

BARFORD NEWS

FEBRUARY 2013

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WHAT
NEXT??



Parish Council Notes

The meeting took place at 7.30pm on 2nd January 2013 at Barford Village Hall and was attended by Cllr Hobbs, Cllr Bullard, Cllr Eden, Cllr Stiles and Cllr Turner. Also attending were Mrs R Watts (Clerk), County Cllr Jelf and District Cllr O'Sullivan,

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Best and Cllr Woolgrove.

The Rock: The Clerk has sent a number of reminders to Oxfordshire County Council as the works have not been done.

Footpath from Barford St John to Barford St Michael: Oxfordshire County Council inspected the area on 12th December. Unfortunately they are unwilling to assist as their resources are being used for more urgent works.

Murreys Lane: The Clerk reported to Oxfordshire County Council on 25th June that the steep footpath into West Close at the top of Murreys Lane needed a handrail. Following a number of reminders an e-mail was received on 13th December agreeing that the steps are not ideal. A member of Oxfordshire County Council's Task Team will make a site visit to ascertain the best way to proceed.

Thefts: Thames Valley police have reported that there has been an increase across Cherwell in thefts from garages, sheds and vehicles. Villagers are asked to be extra vigilant.

Cold-callers: Cllr Eden reported that he had received a telephone call from a company offering to carry out a security survey of his premises. The caller said that representatives were in the village waiting to call on people who were willing to discuss their current arrangements. Cllr Hobbs reported that another villager had received a similar telephone call and had been very concerned by it. Villagers are advised not to allow cold-callers into their homes for any reason.

Salt Bins: Two salt bins were ordered at the beginning of October, one to replace the one damaged by arson in Barford St John and one for the junction of Church Street/Lower Street, Barford St Michael. Oxfordshire County Council Highways were asked to contact Cllr Hobbs to discuss their location but have failed to do so. A bin has now been delivered to Bloody Bones Lane but unfortunately it is in the wrong place and too heavy to move. A bin has not been delivered to Church Street. The Clerk will contact Oxfordshire County Council to discuss.

Safe Passage of Vehicles over the Bridge in Barford St Michael: County Cllr Jelf is meeting Oxfordshire County Council Highways to discuss the feasibility of designating the road over the

bridge as one lane only, with one direction having priority.

The Green: Cllr Hobbs had asked Mick Cook for advice on how to remedy the damage being done to grass on The Green due to vehicles having to mount the kerb to get past parked vehicles. Mick Cook advised that there is no simple solution because utility cables run below the grass. Cllr Styles offered to look at the feasibility and cost of putting plastic mesh down to try to prevent deep ruts being formed by larger vehicles and will report back to the Parish Council.

Planning Matters

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

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

Planning Applications Received:

12/01659 Nicholls, Merrieweather Cottage, High Street, Barford St Michael: Variation of conditions 2 & 4 of 12/01229/F - to allow change of external finish to Hornton Stone. There were no objections.

Any Other Business: Cllr Eden reported that the footpath by The Scrapes over the River Swere at the bottom of Mill Lane is being eroded by the flow of water. The Clerk will contact Oxfordshire County Council and ask them to carry out urgent remedial works.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on 6th February 2013.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Grant settlement for Cherwell

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL will face a 5.4% cut in next year's grant settlement following THE announcement by local government secretary Eric Pickles.

Cherwell's current-year grant stands at £7.6 million and the equivalent funding will drop to £7.2 million for 2013/14. From next April, Cherwell will also retain 50% of any business rate growth above its baseline. This is a new regime and the full details are being analysed and the forecasted impact will be reported in forthcoming budget reports. Cllr Ken Atack, lead member for finance said: "These figures come as no surprise as Mr Pickles publicly warned of a looming financial crisis. We have worked hard at Cherwell to ensure that we had already identified a significant proportion of the necessary savings. We are now considering the options for the remainder."



Fernhill Club

Back in circulation after our Christmas break and enjoying our weekly meetings. Two special items which we hope will interest visitors:-



30th January, We will be showing

The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel

A wonderful British comedy-drama film,
not to be missed.

and then on **6th Feb**

We will be serving

Fish & Chips in the hall

(book your meal ahead of time with either

Avril 338 381 or Mary 01295 252 298

All of our meetings and events are open to everyone, visitors are always most welcome to join us, on Wednesdays at 2.30pm in the hall.

Village Carol Singers

Many thanks to all who came out singing around our village on Friday 21st of December the weather was kind and although cold we stayed dry. Thank you also to those of you who listened and gave so generously to our collection.



On Saturday evening 22 December we held the now annual 'Carols in the Pub' event at the George, many thanks to Julia, Rachel and Martin for providing mince pies, mulled wine and a great atmosphere. Thanks also to Mike Horth and Tony Ecclestone for their musical talent.

