

BARFORD NEWS

FEBRUARY 2010

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Parish Council Notes

DESPITE THE SNOW lying thickly on the ground the only absentee from the parish council meeting in the village hall on January 6th was the Parish clerk who had some excuse as she lives in Bloxham. An unexpected but welcome surprise was the attendance of one member of the public Lisa Styles.

The chairman got on with the business of the meeting swiftly.

The minutes of the December meeting were passed as a true record and duly signed.

In the absence of the clerk the chairman then provided the council with the essence of what would have been her report;

An email of thanks had been received from County Councillor Michael Waine and Alison Milward for the welcome they had received at the December meeting..

A request to re-fill the grit bin at the bottom of Bishops Close had not been filled (to coin a phrase). The inside information had it that since the start of the year allocation of grit was directly controlled by the government and supplies were being diverted to the North of England reducing availability in Oxfordshire. OCC with main roads the top priority had nothing to spare for villages such as the Barfords.

Continuing with grit supplies the council supported a verbal suggestion by a parishioner that a grit bin in Horn Hill would be an advantage. OCC had priced a new bin at £150 plus VAT. It was agreed that the subject should be formally tabled at a later date.

Continuing on general parish matters Councillor Lane stated that he was in contact with County Councillor Jelf in an effort to make an appointment with the OCC STT regarding signage for the Nether Worton/ Townsend Junction and other road markings. So far his efforts had shown little progress but he was continuing in his quest!

Enquiries regarding the use of the South Newington Road by a school bus had drawn what could only be described as a holding letter from OCC, stating that the school buses contract lay with

Heyfordian Bus Company which sub-contracted to Worth's. OCC would inform the council as soon as they established the true routing situation.

Progress had been made on the monitoring of vehicle speeds down The Rock. Steve Wood had agreed to put up his monitoring devices as soon as the weather improved. In the discussions there seemed to be a bit of a sea change of opinion on the speed of the vehicles coming down The Rock. It was mooted that the speed registered by the eye was more of an optical illusion brought on by the narrowness of The Rock itself. What was needed was some form of precedence control for vehicles

using The Rock. Steve Wood was to be asked for his advice on this theory.

Related to the safety of The Rock, Lisa Styles in public participation, made the point that a lot had been made last year of using the Rock Close footpath to provide a safer route for pedestrians. Following on from this a suggestion had been made that a footpath from the end of Rock Close to Lower Street would enhance safety for pedestrians. Although the parish council had made enquiries but as soon as it had heard the costs all was silent. Ms Styles stressed the problem of safety for pedestrians

particularly mothers with prams was still there. Her request that the problem be reviewed was accepted by the council.

The council accepted a paper proposing two enhancements to West Close. The first was for improvements to the access through the lower field gate to West Close and, with wheel chairs and prams in mind, replacing the gate itself with a more user friendly model. The second was a proposal for a hardened path from the Murreys Lane upper gate to the Old Turnstile gate.

It was agreed the full ramifications e.g. planning requirements, actual improvements to be made to the access, types of gate available, consultation with the joint owners of the access drive way, types of surface for the path and importantly costs of each project should be examined in the spring. The

Fancy a Cuppa?



Details on Page 3

grass cutting contractor is to be consulted about the frequency of cut for West Close

There had been no objections to a planning application circulated during the month for Rock Edge, Horn Hill and notification had been received that the planning applications for 1 Red Roofs and Barford House had been approved by CDC Planning Department

After fairly lengthy discussions, proposals and counter proposals the budget was agreed. Apart from the standard expenditures on the clerk's salary, grass cutting and dog bin emptying (costed at £220.00) grants were given to Barford News, the village hall and Warriner School Farm. Provision had had to be made for the impending Parish Council election. to be held in May.

The outcome was that the Precept for 2010/11 was maintained at 2009/10 figure: £7000.

Payment of the clerk's salary was approved together with that of the water bill for the allotments.

There being no other business the date of the next meeting was set at 3rd February 2010 and the meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.

B.E.L.



Barford Green Garden Club

Please come along to our AGM, any ideas always appreciated:

AGM 4th February 7.30pm in the village hall.

I will be handing out the 2010 membership cards at the AGM

The annual subscription remains at £2 per household and this entitles you to discount at several garden centres and nurseries. We arrange approx 3 visits each year to gardens of interest and we also hold 3 meetings each year in the village hall and invite a speaker to come along. Membership also entitles you and a guest to free entry to Ryton Organic gardens near Coventry.

New members always welcome

As this will be the 1st meeting of 2010 mulled wine and mincepies will be served on your arrival

The talk by Sue Burn of Batsford Arboretum had to be cancelled in January due to the bad weather . This has been re scheduled as below.

I look forward to seeing you on both 4th and 18th February

Jill Bunce, Tel 337577



Freeway Jam

Rock n Roll Night

13th February 2010

Village Hall
Bar



Doors open 8.00 till late
Tickets £5.00 available at The George
or contact Tracey 015869 337369
or pay at door

Garden Club Talk Re-Scheduled 'Batsford Through the Year'.

A talk by Sue Burn
from Batsford Arboretum
at the Village Hall

at 7.30pm on

February 18th, 2010

All Welcome to this Open Evening

Members £3.00, Visitors £4.00

Thankyou

To a good friend

For her donation of £20.00

For Barford News

Also

To the couple on Townsend

For their similar donation

Fancy a Cuppa?



The Village Hall at Barford St Michael
will be open on Thursday mornings
for tea or coffee and a biscuit or two.

Starting on Thursday, 4th February

We are trialling “**Open Mornings**” in the village
where everyone is welcome to drop in.

The kettle will be on from 9.00 to 11:30 am.

£1.00 pays for your first cuppa with biscuits, refills free
Children are very welcome too...

Deddingto CE Primary School

AT THE TIME OF WRITING we have only been back at school having been snowed out for the start of term! The staff are very grateful to our fantastic parents who helped to clear the school grounds, enabling us to return to school as quickly as possible.



