

BARFORD NEWS

FEBRUARY 2012

www.barfordnews.co.uk

Price 30p where sold



Barford Village Market

Open for Business Again

Under New Management!!

Saturday 18th February

In the Village Hall, 10-12 noon

All the usual stalls

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

plus Something new each month

Not forgetting Tea/Coffee & Bacon Butties!!

2012 Market Diary Dates – 3rd Saturdays (2nd Saturday in December)

17th March

21st April

19th May

16th June

21st July

August – No Market

15th September

20th October

17th November

8th December

So come along and support YOUR local market

All Profits for Village Hall Maintenance

Parish Council Notes

THE MEETING TOOK PLACE at 7.30pm on 4th January at Barford Village Hall and was attended by Cllr T Bullard, Cllr P Eden, Cllr L Styles, Cllr S Turner and Cllr R Woolgrove. Also attending Mrs R Watts (Clerk), County Cllr R Jelf and District Cllr P O'Sullivan. Apologies for absence received from Cllr R Hobbs (Chairman), Cllr S Best.

Stopping-up order Woodworms Hilton: The Clerk had not received any correspondence from the Department for Transport regarding a revised Stopping-up Order at Woodworms Hilton. Councillors could therefore not discuss the matter.

Parish Matters

Charges for Parish Elections: The clerk has received correspondence from Cherwell District Council regarding new charges for Parish Elections. Charges currently stand at currently £1.05 per elector

New charges for Parish Elections

Uncontested Election per electoral area £39

Scheduled Election; £913.31

By-election (where the parish requests poll cards) £1,394.95

By-election (where the parish declines poll cards) £1,029.07

Dog bins: Mr S Wood had reported that the dog bin in Townsend/Netherworton Road had become full to overflowing over the Christmas period. The Clerk had informed Cherwell District Council and they had said that the matter would be dealt with immediately.

Maintenance of Street Furniture. Ms M Young has proposed that the Parish Council should replace the VE/VJ day bench outside the village hall with a more robust model to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee. It was agreed to defer discussion until a second estimate for repairs had been obtained.

Grass Cutting Tender. The Clerk reported that an advert for the 3-year grass cutting contract has been placed in Barford News. The advert will also appear in the Banbury Guardian and Banbury Review on 12th January. She will send copies of the advert to local tradesmen

Repairs. The Clerk reported that she has put an advert in Barford News inviting painters, carpenters and builders to contact her with a view to being put on a Parish Council Register of tradesmen willing to quote for ad hoc PC repairs.

Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge - campaign to protect 2012 outdoor recreational spaces in communities as a permanent living legacy of the Diamond Jubilee. It was agreed that the Parish Council should apply for West Close to become a designated Queen Elizabeth II recreation area. The name, West Close, will remain.

Planning Matters

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

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

Applications:

Satchell, Crown House, Church Lane, Barford St John, 2 storey and single storey extension to the North

Hindle, Turnstile House, The Rock, Barford St Michael, demolition of outbuilding and garden wall, replacing with one and a half storey extension with glazed link to original house; re-opening of existing blocked up internal doorway. Fiona Bartholomew, Planning Consultant to Mr & Mrs Hindle, has issued an Invitation for Councillors to meet her on site on 6th January. The Clerk reported that Cllr Hobbs has confirmed that he will attend. District Cllr O'Sullivan said that he has received a complaint from a member of the public about the proposed planning application for the above.

Approved:

Moore, The Mill, Lower Street, Barford St Michael, erection of ground mounted pv solar panels and removal of trees

Satchell, Crown House, Church Lane, Barford St John; conversion of attic space, removal of chimney stack

Nickell, The Old Bakehouse, Horn Hill, Barford St Michael, single storey extension

Any Other Business

Cllr Bullard reported that dog fouling in West Close continues to be a problem. The Clerk has contacted Cherwell District Council and they are carrying out patrols with a view to fining guilty dog owners. A further notice is to be put in Barford News

The Clerk reported that Cllr Hobbs was willing to contact the Community Relations Officer at RAF Croughton to obtain permission for the Parish Council to light a beacon on the airfield to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee. Other sites were discussed but it was agreed that, in the first instance, RAF Croughton should be approached.

The next meeting is on 1st February 2012.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Thank you

To

The Townsend couple
For their generous donation
Of £20.00
For Barford News funds

My Dancing Years

A Talk By
Rev. Christine Turner



**7.30pm Wednesday 8th February
In The Village Hall**

In her younger days, Christine was the lead female dancer with the world famous 'Frank and Peggy Spencer Formation Team'. The team appeared many times on BBC TV in 'Come Dancing' which was the very popular forerunner to today's Strictly. Christine was later involved in TV production for many years before becoming the vicar, that we know and love today. Christine, now lives in Milcombe with her husband Steve.

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

Barford & Deddington Rainbows

WE FINISHED THE YEAR off by making sparkly (and jingly) reindeer antlers and having a Christmas party which was organised for us by Tilly and Sophie, two Deddington Guides who are working for their Baden Powell Trefoil Award. The Rainbows especially enjoyed the pinata!



We're looking forward to lots of activities this term, including a Burns Night where we'll try haggis, bashed neeps and tatties. It's usually quite a hit! Later on we celebrate Thinking Day. We'll make food, crafts and play games from around the world and think about the Rainbows who live in those countries.

We run a waiting list, so please contact me in good time if your daughter would be interested in joining us.

Hazel Neal 01869 337822

Cuppa Mornings A Huge Success

WHAT STARTED as a bit of an experiment in February 2010 has proved to be a great success. Between 20 and 30 people have been attending the Thursday 'cuppa mornings', enjoying the sunshine in the village garden as weather permits or inside the hall chatting with neighbours and friends.



At just £1.00 for a mug of coffee/tea and biscuit with as many refills as you can manage, it has to be the best deal for miles around. Yet, despite the bargain price, and after paying hall rental charges, the three young mums have raised over £500 in just under two years which has been enough to benefit the village in various ways:

Picnic Bench for Hall Garden	£100.00
Xmas Lunch donation 2010 -	£120.00
Donation to MacMillan morning -	£40.00
Village Hall Window Appeal -	£166.00
Xmas Lunch donation 2011 -	£100.00
New electric urn for Hall -	£30.00
Donation of bacon, tea, cakes to	
2011 MacMillan morning.	

