

BARFORD NEWS

JUNE 2011

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Parish Council Notes

THE MEETING TOOK PLACE at 7.32pm on 4th May 2011 at Barford Village Hall and was attended by Councillors Hobbs (Chairman), Best, Bullard, Eden, Styles and Turner. Also attending was Mrs R Watts (Clerk), County Councillor R Jelf (part time) Apologies for absence received from District Councillor P O'Sullivan Councillor Hobbs was appointed as Chairman and Councillor Bullard as Vice Chairman.

The Clerk had written to Tony King, Chairman of the Vehicle Military Trust, inviting him to attend the Parish Council meeting on 1st June to discuss the plaque for Barford St John airfield.

The Clerk had written to PCSO Dale advising her that not enough volunteers had come forward to man a Community Speed Watch in both villages.

The stile at the end of West Close is in need of repair. The Clerk was asked to write to Mr & Mrs Churchill.

It was reported by a villager at Barford Annual Parish Meeting that Footpath 20 was overgrown. Would anyone who notices overgrown public footpaths report them to the Clerk, Ro Watts on 01295 722647 or email rwattsbarfordspc@hotmail.co.uk

Mr Norman asked at the Barford Annual Parish Meeting what the Parish Council's objectives were for 2011-12. Councillors unanimously agreed that its objectives were to comply with all statutory duties and to maintain the two villages in the best possible condition, finances permitting.

Following comments made at Barford Annual Parish Meeting the clerk was asked to write to Oxfordshire County Council asking for clarification on the application for a stopping up order at Woodworms Hilton.

Their reply had been circulated to councillors.

The chairman had met with Mrs Hill, at her request, to discuss the application.

Oxfordshire County Council and Cherwell District Council have approved the application paving the way for an application to the Department of Transport for the stopping up order.

It was agreed that if the application is made the council will discuss the matter further and make an appropriate response.

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

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

Approved:

11/00198/F Hill, Woodworms Hilton, Lower St, Barford St Michael, proposed change of use of highway land to domestic curtilage.

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

Application: 11/00539/LB Coates, Rignell Farm, South Newington Road, Barford St Michael. Extensions and alterations including erection of orangery, porch and conservatory and demolition of existing external swimming pool.

Insurance. The Clerk had received a renewal quotation from AON /Allianz. The Clerk had also obtained a quotation from Zurich Town & Parish with greater cover at no extra cost. It was unanimously RESOLVED to take out insurance with Zurich Town & Parish. The increased sums insured for no additional cost would satisfy the external Auditor's requirements.

The year end accounts 2010 – 2011, Year End Statement of Income, Expenditure and Assets 2010 – 2011, Accounting Statements and Annual Governance Statement to Audit Commission were approved by the Internal Auditor, Jeremy Eastwood on 3rd May 2011.

Any Other Business

Councillor Hobbs reported that Mr. Bernard Lane had asked for some top soil to repair The Green. To be discussed at the June meeting.

The next meeting is on 1st June 2011
There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.55pm.

From The Vicar

AT THE END OF THIS MONTH Dan Inman, our curate, will be ordained a priest. The ceremony will take place in Dorchester Abbey on Sunday June 26th at 10.30 and will be conducted by Colin, Bishop of Dorchester. Anyone who would like to come would be very welcome and transport can be arranged. At 6.30pm that day in Deddington Parish Church Dan will preside at the Eucharist for the first time. Again, all are welcome, though there will also be a Holy Communion service in Barford St John at 4.00 pm to celebrate our Patronal Festival, the Birth of John the Baptist.

Presiding at Holy Communion is one of the things priests, as opposed to deacons, are allowed to do, along with pronouncing absolution of sins and giving blessings. Dan will also be able to take weddings. These are great privileges and responsibilities and Dan will be taking a big step. Like all priests in the Church of England, however, Dan will remain a deacon, called to proclaim the gospel in word and deed and to serve the community 'that the love of God may be made visible' as the service for the Ordination of Deacons has it. As deacon and priest Dan will continue to need and value your prayers.

Further complications in the arrangements for services in June are occasioned by the Deanery Eucharist. This is to take place in Bloxham Parish Church at 10.00 am on June 19th and everyone from all the parishes in the Deanery is invited (again, we can arrange transport, if required). To encourage everyone to come we are asked to suspend normal morning services in the Benefice that day. So there will be no service in the Barfords on the 19th. There will be Holy Communion in Deddington at 8.00 am and the usual third Sunday in the month Deddington occasion, 'Free Spirit': tea, coffee and cakes with some hymns and study of *Galatians* Chapter 2 (3.30 for 4.00). A small, unthreatening gathering and if you enjoyed the Lent series on the Bible, or want to improve your biblical knowledge, you'll enjoy this.

You might also like to come to the Ascension Day service in Hempton (7.30 pm, Thursday, June 2). Though he remains with us to the end of the age, Jesus' return to the Father at his Ascension marks the completion of his mission in the body on earth and his taking of our humanity into the Godhead itself. It is a joyous, if mysterious, occasion and certainly one to celebrate. Dan and I and some others from the Benefice will be celebrating it at the end of our pilgrimage in Sweden at Vadstena Abbey, the shrine of St Birgitta, a great figure of the 15th century and now one of the patron saints of Europe. Hempton will have Bishop Colin with



them. It will be his first visit to Hempton Church. He will preside at the Eucharist and dedicate the wonderful new doors between the Church and the old schoolroom. According to tradition, bubbly is provided by the Vicar (even *in absentia*) to aid celebration and there may be balloons to send heavenwards, too.

And further you might like, the cricket season having begun, to sponsor my run-making for Deddington CC in favour of that Club, Katharine House Hospice and the Tsogo Projects, the last helping HIV/AIDS infected or affected children in Mmabatho/Mafikeng, South Africa. My new bat is working rather well but a penny a run shouldn't see you too much out of pocket!

Hugh

01869 349869 vicarhugo@hotmail.com

Celebrating Four Decades Of Fairport At Cropredy

AN EXHIBITION of photographs and memorabilia at Banbury Museum. 9 July to 10 September. Free entry.



Last summer Fairport's Cropredy Convention celebrated the 30th anniversary of the band's 1980 reunion festival. Birmingham-based freelance photographer Simon Hadley created a set of portraits of fans wearing the festival t-shirt from each of the 30 years, as well as the 1979 'farewell' year. These are being displayed in the museum's canalside café alongside poster and t shirt designs by Mick Toole, and band-related memorabilia.



