

# BARFORD NEWS

**MARCH 2010**

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## Parish Council Notes

**T**HE ONLY ABSENTEE from the parish council meeting on February 3<sup>rd</sup> was Councillor Lane who had sent his apologies well in advance as he was going to be on holiday. Also in attendance were, District Cllr P O'Sullivan, County Cllr R Jelf for part of the meeting and 3 members of the public namely Mr C Seagroatt QC; Mrs J Greaves; Miss R Greaves.

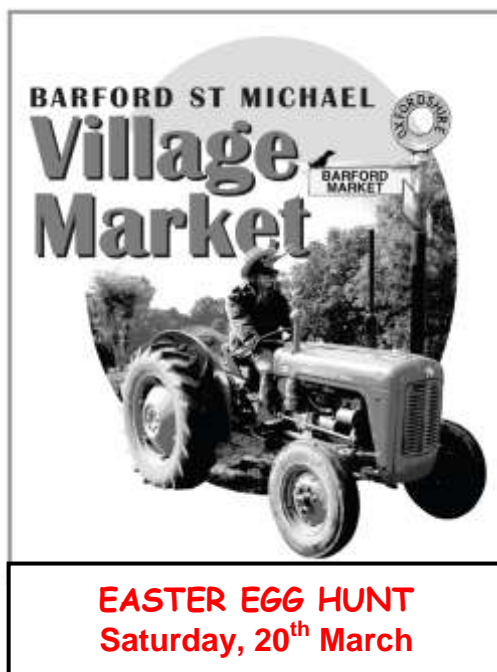
The minutes of the January meeting were passed as a true record and duly signed.

The Parish Council's website is currently sourced via Cherwell-local website. CDC has confirmed that this will no longer be available after 31 March 2011. They are about to develop a replacement system for the Cherwell-local website hosting service. As with Cherwell-local, it will be a self-service model based around the idea that parishes should be able to set it up & maintain it themselves. The Clerk is sitting on a CDC working group to represent parishes and their needs. Input from Barford Parish Council is required as to how they would like the website to look. The Clerk will speak to Mariann Young about facilities and functionality the Barfords might like from a new website.

The clerk reported that in correspondence between Clerk and OCC about re-routing the school coaches through Barford St Michael OCC had confirmed that they would meet Mr Seagroatt on site on 9 February. During public participation Mr C Seagroatt addressed the meeting about the change of route of school buses along South Newton Road; he believed there was a potential risk to pedestrians and vehicles and the verges were being damaged. Correspondence with OCC and Worth's Coaches asking for the coaches to return to their original route had to date achieved little. The matter was discussed at some length; some Councillors felt that this was not a Parish Council

issue, since there were no restrictions on what type of vehicle could use this route. It was agreed by 4 to 2 abstentions that the Clerk would write to OCC again asking for the coaches to be re-routed. County Cllr Jelf, taking copies of correspondence, offered to take the matter up with OCC.

Also during public participation Mrs J Greaves addressed the meeting about perceived speeding problems at The Rock. In the 30 years she had lived there, there had been no problems i.e. traffic flow worked well; drivers could see clearly up/down the road, with drivers courteously giving way. Having to negotiate The Rock actually reduced the speed of vehicles. She was against traffic calming measures, especially traffic lights, which would have a regrettable visual impact on the area and lead to creeping urbanisation. Miss R Greaves added her support to Mrs Greaves views. County Cllr Jelf said that OCC were actively de-cluttering highways and that there was little funding for minor schemes in any case. The Chairman noted and thanked them for their views. He said that Steve Wood would be carrying out a speed survey at



The Rock in the near future. This should ascertain if speeding is indeed a problem in this area.

Under the heading of Parish Matters the Nether Worton Road / Townsend Junction was discussed. The OCC engineer had been away from the office and County Cllr Jelf had not been able to take this matter forward with highways. He hoped the engineer would be able to check the site in early March. Cllr Eden reported that a parishioner had complained about proposals for new paths to be laid at West Close. A parishioner had asked the Chairman for more salt bins to be put in the village. The Clerk advised that bins would cost £150 each + VAT. OCC Highways had to approve any requests. After discussion it was unanimously agreed not to apply for more bins at this stage.

## WI Report

**W**EDNESDAY 10 FEBRUARY  
drew a bumper number of

visitors to the Village Hall to hear Judith Licence, of Little Tew, talk about her experiences as a 19 year old ballet school graduate who went for an audition (described by her ballet mistress as 'somewhere foreign') and ended up dancing in the National Ballet of Iran, the 'personal' company of the Shah of Persia.

Judith gave us a real feel for the experience, with many photographs passed around the assembly showing her in various roles and poses. She gave a vivid description of the theatre in Teheran, a building where money was no object – all black marble with chandeliers by the dozen – a huge stage and full air conditioning which was absolutely necessary in the heat and dust of Iran. She shared her exciting dancing life with Americans, Iranians and other Brits, but after 4 years, was quite happy to make her escape from the country which, having been a place where the population was either super-rich or very poor, plunged into revolution with the return of Ayatollah Khomeini.

Judith brought some of her shoes to show us, describing the various stages of wear on them and telling us how she would select the right shoe for the next stage appearance – sometimes changing shoes 5 or 6 times a performance. A lovely talk, shared with visitors and friends, which was a really delightful way to spend the evening.

Next month we will be having our Annual Meeting, with guest speaker Barbara Gray from the Oxfordshire Federation.

SRT



### 200 CLUB WINNERS DECEMBER 2009

£100, No. 196, Edith Garrett

£50, No. 211, The Streeter Family

£25, No 029, Colin Cohen

£15, No. 200, Ann Beesley

£10, No. 007 Mr & Mrs Hancock

£5, No 192, Rita Brain

Draw took place at the Christmas Party

### JANUARY 2010

£15, No. 16, Elizabeth Brain

£10, No. 147, Keith Taylor

£5, No. 17, The Christie Family

Draw took place at a Whist Drive

### FEBRUARY 2010

£15, No. 34, Arthur Goffe

£10, No. 97, Leon Daly

£5, No, 216, Petrina Cassell

Draw took place at The George



A  
Talk on

## Bumblebees

By Richard Hopkins  
Of Applegarth Nurseries

At  
The Village Hall  
7.30pm  
Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March





## Raising Funds for Our Annual Christmas Lunch

We will be holding a  
**RAFFLE**  
At the Village Market  
On 20<sup>th</sup> March

~ ~ ~

**Donations of Prizes  
Most welcome**

(Unused items only please)  
(Contact Mariann 338 570)

