on

SUNDAY 11 DECEMBER

2 TILL 6PM

BARFORD ST MICHAEL VILLAGE HALL

Adults : £5 | Children : £3 | Under 5's : FREE

includes nibbles, a glass of mulled wine for the grown ups and juice for the kids

quiz



bar



raffle



kids' Christmas cracker competition

kids' quiz



party games for all

Music



*A Happy and Peaceful Christmas  
To Everyone  
From the News Team*

## **Parish Council Notes**

The meeting took place at 7.30pm on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2011 at Barford Village Hall and was attended by Cllrs Hobbs (Chairman), Eden, Styles, Turner and Woolgrove. Also attending were Mrs R Watts (Clerk), County Cllr R Jelf (part of the meeting).

Apologies for absence received from Cllrs Best, Bullard and District Cllr P O'Sullivan.

### **Clerks Report and Correspondence**

A letter has been received from Mr. Churchill stating that weeds growing on the footpath between Lower St and West Close are not originating from Applea Banks. The council believes the weeds are growing in the path itself. Cllr Turner agreed to check.

**The Clerk has written to Oxfordshire County Council requesting two new salt bins, one each for Barford St John and Barford St Michael. Cllr Hobbs met a representative from Oxfordshire County Council and agreed the location of one bin on the Bloody Bones Lane bend and one at Townsend. They will be delivered by the end of the year.**

The Clerk reported that it would be necessary to tender for the grass-cutting contract for 2012 onwards. The Clerk will write the tender document for discussion at the next meeting when additional areas to be cut will also be discussed.

### **Parish Matters**

Cllr Woolgrove reported that the back of the notice board in Barford St John needs attention. Cllr Hobbs will ask Mr Booth for a quotation.

Cllr Woolgrove reported that the willow near the bridge recently cut back by SEB would need further work to the other side to prevent uneven growth and potential damage. It was agreed to ask Justin James for a quotation.

The Clerk had received a letter from the Department for Transport enclosing a draft Stopping Up Order under the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 – Section 247 for land adjacent to Woodworms Hilton, Lower Street, Barford St Michael – transfer of land for private use. A copy of the Draft Order and location plan may be seen at Deddington Library from 3 November. Any person may object to the making of the proposed order within the 28 day period commencing 3 November. A copy of the draft Order and the plan is displayed in the village notice board.

A discussion took place about the Parish Council's view on the matter. Following a vote it was agreed that the Clerk should write to Department for Transport objecting to the Stopping Up Order being approved.

## **Planning Matters**

Details of planning applications can be found on the CDC 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:** F Nickell, The Old Bakehouse, Horn Hill, Barford St Michael. Single storey extension. No objections from the Parish Council.

**Approved TCA:** A. Palmer, Staddlestones, Horn Hill, Barford St. Michael.

### **Any Other Business**

Allotment water rates: - The Parish Council has unknowingly been paying invoices for water supplying neighbouring properties or land since 1992 and not for water supplying the allotments. The Clerk had been in constant touch with Thames Water throughout the summer and had provided a series of readings for the meter that actually relates to the allotments.

Thames Water had looked at payments going back to 1992 when the account was opened and then estimated usage on meter readings during 2011. They took into account the fact that no water is used between October and March each year. This resulted in an estimated overpayment by the Parish Council of £550.03. The Clerk had agreed the revised details and has received and banked a cheque for the overpayment. Cllrs thanked the Clerk for the amount of time and effort she had put into solving this problem with Thames Water over the past few months. They also thanked Mr Basil Butler for taking the correct water meter readings.

The Clerk reported that a villager had complained to Cllr Best about the 'sudden' erection of a goal post in West Close for use by village children. The proposal by the Playground Committee to purchase this play equipment had been well reported in both the Parish Council Minutes and Barford News. Cllrs were happy to report that children were already making very good use of it.

Cllr Woolgrove reported that the handrail on the bridge at Barford St Michael Mill is coming loose. The Clerk will report the matter to Oxfordshire County Council.

Cllr Woolgrove reported that farmers and villagers are becoming increasingly concerned and annoyed about the amount of dog faeces being left by dog owners in West Close Playing Field, green lanes in both villages and farmland in Barford St John. Dog faeces are a source of disease in children and livestock and dog owners are requested to clean up after their animals, whether it is on private land, highway or farmland. The Clerk was asked to write to Cherwell District Council to

discuss increased dog warden patrols, which may lead to fixed penalty fines. A note is to be sent to the editor of Barford News asking for the matter to be reported there.

Cllr Hobbs reminded Cllrs that the budget for 2012-13 would be set at next month's meeting and he will send out proposals before the meeting.

The next meeting is on 7 December 2011.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.20pm.

[The paragraph under Clerk's Report is highlighted to emphasize that, since the report published in November BN, OCC High ways Dept., have completed their policy review and have agreed to supply two additional salt bins.Ed.]

The above is a report of the council meeting. Draft Minutes are displayed on the Parish Council noticeboard one week prior to the PC Meeting and until replaced by the next set. Full Minutes, once approved, are put on the Barford website at:  
<http://www.cherwell.gov.uk/barfordpc/index.cfm?articleid=5334>

*BARFORD ST MICHAEL  
CHURCH*



*CRIB SERVICE  
4pm, Christmas Eve*

Come dressed as characters from the  
Nativity Story!

Welcoming angels, shepherds, Marys,  
Josephs, kings and animals (and  
everyone else!)

Found – wrist watch  
Field path to the church,  
back of Broad Close  
Brief description secures return  
01869 338 775

**Pat Cox**

Chris and family would like to thank all  
those who gave and raised a total of  
£694 which has been split between  
St Michaels church and Diabetes UK.

**Fernhill Club**

ON 26<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER Mr. & Mrs. Whittle brought a great display of their crafts which they had made to benefit the Katharine House Hospice. We were able to purchase items which boosted the cause by £109.00.

On 19<sup>th</sup> October we all enjoyed a lovely lunch at 'The Harvester' in Kidlington. A super young waiter served us, we confused him with our ice cream desserts, he said he would try not to be on duty when we go back again. A good time was had by all, thanks to Dial-a-Ride.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> November a senior Fire Officers gave us a lesson on how to prevent fire in the home. What to do in the event of one, get out and take your mobile phone if possible then call for help.

Fish & Chip lunch was enjoyed on 9<sup>th</sup> November in the village hall.

We are visiting Wyevale on 23<sup>rd</sup> November, hoping Father Christmas will have arrived.

On 30<sup>th</sup> November you are all invited to a Sing-along, hope to hear you there.

December 7<sup>th</sup> we are out for a Christmas Lunch, this time at 'The Red Lion' in Bloxham.

14<sup>th</sup> December will be for a Christmas cup of tea, when our Fernhill Lottery winning will be shared out. Members, don't get excited!