Cherwell District Council's lead member for the environment, Cllr James Macnamara said: "Fairport Convention's festival at Cropredy has become an important and integral part of the cultural life of Cherwell, attracting fans from all over the world. It's come a long way from the modest beginnings of over thirty years ago and now this exhibition will celebrate the festival, the band and all the fans who've made the event such a success."

For more details contact Banbury Museum on 01295 753752, email banburymuseum@cherwell-dc.gov.uk.



The Annual Barford Duck Race

Will be held next month
(date to be published next issue)

In the usual venue

First race 2pm

As well as the Duck Races we will have
The Champion's Final followed by
'Run What Y'Brung' and then the
'Footwear races.

BBQ, Bouncy Castle and Tombola.

Bring your own folding chair or run.

All profits to Barford Playground Funds



1st Deddington Brownies



THE BROWNIES loved the Adventure Day at Warriner School. We did all sorts of games outside and inside and loved everything. We played football outside and enjoyed kicking and passing the ball. We did lots of arts and crafts and had a lot of fun. We made mosaics and hobby horses. We had great fun doing country dancing and learning all the moves. We all want to go again.

Megan Squires (age 8)

Thank You

A huge 'Thank You' to everyone who
helped me to raise **£1,326**
for Katharine House Hospice.

Rebecca Dyson

Deddington CE Primary



THIS MONTH Deddington School's contribution is written by a Year 6 pupil and is a recount of our residential trip.

On Easter Monday Year 6 went to Yenworthy, a residential centre in Devon. The staff were kind, friendly and fun, they encouraged us to do our best. The ropes course introduced us to Yenworthy life encouraging us to work as a team and try our best. Business the following day was also about teamwork. We chose our activities, losing and gaining money along the way. To succeed in any challenge we had to trust each other and understand each others strengths and weaknesses.

On the Tuesday and Wednesday we had the opportunity to experience sea kayaking and a survival day. On the kayaking day we enjoyed standing up on the kayaks and jumping off rocks into the sea. The next day was the Glenthorne adventure. We walked down the Glenthorne Valley to the beach where we built a shelter and learnt how to make fires and toasted marshmallows. On the way back to the lodge we enjoyed climbing up waterfalls and getting soaked.

On the last day we did the Lyn Valley walk before saying our goodbyes and getting on the coach. We all had a fantastic time. The staff (not forgetting dogs Dizzy and Margie) made our stay unforgettable. We had great food (thanks to brilliant cooks). The staff, the activities and the beautiful location of Exmoor has helped to make Yenworthy an experience we will never forget!!!

Elen Squires, Year 6

Barford Family Services

For the past couple of months, we've been enjoying some new family services for the 2nd and 3rd Sundays at 10.30am in Barford St Michael Church. A group has been organising and leading these new services, and highlights so far have included:



- building a donkey-on-wheels;
- following said donkey around the church (even when its head fell off) with palms that looked like leeks;
- attacking the Curate with a sword (don't ask where...);
- learning about what it takes to be a top-notch shepherd;
- escaping the clutches of wolves.

I could go on, but the general point is that we've been having a great time, and learning lots about God, life and the universe. The services are fairly short, lasting no more than 40 minutes with a few hymns and prayers, and there's coffee and biscuits to boot. We've got some great ideas for the next few months, and if you'd like to get involved in the Godly Madness, we'd love to hear from you. It's a great development in our village, and well worth a look-in if you haven't already been along. Everyone's welcome, and watch this space for more information about upcoming services.

Dan

curatedan@gmail.com/338582

WI News – the Resolution Special.

ONE OF THE ACTIVITIES the WI takes part in behind the scenes, is acting as a pressure group, drawing the attention of the government, our local authorities and the public at large, to issues that can influence all of our lives. The sheer size of the national membership coupled with effective, high profile campaigning makes the WI a force to be reckoned with – something that we can often overlook. Just before our AGM, WI members up and down the country get together each April and decide which resolutions we think are worthy of being adopted from a range of issues suggested by our national organisation. In recent years we have discussed everything from the plight of the honey bee to farm subsidies, however, this April, we were asked to consider campaigning against the proposed library closures and against granting planning permission for mega farms. Helen Honour gave a brief outline of the issues raised by the proposed establishment of mega farms and Sue Broughton led the discussion on library closures, which is especially relevant to the Barfords, in light of the threatened closure of Deddington Library. We decided that we thought both resolutions were worthy of adoption.

Following the serious business of the meeting, we moved on to a talk by Barbara Gray, on the history and development of the WI college at Denman and the hundreds of courses that it offers. We sometimes forget that one of the reasons that the WI was established was the education of women by women. Barbara is fortunate to spend much of her time at Denman and her affection and warmth for the place was obvious and infectious. Tea, coffee, biscuits and good company followed.

At our June meeting we will have Ann Hobday guiding us through the complications of Tudor Costume. Please come along and join us.

P.E.

Barford Green Garden Club Visit To Broughton Grounds Farm Tuesday 21st June

An evening visit has been organised to Broughton Grounds Farm, on Tuesday 21st June at 6.30pm.

Entrance is FREE but if we require tea and cakes it will be £2.00 per person. I am contacting individual members with more information but please note non members are welcome to join us.

If you are interested in this visit, which is very local, please contact me.

Jill Bunce

Tel 337577 / email : jill@ridleymarreco.co.uk



Deddington PFSU and Village Nursery

THIS IS A SHORT but busy term! At the Nursery we are finding out about people who help us and the alphabet, and the PFSU children are learning about mini-beasts. Things to look forward to include our Sports Day, to be held on the field behind Deddington Primary School, on Wednesday 29th June from 11am. Come with a picnic to eat on the field afterwards. Ian Taylor will be visiting us on the mornings of 14th and 15th June, to take informal photographs of the children at play. Also our fundraising party 'A Night at the Moulin Rouge' is fast approaching on Saturday 9th July at 7.30pm, at the Windmill Centre. Party the night away with a ten-piece rock band and supper. It promises to be an un-missable night! Thank you to everyone who brought in their vehicles to the PFSU last term, and to the Deddington fire crew who visited the Nursery. Lastly we have some staff changes this month. We welcome Emma on to the team and say a sad goodbye to Michelle who has been working at the PFSU and Nursery (and former Deddington Pre-School) for 8 years. Many of you will know her and her dedication to the children she cares for. We wish her well with her future plans.