~ ~ ~

**Please come along to the Market  
And support us if you possibly can!!**

~ ~ ~

Now that the monthly Bingo evenings  
have ended,  
We need your help to support  
our Christmas Lunch

### Pastoral Care

**O**UR PASTORAL CARE GROUP in the Deddington Benefice is currently made up of members of the congregation at St Peter and St Paul's Church who have a bit of spare time to visit or offer help to people in Deddington, Hempton and Clifton. It has been very rewarding for everyone involved. We wonder whether any Barfordians might like to be involved through the Church in helping out those in need in the Barfords. If you have a particular concern for people in Barford who might benefit and would consider joining the Benefice Pastoral Care Group, then please contact Revd. Dr. Hugh White on 01869 349869 [vicarhugo@hotmail.com](mailto:vicarhugo@hotmail.com) or Vanessa Loach at [threshingbarn@hotmail.com](mailto:threshingbarn@hotmail.com) or 01869 338821

### Deddington CE Primary School



**M**arch is upon us and everyone at school is looking forward to our annual whole school production- this year it is 'Annie'. Any child who wishes to be part of the production is able to, we had more than ever auditioning for a role this year, and hence it really is a 'whole School' production! Following on from the demand for tickets last year we have decided to put on a third evening performance this year, all performances are at Deddington Church. As well as most of Year 6 rehearsing for 'Annie' they are also going on their week long residential to Yenworthy in Exmoor this month. The week promises to be challenging but lots of fun, with rock climbing, problem solving and night walks being some of the exciting activities they will be participating in. Also in March Year 5 are very lucky to have been offered an opportunity to attend a Science Day at Tudor Hall. This is the second year Tudor hall have run such a day, it was a great success last year and the children are really looking forward to it. We are also collecting Sainsbury's vouchers again this year so if you have got any please drop them in to the School Office. Now that the snow is behind us and the final preparations for 'Annie' are underway the children are working hard and looking forward to the Spring and Easter, hopefully the better weather is not too far away!

Mrs Jane Cross, Deputy Head



**Girlguiding UK**  
*girls in the lead*

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

**A** short half term but we've packed a lot in! A wide variety of games and challenges. Some very interesting Patrol-led activities – often involving food! New Guides have been learning about the promise and law and older guides have been working on challenge badges and Baden-Powell Award.

Lots of opportunities for home-spun entertainment, with sketches and dances and mimes leading up to our more serious rehearsals for our Entertainment Evening later in March when we hope to raise funds for the RNLI and another charity of the guides' choice.

In the meantime, six of us will be heading for Switzerland as part of an Oxfordshire contingent, joining a UK party - - we will visit 'Our Chalet', a world guiding centre where there will be centenary celebrations and we'll have a go at ice-skating, showshoes and building igloos!!

We'll tell you all about it next month!

Maggie Rampley, 01295 810069

Marion Trinder 01869 340806





**Mothering Sunday Service - 14<sup>th</sup> March**  
 4pm Evening Worship in St. Michael's Church  
**Come along and collect spring posies for Mums, grans, aunts and friends!!**

We shall be making the posies at 10.30 on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> March and would be grateful for as much help as possible. We would also appreciate flowers and greenery to make up the posies.

### The Warriner Newsletter

**T**HIS TERM HAS BEEN very strange as it was not until the end of January that we felt the term had actually got underway. I am sure many of you too felt frustrated by the stop start nature of the first few weeks and like me had had enough of the snow by the time it finally went. . We have carried out our own evaluation of how we managed this latest spell of disruption but are always open to comments or suggestions from others as to how we might perform better next time.

This disrupted period has been especially difficult for those preparing for their exams this summer, both in trying to plan their revision and in completing their coursework. Colleagues are now working hard to ensure that Year 11 have all the support they need to maximise their remaining weeks at The Warriner. Term 4 is the last "normal" term they will experience as the real exams start in earnest during term 5.

Work on the development of a 6<sup>th</sup> Form at the Warriner trundles on but has been slowed by the departure, after two years in post, of Janet Tomlinson (Director for Children, Young People and Families), but we continue to have strong, and broad, support for this from the community. I will be meeting soon with Janet's successor in an attempt to regain lost momentum.

We are working alongside the Friends of The Warriner School to raise over £150,000 to put a roof on the swimming pool at the school. The aim of this is to make this, potentially, excellent facility a year round resource for the whole community rather than a summer time educational resource. The Friends have in their first year raised nearly £10,000 and with the Warriner Winning Ways this total is now at close to £12,000. If you would like to know more about Warriner Winning Ways then please do contact me at the school to receive an application form. In essence this is a "500" club with £200 of cash prizes paid out to four lucky winners each month. To participate costs £5/month, or £50 for the twelve draws in a year. Rather embarrassingly I have won twice but then, as they say, you have to be in it to win it!

Nick Hindmarsh



### Farm Outreach Programme:

**A**LTHOUGH THIS IS A VERY QUIET few weeks regarding school visits to the farm, there is still plenty going on – I have recently teamed up with Dashwood Primary School in Banbury to create a large pond and wildlife conservation play area in their school grounds. We hope to get the work well underway before visits start in earnest at the farm once we begin lambing in March.

We did have a visit from 70 hardy pupils from Bloxham Primary School this week, looking for sights, smells and sounds around the farm for their literacy work. The children walked to the farm. At the end of the visit, we were so busy looking at all the animals that they were rather late leaving - I think they may have had to run back! Although it was a very cold morning it was dry and bright and I am sure the children all went back with plenty to write about.

The farm's outreach work will be travelling farther afield than usual over the half term week, as I have been given the exciting opportunity to travel to Uganda with other members of the teaching staff to visit Kigezi High School. It will be very interesting to see how they manage their farm there, and to look at how it is used as a teaching resource, hopefully we will be able to exchange some very useful and fresh ideas with one another.

Bev James – Farm Education Coordinator



Bale house built as a project with children from the Sunshine Centre in Bretch Hill, who came for a week of activities at the farm in the summer holidays. The idea is that I will be able to use it as a teaching space when I have small groups

It is also there as a scaled-down example of an eco-friendly sustainable building. We had lots of fun building it, especially when we made traditional mud, chopped straw and horse manure plaster to render the outside walls with!



**A**t the beginning of term we said goodbye to Abi and Ami, and welcomed Vanessa and another Amy! We started with a promise evening, talking about the Rainbow promise and what it means, making 'helpful hands' to remind us to do our best, and playing a Promise Jigsaw Relay. We celebrated Burns Night by making bashed tatties to go with bashed neeps and haggis. The Rainbows peeled and chopped potatoes, and enjoyed the tasting at the end! Nearly everybody tried everything, and the haggis was very popular- everybody that tried it liked it! (It was more popular than the mashed swede...)