During this term (weather permitting!), Our Foundation class will be going on an educational visit to Oxford University Museum as part of their animals topic. Year 6 will be taking part in a Junior Citizens day- a great day that helps them to think about how to keep safe and to help others too. We are also sending a Key Stage 2 team along to a quiz day at Dr Radcliffe's School, if they do well they will go on to regional then national heats, we're keeping our fingers crossed. Rehearsals for our Easter production are well under way, we have a huge cast as we make sure that any child who wants to be in it is! This year we have chosen the musical 'Annie', the children are really enjoying learning the songs and working hard to learn their lines.

Hopefully we are coming to the end of the bad weather and the rest of the term will be less disruptive and uneventful!

Mrs Jane Cross, Deputyhead.

Deddington PFSU and Village Nursery

WELL IT HAS CERTAINLY been an interesting start to the term, with snow and frozen pipes causing closures at both sites. Many thanks to



everyone for your patience with us. When we have been in, we have had lots of fun in the snow. Learning about the seasons has never been so appropriate! This term we will also be finding out about animals and Chinese New Year.

It seems a long time ago now but we would like to extend our thanks to everyone who supported our Christmas activities. These included the Fenemore family for donating the lovely Christmas trees, Deddington Guides for the pass the parcels, and all the parents who supported our Decorations Days and other activities, including the Christmas production in the church. Thank you also to everyone who supported our Christmas hamper raffle. Over £400 was raised for the PFSU and Nursery. Our next fund-raising event is a jumble sale in the church on Saturday 6th February. Watch out for the posters and please come and support us.

Lucy Squires
337484

From the Vicar

The Parochial Church Council is intending to work more closely with Deddington Parish, seeing the two parishes as two parts of a single Benefice. This being so, it seems right to advise Barfordians of two special services in Deddington in February.



St Valentine's Day (Feb 14th) this year falls on the Sunday before Lent. To mark the day the **10.30am Eucharist** in Deddington Parish Church will have marriage and love as its theme. The service will include an opportunity to reflect on how marriage has affected our lives and the community in which we live. Whether you are or have been married, are content not to have been or simply recognise marriage as a fact of Christian culture, and perhaps give thanks for it, you will be most welcome.

If you are concerned about Trade Justice, you might like to attend the service for **Fairtrade Fortnight** in Deddington Parish Church at **10.30 am on Feb 28th**.

Lent begins on 17th February. There will be services of Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes in Deddington at 10.00 am and in Barford St John at 7.00 pm on that day, Ash Wednesday. We aren't going to put on a course in Lent in the Benefice this year, but the congregations are being asked to attend church twice in the Benefice on a Sunday rather than just once. Why not give that a try!

Hugh

~ ~ ~

Fernhill Club News

IT WAS A GREAT SHAME that our first meeting had to be cancelled due to the snow. We hoped to re-start on 20th, so by the time you read this, we will hopefully, have had our first meeting; and will have had a chance to catch up on all our news. On February 17th Woodstock Museum are giving us a talk on 'Our First Job', which should get everyone talking!

Now we have started a new year, how about you 55+ girls and boys giving us a try? We meet in the Village Hall each Wednesday at 2.30pm. So why not make it your New Year's Resolution to find out how friendly we are. We also have a cup or tea or coffee, biscuits, cakes, plus entertainment – all for £1.50 a week. Always a very happy atmosphere and it gets you out of the house!

For more information ring me on 337138

Maureen Holden



Local Thatchers Win Prestigious Award



Congratulations to master thatchers
Parkinson Blackwell
of Great Tew

won first prize for the new roof on
Woodworms Hilton (pictured above) in the
Master Thatchers Association awards.

Welcome

To

Ken & Lilani Wickramasinghe
Recent arrivals in Church Street

~ ~ ~

And to

Libi Sabolova

Poppy & Olly Hill's live-in nanny
at Woodworms

~ ~ ~

Also to

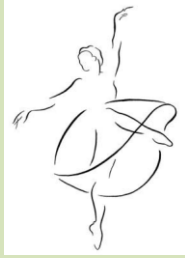
the Kommu family
of Lower Street

newly arrived from Banbury
Dr. Kiran and his wife Candice
with their two children
Sanjay aged 8 and Priyanka 4

~ ~ ~

We wish all of you a happy time
In the Barfords

*Dancing with the Shah's
private ballet company
by
Judith Licence (of Little Tew)*



**Wednesday 10th Feb
7.30pm Village Hall**



At the W.I. Meeting

Visitors £3.00



Poppy Appeal: Final Results 2009

WHAT A GREAT RESULT for the Poppy Appeal, an all up total of **£728.31** **31!** An increase of £258.18 over 2008! The grand total came from, door to door collections including one large cheque (£545.85), static points (£33.29), the Remembrance Service collection (£99.17) and donations (£50.00).



A hearty "Thank you" must go to all Barfordians who contributed so generously to Poppy Appeal. With the conflict in Afghanistan persisting and focusing our minds, the need for a successful Poppy Appeal is even more important. Fortunately Barfordians have been well aware of the importance of giving to this very worthwhile appeal.

Again thank you all very much.

My heartfelt thanks must also go to the uncomplaining volunteers, John Langlands, Barbara Greenwood, Rebecca Dyson, Verna Lane, Jim and Aggie Booth, Ann Budd, Helen Honour, Barbara Alt and Martin Winter who were as ever very persuasive in encouraging Barfordians to be generous.

Readers may be interested to know that the overall collection for the Bloxham Branch of the Royal British Legion was £6,557.50. This includes not only us and Bloxham itself but Hook Norton, South Newington, Milcombe, Wigginton and Swerford

Bernard Lane.

