

BARFORD NEWS

JANUARY 2013

www.barfordnews.co.uk

Price 30p where sold

That Old Familiar Picture



Mark Lovell of B. St. J. Had the perfect answer to negotiating the recent floods – although, he still got his feet wet!



**Happy New Year to all
From the News Team**



Parish Council Notes

The meeting took place at 7.38pm on 5th December 2012 at Barford Village Hall and was attended by Cllr Hobbs, Cllr Best, Cllr Bullard, Cllr Eden and Cllr Turner. Also were attending Mrs R Watts (Clerk) and District Cllr O'Sullivan.

Apologies for absence were received from County Cllr Jelf.

Murreys Lane and The Rock: The vegetation along both sides of Murreys Lane has been cut back but not along the Rock as yet.

Hedge at the side of Woodworms Hilton: The hedge alongside Woodworms Hilton has been cut back by the owner and this has improved visibility for motorists.

The Bridge: Villagers are appreciative of the hedge on the corner of the bridge having being cut back.

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.

Salt Bins: The Clerk ordered two salt bins 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 have yet to contact Cllr Hobbs yet about their location. The Clerk will chase this up.

Flooding: Note has been taken that as a result of the recent torrential rains the road over the bridge became impassible to many vehicles. Large vehicles have unfortunately damaged the verges from Barford St John to Barford St Michael by driving up and over them to negotiate the flood waters.

Footpath from Barford St John to Barford St Michael: Grass and weeds have grown over the tarmac making it difficult to negotiate in places. The Clerk was asked to write to Oxfordshire County Council Highways Department asking if they would remedy the situation.

The Green: Vehicles are again damaging the verge on The Green. It was unanimously agreed that Cllr Hobbs will ask Mick Cook for advice on how to remedy this situation.

Public Participation: District Cllr O'Sullivan wished Councillors, the Parish Clerk and all his constituents a Happy Christmas.

Planning Matters

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

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

Planning Applications Approved:

12/01405/F Pane, 2 Summer Ley, Barford St Michael – proposed conservatory. Granted 26th November 2012.

Reports from Meetings: Cllr Hobbs attended the Parish Liaison meeting at Bodicote House on 28 November. The agenda included big issues in the District (finance, eco-Bicester, Local Plan and HS2); Parish Finances; The new "Community Right to Bid" for assets of community value; Volunteer Driver Scheme Steeple Aston. More details can be found on the Cherwell District Council website www.cherwell.gov.uk/ (Parish Liaison). The next Parish Liaison meeting will be on 12 June 2013.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on 3rd January 2013.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.38

Poppy Appeal: Final Results 2012

ONCE MORE there was another excellent result for the Barfords' Poppy Appeal. The 2012 total collection amounted to £625.13



As to the sources of the collection: £451.93 came from door to door collections, the Post Office and The George, £118.20 from the Remembrance Service collection and donations of £30.00 from the Parish Council and £25.00 from The Fernhill Club.

Once again The Royal British Legion thanks to you all for being so generous towards the Poppy Appeal. Fortunately Barfordians remain very aware of the reasons for giving to this very worthwhile appeal. The conflict in Afghanistan continues and financial help for the wounded and their families remains a necessity. There are still many who were involved in the 1939-45 war, Korea, Malaysia, Cyprus and Iraq and other conflicts involving British Servicemen, who need help either for themselves or their families. A successful and bounteous Poppy Appeal provides this essential assistance.

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

Again thanks to you all.

*Bernard Lane.
Poppy Appeal Organizer for the Barfords*

The Barfords Annual Christmas Lunch 2012

A RECORD NUMBER OF 73 PEOPLE enjoyed the Barfords Christmas Lunch on the 1st December. We were really pleased with the fantastic response.

The menu was Leek and stilton soup with crusty bread; Chicken and white wine with rice and wild rice and salad; Fruit salad and cream; Mince pies; Christmas cake and coffee or tea. After the lunch, there was entertainment from Mike Horth and The Mill Town Singers (which was very well received again, as in previous years – they always manage to get everyone singing, and feeling festive). The atmosphere was great, with the hall beautifully decorated by the VHMC, the wine flowed freely and everyone seemed to enjoy the occasion.

A HUGE THANK YOU must be said to everyone who worked so hard to make the day such a success. Firstly to Maggie Eden, Lyn Daly, Ella Booth and Will Brodey for setting out and laying the tables. Next, a very big thank you to all the waitresses, and 2 waiters, who gave up their day to serve the food and wine, and stayed behind to clear up. These were: Julia Streeter, Glynnis Eastwood, Liz Callow, Sam, Amy and Lewis Harding, Tilly Neal, Ella Booth, Christine Hall, Lisa Styles, Brian Dodwell and Dan Inman. Another thank you to the Barford fruit salad makers: Hetta Nicholson, Julia Streeter, Veronique Semple, Lisa Styles, Barbara Allen, Hazel Neal, Carol Warner, Tess Dodwell and Lucy Warner. Also we are very grateful to Lorraine Langlands for making and donating the delicious Christmas cake and Sandi Turner for making the excellent mince pies. Thanks to The Mill Town Singers for their excellent entertainment. A big thank you to the Garden Club and to the Banbury Guardian Correspondent (Mariann) for their financial donations; and also a big thank you to the 'Cuppa Morning' ladies (Jo Blackhall, Tomasin Atherton and Zalie Butler) for their donation of the wine for the event.

The final thank you goes to those who gave donations on the day, we were very grateful for these generous donations which will make a good start towards funding the lunch for next year. It is an enjoyable event, both for those invited, and for those who help to run it, and it seems to start off the festive season in just the right way.

