

BARFORD NEWS

APRIL 2013

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Parish Council Notes

The meeting took place at 7.30pm on 6th March 2013 at Barford Village Hall and was attended by Cllr Hobbs, Cllr Best, Cllr Bullard, Cllr Eden, Cllr Stiles and Cllr Turner. Also attending were Mrs R Watts (Clerk), District Cllr O'Sullivan and County Cllr Jelf.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Woolgrove.

Bridge at Barford St Michael: The Clerk has reported the damaged culverts by the bridge to Oxfordshire County Council Highways. The engineer has contacted her to say that he would be inspecting the area in the next few days.

Damage to road outside Hillside, Barford St John: The Clerk has reported the matter to Oxfordshire County Council Highways. The engineer has contacted her to say that he would inspect the area within the next few days. Damaged areas have now been marked with yellow paint.

Damage to The Green: Cllr Styles has contacted various companies about possible solutions to this problem. None were interested in providing labour for such a small area. Cllr Styles had ascertained that plastic mesh was of little use because it would not stop compaction. Plastic pavements are available but their use is limited and they are not recommended for long narrow areas, again because of compaction. Concrete u-shaped pavements could be used and the 'dip' filled with gravel or sand. These would require a deep hard core base with sand overfill. The cost would be in the region of £80 per square metre, plus labour, with the overall cost being well in excess of £2,000. Councillors unanimously agreed that the cost for any of the above solutions was excessive and that no further action could be taken. The area could be repaired each Spring if necessary. In the meantime, residents are asked to park considerately to allow larger vehicles to pass without mounting the kerb and damaging the grass.

Allotments: Chris Cox had contacted Cllr Bullard and asked that she raised the matter of maintenance of allotments by allotment holders. Cllr Eden raised concern over tenants 'sub-letting' all, or parts of plots to people not on the waiting list. Currently the Parish Council does not issue tenancy agreements to allotment holders. After some discussion, it was agreed that Cllr Hobbs will produce a suggested tenancy agreement with terms and conditions for Councillors to consider at the next meeting.

Public Participation: District Councillor O'Sullivan advised Parish Councillors that in future Cherwell residents would have to pay Cherwell District Council for dog bags.

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 Approved:

12/01803/F Lord, Old Vicarage, South Newington Rd, two storey extension to front elevation and garage conversion. Granted 22 February.

12/01815/F, 13/00002/LB, 13/00003/F, The Red House, The Green, Barford St Michael. Retrospective planning applications. Granted 26 February.

Councillors noted the following:

Appeal by Mintondale Developments, Land South of Milton Rd, Bloxham, 85 houses and Appeal by Gladman Developments, Land off Barford Road, Bloxham, 75 houses. Bloxham Parish Council hopes these Appeals will be deferred until after the decision has been made by the Secretary of State on the Taylor Wimpey Appeal for land off Bourne Lane, Hook Norton, expected by 4 July 2013.

Miller Homes – potential application for a further development in Tadmerton Road, Bloxham

Approved TCA:

13/00026/TCA Purton, Manor House, Barford St John; G1 x multi-stemmed Acer Platanoides – fell; G2 x mixed broadleaves – crown lift to give 8ft clearance; G3 x Acer Campetret; crown reduce by 40cm; G4 x six Limes – re-pleach and tidy. No objections. Granted 19 February.

Reports from Meetings: Cllr Turner had an informal meeting with residents to discuss Oxfordshire County Council's refusal to cut back vegetation along The Rock, it being the property owners' responsibility. Resident Simon Hanmer kindly offered to carry out the work, now complete. Councillors expressed their thanks to him for doing this.

Any Other Business: County Cllr Jelf told Councillors that this would be his last meeting as he had not been selected by his party for re-election in May. Councillors expressed concern over this decision. They offered him their grateful thanks for all the support he has given the Parish Council and residents over the past ten and a half years and wished him well in the future.