Poppy Appeal Organizer for the Barfords

Village Market To Re-open Next Month

A SMALL GROUP of village stallholders have taken on the running of our village market for the coming year. Our first market will be held in the Village Hall 10am till noon on Saturday 20th March,

The market will be very similar to previous years with just a couple of initial small changes.

First of these is the introduction of a 'charity table' in place of the market raffle. The charity table will be available each month free of charge on a first come first served basis to any village club, organisation or charity who wishes to use it to raise funds. The only proviso being that the table will not be used to sell items which are sold by regular stallholders. Village charities will be invited to take part. The first charity table (on 20th March) will be used to hold a raffle to raise funds for the Annual Christmas Lunch (previously funded by Bingo evenings). Anyone wishing to book the table please contact Peter Bird on 01869 338630.

The second change is that some of the summer markets will be held at other venues around the village. The George, the village green, and Townsend are three that are planned so far.

There will be 8 markets throughout the year, with a short summer break. Dates are:

20 March	18 September
17 April	16 October
15 May	20 November
- June tbc	11 December

We shall continue to have the wonderful French bread, our Cake Ladies, the Amazing Jam and Preserve Queen, the Egg Man, the Veritable Vegetables, the Bookworms and of course the Meat Joint. There will also be gifts, cards, refreshments, and one or two surprises!. We hope to introduce some new stalls so come along, meet your friends, have a cuppa and support your local market!



Some Words of Thanks

~ ~ ~

I would like to thank everyone who helped us out over Christmas and into the first few weeks of January offering practical help and emotional support. Thank you particularly to those who looked after James and Jonathan at short notice (at all times of the day and evening).

Our already stressful situation was made so much worse by the snow and the difficulties it caused with getting out of the village in a hurry to the Horton, up to Deddington when Mum's carers didn't turn up and getting the boys to and from school when the coaches couldn't get in and out of the village. It's at times like this that one really appreciates good, old-fashioned neighbourliness and the unique community we have in the Barfords. You know who you are – thank you so much.

Dad passed away peacefully on the evening of Wednesday 13th January.

Alison Duffy

~ ~ ~

'thank you'

to

the family who helped me

get my car out from

the Old Vicarage,

and to the dog walker

who pushed me back in again a week later!

from Colin'

~ ~ ~

And finally, a 'general' 'Thank You', from all those who have been offered help with transport, shopping, snow clearing etc. by concerned friends and neighbours. As Alison has already said, we are fortunate indeed to live in such a caring community. Ed.

Village Carol Singing Proceeds

WELL DONE to the hardy souls who sang carols around the village and thanks to all who donated so generously. Thanks also to those who donated at The

George the following evening. A Cheque has been paid to Helen and Douglas House, the receipt for the donation is held by Glynnis.

Carol Singing around the green - £131.57

Carol singing in the Pub - £72.00

Total Amount Donated £203.57



Helen & Douglas House is a registered charity providing respite and end of life care for children and young adults with life-shortening conditions, as well as support and friendship for the whole family. The two hospice houses are bright, vibrant and positive places, where the emphasis is on living life to the full, even when that life may be short.

There are many families in the UK caring for a child or young adult who has a life-shortening condition. Caring for someone, often for 24 hours a day, seven days a week, over many years, can put an immeasurable strain upon the family. While families willingly invest love, energy and care, life becomes governed by the relentless timetable of nursing and medical needs.

Relationships can suffer, careers may have to be abandoned, healthy brothers and sisters can feel left out and regular family activities and holidays can be rare. Families can often feel alone and afraid in their grief.

How Helen & Douglas House can help

Children can stay at Helen House and young adults can stay at Douglas House, along with their families, for short periods of time for rest and recuperation, treatment of distressing symptoms, end of life care and support.

An Experience in Zambia June 2009

DEEPLY INVOLVED in conservation of all wildlife and very involved with The David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation I decided to travel to the South Luangwa National Park (SLNP) as David Shepherd has described, it is his favourite place and this is reflected in his numerous paintings of this area.

I wanted to experience it for myself and soon I fell under the spell of this part of Zambia. The landscape is incredibly beautiful so different to other parts of Africa. I did not get up to the North park or to Kafue National park to visit the DSWF Rhino and Elephant projects but good news in SLNP as the elephants are now back up to 30,000 after the drastic fall to only 5,000.

It was a wonderful trip but I want to share with you one special memory which happened on 13th June. I was based at Mchenja Bush camp and on the morning of 13th my guide spotted Lion paw prints . We followed these for a long time and eventually we found 3 beautiful males on the sand but one had been caught by a wire snare around his neck. Levi immediately contacted the SLCS and AWDC but they were over 2 hours away but would let us know when they were on their way.

I asked if I would be able to go with the vet? I was told only if I kept very quiet. It was not until 1pm when we raced to the scene and the 3 males had not moved far, just a few yards to find the shade of some trees.

In charge was Matt Becker from Montana in the States; Matt and his team observed the lion for some time before darting him. It proved difficult as

the other 2 males would not leave their brother, but eventually the team moved them away far enough to start urgent first aid.

Once Matt was certain the lion with the snare was asleep the work started. Considerable time later, or at least it felt like ages as I was so anxious for both the team and the lion, they cut the awful snare away , and then started with measurements etc . He was big, over 208 kilos.

The cover was left over his eyes to protect them, as the drug sends the lion to sleep but the eyes will remain open, so the cover has to be left on throughout. It was very hot and buckets of cold water were continually thrown over him. Finally a radio collar was fitted; Matt, who had studied at one of my favourite places, Yellowstone National Park, the oldest National Park, talked about the whole operation from start to finish and confessed this was only his second lion!! He had been involved in the African Wild Dog Conservation for 10 years and now he was studying the lions.

It was not until 7pm that the team left the lion once they were satisfied all was well.

Sadly lions are as susceptible as any species to the indiscriminate targeting of the poacher's snare. Wire snares designed to capture small buck are still being set up by poachers. Luckily the diligence in reporting and assisting with the de-snaring operation meant this lion was saved. The call from us at 9am to Matt Becker and his quick response ended in a successful outcome.