Many people have approached me and expressed their thanks for a great evening; if you missed it try us out next year.

We raised just under £300 and after much thought and discussion with Julia, I have sent donations of £100.00 to Spurgeons Young Carers Oxford, this is a charity that offers help and support to young carers in our local community, and £200.00 to The Warriner School Farm, Bloxham.

Thank you to all who contributed in any way to making these two events so successful. Barford St Michael and St John may be small but there is a great heart beating here.

Glynnis Eastwood – Loud and Clear but not always in tune!!

The following letter was received from
from Spurgeons



Dear Glynnis, I am writing to you on behalf of Spurgeons Oxfordshire to say a big thank you for the donation of £120 from Barford St. Michael & St. John carol singers. We will use the money to give our Young Carers the opportunity to have some much needed time out from their caring responsibilities, We are extremely grateful for your support and generosity. Kind Regards, Vickie Jeffs, Administrator Spurgeons

Barford Green Garden Club AGM 2013

VILLAGE HALL, BARFORD ST.MICHAEL

Monday February 4th 7.30^{PM}

We welcome all members.
Please come with your ideas and ready for discussion.

Refreshments will be served.

AGENDA

Chairman's welcome
Minutes of previous AGM
Chairman's report
Treasurer's report
Election of committee members
Open Gardens discussion, possible alternatives? *to include Garden Art? Scarecrow Competition and Plant Stall.....*
Plant Swap, date to be decided.
Suggestions for further visits and talks
Any other business

Current Committee consists of Stephen Bunce, Trish Field, Linda Newbery, Janet Payne, Ann Radford and Gunilla Treen.

PLEASE BRING YOUR SUBSCRIPTIONS
AND GET YOUR NEW MEMBERSHIP CARDS.



Quiz Night

Sat 9th Feb

Village Hall

You don't have to be the "Brain of Britain" or an "Egghead" to have fun at a quiz night. (you just need to know the answers).

There will be a

Hot Supper

served during the evening.

There is No Bar so Bring Your Own Booze.

There will be a raffle (any raffle prizes will be gratefully accepted) There's a prize for the most amusing team name as judged by the quiz master. Teams with colours or animals in the name will be penalised. i.e. "Black Cats" (only joking).

Doors open 7:30pm

Quiz starts 8:00pm

£6:00 per person

All profits from the evening will go towards the Kathmandu kids Home.



DID YOU EAT TOO MUCH AT CHRISTMAS?

Never mind, you have a few months to get ready for.....

**THE BIG LUNCH
2013
SUNDAY JUNE 2nd**

Last year, 2012, was a great year in our country, a Royal Wedding, the Jubilee, the Olympics and the wet summer!

Do you all remember our BIG LUNCH, a picnic in the Village Hall because it was too wet to be on West Close! It was a huge success, not only bringing all together to celebrate the Jubilee but also allowing all villagers and relations to eat, talk and play games together. The Big Lunch, started several years ago by Tim Smit at the Eden Project, just happened to coincide with the Jubilee weekend last year. The Eden Project started The Big Lunch in the belief that we, as a society, are better equipped to tackle the challenges that we face when we face them together. Since the event began in 2009, thousands of Big Lunches have taken place in all kinds of communities and the best part of a million people have been involved each year emphasising a sense of conviviality and community spirit. **8.5 million people took part in Big Lunches in 2012** in all corners of the UK from the Isle of Wight to Laxdale on the Isle of Lewis.

THIS YEAR Big Lunches will be held throughout the country, in cities, towns and villages. People will be getting together and having fun. There are various different ways of organising this but last year's PICNIC seemed ideal. Everyone can bring what they like to eat and drink of course. If enough people are wanting to take part then I am prepared to organise, with help. Maybe we can have our rounders match again? We will be hoping for fine weather and then it can be a true outdoor picnic, on West Close, with tables and chairs for those not wanting to sit on the grass. Other sports could also be included if wanted.

Any ideas or offers of help gratefully received...look at the website for The Big Lunch.

Thanks, Gunilla, 01295 720521



To our latest village newcomers

Pete and Jo Fearnley

In

Church Street

Karen and Peter

In

The Potteries

and

The Lord Family

Andy, Abby, Rose, Anna & Josie

in South Newington Road

We wish you all a happy time
Here in our lovely villages

BARFORD PICTURE HOUSE

February 23rd

**DUE TO SNOW AND ICE our January film,
MOONRISE KINGDOM has been put**

forward to

23rd February

Here is a reminder about the film's story...