We wish Mary well with her new Knee.

*We would like to take this opportunity  
to send you all  
Seasonal Greetings*

*and we would like you to join us on  
18<sup>th</sup> January 2012, when we meet again.*

Avril

**200+ CLUB WINNERS:**

November draw

£15.00, No. 77, Laura Griffin,  
£10.00, No. 113, The Wheelers (Broad Cl),  
£5.00, No. 216, Petrina Cassell  
The draw was made at a Whist Driver.



**New Year Walk**  
**Come and join us again**  
**for a**  
**Winter Walk.**  
**January 2nd 2012 10am.**

Walk off the excesses of  
Christmas and New Year.



Just like last year there will be two routes. One for the more energetic and one for the more relaxed amongst you.

Depart 10am from the Village Hall and on our return we will have Game soup and crusty bread. Martin is not sure if he will be open so - it could be The George Inn - or if it's shut we will use our Village Hall.

**£5.00 per person.**

**Call Tracey on 01869 337369**

**So we will have some ideas for catering.**

Any profits will go towards the Kathmandu kids home.

**Christmas Christmas Christmas**  
**Christmas Christmas**

**Christmas is nearly here.....but there's still time to**  
**get your tickets for**

**The Barfords Christmas Party**  
**Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> December**

**competitions, music, nibbles, quizzes,**  
**raffle and a bar** .....don't miss out...!!



Tickets are available from any of the 4  
Entertainments Committee Members, these being:  
Lucy Norman The Old Chapel, High Street, BSM  
Peter Leney The Potteries, High Street, BSM  
Sam Harding 24, Broad Close, BSM  
Ali Drummond The Old Forge, High Street, BSM

Many thanks

Lucy Norman  
Entertainments Committee

**THE BARFORD'S CHRISTMAS PARTY RAFFLE**

Please dig deep and make a donation to our Christmas Raffle. We hope to make this an EXTRA SPECIAL RAFFLE to continue to **boost** our Village Hall Funds - as we know those windows and doors are of great importance to us all when using the facilities of the Hall, especially in those chilly months!

PLEASE help to keep up our community spirit and donate - WE NEED YOU!

Contact: Alison Drummond  
The Old Forge, High Street - 338133

**Barford VHC '200 Plus'**  
**Club**

**Tickets for 2012 Available Now**  
**£6.00 Annual Subscription**

**12 Monthly Draws offering**  
**Guaranteed Prizes**

**\*£5.00, £10.00 & £15.00 Every**  
**Month**

**\*\* £25.00 Once each Quarter**

**\*\*\* £50.00 Twice a Year**

**\*\*\*Christmas Bonus prize of £100.00**

Have a go! - - - Help raise funds to  
maintain your Village Hall - for 50p a  
month you can really make a difference.

Current members will be contacted soon.  
New members NEEDED to help swell the  
funds!

**To reserve a ticket ring**  
**Mariann 338 570 or Peter 338 992**

**The Two Village Charities**  
**(The Hall & Fernhill Trust**  
**and**

**The Shepherds & Bakehouse Charity)**

are looking for a **new Trustee** to join them  
in the new year.

The charities meet four times a year.

This role may suit a parent whose child  
has benefited from a student grant in the  
past or someone interested in keeping the  
charities moving forward for the next  
generation.

Anyone interested, or if you would like  
further information, please contact:-

George Parker (Chairman)

Crimond, High Street, Barford st Michael  
or

Lucy Warner (Clerk)

Mead Bungalow, Mead Lane, Barford st John



## Maggie Harvey - 21.12.53 - 13.11.11

Sadly, after a brave fight, Maggie passed away peacefully at her daughter's home at 10:30pm on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November. Her son Anthony, daughter Ruth and sister Amanda were with her at the time.

Maggie faced her illness with great courage and never lost her wonderful smile. She was well known to many of us, she always served at the Christmas Lunch and supported every village event that she possibly could. Duck Race, Barford Challenge, Pantomimes, BBQ's, Parties, Dances – Maggie, with that smile, would always be there.

She will be long remembered and greatly missed by her many friends.

The funeral took place at All Saints Church, Fulham, on Monday 21st November.

Donations in Maggie's memory can be made to the trust that she set up to help fund Brain Cancer Research: [www.maggieharveytrust.com](http://www.maggieharveytrust.com). Or Send a cheque payable to Maggie Harvey Trust to Ruth Foenander, 17 Cristowe Rd, Parsons Green, London SW6 3QF.



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

**T**HE BUMBLE BEE patrol kept us busy at our Halloween Party – playing games traditional at this time of year – apple bobbing, a huge favourite amongst others. All the guides made a super effort to join in the fun with their costumes. Lots of these were home-made and very imaginative.

We've potted bulbs to give at a later date for those who live alone, and reflected on Remembrance Day and its meaning.

Patrol activities are continuing to be organised the end result and the variety of activities is very impressive! Great time had by all.

We are really adding to our 40's challenge list to celebrate our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Remember if you were ever a Deddington Guide or know someone who was – do get in touch – it's amazing how many corners of the globe we have reached!

Guiders: Maggie Rampley 01295 810069  
Marian Trinder 01869 340806  
Catherine Blackburn (Banbury)

### 1st Deddington Brownies

**T**HE BROWNIES HAVE BEEN having a busy time this term. Just before half term we learnt all about recycling when 'Major Sparkle' came to a meeting and we have also been out to 'Pets At Home' to learn about looking after different types of pets, although the highlight for some of the girls seemed to be spotting dead fish!!! (don't ask).

Since half term we have continued to work on our Number Fun and Science Investigator badges (well Snowy Owl is a maths teacher), including the "Giant Bubble Challenge" and a special evening investigating what noises we can make with home-made instruments to accompany our favourite songs. "Ging Gang Goolie" may not ever sound the same again.

The term will be finished when some of the Guides join us to throw a party for us. We can't wait! Brown Owl ( Anne Kent ) has temporarily handed over running meetings to Snowy Owl (Carol Warner) and will probably return in the New Year. We are very thankful to Sian Westbury who has returned back from Steeple Aston Brownies to help us over the next few weeks.

Questions on membership should still be addressed to Anne Kent on 01869 337917 or the1stdeddingtonowls@hotmail.co.uk.

Lucy Squires



**DEDDINGTON HEALTH CENTRE  
NEWSLETTER EXTRACTS  
HOME VISITS**

Home visits by a GP are reserved for those adult patients who are physically unable to get to the surgery because of their medical condition. We ask parents to bring unwell children up to the surgery as this is the best environment in which to examine a sick child. If you are requesting a home visit for yourself or a relative, please ensure you contact the surgery before 11am. This is because the GPs all have booked appointments in the morning at the surgery and they plan the home visits for the time in between morning and afternoon surgery. Here at Deddington Health Centre our practice area covers about 200 square miles.