It was a noisy evening for Chinese New Year, playing with the masks we made to celebrate the Year of the Tiger... We're looking forward to having a few meetings outdoors as the weather hopefully gets a bit better and the evenings get lighter.

Hazel and Gillian  
01869 337822



## Barford Challenge

**F**or anyone new in the village this is where a gang of us have a nice day out in the country walking, canoeing and cycling.

Time is cracking on so we had better get together to sort out this year's challenge. It looks like the toughest yet so the sooner we get into training the better.

We will have a meeting at The George at 8pm on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March to start the ball rolling. We should have a date by then and hopefully start working out numbers etc.

Everyone welcome, experienced challengers and newcomers. What have you got to lose? except for a few pounds in weight of course. You won't know what you can achieve till you try it.

See you then,  
Pete



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



**I**t seems a very long time since Christmas, but we must thank everyone who helped with the post, the deliverers, the shops & library for having the boxes & the residents for using the service. It was our most successful year so far collecting more than £200. This term we welcome, Tom & Toby to Cubs & hope they will enjoy their time with us as we attempt to gain the astronomy badge. Congratulations to Toby & Josh who came third in the district Supercub competition & will now go on to the county event, their cardboard shelter was very impressive.

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

## SCOUTS

**T**he Scouts finished the year with a quiz to raise money for the Shelterbox appeal, thanks to the Guides they raised £85 which was matched, very generously, by the Farmers Market and has allowed us to pay for a complete box at £490, hopefully we will be able to track the box & find out where it is used. Our next fundraising event is a three-legged mile round the village for Sport Relief.

This terms topic – astronautics, let's hope Josh, who has recently joined, will enjoy it.

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

**If you shop at Sainsburys don't refuse the Active Kids vouchers, if you don't give them to anyone else, please keep them for us.**



COMING SOON TO OUR VILLAGE HALL

# Salsa Dance

MORE DETAILS NEXT MONTH!!

## Katharine House News

### Hospice Stall Annual Sale

11.30am – 2.30 pm Saturday,  
20 March,

**The Institute, The Green, Adderbury**

Pat Brittain and Dot Tagg are holding another sale following the success of previous years. There will be giftware, knitted items, bric a brac, a raffle, tombola and cake stalls as well as lunchtime soup and refreshments. Please come along and give your support to the hospice and at the same time find some bargains!

### Easter Chicks

We have started our Easter chicks campaign again this year, so look out for them in our shops and reception. (For those who are not aware of this fundraiser, we sell little knitted Easter chicks, filled with a Cadbury Crème Egg, which are made and donated by our supporters. Last year we raised almost £4,000 so if you would like to sell some on our behalf at an event or outlet, on a sale or return basis, then please let Valerie know on 01295 812161. We are also happy to send a pattern to anyone who would like to knit some for us.

Grimethorpe Colliery Band, 7.30pm Saturday 20 March 2010, St. Mary's Church, Horsefair, Banbury.

Tickets are selling really well. Please book early if you don't want to miss the opportunity of seeing this fantastic internationally-acclaimed band in action! Tickets are available from the box office at Katharine House Hospice, price £20 (sorry no concessions) telephone (01295) 812161.

### Hospice May Ball,

**Sunday 2 May, Bloxham School**

Tickets are now on sale for our popular May Ball. Music from the Blue Meanies. For tickets at £50 each, please contact Lucinda Lloyd on (01295) 720623.

### Katharine House Lottery

Thank you to all who joined our lottery as a result of our door to door campaign before Christmas. We have had a good response so far with 200 people joining but would welcome more new members. If you put your form to one side during the postal strike, please send it in now for a chance to win our weekly top prize of £1,000!

Valerie Carter  
Community Fundraiser



**STOP PRESS !! – STOP PRESS!! –  
STOP PRESS!!**

### CONGRATULATIONS

To Sam & Graham Harding

On the safe arrival of

### **Samuel James Harding**

born at 12.58 Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February,  
weighing in at 7lbs 2oz  
pictured below at 1hr15mins old!

A baby brother for  
Ami, Lewis and Tomas



We wish little Samuel a long and happy life

## Fancy a Cuppa?

mornings

### A GREAT SUCCESS



In the first two weeks, 50 adults  
plus several children  
called in at the Village Hall  
for tea or coffee and a biscuit or two.  
If you haven't tried it, you are missing  
a great opportunity to meet up  
with your friends and neighbours!

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

£1.00 pays for your first cuppa with biscuits,  
refills free

**Children are very welcome too...**

## *Barfords W.I.*

*Our March meeting will be the AGM  
when we elect our committee members  
and new president*

**At the April meeting on  
We will welcome**

**Gunilla Treen who will speak to us  
About Photography with a Difference  
The talk which had to be postponed due to  
*SNOW!!***

**Please join us at 7.30pm  
Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> April  
In the Village Hall**



**At the W.I. Meeting  
Visitors £3.00**



**Today's Women working for  
Tomorrow's World**

### **Barford Film Club**

#### **Programme of films**

**7.45pm in the Village Hall.**

**Non-member welcome £3.50.**

**20 March 'Is anybody there?'** Starring Michael Caine. Affecting tale of the friendship between a moody old man and a young boy. Well scripted and beautifully shot this film is sure to appeal to audiences of all ages.

#### **24 Apr - The Draughtsman's Contract**

Originally produced for [Channel 4](#) the film is a form of [murder mystery](#), set in [1694](#). Mr. Neville, a cocksure young artist is contracted by Mrs. Herbert, the wife of a wealthy landowner, to produce a set of twelve drawings of her husband's estate, a contract which extends much further than either the purse or the sketchpad.

**22 May is now 'In the Loop'**, A Comedy, directed by Armando Lannucci, written by Jesse Armstrong. Starring. The film draws on non-specific events to create a world that is terrifyingly familiar: The US President and UK Prime Minister fancy a war, but not everyone agrees that war is a good thing.

### **Deddington PFSU and Village Nursery**

**W**e have spent a very busy term finding about animals and celebrating Chinese New Year.



We enjoyed visits from lots of pets and were able to hold some of them and to ask questions about them.

The PFSU children made a visit to the May Fu II where they looked at the decorations for Chinese New Year and ordered some food to enjoy back at school. The Nursery children made and enjoyed playing in their own May Fu III! Thanks are due to everyone at the May Fu II and all the people who brought in their animals to visit us.

The Committee held a jumble sale in the church, raising well over £700 for the settings, which will go directly towards purchasing new toys and resources for the direct benefit of the children.