Lucy Squires
337484

Fernhill Club News

WE HAD A LOVELY MEETING on 11th May when we were visited by Christine Turner a vicar and ballroom dancer talking about her amazing life, she took us from her time on 'Come Dancing' and all the people she met and danced with through the countries she visited for dancing competitions to becoming a vicar.

18th May we played card games in the hall.

On June 1st we hope to take a picnic and play skittles at Sandford St. Martin. On 8th June we are having a slideshow entitled 'The Wonders of Oxford' presented by Clive Jones. Gillian Cane will be telling us about her royal weekend on 22nd June.

Visitors always welcome so feel free to join for any of these meetings.

Mary Ashbridge
01295 252298



Village Clean Up Morning



On Saturday 6th May, in pouring rain, I walked down to the Village Hall with a notice to cancel the planned clean up morning. I was met by 12 residents in wet weather gear all anxious to do their bit. We had obviously underestimated the determination of our village folk, as numbers swelled to a total of 31 adults and children. While Bernard allocated areas and handed out equipment I rushed off to buy the promised doughnuts.

Thanks to all who turned up in spite of the awful weather. Happily, this year, there was very little to collect and the sun appeared in time for our return to the hall for refreshments and the group photo above.

Pictured above, 1 to r: Linda Newbury, Finlay, Paul & Rachel Gruber, Trish Field, Ann Beesley, Barbara Greenwood, Becky Dyson, Maggie Eden, Jane Holliday, Hazel Neal, Glynnis Eastwood, Mick & Eliot Dyson.

In front: Barney Neal, Emma and Amelia Best, Tilly & Connie Neal with Angus and Carolyn Elliott. Standing behind: George Parker, Bernard Lane and Jeff Elliott. Not pictured: Rachel, Poppy and Ollie Hill, Valerie Cavellara, Ava Hardingham, Cathy Peacock, Rodney Hobbs and Mariann Young.

SUMMER FAIR

for youth work fund.

Deddington Church,
Saturday 16th July,
Noon – 4 p.m.

Lunches, cakes, stalls.
Visit the bell tower

"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."

Welcome
To
Mrs. Fatima Pinto
and family
Who have recently come to live
in Townsend
We wish them a happy stay in
The Barfords

Book Review

AS A NEW FEATURE of Barford News, we'll be including book reviews. If you've read something good and would like to recommend it – whether it's newly-published or something that's been around for years - please let Mariann know. Meanwhile, Trevor Arrowsmith, who has recently moved to Seaton House in Horn Hill, starts us off with his review of *The Crimson Petal and the White*, by Michael Faber. It's published in paperback by Canongate at £9.99, and in a Kindle edition at £4.94



"My name is Sugar, I am what you would call a Fallen Woman, but I assure you I did not fall -I was pushed."

Smoggy, smug and sleazy Victorian London. We've been here before with Dickens and with Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes. Or have we? The toffs, the touts and in this case Sugar, a nineteen-year-old whore in the brothel of the corrupt and corrupting Mrs Castaway - this is Sugar's by-no-means sweet story, and that of the dilettante toff and unwilling heir to the family perfume business, William Rackham.

This is the real world (and a surprisingly topical one, dear Reader!) where money counts for almost everything, and many of those with it are at best confused about what constitutes moral conduct – their own and that of society. Poor little rich boy Rackham has married a well-connected wife, who turns out to be demented. She is examined intimately and frequently by her doctor – who would today have been struck off - but refuses her husband's advances. This sends Rackham spinning into the maelstrom of London's low-life sex trade, sometimes with and increasingly without encouragement from his two male chums, in search of something sweet ...

It's a doorstep of a book, but the twisting plot like the twisted characters will hold your attention, from the cinematic opening description of the teeming streets, to Sugar's moving farewell.

If you enjoyed the BBC TV adaptation, you will certainly warm to the even richer titillation, insights and intrigue of the book.

Singing For Pleasure



Our meetings are
June 6th & 20th
In the Village Hall

Join us whenever you like
No auditions, No solos
Just lots of fun!
Details from Mariann on 338570



Plant Swap

The by now traditional Barford Green Garden Club Plant Swap was greatly enjoyed by most of our members on the evening of Wednesday 18th May. It was generously hosted this year by Sarah Best and her family.



The evening was fine but chilly so most people moved indoors to enjoy delicious home made canapes with their drinks, having by then swapped anything from tomato plants to seedling trees. Our thanks go to Sarah and family for making us feel so welcome!

J.P.

Public Footpaths

The Parish Council is aware that on occasions, public footpaths can become overgrown.

If you find a public footpath in either village difficult to negotiate because of weeds or vigorously growing crops, please contact the Clerk and she will try to resolve the matter with the landowner.

Ro Watts, Tel 01295 722647.

Deddington PTA News

AS YOU READ THIS, the 7th Annual Deddington Walk will have come and gone. Once again the weather was kind to us and everyone seemed to rise to the various challenges set around the course from eating hot chilis to identifying different smells or guessing the value of certain antiques. We will be emailing a short questionnaire to all who registered as we are keen to hear about what you liked and what you didn't! This will provide us with much valued feedback as to the type of event you would like in future years – so please take a few minutes to tell us what you think! Thanks must go to our marshals, the Co-op and all those businesses who so generously sponsored our Walk and everyone else who helped make it a successful day once again. A huge thanks must also go to all those who turned out on the day and to those who have kindly sponsored our children – it is you who make the event happen – we could not do it without you!!

The next date to ensure you have etched on your calendar is our annual Fete which will be held on the school field on Saturday 18th June. **Please note our new time – the Fete starts at 12.30pm and ends at 3.30pm – don't miss it!!** This is promising to be an exciting event with the return of Felicity's racing sheep, the ever popular quad bikes and "Lane Change Digital Scalextric Racing". Amazing Animals are coming along again too – what will they bring this year?? Each class will be organising and running a stall as usual so do come and support our children and have a great time with lots of fun!! The PTA is also dreaming up some great side stalls – will they feature our famous owls again??!! The barbeque will be ready and sizzling – just in time for lunch - and then why not try one of our delicious cream teas later in the afternoon, perhaps whilst watching one of the various events in the arena ?? Of course we will also have our usual licensed bar which will be serving glasses of Pimms!

We look forward to welcoming you to the Fete and thank you all for your continued support.