The GP doing the home visits has to plan their route so that he or she sees all the people in one area before possibly having to drive right across our practice area to visit someone else.

Occasionally an emergency occurs which requires an urgent home visit and then the GP may be out visiting during their morning or afternoon surgery, but this will mean a long wait for those people at the surgery who have an appointment which was booked for the time when the doctor is out.

**“Think Twice” before going to A&E  
(Accident & Emergency)**

We are being advised by the Horton Hospital of a large number of inappropriate attendances at their A&E for matters that could, and should, be dealt with at the surgery. Many of these are within practice opening hours. Such attendances may delay treatment for more urgent A&E cases. Please do not go directly to A&E unless it is an emergency. Please contact the surgery first, or, when the surgery is closed, the Out Of Hours Doctor, on 0845 345 8995 – first. We encourage all patients to read the information in leaflets / posters in the practice relating to the “Choose Well” Campaign or speak to our staff for more information.

**Minor Head Injury in Children**

The Primary Care Trust asked all Oxfordshire surgeries to review 50 of their patient attendances at A&E. We have done this and found that of the 50 attendances we looked at, most were parents taking their children to A&E after there had been an accident. A minor head injury was one of the common problems. One of our GPs has produced a leaflet about head injury, which can be downloaded from our website, or collected from the surgery.

**[www.deddingtonsurgery.co.uk](http://www.deddingtonsurgery.co.uk)  
01869 338611**

**DEDDINGTON HEALTH CENTRE  
2011 FLU CLINICS**

Have you had your flu jab yet?

**It's still not too late to  
book up a flu jab at  
the surgery**



**Saturday morning**

**December 3<sup>rd</sup>  
9am -12pm**

**Weekdays**

**Mondays 4 – 5pm  
Thursdays 2 - 3pm**

Those who are eligible for a flu jab:-

- Anyone 65 years old and over
- Anyone with a long term condition such as asthma (if on a steroid inhaler), COPD, diabetes, coronary heart disease, chronic kidney or liver disease; have a transplant;
- on immunosuppression drugs
- You are a carer
- You are pregnant
- You are a frontline Health or Social Care worker

**Beat the cold weather and book up now!**

Please phone for an appointment on  
**01869 338611**

**CHRISTMAS CEILIDH**

**Saturday  
December 17th 2011**

**CHRISTMAS CEILIDH DANCE  
AND  
SUPPER EVENING**

**Book NOW (with Tracey 337369)  
to avoid disappointment**

**Tickets are selling very quickly  
(just like last year).**

## 1<sup>ST</sup> Deddington Scout Group

### Cubs

**W**E WELCOMED TOM to the pack, our newest member. Remember, if you have a



child aged 7 who would like to join Cubs, please send me their name for the waiting list. The collection at the market raised £255 for Shelterbox, if we add this to the amount collected last year we can buy a box, they cost £590. We can track our box & we'll report where it ends up.

I thought the guys were very good this year, any resemblance to persons from the village was a coincidence, honest!

As part of their Global award Cubs have wrapped, packed & sent a number of shoeboxes to Operation Christmas Child, we will also be interested to know where these end up.

If you were out & about on the night of Oct 28<sup>th</sup> you may well have been terrified by a gang of ghostly (& noisy) figures drifting through the village. The white sheet walk was great fun & I'm sure we shall repeat it next year.

Jo Churchyard C.S.L. 338071  
[jochurchyard@hotmail.com](mailto:jochurchyard@hotmail.com)

**Our Christmas Post Boxes  
will be out Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>,  
deliveries on Dec 11<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>.**

(See inserted flier for full details)

Post lots of cards they need the exercise.

### Scouts

**T**OM HAS MADE THE LEAP from Cubs to Scouts & we are very pleased to have him.

This term the Scouts have gained their Guide badge by knowing about their village and it's environs & made 'trail mix' from nuts, chocolate chips, dried fruit etc, which we then made into gooey bars with melted marshmallows & toffee, yummy! Next term we'll follow that with elementary dentistry!

During half term we took 5 scouts to Charlbury where they hiked round the circular walk looking for & finding 9 'caches'.

Pete Churchyard S.L. 338071  
[pete.churchyard@btinternet.com](mailto:pete.churchyard@btinternet.com)

Thanks to all the boys who turned out for Remembrance Day Parade.

## Hostages To Fortune

By Elizabeth Cambridge



**T**HIS LOVELY BOOK was published in 1933 and is the story of every day life in a middle class household between the wars - there is no exciting storyline - just beautiful descriptions of life as a doctor's wife and the trials and tribulations of raising 3 children in a large house with very little money. The title is from Bacon: "He that hath wife and children hath given hostages to fortune".

Elizabeth Cambridge was the pen name of Barbara Hodges who was married to George Hodges, a country doctor who practised and lived in Deddington. I especially love the descriptions of the frustrations of trying to teach her eldest son - having a child myself who found it hard to learn to read, my heart warms to Adam who "would not read, he could not write", "letters meant nothing" and who "got to the picture of nervous exasperation ..... at the sight of a book." but who was "quite happy so long as he was allowed to lie on the hearthrug drawing pictures." I love the descriptions of a countryside I know well, such as "along the road which ran straight as a canal along the ridge of the hill" - I see the road between Hempton and Deddington, a road I travel almost every day and walk along often.



Elizabeth Cambridge,

Although this is an old fashioned book there are lots of similarities between life as it was then and now - there are wonderful descriptions of Christmas, and the church, and the market place (the family home was Featherton House) and I wondered if Barford readers might find it interesting - there used to be a copy in Deddington library at one time.

M.E.

### Bed for Sale Suits ages 6 to 10



Full size single  
mattress

**£20 o.n.o.**

01869 337345

Christmas is coming, so in keeping with tradition there will be ...

**Carols, mulled wine and mince pies in**

**The George 7.30pm, Tuesday 20th December**

(Proceeds to local charities)



~

**Carols around the Village**

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December**

**Meet at 6.30pm at the junction of Townsend & High St**



and

**Christmas Quiz**

**The George 8:30pm Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> December**

**All Welcome!**

## ***The George Inn***

**Dear Friends and Customers**

***We would like to wish you all a very merry  
Christmas and a healthy and prosperous  
New Year!***

***Martin, Julia and Rachael***

~ ~ ~

**See boards for opening hours**

**01869 338 226**



### Allotments

**A** REMINDER that the rent is due on Jan 1<sup>st</sup>. Would all those that put rubbish over the rabbit fence at the bottom of the allotments kindly either move it further back or burn it down there. At the moment any rabbits can walk over the fence and into the allotments and this causes a serious problem.