Jill Bunce



Parish Council Elections 2010

YOU MUST BE AWARE that there will be a general election by June. The TV and Radio have been full of it, not to mention politicians themselves. What you may not be aware of is that Parish and District Council elections will also be held in May or perhaps June (to match the general election date) as well. They are equally important to you because their results will have an influence on the continued comfort of living in the Barfords.

The current Barford St John and St Michael Parish Council officially comes to the end of its four year tenure in May at which time there must be an election with all seven council seats on offer. In general a person may stand for the parish council provided he or she is over 18, a UK or commonwealth citizen, or citizen of a member state of the EU, on the electoral roll, or has lived or worked in the parish for 12 months or has a business in the parish. There are restrictions on bankrupts and criminals standing

The task of a councillor is to husband the Parish according to the wishes of the parishioners. The council meets every month except August to carry out the business of the Parish which ranges from the mundane refurbishment of notice boards and responding to parishioners queries to commenting on planning applications, quizzing county and district councillors on such subjects as provision of sufficient primary school places for the children of the parish and provision of affordable/exception site housing..

A councillor may be asked to attend other meetings such as the CDC parish liaison meeting, Planning and Local Development meetings, CDC environmental meetings and others. From time to time requests are received from the District and County Councils and other local government organisations for volunteer committee members. If a councillor has an interest in local government outside the parish the opportunity is there.

Councillors have access to money: a small reserve for major projects and the Precept (about £7000 per Annum) which is levied from householders for the incidental needs of the parish. These sources provide the funding for grass cutting, grants to village organisations, repairs to parish furniture, maintenance in general around the parish, other incidental expenses and particularly this year, meeting the costs of the local election. The precept is set annually by the council using its knowledge of the parish and its needs. It is levied though the council tax.

Working for the community is very satisfying and rewarding. It is responsible work so if you want to put something back into the community stand for Parish Councillor in the election. Application forms will be available from the Parish Clerk or from Cherwell District Council (Bodicote House) from early April. Watch for the advertisements of election on the village notice boards and in Barford News.

BEL

~ ~ ~

Much Loved Pet

We all feel very sad for Ann Beesley about losing her much loved Ridgeback 'Poppy'. Poppy was probably the best known pet in the village and accompanied Ann to many Barford events.



~ ~ ~

Singing For Pleasure



If you would like to
Be part of a small group
Of neighbours and friends
'Singing For Pleasure'

Please contact Mariann on 338570



Bloxham CE Primary

A FEW WEEKS have passed but the memories of our wonderful Christmas celebrations stay vividly in the mind. There was the Foundation Stage nativity, with over 90 3, 4 and 5 year olds taking part in a wonderful celebration- all were dressed in traditional Christmas costumes and sang and acted with the style and innocence that only children of that age can undertake. The faces of both family, friends and of course the children showed the real enjoyment and fulfilment all gained from the nativities. Equally our Key Stage 1 children took part in a memorable Christmas performance- singing, acting and reading with great aplomb. The songs still ring in my mind- Humph the camel has a lot to answer for...

This year we opted for 2 traditional Carol Services in St. Mary's Church, with one being candlelit in the evening, and the morning service taking place in gently falling snow. Both these services were really well supported, with over 200 family and friends in the Church, with standing room only on both occasions. We have received numerous comments from the congregation stating that the services were excellent and spiritually uplifting. I appreciate that I may well be biased, but I would have to agree.

Of course all our Christmas services and celebrations can only take place with the support, commitment and skill of our staff for which I continue to be very grateful.

I am sure that by the time this article is read the sun will be shining, daffodils will be appearing and the snowdrops will have probably come and gone for the year. However the first couple of weeks have been dominated by the snow- and as well as causing significant disruption it also inspired some wonderful work from the children. Some of the writing and poetry it provoked were of a really high quality. It has also helped generate a real community spirit. There have been many examples of members of staff and volunteers working tirelessly over the weekend, early in the morning and in the evenings to ensure that the school could open safely on every possible opportunity. We have also been fortunate enough for members of the community driving members of staff home safely in 4 x 4 vehicles.

I am pleased that the building work for the Rural Children's Centre based at Bloxham Primary School has started at the beginning of January on schedule and should be completed before the end of this academic year. Building work always causes disruption but I am confident that it will be of long term benefit to all aspects of the community, including of course the school.

Matthew Ingall, Headteacher

PTA February 2010 editorial

CHRISTMAS SEEMS so long ago now but before moving on to the new year, we must stop and thank all those who supported and helped out at our events in December. Despite the economic doom and gloom you all dug deeply and I am delighted to tell you that Santa's Float raised the fantastic sum of **£980!!** Thank you so much to everyone who gave generously to Santa and his elves!



The Christmas cards designed by the children earlier in the term were fabulous. Our thanks to all who helped us produce (Mike Homer at Multiflow) and sell the cards.

Santa took time out from his very hectic schedule to visit our children who had eagerly queued to meet him in his Magical Grotto during the December Farmer's Market. The air of excitement and anticipation added a fantastic atmosphere to the morning. Over in the Church the PTA added to the spirit of the occasion by singing popular carols whilst Edward and Lewis did a wonderful job of keeping us in tune by accompanying us on the trumpet! Our grateful thanks go to Santa and his helpers, the Farmer's Market Committee, Father Hugh and to all those who gave so generously.

We have a full calendar lined up for 2010. Saturday 6th February sees the PTA running the bar at the **Windmill Blues and Rock Night** commencing at 8pm. Book early for another great evening, as we restage the successful event of last April, featuring a great musical double-bill of **Pete Boss and The Bluehearts** and **Indigo Child**. Ticket Prices £9.00 on the Door or £8.00 in advance from Pete on 01869 338536 or pboss@btinternet.com.