Aggie Morrison-Booth, Sarah Best and Mary Brodey



Ed's Postbag

Thanks expressed for Annual Christmas Lunch:



Very many thanks to all concerned with the senior citizens lunch. Great food, brilliant service and very lively company! Getting older has a lot going for it.

Carole Coppin

Dear Ladies,

Thank you so much for the lovely lunch on 1st December. We really enjoyed ourselves, and we do appreciate your hard work.

Fernhill Club members

To Sarah, Mary & Aggie, all their helpers and The Milltown Singers

Thank you so much for the wonderful annual lunch. Once again the food was delicious, the service excellent and the entertainment by the Milltown Singers just right.

A lovely start to the festive season.

Many, many thanks M & C

And for that Barford CD!

Just had to share with you how good we think the Barford CD is, Bob and I listened to it yesterday and today, there's a great selection of music and some lovely performances it is far superior to others we have heard! I don't know who is mainly responsible for getting it off the ground but if you could pass on our congratulations we'd be grateful, it's worth more than £6!! I'm proud to be part of it!

(from a Bloxham member of Singing for Pleasure)



**Feb. 9th 2013
Quiz Night**



It includes supper and a raffle

**Don't forget to put this date on
your new calendar.**

**Don't forget to look out for
clues.**

**Watch the Barford News and
noticeboards for details nearer
the date.**

Volunteer Connect Community Transport Scheme



Taking passengers of all ages, to medical appointments. Also social events, shopping trips and visits to day centres, clubs, relatives etc.

Call us on: 0845 815 0087

Or email

transport@volunteerconnect.org.uk

1st Deddington Guides



Girlguiding UK
girls in the lead

It seems such a long time ago now! The Remembrance Day Parade – we were proud of our smart turnout. Guides were charged with special responsibilities – wreath laying, colour parties, all managed very well indeed, Well done!

We divided into 4 age groups for our film night. The younger guides abandoned the film when there were technical problems, but instead happily entertained themselves playing board games, popcorn and pop and pyjamas made the evening fun!

Our pre-Christmas activities – Party planning, pass the parcel wrapping and pottery painting all helped to round off the year!

The Penguin patrol won the patrol points competition – their prize? A ten-pin bowling session! Well Done, Chloe, Megan, Ellie A, Charlotte and Amy.

As a good turn we ran a stall at Deddington Farmers' Market to raise money for Daisy (aged 9), who lives near Chipping Norton, two years ago she lost her hands and feet through meningitis and inspired by the para-olympics, would love a pair of 'running blades'. These cost up to £10,000! During the morning we raised £230, thank-you all for your support. Thank you too to the Farmers' Market who provided a £20 voucher and bag as prizes and have now agreed to donate a further £230 to the fund, very generous, thank you! Daisy and her family are delighted. We will be out again at the Christmas Market. If you would like to make a donation to the fund, please contact Maggie on the number below.

Thanks also to the Gloucester and Warwick Railway at Toddington, who donated a very generous family ticket.

Back to guides on 8th January, Have a good Christmas!

Maggie Rampley 01295 810069

Marian Trinder 01869 340806

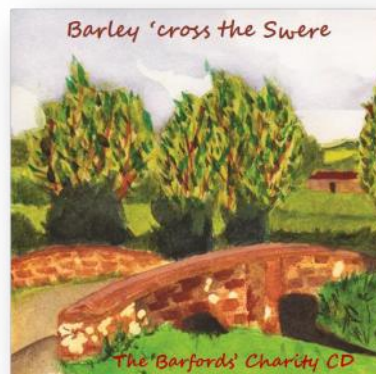
Catherine Blackburn 01295 258008.

The Barfords' Charity CD – The Launch Concert

~ by Lucy Norman

A candle-lit Barford St Michael's church was the place to be on Saturday 1st December – if you weren't there then you missed a little gem.

The evening kicked off with a 'toe tapping' selection of folk tunes from the Old Mettle band. This was followed by Gill Allcock who played guitar and sang so beautifully a trio of songs including In The Sweet By and By, a hymn by SF Bennett & JP Webster. Dan Inman, our Curate, and Soprano Bea Bathe (half of the Collared Doves) treated us to a truly moving rendition of O Holy Night.



And so the amazing talent continued. Ben & Catherine Elvidge (Ben on piano and Catherine on flute) indulged us with Allegretto Grazioso & Allegretto Scherzando followed by Ben, again on piano and Jonathan Elvidge on drums playing songs including It Ain't Necessarily So.

Just when you thought you were talented-out we heard Josh Herring, an extremely talented young local man in his 3rd Year at Birmingham Conservatoire who played us 3 of his own songs – he was breath-taking. Last but by no means least Oliver Tindale, Grade 7 pianist who played, amongst other pieces, Conchita rêve by Joaquin Turina; he was fantastic.

AND FINALLY....Old Mettle (below) finished the evening but no folk song set is complete without a little dance so we all got up, linked hands and snaked our way around the church (what must we have looked like?). In between all this we were treated to homemade mince pies and a good natter with our fellow Villagers.

It was an incredible night. We had no idea we were living amongst such a talented bunch.



So for the giveaway price of £6:00 you can enjoy more music every day including a bit of Fairport Convention, a smidgen of Freeway Jam and a morsel of The Rainbows and while you're enjoying your (over 60 minutes) CD you're supporting 5 worthy charities: Barford Churches | Nepalese Helpless Mothers' Centre | Shepherds & Bakehouse Trust | Village Hall and Barford News. CDs can be purchased from The Farm Shop, tony.elvidge@btinternet.com, The George pub or February's Barford Market.



