

# BARFORD NEWS

JULY 2011

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## Parish Council Notes

**T**HE MEETING TOOK PLACE at 7.32pm on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2011 at Barford Village Hall and was attended by Councillors Hobbs (Chairman), Bullard, Eden, and Turner. Also attending was Mrs R Watts (Clerk), County Councillor R Jelf and Mr R Knight. Apologies for absence received from District Councillor P O'Sullivan, Councillors Styles and Woolgrove.

**Military Vehicle Trust** Councillor Hobbs welcomed Tony King and Bill King from the Military Vehicle Trust to the meeting. Tony and Bill gave a detailed brief on the history of Barford St John airfield. Although the airfield is no longer operational for flying it still remains in the hands of the Ministry of Defence and USAF for other purposes. The Military Vehicle Trust plans to put a stone memorial with inlaid plaque inside the entrance of the airfield to commemorate the 70<sup>th</sup> year of its opening. An interpretation panel will be put outside the gates giving the history of the site, including the development of Sir Frank Whittle's jet engined fighter, the Meteor. A ceremony to mark the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary will take place at the site on 16 September; Councillors, USAF and Ministry of Defence personnel, Bloxham Parish Council and the press will be invited to attend.

**Public Participation:** Mr Ron Knight spoke on behalf of the Vicar and Parochial Church Council. It was proposed to turn the unused area of the churchyard into a wildflower meadow. This would mean a change in the mowing regime (i.e. twice a year only). The clerk was asked to contact the Parish Council grass cutting contractor to ascertain whether or not he could remove the cuttings after mowing and the potential cost. Rotary mowers must not be used and the contractor would be asked if he had alternative mowers that could be used. This will be an agenda item for next month.

## Correspondence

Newsletter received reference Deddington Library. District Councillor Jelf confirmed that no libraries in Oxfordshire would close this financial year.

Following a letter received from Mr & Mrs Arrowsmith regarding a pot hole in Horn Hill the clerk has reported the matter to Highways.

Letters of thanks for grants have been received from Mariann Young for Barford News, Chris Holloway for Warriner School Farm and Cubby Brett for Parochial Church Council.

## Parish Matters

Mr Bernard Lane has requested topsoil to repair The Green, which is owned by the Parish. It was agreed in principle to pay for this subject to a quotation.

Cherwell District Council website is ready to use and Rebecca Dyson has volunteered to act as administrator. The Clerk will send articles to Rebecca for inclusion. Items other than information held by Cherwell District Council and Parish Council Minutes will be approved by the Parish Council. The site will not replace Barford News. The clerk will liaise with Rebecca Dyson.

A formal application had been received from Barford Village Hall Committee asking for permission to proceed with planning application for new windows. The application was unanimously agreed. The clerk is to submit a Planning Application in the Parish Council's name. Barford Village Hall Committee is to pay the planning fee of £85.

**Allotments** – A bill from Thames Water for the period 11 February – 16 May for £193 has been received. There is some concern that the wrong meter may have been read. The clerk is to ask Thames Water to make a site visit. Consequently the cheque for £193 was not approved.

## Planning Matters

Details of planning applications can be found on the CDC website

[http://cherweb.cherwell-dc.gov.uk/publicaccess/tdc/DcApplication/application\\_searchform.aspx](http://cherweb.cherwell-dc.gov.uk/publicaccess/tdc/DcApplication/application_searchform.aspx)

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

**Application:** 11/00539/LB Coates, Rignell Farm, South Newington Road, Barford St Michael.

**Application:** 11/00695/LB Sunderland, Coombe Hill, Milton Gated Rd, Barford St Michael

**Approved:** 11/00498/F Arrowsmith, Seaton House, Horn Hill, Barford St Michael, Replacement of front porch. No objections.

### Any Other Business

Councillor Bullard reported that she had received a letter from a parishioner asking if the hedge on the corner of The Green could be trimmed back because it was becoming a hazard to drivers. The clerk will write to the owner.

Councillor Bullard reported that she had been asked to bring to the attention of the Parish Council that the kerbs in Robins Close were covered in weeds. The clerk will contact Highways.

The next meeting is on 6 July 2011.

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

### Bakehouse or Shepherds Charity

Barford St John and St Michael

Charity Commission Registration No: 309173

Grants are made annually, at the Trustee's discretion, to young people attending College of University. In order to qualify, applicants should be under 25 years of age and they or their parents should be resident in the parish of Barford St Michael or Barford St John for at least three years.

Please give the following information on your application:-

- 1) Your full name, age and address in Barford and state how long you have lived here.
- 2) Name and address of the College or University where you are planning to study.
- 3) Exact description of the qualification you are studying for, including length of course and subjects to be studied.

Address your application to:

Mrs Lucy Warner

Clerk to the Shepherds and Bakehouse Trust  
Mead Farm Bungalow, Barford St John, Banbury  
Oxfordshire, OX15 0PW

Applications must be received by 30<sup>th</sup> September  
2011 at the latest.

### 200 Club Winners

#### June Draw

£50.00, No. 163, Mrs Purton

£25.00, No 151, Tracey Bullard

£15.00, No. 122, Mr & Mrs Allen

£10.00, No. 013, Cathy Peacock

£5.00, No. 82, Margaret Blackhall

The draw was made at a Whist Drive



### New Waste Collection Arrangements

The Barford's new waste and recycling collection day will be a **TUESDAY** from the week commencing **1 August**.