So for those of you who haven't tried it yet, why not make it a New Year Resolution to call in one Thursday morning so see what it's all about. Once you do, you'll be back for more!!

**CUPPA MORNINGS
EVERY THURSDAY 0930 – 1200 Noon
IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

BLOXHAM BRITISH LEGION



POETRY & PROSE EVENING

(WITH A MILITARY FLAVOUR)

FRIDAY 9TH MARCH 2012 @ 7PM

BLOXHAM EX-SERVICEMEN'S HALL

TICKETS FOR THIS EVENT WILL GO ON SALE

FROM MONDAY 30TH JANUARY 2012.

£5.00 PER TICKET

AVAILABLE FROM:

BLOXHAM POST OFFICE (HIGH STREET)

BREAD AND MILK (CHURCH STREET)

ROD WALLINGTON Tel: (01295) 720385

Please come along and support your local branch on what promises to be an entertaining evening!



Strategic Tenancy Policy Consultation

Cherwell District Council is inviting residents to give their views on how affordable homes should be provided in the district. A 'Strategic Tenancy Policy' consultation was launched 21 December and will run for six weeks. Feedback and comments are invited from individuals about what they believe is the best use of housing stock, and how we support the needs of the most vulnerable people in our society.

To make your views known visit <http://consult.cherwell.gov.uk/portal>

Officers will be available to answer questions during the consultation at:

Kidlington Exeter Hall. Tuesday 17 January
1.30pm - 4pm

Banbury Tourist Information Centre. Tuesday 24 January
9.30am - 1pm.



1st Deddington Guides

A QUICK TRIP THROUGH the latter part of 2011 which now seems an age away We planted hyacinth bulbs in pots to give to others to brighten the winter months. We held a super film night – 3 age groups – each in a different venue – we turned it into a pyjama party and ate lots of chips and popcorn!



The Bumble Bee patrol organised our Christmas party this year and we made pass the parcels for other children's groups in the village to enjoy at their Christmas parties.

Other Christmas good deeds involved helping deliver cards for the scout/guide postal service and out thanks to Jo Churchyard, Scout Leader, for all the work she and the family put in. Thanks also to you for using our service and help our fund raising. Guides Lucy and Ella Ward, Yolanda Martin and Tilly Neal (along with Bronte, Connie, Scout Phillip and Ranger Natalie) helped the party at Wardington House Nursing Home go with a swing. They helped with games and tea and sang and played carols. The Panda Patrol organised and ran the Brownie Christmas Party - no mean feat – they did a marvellous job!

Two guides Sophie Preston and Tilly Neal organised and ran the Rainbows Christmas Party – a great time had by all!

Both guides are nearing completion of their Baden-Powell Award and as part of this – along with Natalie Trinder – now moved on to Rangers. They attended an adventure weekend in the New Forest. The large country house – Foxlease – is surrounded by forest – accommodation was very smart – ensuite, shower, great food, especially puddings. 31 guides came from all over Southern England, including some who had flown in from Guernsey! Many activities were on offer, climbing, archery, obstacle courses, crafts and an American Night! A great experience and challenge.

So we launch ourselves into 2012 – we have a promise ceremony soon and will all sign our new guide links that the girls have come up with as a focus for how we conduct ourselves at meetings.

Many exciting projects coming up – each patrol has already started on their own plans. Happy New Year to All!

Guiders

Maggie Rampley 01295 810069

Marian Trinder 01869 340806

Catherine Blackburn (Banbury)

WILLOW GARDEN STRUCTURES WORKSHOP

With Sue Benenson

At the Village Hall

SATURDAY 24th MARCH
or SUNDAY 25th MARCH



The tutor is well known, and will aim to help us to make **ONE** structure in the morning and **ANOTHER** in the afternoon. These could be wigwams, trellis' or other types of supports. We will be free to 'design' our own. We could also incorporate our own dogwood or other flexible branches.

COST for a whole day £40 is based on 10 attending and Includes all materials

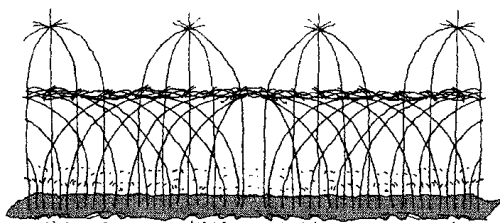
If you are interested, please contact:

Gunilla on 01295 720 521 or

gt.designs@btinternet.com

asap with the date that you would prefer. Sue's diary fills up quickly so we need to book very soon.

£10 Deposit required with booking



Sue is a living willow practitioner, making large-scale, landscape pieces for public and private clients. She creates giant processional figures to order or in collaboration.



Explore the Chauvet Cave in France.....

Come to **Barford Picture House** on

February 25th

The film 'CAVE OF FORGOTTEN DREAMS' by Werner Herzog, 2011, explores this amazing cave, only discovered in 1994. It is a repository of the earliest known examples of human art dating back 35,000 years! Having been sealed off for millennia the paintings look as though they were painted yesterday. There were severe restrictions on filming due to atmosphere and introduction of light into the cave. The public are not allowed to enter so this will be your only chance to see inside! The images are amazing and magical.



The film has been the highest-grossing independently released documentary of 2011.

Film starts at 7.45, doors open at 7.15. Usual beverages provided or bring your own favourite tipple.

See you there,

Gunilla

Would You Buy A Pew??

WE'VE SPENT A GREAT DEAL of money recently on St Michael's Church to keep it in good repair. Having done that, we should be looking to make the building work well for congregation and community.

To that end the Parochial Church Council has been considering removing the pews at the west end of the church. We don't actually need the pews to accommodate worshippers - on the very few occasions when the church is likely to be full we can bring in chairs - and we would gain a space useful for social gatherings after church services and at other times, for displays relating to the church's work and convenient for young families during worship.

Removing the pews might even make some money. We'd like to know what Barfordians think. Do let me know - and whether you might be up for buying a pew.

Hugh White

Vicar

01869 349869

vicarhugo@hotmail.com



Tony's Birthday Bash Saturday 4th February

I'll be celebrating my birthday in

The George from 8pm.

Come along and help me celebrate and
enjoy two live bands –

Chameleon and the Paperback Writers.

Buy me a drink and take bets on how many
I can knock back before I forget which band
I'm playing in.