FOUND – POCKET KNIFE

Has anyone lost a pocket knife
Around the junction of
Townsend/Robins Close.

If so call 01869 338061
and describe it
and it will be returned to you.

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

THE HISTORY OF MASKS With Christine Farmer



**7.30pm
Wednesday 9th January
In The Village Hall**

**Visitors welcome to join us £4.00
At our WI Meeting**



W.I. members and friends sporting their 3D spectacles after a trip to Oxford New Theatre to see Starlight Express.



Babysitting!

Hi, I'm Tilly and I am available for
babysitting,

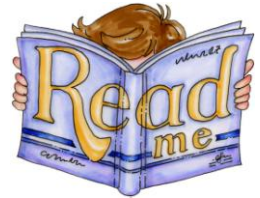
I live in Broad Close Barford St Michael.

I am 1st Response First Aid trained.

You can call me on 01869 337822 or on my
mobile at 07557 095681.

Deddington Library

THE LIBRARY HAS HAD
a busy summer, more
than 100 children took
part in the 'StoryLab', the
Summer Reading challenge,
we held a story-time just



before the children started back to school in
September where the children enjoyed stories, as
well as a gluing and pasting activity. This was
followed in October by a Family Learning week
session in which many mums with little ones
attended for stories, songs and rhymes.

Our new self-service scanning system has been
installed and Joelle and I are busy assisting our
borrowers to use the system for returning and
borrowing, managing their accounts and even
paying fines. An incredibly clever system and
nowhere near as scary as supermarket versions.
Self-service is designed to speed up service during
busy times, Joelle and I are still here to help with
library requests and queries – rest assured our
service to our borrowers remains our priority.

We have a lovely collection of new stock items,
so why not pop along and see if there is something
to keep you company on these long winter nights?

We would welcome 'value added' volunteers
(completely separate from the volunteer helpers
required in due course to support the running of the
library) to help us run regular events such as story –
or rhyme times for younger children. So, if you
have any free time, we would love to hear from
you. Also, if there are any 'computer buddies' out
there who would be able to give up an hour
occasionally to provide tuition and support to
encourage people to use our free computers, we
would be very pleased to hear from you too. If you
would like to learn how to use the internet and set
up an email account or just generally increase your
computer literacy, please get in touch.

Wishing all our library borrowers a very healthy
and peaceful 2013.

Stella O'Neill and Joelle Robinson
'Library Ladies' 338 391

Rainbows News

Some of which was 'missed out' of December issue (apologies to Hazel and Nikki – Ed)



THE RAINBOWS HAD fun collecting conkers in October; there were more than we thought there'd be, so everybody went home with a bag or basket full. We also sang and recorded a campfire song in a round for the forthcoming Barford CD, which was fun. Many thanks to Jan and Tony Elvidge for making it possible for us to be recording artists!

All the girls have taken home insect hotels they made for overwintering mini beasts in their garden. As well as the usual hollow stems these insects got welcome notes, TV sets made out of bark; knotted grass skipping ropes and sofas made of moss- let's hope they appreciate the level of luxury this winter!

We made bread rolls and baked lots of flowers, plaits, hedgehogs and even a few turtles and a squirrel! Apparently they all tasted delicious. While we waited for the rolls to cook we learned how to weave friendship bracelets on circular cardboard looms. Once you get the knack it's quite simple and the cord grows satisfyingly quickly. We're going to send these to India for Sangam (one of GirlGuiding's World Centres) to sell for fundraising.



Remembrance Day was bright and dry again, and 14 Rainbows paraded to the War Memorial. They all looked very smart and were impeccably behaved again, sitting patiently through the service and showing respect for the occasion- we were very proud of them all. We'd learnt the National Anthem for St George's Day so many of the Rainbows still knew it off by heart- well done girls!

There is an extremely long waiting list at the moment. If your daughter may be interested in joining Rainbows, it's never too early to put their name down!

Hazel Neal 01869 337822
hmkn@sky.com

Eleanor from the Thames Valley and Chiltern Air Ambulance came to see us in November and gave a very interesting talk all about the work of the ambulance. She explained that it is entirely funded by charitable donations, so we helped her out by buying up her entire stock of logo-ed bouncy ball and other merchandise! It almost made up for the disappointing fact that she couldn't bring the actual helicopter with her...



We got ready for Christmas by making wool-wrapped star decorations, easily as good as the ones in smart Cotswold shops for £4 each! Our best meeting though had to be Giant Junk Modelling. Two huge cardboard tubes from a carpet shop became the masts of a ship, and whilst some of the girls assembled the outline of the boat in boxes others created a 'Skull and Crossbones' from a biscuit box and some cardboard tubes; a treasure chest full of egg box treasure; telescopes, seats and even bottles of rum! We all squeezed in to sing the Pirate song (including the immortal line "a bottle of rum to fill my tum...") before dismantling it to be remade into fantastic see-saws, cars, trains and a tiny dolls house! Possibly the most fun though was squashing it down to be recycled!

We finished the term with a game of 10 pin bowling in Banbury, which was long but very good fun and then a party complete with musical bumps, pinata, pass the parcel (thank you Deddington Guides!) and a chocolate eating game. Milly especially was very good at throwing sixes on the die, but I'm not sure how much chocolate she got to eat after she'd put on a hat, scarf and mittens and then tried to cut the chocolate bar with a knife and fork!

Thank you to all the mums and dads who've helped out over the term- we couldn't run the unit without your help. We'll be back in the first full week of the new term.