Thank you to our organisers and everyone who supported this event. Events like this really do make such a difference to us. Next term we will be finding out about transport and going on a 'journey' around the village. We'd love to have visits from some unusual vehicles (tandem, vintage car, boat anyone??) so please give us a ring if you might be able to help.

Lucy Squires  
337484

### **A word of Thanks**

To the Team of volunteers who get  
Barford News to our readers each month.

**Abi Allen** – Rock Close, Summer Ley

**Freddie Bird** – Horn Hill

**Ann Budd** – High Street, The potteries

**David Cox (& dad)** – Broad Close

**Becky Dyson** – Robins Close

**Helen Honour** – B. St. John

**Ed & Will Preece** – The Green & Church St

**Cathy Peacock** – Bishops Close, Lower Street  
(top end), Mill Lane

**Joyce Pearce** – Lower Street (bottom end)

**Kathryn Wheeler** – Townsend

Not forgetting our wonderful Treasurer  
**Caroline Bird** who works so hard to keep  
the bank balance healthy.

Thank you all for giving your time so willingly

*Mariann*



## Deddington History Society

**T**HE FEBRUARY MEETING of the Society was rather lower in attendance probably because of the bad weather which had previously caused the cancellation of the January meeting; those who turned out this time were thanked! for their efforts by the speaker and the chairman. The speaker on this occasion was. Ed Frost who kept the members both amused and interested in a well illustrated talk on the Remembrance Tour made by the Adderbury Village Men's Morris Group in July 2008. As an introduction to the subject Ed Frost gave a brief history of the Morris Men. in Adderbury which went back to the early 1900's, when the tradition of Morris dancing was resurrected in Adderbury. There are in fact two distinct groups in Adderbury who, up to 1986, although separate, wore the same dress kits, but one section decided to make theirs exclusive and specifically to be kept for men who were actually born in the village. Because of this the two took separate titles (a) the Adderbury Men's Morris and (b) the Adderbury Village Morris Men. As a means of identification the latter adopted a special colour for their baldricks, this being a particular shade of green which came to be known as Adderbury green. The purpose of the tour was to commemorate the loss of four of the members of the Team existing prior to the First World War in 1914. From records researched it was found that only one member survived the War to return and four were traced as having been killed.

The Team were helped in their project by the Adderbury History Society and by individual donations; after travelling to France they based themselves in Poitiers where a week long Festival is held each year, and commenced their research from there. The first day they went to the Thiepval Memorial and located the name of Privates Percy Partiger of the Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry who was killed in October 1916. The next day they went on to the Pozieres Memorial to find the inscription for the younger brother Private Ronald Partiger of the Royal Berkshire Regiment, who died in April 1918 and who had in fact only been in; France for just three weeks. Their next stop was at the Arras Memorial to locate Private Henry Wallin of the Border Regiment who was killed in May 1917. His name being familiar to a number of the Society members from his relatives in Deddington.

Returning to Poitiers they were taken by the local hosts to the singular small memorial tablet to George Butterworth the composer, a Lt. in the Durham Light Infantry, awarded the Military Cross and shot by a sniper in Poitiers in 1916.

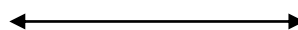
There did not appear to be any obvious reason why the people of Poitiers should make a special point of remembering George Butterworth. They were however quite enthusiastic about Folk Music and Bryan Shepherd, the leader of the Adderbury Team did get a local group together and managed to teach them sufficient for them to. perform with the Adderbury Men during the weeks Festival. Lastly the

group moved' to Passchendale: to visit the memorial museum and then to go to the Tyne Cot memorial to locate the last name, that of Private George Robins of the Gloucester Regiment who was killed' In October 1917. At each of the locations a wreath was laid at the memorial with a card noting the occasion, a short speech, given by different members of the group, and a photograph taken of the members.

Finally on the last day they joined the many members of the public at the Menin Gate for the daily 8 p.m. ceremony. They were made particularly welcome and, although they had refrained from performing at any of the early locations, were persuaded to dance there.

One long time resident of Adderbury who was very helpful to the Adderbury dancers was a. Miss Jane Blunt, who was born in India in 1859 but after her mother died was brought back to England by her father and they settled in Adderbury at Hall Place.. Jane Blunt, remained a spinster until her death in 1950 but was very involved in everything in the village. She made a. particular point of collecting Folk and Dance tunes and words and spent: many hours with local singers writing down the details. This is particularly significant to the Adderbury dancers as they are almost unique in that they incorporate songs in their performances. A ceremony was held in September last year when a blue plaque' was put on her home at Le Hall Place in Adderbury.

A.C.M,



## Fernhill Club News

**W**e have enjoyed getting back to the club after the Christmas break and the snow. We can only hope that is the last of it for this winter!

We have had lots of laughs during our last few weeks.

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March there will not be a meeting in the village hall as it's our Annual Birthday Lunch. On April 14<sup>th</sup> we will again not be in the hall as we have been invited to The Warreners Club at Heyford for a performance of Irish dancing and afternoon tea, which should be a very enjoyable time. We have booked Dial-a-Ride to get us there and back.

Hope that new members will come and join us, it would be nice to see a few new faces. (Mind you the 'old' ones are alright!!). Nice to have Pam and Rita back with health improving too.

Give me a ring if you need any additional information about the club.

Maureen Holden, 337138



## RUNNING THE LONDON MARATHON....AGAIN

I REALLY DID NOT think I'd be doing this again but here goes....

I have decided once again to run the London Marathon at the end of April (after having done it once in 2008!) to raise at least **£2000** for **Help the Hospices**. This time, I have joined forces with a couple of friends from Deddington who are also running (one for the same charity and one for Whizz Kidz).



We are hosting a couple of village based events to hopefully raise as much as possible for these two worthwhile causes. Our Curry night and Auction on 17<sup>th</sup> April rapidly sold out, but we are still collecting Auction and Raffle Prizes – any contributions would be most gratefully received. (List of prizes will be in the next Barford News). I will also be holding a Coffee morning and spring sale (again contributions very welcome!) at my house just before Easter, detailed below; hope to see some of you there!

If you would like to make a donation online please visit my justgiving webpage

<http://www.justgiving.com/Brownsue>

A huge thank you to all those who have already offered support and donations!

**Sue Brown**

## Watch Out, Watch Out, Baby Hedgehogs About!



**Please drive carefully!**

## COFFEE MORNING

Cake and Spring Sale  
(inc. Phoenix Trading), Raffle

**Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March**

The Red House

The Green

10am onwards



All money in aid of



For further details please contact  
Sue Brown 338740

*billsuebrown123@btinternet.com*

## Deddington PTA

Firstly, a huge thank you to The Deddington Players for their kind donation from their recent Pantomime. It is greatly appreciated.