See you there –

Tony Ecclestone

Poppy Appeal: Final Results 2011

ONCE MORE there was another super result for the Barfords' Poppy Appeal. The 2011 total collection amounted to £635.06, a £26.46 increase on last year. Barfordians can pat themselves on the back; their contribution to the Poppy Appeal has now increased every year for the last 10 years at least.

As to the sources of the collection: £466.97 came from door to door collections; £34.49 from the Post Office and The George, £78.60 from the Remembrance Service collection and donations of £30.00 from the Parish Council and £25.00 from The Fernhill Club.

The Royal British Legion thanks 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 to provide essential financial help for the wounded and their families remains very important. Fortunately Barfordians are well aware of the reasons for giving to this very worthwhile appeal.

Thanks must also go to those uncomplaining regular volunteers John Langlands, Barbara Greenwood, Jim and Aggie Booth, Ann Budd, Helen Honour, Peter Floyd (collecting for the first time), Barbara Alt and Martin Winter who collected your money. All were very persuasive in encouraging Barfordians to be generous.

Again thanks to you all.

Bernard Lane.

Poppy Appeal Organizer for the Barfords

Deddington PFSU and Village Nursery

HAPPY NEW YEAR! This term the Nursery children are learning about numbers and talking about the story 'Each Peach Pear Plum'. The



PFSU children are finding about all kinds of animals and celebrating Chinese New Year. We hope to have visits from lots of friendly pets!

Our fund-raising team have arranged a packed programme for the term ahead:

The annual quiz night will be held on **Thursday 26th January** at 8pm, at the British Legion in High Street, Deddington. Tickets are £4 per team member (maximum team size of 8) and are available from the PFSU or Nursery or on the door.

By popular demand the **Formula Fast go karting** evening is also back. We are holding a 12 kart / 4 person per kart, 2 hour 'Le Mans rules' endurance race at Formula Fast in Banbury, on **Friday 2nd March at 6pm**. The cost per 4-person team will be £210 including a buffet on the night. Please contact Neil on neilskinner2011@gmail.com if you are interested.

Lastly, we will be holding another **jumble sale** in Deddington Church on **Saturday 3rd March** from 11am to 1pm. Donations of good quality bric a brac, children's clothes, adult's clothes, and toys would be welcomed.

Thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas events (two very successful nativity plays, parties and decorations days) and to everyone who has supported our activities over recent months. You are too many to list but know who you are! Our Christmas hamper raffle raised just over £700 and our Pamper Night was also a huge success with around £1,500 being raised. We were also delighted to receive donations from the George Michael event and Portuguese wine tasting, both held during November. Thank you also to Gus and Karen Watt for your on-going support.

Lucy Squires, 337484

Bloxham Country Market

Re-Opens

Friday 3rd February

10.00 – 11.30

Ex-Servicemen's Hall

1st Deddington Brownies

SEVERAL NEW BROWNIES have joined us this term. Welcome to them and good luck to our 'old' Brownies who have moved onward and upwards.



We began the term with campfire songs and hot chocolate. The Owls have lots of plans for the new year, including celebrating Thinking Day, Valentines Day, promise evenings and crafts. We will be working towards our World Guiding and Friend to Animals badges.

Please contact Brown Owl on the1stdeddingtonowls@hotmail.co.uk if you have a girl who would like to join Brownies when she is 7. We always have a waiting list!

Lucy Squires, 338442

Basketball Taster Sessions At Spiceball

FUNDING SECURED by Cherwell District Council from Sport England means there's a chance for young people to try out two new sports for free at Spiceball Leisure Centre. The money from Sportivate - a Sport England initiative - will cover the cost of venue hire and coaching.



There are four free taster sessions of basketball on 7, 14, 21 and 28 February, from 5.30pm to 6.30pm. These are for 14 to 18 year olds. It's basketball in a fun five against five format and you can also sign up individually or as a team. To book ring 01295 221803.

For more information on these and other activities email tom.gubbins@cherwell-dc.gov.uk, phone 01295 221720, or visit www.cherwell.gov.uk



The 'Cuppa Morning' girls invite you to their

EASTER



Saturday 7th April 5pm till 8pm

All Ages Welcome

All Tickets £1.00 Available at Thursday Cuppa Mornings

Or from Tomasin 338667, Zalie 338152, or Jo 338 844

Under 16's must be accompanied by an adult

Licensed Bar - Kids swap their ticket for a soft drink

Hot Dogs & Burgers for Sale

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

Then join us at our

Sewing Workshops

Every Monday Evening, 6.30 – 9.30pm

In the Village Hall

No Teacher – Sharing Knowledge

Over a cuppa and friendly chat

**Just bring along whatever you are
working on**

Cost £3.00 (£2.00 concessions)

Dog Fouling Continues

DESPITE PLEAS FOR dog owners to keep an eye on the pets and to clean up after them, several areas of the village still show evidence that dog owners are not behaving responsibly.



West Close is a particular problem at the moment and the Parish Council find that unacceptable, as children are encouraged to play there. Cherwell District Council has increased its patrols to try to catch owners who offend. The matter will be discussed further at the February meeting.

If you allow a dog in your charge to foul any area to which the public has access you are committing an offence.

Our parish council provides bins for the use of dog owners. By law dog owners must pick up any mess made by their dogs. If owners do not clear up behind their dog and evidence is available, Cherwell District Council will investigate and prosecute them.

The penalty for not clearing up behind your dog is up to £1,000 if taken to court, but there is also provision for a fixed penalty scheme with a fine of £50 in England.

Reporting an incident of dog fouling

You can report an incident of dog fouling in confidence to CDC Environmental Services 01295 227007. The dog warden will investigate any fouling allegations within the district.

Christmas Ceilidh

ANOTHER WONDERFUL evening and everyone had a great time. The Old Mettle Band, with caller Verna, did a great job and the Nepalese food provided by the Buffet Company did not disappoint – the queue for seconds seemed almost longer than the first!

As if music, dancing and food wasn't enough, the 'mummer's play' enacted by local 'volunteers' had the audience spellbound – makes a change to see Basil with his clothes on!



The amount raised for the Kathmandu orphanage was £450.00 and everyone had a great time! Another fun village event!