Following a review of household waste and recycling collection rounds, Cherwell District Council has made changes to the Barford's collection day. Around 40% of the district will have a new collection day for their refuse, recycling, food and garden waste. By making the collection rounds more efficient, the Council will save at least £10,000 on fuel per year and significantly lower its carbon footprint.

Cherwell aims to make these necessary changes as customer friendly as possible. Cherwell will be sending residents a letter and putting stickers on bins to remind households of the day change. Please remember, this is only a day change, your refuse and recycling weeks stay the same.

If you have any queries please visit our website [www.cherwell.gov.uk](http://www.cherwell.gov.uk) or contact our customer service centre on 01295 221940

### Detached House For Sale

In Barford St. Michael

3 Double Bedrooms, Family Bathroom  
Lounge, Kitchen, Dining Room,  
Laundry room, downstairs cloak  
Conservatory, Private Garden  
Could do with some freshening up

**Offers in excess of £375,000**

**Contact Ann Piriou 01208 73429**

### Please Note

**Deddington Church**

**SUMMER FAIR**

**Planned for 16<sup>th</sup> July**

**Has been CANCELLED**

## The Boat Project – Donation Day



Supported by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**

Hi Everyone,

Gwen and I are working on an exciting project for the Cultural Olympiad that comes to fruition next year but in July you have the opportunity to take part.

We need your wood! The Boat Project is part of Artists Taking the Lead, a series of 12 public art commissions across the UK to celebrate the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad. The Boat Project is the winning commission for the South East region and is funded by Arts Council England.

Lone Twin, a performance based company with whom Gwen and I are working invites you to be a part of this extraordinary project. As people all over the world gather to celebrate the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, a remarkable boat will set sail on its maiden voyage.

The boat, crafted by a fearlessly adventurous team of boat builders and volunteers will be made from the lives and memories of the South East. But before any of this can happen, we need a piece of you...

We'd like your wood - but not just any old wood. Whether it's a pencil or a piano, extraordinary or mundane, we want something that's a part of you, something with a story to tell. Come and tell us that story - your donated wood will be used along with donations from thousands of others to build this unique 30ft sailing boat, a living archive of our lives. Donation days are happening all over the region - it's your chance to meet the boat- building team, make your donation and discover other ways you can help with the project. For further info about the project please visit: [www.theboatproject.com](http://www.theboatproject.com)

A donation day will be held at

**The George Inn,**  
Barford Saint Michael  
on

**Wednesday July 20<sup>th</sup>**  
from 3pm to 7pm.

This will immediately be followed by a talk given by Mark Covell, the lead boat builder for the project and a British Silver medalist in the star sailing class of the Sydney 2000 Olympics. This talk will be an entertaining insight into extreme sailing and the journey towards medal success. This will be followed by live music and merriment and a further opportunity to meet members of the team. We look forward to meeting you.

Austin and Gwen Lawler



## Oxfordshire Village & Landscapes

with  
Russell Cherry



Are you familiar with the variety of villages and landscapes in our beautiful county? Like to see and learn more about them?

Come along on

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> July**  
And join us at our meeting  
7.30pm Village Hall

Visitors £3.00

Ring Mariann for details  
338570



## 1st Deddington Brownies



SEVERAL OF THE GIRLS recently attended the 'Brownie Dipper Day' in the River Thames in Oxford. They took part in lots of watery activities including canoeing, kayaking and swimming in the river, and all had a great time. As I write this the girls are hard at work rehearsing for their appearance in the community concert in Deddington Church on 30th June. We have had a competition to produce posters to promote Daeda's Wood, and will be visiting the wood as soon as the weather permits. Watch for the posters appearing around the area soon. Another evening saw us doing a fashion show with the dolls we had designed outfits for, and we also spent an enjoyable evening racing around Deddington Market Place completing a quiz. This was designed for us by Louise Davies who has been helping at Brownies recently. Thank you for a fun evening Louise and for all your help over the past few months.

Lucy Squires

**WATCH THIS SPACE**  
**ENTERTAINMENTS COMMITTEE** for the  
Barfords Village Hall

This small committee has the pleasurable task of providing entertainment for everyone in our villages, at the same time raising funds for our Village Hall. We are a part of the Village Hall Management Committee. In the near future we have planned the following:

**AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND**  
a **BBQ** for all in the Village Hall Garden.

**OCTOBER 22<sup>nd</sup> BARFORD PICTURE HOUSE**  
new Season of films starting.

**DECEMBER 18<sup>th</sup> FAMILY FUN QUIZ**  
Suitable for all ages from 5 to 95,  
Fancy Dress for children.  
This will be an afternoon event.

**SPRING 2012 WORKSHOP,**  
**WILLOW GARDEN STRUCTURES.**

**EXPANDING SUPPERS**

We are re-starting this event and hope that the suppers will continue through this year and next.

See below:

**the story of...EXPANDING SUPPERS...**

.....once upon a time two people asked four people for a two course supper..... then these four people each asked another four people, and so EXPANDING Suppers was born. Everyone who is invited makes a voluntary contribution (minimum £5). You can invite whomever you like and this way you make new friends. Each supper event should be made within one month, if possible, from the last one.

Eventually, everyone in the village who wants to take part will have had a great time and helped to raise funds for our Village Hall. You may be invited more than once! These suppers have already started and we want them to continue, so await your invitation!!!

The suppers can be very simple and you can ask your guests to bring their own drinks.

Soon you will all be receiving a Questionnaire from us about the Village Hall and possible uses and entertainment. Please take a moment to fill this in and return to one of the 'boxes' mentioned. This will help us to plan more events that you can participate in.