Chris C

### Banbury Rural Neighbourhood Update

THIS IS THE FIRST MONTH that the new NAG priorities, Reducing Rural Crime and reducing theft from motor vehicles have been in place. The Nag has opted for just these two priorities to be focussed on.

The Banbury Rural Neighbourhood Police Office is moving to a new home in the old Deddington Court House at Deddington Library. This will provide a shared facility with Oxfordshire County Council Library Service and has meant that both services will be able to continue as before securing the future of village Neighbourhood Policing and Library Service.

#### Dial-a-Ride Patient Bus Service to Deddington Health Centre

As previously reported, Cherwell District Council are removing the support funding for the patient bus service from 31/3/2012 and the effect will be the closing of Dial-a-Ride from that date.

The village Charity, The Hall & Fernhill Trust, would be interested to hear from anyone who uses the service and is going to be affected by this cut, in case there is a way we can help.

George Parker (Chairman)  
Crimond, High Street, Barford st Michael  
or  
Lucy Warner (Clerk)  
Mead Bungalow, Mead Lane, Barford st John



**Do you enjoy  
Patchwork, Embroidery,  
Knitting or something Similar???**

Then come along to

### **'The Sewing Workshop'**

Starting in January

Monday evenings In the Village Hall

**(No teacher – Sharing Knowledge)**

Contact Cathy 337 965, Linda 338 285

Or Julie 338 276 for more details

### The WI and the Bodicote Handbell Ringers

**A**T THE LAST WI meeting, a packed house learnt that “It’s all in the wrist”. The source of this thought was a visit from the Bodicote Handbell Ringers who turned out in force to introduce us to the art of handbell ringing.

**theWI**  
INSPIRING WOMEN

The Ringers have a full compliment of twelve members covering forty eight bells ranging in size from tiny to fairly hefty. Ten members and their bells came along to our demonstration. They played a lovely selection of well-known tunes arranged specially for hand bells by the Hand Bell Ringers Association of Great Britain.

The members of the WI then took over the ringing duties using very simplified music sheets. We had good fun but I’m not too sure about the quality of the music and it’s probably a good thing that the village hall windows were firmly shut. At this point my appreciation of the Bodicote Ringers’ skills rose significantly when I realised how difficult it was!

Later in the month we made our annual trip to Sandford Cricket Club for a skittles competition. 21 members and guests (pictured left) enjoyed a lively evening and a great variety of dishes provided by members. Master Oliver Broughton earned our special thanks as he worked extremely hard for the whole evening as our “Skittle Man” at the end of the skittle lane. At the end of the evening, after a tense bowl off, the winner’s cup was won by new member Bernice, the recipient of the wooden spoon will remain nameless!

Our next meeting is on December 14<sup>th</sup> when our visitor, Ann Sharman, will tell us The Story of Christmas accompanied by mulled wine and mince pies.

Over the last two months we have had ten new members to swell our ranks, so come and see what it’s all about, visitors are ALWAYS warmly welcomed.

### Barford Green Garden Club

**F**IRSTLY , MY APOLOGIES to The Fernhill Club for the descriptive error in July Barford News. It should have read "Hall and Fernhill Trust " and not " Fernhill Club ". I apologise for any confusion caused.



A reminder to anyone wishing to receive a Dobies 2012 catalogue to contact Rodney Hobbs tel 338078. We are also looking into the Garden Club scheme with D T Brown and again Rodney has kindly offered to deal with this . A letter with full details is copied below. Any queries please contact Rodney direct .

### AGM

Note your diary for the 2012 AGM which will be held in BSM Village Hall commencing 7.30pm on 27<sup>th</sup> February. All paperwork will be circulated to members in the New Year.

Please note 3 of the committee will be standing down: Jill Bunce, Sandi Turner and Rachel Speight. I have already received a nomination for one new committee member ... thank you ... to be formally proposed at the AGM .

Anyone interested in joining the garden club committee either as a committee member , Secretary or Chairman please contact me.

We have no events in December or January and as the AGM is our 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of 2012 we will welcome you with a glass of mulled wine Wishing everyone a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year

Jill Bunce tel. 337577,  
email [jill@ridleymarreco.co.uk](mailto:jill@ridleymarreco.co.uk)

### Garden Club Seed Order

D T Brown are recognised as providing a wide range of quality seeds at good prices and also offer various 'collections' of popular varieties with large discounts.

Interest in using Dobies has declined in recent years and D T Brown looks to be a good alternative. They have a scheme for garden clubs with a minimum total order value of £100.

Rodney is happy to co-ordinate a bulk order providing, we can reach the minimum order value. Catalogues should be available very soon.

If you are interested please let Rodney know as soon as possible and he will get a catalogue and further details to. He anticipates placing an order early to mid December so we will have the seeds available in good time for the new growing season.

The D T Brown web site is

<http://www.dtbrownseeds.co.uk>

Contact Details:-

Rodney Hobbs, Pear Tree Cottage, The Green, B.St.M.. Tel: 01869 338078

Mob: 07931 584184

Email: [rshpersonal@gmail.com](mailto:rshpersonal@gmail.com)

### Congratulations

To

**Kath & Alan Hand**

Of Broad Close

Who celebrate their

**DIAMOND WEDDING**

On 22<sup>nd</sup> December

### Deddington PFSU and Village Nursery

**C**HRISTMAS IS ON ITS WAY and we have lots of fun planned!

The children are busy preparing for their Christmas performances, on Tuesday 13th

December at the Nursery and on Monday 12th December for the PFSU children. Both sites will also be having Christmas parties during the final week of term. Another event we always look forward to at the PFSU are our Decorations Days, where we invite parents to join us and help to transform the room for Christmas. This year these will be on 5th and 6th December at 1.30 - 3pm. There will be lots of glue and glitter, Christmas music and stories, and a special Christmas snack to reward all our hard work.

We would like to say thank you to Susannah Evans-Pollard and Martin Butler, both of whom have give their time recently to improve the PFSU garden area by decorating the shed and building a music area. Thank you!

Our fund-raising team will be holding a quiz night on 26th January 2012 at the British Legion. Put the date in your diaries now. We will also be at the Deddington Farmer's Market in December where we will again be selling tickets for our amazing Christmas hamper raffle. This was a major fund-raiser for us last year and your support is appreciated.

Finally a reminder that if you have a child who turns 4 between 1st September 2011 and 31st August 2012, the closing date for primary school applications is 16th January 2012.

Happy Christmas!

Lucy Squires, 337484



## Deddington PTA

**W**HAT A FABULOUS fireworks evening we had once again! The weather held out (almost!) and it was lovely not to have freezing cold feet for once! Mulled wine and hot chocolate warmed our tummies, while the BBQ did a roaring trade with delicious sausages and burgers. It was fantastic to see the field full of children and adults laughing and having fun. Thank you all so much for supporting this event and we sincerely hope you enjoyed the evening. We raised the spectacular sum of **£1,430**. Special thanks must go to the Co-op and Farmers' Market Committee who very generously supported us. Finally a huge thank you to all those who gave their time to help organise and put on the event – we couldn't do it without you.