Village Carol Singers

WE HAD A GREAT evening singing carols at The George, and then



a lovely mild evening for the 28 carollers who went singing around the village. A total of £234.56 was raised over the two evenings, which has been donated to Spurgeons Young Carers Service Oxfordshire. This charity provides young carers with outings and other support and advice etc...

Thanks to Mike Horth, Tony Ecclestone and the Old Mettle Dance Band (Stephen & Verna Wass, Bryan Martin, Chris Mitchell and Meg Graham) for giving up their time to play for us at The George..

Thank you to everyone who sang lustily, gave so generously and made it possible once again for the good folk of the Barfords to share a little of what they have to enrich the lives of others living in our communities

Many thanks
Glynnis

**LORRAINE's THE NAME
for
BOOKING THE VILLAGE HALL**

**We now have a
NEW BOOKING CLERK**

Her name is Lorraine Simons
For all Bookings please contact her on
07866 808626

We say a big 'thank you' to Sam Harding
for all her hard work in dealing with
bookings.

VHMC

Fire Station News

HELLO AND A HAPPY and safe
New Year from all of us at
the Fire Station.



Last month we received 18 calls, 2 Property fires, 4 RTC, 1 Chimney, and 10 calls to stand by at other stations, these calls took us to 175 calls for the year.

We hope you had a good Christmas and New Year, and your children received the presents they wanted from Father Christmas, we know that most games these days are hi Tec and require somewhere to plug in the mains electrics so please don't overload a plug socket by plugging in an extension lead and loading it up, this can cause some plugs to get hot and over heat especially if left plugged in all night when there is no need, and in these harder times it is costing you money as well.

We have welcomed a new 'to us' whole time support officer Matt Smith who will be here to help with all sorts of things such as the day to day running of the station as support for WM Chris Fenemore and the rest of us, fire safety, training, and if necessary ride on the pump, so we are keeping him busy.

Crewing George Williamson our new recruit is going through his induction and we hope will be on the run with us by mid-March, we will keep you informed about his progress.

We hope you won't need us this year but we will be ready if you do.

Have a safe and happy year from us all at the Fire Station.

CM Pete Taylor.

Thatching – A Roof Top Bread Bin

THE W.I. WELCOMED a record number of members, and guests to the village hall to listen to the speaker, John Letts, discuss the diverse but overlapping worlds of thatching, straw production and baking.

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

After completing a degree in Biology and Environmental Science in his native Canada, John moved to the UK with his future wife and embarked on a period of further study at Reading University, where he gained a PHD in Archeo-Botany. John is employed as a Thatcher and a Thatching Consultant and has worked the length and breadth of the UK and France, mainly on listed buildings. He told us that over the last twenty five years there has been a revolution in thatching with a radical shift away from the use of the traditional material, wheat straw,, to water reed, which is mainly imported from China.

Modern farming techniques produce short, low quality straw which is very soft and which doesn't last for long upon the roof. Close examination of the plant species in the layers of thatch on an old roof, can provide a history of what was growing in our fields through the years. The bottom layers can go back as far as 1250. The oldest, medieval layers, which are normally covered in soot, as the chimney was only introduced in the 1600s, are predominantly made up of two species of wheat with a pinch of rye. In colder times, the proportion of rye visibly increased. A chance meeting with a retiring colleague over 15 years ago enabled John to save a hugely important collection of rare, heritage seeds which he has used to recreate a medieval seed mix and for the last 15 years he has been growing the tall, old, low nitrogen input varieties of wheat. The grain is used to produce bread by a baker in Wheatley and the straw is used for thatching. A true evangelist he believes that the future of arable farming in uncertain climatic conditions lies with the mixed wheat fields which are better able to withstand the vagaries of the weather, rather than the monocultures which we see in our fields today. He has often come into conflict with DEFRA, the organisation charged with monitoring what is grown where but he continues to spread the message! A truly inspirational speaker. Our next meeting will be on the 8th February when the speaker will be the Rev. Christine Turner and her subject is "My Dancing Years". Please come.

PE

(Those who attended will know that we had a bit of a pantomime start to the evening, with one speaker turning up a day early, another turning up a year early, none of which was due to our booking system!,- happily, all was well in the end and we had a most enjoyable evening! Ed.)

Deddington CE Primary School

As we come to the end of our first term of the new year we are really looking forward to our school production. Mrs Rumsby has been working extremely hard to prepare the 130 children who are in Aladdin- as usual everyone involved is committed to making sure we put on the best show we possibly can. All the children involved have shown great commitment and enthusiasm and I am sure they are going to be fabulous!

Also this term some classes have been getting out and about: Year 6 have taken part in Junior Citizens at Rewly Road fire station in Oxford, whilst there they were able to experience situations they may find themselves in as they get older and how to cope with them, for example, how to make a 999 call and what to do if approached by a stranger; Year 2 have visited St John's Museum in Warwick as part of their Victorians project, this included finding out what school life was like for a Victorian child; and F1 have really been enjoying their Animals topic, they have visited the vets in Deddington as well as the Natural History Museum in Oxford.

Mrs Jane Cross, Deputy Head



An Appetite for Apples!



This youngster has been entertaining residents of Lower Street and Mill Lane as he/she visits their gardens in broad daylight to feast on apples that have been put out for the Blackbirds.

Or a Passion for Pansies

A slightly more timid pair of adult Roe Deer have been working their way around gardens at dead of night! So far they have visited gardens on The Green, Townsend, High Street and Lower Street, devouring pansies as they go! Why pansies? No-one seems to know, but if yours have disappeared this could be the reason why!!

Barford Green Garden Club

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

JUST A REMINDER that the AGM will take place on 27th February, commencing 7.30pm in BSM village hall. This is our first meeting of 2012 and we will welcome you with a delicious glass of mulled wine!

Hopefully by the time you read this you would have received your AGM paperwork and 2012 subscription renewal letter; if not, please bear with me as January is my busiest month at work so the paperwork may not land on your door mat until the first few days in February.