Hazel and Nikki, 01869 337822

"Oscars"

Barford Village Market

In the Village Hall, 10-12noon

Saturday, 19th January

**Delicious Cheeses, 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*

Fairtrade items

Hand-finished cards & decorations

Freshly baked Pasties, 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

The Two Village Charities

(The Hall & Fernhill Trust

and

The Shepherds & Bakehouse Charity)

are looking for a **new Trustee** to join them in the new year.

The charities meet four times a year.

This role may suit a parent whose child has benefited from a student grant in the past or someone interested in keeping the charities moving forward for the next generation.

Anyone interested, or if you would like further information, please contact:-

Robin Woolgrove (Chairman)
01295 720117

or

Helen Honour (Clerk)
01295 720987

Village Whist Drives

The fortnightly whist evenings in the village hall raised a total of £140 during the period 1st July To 9th December.

This has been divided among villages causes as follows:

Barford Churches	£70.00
Barford News	£35.00
Shepherds & Bakehouse	£35.00

We start again on 4th January after the Christmas break. New Players always welcome to come along.

Avril & Judy

Grateful thanks to Avril and Judy for their contributions to Barford News funds. Ed

BARFORD GREEN GARDEN CLUB

NOTES FROM OUR POTTING SHED

HAPPY NEW YEAR to you all and let us hope we have recovered from the weather, wet and cold. We are sure you have all been planning a new 'winter' garden following Timothy Walker's suggestions...at least we can do the thinking indoors! The garden has certainly taken a battering over the last few months and those plants that have survived regardless certainly deserve a medal. Their fruits, leaves and structures cheer us in this dismal period. The sun, when it has appeared is low, but the light is stunning and it has enabled us to love our gardens again...all is forgiven. We have not been able to get out there much but can view from inside, an important thing to remember when planning a garden.

ANNE CHAMBERS

from Kiftsgate

will be talking to us

on January 3rd at 7.30.

'Through the Seasons at Kiftsgate'.

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. More information will follow later in the year.

Anne's talk will be open to all members and visitors. Members will NOT pay for this talk and visitors will be asked to pay £3.

Our **AGM** will be in February, date to be confirmed.

This **NEW YEAR** will once again see our Open Gardens, Plant swap and various visits. The subject of Open Gardens can be discussed in general at the AGM, the possible dates etc. can be decided.

TIP OF THE MONTH

If you are longing for some colour in the garden, as Timothy Walker pointed out in our last talk, some cultivars of shrubs like viburnum and prunus do flower right through the winter in some places. Some evergreen plants, particularly yellow and variegated ones, also do a lot to brighten the scene. Now is the time to look around the village and surrounding area and see what seems to be looking good, and making planting plans for your own garden for next year.

Keep off the garden if very wet, the soil will become compacted and difficult for future work to be carried out. Continue to sow in pots...sweet peas and some vegetables. Clean all greenhouses

and sheds! when possible, if you have not already done so.

Rather than burn or dispose of your Christmas tree it is fun to put it outside, beside the bird table so that birds can shelter there.

DREAM of a nice spring and summer!



'Bye for now'
Spade and Fork



BARFORD PICTURE HOUSE

January 19th 2013

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.....

Farewell from Peter

Yesterday afternoon (Sunday 18th November) I was going to sit down and pen a short note for the Barford News as a follow up to the previous issue, where the Parish Council had reported that I had resigned as Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee for "personal reasons". I thought it would be useful, or of interest, to explain why. However I was "hijacked" yesterday (more later!) so I'm writing this on Monday morning.

The reason for my resignation is that I am taking myself off to do some travelling. I will be letting my house out from 1st December and then going to spend Christmas and New Year with my daughter and son-in-law in Geneva. On the 5th January I am flying off to South America, spending 4 months back-packing working my way up the spine of the Andes through Argentina and Chile and into Bolivia, then Peru, before taking a hop out to Easter Island. On my return to the mainland I will be working my way through northern Peru and into Ecuador and finally Colombia, leaving from Bogota the capital in May. That of course is assuming I don't get a) kidnapped or b) arrested for drug smuggling! All being well I will celebrate my 60th birthday at Lake Titicaca.

I have set up a blog, where anyone who is interested can monitor my progress and post comments. The address is www.peterleney.co.uk.

On my return I have decided to rent a house in France for 6 months to see if I want to live there permanently; only by trying it will I know for sure, so you may see me back. Had I only been going for 4 months I would not have had to relinquish my village hall responsibilities, but as I will be away for 12 months as a minimum, and maybe forever, I have had to resign.



Peter at the party with his daughter Vicky

Barford is a great village and a fantastic community, and the decision to go has not been easy. I have made lots of great friends who, whatever happens and wherever I end up will, I hope, stay in touch! Now to the hijacking: yesterday (November) 17th I was told by two good friends that they were taking me out to lunch. In

fact what happened was that a most amazing surprise party was thrown for me, organised by Angus and Lucy Norman at the Old Chapel. I cannot thank Angus and Lucy enough and I am enormously grateful to them to them and everyone in the village who contributed in some way and who turned up for my send off. It was fantastic, a total and very emotional surprise, and very Barford.

Finally, a happy New Year to everyone in the village. You will be much missed.

Adios por ahora, Viaje Seguro (farewell for now and safe journey) Peter, we'll miss you too!



FINAL CALL WINTER WALK

If you get your Barford News early then you still have time to come and join us on the winter walk. Not forgetting the soup and crusty bread at the end. If, however, you get this edition late or didn't read it until after the 1st of January. Happy New Year and "there's always next year"

The walk leaves the Village Hall
at 11am Jan 1st (New Year's Day).

See you there!