Our next event is a Christmas disco for the children on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December in the school hall. Our very own dynamic DJ Kelly Scott will be on the decks so get the children's party clothes out. The disco will be in two sessions: Years 1 to 3 from 5-6pm and Years 4 to 6 from 6.15-7.30pm. Your child should already have received a letter to buy tickets by the time you read this, if not please contact me at

[melissa@rhubarbcreative.demon.co.uk](mailto:melissa@rhubarbcreative.demon.co.uk).

Christmas is rapidly approaching and, once again, we have our wonderful range of Christmas cards designed by the children. Samples of the cards are available should you wish to look at them. Please contact Melissa on 349936 or e-mail [melissa@rhubarbcreative.demon.co.uk](mailto:melissa@rhubarbcreative.demon.co.uk) for a sample pack or to place an order. The cards can also be viewed on the school PTA notice board.

Santa's Float will be winging its way from the North Pole and landing in Deddington on the weekend of the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> December. As usual, your generosity is greatly appreciated. Please see posters around the villages for the route plan and the advert in this edition.

Come and meet Santa at the Farmers' Market on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December. Santa has got bored of sitting in his Grotto all morning so is going walkabout! Together with his elves, Santa is going to be in the Parish Church and out and about in the market square and is really looking forward to meeting all the children. Rumour has it the elves will have sacks of lucky dip presents, so please come along and help them make your Christmas special! A huge thank you to Father Hugh and the PCC for allowing us to use the Church.

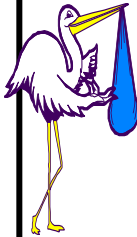
Our dedicated carol singers will be, once again, singing in the Church during the morning of the December Farmer's Market. Do come along and listen to the spirit of Christmas or, better still, join in!



The fun continues next year. Dates for your diary include our fantastic Quiz Night on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March, The Deddington Walk on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May and the School Fete on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> June.


In the meantime, on behalf of the PTA, I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Melissa Chadderton  
PTA Chair



### Congratulations

To  
**Rachel and Paul Gruber**  
On the birth of their second son



**Charlie Andrew**  
Who weighed in at 7lb 10oz  
On 11<sup>th</sup> November  
A little brother for Finlay  
We wish little Charlie a long,  
happy and healthy life

*To All our friends in  
the Barfords  
and surrounding villages,*



*We wish you a  
very Merry Christmas  
and Happy New Year.*

*We will not be sending cards  
but instead we will make a donation  
to our favourite charity.*



*Leon Lyn and Hannah Daly  
Church Street, BSM*



## Deddington Fire Station News

**S**INCE OUR LAST ARTICLE there have been a lot of goings on at the station. At the beginning of October we welcomed a new Station Manager, Brian Butler, we also welcomed Jan and her mobile library, she now has our old watch room as her office. We have moved upstairs into what was the ladies shower/changing room (but sorry the shower has been removed). We also have two new recruits, Marcus Hardingham from Barford and George Williamson from Adderbury, this will bring us up to a crew of 12 which is our full complement of Fire Fighters. All this has been made possible by us being able to recruit from outside of Deddington, our mobilising time has been extended by two minutes. In fact there are only four of the crew from Deddington, Pete Taylor, Martin and Rachel Freeman and Gary Barnett, one from Hempton, Tim Parker, three from Barford Graham Harding, Richard Day, Marcus Hardingham, Two from Adderbury Sharon Wilson George Williamson and two from Clifton, myself and Adam Franklin.

As far as Fire Calls go, October and November have been fairly quite with most of our shouts supporting the Banbury Crews. These have including a House fire started from garden shed that speared into the roof space, and a chemical incident at a factory that released cyanide gas, two of our crew were tasked to enter the premises in gas tight suits to contain the leak.

If you have been looking at our notice board you will have seen our latest performance figures, one of the areas we are underperforming is 'Road Traffic Collisions' and as I am sure most of you are aware that over the past six months we have had a number of serious accidents that have involved local people. Statistically you are more likely to have an accident only a mile and a half from your home. It is very easy to lapse concentration when you are nearly home and starting to relax on familiar roads but, weather conditions, speed, and a lapse in concentration can have devastating effects, so please stay alert and focused until you pull up on your drive.

Finally the crew from Station 08 would like to wish you all a Happy and Safe Christmas and New Year please remember to check your smoke alarms and if you are sitting in front of a log fire don't forget to get your chimney swept!

Chris Fenemore, Watch Manager  
Deddington Fire Station  
07904 387686  
01869 338218



## Katharine House News

### HOSPICE CHRISTMAS CARDS

Our 2011 Hospice Christmas cards are on sale from all our shops, and Hospice Reception, with prices starting at £3.95 per pack of ten.. Please see our website at [www.khh.org.uk](http://www.khh.org.uk) to view this year's designs.

We would also be delighted to hear from anyone happy to sell our Christmas cards on our behalf. Perhaps you belong to a community group, or run a shop? Please give us a call on (01295) 812161.

### CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS, PUDDINGS AND ROBINS

Our festive knitted miniatures are proving extremely popular and are in high demand! Each pudding and robin is filled with a Ferrero Rocher, whilst stockings contain a fun-size chocolate bar. These novelty woollies are on sale at hospice reception and in our shops, priced at £1.50 for puddings and robins and £1 for stockings. Get yours while stocks last!

### CHRISTMAS GIFT CARD

Due to its popularity last year, we will be producing another Hospice Gift Card this Christmas. Here's how it works... Instead of buying a gift, you send a donation to Katharine House Hospice. We produce a personalised printed greetings card for you to send to your relative/friend with details of your donation. On the back of the card is a list showing examples of how your gift benefits our patients. For example, it costs £20 for a patient and friend to attend our Christmas party and staff panto. Please call Fundraising on (01295) 812161 for further information or to order.

### TOWN CENTRE COLLECTION DAY AND SAINSBURYS BAG PACK DAY

Once again, we will be holding our Christmas Collection Day around Banbury town centre on Thursday 8 December and would love to hear from anyone who would like to hold a tin for us (1 ½ hour slots). Please call Wendy in fundraising if you would like to help.

### SAVE THE DATE!

#### COLLEGIUM REGALE IN CONCERT

Back by popular demand! This fantastic group will perform a wonderful line-up of entertainment on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> March at St. Mary's Church, Adderbury. Tickets (£16 each) will be available from Katharine House Fundraising (01295) 812161 from early February.