Cllr Best reported that the sleepers which act as a bridge on the footpath between Barford St Michael & St John by The Scrapes are floating in water. Oxfordshire County Council Highways to be notified. Referring to Oxfordshire County Council's response to the proposed Gladman Development in Bloxham, Cllr Styles said that the proposed housing developments in Bloxham and Deddington could make Barford St John and St Michael unattractive villages for families to move to because there would be no identifiable school for children to attend, both Bloxham and Deddington schools being almost full to capacity. Children in the Barfords would most likely have to be transported to schools further afield. Cllr Hobbs suggested that the Parish Council should have a further meeting with the Education Department later in the year to highlight its concerns. Cllr Bullard had been asked by a parishioner if it is possible that 'Flood' signs could be placed nearer to Bloxham and Hempton when the bridge at Barford St Michael is flooded and impassable. Councillors were advised that this is a matter for Oxfordshire County Council Highways.

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

Councillors were reminded that the Annual Parish Meeting will be held in the village hall on Monday 8 April at 7.30pm. This will be followed by the AGM of the Village Hall Management Committee.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.40pm

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING will be held in the Village Hall at 7.30pm on Monday 8 April.

The Parish Council reports on their activities during the past year and there is a report on the two village charities - the Hall and Bakehouse and Fernhill Trusts.

The reports are followed by an open forum where parishioners can make comments, ask questions, and make suggestions and requests.

No decisions can be taken at this meeting but, if appropriate, items may be put on the agenda at a subsequent Parish Council meeting for discussion and possible action.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be followed by the Annual General Meeting of the Village Hall Management Committee. The Committee for the coming year is elected at this meeting.


These are both important meetings and we hope to see a big turnout at both.

Parish Council meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month (no meeting in August) at 7.30p in the Village Hall. These are public meetings and there is a 10 minute slot allocated for parishioner to address the council and make representations. They cannot be discussed unless the topic is on the agenda but may be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

Rodney Hobbs,
Chairman.;

Barford St John & St Michael Parish Council,
01869 338078

1st Barford and Deddington Rainbows

WE CELEBRATED
Thinking Day by
wearing our 

Rainbow uniform to school, singing songs from different countries and trying fruits from around the world; sharon fruit, pomegranate and mango were favourites. We made cards for Mothering Sunday by drawing round our hands and some of the Rainbows attended the service in Deddington church- very smart and beautifully behaved as ever! Not very Springlike weather towards the end of term, but we will finish with our traditional visit to Home Farm in Clifton to see the lambs.

Hazel Neal
01869 337822 hmkn@sky.com

Will Preece Topped the Leader Board at the Chipping Norton Town Council Sports Awards for 2012

On a chilly Thursday evening in February we duly attended the Chipping Norton Town Council Sports Awards Evening. Sporting achievements were recognised in equestrian, roller hockey, football, shooting, cricket, golf, taekwondo, gymnastics, swimming and the list goes on....



The Chipping Norton Town Council Sports Person of the Year 11-17 year olds was won by Will Preece for all of his golfing achievements in 2012, including topping the Leader Board in scores returned in Club Competitions under the Scratch Competition Score. For those of you that are golfers will realise that this is quite an achievement – I'm not a golfer and sat there quite happy with my glass of wine oblivious to the fact that they were referring to Will, who to my embarrassment, being a mid week evening, was at college, meaning I (his mum) was going to have to collect his award and worse still, have my picture taken shaking the Mayor's hand!!! Luckily for me the Roller Hockey players were very supportive along with Will's fellow golfers who greeted me with another glass of wine upon my return to my seat!!!

The young golfers at Chipping Norton Golf Club continued to do well with the Junior Golf Team winning an "Outstanding Achievement" Award for winning the North Oxford Junior Golf League for the 4th year running and Camilla Hancock and Philip Fritz also won awards for their individual golfing achievements in 2012.

What an inspiring evening it ended up being! It was brilliant to see so many people, young and old, come together for their involvement in sport, be it taking part or dedication to "organising" it.

The photo (Left) is at Rick Allen's President's Dinner up at the Golf Club when last years Men's Captain Alistair James presented Will with the award on 9th March - Will didn't know they were going to do that!!!!

Welcome!

**To
Steven & Pauline Clarke**

Who have just moved in
to their new home in
High Street
with their daughter

We wish them all a happy time
here in our lovely villages.



The Barfords Clean Up Day Saturday 13th April From 10.00a.m.



Teams of volunteers will be asked to cover small areas of the village, picking up any litter and debris that they find.