Janet Watts
PTA Chair



Adderbury Party in the Park

Saturday, 2nd July.

The day-long free festival is now an established event that celebrates a wide range of local music. It all takes place at Lucy Plackett Playing Field. The running order for the festival is:

2:00 The Chain
2.45 Hot City Symphony
3.30 Jus' Chillin'
4.25 Scarecrow
5.10 Neva Mynd
6.05 Saddle the Pony
7.00 Every Hippies Dream
8.00 The Paperback Writers
9.00 The wRrants
10.00 The Blue Meanies

More details at www.adderburyevents.co.uk/

200 CLUB WINNERS: May draw

£15, No. 192 Rita Brain;

£10, No. 174 Mrs N. Coleman;

£5, No. 103, Wolfgang Alt.

The draw was made at a Whist Drive

Have You Got A Couple Of Hours To Spare?

Sobell House Hospice in Oxford is hoping to recruit volunteers to help us provide the best care that we can to terminally ill patients.



We are looking for people to:

- Cover our reception area. Duties include welcoming visitors, answering phone and making up blank notes. (You will not be expected to use a computer) or
- wipe down returned equipment such as wheelchairs and frames; and shred confidential waste or
- use their own car to bring patients in to attend our day centre. Mileage is paid

We cannot offer any money for your time but we do provide tea and biscuits and the opportunity to work with a great team of people

If you think you might be able to assist in any way then please contact Paula Gomersall on 01865 225868 or paula.gomersall@orh.nhs.uk

IMAGINE IF YOU WILL a dollop of Captain Mainwaring, add a portion of George Clooney, throw in a smidgin of Bruce Forsyth and toss in just a dash of Rambo, shake it all together and there you have him in Georgian Terms; The one and the only Ian Brooks. Ian Joined the Georgians just after it started and I can still recall the conversation he had with Paul Christmas, as I was within earshot at the time. Ian asked Paul what this Georgians thing was all about, the reply was; 'well it is a slippery slope down into oblivion - well actually it is a precipice really, but it is a lot of fun and they all seem to enjoy it,' 'oh' replied Ian enthusiastically 'and how do I join' 'well,' answered Paul 'you don't actually join, you are invited in, just go and see Tommy or Pete.' Paul then turned away and walked past me to the bar with just the smallest smirk on his face, saying quietly as he passed 'victim on the way, be gentle with him!'

Ian took to the Georgians like the proverbial 'Duck to the Water' and being the good golfer that he was, won quite a few team events and individual prizes along the way. Nancy always sent him out to play looking his best and he invariably wore 'That Hat' which he got fined for whether he wore it or not. In summer he took to wearing shorts which were just a tad too long and socks which were too long to be ankle socks and too short to be knee length. He didn't care and would strut around the golf course doling out advice on what type of shot to play, what club to use, what type of club you should have used and why what went wrong with the shot did go wrong. This analysis freely offered was not always well received, sometimes with spectacular results. Read on dear reader, read on;

The Spit the Dummy prize, this for the worst or best (however you want to judge it) incident of bad temper, profane language or club abuse, in this case a combination of all three. It was triggered /invented by Ian at Cherwell edge Golf Club; Aussi Robbie, a trifle volatile at the best of times was paired with Ian and came a cropper somewhere along towards the ninth hole, how he had kept his temper in check for so long is truly remarkable but he finally 'lost it' when Ian in typical fashion told him where, when, why and how the shot he had just played was flawed. Robbie exploded and wrapped his eight Iron around a staked tree, snapping the head of the club right off. The head was rescued and mounted with a baby's dummy on a wooden base and presented to Robbie at prize giving that evening and to subsequent winners ever since. Thank you Ian.



The Arthur Scargill award; 'Good Strike – Bad Result' This was an award that Ian won all to himself, it was a one off and has never been

repeated. We were at Magnolia Park and had reached the hole where there was a prize for the longest drive, the caveat being that the shot still had to be on the fairway or in this case the golf course itself. Ian asked advice of his playing partners as to what direction he should hit the ball and was told to aim for the electric pylon in the distance, this he duly did and was nonplussed to find that as he approached said pylon he was looking into a farmers field in the general direction of Didcot. He enquired of his partners as to the validity of their advice and on being advised that he had aimed at the wrong pylon had to trudge all the way back to the tee to re-load. Needless to say, Ian

was not very happy because the shot he had hit was indeed a thing of beauty and would have won the longest drive prize with ease and he stated so in no uncertain terms. Basil Butler however was elated because he had aimed at the correct pylon and won said prize.

Satellite Navigation; Imagine if you will a contest between Jerry Cederlund, Ian Brooks and a Sat Nav unit called Marilyn, all this in a car being driven by our good friend and fellow Georgian Keith Taylor. We had been to Sandford Springs somewhere near Woking and following lunch etc were all making our merry way back to Barford for prizegiving. None of our threesome duly appeared and it turned out that they had got lost somewhere along the M4 near Swindon or Chippenham. Poor Keith, he was receiving so much contradictory information and directions from Jerry, Ian and the Sat Nav machine (Marilyn) that he did not know who or what to believe and ended up stopping the car at a Pub he came across, getting out and leaving the three of them to it.

Whisky Raffle; We were again at Magnolia Park and a whisky raffle was held before we commenced play, Keith Taylor won the prize, a particularly aromatic bottle of Speyside single malt. Keith declared the 'nose' of the whisky was reminiscent of Sugared Mice and smouldering twigs, other opinions were 'like a damp chimney sweep' or 'a Horses Nose bag and Molasses' or 'Fresh Pears and pencils' and even 'the Inside of a new welly boot'. Ian then brought proceedings to an abrupt halt when he opined that it reminded him of a 'Tarts Parlour.' The subsequent queue for a second opinion was likened to the storming of the Bastille.

Christmas visit to SandMartins; We all thought that it would be a good idea to end the year by having an away day in a Bus and coming back to Barford fed and watered and ready to Party in The George. A band (Pete Watkins) was hired for the entertainment. Now it needs to be stated at this point that the hospitality at Sandmartins was superb, we created such a feeling of well being with our hosts that we were even invited to stay for THEIR Christmas Party. A vote was taken and it was unanimous that we would stay, it was at this juncture that the bus driver put a spoke in the proverbial wheel and announced that we could do as we liked but that he was going home when his hours ran out. Needless to say that we all (including our Ian) had had a very good time and had partaken of a small refreshment or three and that when we said goodbye to Sandmartins it was with much regret. Their beer was cheaper than The George's for one thing.