**PLEASE KEEP AN EYE OUT IN BARFORD NEWS AND ON VILLAGE NOTICE BOARDS**

Lucy Norman, Chairman.  
The Old Chapel, High Street.  
01869 337678

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



**W**HAT A VARIETY OF activity so far this term. Our first cookout of the year! The smell of the woodsmoke...aah! We've learnt about and seen fossils, practised sign language as part of our understanding of deaf awareness.

Summer camp has been on our minds and we've started practising camp skills and planning ahead. We spend a wonderful evening at Wroxton College enjoying the surroundings and the wildlife. Particularly the bats over the lake and in the woods. Guided by experts we could track the bats movements – a super experience.

Thanks due now to Brian and Janet Bond for allowing us to use their garden for our "Ready Steady Cook" evening – the guides produced some super meals – 2 courses! In their patrols and as usual on a Tuesday evening – the train kept off.

Next events – shelter building at Horley, an incident hike, and District camp fire and picnic .... watch this space for more news.

**Christian Aid Week**



I WOULD LIKE TO THANK all those who gave to Christian Aid Week in May. We made £295 between the two villages and I am very grateful to those who kindly agreed to collect the donations. Your money helps to form a key role in a movement that transforms lives all around the world "to help people in poverty out of poverty", and is much appreciated.

Cubby Brett

**Blue Coyotes say Thanks**

Blue Coyotes would like to thank all those who donated to their charity busking session at the May market on the Green. Over £40 was raised for Banbury Animal Rescue and Kindness Service, which went towards food for rescued cats.

Thanks from Gill and Tony





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## Barford Green Garden Club



### Open Gardens 2011

ON SUNDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> MAY 7 lovely gardens opened and 11 scarecrows present! My thanks to so many of you who all made a huge effort once again to help our village raise funds for our village organisations. Special thanks to the open gardeners who all worked so hard in preparation for 29<sup>th</sup> May, the tea makers, the cake makers, the car park attendants, the plant growers and sellers, and the scarecrow makers and anyone else who helped to make this day a huge success. This year we made £806.91.

And I give extra special thanks to Mariann and Cathy who not only opened their lovely garden, but baked a cake, made a super scarecrow and for organising and running the plant stall which alone made a grand total of £247!!!!

Thank you too to Barbara Alt for once again allowing us to use the beautiful Manor House for afternoon teas which made £183.25!!

The funds have been distributed as follows :

Rainbows	£33.65
Fernhill Club	£44.78
Barford News	£100.86
BSM/BSJ PCC	£190.51
Shepherds & Bakehouse	£168.08
Barford Village Hall	£269.03

### Ball Colegrave Summer Open Evening

The summer open evening is being held on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> July. This is the only date the grounds will be open to the public this year. Visitors are welcome to view the 8 acre display of horticultural delights from 4.00pm to 8.00pm

Tickets bought on the gate will cost £2.00 . Children under the age of 12 are admitted free. A contribution from the admission fees will be made to Katharine House Hospice and to the David Colegrave Foundation

Light refreshments are available but you are welcome to bring your own food and drink .

For those new members Ball Colegrave is situated on the Milton Road, West Adderbury

Jill Bunce,  
Secretary  
BGGC

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

#### Cubs

WE HAVE TWO new members, Toby & Ben which takes us back to our maximum of 24.

Last month the Cubs joined over 800 others for a county camp at Blenheim Palace. What a fantastic venue, we woke up with a great view of the house and had full use of all the facilities.

Apart from the numerous activities provided by the individual groups, we were able to visit the pleasure gardens where we lost most of them in the maze.

We've also tried our hand at fire-lighting.

Jo Churchyard C.S.L. 338071

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

#### Scouts

TOM & PHILIP have 'crawled up' from Cubs to join Scouts, we hope they will enjoy their time with us. Scouts are now spending most of their time outdoors, they have lit fires & cooked on camp stoves. This prepared them for 24 hours of Survival camp at Horley where they had to survive with only a sleeping bag & mat & a spork. They cooked everything on an open fire, fish on homemade grills, eggs in the ashes, sausages on sticks and lived to tell the tale. Most of the shelters they built stayed put & they all went home happy if a little smelly.

Next is Aqua Camp & then Phasels Wood.

Pete Churchyard S.L. 338071

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

Hopefully by now some of you will have received a postcard re. Beavers, please let me know if you can help.

### Library Closures Update

I thought I would provide an update on the threat to Deddington Library. The consultation process has now opened and will close on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2011. To have your say, go to the Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) website at [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk) and go to the Library Service Consultation under Leisure and Culture. A paper version of the consultation document is available from the Council or call Deddington Library for more details.

**Question:** *When the Council budgets are increased at some point in the future, will they then fund library staff again? Hmmm...*

The following was BBC Oxford News' recent report:

**OCC says axed libraries may stay open. Seven libraries in Oxfordshire that were set to close due to funding cuts will remain open under new plans.**

OCC now intends to keep Summertown, Headington, Littlemore, Blackbird Leys, Neithrop, Berinsfield and Botley libraries open. Another five will be run by council staff supported by volunteers.

Councillor Keith Mitchell said the council met communities half-way. Author Colin Dexter, who campaigned against the cuts, welcomed the news.

The five new libraries to be staffed mainly by volunteers are Burford, Goring, Hook Norton, Watlington and Wychwood. They join Adderbury, Bampton, Benson, Charlbury, Deddington, Kennington, North Leigh, Old Marston, Sonning Common, Stonesfield and Woodcote where the staffing emphasis will shift from county council staff to volunteers over a three-year period.