Thank You

Sylvia and Basil

Would like to thank all family
and friends for all their kind
wishes on their
Golden Wedding

~

A lovely white woollen scarf
was left behind after our drinks
party, please get in touch if you
think it might be yours.

More on Broadband.

The news that the fibre optic cables will soon be delivering super fast broadband to the village is very exciting. However, there comes with it one potential problem of which users should be aware, and that is that during power cuts you could lose your telephone connection.

Having been alerted to this problem by an article in the December issue of Deddington News (have a look at Deddington News on-line), I came across the following 'Executive Summary' on the Ofcom website:

{Executive summary

Superfast broadband can be delivered to customers in a variety of ways, but the focus of this statement is on 'fibre to the premises' (FTTP) networks, where optical fibre is deployed all the way from the local exchange to the customer's property. Although this is expected to result in the highest speed broadband capability to customers, optical fibre does have one intrinsic limitation with respect to traditional telephony.

A conventional telephone draws the necessary power for operation from the local exchange via the copper telephone wires, and as a result can continue to function even when there is a power cut at the premises. However, optical fibres are unable to support this arrangement as they do not conduct electricity.

The consequence of this limitation in fibre optic networks is that, if there is a power failure at the property, and absent any other measures being taken, the telephone will stop working. Hence calls, including calls to the emergency services, are not possible.

In practice, a back-up supply of power to ensure that calls can be made over optical fibre networks during a power cut is normally supplied via a battery installed at the customer's premises. The question that arises from solutions of this type is the length of time over which the battery back-up remains operational. It is on this question that we have recently consulted.

Given the expected growth in fibre optic networks over the next few years and in light of recent survey evidence that suggests that communications providers are adopting a mix of power back-up solutions in their current deployments, we believe that this represents an appropriate time to address this issue.

Our consultation therefore proposed the following principles, applying to both new-build and 'overlay' FTTP deployments:

A battery back-up should always be provided to support publicly available telephone services (PATS) provided over FTTP.

The minimum duration of the back-up facility should be 1 hour.

Communications providers should take appropriate steps to ensure that the needs of vulnerable consumers requiring additional protection, who depend on 999/112 to a greater extent than the majority of the population, are addressed.

The safety of human life represents an extremely important citizen interest and therefore is central to our consultation and subsequent guidelines. Having taken responses to our consultation into consideration, we remain of the view that the principles proposed above, and on which we consulted, are most likely to result in back-up facilities that customers will maintain over time and hence provide more effective protection. We are also of the view that it is practicable for operators to comply with these principles.

Therefore, for the reasons set out in this document, we consider that the guidance set out in the consultation document is appropriate and proportionate.

We recognise that we are at an early stage of FTTP deployment in the UK. We will keep this guidance under review, and issue revised guidance if that appears appropriate, taking account of market and technology developments.}

If you decide to take a fibre phone service with BT, a battery back-up unit should be provided by the Openreach engineer when the fibre optic modem is installed into your home. Other companies should offer the same. The units are powered by 4 rechargeable AA batteries and once fitted the customer is responsible for replacing the batteries as required.

Given the frequency of power cuts and the poor mobile reception in the village, a plentiful supply of AA batteries seems a good idea.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

THANK YOU!

I have been making and selling flapjack to help 1st Deddington Scouts raise money for Shelterbox.

Shelterbox is a UK based charity that sends a box containing a family tent, stove, water purification equipment and anything else that a family who have lost their home might need, to disaster zones. Each box costs £590. I have raised a whopping £164.00 which is a large chunk of the cost of a whole box.

Thank you very much to everyone who bought some of the flapjack. I hope you enjoyed it!

from Barney Neal, age 11

END OF AN ERA....

The Village Hall Management Committee wish to say a massive, huge, enormous **thank you to Peter Leney who was your Chairman for nearly 4 years. Peter's contribution was immeasurable and he'll be missed both as Chairman and as a friend.**

Bon Voyage, Peter. Have a fantastic trip and return to us soon.

~ VHMC

Katharine House News

Happy New Year from everyone at Katharine



House Hospice to all our friends in the community.

Grimethorpe Colliery Brass Band

Back by popular demand and tickets are selling well! Grimethorpe Colliery Band will be back at St Mary's Church in Banbury on Saturday 16th March (7.30pm) next year. Entrance is by ticket only and can be purchased from the Box Office at Katharine House Hospice by calling 01295 812161.

We're now on Twitter!

Our Twitter feed is up and running and has regular updates about what we're up to in the community, or observations on daily life here in the offices at Katharine House. Follow us at @khosp.

Lottery

Have you joined our lottery? Feel good in the New Year, by helping the hospice and having the chance to win £1000! Recently one of our members won the top prize twice in quick succession... you've got to be in it to win it! Call Wendy on 01295 812161 or find details on our website www.katharinehouse.co.uk.

Calling All Knitters!

Thank you so much to everyone for knitting all our lovely Christmas hats, puddings and robins, at the time of writing we had over 2200 made for us and as we sell them for £1 each that is amazing. We're now thinking about Easter already, so if you are able to help us again, or would like to see what it's all about, our pattern is on our website or call us on 01295 812161.

Nicky Hanson
Community Fundraiser

Deddington PFSU and Village Nursery

AS I WRITE THIS we are in the final run-up to Christmas! The PFSU



children will be joining their friends in the Deddington Primary School F1 class for a production of 'Hey Ewe!' in the church. The Nursery will be transformed as the children take on an interactive Christmas performance of 'Journey to Bethlehem'. In between times we will be enjoying our Christmas parties. The PFSU held two successful decorations days at the start of December, when parents (and a few Grandparents) joined their children to prepare the room for Christmas. We made stained glass, iced Christmas biscuits, and decorated wooden decorations which we later hung on the tree. Thank you to the Fenemore family who kindly provided us with our tree. The 'Deddington Delights' shopping and pamper night in the church was a great success – thank you to everyone who supported us.