This is always a very fine and happy community event.

With a bit of luck there will be the usual enthusiastic attendance by Mums, Dads and children

This is YOUR opportunity to do your bit for the village by giving it a Spring Spruce Up. If you can spare an hour or so in the morning, then do come along to the Village Hall at 10.00am to collect plastic bin bags, and protective tabards, please bring your own old gloves!

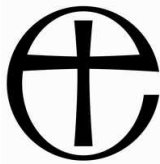
Tea, soft drinks and delicious doughnuts will be served to all volunteers on their return to the Hall. **All helpers are requested to gather in the Village Hall at 10 a.m. to be allocated the areas for cleaning.**

(We buy the doughnuts!!)



**Dan braving the Stocks at our Church Fete
From the Vicar**

AS MANY OF YOU KNOW, Dan Inman, our curate, will be leaving us in April. Dan has brought a great deal to our benefice and we shall miss him sorely. I'm sure you would like me, on your behalf, to express Barford's gratitude for his contribution to the village and to wish him all the best in his new post as a chaplain at Winchester College. We are formally saying goodbye to Dan on Sunday, April 14th. There will be a Eucharist in Deddington at 10.30 am, at which Dan will preside, followed by drinks and a Bring and Share lunch (12 for 12.30pm). All are most welcome. There will be no service in Barford on that day.



Angelic, or what??

The PCC has decided to discontinue the Family Service at Barford on the third Sunday of the month. The Hempton Sunday School takes place on that day at 9.00am, so families will be able to find some provision in the benefice for their children. Barford needs to consider what, if anything, should replace the third Sunday Family Service. This is one of the matters we shall discuss at the APCM. At that meeting, besides the formal business of electing church officers and the new PCC and hearing reports on the past year, there will be an opportunity to talk about the future of the Barford churches in general. The meeting will be in St Michaels's Church on Wednesday 24th April at 7.30pm. Do come! Refreshments will be served. And if you want to be on the Electoral Roll you need to fill in a form (the roll is being renewed this year) by April 5th. You can get the form from Cubby Brett.

Hugh



Red Cross Week 5-11 May

Red Cross Week is the annual fundraising week for the British Red Cross. This year it runs from the 5 – 11 May, during that week many of our volunteers will be collecting in various town centre locations and also by going from house to house with their collecting boxes.

We are grateful for the support we have received locally in previous years, funds raised last year meant that in Oxfordshire in 2012 we could lend 1712 wheelchairs to those in need and enabled our volunteer drivers to make 12,000 journeys helping people like Bill to reach out patient appointments and day care centres. Bill, had been the sole carer of this wife until his heart attack in December 2007.

When he was weakened by a heart attack, he called on the help of the British Red Cross home from hospital volunteers who were able to support them both during the first six weeks of Bill's recovery,

helping with the weekly shop and providing transport to medical appointments.

Thank you for your generosity and support and we look forward to a successful Red Cross Week 2013. Any help that you can give enables us to provide vital services for the people of Oxfordshire. Thank you.

Cheryl Tree - Community Fundraiser
01235 552 680



UP IN THE CLOUDS (With some fluffy bits)

**7.30pm
Wednesday 10th April
In The Village Hall**

**Lighthearted Anecdotes
and amusing Stories
by ex BOAC Steward
Alan Brewer**

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

1st Deddington Guides

SHOW BIZ!! Has taken up a lot of time over the last month or so! Preparing for our entertainment evening mid-March to raise money for charity ... Lots of dancing and singing! We were inspired by a professional dancer who led a super session during which we all learnt a dance routine – great fun!

We tried fruit from many countries recently and also Indian and Chinese dishes for our international eating.

The guides helped and enjoyed the activities at our District Thinking Day celebrations. They all took part in the closing ceremony where we heard about guides overseas, living very different lives to ours.

Well done and thankyou to those who attended the Mothering Sunday church service and helped throughout the service and acted as colour bearers.

We enjoyed our visit to Featherton House afterwards, with posies for the ladies resident there.

On 19th March we held a surprise presentation for Tilly Neal and Sophie Preston. Both have now gained their Baden-Powell Award – the highest achievement for a guide.