"However, support from county council employed operational and professional librarians would continue," a spokesman added.

Under the new proposals 22 libraries will be fully staffed. A further five will be run by council staff but with volunteers.

Mr Mitchell added: "Let me be clear, we enter this consultation from a starting point of keeping all 43 libraries open despite the fact that there is less money to spend. "Local communities can help us to achieve that outcome."

Mr Dexter, who wrote the Inspector Morse novels, said he had been made honorary president of the movement to save Summertown library. He said: "I think this is obviously very fine news. "This is an area in which I'm sure that everybody who was very upset about the closure of the library would say this is exactly what we want to talk about. "We are ready to be met with and are more than happy to collaborate."

"The whole literary tradition of Oxford is so enormously great and powerful. It's our heritage in this beautiful city of ours."

Banbury and Chipping Norton Libraries will both remain fully staffed:

Alison Duffy

(Ed's note: Having just visited Devon on holiday I learned that Devon CC have decided NOT to close ANY libraries at all!)

## Barford St Michael Village Market

All the usual stalls plus a few surprises



# Sat. 16<sup>th</sup> July

## On the Village Green

### 10-12 noon

### Banbury Museum 2011

#### Special Exhibitions Programme

#### Holograms 2

23 July – 3 September

Mon – Sat. 10am – 5pm (Bank holidays 10.30am – 4.30pm) Free

After the success of the Holograms exhibition in 2008 we welcome another spectacular 3D exhibition. Enjoy holograms by leading holographic artists using a wide variety of techniques, including animated 3D images that you don't need special glasses to see.

### "Nepalese 2 course meal,

with refreshments

available to purchase.

In aid of Nepalese orphanage.

Please join us at 7 for 7.30 p.m., at our home on Saturday 17th September. Meals to be pre-booked by 10th September, with Terry or Anita Deane and paid for (£10).

"Manaton". The Green, Barford St

Michael. 01869-337274."



July's  
Family Services at  
St Michaels,  
Barford St Michael

July 10th 10.30am

**Indiana Jones & the Quest  
for the  
Kingdom of God!**



**Bring your explorer gear to Hunt for  
For the Treasure!**



17th July 10.30am

**ANIMAL BLESSING  
SERVICE**



**Bring Your  
Pet / Farm Animal / Soft Toy  
To Be Blessed!**



**Pet water bowls & chews provided!**

### Fernhill Club

**T**HE FERNHILL CLUB meets every Wednesday at 2.30pm in Barford St Michael Village Hall. We are a friendly bunch and if you pay us a visit we won't bite, why not give us a try. We have a wide and varied programme which should suit all tastes. If you would like a copy of our programme please contact: Avril – 01869 338381 or Mary – 01295 252298 and we will get one to you.

1 June: we had bingo.

8 June: Mr Jones gave us a lovely talk with slides entitled 'The Wonders of Oxford'.

15 June: We visited the Cornhill Centre in Banbury for lunch and went onto Lakeside for 10 pin bowling. Apart from a few grunts and groans we had a lovely time. When you read this we will also have had the pleasure of my Royal Weekend presented to us by Gillian Cane.

In July we are having a Strawberry Tea and the History of Town Crying.



### The Annual Barford Duck Race

**Sunday**

**31<sup>st</sup> July**

First race 2pm  
BBQ, Bouncy Castle  
Tombola.



Bring your own folding chair or rug.  
All profits to Barford Playground

### BARFORD VILLAGE SHOW

**Saturday 13 April 2011**

#### Handwriting Class

The text for Children's Class 58 (8-15 years) "A Piece of Handwriting" is in the box below. It should be set out on a piece of plain paper, with no guidelines showing. It comes from Kipling's poem 'The Way through the Woods'

They shut the road through the woods  
Seventy years ago.

Weather and rain have undone it again  
And now you would never know

There was once a road through the woods  
Before they planted the trees.

*Rudyard Kipling*

~ ~ ~

### Dog Walker Available

**Please Ring Lorraine**

**01869 338048**



## Scarecrow Makers Rise To The Challenge Yet Again!!



### **A big thank-you to everyone who made a scarecrow for the Open Gardens weekend.**

The winners of the Children's competition were:

- 1st. The 3 Little Pigs and Wolf – Ellie Dodwell (and family)
- 2nd. The Owl and the Pussy Cat – The Neal Family
- 3rd. Child Swinging – Barford and Deddington Rainbows
- Runner-up Me and my Dog – Jack Edginton

The winners of the Adult entries were:

- 1st. Ray Cox (The Great Escape)
- 2nd. Rachel Speight (Cyril the Snail)
- 3rd. Pete Eden (Girl and Chickens)

This was our eighth year of running the competition and each year we have asked a different judge or judges who use their own criteria to help them make their final decision. And every year, usually by the third scarecrow, they realize what a difficult job it is!





### Clergy Truancy in Sweden

Part of the punishment imposed by the ecclesiastical authorities on Vicar and Curate for their recent absence from the parish and benefice on visit to Sweden is a requirement to submit reports on their activities to the Barford News.

#### The Vicar writes.

At the end of May a choir from Deddington and Woodstock deaneries visited Vaxjo diocese in Sweden. This followed two visits to Deddington over the last couple of years by the combined choirs of Sofiakyrkan and Dalvik kyrka in Jonkoping.