Our ever popular **Quiz Night** will be held on 6th March at the Windmill Centre. So, it's time to dust off those books and start brushing up on your general knowledge! This is always very popular and tickets usually sell fast. For further details or to pre-book your place, please contact Mike on 01869 338750 or email mikew@cherwell.co.uk

Other dates for your diary:

The 6th Deddington Walk - Sunday **16th May**
School Fete - Saturday **19th June**

Finally, on behalf of the PTA, I would like to thank everyone for their continued support and wish you all a (slightly belated!) Happy New Year.

Janet Watts, PTA Chair

Thanks to Jill Bunce, Colin Cohen, Glynnis Eastwood, Tony Ecclestone, Maggie Eden, & Sam Harding for the snow photographs. All show in full colour on our website – www.barfordnews.co.uk.





Puppies! (or should that be Poopies?)

WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE the arrival of 9 healthy Guide Dogs For The Blind puppies (6 males, 3 females). They were born on 9 December, first pup born at 5.00am and last pup at 4.30pm. Megan (Guide Dog Brood Bitch) did a wonderful job but was absolutely exhausted afterwards. She soon revived after a nap and small regular feeds of Scrambled Egg.

Now, nearly 4 weeks old, the puppies are pretty much fully weaned pooping machines. They are very cute (they need to be, the mess they make!) The whole litter dash about madly for 10-20 minutes (barking at each other, chewing anything and everything, playing in the water bowl, tearing up newspaper) then fall asleep in a heap...thankfully they sleep a lot. The Guide Dog computer now allocates the puppies' names (previously we have been able to suggest names, many of which have been used) however we have Della, Dee, Doogie, Dale, Dexter, Daniel, Jenni, Brendan and Riley.

The litter will leave us on 25 January to be placed with their Puppywalkers who will love and socialise them for approximately a year before they progress to Formal Training. After this stage (75-80% of puppies successfully complete this Training) each dog is matched to a prospective Owner and completes it's training with this person.

Megan (Guide Dog Brood Bitch) has now produced 3 litters for Guide Dogs For The Blind, totalling 27 puppies in all. As on the previous 2 occasions, she has done a wonderful job in providing Guide Dogs with beautiful puppies to work with.



Adele & Dave Sullivan

Barford Film Club - Programme of films coming to The village hall
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6 February - Au Revoir Les Enfants

The film is based on events in the childhood of the director, Louis Malle, who witnessed a Gestapo raid on his school in which three Jewish students and a Jewish teacher were rounded up and deported to Auschwitz. All four were gassed on arrival. The school's headmaster was arrested for harboring them and sent to Mauthausen. He died shortly after the camp was liberated by the American Army, having refused to leave until the last French prisoner was repatriated. The film won the Golden Lion at the Venice Film Festival.

24 Apr - The Draftsman's Contract

is a 1982 British film written and directed by Peter Greenaway. Originally produced for Channel 4 the film is a form of murder mystery, set in 1694.

A young artist, is contracted to produce a series landscape drawings by Mrs. Virginia Herbert for

her estranged husband. Part of the contract is that she agrees "to meet the artist in private and to comply with his requests concerning his pleasure" Later he makes a similar contract with Mrs Herbert's daughter. In the second contract, however, he agrees to comply with what is described as her pleasure, rather than his. A number of curious objects appear in his drawings, which point ultimately to the murder of Mr Herbert. The drawings can be interpreted to implicate more than one person. There is a violent and shocking plot resolution.

22 May - Vicky Christina Barcelona

2008 Woody Allan film

Two girlfriends on a summer holiday in Spain become enamoured with the same painter, unaware that his ex-wife, with whom he has a tempestuous relationship, is about to re-enter the picture.

NATURE NOTES 85

AFTER THE MELLOW, DRY DAYS of September there was an immediate drop in daytime temperatures of about 4° to around 17°, despite the wind remaining at NW as October opened. Night temps. were more volatile ranging from 3.5° to 10°. Despite the daytime temperature drop, and for the second year running, as I went out to 'greet the morning' on the 2nd, I was both startled and delighted when a flake of stone on the wall by my backdoor seemed to separate and reveal an expanse of ruby red flannel, banded black and with an edging of white linen! It was a freshly emerged Red Underwing (*Catocala nupta*); a very large and beautiful moth (75mm, 3in. wingspan). The forewings are so superbly camouflaged in intricate shades of grey that the moth is almost invisible on the right piece of stone – which it invariably manages to find! And this one was within a few centimetres of the place in which last year's individual had rested (20.09.08 *N. Notes* 79). I was transfixed by the display but of course as soon as I moved, the moth fluttered away, up the roof, around the chimney stack – and disappeared.

After six days of generally NW winds, there was a further drop of about one degree every day down to 9° on the 19th (erratic night temps. -2° to 9°). During this period, although largely NW, the wind wandered aimlessly between NE and SW depending on the atmospheric 'highs' and 'lows' and their associated 'fronts'. From the 20th, temperatures rose to 15° – 18° (night temps. 4° to 10°) and this held to the end of the month on generally S to SW winds.

On the chilly but sunny afternoon of 3rd, a Buzzard recklessly entered airspace held by the Barford Jackdaw mob and was roundly seen off toward the north. On the 4th, in very still air below a chilly overcast, a Tawny Owl started hooting as early as 6.30 pm on Hempton Hills. The 6th and 7th were very wet by day and night, although a mild, bright spell on 7th saw a lone House Martin incongruously trying to harry a Carrion Crow over St. Michael. A grumpy looking Buzzard sitting slumped on top of a low hedge at Hempton, peered at some ploughing and reviewed the prospect of catching worms in the mud.