### 2012 FESTIVAL OF OPEN GARDENS

Are you proud of your garden? Would you open your garden (weekday or weekend) to raise funds for the hospice? We'd love to hear from you! Please give Valerie in Fundraising a call on (01295) 812161.

Sarah Brennan  
Community Fundraiser





# Barford Village Market



*All the stalls  
plus a few surprises  
Mince Pies & Mulled Wine  
plus  
The Old Mettle Band*



## Sat 10th Dec.

10-12 noon in the

## VILLAGE HALL

*Merry Christmas to all our customers*



National  
Trust

### Winter at Upton House & Gardens

**K**EEPING UPTON HOUSE in such great condition is a challenge and the winter offers the opportunity for expert conservationists to ensure each room is lovingly preserved. Many rooms in the house will be closed to the public as the heating used to make the rooms comfortable for visitors would tip the fine balance of humidity control with devastating effects on fragile materials such as wood (causing shrinkage) and delicate textiles.

Whilst in winter some doors close, new doors open, offering visitors the chance to explore life behind the scenes as a servant working in a 1930's mansion. Visit the service rooms, tour the attics (Sat – Wed) and learn a few dance steps at the servant's ball (Sat & Sun). Each year the Lord and Lady of the house hosted a Christmas Ball for their servants and this year you're invited to join them throughout weekends in December.

We will all wish for the help of servants as we battle the busy high streets in the run up to Christmas. Why not avoid the hustle and bustle and enjoy a more relaxed and festive atmosphere at our Christmas Market, 3 & 4 December. Find the perfect presents for family and friends as you wander around with a warm glass of mulled wine or a fresh mince pie. Children will love to visit Father Christmas in his grotto and get involved in Christmas crafting activities. Visit the events section of our website for full details and to read a review of last year's event.

[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/uptonhouse](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/uptonhouse)

A wide variety of lovely hand made and local crafts will be available but perhaps you have some crafts of your own that you would like to showcase? Visit of our website for details and to download an application form for a stall.

Our Pavilion restaurant will also be offering the perfect opportunity for a celebratory Christmas lunch with friends, family or colleagues. Available, Wednesdays 7, 14 and 21 December. Please call the restaurant on for menu details and bookings on 01295 671112.

We wish you the very warmest of season's greetings and hope that you will visit us soon.

### Bus Service 90 - (Upper Heyford-Middle Barton- Barfords-Banbury)



You will hopefully already be aware that service 90 will continue to operate on Thursdays to Banbury from mid-December following the recent review and re-tendering exercise.

The service will now be operated by Oxfordshire County Council's Integrated Transport Unit. Revised service times are shown on the back page of this issue.

### COME AND JOIN US – NEW MEMBERS WELCOME Next Meeting 7.45p.m Thursday January 19th



### Armed Forces Family & Friends Support Group (Bloxham)

We are families and friends of Armed Forces Personnel. We get together regularly for informal chat and refreshments to meet others in the same situation, to listen, help and support each other.

Please contact Sue and Paul on 01295 722097 for more details. (No costs involved just support and friendship!).

### Hempton Church Christmas Bazaar Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December

From 11.00am onwards

Brunch from 12 noon.

Raffle, Tombola, Christmas gifts, Cards  
[from Katharine House] Cakes, Games,  
a bargain stall

and yet again a chance to  
win £50.00 on a date!

A warm welcome to everyone.

All proceeds to the  
upkeep of the Church and Hall

## Cherwell District - Online Update

CUSTOMERS ARE BEING ASKED for ideas on how they feel Cherwell District Council's website could be improved.



Those who already use the site might know of a better way things can be done or how information could be more effectively laid out.

But people who do not use the council's online services are also being encouraged to say what might prompt them to do so.

Cherwell has significantly increased the number of services available online such as ordering new and replacement bins, setting up council tax direct debits, elections enquires and parking services.

This resulted in an 86 per cent increase in people accessing those services through the website in the first quarter of this year compared with the same period last year.

There was also a 15 per cent increase in online payments, all of which saves money for the taxpayer.

Cllr Nicholas Turner, Cherwell's lead member for IT, said: "We're encouraging our customers to use online payments and other services but we want to make it easier for them to do, which is why we'd like customers to tell us how we can improve things. "It costs an average of £8 per face-to-face contact with a customer, £3 by phone and 30p online, so it's easy to see why we want more people to use the website."

Feedback can be provided in a number of ways. Anyone visiting the site can click on the green, amber or red faces under "How do you rate this information", select a reason for the rating and leave an anonymous comment.

They can also visit the council's consultation portal at <http://consult.cherwell.gov.uk/public/w> and fill in the short questionnaire. Alternatively, customers with more to say can email [webmaster@cherwell-dc.gov.uk](mailto:webmaster@cherwell-dc.gov.uk) with their comments.

**Socitm** is the national organisation that produces a comprehensive and in-depth assessment of the state of all council websites in the UK.

Its editor, said: "Cherwell is to be congratulated for this initiative. Feedback from those who use the website is absolutely critical to its improvement.

"For example, ease of finding information and trusting that it is up-to-date when it is found are not always easy to achieve"

For further information please contact:  
Craig Forsyth

Tel: 01295 221639

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

## Cherwell District - Saving Brace

CHERWELL District Council is celebrating two years of food waste collection which has diverted 8,000 tonnes from landfill.



Collections began in villages to the north of the district in the latter half of October 2009 and villages in the south were added in December that year.

Bicester and Banbury both joined the scheme in March last year and flats across the district came onboard in August 2010.

The current financial year is the first full year in which all homes across the district have been able to separate food from their general waste.

Cllr James Macnamara, Cherwell's lead member for environment, said: "With a saving of £37 per tonne of food waste diverted from landfill, that's £296,000 taxpayers have saved themselves in the past two years. "There is still a lot of food going in with the general waste and it's clear to see why we'd encourage people to make sure it is recycled instead. "If anyone needs help or advice to do this, we'll gladly provide it along with a kitchen caddy if they don't already have one."

All types of food waste can go into the caddy for recycling including bones, shellfish shells, cooked and uncooked foods.

Caddy liners can be tied shut which holds in the smell or newspaper can be used instead which absorbs much of the moisture which creates nasty aromas. Food waste is then deposited in the brown bin, along with garden waste if there is any, ready for collection.

The liners can be bought at Banbury Museum or a range of stores across the district and are also available from dispensers at council offices at Bodicote House, Bodicote.

Carrier bags and even biodegradable bags are not suitable for use with food waste as they do not compost down.

Visit the recycling and waste pages in the environment and planning section at [www.cherwell.gov.uk/foodwaste](http://www.cherwell.gov.uk/foodwaste) for a wealth of information about the food waste scheme.

For help with recycling email [customer.service@cherwell-dc.gov.uk](mailto:customer.service@cherwell-dc.gov.uk) or call 01295 227003.