The Deddington/Woodstock choir was privileged to be invited to sing Book of Common Prayer Evensongs in Vaxjo Cathedral, where Bishop Jan-Olof took time to welcome us, and in Sofiakyrkan, Jonkoping. As a scratch choir we had not been able to rehearse together much before we left for Sweden and, though serious musical embarrassment was avoided, it has to be acknowledged that Purcell in G Minor has been better rendered! We also sang an anthem by local Deddington composer Donald Lane and a Lord's Prayer by Andrew Campling whose father was a member of the choir. Perhaps the highlight of the trip, however, was the Sunday Morning Hogmassa in Sofiakyrkan when we joined with the Sofia/Dalvik choir, singing Swedish and English music.

When we weren't singing, we went on a couple of mini-pilgrimages in and about Jonkoping chewing over with our Swedish hosts such questions as 'Who am I?', 'What is true friendship?' and 'Where does my future lie?' So we got a bit beyond just the musical bonding.

And we partied. Our hosts' hospitality was impeccable throughout but they exceeded themselves on the final evening with a delicious 'Bring and Share' supper including a number of Swedish specialities and a full-throttled rendition of numbers from *Mamma Mia*. The occasion ended with an Anglo-Swedish conga threading its way through the well-appointed and elegant Church House bellowing out 'We are marching in the light of God'.

Following the Choir trip five us, including me and the Curate, walked on pilgrimage to Vadstena, where the Abbey, designed by St Birgitta, houses her remains. Birgitta, a visionary and herself a great pilgrim was a figure of considerable importance in ecclesiastical and secular politics of 14<sup>th</sup> century Europe. She is one of the official patron saints of Europe. The three days walking took us through varied scenery in glorious weather. Mosquitoes and ticks did some damage to our party but it was a great experience. .... Hugh



Such is the Vicar's report. What can we say? It seems to the BN, that the Vicar is less than contrite for his absence from us. We note his involvement in the recent churchyard clear-up (and our particular thanks to the Neal family who were also present) and we believe him to have chaired the latest PCC meeting (see below). This is all well and good. We nevertheless insist that the Vicar be available to us for the weddings and baptisms due to take place over the summer in St Michael's and St John's, not to mention regular services. This is a final and public warning. Should he fail to be present in fulfilment of these duties, the BN will initiate a campaign for his removal and defrocking. We shall write to the bishop and demand that our Curate, whom we deem to have been wrongly found culpable with respect to the Vicar's Swedish escapade and who will have just been elevated to the priesthood, be installed as our Incumbent. May God bless him! The Curate's excellent report on the period he spent in Sweden under duress from his tyrannical superior, a period from which he courageously sought in his distress to make spiritual gains, now follows.

[Dan]

Good news from the PCC! Churches finances have improved greatly following Barfordians' response to the recent fund-raising appeal. Our annual deficit has been reduced by about 50% . The bad news is that there is still a deficit and that our quinquennial inspection of St Michael's has revealed that some repairs to the south aisle ceiling need to be undertaken as a matter of urgency. There also problems with the memorials in the churchyard.

The PCC is considering the question of women bishops and in particular whether, and if so how, to make provision to those who will not in conscience be able to accept the ministry of women as bishops. Our consideration is part of a CofE-wide process. If anyone would like to talk about this matter or make a representation to the PCC, please be in touch with one of the clergy. A useful supplement about the women bishops issue from the Church Times is available in St. Michael's Church.

**Dates:** Aug 29<sup>th</sup> 2.00 pm Church Fete at the Manor  
Sept 15<sup>th</sup> 7.15pm Deanery Synod (open to all). Tony Baldry MP talking about his role as Church Commissioner. Sibford.

**Sept 17<sup>th</sup>** 10.30 am St Michael's churchyard clear-up (with refreshments). More volunteers, please!

**Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>** 5.30 pm Confirmation and Admission to Communion service at Barford St Michael. If anyone would like to discuss being confirmed or whether a child might be admitted to Holy Communion prior to confirmation, please contact one of the clergy as soon as possible, (see top of inside back page).

## Scotland 1 -- Pete 0

THE CALEDONIAN CANAL runs 60 miles through the highlands of Scotland. Twenty miles of it is a man-made canal and the other forty miles is made up of Loch Lochy, Loch Oich and Loch Ness. My idea was to build a boat so that I could peddle the length of the canal, in hindsight maybe not the best idea I have ever had. I was not put off with the stories of 5ft waves on Loch Ness, the thought of the midges eating me alive or the legendary changeable Scottish weather, the small fact I can't swim (I have tried to learn to swim with two terms of night classes in Banbury but with no success) or even with my inability to build a boat I could peddle. Derick Broughton always said it was only a matter of time until ambition would overtake ability, he was right.

The build started in December when I bought a part built wooden 14 ft sailing catamaran off ebay. The hulls had been built 18 years before and been left in a garage till now. I brought them home,,fixed them together with fencing rails and took them to Wolvercote to see how stable they were. I took along my sliding seat sculling rig and oars to get it moving and it was great, stable and fast. Now all I had to do was build the peddle arrangement.

A good friend of mine called Steve Cherry is an agricultural engineer, the sort of man who can keep a combine running with a bit of wire and a big hammer. Building my contraption would be a piece of cake. He came aboard (poor pun) and we started the build just after Christmas. Bike frames were welded up, gear boxes found, props built. Trials on the Oxford canal and the Thames were duly arranged. Then things started going wrong, the gears in the gearbox were stripped, the bike frame fell off, the prop worked better going backwards and we lost the prop shaft in the river.