At 7.30 in the Village Hall

we will be showing

MOONRISE KINGDOM,

Made in 2012 with a cert. 12A.

Set on an island off the coast of New England in the summer of 1965, Moonrise Kingdom tells the story of two twelve-year-olds who fall in love, make a secret pact, and run away together into the wilderness. As various authorities try to hunt them down, a violent storm is brewing off-shore -- and the peaceful island community is turned upside down in more ways than anyone can handle. Bruce Willis plays the local sheriff. Edward Norton is a Khaki Scout troop leader. Bill Murray and Frances McDormand portray the young girl's parents. The cast also includes Tilda Swinton, Jason Schwartzman, and Jared Gilman and Kara Hayward as the boy and girl.

Warm, whimsical, and poignant, the immaculately framed and beautifully acted Moonrise Kingdom presents writer/director Wes Anderson at his idiosyncratic best.

See you there.....

PLEASE NOTE THAT the famous Hitchcock film **VERTIGO**, due to be shown in February will now be shown on 18th May, the last film of our season.

Barford Village Market

In the Village Hall, 10-12noon

Saturday, 16th February

**Home-made Scones, Preserves,
Artisan Breads and all the usual food and craft stalls**

Ridgway's Farmhouse Ice Cream from Tysoe, flavours include
*Christmas Pudding, Cinnamon, Baileys Cream as well as the usual Vanilla,
Madagascar, Lemon Meringue, Caramel Toffee and Chocolate*

**Pots of Spring Bulbs
Fairtrade items**

**Hand-finished cards & gifts
Freshly baked Pasties and Sausage Rolls, Fresh Vegetables
New stalls and traders each month
Not forgetting Tea/Coffee & **Bacon Butties****

We hold markets on the 3rd Saturday every month (except August)

**Come along and support YOUR local market
All profits for Village Hall Maintenance**

Photo Caption Competition

Archie & Poppy Brown
Pictured building their
soon to be complete Igloo
on the Village Green.

**Send your caption suggestions
to the Editor at:**

'editor@barfordnews.co.uk' or
post through the letterbox of
Stonehaven, Lower Street.

Best one received will be
rewarded with a small prize!



Katharine House News
FESTIVAL OF OPEN GARDENS 2013

We would love to hear from anyone who would like to open their garden to raise money for the hospice in 2013. Your garden would be featured, along with all the others, in a programme that will be distributed to all our supporters with our Spring newsletter in late March/early April. Last year's festival raised £7,852 towards nursing care. We already have supporters opening their gardens in Broughton and Wardington and would be delighted to hear from anyone else willing to take part in our festival. Contact Valerie on 01294 812161.

Katharine House Hospice
 warmly invites you to
 A performance by
**Grimethorpe Colliery
 Brass Band**

7:30pm, Saturday 16 March 2013
 St. Mary's Church, Banbury

Entrance by ticket only
£20 each

These must be purchased in advance from
 the

Box Office at Katharine House Hospice
 Phone: 01295 812161

All proceeds to go towards nursing care

GRIMETHORPE COLLIERY BAND

Back by popular demand! Don't miss the opportunity of seeing this fantastic internationally-acclaimed band in action. They have performed all over the world and also at the opening ceremony of the London 2012 Olympics! We are delighted that this is the second time they have performed for us and we hope to repeat the sell-out that we had last time. Tickets are now on sale from our fundraising office on 01295 812161. We have sold nearly 200 already, so please book early to avoid disappointment.

Volunteers

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer here at Katharine House, we have a range of opportunities available from driving to decorating! Contact Rachel Wegerhoff in HR on 01295 811866.

Easter Knits

Our Easter Knits filled with a Cadbury's Crème Egg will soon be appearing for sale, we have our Easter patterns ready if you'd like to knit some of these for us? Baskets, bunnies and chicks are the designs for this year. For a pattern to make some call the fundraising office on 01295 812161, or download the pattern from our website.

<http://www.katharinehouse.co.uk/>

Nicky Hanson
 Community Fundraiser

**"Cherwell to Cheshire :
 A Recycling Odyssey"**

With
Andrew Jenkins

7.30pm

Wednesday 13th February
In The Village Hall



Ever wondered where your recycling
 goes once it's been collected?

Or how it is sorted and
 made into new products?

Then this talk will explain all. Cherwell DC's
 Recycling Officer, Andrew will be speaking
 about the journey recycling takes"

theWI
 INSPIRING WOMEN

Visitors welcome to join us £4.00
At our WI Meeting

Deddington CE Primary News

THE MONTHS FOLLOWING
 Christmas are usually quiet but
 with the term being so short and
 our annual school production to
 rehearse it is anything but quiet in school!