The 12th to 14th produced beautiful Autumn days of soft sunlight, even so there was surprisingly little activity. Bas Butler reported seeing small flocks of Redwing and Fieldfare flying over. A Tawny Owl hooted and crooned in a low pitched warble below Steepness about 9pm on 12th. The Jackdaw mafia, about 150 strong, put on a pre-roost show of power aerobatics over St. Michael about 4.30 on 13th, and on 14th there was a real

explosion of the predatory, invading Harlequin Ladybirds *Harmonia axyrides*.

After last year's veritable infestation, I was apprehensive of the numbers of our own 7-spot Ladybirds *Coccinella septempunctata*, which the Harlequins predate. Thankfully, I was pleasantly surprised by the good numbers of 7-spots through the Autumn, without a sight of the Harlequins – until this date. These predators disappeared almost as quickly as they came and within a few days were gone. We await next year's populations with interest!

At this time I began to wonder what had happened to my big *Tegenaria* House Spiders, my Grandes Dames who canter along mysterious carriageways across my sitting room floor, looking for dashing beaus to entice into courtship. Usually they appear around mid-September and quickly set up their 'prospecting' routes which they then follow regularly, night after night for two or three weeks, or until claimed by some swarthy *Tegenarian* beau in a dark *arachnid* bower. But this year there have been very few appearances and these have been lacklustre and the 'prospecting' has been desultory and meandering, finally petering out altogether, before October dawned.

May they return with renewed vigour in 2010!

But enough romance; back to mid-October. The 15th dawned chilly, overcast and with a steady, windless drizzle. The drizzle eased about noon, but the whole ambiance produced the first really dank Autumn day. From then on, despite being showery and mostly mild, all wildlife seemed to disappear. For nine days I made not a single wildlife observation, save to remark on its absence! Then on 25th a Raven appeared, croaking and flying around the Scots Pines bordering High Street, but that was all. The trees and hedges were so colourful as to warrant a note. On 27th and 29th, male and female Tawny Owls were noisy all around the flanks of Steepness. The 29th and 31st developed into warm, sunny, still afternoons, sufficient to wake up a Peacock and a Small Tortoiseshell butterfly and induce them to have a last look before sinking into hibernation.

November entered on a SW gale with torrential rain that moderated slowly after mid-day and a daytime temperature of 15°. The next day dropped to 11° (night temps. 2°–5°) and remained so on lighter NW winds until the 8th.

More Redwings and Fieldfares appeared, especially along untrimmed hedgerows and in hollies with plenty of berries.

There was then a plunge down to 8° (night temps. -1°) until the 12th when the wind went to SW for the rest of the month, except for the 30th,

when in response to a deep low pressure trough to the east, the wind suddenly went to NE.

November was exceptionally wet; I recorded rain on no less than 25 days, although paradoxically, this was often at night. Coincident with big low pressure areas over Scotland mid month, the rain was 'torrential' (12th–15th) with winds at, or near, gale-force on 11 days, of which 8 ran from 12th to 19th without a break!

From 12th temperatures climbed to average 12° until 26th when more big 'lows' over Scotland forced the day temperatures down to 4°–7° (nights 0° with -6° on 30th).

Amidst the dank murk, water and wildness there were more pleasant days – ten of them. They were scattered evenly through the month and then concentrated at the end from the 25th. As expected, it was mostly at these times that wildlife (but not very much) appeared.

A Little Owl suddenly called from the Nether Worton road about 4.30 pm on the 8th; I did not hear him again until the 30th, when he suddenly piped up in Townsend, in the midst of a -6° frost, at 3.30 am!

A warm, bright 15th brought a Small Tortoiseshell butterfly out of hibernation. A green Woodpecker yodelled from Steepness and Fernhill hedgerows were alive with small mixed tit flocks and even a pair of Bullfinches. The 18th and 20th were also mild. A late afternoon stroll up Fernhill, on the former, produced 15 species of birds, mostly working the hedgerows before going to roost. Among the usual suspects, there were half a dozen Long-tailed Tits, the pair of Bullfinches again, and my Fernhill favourites, the Yellow Hammers. As usual, there were six, evenly scattered along the densest shortest stretches of hedgerow on the Nether Worton side of the crest. They duly bobbed and flitted, and called their little 'tric-trickle' contact calls, looking like little fingers of rich brown cake, topped with bonbons of yellow marzipan.

On 20th I walked up The Park to Barley Lane and this produced 28 species of birds, notably 37 Canada Geese, 3 Buzzards, 1 kestrel, a Meadow Pipit, five species of thrush, 4 Goldcrests, four species of crow, 5 Goldfinches and another pair of Bullfinches. A very rewarding walk!

At the end of the month, the Green Woodpeckers were calling strongly on Steepness and the Mistle Thrushes were rasping their harsh warnings from their traditional Lime Trees in the churchyard.

My final observation from another sparse month (apart from the aforementioned Little Owl) was of a Muntjac, teetering across the road at the bottom of Hempton Hills at 11.30 pm on 29th.

Thus, in deep frost, a truculent November creaked away and December skated in on a clear sunrise.

Weatherwise December was a month of two halves – the first half was wet and relatively mild, dominated by wind direction determined by the passage of weather systems. The second half was bitterly cold with snow and severe frosts as the country became locked under a great swirl of freezing air on the circulating edge of a huge 'low' over NE Europe. Cold air touched warmer air which was then forced to drop its moisture in the form of snow across the British Isles!

The first half of December:–

There was rain, often substantial and prolonged on 10 days of the first 15. From dawn on the 14th to dusk on 15th there were almost 30 hours of continuous light rain.

From SW on 1st and 2nd, the wind went to NW, then back to SW on 6th where it stayed until the 10th. Day temperatures were generally 6° to 9° with a max of 10° on the 9th. Night temps. ranged from -2° to 6°. From the 11th to 15th the wind veered to E with lower day temps. of 3° to 6° (nights 0° to -4°).

People began to remark as to how few birds came to their feeders, and to ask where all the Starlings were. The numbers of these latter are giving concern and, along with several other birds closely associated with man, are the subject of research and enquiry.