On arrival Back in Barford and as we all attempted to get out the bus and safely into The George, our Ian missed the last step on the bus and went arse over breakfast onto the road, he rebounded off said road and entered The George as though nothing untoward had taken place. We all had a great evening and low and behold did he not go and give us a repeat performance on his exit, probably being the only person to have fallen into and out of The Pub on the same evening.

Ian was the stuff of legend and I have no doubt that there are more stories that will be told about him, these stories will be enhanced by the telling of them and so will the legend grow. I can only hope that Saint Peter does not play Golf, because if he does he has got 'a hard time coming'

God bless you and keep you Ian, you will be sorely missed.

Your Fellow Georgians and Friends.

Thank you

Nancy, Cherie and family wish to thank everyone for their kind messages, cards and support in memory of Ian.

Special thanks to Sarah Best for providing the lovely food and to Martin at The George Inn

1st Deddington Guides



OUR ENTERTAINMENT of camp-fire songs

was very much enjoyed by our enthusiastic audience! With the help of our raffle and donations we raise almost £100. This will be shared between three charities: RSPCA, SENSE (a charity that supports blind/deaf children) and a local charity that supports young people. Thankyou!

Congratulations!! to Tilly and Lucy who carried the colours for us at the St. George's Day Parade in Banbury. We joined Mary and 1,000 others in the parade and were very proud of them both.

We had fun exploring the village market place on a cold evening in April. After the quiz we welcomed Olivia R and Alice C into the unit in a promise ceremony.

We very much enjoyed the Mothering Sunday service led by the Boys Brigade - we were pleased to help out with the posies and some guides visited Featherton House afterwards. We began this term as we mean to continue, with being outside as much as possible. We had a great time cooking sausages and beans - ah! the smell of the wood smoke - that's what it's all about!! A belated Easter Egg hunt rounded off the evening.

Maggie Rampley 01295 810069

Marian Trinder 01869 340806

The Friends of St Mary's Bloxham
present



**A TALK/TOUR
OF ST MARY'S
CHURCH,
BLOXHAM
- LED BY
IAN HATTON**

"One of the grandest churches
in the country"
(Pevsner's Buildings of England)

**At the Church
Friday 17 June, 7.30pm**

All welcome - Admission free -
Refreshments - Retiring donations
for the Friends of St Mary's



Barford St Michael Village Market

All the usual stalls plus a few surprises



Sat. 18th June 10-12 noon

Outside Ayot Croft, Townsend

Come and see the Morris Dancing!

Deddington Primary School Annual Summer Fete

Saturday 18th June 2011
from 12.30pm to 3.30pm



Entrance at the School Field Gate
£2 Adults £1 Children
£5 Family Ticket
£1 OAPs Under 5s Free

Exotic animals, reptiles and more!!!

Crazy golf

Hook a duck



Music & dancing

BBQ & karaoke



Quad bikes & Scalextric racing



Mouthwatering afternoon tea
with cakes and scones or
a delicious selection of ice creams

****Stop Press****

Sheep Racing!!!

Organised by Deddington Primary School PTA
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GARDEN PARTY

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a lovely village
garden on a
summer's
afternoon - and
support human
rights



IN AID OF
AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL

Tea, cakes, games,
stalls, raffle

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Little Bennetts
Rose Bank
Bloxham

SAT 4 JUNE

Admission on the
gate: £2
(free for under 16s)

2.30-4.30PM

Amnesty International is a movement of ordinary people from around the world standing up for humanity and human rights. Our purpose is to protect individuals wherever justice, fairness, freedom and truth are denied.

www.amnesty.org.uk/bloxham

Janet's Rage

The story below was written by a Barford WI member whilst attending a writing course at Denman College

Trevor Brooks had written to Alison's mother from prison asking for her forgiveness and saying that he hated himself. Forgiveness for killing twelve year old Alison. The obituary in the Arlington News had read 'The beloved only child of Janet and Thomas Williams.' Janet had replied with a letter of her own. In it she had written, 'Hate, you don't know the meaning of the word but I do. I'll never be called Mum again and never, ever Granny. Be careful when you get out and getting on with your life because if I see you then you'll know what dying for a drink means.' Shortly after his release Trevor Brooks' death had been reported in the local paper. He had been found hanging in his garage. There was no suicide note and Janet's letter had never been found. When Janet read the report she regained the power to smile again. The smile only reached her mouth, never her eyes.

20 years later Janet was no longer an attractive 35 year old woman but a frumpy, 55 year old. She was on her way to the hairdressers to have her once glossy brown hair, now turning grey, cut and blow-dried. She liked the hairdressers. Cheryl, the stylist who did her hair, just prattled on about everyone she knew, family, friends and customers alike as if Janet knew them all. "Hi Janet" said Cheryl and she was off. "Do you know Shirley Brooks?" Cheryl's voice sank to a whisper. "Her husband topped himself you know." Janet's heart felt as if it had stopped. "Well," Cheryl continued speaking more loudly "her daughter, Jenny, just had triplets. All boys would you believe. Not IVF or whatever you call it. It's in the paper." The bile began to rise in Janet's throat. Rage engulfed her but no one would have guessed by looking at the dowdy woman smiling and muttering "That's nice." "Yes, isn't it. Shirley lives at 22 and Jenny lives at 34 so Granny will be able to help out," Cheryl babbled on.

Janet headed home still boiling inside. Tom came in from work, ate his dinner of sausage and mash and dozed, as usual, in front of the telly until bedtime. Whilst he dozed Janet plotted. She's got three and I've got none. Where's the fairness in that? I should have at least one. An eye for an eye and all that she thought. The following morning she put on her beige mac and set off. Nobody noticed her as she approached the street where Shirley lived. Number 34 was quiet but 22 seemed frantic with noise, laughter and babies crying. Resentment and jealousy bubbled up inside Janet.

Every day except for weekends, Tom was at home then, Janet made the same journey. Eight weeks after her first visit to the street the door of 34 was open. A double buggy with two babies was just inside the door. A single buggy with one baby just outside the

door. "Are you ready Mum? I don't want to be late for the clinic" a young woman that Janet assumed was Jenny said. An older woman's voice replied, "Hold on, I can't find my hand bag." "Oh for heaven's sake" the younger woman said turning back inside the house.