For further information please contact:  
Craig Forsyth

Tel: 01295 221639

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

## NATURE NOTES 100

FIRST, I AM SORRY FOR THE LONG BREAK in the issue of *Nature Notes*; I can only offer the lame excuse of 'external pressures', but you all know the sort of things they are, so I can only ask your indulgence! I'll make amends now and provide a December read with a sort of pre'cis for July to October.

June was mainly a warm month; showery, especially the latter half, but capricious all the same with a slight frost on the night of 10th -11th. Amongst the showers, I noted on the 12th 'nearly 12 hours of wonderful, steady rain – the first really significant rain since the 28th of February!'

And so, after hot days (31° on 27th!) decidedly chilly nights (4° on 30th) and some showers, June gave way to July after a sunny day, a cool breeze and a night temperature of just 4°!

July dawned on a clear sunrise, but heavy cloud developed quickly on a persistent NW wind, becoming warm and humid. This continued, sometimes unpleasantly so (29° recorded on 4th) whilst nights still remained cool (8° to 10°).

By now Meadow Brown and Small Skipper butterflies were coming on the wing and a good cross section of birds revealed themselves, with Green Woodpeckers (including a few juveniles) leading the chorus. Equally ubiquitous (but melodic!) were Song Thrushes – in good numbers – a very welcome recovery from recent scarcity. Other notables were Red Kite, Kestrel, Barn Owl, Grey (English) Partridge and nesting Swifts at Barford St. John.

On the evening of the 5th the wind backed to a cooler, showery SW. Heavy rain through the night of the 8th turned into stormy showers on the 9th. By the 10th the wind had dropped to an almost indiscernable breeze as a period of broken weather patterns emerged. Sultry heat (11th) then cool and fresh as the wind reversed to NE on 13th, hot and sultry as it backed through NNW on 14th to fine, warm and sunny on the 15th – the Feast of St. Swithun, who, desperately short of time, did manage to do his job of christening the apples with a few spots of rain in the evening!

Night temperatures remained stubbornly low throughout this time, mostly around 7°. Day temperatures ranged between 19° and 25°.

Birds observed during this period ranged from squeaky juvenile Tawny Owls and a very small male Sparrowhawk, to Buzzards almost everywhere. There were a family of Little Owls, five families of Green Woodpeckers and three of Great Spotted Woodpeckers (the two latter species turning up all over the place!) Kestrels, and a



wonderful evening count by Bas Butler, of 27 Swifts screaming around Barford St. John.

On the 18th the weather stabilised as the wind veered to NW, remaining there until the 25th. Day temperatures were cool (20° – 22°) and nights got even cooler (5° – 7°). There were transient hot spells and general afternoon showers. On the 24th, the cloud steadily dispersed producing a hot summer day (25°) but with a misty night of 5°. Likewise, the 26th reached 27°, the night 5°, during which the wind veered through N.

New life was plentiful through this period, although not as prolific as it should have been. The butterfly species were now augmented by Small, Large and Green-veined Whites, Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock, Red Admiral, Comma, Gatekeeper and Ringlet.

The meadows (and my wild garden) were now producing numbers of the beautiful Burnet Moth, which I mentioned in June. Climbing half-way to two-thirds up grass stems to pupate, their caterpillars make distinctive but unobtrusive straw-coloured, flattened, triangular pupae on the stems. The moths themselves are day flying and have black forewings, shot with dark blue-green and carrying spots of scarlet. The hind wings are scarlet with a thin black border. They love the flowers of Scabious and Thistle. Locally, the ones most likely to be seen are Six-spot Burnets, after the number of spots on each forewing.

Birdwise, during this latter part of July, parents and juniors hooted, squeaked and squealed, laughed and kecked, or mewed whilst soaring (adult Buzzards) to great heights. Greenfinches wheezed bronchially over late broods and parties of Linnets twittered as they bounded aerially from hedge to scrub-patch and back again. Even a Raven arrived to croak with delinquent glee as he upset the Rooks on Steepness.

By 27th the wind had veered as far as NE where it stayed until month's end. Despite a stable wind the weather varied; cool and refreshing at times, warm and humid at others. Temperatures ranged from 18° – 26° (day) and 6° – 13° (night).

A walk along the R. Swere at St John revealed the Barfords' speciality damselfly nicely on the wing – the Beautiful Damsel (*Calopteryx virgo*) is deep, metallic blue (male) and metallic green with orange-pink wings (female). Away up on the hillside, the heads of the three resident and frequently encountered Roe deer were visible against the skyline. It was warm and sunny, and yet July still ended cooler than it started!

During the course of the 31st the wind backed to SW and August arrived in a sea of windless, stagnant air. It was humid, oppressive and very hot



(30° – 31°) with a prolonged evening shower on the 2nd. The only beings that seemed happy were fourteen juvenile Swallows making forays after insects from the telephone wires.

A morning of steady continuous rain, followed by misting, drenching drizzle and showers on the 4th, saw the day temperature drop to 21°, and at this point a remarkable degree of consistency developed. The wind stayed between SW and NW for the **whole** month, although the weather became unsettled for the final week. For no less than **20 days** the temperature held within the range of 18° – 24°, and on no less than twelve of these the thermometer read between 21° and 22°!

There were minima of 12° (18th) and 15° (23rd and 29th) and, after the furnace of the first three days, there were maxima of 24° (11th) and 25° (21st).

Nights on the whole were cool, no less than fourteen between 5° and 8°, the warmest being that of 14° on the 11th and 12th.

Of course, there were beautiful days, for instance, warm, still and quiet on the 6th and 16th, but they were few and far between.

Despite the damp autumnal flatness of the month, there were good – sometimes exciting – things to be seen on the wildlife front, plus the expectancy of looking for them again next year!

But let's start with more typical Barfords fare. Our Buzzards were visible all month long, all over the Parish. In sunshine on the 9th, a soaring Red Kite disturbed the Steepness Buzzards who arose to attack it. Of course the Kite effortlessly outclimbed them and they returned to grumpy inactivity nearer ground level (a Kite also appeared over St. Michael on the 20th). On the 29th, a chilly, bright but sunless day, an assembly of fourteen Buzzards were circling over Steepness before dispersing in all directions.

Hérons were quite frequent along the R. Swere and at more domestic waters.

At least one Swift was still active over St. John, where also a pair of Grey partridges were spotted.

Green Woodpeckers were occasionally noisy, and Kestrels appeared fairly regularly having probably bred in the Steepness and Allotments areas.

On the 13th a Tawny Owl embarked on hooting below Steepness at 9pm; he was still doing so at 4am! On the 23rd, he had another session starting at 9pm, and on the 27th two Tawnies duetted with warbled hoots on Broad Close around 4am.