On the 3rd Ernie Murrey reported two Red Kites being harried by crows on Hempton Hills. On the 5th a Great Spotted Woodpecker was 'keck'ing in Lower Street.

Through this first part of the month there was a good flight of November and Winter Moths (*Oporinia dilutata* and *Operophtera brumata*). I always remark on these amazing little specks of life as they winnow their way slowly along hedgerows and across lanes in frosty night air, seeking their females to produce next year's tiny fawn and grey aviators. The females of the Winter Moth have only the vestiges of wings and therefore hatch, pupate, emerge as adults, mate and lay their eggs on probably the same bush on which they were raised.

These were the only notes that I made in the first 15 days of December, so 'disappeared' did everything seem to be.

On a different tack, I stayed up until the early hours of the 13th and 14th hoping to get a sight of the Geminid meteor shower. Like many hundreds of others, I was unlucky. The heavens were, of course, closed to view by general cloud cover!

The second half of December:–

Day temperatures ranged from -1° to 6°. Not on any night did the temperature rise above 0° and the

night of the 22nd dropped to -11° , colder than any night of 2008.

On the 16th the wind began to back NE. the afternoon of 17th produced a heavy snow flurry with further flurries over night to about 12mm (half in.) deep on 18th. After frost to -9° followed by a flawless sunrise on 19th, the Steepness pair of Buzzards were furiously attacked by the Steepness Rooks and driven away. The wind moved to NW in the afternoon and, with sleet falling on frozen ground, a further frost of -7° produced skating rink conditions. Another flawless sunrise on 20th, continuing so all day, saw Green Woodpeckers calling morning and afternoon on Steepness and a Kestrel hunting and calling off the Nether Worton Road. By now the thin layers of snow were packed down and frozen solid. Roads were ice-bound and treacherous.

On the 21st the wind backed to SW. Drizzle followed by about three and a half hours of powdery snow after 2.30 pm produced a depth of about 15mm. The next morning a moderate fog burned off about 9.30 am to produce a gloriously sunny day with trees and hedges a delicate lacework of frozen snow. The night (22nd) produced the deepest frost yet down to -11° .

From hazy sun, the 23rd developed a thick fog by 11.30am. Drizzle commencing about 3.00 pm turned to a mixture of rain and snow which became heavy between 4.00 and 7.00pm and then ceased. All this while there had been a very slow thaw – which now froze hard. This however didn't stop the Steepness Tawny Owls calling at night.

Very slow thawing continued through Christmas Eve which was very still, and freezing again about 4.00 pm produced a thick fog.

The sun broke through at about 9.30 am to give a day-long flawless sky, illuminating a covering of snow for Christmas Day – the first time for many decades! Hooray! The Tawnies appreciated it because they began calling again about 9.30 on Christmas night. By now snow and frost were making their effect felt and birds were flocking into gardens; and so were Foxes!

Boxing Day witnessed the competition for food as Robins contested with Tits and Chaffinches for nuts, seeds and invertebrates at both tables and feeders. One of the Buzzards adopted his old favoured perch on the west of Steepness to watch for feeding opportunities and about eighty of the Barfords Jackdaw mafia put on a good pre-roost formation flying display.

A wind change to NW and unbroken sun saw a Red Kite circling close to tree-top height at the top of Iron Down on 27th. The slow thaw continued into 28th and 29th but the wind veered to the E with a raw, cold rain. I walked up Nether Worton

road and saw my usual half dozen Yellow Hammers as they went to roost just before sunset. As I walked home in the fading light, after several hours of steady rain, the ice still lay thick at the roadsides, right across at top end of Townsend and on the shoulders of Steepness. A large system of very cold air was developing again to the north and warmer air to the south was slipping away eastward. A very active front across us promised trouble. On the 30th I was delighted to see eleven Goldfinches splitting the seed pods of my long dead Evening Primrose stalks and feeding happily on their seeds. There was overnight rain and next day, December slipped away on a windless overcast of raw, strength sapping cold.

Hoping to get up-to-date next month!

Ron Knight



1st Deddington Brownies

THIS MONTH WE SAY good bye and good luck to Sophie who is moving on to Guides. We are busy rehearsing for the Thinking day service at St Mary's Church in Banbury where we have been asked to represent Australasia. Our centenary adventures continue as we work towards our Adventure 100 badges. Brownies is still full so if you have a daughter who may be interested in joining us at some point (Brownies are age 7 to 10), please contact Brown Owl, Anne Kent, on the1stdeddingtonowls@ hotmail.co.uk, or 01869 337917 to put them on the waiting list.

Lucy Squires

Aquarius (20th January – 18th February)



New Year's resolutions proving trickier to stay on top of than you thought? That's all part of the challenge! I know it seems tough, my dears, but you can look forward to a bit of support from an unlikely source on the 28th. But don't tell anyone I told you...

Pisces (19th February – 20th March)



Oh dear. It looks like someone got you a bit of a dud Christmas gift. You thought they knew you better than that. I know it's a bit of a disappointment, my lovelies, but they did it with the best of intentions, so make sure you use it once in a while, and bring a smile to their face.



The latest news on British products in the supermarkets from 'Love British Food'.

The days of misleading **country of origin labelling** whereby the term 'produced in Britain' is used on imported meat that is processed here and then sold as 'British' could be nearing an end! Tesco has changed 1,000 food labels on meat and fish products to indicate correctly their country of origin; Morrisons is ditching the term 'produced in the UK' on products manufactured here but made with non-British meat; and Marks & Spencer is claiming to be the first major retailer to clearly state the country of origin on all its dairy products, following the introduction of country of origin labelling for all fish and meat products at the end of last year Sainsbury's have also signed up to the new practice, promising from 1 February to only label their pork products 'British' if the animals have been born, reared and slaughtered in the UK.