The race is on to purchase tickets for the year's hottest event so far .....The PTA Annual Quiz Night!! As usual, this is being held at The Windmill Centre on Saturday 6th March. This is always a night of great fun and frivolity and tickets (which are selling fast!) can be booked by emailing [mikew@cherwell.co.uk](mailto:mikew@cherwell.co.uk) or by phoning 338468. Tickets are £8 per person which includes supper and there is a maximum of 8 people per table. Who will be the 2010 champions?!

Arrangements are gathering pace for the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Deddington Walk which will be held on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May. We have a new route, new theme, lots of entertainment laid on and it is sure to be a fabulous day – make sure you make a note of the date and encourage your friends and family to join in! Further details next month or see [www.deddingtonwalk.co.uk](http://www.deddingtonwalk.co.uk)

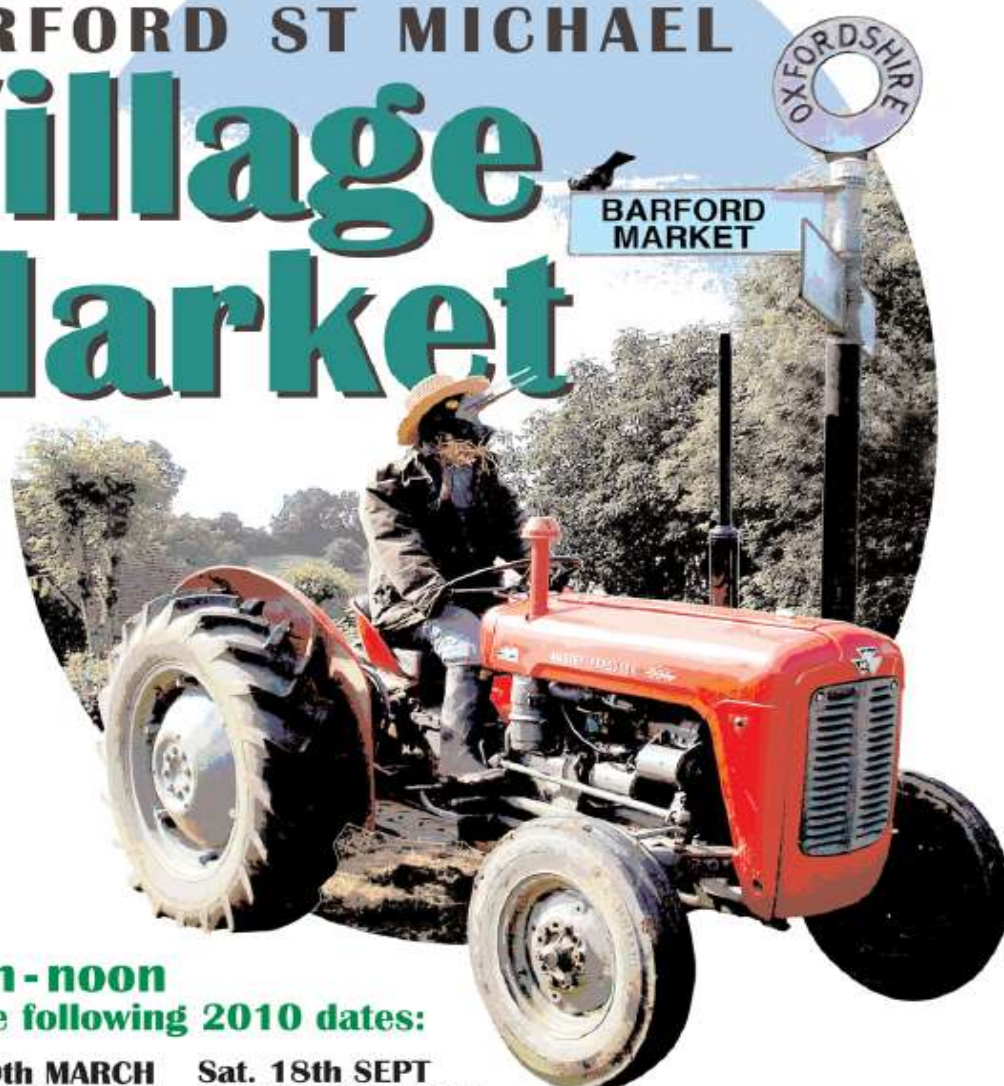
Finally, our summer fete will be held on Saturday 19th June – new attractions are planned so don't miss it!

Thank you once again for your continued support.

Janet Watts  
Chair - 337135

BARFORD ST MICHAEL

# Village Market



**10am - noon**  
**on the following 2010 dates:**

**Sat. 20th MARCH**

In the VILLAGE HALL next to  
The George public house

**Sat. 17th APRIL**

In the VILLAGE HALL next to  
The George public house

**Sat. 15th MAY**

On the VILLAGE GREEN

**Sat. 19th JUNE**

Outside AYOT CROFT, TOWNSEND

**Sat. 18th SEPT**

Outside AYOT CROFT, TOWNSEND

**Sat. 16th OCT**

At THE GEORGE public house

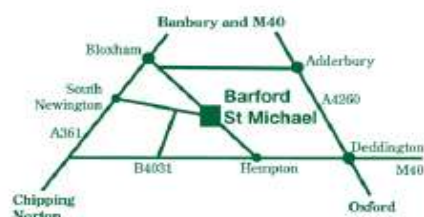
**Sat. 20th NOV**

In the VILLAGE HALL next to  
The George public house

**Sat. 11th DEC**

In the VILLAGE HALL next to  
The George public house

For more information: 01869 338630



• Speciality Breads & Cheeses • Locally Produced Meat • Organic Vegetables  
• Home Made Cakes & Preserves • Free Range Eggs • Gifts • Cards • Crafts



**Easter Egg Hunt**  
**On Saturday 20th March**







**T**HE LATEST NEWS on British products in the supermarkets from 'Love British Food'.

Bringing you the latest news on British products in the supermarkets; here is our round-up for February.

Tesco is flagging its local and regional products with a new slogan '**enjoy the taste of...**' The new labels will show a map of the country, the location of the supplier and also the regional flag.

Look out for Morrisons' **offal range** on its fresh meat counters. Sales of its beef, pork and lamb offal rose 12% last year and as a result the whole offal range is now available in 54 stores - tripe, cheeks, trotters, skirts and other cuts. And **tripe** is making a return to our menus! Tripe, offal from stomachs of cattle and a delicacy in many countries, has not been popular in Britain for years but may be about to make a comeback thanks to a £300,000 Scottish government funded project to promote 'fifth-quarter' meat cuts such as cattle cheeks and stomachs.