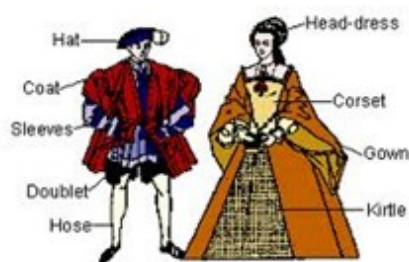
Janet took her chance, grabbed the single buggy and wheeled it as fast as she could up the street. Oh Lord my heart's beating like a drum she thought. As she turned the corner panic kicked in. What was she going to do now? Her plan hadn't gone this far. The shopping precinct she thought. Lots of Grannies there, shopping with their daughters and grandchildren, in the precinct she walked past the chemists towards the seats in the centre and sat down gently rocking the buggy. The baby in the buggy had blond hair. Nothing like my Alison's beautiful dark curls she thought. The blond baby's gentle cries built into a crescendo of screaming. The panic in Janet's chest escalated as a security guard approached her. What to do next? Run for it? No good. CCTV cameras everywhere. Then she began to scream. 20 years of rage and hurt began to pour out. She felt a hand on her arm and looked up at PC Gardener. She'd known him and his Mum since he was a little boy. "Come on love. Let's get you somewhere quieter," he said. A policewoman wheeled away the baby towards a waiting police car. The security guard looked bewildered and said to anyone who would listen "I was only going to show her the way to the baby changing room."

At the police station Janet sat in the interview room. Detective Hill sat opposite her. "How's the baby?" asked Janet. "Back with his Mum safe and sound" the Detective replied. "Can you tell her I'm sorry? She must have been so scared." The Detective asked if she wanted to make a phone call. She shook her head. Who could she call? "What's going to happen now? Will I be charged or something?" she asked. Detective Hill nodded. "But we'll get the doctor to look at you first."

Janet is much better now. Tom visits her regularly in the hospital and they talk, really talk. They talk about Alison and how they have both felt all these years. They talk about how they will start over again somewhere new. They don't talk about when. Janet picks up the 'born again' baby doll with dark hair that Dr O'Connor has given her. "I know it's not a real baby," she tells Tom. "And I'll give it back soon but not just yet. Perhaps we could get a puppy? A black one?" Tom nods. "I saw Cheryl today. Did you know she does hairdressing in here? She wonders if you'd like your hair done. She was on about some new style or other. Thinks it would suit you." Janet smiles. The smile reaches her eyes. "I think maybe I will."

TUDOR COSTUME

A talk by
Ann Hobday



Wednesday, 8th June

7.30pm, Village Hall

All Welcome to join us at our

WI Meeting Visitors £3.00

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Rare Visitor Takes a Rest In Barford



Well done to Maggie Eden for spotting this beautiful Death's Head Hawkmoth resting in her garden. Named for the skull-like pattern on its thorax this short-tongued moth does not visit flowers but often enters beehives to take honey. If disturbed or handled it has the alarming habit of squeaking, but Mags didn't test this out! This impressive species is the largest European Hawkmoth having a wingspan of up to 13.5cm, common in Southern Europe but rare in the British Isles.

Banbury Rural Neighbourhood Update

Speeding - YOU SAID....WE DID

This month has seen the Neighbourhood Action Group decide on new Priority Areas. The team will be focusing their attention on Hempton and Milton. We have conducted 5 speeding operations in these locations throughout the month. Speedwatch Operations result in offenders being sent letters warning them about their speed and the Laser operations resulted in offenders being issued with a Fixed Penalty Ticket in addition to 3 points on the licence. Those eligible for a speed awareness course will be offered that as an alternative.

Team News

PCSO Alford and PC Miller have been attending Bodicote Car Boot Sale to try and alleviate some of the parking issues that residents have been experiencing. Whilst they have been there they have held Have Your Say meetings to give residents an opportunity to discuss issues with them. We have also been attending Parish Council Meetings and PC Miller and PC McLeod have conducted a police surgery within The Warriner School, Bloxham.

Crime News

There have been incidents of criminal damage to vehicles in Ayres Drive, Bloxham. These are being investigated by the team. It is important that we are contacted if you have any information or witness any suspicious activities to enable to deal with this most efficiently. Call us on 0845 8 505 505.

There have also been incidents of criminal damage to vehicles in Griffin Close in Adderbury. Again please contact the team if you have any further information.

There have been burglaries to garages in Bloxham, stables in North Newington and theft of fuel in Barford St John. We would just like to remind you to be vigilant and if you witness any suspicious activity contact the team on 0845 8 505 505.

There have also been thefts of lead from locations throughout the neighbourhood which the team are investigating.

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 banburyruralneighbourhood@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk. In an emergency please dial 999.

Icelandic Investment Looks Set For Return



CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL is today a step closer to recovering the £6.5 million it had invested with Icelandic bank Glitnir.

The council was one of a handful of local authorities chosen as test cases for review by the Icelandic District Court.

This became necessary after the bank announced last year that it would not offer preferential creditor status to wholesale depositors.

But the district court today found in favour of those authorities which, in partnership with the Local Government Association (LGA) and law firm Bevan Brittan, challenged the decision.

Councillor James Macnamara, Cherwell's portfolio holder for resources and communications, said: "This decision proves we were right to work closely with other local authorities and the LGA on this issue. "This partnership approach has saved the taxpayer an enormous amount of money in legal fees and I am in no doubt that it also helped us present a stronger case.

"The result means that we should see the lion's share of our investment returned along with a portion of the interest it would have generated."

The council must now pay close attention to the detail of the court's decision and recognises that a further challenge could be mounted by its opponents.

Responding to the judgement of the Icelandic District Court, Baroness Margaret Eaton, chairman of the LGA, said: "It is excellent news that the judges in Iceland have heard the arguments on both sides and found in favour of local authorities.

"This judgment means that councils' claims have been recognised as deposits with priority status over other creditors' claims and will be at the front of the queue when it comes to getting their money back following the collapse of the failed Icelandic banks. We hope that our opponents will accept this clear verdict.

"Securing priority status in the administrations of Landsbanki and Glitnir could save council taxpayers across the country as much as £400million.

"This money is particularly important at a time when local authorities need to maximise resources to help fund the reduction in their funding.

"The way in which the LGA has coordinated the legal action in this matter has minimised legal costs for all of the councils involved and provided value for money for taxpayers.