Ravens weren't much in evidence through the month, but one seemed to patrol the Barfords villages during sunny spells on the 20th.

Sparrowhawks were less evident than in recent years, but a diminutive male did appear and

disappear fairly often. His courage is not in question, but his size is a disadvantage, especially when he tries to catch Wood Pigeons! An intriguing/sad story was related to me by a High St. resident... This small hawk, unbeknown to her, had managed to kill a Wood Pigeon in her garden. Going outside, she frightened the hawk off his kill which he was reluctant (understandably!) to leave. He glared from the top of a shrub, but then made off and quite typically, didn't return to his kill.

Very soon afterwards however, he brought down another pigeon in the road outside the lady's house and spent some time rolling around in the road, struggling with the pigeon. At this point, a passing van pulled up at the commotion and the driver got out. The poor hawk was again disappointed and flew off, leaving the bleeding and dying pigeon flapping feebly in the road. The van driver (mercifully) killed it, but threw the remains over the wall into the lady's garden and drove off! I've not heard if the hawk has been back.

Now to another exciting bird intrusion, and this is one of infrequency. As I stood in my garden on the morning of the 5th, a large, slender, pale bird of prey, with a long tail, flew slowly, low over Steepness. It was immediately recognisable as a male Hen Harrier! Now, this isn't a bird one much associates with our area; it is resident in the British Isles throughout the year and typically nests on expanses of heather moorland, rough grassland or prairie-type crops. However, many birds disperse after breeding and move around. Near Buzzard size, but more slightly built and longer tailed, it can glide surprisingly slowly close to the ground, with remarkably few wing beats, as it hunts small birds and mammals. As the bird glides, jinks and turns, its wings are held in quite a steep 'V' which can give it a slightly sinister appearance. The female is (like most female raptors) brown above, streaky below and with a barred tail. But the male is striking! He is pale grey above, white below and with black wing tips; somewhat visible when slowly hunting close to the ground.

The next sighting, by Bas Butler, was another (or was it the same?) male, flying SW away from the airfield, (very good non-breeding Hen Harrier territory) on the 19th. This was followed on the 21st, by a female flying slowly south, low over Townsend, not twenty-five yards away from me. Three sightings in one month! Wonderful – but lets get back to normality. . . .

On the 25th a group of 21 House Martins gathered restlessly on the telephone wires in Townsend. 'Hello', I thought, 'the call of the south?', and I closed my bird observations by noting that small flocks of Great, Blue and Coal

Tits, with individuals of Wrens, Dunnocks, Robins and Bullfinches were present everywhere.

In the insect world, as usual, much was on-going, but also much curtailed by the dank weather. Around mid-month Common Blue and Brown Argus butterflies came on the wing. In my wild garden they spent much time as usual on the larval food plant Bird's-foot Trefoil. At the same time, the air was so chilly that the large colourful butterflies (Peacock, etc.) spent most of their time spread flat on south facing walls trying to absorb some heat, instead of nectaring on garden flowers. Some even started trying to hibernate!

But the most exciting items followed some farmland survey work I was invited to carry out. Around the 9th, whilst checking grassland species, a very extensive population of Roesel's bush Cricket was discovered. I had only met with this species in its "classic" habitat of low, coastal grasslands, and then only rarely. But, here it was, around Barford in big numbers! I checked with TVERC, and discovered that it had been found in nearby parishes by a local entomologist in 2002. It is larger and more robust than either the common Oak and Speckled Bush Crickets, and also its cousins, the grasshoppers; and it has tremendously long antennae. Roesel's is generally very dark, but with splashes and outlines of bright green. Unlike its grasshopper relatives, it prefers to run and scramble through the vegetation, rather than leap away.

There were other discoveries, but these need further confirmation next year!

Finally, through a clear patch on the night of the 18th, a close visual approach between Jupiter and the Moon revealed itself in great beauty, isolated by surrounding cloud. Only two of Jupiter's moons were visible due to our Moon's brilliance and proximity!

And so, this dreary and autumnal August crept away on a cold night of only 3.5°, leaving us to wonder whether Global Warming had ended.

More catching up next time, to discuss Autumn's happenings. . .

Happy Christmas, everyone.

*Ron Knight*

### Ballroom & Latin Dance Classes.

Village Hall, Thursday evenings

**Beginners classes** 7pm to 7.50pm

And 8pm to 8.50pm

**Cost** £6 per person or £10 a couple



### Treasure On Show At Museum

A HOARD OF 1146 silver denarii coins wasn't small change in Roman times. But someone buried them back then, and their loss is our gain as they were found in a small pot in 2008 at Edge Hill. Now some of those coins have been loaned by Warwickshire Museum Service and will be on show at Banbury Museum until 10 December.

The coins were buried over 1900 years ago, when Britain was part of the Roman Empire. It's the largest hoard of early Roman coins found in the West Midlands.

Cllr James Macnamara, said: "We'll never know why someone decided to hide these coins. 1146 denarii was a tidy sum of money in the 1st Century - equal to a year's pay for five Roman soldiers. Maybe they were left for safe keeping when there were no banks, or hidden during a time of unrest. Or maybe they were an offering to gods and goddesses."

The oldest coin dates back to 194BC, over 200 years before Emperor Claudius invaded Britain. The last coin to be added to the hoard dates to AD63 and is in the name of Emperor Nero. Spanning over 250 years, the coins were minted under the Roman Republic and then the first five rulers of the Empire (Augustus, Tiberius, Caligula, Claudius and Nero).

[www.banburymuseum.org](http://www.banburymuseum.org),

email [simon.townsend@cherwell-dc.gov.uk](mailto:simon.townsend@cherwell-dc.gov.uk),

or phone 01295 753781.

THAMES VALLEY  
POLICE



101

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ALWAYS  
CALL 999

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**All calls will be charged at a flat rate  
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**WASTE RECYCLING CENTRES  
CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR OPENING HOURS:**

CHRISTMAS EVE	08:00 to 15:00
CHRISTMAS DAY	CLOSED
BOXING DAY	CLOSED
TUESDAY 27/12/11 TO FRIDAY 30/12/11	8:00 to 17:00
NEW YEARS EVE	08:00 to 15:00
NEW YEARS DAY	CLOSED

**MONDAY 02/01/12 ONWARDS -  
NORMAL OPENING HOURS APPLY,  
8:00-17:00**

# PURELY PLANTS

***Perfect For Your Out Of Town Christmas Shopping***



Gifts  
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Christmas Trees  
Holly, Mistletoe, Spruce  
All you need in a peacefull  
Setting and plenty of parking  
Bliss!

At Middleton Cheney Tel: 01295 713570

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9.30 – 4.30 Mon to Sat 10.30 – 4.30 Sun / December opening until 5.30 Mon to Sat and 4.30 Sun