Time rattled on and with only a month to go till the big trip we changed the drive to a twisted drive belt and found yet more props off the internet. This was at least reliable but not very efficient, flat out (and believe me at the end of an hour I was flat out) was a poor 2.5-3 mph. A compromise was made and I reluctantly fitted my sculling rig on the cat' another timed session on the Thames and plan B was put into action. I would peddle the man-made canals and row the lochs.

May had been chosen for this adventure as the midges don't get going till late in the month. It was quite an expedition that set off for Scotland, my co builder Steve, his brother Graham along for some fishing, Steve's son Sam and a friend of his Mark who are both venture scouts and wanted to sea kayak the canal and another friend of mine Richard who just needed an excuse to chill out and have a laugh. As safety is obviously paramount we took

along a 16ft open fishing boat with an outboard motor on it and Steve and Richard would man it. One to drive it, one to make the tea and bacon sandwiches.

A ten hour drive and we reached Fort Augustus which was to be our base for a few nights. The pub we stopped at is right alongside the canal locks which was the best feature of the place but they would get our breakfasts early and I think they changed the sawdust on the bar floor weekly.

The next morning we started the expedition on the sea at Corpack, an interesting slip way in a timber yard. It was raining and blowing quite hard on the short peddle across to the locks in Fort William. It was on this first leg I revealed my secret weapon, a golf umbrella or collapsible sail as I like to call it. Things started to go wrong at Fort William as we had to wait for hours at the locks for a yacht that was running late. The lock keepers only wanted to go out in rain when they had to. As I paid for my licenses in the lockkeepers office I looked up to see and aerial photo of the locks in bright sunshine with shinning boats and tourists milling around "so that's what it looks like when the sun is out!" I quipped. The lockkeeper looked up at photo and sighed "I don't know I have only worked here for eight years"

We didn't get out of the locks till two thirty, it had lashed it down and with only about two miles done we were a long way behind schedule. We had to get down to the entrance of Loch Lochy by five o'clock or we would not get through the entrance lock that day. I peddled as fast I could and with the help of my collapsible sail we did the six miles just in time. As we entered Loch Lochy the rain stopped for a while and we changed the cat' over to the sculling rig. Lochy is twelve miles long and half a mile wide so this would be a good test for my rowing. The lads in the sea kayaks took off to get a head start along the loch side. This was our first mistake. By the time I got out into the loch they had been blown from one side of the loch to the other. Shaken by the experience they phoned for the motor boat which duly went off looking for them. I started off along the loch on my own. Second mistake. The wind had got up fairish by now and out in the middle of the loch the waves were about 3 foot high but the cat' was very stable and strangely I was really enjoying myself. I had rowed for about an hour and done five miles by the time the others caught up to me, Sam and Mark were in the boat with the kayaks towing behind. It stopped raining for a moment so I took off my kayaking life jacket to get my cag' off. My life jacket blew into the water and was soaked so I threw it into the boat and asked for my small life jacket with a air canister that you activate in an emergency and it inflates the jacket. Third and stupidest mistake.

Another hour hard rowing and I was nearing the end of the loch the wind was getting up again but I was going really well what could possibly go wrong ? I had been sitting on a little wooden sculling seat for two hours and my bum had gone numb. I half stood up and rubbed my backside I also thought it would be a good time to look around behind me and see where I was heading. Fourth mistake. At that precise time a large wave hit the back of cat' and lifted it up which in turn threw me head over heels into the ice cold water. All thoughts of activating the life jacket went out of my head as I thrashed about in the water. A bit of luck as my hand touched the bottom of one of the hulls, I managed to get a hold and drag myself out of the water with all the grace of an elephant seal. My happiness of the moment was quickly gone as I realised that I had broken one of my rather costly carbon oars as I went over board. This meant that the challenge was now over and I was towed to the bank. Not sure if I should be happy in not exploring the full 150 metre deep loch or disappointed at the end of the challenge we packed up our gear for the day. Everything was made easier for me when talking to a lock keeper later in the day we were told that we would not be able to go out on Loch Ness anyway as the weather was so bad the rescue helicopter had already been called out four times that week to find canoeists.

The next morning we packed all away, loaded up and headed home early. The road to Inverness follows the banks of Loch Ness and I was quietly relieved not be out there rowing as it did look rather choppy, black and menacing.

In hindsight this may have been a challenge too far but I still think I should have been able to do it if I hadn't made a few silly mistakes. The main one is don't take on the Scottish weather, it changes so quick it is easy to get caught out. Wait till you get a good forecast for a week before thinking about it. Secondly get a really good life jacket, put it on as you cross the Scottish border and keep it on at all times. I do sometimes wonder if those swimming night-courses had made a difference in Loch Lochy.

This then leaves me with a little unfinished business so with all this in mind I hope that I will be able to go back up there in September when the midges have gone and row from one end of Loch Ness to the other in a day. What can go wrong - 26 miles - flat calm with the wind behind me?

Pete Eden



## Recycle your small electricals



On average homes in Cherwell have at least three old, broken or unwanted electrical items lying around the house.