Lucy Squires, 337484

Barley 'cross the Swere

THE LAUNCH CONCERT has come and gone and seemed to be success despite the cold in the Church. Look out for Lucy Norman's report elsewhere in the BN.

The CDs arrived from the manufacturer's after a delay with the printing and customs but we were able to distribute over 100 of these in the first few days of the CDs arriving at The Old Post Office. Most people have bought one or two but two households have bought over 20 between them, so they must have heeded my suggestion to include everyone in the family including great-aunts and second cousins!

The CDs sold like hotcakes at the Barford and Deddington pre-Christmas markets and we now need to look at distributing the first chunks of money out to the various causes we are supporting. Our next challenge is to see whether we should order some more CDs, set up a website and see if we can sell these very musical CDs further afield. Does anyone have any suggestions and/or want to help? Please contact me at:

338214

tony.elvidge@btinternet.com

Tony Elvidge



Thames Valley police have been made aware of cold callers claiming to be from Thames Valley police targeting people for advertising and sponsorship. This is not something we would normally do. If you wish to check the identity of a TVP employee then ask for their shoulder number and name, then dial the police non-emergency number 101 and ask to speak to them. Do not use any other telephone number that the caller may offer for you to check their identity.

There have been 8 sheds broken into across the Banbury Rural Area in the last week. They are occurring in village locations. Items stolen include, garden strimmers, leaf blowers, mowers, chain saws. Please alert neighbours and remain extra vigilant. Please check your shed regularly, ensure it is locked and secure at all times.

A Padlock Alarm is a great deterrent to unsuspecting opportunist thieves. A powerful two tone siren is activated when the lock is tampered with. For more information please visit www.redlinesecurity.co.uk or contact us on 01295 754611 or 01295 754570 Please report anything suspicious and call 101 with information to the Banbury Rural Police Team or 999 for immediate police attention.

Don't leave packaging for expensive items out for refuse collection obviously on show. Don't leave Christmas presents in sight through a window. Don't advertise you not being at home over Christmas on social media and don't tag yourself at locations away from your home and mark packaging and Christmas presents so we can attempt to recover and identify them should they be stolen.

I have managed to obtain some UV marker pens and will have them placed at the front offices of police stations in our area. Please go into your local station and ask for a UV marker. What I would like you to do is mark the boxes of your Christmas presents with your post code. Also, after you have wrapped your Christmas gifts up mark the wrapping again with your post code. Once these markings have dried they are virtually invisible but if we recover new boxed items or wrapping paper during a search we can identify them as coming from your house if you have been burgled. If we can do this we are able to firstly prosecute an offender and most importantly recover your gifts and return them to you. After Christmas day, please take the opportunity, if you have a UV marker to also mark your new items in the same way. Burglars don't stop committing offences after Christmas and they will know we all have new and expensive items in our homes after Christmas.

If you are one of the lucky ones this year to receive an IPAD, IPHONE or IPOD or other hand held device or a laptop at Christmas, when you are

setting it up please consider activating the often free GPS tracking systems that come as part of the package. Should they be lost or stolen they assist us in locating and recovering them. Also register your products with the company and take pictures of them and any jewellery you may receive. Ask a neighbour to keep an eye on your house if your are away, park a car on your drive and turn your lights on. Also, as we are all stocking up for Christmas be careful when you are unloading your car at home. It is not unheard of for criminals to steal items from your car as you are unloading your shopping. We also are now in a period of the year when it is a necessity to de-ice our cars. Stay in the vicinity of your car and keep your eye on it if you have unlocked it and started the engine. A chancer may steal it.

Steve Birchall, DS 4708, L/CID, Banbury

Banbury Museum

Journeys into Middle-Earth:

paintings by leading Tolkien artist Ted Nasmith

Until 2 February, during normal opening times. Free. Enter the world of The Hobbit with artwork inspired by JRR Tolkien's Middle-earth including a selection of original paintings and limited edition prints from internationally acclaimed Tolkien artist Ted Nasmith, and original hand-written letters by J.R.R. Tolkien. *Produced in conjunction with Ted Nasmith Art Shop.*

Art Cart Action: Swords & Amulets

Until 2 February, Drop in 10.30am-12.30pm and 2-4pm on Saturdays and every day during the Oxfordshire school holidays. Appropriate for 4+ years. £1. Create a sword, amulet or crown to take home inspired by the Middle-earth exhibition. Self-service activity. From 22 December 2012 to 2 February 2013 *More Art Cart Action: 'Make a Dragon Fly'*. You will also be able to create your own dragon mobile to take away with you and hang up at home.

'Dragon Treasure' Prize Trail

Until 2 February during museum opening times. Suitable for children of all ages. Children under 8 years old may need a little help. £1.50 per trail booklet. Go on an adventure though the galleries to find the Dragon Treasure and claim your prize.

Spotlight on Cheney & Sons Printers of Banbury

Until 15 January, during normal museum opening times. A special display of rare local documents dating back to 1790, printed by Cheney & Sons of Banbury. On loan from the Bodleian Libraries, University of Oxford.

First Names

NATURE NOTES 111

IT WAS THE 13TH OF NOVEMBER when I finished our last edition of *Nature Notes*, and what a welter of weather we have had since then! So without further ado, let's get going.