Marks and Spencer is pledging to source all of its **fish** from sustainable supplies by 2015. They have become the first retailer to sign the World Wildlife Fund's Seafood Charter.

No longer will retailers be able to pass off cheap meat imports as British. The British Pig Executive is developing a revolutionary scientific test to establish whether meat is British or imported. The technology will be used to spot-check processors as part of the Quality Standard testing and will inform customers if anyone is found to have **mislabeled meat**.

Finally, Nyetimber's Classic Cuvee 2003 from a vineyard in West Chiltington, West Sussex has been crowned the **world's best champagne**, beating well known brands such as Bollinger!

**Seasonal foods at their best to look out for in the supermarkets this month:** Spring is nearly here so make the most of your last chances to enjoy winter veg! *Vegetables:* brussels sprouts, cauliflower, celeriac, chicory, jerusalem artichoke, kale, leeks, parsnips, potatoes (main crop), purple sprouting broccoli, rhubarb, salsify, shallots and swede. *Meat:* guinea fowl, hare and venison. *Fish:* brill, clams, cockles, conger eel, haddock, halibut, hake, john dory, lemon sole, mussels, oysters, salmon, skate, turbot and winkles.

## 22-28 March

'Breakfast and Beyond', the theme for Bacon Connoisseurs' Week 2010, aims to encourage bacon lovers to explore the multitude of meal opportunities that premium bacon cures can provide beyond the iconic full English breakfast

Bacon Connoisseurs' Week has been established to celebrate some of the finest bacons we have on offer in Britain. Many Butchers are justifiably proud of their expertise and heritage in Bacon curing and this celebratory week has given them the chance to blow their own trumpet!



### Bacon Cuts Cooking Guide:

**Rashers** - 2mm; Grill or fry for 2-3 mins each side (longer if you prefer it crispy)  
Stir-fry in strips 2-4 mins +2mins with veg

**Gammon Steaks** 1-2cm; Grill or fry 4-6 mins each side  
Roast in oven for 15-20 mins at gas 4-5, 180°C or 350°F

**Gammon Joints--** Roast in oven for 30 mins per 450-500g (1lb) + 30 mins at gas 4-5, 180°C or 350°F  
Boil for 20 mins per 450-500g (1lb) + 20 mins

~ ~ ~

### Bacon Frittata Recipe (Feeds: 2)

Time to cook: Approx 10 mins

6 Rashers lean back bacon

Oil

Cooked potatoes (preferably new potatoes, thickly sliced)

1 Red onion

4 Eggs

Fresh chives chopped

6 Green olives, pitted & sliced

6 – 8 Fresh cherry tomatoes

100g Mozzarella cheese

#### Method:

Heat 15ml (1tbsp) oil in a non-stick frying pan and cook 6 rashers of lean back bacon, 300g (10oz) cooked potatoes, 1 red onion, thinly sliced, for 2-3 minutes until just turning golden brown. Meanwhile beat together eggs with 15ml (1tbsp) fresh chives, Add to the pan green olives, tomatoes and 100g (4oz) Mozzarella cheese, roughly torn. Pour over the eggs and cook for 2-3 minutes until just set. Finish cooking under a preheated grill until the eggs and cheese are cooked, brown and crispy. Serve the frittata sliced into thick wedges with extra grilled tomatoes and green, crisp salad.

**DON'T FORGET**  
**Meat Joint Bacon**  
**and Bacon Butties**  
**ON SALE**  
**AT THE VILLAGE MARKET**  
**20<sup>TH</sup> MARCH!!!**

## NATURE NOTES 86

**T**HE BONE-NUMBING COLD of December continued unbroken into January. After a brilliant moonlit night of  $-6^{\circ}$ , New Year's Day awakened to a flawless sunrise, followed by an equally flawless day of glassy stillness. The frost did not lift at all ( $0^{\circ}$  max.), and what few light airs there were indicated that the E wind was backing to NW. Sure enough, by 10pm. a thin covering of frozen, powdery snow was already falling. And so things continued with day temps. up to  $3^{\circ}$ , but a sudden return of the wind to E. brought night temperatures crunching down to  $-10^{\circ}$ . However, worse than mere low temperatures was laying in wait!

The morning of the 5th revealed a sudden reversal of the wind to SW, nudging its aerial moisture along in the form of big banks of heavy, bright edged snow cloud. The day progressed with that gloomy, foreboding light that such conditions carry. Then at about 3pm, powdery, tiny snowflakes started falling – and continued with increasing weight into the night.

The 6th dawned under a leaden sky, revealing a level snowfall of about 200mm (8"). There was slight drifting from NE, the wind having performed another  $180^{\circ}$  reversal. All the birds at feeding stations had an air of baffled consternation at this soft, suffocating obliteration of their day's essential first meal. Twenty minutes quick shovelling produced some reasonably snow free surfaces, and a generous helping of energy and warming food had many sorts arriving from all quarters! However, a further fall of 35mm (1.5") later in the day, required more shovelling to facilitate that supremely important last meal of the day, to get them through the night. And they certainly needed all the food-fuel they could get! Skies clearing by 4pm produced another shattering frost down to  $-12^{\circ}$ !

The 7th dawned windless, with a clear sunrise and a cloudless morning. At last numbers of Fieldfares started coming into village gardens, where, as time progressed, everyone was surprised at their violent aggression at any other bird trying to pick up food. From the early stillness, a bitter NE wind sprang up producing a max. daytime temp. of  $-4^{\circ}$ . A Tawny Owl suddenly awoke and hooted his cold discomfort about 4.30pm at Cheney Manor, and thus the first week of January ended as the setting sun sank into another icy night at  $-9^{\circ}$ .

The wind, shriving and cutting, stayed at NE over the next four days, sometimes with little snow flurries and mostly under a leaden sky. Temperatures ranged from  $-2^{\circ}$  to  $0^{\circ}$  by day and at night from  $-8^{\circ}$  to  $-2^{\circ}$ . Again, I noted the brutal commandeering of food by Fieldfares – 'so heavily



built compared to other thrushes!' The highlight at my feeding stations was the presence of two Song thrushes – so scarce in recent years – and seemingly able to avoid the bullying of the Fieldfares.

In apparent contradiction of the very low temperatures, there was a continuing, almost imperceptible thaw, especially on south facing elevations. The result was the production of huge icicles, up to 1.5m (5 feet) or more long, individually and in curtains, from single points and along roof edges, all around the district.