Look out for the new **Reared by Us** meat range in The Co-operative. Produced on the retailer's own farms, it follows the success of its Grown by Us range of products such as honey, carrots, onions and peas.

Finally, **Cornish sardines** have become the 40th UK food to be granted protected food name status by the EU in recognition of the way they are caught and their historic links with Cornwall. **Fenland celery** which is grown in black soil in the Cambridgeshire Fens around Ely and has a nuttier flavour and lighter colour than standard celery has recently also applied for the status. If successful, they will join Jersey Royal Potatoes which are currently the only UK fresh produce item to have protected status.

Seasonal foods at their best to look out for in the supermarkets this month: British winter fruit and veg is not just for Christmas; feast on it as Spring is not long in coming!: Beetroot, brussels sprouts, cauliflower, celeriac, celery, chicory, horseradish, Jerusalem artichoke, kale, leeks, parsnips, potatoes (main crop), salsify, shallots, swede and turnips. apples (stored) and pears (late). *Meat:* duck, guinea fowl, hare, mallard, partridge, pheasant, turkey and venison. *Fish:* brill, clams, cockles, coley, conger eel, haddock, halibut, hake, john dory, lemon sole, monkfish, mussels, oysters, plaice, sea bream, skate, turbot and winkles.

See at the touch of a button all the British produce currently available in the supermarkets - [\[search Want to Buy British by product or by supermarket\]](#).

Local Professional Musician



Mike Horth
available for



PIANO LESSONS, VOCAL COACHING AND MUSIC THEORY TUITION

All ages and abilities welcome.

Meadow View, Hempton Rd,
Barford St Michael
07889 015311
Email: mikehorth@mac.com

Banbury Museum Exhibitions and Events New museum phone number 01295 753752

Monthly Archaeological Finds Surgery

First Tuesday of the month 10.30am – 4.30pm

Have your archaeological finds identified and recorded by the Finds Liaison Officer for Oxfordshire & West Berkshire, Anni Byard. Anni is interested in all archaeological objects dating up to c.1700, including not just metal but also pottery, flint, stone, leather and anything else you may find. While your FLO may need to borrow your artefacts while they're recorded and identified, they will be returned to you and you will be provided with a short report telling you about your artefacts. *NB There won't be a Finds surgery in December '09 or April '10 but resuming as usual from 4 May.

Upper Heyford: Images of a Cold War Landscape

Until 6 March During normal opening times. Free
An exhibition by award-winning international photographer Richard Smith of large-scale documentary photographs behind the fence at Upper Heyford Air Base recorded in 2008. Richard Smith's work has been published in magazines such as The Observer Magazine, Marie-Claire, Figaro Magazine, ParisMatch and Time Magazine.

'Cold War Spy' Prize Trail

Until 6 March Geared to older children £1.50

Enter the Upper Heyford' exhibition as a spy, complete the mission and to return to the spymaster for your reward. Also look out for available the new 'Conflicts' Prize Trail.

Art Cart - 'Make your own Photo Frame'

Until 6 March 10am-12noon and 2-4pm on
Saturdays and 10am-12noon everyday during the Oxfordshire school holidays. Appropriate for 4-11years. £1

Inspired by the 'Upper Heyford: Images of a Cold War Landscape' exhibition to take some photos of your own, why not come to the museum and make your own photo frame to mount them in. Materials and creative ideas provided.

CHURCH SERVICES

CHURCH OF ENGLAND:

Vicar: Rev. Dr. Hugh White, 01869 349 869

**All Sunday Services in the Barfords will be at 4pm
Venues as follows:**

7th Feb – Eucharist – St. Michael

14th Feb – Valentine's Day service 10.30 Deddington

14th Feb – Evensong (BCP) – St. Michael

17th Ash Wednesday – St. John

7pm – Eucharist with imposition of Ashes

21st Feb – All Age Worship – St. Michael

28th Feb – Fairtrade Service, 10.30 Deddington

28th Feb - Eucharist – St. John

METHODIST CHAPEL:

For details of services contact:

**Rev. Dorothy Hewitson
01295 262 784**

ROMAN CATHOLIC:

Rt. Rev. Mark Jabalé, 01608 642 703

Holy Trinity Church

London Road

Chipping Norton

Emergencies: Fr. Bernard Garrett 01608 644560

MASS: Saturday - 6.00 p.m.

Sunday - 10.30 a.m.

Mon, Wed, Thurs & Fri 09.15am

Tuesdays - 7.00 p.m.

Confessions 20 minutes before Mass

POLICE CONTACT NUMBERS



Deddington Office...01869 338 444 (non-urgent)

Fax01869 337 931

Banbury. Office.... 01295 754 550

THAMES VALLEY (24Hrs) 0845 8 505505

Deddington Library

(338391)

Opening Hours

Monday: 2pm – 5pm, 5.30pm – 7.00pm

Wednesday 9.30am – 1.00pm

Thursday 2pm – 5pm, 5.30pm – 7.00pm

Tuesday & Friday – CLOSED

Saturday 9.30am – 1.00pm

BLOXHAM COUNTRY MARKET

Every Friday 10.00am – 11.30 am

In the Ex-Servicemen's Hall

Home-made Cakes, Pies & Savouries

Locally Grown Plants and produce in season

Homemade Jams, Chutneys and Preserves

Free-range Eggs - Celebration Cakes

Coffee/Tea & biscuits served 10.15 - 11.00

~ ~ ~

Hampers & Gift Boxes delivered nationwide

Laura Griffin 01869 338 572

Or Margaret Griffin 01295 720 359

Deddington Market

Saturday 27th February

9.00am – 12.30pm

A great range
of fresh meat, game, vegetables, eggs
honey, home-baked bread, cakes,
pies and lots more



Planning a Party ?

Your Village Hall offers the perfect venue

Details of Rates from the booking secretary –

Sam Harding on 07775 874040

Any day before 9.00 pm

Crockery and Cutlery also available