Overnight, the showery rain of the 13th gave way to a gloomy sunrise. Very still on a S air, the sun didn't break through the cloud until about 10.15 am. It still took until 2pm for the heavy cloud to disappear, after which an afternoon of clear warm sun followed (10.5°), and that in turn was followed by a beautiful, lingering sunset.

A chilly night (0°) dawned on still, dank fog which, however, cleared by mid-day to give a pleasant afternoon on the 15th. In the low light of evening, I was once more treated to the three Deddington Little Owls calling to each other (see *N.N.* for 25th October). Next day produced another still, dank dawn followed by horrible day-long drizzle – but this was November, so we must expect such weather.

The 17th yielded a day of sunny spells on a light NW breeze (8.5°). An angry sunset, riven by black cloud gave way to a brilliant waning crescent moon and a hard white frost of –5°. The 18th saw a flawless sunrise on very still air which became a fine, crisp Autumn day.

During this period, there was little of note in wildlife activity, most creatures keeping low in cover for shelter and probably foraging much to build up fat reserves for harder weather to come.

The 19th and 20th were typical of this period but somewhat milder on a gusty southerly breeze. The 20th in particular was a dark, wet day on the fore-edge of a rapidly moving, double low pressure system. The rain continued overnight without a break and into the 21st, when it became heavier before clearing quite suddenly from SW about 3.30pm. Now, the water table levels were still so high from the unprecedented summer rains, that the water had nowhere to go. The result was heavy surging floods across the road on both sides of the bridge. The water meadows were completely submerged and all gleamed eerily in the moonlight.

The 22nd dawned bright, but became overcast quickly on a high SW wind and remained so all day. During the day there was much activity in local Fieldfare and Redwing populations but no concentrated flocks. For me, the highlight of the day, although rather sad, was the discovery behind some old compost bags beneath a carport in Deddington, of a freshly completed Robin's nest containing five warm eggs! Why sad? Well, because under winter conditions, the nest must almost certainly fail, either as eggs or young, through cold, wet, or starvation. Oh dear!



Rain in the night was occasionally violent. After a cold, clear dawn at 0°, Venus gleamed brilliantly, low in the SE sky on the 23rd. A broad band of continuous cloud in the S ran from E to W across the sky with clear blue sky to the N – probably an effect of a front between the two 'lows'. The cloud dissipated

by late morning, producing a beautiful calm, mild day followed by a shower at sunset then clear moonlight and a night at –2.5°.

Fog and frost cleared and gentle rain set in on the 24th. It continued all day and into the night when a W wind rose to near gale force with torrential squalls resulting in flooding as bad as that earlier and more reluctant to clear. Then, for the next four days the wind eased, it often rained and temperatures steadied averaging 6° by day, but fixed at 3° every night.

From the 26th high pressure started to build and the wind went up to NE backing NW through the 29th and 30th. Temperatures were much lower, averaging 3° (day) and –3° (night). On all four days, apart from the garden birds and the winter thrushes, the only creature I saw of note was a Kestrel flying over Hempton Hills. There was treacherous black ice on the 29th and patches of attractive 'rainbow' colours as the ice crystals in high cloudlets refracted the Sun's rays.

And so, after an Autumn of much more seasonal weather than the Summer had presented, November became December – and with high pressure now firmly in charge, how would this new month perform?

After a night at –5°, December arose to a coppery, cloudy sunrise over a white frost. The wind stood at NNW and stayed there for no less than *twelve* days. Mostly it was almost none existent, but there were a few livelier moments. Over the first thirteen days every night registered frost averaging –4.75°, the minimum being 0°; the maximum being 10.5° of frost, with seven nights at or colder than the average. Daytime temperatures generally averaged 4.75°, but that of the 12th never managed to rise above –2.5°! There were other effects; the 2nd, for instance, which was noted by several folk, rose on a spectacular pinkish-red sunrise reflected off the underside of extensive mackerel cloud cover, right to the western horizon! A shepherds' warning? Thankfully not, on this occasion

There was sleety snow and patches of black ice following the night of the 4th producing a cold Winter's day on the 5th. By now many creatures were suffering from hunger and the horrific road-kill figures increased as they foraged more desperately for food, there being several deer

carcasses decorating our roads, as well as badgers, foxes and game birds.

The effect of this bitter cold was not lost on our birds of prey, who became ever more prominent hunting or watching for voles, beetles, rabbits and small birds. On the 5th I encountered a Kestrel female in flight at the top, and the male at the bottom, of Steepness; a Buzzard at the top of Irondown, sitting hunched in a tree; and a further male Kestrel close to the Mason's Arms.

On the 6th the wind rose to a stiff blow, with torrents of rain after 7pm and a morning frost of -5° . Very nasty! The 7th produced one of those beautifully clear, seemingly endless sunsets so typical of frosty weather.

On a cloudy, milder 9th, I was pleased to see a Red Kite at the bottom of Irondown, near the S. Newington turn. At the top, the Buzzard was still hunched in his tree, and a Kestrel flew into the shelter belt at Hill Farm Cottages.

The frost lifted mid-morning on the 10th which, with a light NNW breeze, forged a pleasant, seasonal winter's day. Not so on the 11th, with frost and freezing fog all day producing black ice on many surfaces by nightfall. Ice and fog increased during the 12th, on which the temperature never rose above -2.5° . Frost-white fields with fairy-land trees and hedgerows covered in glittering rime, produced one of Winter's great seasonal spectacles, especially when illuminated by brief spells of sunshine.