By now all the media were broadcasting (at maximum intensity) that this was now the coldest winter for nearly forty years, and what it would all mean in the context of Global Warming. Meanwhile most folk were far more concerned about just getting about safely to do a bit of shopping . . .

The village roads were all but impassable to foot traffic as well as ordinary vehicles and the slight thawing produced sheets of smooth ice under and on top of frozen snow. A fresh fall of about 30mm on 11th made matters worse, and following a wind change to SE, a further 50mm (2") at night on 12th compounded the problem.

But there were warm fronts pushing up from SW and the cold air mass to NE, that caused the problems, was being edged away eastward. The air became very still and there was a slight but noticeable rise in temperature to  $3^{\circ}$  by day, which felt considerably milder than it actually was.

Blackbirds started clucking, Great Tits called 'Teacher, teacher', and a Great Spotted Woodpecker 'keck'ed along High Street. By late morning, a pair of Ravens plus one single bird, were croaking and flying around St. Michael.

Overnight there was a light sprinkling of icy particles, but by dawn there was thick fog which did not lift until late morning. The air was much milder ( $3^{\circ}$ ) and very still. As day drew to a close on 14th, a wan sun broke through to smile on us with a pale sunset.

The SE tending drift continued, but really the air was very still with long periods of steady rain and fog persisting at both ends of the day. The mildness increased and, although it felt dank and chilly, the thaw continued until, on the 16th, I estimated that some 70% of the snow had gone. Fieldfares deserted garden feeding stations, other species reduced in numbers considerably and everything became much more wary once again.

A flawless sunrise next day revealed extensive, deep flooding across the road, on both sides of the bridge and in the stream-side meadows. Unfortunately, several selfish and thoughtless people in 4 x 4s drove through the floodwater at



such speed as to send huge waves far over the raised footpath and into the hedgerows on either side, with complete disregard for both walkers and the erosion of the embankments and verges. Let's hope these people learn better road behaviour in future!

On the 18th the wind veered SW and, with the aid of a light breeze, the sun broke through the overcast about 10am to give a lovely, mild, sunny day. The temperature rose to 10°; Green Woodpeckers laughed and called from below Fernhill, Steepness and the churchyard, to be answered by one of their Great Spotted cousins, 'keck'ing and drilling for grubs, on Fernhill. Even so, I noted on 21st, that laying snow still persisted in some quantity below the north side of hedgerows, especially on high ground.

The SW wind endured until 24th when it veered to NW and stayed there until after the end of the month. The temperatures dropped accordingly, hovering around the 3° mark (although twice lifting to 6°) with 0° at night, falling away to deep frosts at month's end. There were only three days of rain during this final ten day period, but the general character was one of damp, bone-chilling cold, penetrating and depressing.

I was told of a pair of foxes cavorting with each other over Steepness; judging by the smell, one of them is clearing up any left-over food from my bird feeders at night!

On 26th, in a biting wind at sunset, I stood below Fernhill and watched a flock of about 350 Woodpigeons circle in to the tall bare ash trees above Ilbury Farm. Eventually they split into two groups; one party flying off toward Deddington and the other toward Hawk Hill. I wended my way homeward with the entire countryside bathed in the deep red afterglow of sunset – magical!

On the 28th, relatively mild and windless, Bas Butler told me that whilst working at the allotments, a pair of Ravens in full pairing display and making a terrific din, honking, rasping and sonorously croaking, flew overhead and performing aerobatics, soared, turned and dived around Mar Pool. He watched spellbound for about a quarter of an hour! One bird is not much larger than a big Crow, but the other, almost certainly the female, is a very large bird indeed.

The Green Woodpeckers seem to have maintained their general distribution around the parish as evidenced by their frequent calling, as do the Tawny Owls. These latter however, may be moving focus points; Whilst there appear to be possibly more than one pair calling around the Green, the male bird with the distinctive abbreviated call, lately resident below Steepness,

appears to have moved his operations and is hooting around the north of St. Michael.

By now there was evidence that freezing arctic air was beginning, once more, to roll across us. Nevertheless, I watched two Red Kites soaring and diving over the east flank of Irondown on the afternoon of 29th, appearing to spar like opponents rather than as a pair. Suddenly they parted, with one flying off at altitude over Irondown, the other diving near vertically to below hedge-top height near Irondown Farm and disappearing.

Despite a night of -6°, a Green Woodpecker was calling by 8.15am below Steepness on 30th, but cloudless sunshine all day didn't dispel the wind-chill and a marvellous sunset heralded -7° at night.

The last day of January awoke to a heavy white frost, a bright but cloudy start and a few snowflakes around lunchtime. A hazy sun graced the afternoon with a max. temp. of 11° but night brought a return to moderate frost. I drove home from Chipping Norton at about 11.45pm and, as I passed between the high hedges near the highest point on the road, in 4° of frost, there fluttering, oh, so slowly along the verges, were a few tiny Winter Moths – amazing, little resilient specks of Life! – intent on securing their species' future. (See last *Nature Notes*).

And so, as January slipped icily away, a general covering of tiny frozen snow particles lay on the ground and we found ourselves trapped once more between a huge cold air-mass to the north and one of warm air to the south . . . . Hail February!

*Ron Knight*

~ ~ ~

## Horoscopes for the month

### **Pisces** (19<sup>th</sup> February – 20<sup>th</sup> March)



A wise man once said 'Slow down, you move too fast; you've got to make the morning last'. You, my dears, are very guilty of not stopping to smell the roses. Not everything has to be done at break-neck speed. Others will appreciate the chance to relax around you and you yourself might have fun, and maybe even feel a little groovy...

### **Aries** (21<sup>st</sup> March – 19<sup>th</sup> April)



This month, something that you thought had been buried a long time ago resurfaces. I mean that figuratively (I'm not talking about zombies). You kept it from people at the time, but it could cause a lot of problems now if you don't nip it in the bud. Just be honest, darlings. Own your mistakes and try to put things right.

## Visiting the Swere Valley

**R**ecently it has been my privilege as part of my job as a farm adviser to visit several farmers in the Swere Valley. I had passed through the area before, but had not stopped and had certainly not had the opportunity to immerse myself in the beauty of the countryside in this quiet corner of Oxfordshire. All the farmers without exception had extensive knowledge of the habitats and the wildlife on their farms and all acknowledged the beauty of their particular working environment.