As already advised in December Barford News 3 members of the committee will not be re standing so we are looking for enthusiastic new committee members. Please either contact me before the AGM or just turn up on the evening offering to stand

This is your garden club so any ideas re speakers, visits etc please bring with you to the AGM

I look forward to seeing everyone on the evening of Monday 27th

Jill Bunce 337577 or jill@ridleymarreco.co.uk



World Expert On Byzantine Empire To Speak In Deddington

ON THURSDAY, 9 FEBRUARY at 7.30pm Dame Averil Cameron will present the seventh object in 'A History of Christianity in 15 Objects' in Deddington Church. Dame Averil was a contributor the original radio series, *A History of the World in One Hundred Objects*, and is one of the world's leading experts on the Byzantine Empire. She was Warden of Keble College, Oxford, until 2010 and previously taught at King's College London, where she was the first Director of the Centre for Hellenic Studies, and we're incredibly fortunate to have her coming to speak to us about the Icon of the Triumph of Orthodoxy. The icon is one of the greatest treasures of the British Museum, and it depicts the annual Festival of Orthodoxy, celebrating the overthrow of Iconoclasm in AD 843. Professor Dame Averil Cameron will use this object to illustrate the politics and drama of the imperial Byzantine court. Admission is free, and all are very welcome. For more information go to www.historyofchristianity.org.uk or contact Dan on curatedan@gmail.com.



Life in South Africa

THE FOLLOWING is a paragraph extracted from a 'Christmas Letter' to Ann Beesley from a friend in South Africa. The friend is a woman in her 80's

'I was just beginning to hope that the summer would pass without too many snake dramas, only a rabbit killed by an Egyptian cobra and Katya having a very near miss with a spitting cobra, when near disaster struck at the end of January. I had just returned with the dogs from our evening walk, fed and brushed them and gone upstairs leaving them to follow. . It was dusk and I had just taken my shoes off when I heard Josephine scream, a real scream of pain and terror coming from the direction of the back stairs. I ran, as fast as my mending hip would let me and at first I could not see what her problem was, she appeared to be sitting near the foot of the stairs but even as I ran down to her she stopped crying, her tongue lolled out and her eyes bugged out, then I took in the 2 monster coils round her body and at the same time saw her hind leg was almost engulfed in the mouth of a huge python. I was bare footed but, as luck would have it, I still had my belt on with snake gun, knife and cell phone..I knew it was only a very few seconds before Josephine's heart would be stopped and that I must not make any mistakes. I pressed the muzzle of the gun into the side of the upper jaw aiming up towards the brain, the explosion was deafening but the coils slackened slightly, snakes do not die quickly, even so it took my entire strength to pull the coils enough to enable her to breathe again, which she did with great gulps. Then I had to get her hind leg out of its mouth which was still clamped tightly shut. Pythons have a huge number of small, razor sharp teeth, not with venom but a lot of bacteria and their breath is foul. The only way to pull the jaws apart to release her was to grab them with my hands and in the process the snake managed to clamp down on my left hand; so there I was stuck too. I could still get my cell phone with my free hand so I called Colin to come quick, knowing that it would take him at least 20 minutes, but then I got my head working and managed to get the blade of the knife to open the jaw sufficiently to release my hand, and then her leg. By the time Colin arrived, with Ken whom he had called en route, I was washing Josephine and myself in a bucket with disinfectant. It took their combined efforts .to. move the by then, more or less dead snake, it was about 16ft long and of a massive girth, a female as males do not get that size, possibly the mother of last year's 7 pythons that I had to deal with.'

My nerves were still somewhat jangled when a few days later something cold landed on my arm when I was reading upstairs, it was a large and beautiful pink toad come visiting but it gave me a fearful fright and I let out an awful yell, luckily no one but

the dogs could hear me. Despite repeated journeys to the garden this delightful animal persisted in his choice of home and I became used to my "lap toad" and his moth hunting expeditions when the lights went on.

(Josephine referred in this article is a rather large dog!)

Mid-Week break in Bournemouth

available due to double booking.

Tuesday 21st – Thurs 23rd Feb 2012

2 nights rooms only at Ramada Hotel.

Double Room.

On offer - £40.

Contact: Carole Coppin

01869 338937.

Carole.coppin@hotmail.co.uk

1st Deddington Scout Group

Cubs

WE HAVE ONE new member at the start of the new year, Joe, we hope he will enjoy his time with us.



It seems a long time since we broke up for Christmas by which time the Cubs had gained their Home Safety badge, made decorations & worry dolls as part of their fitness award.

Jo Churchyard C.S.L. 338071

jochurchyard@hotmail.com

Sierra-Charlie-Oscar-Uniform-Tango-Sierra

Yes, we're tackling the communicator badge, with morse code, walkie talkies & mobile phones.

Before the holidays the Scouts made bath bombs, took part in an inter patrol quiz night & went Scuba diving! The Banbury Scuba Club gave them an unforgettable experience, for which they also gain the water-sports badge.

Pete Churchyard S.L. 338071

pete.churchyard@btinternet.com

The Christmas post raised £201.53, many thanks to Eagles, Barford Post Office & Deddington Library for hosting the boxes & all the Scouts, Cubs & Guides who delivered the cards & of course everyone who used our service.

Upton House and Gardens 2012



Upton House launches its 2012 calendar with a wonderful array of special events for all the family. This magnificent local property is taking you back to the 1930's when Lord Bearstead, chairman of Shell, owned the house and you can discover more about the family and immerse your self in 1930s living and a millionaires country house party. You can read the papers, pick up the phone and listen to family stories and view his renowned art collection of internationally renowned artists. The property caters for all the family, with children's activities going on all through the year and wonderful gardens hidden below the Ha Ha!

So whether it's the kid's art club or Easter egg trail, a jazz evening, a herbal workshop, the tulip weekend or taking part in the 'millionaire's mansion murder' there is always a reason to visit and enjoy the different aspects of Upton House and gardens....your local treasure!

Next 3 months events.

11-13 Feb	Sugar & Spice and all things nice – children's cooking - booking essential.
17 th Feb	Kids Art Club 11.30 – 3pm ...only £2 for children
23 rd Feb	Herbal workshop 10am – 12 noon - booking essential.
10 th Mar	Spring Art Focus
24 th Mar	The History Papers – Come and explore the archives & help in the conservation of the Library.
6-9 th Apr	Easter Egg Trails with Ricky Rabbit 12-4pm. Great fun for all the family and only £2 for Children
13 th Apr	Kids Art Club 11.30 -3pm - booking essential.
13-15 th Apr	Amazing Tulip Weekend and wonderful arrangements in the house – a great way to celebrate the beginning of spring
23 rd Apr	Body Beautiful Herbal Workshop. - booking essential.
29 th April	Opening Ceremony of the Local Olympics.