The evening produced a sullen, angry sunset followed by the night of -10.5° . But the writing was on the wall for the bitter weather as this extended period of high pressure became threatened by a huge Atlantic 'low'. The 13th still dawned on heavy frost and freezing mist but it produced a novel and vivid vision for me as I ate my breakfast. Under a fence at the bottom of my garden there is a small *Buddleia globosa* (the variety with little balls of orange flowers). I could see a small vivid red patch moving swiftly to and fro amongst the seed heads. My binoculars revealed a male Bullfinch perching on the branches, then jumping off and hovering, Humming Bird like, to pick single seeds out of a seed head, then quickly returning to his perch to eat it. Treating one seed head at a time until he had exhausted it, this colourful bird made innumerable little sorties to do so. I finished my breakfast and reluctant to leave the display, got ready for the day ahead. When I returned, the Bullfinch had gone.

By early afternoon, a raw wind from SE began to rise with a very slowly rising air temperature. By 8pm most of the rime had gone, but the still deeply frozen ground sent the night temperature tumbling to -8° .

By early on the 14th the temperature had risen above freezing. Drizzle turned to rain on a blustery SE wind, continuing all day, sometimes heavy and becoming more so after dark. By 5pm the floods were well across the road again near St. John . . .

Now, as I finish these notes on the 15th the sun is streaming in through my south facing windows. The outdoor thermometer stands at 8.5° and a W wind moves small white clouds across the sky – and I must get these notes off to our Editor – or else! I wonder what will arrive to interest us outdoors for when next *Nature Notes* appear. Let's hope it is more seasonally typical than last year.

Best Wishes for 2013 Nature Watchers!

Ron Knight

We'll cart off your cartons

North Oxfordshire residents can now recycle cardboard food and drinks cartons at the

kerbside thanks to the council's new recycling contract.

Cherwell District Council has been working with UPM to ensure as much as possible can go into the blue bin or box, and drinks cartons, such as Tetrapak, can now be included where previously they could not. UPM's state-of-the-art facilities are able to separate the cardboard, plastic film and metal linings which make up the containers.

Cllr Nigel Morris, said: "More and more items can now go into kerbside recycling. "We can take most types of plastic container, drinks cartons, and even batteries can now be left on top of the bin in a plastic bag for collection. But there are a number of items we cannot collect from homes including polystyrene, textiles and glass.

"These can often be recycled elsewhere, at our recycling banks or the Oxfordshire County Council household waste and recycling centres. Hopefully, in years to come, we will be able to include these items in our kerbside scheme but for the moment the technology does not allow this."

UPM uses huge sorting machines which separate all of the items collected at the kerbside..

The inclusion of cartons in kerbside collections means three recycling banks in the district will be removed. These are situated at:

- Bodicote House Car Park, Bodicote
- Sainsbury's Car Park, Kidlington
- Co-op, Barberry Place, Bicester

"All of our recycling banks are well used, so some more glass or paper banks can be put into these sites," added Cllr Morris.

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





Serenity Beautiful Bodies

Lipolysis Laser – Lose inches in minutes

Lipolysis is a system, combined with exercise and a healthy diet that will leave the body area firmed and toned. Works on areas of fat that cannot be removed through exercise.

Treatment areas

Baby bulge	Hips	Arms
Stomach	Thighs	Upper & lower back

fat

Above knee area

How it works – low levels of laser energy emitted stimulate the fat cell membranes, changing their permeability. The cells lose their round shape and intracellular fat is released. Then the fatty triglycerides flow out of the disrupted cell membranes and into the interstitial space, where they gradually pass through the body's natural metabolic functions with no harmful physiological effects.

Introductory Promotion for a short time only, we offer:

1 x 30 minute session at **£40** – usual price will be **£60**
 6 x 30 minute sessions plus 10 minutes on the power plate **£210** – usual price **£360**

To discuss further or to make an

Appointment contact: Serenity Beauty Bodies

Joy
07507 165218

Angie
07790 262573

Treatment Rooms at:
Sibford Gower, Banbury and Milcombe

Website:
www.Serenitybeautifulbodies.co.uk

APPOINTMENT



We, being the Village Hall Management Committee, are pleased to announce that Les Hall of Broad Close, Barford St Michael will be taking over from Lisa Styles as your Village Hall Treasurer.

We'd like to say a big thank you to Lisa for her enormous contribution over the years and wish her every success for the future.

~ VHMC

New Years Recycling Resolutions

It's an exciting time with a whole year ahead of you and all the possibilities to make it the best year ever. So why not use one of your resolutions to promise to recycle more. It will help reduce your impact on the environment, help keep service costs low and is much easier than giving up chocolate! It is always good to give yourself a target with New Years resolutions so how about these to get you going:

1. Recycle all my plastic containers. Its not only plastic bottles that can be recycled. All plastic containers from the home can be recycled in the blue bin. Yoghurt pots, margarine tubs, fruit punnets, all plastic pots, tubs and trays. So think how much more you could recycle if all of your plastic containers in the blue bin over 2013.

2. Use my kitchen caddy every time I cook. It is always important to get into the recycling habit, and making sure your kitchen caddy is on hand is a great habit to have. All you cooked and uncooked food can go in there, so that's peelings before dinner, and leftovers afterwards (if the dog or tomorrows bubble & squeak haven't got there first). Remember, if you don't have a caddy you can get a free replacement by contacting the council on the details below.

3. Put my batteries out for collection. We can collect batteries in a clear plastic bag, on top of any bin. Some residents still don't know about this, so it's really important to remember when your batteries go flat, to recycle them at home, in any clear plastic bag.

There are lots more resolutions you could choose to be greener in 2013, but recycling more is one of the easiest, and one we can all do.

You can follow @CherwellRecycle on twitter, or visit the website www.cherwell.gov.uk for all the latest news on recycling in Cherwell.