Our school hall is full of the sound of children singing, encouraged as always by the irrepressible Alicia Rumsby. This year we have decided to return to our very first musical we performed 6 years ago, but this time Alicia is being even more ambitious with the musical of 'Joseph and the Technicolour Dreamcoat'. Alicia and staff are busy rehearsing children, making scenery and costumes and encouraging the cast (of about 150 children!) to make it one of the most memorable events of the school year. Our performances, in the church, are in late February, 27th and 28th, and on the 1st March, tickets will go on sale nearer the time.

At the time of writing the snow has stayed away BUT it is forecast, but hopefully there will be little disruption to the smooth running of the school.

Mrs Jane Cross, Deputy Headteacher

Thank you

**To the Townsend couple
For their most generous donation
of £20
for Barford News funds.**

Winter Walk 2013

WELL WE PICKED the sunniest day of the year for our walk (and before you start contacting the editor that as it was Jan 1st it had to be.....We know - it's a joke). So bathed in sunshine 50 people, gathered for a winter walk. We had two routes (one for slightly more serious walkers) timed to get back at slightly different times so they would not be a queuing too long for the soup



On their return to the George Inn they were provided with steaming hot Game and Vegetable soup with crusty bread (fresh from the baker).

We were astounded that we had one friend and his wife came from Rickmansworth (130 miles round trip) (second year running) but this year was beaten by one couple travelling all the way from Banstead in Surrey (190 miles). Must be the amazing soup! Or maybe they just like supporting our little charity.

Whatever the reason they turned up, we would like to thank all 50ish of you for your support and help in raising almost £200 for the Kathmandu Kids Home.

T'commitee

From The Vicar

IT'S VERY GOOD to be back after my months away in Sweden. I'd like to express my thanks in the BN particularly to Cubby Brett, Dan Inman and Sarah Green for keeping the show on the road so capably during my absence. Actually, rather more than just 'keeping the show on the road' to judge by the seething mass of children in which I got buried at the Crib Service! Great to see so many adults there too. (Recommendation: if you really want to enjoy Christmas in England, be away for the run-up – carols overdose can be a problem, but not for me this year.) I'd also like to say a general thank you to everyone who made sure that activities in the church went on as they should. And another thank you to the two Tony Es – and to the many of you too who are on it - for *Barley 'cross the Swere*. Absolutely brilliant!



My time in Sweden was rewarding in many ways. St Sigfrids folkhögskola was most welcoming and it was a fascinating place to be. They major on the integration of immigrants and the stories of how those immigrants came to Sweden are often both hair-raising and moving. They are able to bring in very interesting speakers for whole-school lectures. They have a group of talented music students who perform in the School, a bonus I didn't expect. And the place is also a diocesan centre, so I came across a lot of Swedish Church people. The food is excellent (though no alcohol because a number of the students have substance-abuse problems) and there were fantastic Christmas parties - the Swedes know how to cope with the dying of the light. Most importantly for me, the instruction in Swedish is superb. I'm much, much better at Swedish than I was last August, though not fluent by any means. Now, with some linguistic competence and a load of contacts, I should be able to make a stronger contribution to our link with Växjö diocese. I hope my 'thinking Swedish' will have some spin-off for Barford. If anyone fancies a holiday on the wonderful Baltic island of Öland, for instance, I might be able to help.

Good things happened for me outside the School too. If you'd like to know more, please do come to *Tongue-tied in Växjö* on Sunday February 3rd at 7.30pm in Deddington Parish Church (after the Candlemas Eucharist) at which light Swedish-style refreshments will be served.

Hugh White,
Vicar

Barford Green Garden Club

Notes From Our Potting Shed

FEBRUARY 2013

DID YOU KNOW that the Barford Green Garden Club is now 20 years old?

Things have changed much since those early days but a love of growing and appreciating plants still binds the members together. These 'Notes' each month are a way of keeping everyone informed of our activities and at the same time attract new members.

We are now well over Christmas and some people have braved the cold and wet and got out on to their allottments and into their gardens....cutting back, pruning and HOPING for a better growing season than last year!

ANNE CHAMBERS from Kiftsgate came to talk to around 25 of us on January 3rd. The title of the talk was 'Through the Seasons at Kiftsgate'. She gave us a history of the garden and explained that she and her husband had now taken over the garden from her mother and before that her grandmother. It certainly seemed to be a 'Womans Garden' Although not trained as a gardener Anne has greatly increased her knowledge and is obviously fanatical about the garden. Many slides were shown and our minds became fixed on a Garden Club visit in June, date to be arranged. We will look forward to seeing the many areas and facets of this garden set on the Cotswold escarpment, including of course the enormous Kiftsgate rose! This talk was again FREE to Members. Later in the year we will visit this lovely garden and view all their roses amongst other plants, hidden corners, magnificent vistas and water features. The garden is almost opposite Hidcote and well worth visiting for the first time, or for a return visit. Although parts are steep and terraced there are many areas on the flat with wonderful features, especially the new Water Garden, made in the previous tennis court area.