"The cost to councils of the litigation to date amounts to less than one per cent of the money we expect to recover.

"If there is any further legal challenge, the LGA will continue to coordinate support for our member authorities."

For further information please contact:

Craig Forsyth, Tel: 01295 221639

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



As one Wag put it 'Considering they are working in Banbury it's a hell of a mess they made in BSM!'

Past and present on display at museum

Graduate Art & Design Exhibition: Then & Now

The latest exhibition at Banbury Museum sees a new twist to the regular show of the best art and design from Oxfordshire School of Creative Arts in Banbury (part of Oxford and Cherwell Valley College).

Museum events and exhibitions officer, Dale Johnston, said: "Now in two parts, the exhibition begins with artwork from former students of the college. There's a wide range of styles and materials, from paintings and photography to jewellery, wallpaper design, and woodcut prints. The former students are laying down the challenge to the new graduates, whose work will take over the gallery for the second part of the exhibition, opening on 25 June."

Accompanying the exhibition are activities for younger visitors including prize trails, activity backpacks for 3 to 5 year olds and the Art Cart, where children can create their own artwork to bring home. Details are available on Cherwell District Council's website, www.cherwell.gov.uk/banburymuseum, or by phoning 01295 753752.

The first part of the exhibition can be viewed up until 18 June. The museum is open every day

News Release issued by Chief Executive's Office, Cherwell District Council, Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury, Oxon OX15 4AA

Prices Slimmed For Bulky Waste (CDC PR 1322)

RESTRUCTURED CHARGES for bulky waste collections mean they are now cheaper for most households across Cherwell.



They were previously fixed at £20 for up to four items but this has now been broken down into two categories.

Cherwell District Council will now collect up to three items on the "bulky saver list" for just £9. Other items are charged at £18 for three as they are more expensive to dispose of.

This means that anyone taking full advantage of the scheme pays just £3 or £6 per item.

Councillor George Reynolds, Cherwell's portfolio holder for environment, recreation and health, said: "We have changed the system that we use the collect bulky waste in line with our policy of recycling as much as we can.

"If residents have only one item they can join with friends and neighbours to make up a group of three items and so save themselves some cash.

"It is not always necessary for these items to be disposed of, they can often be found a new home and our website provides some handy details on this.

"But these changes should make it cheaper for most people to dispose of their bulky waste should they absolutely have to."

Concessionary collections for older people have now been removed for precisely the same reasons – the council could not afford to continue picking up one item at a time, free of charge.

Government grant cuts mean the council has seen its budget drop by £1.4 million for the current year with further reductions to follow.

"We have had some very difficult choices to make but the money has had to come from somewhere," added Councillor Reynolds.

"Nobody wants to see their regular refuse collections reduced or people left without homes when they fall on hard times.

"Everyone in the district will to some degree be affected by the cuts but we feel that the most vital council services have been protected."

Visit www.cherwell.gov.uk/bulkywaste for full details of the council's bulky waste collection service.

For further information please contact:

Craig Forsyth Tel: 01295 221639

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

News Release issued by Chief Executive's Office, Cherwell District Council, Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury, Oxon OX15 4AA

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."

Musical Notes

Sparkling Summer Concert at South Newington, St Peter's Ad Vincula

Saturday 11th June 2011 at 6.30 pm

Tickets £10 (under 16s £1)



To celebrate the completion of current refurbishment work on this beautiful medieval church, St Peter's Ad Vincula welcomes the University of Reading Chamber Choir for a summer concert including music by Buxtehude, Monteverdi and Purcell's Dido and Aeneas.

To reserve tickets telephone 01295 720228, or email southnewingtonevents@gmail.com

Cornbury Festival at Great Tew

This July the Cornbury Festival will take place in the stunning setting of The Great Tew Estate near Chipping Norton.

The family-orientated festival, now in its eighth year, has been expanded to a three-day event on the weekend of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd July. Famed for its glamour, charm and VIP comfort, the Cornbury Festival offers an intimate and civilised alternative to larger more crowded festivals.

This year's programme offers an eclectic mix of musical styles across four stages, a fantastic children's area with a complete programme of daily activities.

Musical acts featured will include James Blunt, Eliza Doolittle, Cyndi Lauper, Status Quo, Deacon Blue, Ray Davies, The Faces, Imelda May, The Saw Doctors, Olly Murs, Alice Gold, Ben Montague, Sophie Ellis Bextor, Pete Lawrie, Bellowhead, and local youth talent, The Chipping Norton All Stars.

Tickets are on sale now from www.cornburyfestival.com or by calling the ticket hotline on 0844 338 0000.

NATURE NOTES 97

APRIL, AS SHE SKIPPED IN from her hiding place, was supposed to refresh, beguile and charm us with her usual caprice. But it was obvious from the start that April was in a Mood! At first she shot chilly glances at us from under a furrowed brow, then when she saw we didn't appreciate it, she became a red hot vamp, immodest, angry, and after all-day partying, icy cold. Then like all smarty-boots, after she had made an exhibition of herself, she left in a sulk.

Let's see how things transpired.

From the start of the month until the 16th the wind was in a westerly quarter and, for the first eight days, that was SW. It was a cool, fresh blow, largely overcast with patches of sun. It was showery on the 3rd, 4th (overnight) and 5th with temperatures between 13° – 18°(day) and 0.5° – 2.5° at night. Apart from Green Woodpeckers, which seemed to be laughing everywhere, and a Coal Tit which was nesting in the tiniest crevice of a stone wall round at Bas Butler's, this period belonged to the insects. The first was that prettiest of small solitary bees *Osmia rufa*, with its furry foxy red abdomen and black furry thorax. You can see it everywhere for a few weeks as it provisions its nest holes (which are usually old nail-holes in walls or bits of hollow stick) with pollen and nectar.

The winter star groups, Orion and the Plieides with Sirius, Taurus and Auriga now appear too far to the west (i.e. closer to the Sun) to be seen at night. They are still there of course, but as seen from Earth's orbit around the Sun, they seem to change position through the year and are now making way for the Spring and Summer groups.

Meanwhile, back on Planet Earth, I was working in Bodicote for the week. After a milder night, the 6th dawned overcast and the Sun broke through about 8.45am. There followed a hot, clear day in which the temperature soared to 23°C (71°F). This was searing compared to the low teens to which we were accustomed, but such high temperatures were to feature strongly through the rest of the month. The nights however, stayed treacherously cool!