To gain the Award they must have completed 10 challenges across a wide spectrum. They must be able to show an ability to work on their own as well as with others.

They started about 18 months ago and have camped, on occasions building their own bivouac and sleeping in it!; planted trees; decorated furniture; used wound make-up to teach first aid, written recipe books for the outdoors, put on a party for the Brownies, led Guide meetings in international and keep fit activities. The list goes on – demonstrating well-rounded skills and interests.

A highlight was an exciting weekend spent at Foxlease, a major guiding centre in the new forest.

They had an opportunity to stay in this beautiful old house and met guides from all around the country who had also accepted the challenge – and succeeded.

Congratulations!! To them both. We are very proud.

Mrs. Vivien Pleydell-Bouverie made the presentation (in itself a little bit of history as Vivien also presented Tilly's mum Hazel Neal, with the same award).

Maggie Rampley,
01295 810069

(For those who aren't familiar with the family connections, Maggie just happens to be Hazel's mum and Tilly's very proud gran!)



Above l to r Tilly, Vivien Pleydell-Bouverie and Sophie

Below l to r Mum Hazel, Gran Maggie, and Tilly



Thanks

To Cllr Paul O'Sullivan
For his continued support
and his generous donation
to Barford News funds

Deddington PFSU and Village Nursery

THE CHILDREN HAVE taken part in loads of fun activities during the last month; dressing up and cooking on Red Nose Day, walking around the village and taking photographs, finding out about life in South Africa (thanks Annabel and Kerry), visiting the bike shop (thanks James), and preparing for Easter. Our jumble sale raised an amazing £1301 for which we'd like to thank all our buyers, sellers, jumble-givers, cake bakers and everyone who helped make the day run so smoothly. There will be a parent's evening for PFSU parents on Wednesday 15th May from 7-9pm, when you are invited to join us to chat about your child's progress and to view their profile. Hope you had a very Happy Easter!



Lucy Squires
37484

Down on the farm

DOUBTLESS 2012 will long be remembered for being the wettest year in memory. A year for which farming is still suffering in terms of poor quality forage for stock feed and abject germination and growth of arable crops that, arguably, should not have been sown into such cold, wet soils last autumn.

The weather can be a farmer's best mate or his worst enemy - rain at the right time will grow and fill a good crop; at the wrong time it can ruin it. Small wonder it is a constant topic of conversation down on the farm!

At Iron Down we have now completed our lambing. We have had a few of the early lambs affected by the dreaded Schmallenberg disease that is spread by midges from the Continent (mainly Germany) and results in dead and deformed lambs. So we went into the main lambing with some trepidation but so far, and touching all sorts of timber, we have had no problems.

It may well be that the midges had moved on (or drowned) by the time we put the rams in last October which meant that later lambers escaped the worst of the problem.

Given the wetness our pigs were all brought in for the winter and enjoyed the luxury of dry, strawed yards. We bought a new young boar last year (Albert) and he has revolutionised the sow breeding programme with litters now averaging 10.6 instead of 7.8. It made us realise how 'tired' our old boar had become. Clearly we need to change our breeding stock more frequently.

On another but related topic, I note that the old saying of the famished worker 'I'm so hungry I could eat a horse' has now achieved a more literal meaning.

Aside from the fact that we Brits mostly regard the horse as a domestic pet and therefore jib at eating one, there is actually nothing wrong with the meat. The French and Belgians have been wolfing it down for years and, as the supermarkets know only too well, its taste is not dissimilar to beef.

What is wrong, disgracefully so, is the blatant mislabelling of products. The present situation is merely the tip of a large global iceberg the scale of which will probably never be revealed given the supermarket giants propensity to buy their way out of trouble. Perhaps in future they will not squeeze their suppliers so hard that they are forced into malpractice.

In the meantime our own sales from the Meat Joint have markedly increased and local butchers report a similar upsurge. Long may it continue, although I realise that memories are short.



Tony Collier
Irondown Farm

Walking for Warriner School Farm

Hello, we are year eight students Sophie Taylor, Elen Squires and Katie Richards and we attend the Warriner School in Bloxham. We are walking 50 miles along the Pembrokeshire coast path over three days at May bank holiday. We are doing this to raise money for our school farm. The farm is currently struggling for money and we really want to help keep it running as it is a big part of our school life. We are members of the farm club and help out at the farm during the week.