OUR AGM is to be on 4th FEBRUARY at 7.30 in the Village Hall.

The subject of Open Gardens will be discussed in general at the AGM, the possibility of an alternative activity and other ideas are welcome. Please come ready for discussion. There will be refreshments and please bring your subscriptions for this year.



TIP OF THE MONTH

Keep off the garden if very wet, the soil will become compacted and difficult for future work to be carried out. The hard frosts will be good for breaking down the soil and hellebores, popping up now, can be better seen if the old leaves are removed. Some early spring flowers are making an appearance and old foliage or rotting leaves on the beds should be removed so that these new flowers are free to make a show. Continue to sow in pots...sweet peas and some vegetables. Prune roses and other shrubs and trees while the sap is down. Clean all greenhouses and sheds if you have not already done so. Make good all fences and other structures. A good workout can be had and many calories can be burned! Do not forget to feed the birds.

CONTINUE TO DREAM of a nice spring and summer.



'Bye for now'
Spade and Fork



1st Deddington Scout Group

THE GROUP HAS HAD quite a few changes over the new year, Harry & Jamie have moved on to Scouts & four new Cubs have started, Ollie, Lewis, Jack & Sam. We have several boys on the waiting list for Cubs so, if you have a child who would like to join Cubs in the future, please put their name down when they are 7 years old.

Last term all the boys busied themselves with fundraising, the Cubs raised over £200 when they displayed their guys at the market. The annual Christmas card delivery raised £233, thanks to everyone who took advantage of the service, this will be used to insure our equipment.

The Scouts finished their £1 challenge, & from an initial investment of only £20 they raised over £400, a fantastic result. Their efforts were many & varied, car washing, cake making, sweet selling & even a gymkhana. Very well done to everyone who contributed, the money raised, plus the £200 from Cubs, will pay for a Shelterbox outright. We also hope to have spawned a new generation of entrepreneurs.

Jo Churchyard C.S.L., jochurchyard@hotmail.com

Pete Churchyard S.L. pete.churchyard@btinternet.com

Many thanks to Eagles, Deddington Library & Barford Post Office for having our post boxes.



Monthly Update Team News



December has been a very busy month for the team attending community events leading up to the festive period. PC Culley and PCSO Smith were invited to attend Christmas Fairs in Deddington, Wroxton and Barford St Michael. This New Year we want to support communities further in strengthening watches that have fewer participants. If you would like to be involved, please make contact with the team. More information regarding Neighbourhood Watch can be found on our website at: www.thamesvalley.police.uk.

A new initiative is being rolled out across the Cherwell Rural Neighbourhood called "Walk in the Countryside". Core response teams in Cherwell are taking extra steps to reach out to isolated and rural communities. The initiative launched on the 1st of December and means that urban officers will dedicate more of their time to patrolling the villages.

We are always looking to recruit new members for the Neighborhood Action Group. If you have a little time and would like to make a real difference in your community please contact Sgt 6600 Richard Miller for more information.

Auto Crime

Auto crime is currently a Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) priority as chosen by you the public. During December we encountered 7 thefts of number plates from vehicles parked unattended in Adderbury, Claydon, Wardington, Little Bourton and Hanwell. Often criminals will steal one or both number plates and use them on other vehicles when committing crime. In most cases the vehicles concerned have been parked in remote locations over night sometimes with poor lighting. You may also consider speaking to your local mechanic about changing to tamper proof screws making it much more difficult and less likely to be targeted.

Rural Thefts - Sheds and Outbuildings

There have been a large number of thefts occurring in the rural Neighbourhood during December. These have mainly been insecure sheds and outbuildings, in remote or quiet locations at different times of the day. Offenders have been stealing high value tools, lawn mowers and garden equipment. We have seen these shed breakthroughs throughout the area. Shed alarms are cheap and very effective. If you see anyone acting suspiciously, please ring 999 as soon as possible. The team will continue to run a series of proactive operations during the New Year and continue investigations. Specialist teams will be assisting. Would you like to help us by participating in the operation? If so, please make contact with Sgt Richard Miller who will be happy to discuss.

Rural Thefts are now a Thames Valley Force Priority and we would ask all members of the community to contact the police with any suspicious vehicles/people driving slowly through the villages looking for or collecting scrap metal immediately. If the vehicle registration number, description of the vehicle and persons can be obtained and passed to Thames Valley Police by calling 101, officers will be dispatched to stop the vehicle and deal with any offences identified.