On the 7th I spotted my first Orange Tip butterfly of the year; meanwhile over at Bodicote Nuthatches and a Kestrel were so noisy throughout the day that it was almost a relief to come home away from their calls!

We now entered a period of unstable wind direction, including spells with no discernible wind or cloud drift at all. On the 9th an easterly breeze arose across a slight pre-dawn frost. I was surprised to hear a Garden Warbler burbling brightly from bushes at the end of Townsend and later, very surprised to hear the Cuckoo calling from below

Steepness at 5pm, (still about 10 days earlier than usual)! Buzzards soared and called around Steepness and a Tawny Owl hooted from the Worton Road in the early hours.

By day the *Osmia* bees were now well in action and it was time for the *Andrena* solitary mining bees to start making little holes in the lawn, each surrounded by a tiny cone of excavated soil particles. In these burrows the 'miners' will provision cells and lay their eggs. Equally interesting, although sinister, are the skinny, black and yellow *Nomada* bees, watching from in the grass to get into the *Andrenas*' nests and parasitise them. *Nomada* bees look very much like wasps and despite being genuine bees, behave like many solitary wasps and are parasitic on their relatives.

Again an easterly breeze arose across a slight frost on the 10th. Temperatures in the low twenties continued to the 11th and the wind went to NW, the day temperature dropping. There was another slight pre-dawn frost on the 12th. On the 13th the the wind backed further to SW and the day temperature reached a minimum of 13.5°.

On the 15th, a high pressure system was becoming established, blocking damp Atlantic fronts from crossing the country. Even so, heavy storm clouds, rising from a very turbulent cloud base, moved in from the W but disappointingly dropped no rain. And, the day temperature started to climb (20°) again!

A very early House Martin paused to give my artificial nest a brief inspection on his way to who-knows-where in the north.

By now, farmers and gardeners were becoming increasingly worried by the dryness. There was little bite left in grazing for ewes and lambs or horses; not quite so bad for cattle in well managed meadows, but bad enough. Moisture was rapidly disappearing out of sight on dug ground in gardens. Bear in mind, despite a few showers the last significant rain was on 28th of February!

The 16th, 17th and 18th (another slight frost) were very still, the 16th – 18th with heavy cloud building after midday, the 17th with day-long clear, warm sunshine.

A Great Spotted Woodpecker spent a while 'kecking' and dementedly jumping around on an electricity pole (these birds aren't much in evidence at the minute, are they?) Silvia Butler listened to Tawny Owls around Lower Street and the Cuckoo near the church, early on the morning of the 17th. I, myself, am delighted at the resurgence of Greenfinches around our villages – they seem to be rattling and wheezing in almost every tree this year! And the Goldfinches continue their all pervading presence – what a joy!

But the year so far belongs to the invertebrates; good numbers of Orange Tips – and the spiders – crowds of little *Pardosids* scuttling over bare earth and stones for prey and mates, tiny juveniles of *Araneus diadematus* (orb or cross spider) and *Thomisids* (crab spiders), but not so many *Pisaura mirabilis* in the grass, with their bright back stripe and sorrowful, dark tear-marks.

On the 19th a light easterly breeze arose and slowly backed to NE. The Cuckoo sang below Steepness for a while around 7am and a Blackcap sang at the end of Townsend, replacing the Garden Warbler which moved over the Hempton Road to sing loudly from a shrubbery in the grounds of Barford House. The day became hazy and oppressive in the afternoon with a temperature of 24°

The next four days were very still, with temperatures climbing through 26° to 28° (82.4°F) on the 23rd. N.B. This IS April. I saw my first Swallow in the Barfords on 20th and was thus beaten hands down by everyone else! But to make up for that there were three Buzzards calling and soaring over Steepness.

There were now health warnings being broadcast regarding aerial dust and chemical pollution causing the hazy smog in the sky. This was apparently being carried over from Northern Europe on the extremely slow NE drift generated by the high pressure and still dominant, 'Weather Blocker'. There were heavy early morning mists in the meadows because the nights remained very cool (3° – 4°). On the 21st, thunder could be heard all around us. It was local and there were hail and rainstorms but everything bypassed the Barfords!

On the 22nd a whole troupe (about seven) of House Martins visited my artificial nest for a few days. At least three roosted in it and a little mud was added to the damaged entrance hole. However the birds departed after about four days and, I suppose, moved further north.

In the hazy, brassy, sullen, oppressive heat of the 23rd large 'anvil' clouds developed in the afternoon; their movement was almost indiscernible but if one watched carefully they appeared to be moving in different directions at the same time. There was no rain and the clouds dispersed by sunset to give a clear night of stars.

Most creatures now appeared to be very suppressed in their amount of activity – except the insects. A Heron *did* invade Carrion Crow territory over Horn Hill and was driven away squawking by the angry birds. During the evening a Tawny Owl was hooting well to the east, below Hempton.

The 24th was overcast with a heavy mist and occasional glimpses of sun which broke through to give a pleasant afternoon of 22.5° – almost chilly

after the previous day. I celebrated with a Garden Warbler singing in the grounds of the Old Vicarage.

The 25th produced a hazy, overcast morning with a SE breeze. It cleared to give a warm sunny afternoon of 22°, but the extremes had gone. The nights remained cool with another slight frost on the 27th. On the 26th the wind backed to NE and stayed there until after month's end. There was a shower of rain in the small hours. The 29th dawned overcast, showery and cool. There was a little fitful sun in the morning to heighten the melodies from the Garden Warbler at Barford House. Then at about 5pm there was a violent, but not prolonged, hail and thunderstorm which roared in from ESE.

The 30th produced a beautiful warm day of 20° with a boisterous NE breeze. The House Martins appeared to be patching up the artificial nest quite happily. The sky became hazy and only the brightest stars were visible at night. Thus April, widely proclaimed to be the hottest and maybe the driest on record, limped off to contemplate her excesses, rather than skipping blithely away to next year.

Ron Knight

Do you have Type 2 Diabetes?

Do you know someone with Type 2 Diabetes?

Your local NHS provide free education for people with diabetes who are registered with Oxfordshire GPs*

If you feel you or a member of your family would benefit, contact the Community Diabetes Service on 01869 604091 and ask about:

diabetes2gether & **diabetes4ward**
or email

diabetes2gether@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk

* some areas use alternative services please contact us for further information