**Please recycle your small electricals.**

For example: ✓ Toasters ✓ Kettles ✓ Cameras  
✓ Electric toothbrushes ✓ Games consoles



Residents in Barford, your closest small electrical banks are at Bloxham Warriner School and Deddington Layby, Banbury Road

**recycle for Cherwell**

[www.cherwell.gov.uk/recycling](http://www.cherwell.gov.uk/recycling)

[customer.service@cherwell-dc.gov.uk](mailto:customer.service@cherwell-dc.gov.uk)

Customer Service: 01295 221940

<http://twitter.com/CherwellRecycle>

**Cherwell**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL  
NORTH OXFORDSHIRE



## **Banbury Rural Neighbourhood Update**

### **Team News**

PC Richard Miller has been voted Community Police Officer of the Year for Oxfordshire and Pc Rebecca McLeod has been voted as the runner up. Both Officers will be attending an awards ceremony hosted by the Chief Constable Sara Thornton in July. Although the Officers have been recognised individually it is reflective of the team as a whole. Without the support of the very committed PCSO'S and Neighbourhood Sergeant Bruce Riddell, this achievement would not have been possible. The awards are as a result of nominations by the public and colleagues.



### **Speeding**

#### **YOU SAID....WE DID**

Speed Operations have been conducted in Milton and Hempton, both of which are currently our priority speeding sites. 13 tickets were issued in Milton and 10 were issued in Hempton in the same day. The highest recorded speed in Milton was 64 mph per hour in a 40 mph speed limit.

### **HAVE YOUR SAY – Meetings throughout May**

We have conducted a Have Your Say meeting in Barford St John this month. These meetings provide a good opportunity for you to meet the neighbourhood team and we can answer any questions or deal with issues that you may have.

### **Crime News**

The area is currently seeing an increase in thefts from motor vehicle. This can range from items from within the vehicle but also, number plates. The offences have occurred in Shenington, Wroxton, Bloxham, Milcombe, Cropredy and Bodicote. The items stolen include Sat Navs, mobile telephones and tools. Where number plates are stolen, these are then used to commit further crime, like theft of fuel.

There have been thefts from locations in Bloxham & North Newington. If you have a shed or garage, please ensure that they are secure. A number of thefts are from insecure sheds and garages.

The team have also been dealing with an anti-social behaviour incident in Bloxham where cars were covered with flour and water. Fortunately this did not result in permanent damage, but caused inconvenience for the people affected.

Now that summer is here we are beginning to see an increase in the use of mini motos and scrambling bikes. Just to remind you that if you do not have permission from the landowner to ride your bike, then you are not permitted to do so. If you are

riding it in what is considered to be an anti social manner – you may be issued with a Police Reform Act 2002 section 59 warning which may ultimately result in your bike being seized.

### **HAVE YOUR SAY!**

#### **Have Your Say online**

You can now send non-emergency messages to us using the online form that is available on the Thames Valley Police website. A number of people have already sent their concerns using this method. For you to do that please follow the link <https://reportonline.thamesvalley.police.uk>

Please allow some time for us to get back to you as we do check our mail box only at certain times of the day.

Should you have any problems or concerns please phone the Thames Valley Police non-emergency number on 08458 505 505 or e – mail [BanburyRuralNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:BanburyRuralNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk).

In an emergency please dial 999.

### **Rainbows**

**W**ITH SO MANY new Rainbows starting, we spent some time at the beginning of term learning about the Rainbow promise. We thought about why we make a promise; ways in which we could keep our promise to 'do our best' and played a relay game to spell the promise out.

The Rainbows had a brainwave about a scarecrow for the competition and Jemima suggested we put a figure on a tyre swing. (I like scarecrows that don't have to be made to stand up!) We made a girl wearing a Rainbow uniform and got 3rd place in the Junior competition! Well done girls!

We've also made ourselves bracelets, done *lots* of singing and dancing and played lots of games. We had a lovely walk in the fields around Barford and collected a nature scavenger hunt, where the Rainbows collected leaves, stems and sticks that represented the shapes on their card. Some were easy and some took a bit of ingenuity!

We're looking forward to finishing the month off with some Morris dancing! Verna Wass (from Adderbury Morris and Bloxham Ladies Morris sides) has successfully taught us a Morris dance in an hour in previous years, which is quite a feat!

Hazel Neal 01869 337822



## **The Lady of Fleet Street** by Yehuda Koran and Eilat Negev



**T**O REVIEW A BOOK of the life of the first female editor of a national newspaper in this country one had to look at the Lady's background. The First Lady of Fleet Street sub-titled *The Life and Fortune of Tragedy of Rachel Beer*.

Rachel Beer was a member of the well known Sassoon Family, Siegfried being one of her nephews. Rachel came from a strong Jewish background her great grandfather Sheikh Sason ben Salek, came from Baghdad where at that time the Jews lived in their own quarter, he was a man of wealth and power in their own quarter. In the early 19th century the family due to various uprisings began their travels moving first to India, settling in Bombay; there they continue to prosper dealing largely in the opium trade, firstly with Turkey and Persia and later with China, eventually having their own fleet of ships to do their own transportation, David, Rachel's grandfather having succeeded in Bombay was after 20 years granted the privilege of a British passport and he went on to establish a Jewish school where not only English and Hindustani was taught but also Arabic and Hebrew, however his fifteen year old son was sent to school in England. With the expansion of the business it was only a matter of time before a move to England and the establishment of an office in London in 1858 David Sassoon arrived and set up an office at 8 Leadenhall Street taking a Crown lease at 17 Cumberland Terrace as a family home. At the same time it was decided it would be best to Anglicize the name from Sason to Sassoon.

It is probably surprising to read that at that time with the country's population at 17 million only 36,000 were Jews and that two thirds live in the metropolis. In due course with the success of the business David wished to improve his situation and having seen an advertisement for a country mansion, Ashley Park in Walton on Thames, he purchased the property for the sum of 489 500 guineas and it was here were born Rachel and her two brothers. In the middle of the 19th century another Jewish family sort refuge in England from Germany where they had always felt culturally and socially isolated but thought safety in England as friendly and welcoming to foreigners; these were the Beer family, the first to arrive being Julius in 1855. He had many friends in London and set up an office in Angel Court.