Samantha West

Neighbourhood Policing Administrator - Cherwell LPA
Banbury Police Station, Warwick Road, Banbury. OX16 2AE

Tel: 01295 75454, Int: 7224541

Email: sam.west@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk



Book Review The Greatcoat by

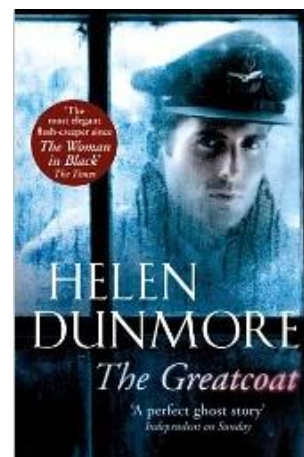
Helen Dunmore

Hammer Books (Random House)



THE HAMMER imprint might lead you to expect hair-raising horrors, but although there is certainly a haunting in this elegantly-written novella, it's of a rather unusual kind. Helen Dunmore takes us back to 1952, the bleakness of domestic life through a cold winter and the aftermath of the war years, also giving glimpses of a Yorkshire bomber station during the war years.

Young couple Philip and Isabel – he a doctor, she learning to manage a home and to put aside any ambitions of her own – are renting a ground-floor flat, with a forbidding landlady living in the same house. Isabel's discovery of an RAF greatcoat in a cupboard seems to summon a pilot who appears at the window and taps to come in. Alex is a Lancaster pilot, endlessly re-living the day of his last flight to Berlin. Isabel finds herself sharing his memories, apparently becoming someone else – a married woman with whom he was having an affair. In his company, she is taken back to the days when the nearby airfield was operational, thrumming with activity as the aircraft were loaded with bombs and the crews attended briefings. With him she experiences a sexual passion absent from her relationship with her considerate but preoccupied husband. Finally, discovering the



fate of the Lancaster K-Katie and Alex's link with the restless landlady, she attempts to alter the outcome and find a way of letting him go.

Helen Dunmore is a skilled writer who almost creates the necessary suspension of disbelief required by this atmospheric tale. Through economic detail we experience the dreariness of post-war food, the attempts to keep warm while coal supplies dwindle, the queuing in shops. What is really haunting in this story is not the ghostly apparition of Alex but the reality that lies behind the fiction: the terrible losses endured by the aircrew of Bomber Command, the odds against completing a tour of operations and the intolerable pressures they faced, not least to control their own fears.

DEDDINGTON HEALTHCENTRE NEWSLETTER

Telephone 338611,
www.deddingtonsurgery.co.uk



Trouble getting an appointment?

We offer 2 different types of GP appointment at the surgery: -

Appointments booked in advance

We will always try to give you an appointment with the doctor of your choice as continuity is important particularly when discussing the same problem, but this may mean slightly longer waits in some circumstances. If you are able to be flexible about who you see, it should be easier to get an appointment at a date and time of your choosing, also you may be able to get an advance appointment with your preferred doctor at relatively short notice if you ring first thing in the morning – around 8am

Urgent Appointments

Each weekday we have one doctor oncall who has no pre-bookable appointments. This doctor sees all those patients who feel that they need to be seen the same day, either in the morning or afternoon depending on when you ring. The GPs take it in turn to be oncall, and you will be allocated an appointment with whoever is oncall that day.

111 - the phone number for medical problems that don't need '999'

Another reminder about this new phone number to ring if you have a medical problem of any description which is not an emergency. This is now being widely advertised in Oxfordshire, it is a 24 hour a day service, so is **for use out of hours**, when the surgery is closed, but can be used during the day time as well. Calls are free from landlines and mobiles. The phone is initially answered with an ansaphone message, but then proceeds to a call handler. This person will take you through a series of questions and will then advise you on the appropriate course of action.

You should call NHS 111 if:

You need medical help fast but it is not a 999 emergency

You think you need to go to A & E or another NHS urgent care service

You require health information or reassurance about what to do next

Bowel Cancer Screening

About 1 in 20 people in the UK will develop bowel cancer during their lifetime. It is the second most common cause of cancer death in the UK. Nationwide, a campaign has been going since 2006 to promote early detection of bowel cancer. Eight out of ten people who get bowel cancer are over the age of sixty, so the NHS Bowel Cancer Screening Programme is aimed at people aged 60 and over.

All men and women aged between 60 - 69 years of age are sent a bowel screening kit every 2 years and the screening programme has helped reduce the risk of dying from bowel cancer by 16%. However, Oxfordshire statistics show that only 50 % of people take part in the screening. Bowel cancer is treatable, but it is easiest to treat when it is caught early and taking part in this screening programme is the first step. **So our doctors encourage you to use the kit, take part and help to protect yourself.** The results come back within 2 weeks, and if you need further treatment you are offered a colonoscopy.