Mead Farm, Barford St John was the location for one of the farm visits. The farm had extensive frontage to the River Swere, most of which was in permanent grass. Beyond this the farm rose in gently undulating waves to larger, more open arable fields, divided by thick, tall hedgerows made up of several species, providing food and shelter to many birds, small mammals and insects. The arable land itself was planted with winter wheat, oilseed rape and winter beans. As we walked, lapwings were busily inspecting the crops like groundsmen measuring out their pitches. Two fallow hinds retreated lazily to a comfortable distance and then turned to inspect the intruders.

Down on the river, there was evidence of water vole although an otter holt built in hope several years previously was still unoccupied. Looking down into the swift flow of a February river, it was hard to imagine the fly life that would appear as soon as the weather warmed up, providing food for the trout and the chub. The Swere is also an important last stronghold for the native crayfish, a species under threat all over the country of being overrun by its brash American cousin.

The wet woodland and fen areas that hug the course of the river are habitat that is becoming increasingly scarce. A pair of snipe jinked away as we paddled through the alders, through the swampy puddles that will be the homes for several rare species of dragonflies and damselflies in the summer. It is the variety of habitat in close proximity that make the Swere Valley such an attraction to many different species of wildlife.

It is reassuring to find that the guardians of this habitat, the farmers and landowners along the valley, are taking very good care to preserve and enhance it for future generations.

Tim Clarke (Agronomist)  
Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group

## Butterfly Meadows Children's Centre

Did you know that the **Butterfly Meadows Children's Centre** provides a range of **FREE** services to pre-school children, with their parents and carers in the **Bloxham** and surrounding area?

Children's Centres offer children under five and their parents/carers, whatever their background or circumstances, a range of services to help them to thrive and make the most of life's opportunities together.

Our fully qualified and friendly team aim to provide a welcoming, inclusive, safe and supportive environment where children and adults feel valued and listened to. There is also plenty of fun and play on offer as well!

The Butterfly Meadows Children's Centre is currently offering the following services:

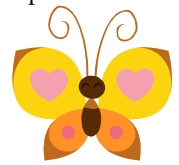
- Weekly stay 'n' play drop-in at Bloxham, Jubilee Hall
- Weekly Playbus drop-in at Deddington, Windmill Centre

You are very welcome to pop along to any of the services and activities – full details are on our website [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ruralchildrenscentre](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ruralchildrenscentre). There's no need to book in advance and our activities are **free**! So if you look after a child under five, perhaps as a parent, carer, childminder or grandparent, then feel free to pop along to any of our drop-ins!

If you have any questions, please contact the Children's Centre Coordinator, Teresa Woodman, on 07917 849073. Alternatively, you can contact our admin office on 01865 456742 or email [Ruralccp@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Ruralccp@oxfordshire.gov.uk).

We hope to see you soon!

Butterfly Meadows Children's Centre Team



## Old wildlife magazines wanted !

If anyone has any type of animal/ wildlife/ bird magazines which are finished with  
Please could you drop round to Dove House , Mill Lane or give me a call and I will collect.  
Thank you, Jill Bunce , tel 337577 or 337550

## Barford Green Garden Club



### AGM

The 16<sup>th</sup> AGM took place on 4<sup>th</sup> February and was attended by 26 members .

The new committee is as follows as Barbara Alt did not wish to re stand as Treasurer:

Chairman Sandi Turner  
Secretary Jill Bunce  
Treasurer Stephen Bunce  
Committee members: Rachel Speight  
Annie Radford

### EVENTS 2010

**MARCH** On Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March Richard Hopkins returns to talk on Bumble Bees. Village Hall 7.30pm

**APRIL** On Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> April a day visit to Abbey House Gardens , Malmesbury ,by coach, home of the “ Naked Gardeners “ Ian and Barbara Pollard . cost £6.50 / concessions £5.75 , leaving BSM 10am. Famous for its fantastic displays of tulips and fritillary Imperials. See [www.abbeyhousegarden.co.uk](http://www.abbeyhousegarden.co.uk)

**MAY** On Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> May the plant swap will be held at Farthings , Lower Street and will be hosted by Sandi Turner To commence at 7.00pm . Come along with your spare plants and a bottle and enjoy meeting other garden club Members

**JUNE** Open Gardens Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> June . More details to follow in later BN

**JULY** On Friday 16<sup>th</sup> July evening , 7.00pm , we will be visiting Fiveways Cottage Garden , Shutford , home of Michael and Jenny Aldous . Cost £3.00 per person

**AUGUST** Barford Show will be held in the village hall on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> August

**SEPTEMBER** Visit to Batsford Arboretum , date to be advised nearer the time.

More details of all events will feature in future Barford News. Letters have been sent out to all members regarding booking  
For Abbey House Garden on 25<sup>th</sup> April

Jill Bunce  
Secretary BGGC tel 337577 / 337550  
Email [jill@ridleymarreco.co.uk](mailto:jill@ridleymarreco.co.uk)

## Deddington Writers

**T**HE ANNUAL Deddington Writing Competition is going national! Following last year's record number of entries and the interest shown from different parts of Britain, it has been decided to extend publicity through a number of nationwide writers' networks and magazines whilst also increasing the number and value of prizes in the Open Competition.

At the same time, the popular Children's Competition, whilst still restricted to young people living in Oxfordshire, SE Warwickshire and SW Northants, is being divided into three age groups to reflect and encourage the varying skills and abilities of young people.

Full details of both competitions may now be downloaded from [www.deddingtonfestival.org.uk](http://www.deddingtonfestival.org.uk) and are available in schools and from Deddington and other local libraries

### Jewellery by Rebecca

Beautiful jewellery handmade by Rebecca Greeves.  
Available monthly at Barford Village Market and online: <http://rebeccajewellery.wordpress.com>



### Local Professional Musician



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available for



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[www.thebanburycounsellingcentre.com](http://www.thebanburycounsellingcentre.com)



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Tel: 01295-721471

Email: [farm.4007@warriner.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:farm.4007@warriner.oxon.sch.uk)  
Website: [atschool.eduweb.co.uk/warrinerfarm](http://atschool.eduweb.co.uk/warrinerfarm)

## Open Weekend ... 2010 ... Open Weekend

Warriner School Farm, Bloxham

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> of April.

- ☛ Lambs, kids, calves, chicks  
piglets, horses, donkeys
- ☛ Tractor and trailer rides  
Horse drawn wagon rides
- ☛ Farm produce for sale  
Refreshments
- ☛ Country crafts  
Vintage machinery
- ☛ Hands-on activities for kids  
Pond-dipping



### DETAILS:

#### Opening times:

10.00am - 4.00pm Saturday

10.00am - 4.00pm Sunday

Come along and meet us, and join in with the fun! There will be lots to see and do!

## Open Weekend ... Open Weekend ... Open Weekend