Whilst it would have been quite out of the question for a 'Sassoon' to marry outside of the Jewish faith this did not apply to Julius and although his bride- had Jewish names she was not a Jew,, His Mother Sophia although a steadfast Jew, tolerated his marriage to Thyrsa. Subsequently when their first son was born they did not keep to the Beer family tradition but named him Frederick Arthur, During his first years

in England Julius managed to prosper in numerous commercial ventures and when the Observer newspaper and its printing works became available group of business men bought it for £3,500 with Julius being a notable member. He did not buy the Observer to become a press magnate and took little interest in the press activities, the newspaper being run by several noted editors viz Edward Dicey who was in the-post from 1870 to 1889.

In 1869 a year after settling in to a residence at 23 Park Crescent on the south side of Regents Park, Julius who did not take much interest in religious ceremonies had his two children Frederick then aged 11 and Ada 3 baptized at the Holy Trinity Church Marylebone. Five years later in what was to become a momentous occurrence in the families life Ada succumbed to angina scarlet fever, a virulent disease at that time.

The grief stricken Julius decided to have his daughter buried in Highgate cemetery. Having bought a plot he approached the office of Sir George Scott to design what is still probably today the largest private memorial in London. The cost of £5000 being as much as a luxurious London home at the time.

The year 1880 became a special time for the family, Julius who had been 'out of health' for some months succumbed and died in January., His brother Dr. Arnold disconsolate at his brother's death died in Paris in the July. Five months later Sophia Beer, Frederick's grandmother suffered a heart attack and passed away and to add to all these losses Thyrsa died aged only 43.

Rachel Sassoon like most daughters of that time, lived at home as opposed to her brothers who both went to University. Her first meeting with Frederick Beer does not seem to be recorded, however it became obvious to all that they were in love, Rachel being alone living in London having spent two years working as a nurse at the Brompton Hospital for Consumption. She had no reason to keep her romance from her mother, her wedding was the second for a Sassoon to be in a church, Rachel having additionally visited the Holy Trinity church Chelsea the day before to be baptized an Anglican. The guests of honour at her wedding to Frederick were W. Gladstone and his wife. Subsequent to her wedding Rachel was ostracised by her mother and subsequently had no further connection with her family. Rachel had never intended to be just a social hostess and always intended to pursue a profession and business, her husband being involved in journalism made her choice for her. She thrived in journalism covering a wide range of interests, politics, foreign affairs, women's rights.

In 1893 her husband announced he would take over the editorial work at the Observer and shortly after the Sunday Times was offered for sale, the Beers bought

it with the sole intent of putting Rachel in charge. Like many editors at that time Rachel chose to work from home, without a typewriter or secretary but writing all her work with a fountain pen. No subject was barred to her, she first wrote about the Sino-Japanese war going on and then to pursue the then Duke of Cambridge, who she found had been the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces for some 40 years, she made it her personal campaign to force his resignation saving the country two million-pounds per annum. He refused to go and it was put about that he would retire in 1897 after a full 60 years. He had to give in and under pressure went in 1895.

Rachel continued over the years with many campaigns on matters she considered of public interest, she was in favour of the Public Amusements Bill which would in time produce a reduction in the crime rate - it failed to pass. Punch magazine published a poem to celebrate what made the English what they are :-

for Sunday the one day put out of seven  
designed to draw of English thoughts from earthly things to heaven  
the day on which Lawson nor Harmsworth may appear  
the day kept strictly sacred to Church and Mrs Beer  
on which with good and pious things over moral things we drench .

It gradually became necessary for Rachel to take on the editorship of both the Observer and the Sunday Times as her husband became more ill with the T.B., which had affected several members of his family. In 1898 Frederick wrote his will making Rachel his sole executor, he was forty years of age, he struggled on being nursed by his wife which she continued to do with her work on the papers until 1901 when he died aged only 43. Over the next few years Rachel's own health deteriorated and it became necessary for the papers to be sold, the first was the Sunday Times in 1905 firstly to Herman Schmidt and ten years later to the Berry Brothers. Later in the May Alfred Harmsworth acquired the Observer. So ended the era of a female newspaper Editor.

A.T.M.

### Volunteers Needed

"We need volunteers to assist customers with bag packing at a supermarket, for a few hours, on a Saturday to be arranged. In aid of Nepalese orphanage and Bloxham Girls Brigade.

Contact Terry Deane on 01869-337274."

### Deddington PFSU and Village Nursery

**T**HIS TERM the Nursery children are finding out about 'Under the sea' and at the PFSU the children



are 'Keeping Healthy' as well as preparing for their move up to 'big school' in September. There will be open days at the PFSU on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July from 3.30 – 4.30pm. These are for the parents with children who will be moving up the PFSU in September. Do come along and meet us and ask any questions you may have. All the children moving up to the PFSU or on to Deddington Primary School will also have a 'move-up' day on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July, when they can be left for the afternoon and get to know the staff, other children and their new classrooms. Finally I must mention our most important fund-raising event of the year, 'A Night at the Moulin Rouge' 00. This event ( for adults! ) will be held at the Windmill Centre on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July from 7.30pm. Tickets at £20 include supper and live band, and can be bought at the PFSU, Nursery or the Flower Shop in Deddington. Please join us if you can. It should be a great night.

Lucy Squires,

PFSU: 01869 337484; Nursery: 01869 337383