If you are aged 70 and over, and would like a bowel cancer test, you can request a kit by phoning: **01483 68 88 88.**

Upton House & Gardens NEW 2013 SEASON



National
Trust

Warm up on a stroll round the grounds or pick up a map for a longer country walk from reception. Reward yourself afterwards with tasty cooked lunches or afternoon teas in the restaurant. Our wonderful shop is also open to visitors.

The 2013 year is packed full of events. During the February half term there'll be children's activities every day except Thursdays. So whether it is adventuring on the woodland trail, cooking up messy food in the kitchen or joining the Upton Art Academy of Mess there will be lots to do between 16 – 24 February.

Haidee Williams, Visitor Services Manager said "We are really excited about our new programme and hope that our Mud and Mess theme will get things off to a flying start, especially with Wellington boots hurtling through the air!"

Of course Upton's wonderful art collection will be here with all the paintings of the 'Top Choice' specially presented in the new squash court."

For further details call Upton House and Gardens on 01295 670266

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/uptonhouse

NATURE NOTES 112

THE HUGE 'LOW' that brought such low temperatures before mid-December, inevitably gave way to a ridge of high pressure on the 15th, a westerly breeze and a rise in day temperatures to around 8°. Nights however, remained just above freezing. Around that time, our editor's bird feeders were hosting plenty of Long-tailed Tits, and a Reed Bunting, as well as all the usual song-birds. The Lower Street conifers seemed to hold a good population of Coal Tits.

As I drove into Bloxham on the 17th, a Sparrowhawk sailed up into the air away from a garden with bird feeders. I couldn't see if it had caught anything. By the 18th another huge Low was threatening and a cold night brought the screaming of a Vixen through the small hours below Steepness.

The Low brought rain on a SE wind on the 19th. It became torrential overnight and continued heavy and steady, only ceasing after dark on the 20th. Another 24 hour drenching! After the rain ceased Bas Butler listened to a Tawny Owl 'kewick'ing on the Green. There was no hooting from an answering male. This was the first instance of a Tawny Owl calling since the early Autumn – where are they all?

The shortest day (21st) was quite mild on a NW airflow, with a sunny afternoon and bright sunset.

The wind now went to SW initiating a milder period, right through to the end of the month and into January. On the 22nd it rained all day but was very mild (11°). Bas Butler saw 4 Red Kites scavenging around Hill Farm Cottages up on the Chipping Norton road. Next day was also very mild, with considerable cloud and, at night, a misty half moon surrounded by a large faint halo of light. On the 24th, a gloomy day of rain that eased through the afternoon, welcome peals of 'laughter' from a Green Woodpecker issued from below Steepness. This is the first time for many months since these birds had called from there.

Generally from this time, day temperatures dropped to 8° or 9° with a low of 5° on the 27th. Nights were cold, 0° to 3°, except for the 28th at 6°.

After a bright sunny morning on the 25th, a Buzzard made a futile attempt to soar on a raw breeze from Steepness around mid-day. Following a bright sunny morning, the next day rained from 1pm until sunset.

Following morning rain, the afternoon of the 27th produced clear, cold sun. For me however, the most notable occurrence was at dusk, when two Tawny Owls started 'kewick'ing below Steepness –



again there was no hooting– and I haven't heard them since. Are there no males locally? The status of these birds is a mystery.

The number of diurnal birds of prey prominent at this time was quite remarkable (see last *Nature Notes*). The 28th revealed 4 Kites scavenging around Radwell at Hempton and 2 Buzzards and a Kestrel at Ilbury; the 29th produced 2 more Kites at Great Tew, 1 at Over Worton and one of our resident Kestrels below Steepness.

The last day of 2012 was a ragged, wet, windy Winter's day of heavy overcast and driven rain on a roaring sou'wester. Things quietened at dusk as I watched 4 Moorhens pecking and squelching their way to roost from shallow flooding at the bottom of the Park. Hopefully that means we are free from Mink for the start of the New Year!

My last bird of the year was a Kestrel, still looking for supper in the last rays of sunset, on the South Newington Road.

And so, somewhere in the frosty moonlight, 2012 became 2013; and I'm sure everyone was praying for less rain in the coming year!

January 1st dawned on a light ground frost followed by clear brilliant sun all day. The wind performed a little 'blip' up to NW so it got no warmer than 5°. In the afternoon a Raven was trying to make its way eastward but was unmercifully harried by gulls and crows.