For more events later in the year check the website
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/uptonhouse

Don't just drive by ... Drive in!

Battery Recycling



RESIDENTS WILL SOON be able to include batteries with their kerbside recycling thanks to an initiative by Cherwell District Council.



The council currently collects about seven tonnes of batteries per year, through its 34 recycling sites, which brings in revenue of around £1,400.

But the hope is that by providing each household with a handy bag it will encourage them to send many more of their batteries for recycling rather than to landfill.

By next year a quarter of all batteries must be collected but the figure will rise to 45 per cent by 2016. This is important because many batteries contain harmful metals such as lead, mercury or cadmium. If sent to landfill they break down and the metals can leak into the ground, potentially causing water pollution.

Residents with spent batteries simply drop them in the bag and once it is full, put it out with their bins.

When this is picked up collectors they will deliver a new bag. These are being funded by the council's battery recycling contractor, Valpak.

Cllor James Macnamara, said: "Everyone has an obligation to protect the environment but we want to make that as easy as possible. "Along with the winter edition of Cherwell Link, all homes should receive a battery bag which they can start using straight away.

After Christmas there are sure to be thousands more batteries in use and we want to try and ensure as many as possible are recycled." Other types of bag – such as sandwich bags – can also be used or batteries can still be dropped in the containers at recycling banks.

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

Batteries to be collected are AAA, AA, C and D as well as button, mobile phone, laptop and rechargeables. Car batteries must be taken to garages, scrap metal facilities or Oxfordshire County Council's recycling facilities.

NATURE NOTES 102

H EY HO! SO CHRISTMAS IS OVER, and we are already fifteen days into January of 2012! Is it me, or is time pacing ever faster? Never mind, whatever it's doing, let's catch up on Nature's goings-on in November and December.

November began on a bright overcast with very light SW airs. Bright sun broke through by mid-morning, quickly followed by cloud building strongly around mid-day. Almost as quickly, it cleared again to a sunny afternoon, with a Raven croaking near Rignell, and a flawless sunset. Another lovely Autumn day of 15°!

During the night the wind switched to a cold SE taking the temperature down to 1.5°, but slowly building cloud once more produced a mild day of 14°. Nevertheless, Buzzards and Green Woodpeckers were noisy here and there and small numbers of Fieldfare and Redwings were sprinkled in the treetops. On the 3rd an incoming area of unsettled weather produced a rainy night of 11° and caused the wind to veer slowly to S on the 3rd. It spelled a down-turn in temperatures, especially at night, with the wind variable and all over the compass for the next ten days. On the 5th and 6th it went up to due N, chilly by day and with a ground frost of 2° on the 5th.

The 7th and 8th I recorded as 'Miserable, drear, an almost imperceptible drizzle from day-long heavy overcast, on a raw breeze at NE veering ESE. . . . Real November!'

Now the wind wobbled about between SE and SW until the 13th, nights averaging 8°. Days were a little milder (11° or 12°) but everything (except the odd errant Ladybird) was keeping in shelter. Only the Steepness Green Woodpeckers announced their presence, plus on the 11th, a Tawny Owl hooting below Steepness. On the 13th, almost as if it knew we were in need of cheering-up, a Red Kite appeared, effortlessly soaring over St. Michael. The 15th was a surprisingly lovely interlude. A misty start, cleared by an easterly breeze, it produced an afternoon of unbroken warm sunshine of 15°, not however, reflected by a raw night of 3°!

The wind gradually settled at S over the next week but did little for warmth as temperatures slid away erratically to 8.5° (day) and 0° (night). Through much of this week Tawny Owls were voluble all around St. Michael village, but were mobile and could not be reliably counted. Naturally, the Green Woodpeckers were rowdy on Steepness and, always exciting, a pair of Ravens travelled north-eastward on most mornings! Never did I see them return, so they must have done so by a different route.

At this time people were starting to ask where all the small birds had got to. I had no answer to this as

they appeared no less scarce out in the country hedgerows. I suppose it possible that many had made a short-distance migration toward the milder west country but I have no evidence of this.

The 22nd produced another blip down to -3° on a glittery, starry night as Orion the Hunter, with his jewelled sword-belt, was swaggering up from the east. Fleeing before him to the west was Cygnus the Swan, trailing behind her the Seven Sisters, the Pleiades, in maidenly fear of the giant.

And now this strange, dithering wind wobbled up to NW and then back to SW on the 24th where it more or less stayed until month's end. Day temperatures hovered around the 10° – 11° mark, but were wildly erratic at night with -5° on the 27th and 9° on the 28th!

This last week of the month was not without its excitements – Messrs. Steve Cox and David Rogers had a female Merlin cross their path on Flight Hill on the 24th and Bas Butler then followed a male Merlin down Flight Hill on the 26th! In addition, the female Hen Harrier was seen again, also on the 26th, close to the western edge of the parish.

And so, on the night of the 30th a largely dank, not-much-doing sort of November rained itself into December and a corresponding drop in temperatures.

During this week covering end/start of Nov/Dec, several people, including Mrs. Diana Muirhead who reported it, saw a Short-eared Owl ensconced in permanent set-aside at Barford St. John. This is a very infrequent and erratic visitor around the Barfords (it favours heaths, scrubland and moors) and comes from Northern Europe where its numbers depend largely on the breeding success of Lemmings. Unfortunately, when Bas Butler and I went to check it out, it had moved on, probably frightened off by local shooting.

The winds of December occupied the western half of the compass for the whole month. Eleven nights were recorded below freezing point, mostly -3° or -4°. The first three days started with white frosts followed by hazy sun with a very seasonal feel. Even so, day temps. ranged from 4° on 2nd to 9° on the 3rd. As can be imagined, Nature held the *status quo* and everything kept well in cover except for the usual customers at bird feeders for this period – and as I mention every year in my amazement at their resilience, on a raw cold, drizzly night, there, flickering slowly along the edges of our country lanes, were the little buff-coloured Winter Moth males searching for one of their wingless females. On the leafless twigs, they will mate, ensuring that we can again marvel at their robust frailty, through next winter's frosts and dankness.