We know that we are very lucky to have a farm on site and hope that with your help we will be able to keep the farm running so that it is available for us and for future generations. We had a stall at the lambing weekend and despite the cold weather we managed to raise over £300.

To donate to our fundraising please place money in our collecting box at the Warriner Farm Shop (open Saturday mornings), or contact us at Lamjsquires@aol.com.

Thank you for all your help and support.

Sophie, Elen and Katie

Please give our fridge a new home

Matt Silver Whirlpool (RE128A) Fridge

D:58cm, W:49.5cm, H:85cm

In Full working order

Selling due to kitchen alterations

£28.00 – offers accepted.

Please contact Sophie Holmes

Jim_sophie@btopenworld.com

Tel:01869338184

BARFORD GARDENS SUMMER ASSORTMENT

SUNDAY 14th JULY 2013



This event will replace Open Gardens this year.

The 'Assortment' contains several elements related to gardening.

There will be some **Open Gardens** as usual for those that wish.
There will be an option to only open your Front Garden if appropriate.



Other events will include a **Plant Stall**, a **Gardening Book Stall**, and **three Competitions**.

A **Photography Competition** - details and subjects will be in MAY Barford News.

A **Scarecrow Competition** - Your scarecrow must be TRADITIONAL in style.

A **Container Competition** - Think about this planting NOW so that they are well established by July. The containers could be recycled tins, car tyres, old baths etc. as well as more conventional containers.

For adults it **must contain** FLOWERS and/or HERBS together with VEGETABLES.

Children (Under 12) can plant their container in any way they wish.



There will be prizes for all these competitions.

Entry forms etc. will be the May B.N.

SCRUMPTIOUS TEAS this year will be in the Village Hall Garden.

We all hope that the Village will put on a good show and enjoy ourselves.

MORE DETAILS IN NEXT MONTH'S BARFORD NEWS



Upton House Volunteers Open Day

HAVE YOU EVER thought about volunteering at your local National Trust property?



National Trust

Upton House & Gardens is holding an open day on Sunday 28 April (11-4) for anyone who might be interested.

We have opportunities in a wide range of roles including garden guides, room guides, events assistants, buggy drivers, shop and catering helpers. We would welcome performers, musicians, especially anyone who would like to play our grand piano and we have many other opportunities.

Upton has over 200 volunteers if you come to our open day you will meet some of our existing team who will tell how easy it is to join us. No set hours, our volunteers tell us when they would like to work. We have a really friendly team whose primary role is to tell the story that brings the place to life.

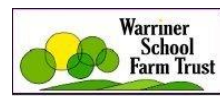
Upton was owned by Lord Bearsted, the Chairman of Shell, during the 1930s and he left his art and porcelain collection in the house to the Trust. The amazing gardens have quite a history and it's a story our visitors like to hear as well as enjoying the whole ambience with their families.

So do drop in any time between 11am and 4pm on Sunday 28 April. You will be made to feel most welcome and we will show you round and answer any questions you may have.

For further details: call Upton House & Gardens on 01295 670266

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/uptonhouse

Warriner School Farm News



LIFE IS NEVER DULL here on the farm and after the

hectic run-up to Christmas, it was followed by a spell of exciting weather. The snowfall heralded our annual round of ferrying water around to fields in a big tank on the back of the pick-up. Although the snow has gone for the time being, we still have what appear to be a couple of the largest puddles in North Oxfordshire. We wonder if we should turn our arable field over to fish farming and have done with it! Having secured some funding to make the required changes around the farm, we are now in the final stages of having a large concrete pad laid for access to our sheep handling area to meet new health and safety requirements.

Birthday Parties on the Farm!

Our newest venture is to offer childrens parties on weekdays after school – if you are interested in a fun-filled farm party for your child, with lots of interaction with our friendly animals and plenty of space to explore and play outdoor games with our experienced farm guide, please contact Bev (01295 721461), who will be happy to give you more details. Leaflets with all the information can also be picked up from the farm shop on Saturday mornings

Deddington and District History Society February Meeting

Despite snow and ice, we had a good attendance on 13 February for Shaun Morley's talk on Oxfordshire friendly societies. It has been noted that for many people, mention of friendly societies calls to mind the Donald McGill cartoon which depicts an elderly and irascible gentleman sitting up in his hotel bed remonstrating with a hapless member of staff: 'What's all that noise downstairs?' 'They're holding an Oddfellows' Ball, Sir'. 'Well, tell them to give it him back so we can all get some sleep'.