The 2nd was a day of Wagnerian weather effects – a vivid pink sunrise at the horizon below a low, misty cloud base, continually rising and falling through a gloomy, lowering day. Gotterdamerung ensued with a ragged sullen sunset of brownish-orange behind a scattered pavement of purple-black clouds. However, the day had reached 9° and the mildness remained until the 9th! Albeit so, nights remained just above freezing.

On the 4th, a mild, pleasant day, as I drove out of Bloxham toward St. John, I spotted a very small, slender bird on the overhead wires. I couldn't identify it so I turned about and went back. From my now stationary car I could see it was the smallest male Kestrel I had ever seen – small as a male Merlin (or a skinny, long-tailed Redwing). To complete the picture, as I watched, the female came and joined the male on the wires – something else I've never seen, two Kestrels sitting in such close proximity. The female absolutely dwarfed this diminutive male! After a few minutes they flew off over the Airfield. As I approached St. John, another male Kestrel (normal size!) was sitting on the overhead wires. Kestrels seem to be doing quite well, so far.

The 6th was the day of our 8 hour bird-count. So, duly at 8am Bas Butler, Ian Hobday, myself

and three friends gathered on the Green to monitor the 1km squares around Barford. (The count actually involves us sampling habitats over an area measuring 10km x 10km). Visibility was not good with mist rising and falling. Between 8am and 11.30 am we managed to record 39 species of birds around the Barfords, and then through the afternoon (which was a little brighter) we managed to add another 21 species. Sixty different birds locally, over 8 hours in mid-winter! They were good in variety but poor in general numbers; nevertheless we were well pleased with the result, which will be fed into the national statistics, along with the results of the other teams that took part.

On the 9th the wind again went up to NW for three days giving a mixture of chilly conditions with nights at freezing point. Ian Hobday was pleased to spot a Barn Owl leaving its roost in the west of the parish on the 11th.;

The wind went to a cold SE on the 12th with rain showers early in the morning turning to sunny spells through the afternoon, although it didn't get above 2°. A little before sunset I decided to see if I could find anything interesting going to roost. I spotted a Buzzard in the trees around Mar Pool but that was all. I was about to give up, but stopped to have a last look over toward the Park from Barley Lane. I noticed a hazy grey patch in the sky toward South Newington and raised my binoculars. There, quite high, were the characteristic, rhythmic wing beats of a flock of Lapwing. They came on over Rignell and I estimated their number at 120+. They were at about 200ft (70m) above Rignell when they started to swing toward St. Michael. From this point they started to perform swirling flock evolutions above the plough and stubble. Gradually each swirl and counter swirl got lower until at about 30ft (10m) above the mud and stubble they plunged *en masse* to the ground and were at once invisible. How long is it since I last experienced a good flock of Lapwings on agricultural land around the Barfords – I don't know, but a long time, far too long.

After a night of -6.5°, the wind changed to NE and the 13th dawned on a white frost with a clear sunrise and morning. Cloud was slowly building all afternoon and the temperature 'peaked' at 1°. It fell to -3° after dark and by 3am snow was falling thinly.

The 14th arose to a dusting of snow. By late morning snow was falling thickly but it turned to rain and a slight thawing as the wind backed to

NW. By 2.30pm the sun had broken through and there was clear blue sky. It was very cold (1.5°) and in the last half-hour before sunset the resident female Kestrel was hovering and hunting on the scrub above Steepness. As the sun neared the horizon, she slipped down the hill and perched in an Oak, where she was quickly joined by about forty Fieldfares! Neither took any notice of each other, but a Crow took exception to the Kestrel's presence, causing a commotion and driving both her and all the Fieldfares away. I turned for home and, as I headed up the road, one of the Steepness resident Buzzards appeared low over Fernhill. It too was being mobbed by mixed crows, but in addition, also the resident male Kestrel. The crows quickly lost interest, but the Kestrel harried the Buzzard right to the top of Steepness, before breaking away and speeding back down to the thorn copse on Fernhill. By the time I got home only the sky afterglow was left, but, lo and behold, here comes another bird being mobbed by Jackdaws! This time a female Sparrowhawk came racing out of the rabble and sped overhead in dipping flight as she headed for her roost in the east of the parish.

It was a clear night at -4.5°, windless and with clear sun on the 15th. Despite the low temperatures Moles seemed to be working normally on the road verges and other non-flooded areas. Even Field Mice and Shrews could be noticed as they flicked away from one's footfalls in the dead leaves. The Buzzard still occupied the trees at Mar Pool and the female Kestrel crossed the road near Bloxham. Now I'm home and writing these notes, and feeling thankful for my supper and the warmth, it does seem that, at last, we are getting weather appropriate to the season – long may this state of things continue!

Ron Knight

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