Suddenly, on the 11th, several characters woke up! A Kestrel hovered in the breeze on Steepness, a Green Woodpecker was noisy in the Small-leaved Limes in the churchyard, and at night, two Tawny Owls were warbling sweet nothings to each other from the Oaks below Steepness. Next day Kestrels seemed to be all over the place – Hempton, Ilbury, Steepness, the Bloxham road past the airfield! Then all went quiet again.

On the 11th, it being cold but with fair visibility, Bas Butler and I decided to go and see what was out and about around St. John. The answer was 'Rather a lot'. First there were several Buzzards – one at the Dingles, one at Rignell and two at a familiar breeding area on Mead Farm. The female of this pair is a very large bird indeed and she appeared to be sparring with a somewhat smaller male, whilst the resident male flew unconcernedly a little way off. At the same time, a Raven in one of the Oaks was avidly croaking encouragement to the contestants. Suddenly the action stopped and the smaller 'Buzzard' broke away and flew slowly towards us. Almost at once the Raven flew out of his tree (it was a male) and over us in front of the 'Buzzard'. As this latter drew closer, it became obvious that it wasn't a Buzzard. Long, fingered, angled wings, long barred tailed, a little smaller and much more slightly built than a Buzzard, it was obvious in detail what it was – yes, it was the female Hen Harrier again! A super view as it approached, passed overhead and, almost languidly, away to the west! And of course, there were the usual Green Woodpeckers along this row of Oaks and at the Dingles and Rignell. But good sightings weren't over for me that day. I finished up with a beautiful Barn Owl perched on a roadside post as I drove past at night at the top of Irondown.

The next day, Mrs. Shirley Cederland got perhaps the best experience of all – she looked out to her bird feeders, and there on the fence was a tiny, grey-blue male Merlin, 'Scarcely bigger than a Blackbird' said Shirley! Where he went to roost I can't imagine because the night was rocked by lashing rain and gales as was the next morning!

The period from the 13th to the 18th was cold, with nights around -3° to -4° and days around 5° . There were more squalls and gales with rain, hail and sleet. On the 16th, we awoke to a clear sunrise that revealed a sprinkling of wet snow. It had fallen since 4am. Later in the day I spotted a puffed up Buzzard crouching low in a roadside tree, whilst seven Woodpigeons occupied a small Hawthorn nearby gorging on Haws as fast as they could peck them off!

It was on the 17th that one of Winter's worst hazards manifested itself. A shower between dawn and sunrise, falling on frozen ground, straightway

turned to a layer of black ice. Going out to feed the birds, I wound up on my back with the bowl of food on the other side of the lawn! Unhurt thankfully, I was none the worse for wear, unlike several poor souls who weren't so lucky.

It was around this time that the 'Great Mystery of the Disappearing Pansies' erupted. The first I heard was from Bas Butler whose Green-side path edge Pansy borders had been gnawed right down and even pulled up. He did say there were a lot of deer slots (hoof-prints) around. Then Mr. Ian Hobday, driving past the Green late at night saw the culprits – Roe Deer. Feasting on Basil's flowers! It didn't stop there – apparently the next expanse of flora to go was from Mr. Rodney Hobbs's front garden. And, I believe, so it went on. Such are the joys of Country Living!

Awakening to a heavy white frost on lawns and road surfaces on the 18th, there was little outdoor movement in the cold NNW wind. Freezing before sunset, we experienced yet again a night of -4° , only to find another morning of black ice. This was followed by steady rain starting at mid-day and finishing about 5pm. At first, as the rain drew the frost out of the ground, conditions were hazardous, but despite a day temperature of only 4.5° , we were frost free by late afternoon.

A brilliant, fiery sunrise on the 20th slowly became overcast. Admittedly not Barfordian, I must mention a large female Raven in the afternoon, honking loudly and persistently at smaller crows, from the roadside trees along the busy A4260 in front of the Horton General Hospital. I was somewhat amused, and bemused, by this huge crow enjoying itself at the consternation among lesser brethren in this an urban situation. Tawny Owls however, in full hoot below Steepness after dark, brought me soundly back to Barford!

We now entered a milder period of weather until month's end as the wind gently backed to SW, giving temperatures largely between 9° and 11° (day), 4° to 7.5° (nights).

At the end of a drab winter's day on the 21st, it was enlivening to encounter two beautiful Roe deer browsing quietly (on conker remains?) on the verge, under the chestnuts between Hempton and Deddington, illuminated in the headlights of passing traffic.

The continued dearth of visible wildlife was causing widespread comment at this time, and the only answer I can think of is that, so far, the weather had not been cold enough on the Continent to force bird migration in the usual numbers. It is most surprising how such small birds such as Robins and Dunnocks will chance crossing the North Sea to escape very cold continental weather.

After a cloudy, colourful sunrise on the 24th, the day was mostly overcast. At about 8.30am, a male Raven came flying over, croaking and rasping, from Horn Hill to Steepness where he disappeared. Early in the afternoon as I drove into Hempton from the west, a good sized Buzzard sat on a fence post beside the road. Puffed up against the chill, this was either still in juvenile plumage or very much in a pale adult phase. It was largely bi-coloured – white head, breast, belly and ‘shoulders’ with just a few flecks of brown, whilst the mantle, flight feathers and tail were mid-brown. Imagine my surprise when I met him again fifteen minutes later, a few yards south of Hempton above Radwell Hill – and then, another fifteen minutes later, coming back, flying low in front of me and up into an Ash tree at the bottom of Radwell Hill!

As the Sun set, the broken clouds were edged by that strange greenish tinge that occasionally occurs.

Next day, when the Sun broke through for about three hours, a Sparrow Hawk soared over Hempton Hills in the strong, mild blow of a sou’wester.

On the 26th the Steepness Green Woodpeckers were noisy and Bas Butler watched a Sparrow Hawk make a late morning hunting dash across The Green. Bas also said that Roe deer were now being seen all over the night-time village and were calling.

On the 27th, the male Raven made a return flight back from Steepness to beyond Horn Hill, still rasping and croaking as he went! On the 29th I encountered the white headed Buzzard again just outside Hempton, to the east.

All this prompts me to make contrast with the same period in 2010! We had awoken to a sprinkling of snow on a biting NE wind, with little flurries throughout the morning on the 27th of November. Bitter frosts and black ice followed through early December, with flurries of snow on the 9th. It then turned milder until the 16th, when a sudden crash in temperature announced the arrival of afternoon sleet followed by driving snow. This continued with flurries all next day and then TWELVE hours of swirling, dense snowfall on the 18th with drifting and a night temperature of –18°! Snow depth 200mm (8"). After a night of freezing fog, fine powdery snow fell late on 20th to add 25mm (1") to the existing layer. The last snow of December finished with flurries on the 22nd giving an overall fall of about 300mm (12") with a max. of about 250mm (10") lying.

There followed a spell of alternate freeze/thaw cycles which produced huge icicles in excess of 5m (15ft) in length and roads buried under thick frozen ice with great ruts that rendered the Barfords inaccessible (even to foot traffic for many) to all but tractors for several days.

But to return to the recent here and now.

December drew to a mild 11° (day) and 7.5° night-time close of damping rain. Despite the rain and damp conditions of the latter part of the month most people were talking of the woefully low water levels in brooks wells and in the ground. Assuredly, the soil was moist but at depths below a spit and a half the subsoil was hard and dry. Never mind, there were pleasures. A queen Wasp emerged from hibernation outside my conservatory; I wished her well(?) as she buzzed off to who knows where. And in the evening, when I visited Mr. and Mrs. Pete Turner, there in the light of their doorway was a creature I have not seen for many years – a furry black December Moth, with a narrow broken pale curve through each of his wings. yes, it was a male, attracted to the light and he was off in search of romance. What a way to finish the Old Year.

Happy 2012 Everyone! And a Big Thank You to my readers and everyone who has supplied me with anecdotes and records – I couldn’t do these *Notes* without you!

Ron Knight

INVITATION TO TENDER

Barford St John & St Michael Parish Council Grass Cutting and Grounds Maintenance

Tenders are invited for grass cutting and grounds maintenance within Barford St John & Barford St Michael for the 2012, 2013 and 2014 seasons.

Tender forms and further details may be obtained from the Parish Clerk. Tenders should be returned to the Clerk by 12 noon, Friday 17 February 2012 in a plain sealed envelope. Email submissions will not be considered.

Rosemary Watts, Clerk to Barford St John & St Michael Parish Council, Foxglove Cottage, Kings Road, BLOXHAM, Nr Banbury, OX15 4QE.

Tel: 01295 722647

rwattsbarfordspc@hotmail.co.uk

Katharine House News

Bag Pack Day Success

At our fifth annual Bag Pack Day at Sainsburys on 14th December a grand total of £1,349 was raised in just six hours! - our best ever result! Thanks to all concerned.

Hospice End of Season Sale

Our annual Hospice Sale will take place on **Saturday 10th March at the Institute, Adderbury, 11am - 2pm.** There will be many stalls selling good quality donated items, as well as hand-crafted knitted items. Tea and coffee and soup will also be available for a small fee

Collegium Regale Concert

7.30pm, Saturday 31st March, St. Mary's Church, Adderbury.

Back by popular demand, the Kings College Cambridge Choral Scholars 'Collegium Regale' promise an unforgettable evening of music in this special concert. The breadth of their repertoire is impressive, including sacred music (fifteenth to the twentieth century), madrigals, folk-songs, part-songs and close harmony. The group have received much acclaim within the musical world, both nationally and internationally;

"A sparkling display of virtuosic but balanced singing", says BBC Music Magazine, whilst the Sunday Times remarks on their "luxuriant blend of voices".

For further information about Collegium Regale, please see their website at www.collegiumregale.co.uk

Tickets are £16 each and must be purchased in advance from Fundraising at Katharine House Hospice on (01295) 812161 or by emailing sarah.brennan@khh.org.uk. Application forms can also be downloaded from our website at www.khh.org.uk. Book early to avoid disappointment- Collegium Regale's last performance in aid of Katharine House was a sell-out!

Box Office now open!

Just Text Giving

Katharine House can now collect donations via your mobile phone. You can donate up to £10 (in any one transaction) via our unique number – KHOX17. So to donate £2, all you need to do is text KHOX17 2 to 70070. It's that simple and you will receive an instant thank you message from Vodafone.

This is a really quick and easy way for people to donate smaller amounts direct to the hospice and is ideal when sponsoring family and friends at fundraising events. Our grateful thanks to all who support us in this way. Your donations really do make a difference.

2012 Festival of Open Gardens

We would love to hear from anyone who would like to open their garden to raise money for the hospice in 2012. Your garden would be featured, along with all the others, in a programme that will be distributed to all our supporters with our Spring newsletter in late March/early April. Last year's festival raised over £8,000 towards nursing care. We already have supporters opening their gardens in Bledington, Bloxham, Broughton, Farnborough, South Newington, Shutford, Swerford and Weedon Lois, but would be delighted to hear from anyone else willing to take part in our festival. For further information please telephone Valerie on 01295 812161. Closing date to register your garden-**15th February.**

A date for your diary!

Our sixth Midnight Walk will take place on Saturday 23 June at Banbury Cricket Club, Bodicote

Sarah Brennan
Community Fundraiser

THE GEORGE INN

SATURDAY 4TH FEBRUARY 8.00pm - TONY'S BIRTHDAY BASH - Two bands Twice the pleasure.....Chameleon & Paperback Writers plus guest appearance. Everyone welcome.

QUIZ NIGHTS - Please note the quiz is now held on a THURSDAY evening and will be on the following dates:- 26th January - 9th February - 1st & 15th March - 12th April.

New & Old Teams Welcome (Singles also welcome). Chance to win a fortune?????????????????

SIX NATIONS RUGBY - We will be screening all England matches on the BIG SCREEN.

Saturday 4th February - Scotland v. England - George Opens 4.30pm

" 11th " - Italy v. England " " 3.30pm

" 25th " - England v. Wales " " 3.30pm

" 17th March - England v. Ireland " " 4.30pm

SATURDAY 25TH FEBRUARY - Please note following the England v. Wales game The George will close as it booked for a private function.

WINTER OPENING HOURS @ THE GEORGE:-

Monday to Saturday inclusive 7.00pm – 11.00pm & Sundays 12.00 noon - 4.00pm

Alternative opening hours for groups can be arranged by prior arrangement e.g. Walkers, Cyclists, Birthday Parties, Weddings etc. We are happy to discuss all possibilities