From the perspective of the 21st century, friendly societies can seem curious indeed. Beginning in the 17th century, friendly societies were ubiquitous by the mid 18th. The friendly society became the foremost example of associational life throughout Britain. Providing insurance against sickness and death, they also offered a sense of identity and self-regulation and an annual club day, usually held at Whitsun, that was a highlight of the local calendar. Each society or club had a box in which members' subscriptions were kept and from which benefits were paid – hence the expression of being 'on the box', or on the club'. Shaun has identified 14 clubs in Deddington alone. In 1815 Deddington clubs had a membership of 325. Here as elsewhere meetings were usually held in pubs, all of Deddington's pubs seeming to have a share of club business. Club day parades, with banners and brass bands, were often further enlivened by the consumption of impressive quantities of beer. At Stonesfield, one club day dinner for 60 people was supplied with 54 gallons! Nowadays the benefits of the 'Big Society' are urged on us, voluntarism and localism being held up as alternatives to the heavy hand of the state. Shaun's talk demonstrated yet again that truly there is nothing new under the sun.

March Meeting

On 13 March we welcomed Dr Steven Parissien, Director of the Compton Verney Museum and Gallery. He gave an instructive and entertaining talk about Compton Verney, dealing first with the history of the house and park and then with the art collections before finishing by giving us a preview of the exhibitions that are planned for the next two or three years. There has been a house on the site since the mid 15th century, but the present house was begun in 1711 in English Baroque style before being completed from 1760 by Robert Adam in Palladian style. Adam worked closely with Capability Brown, who created the park. The house's hybrid architectural character was further enhanced by the modern gallery completed in 2004. The house has more than once come close to demolition, finally being rescued from a ruinous condition in 1993 by Peter Moores (of the

Littlewoods empire) who established the gallery there initially to house his own art collection.

Compton Verney houses collections of national importance in Chinese bronzes, Neapolitan art and British folk art. What brings in most visitors, however, are the fantastic exhibitions. Forthcoming exhibitions will be devoted to Bellini, Botticelli and Titian; Turner, Constable and their contemporaries; and Rodin and Henry Moore. Their web site has full details.

Steven's talk attracted so much interest that we will try to arrange a special behind-the-scenes tour for our members. More news in due course.

We have another great evening in prospect on 10 April, when Steven Brindle will talk on 'The Restoration of Windsor Castle'. As ever, all are welcome at our meetings, which take place at 7.30pm at the Windmill Centre.

Chris Day (Chairman) 337204

Moiria Byast (Secretary) 338637

[Apologies to Chris for being unable to print his February report in the March issue. Ed]

1st Deddington Scout Group

Cubs

The Cubs finished their Artist badge, adding to the still lives & portraits, by making & painting clay pinch-pots. We then spent an evening celebrating Baden Powell's birthday, lots of themed games linked to our founders life. Next came the Communicator badge, we looked at how people communicated in the past & learnt to spell *Cubs* in sign language, semaphore & morse code.

Well done to Joe who has gained his Silver Award.

Jo Churchyard C.S.L.

jochurchyard@hotmail.com

Scouts

The Scouts have had a very varied programme during the last month, light painting (torches, & a camera on long exposure), a film night, bird boxes, modelling, which included a stop frame animation & clay eggcups.

We are very pleased to announce that, Ollie, Harry, William, Callum, Tom & Daniel all gained their Gold Award & will be attending the county presentation.

Pete Churchyard S.L.

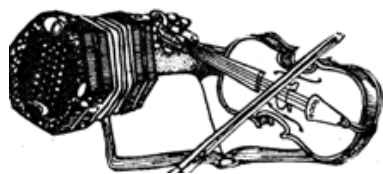
pete.churchyard@btinternet.com

Reminder

– Sunday April 21st –

**St George's Day Parade,
Broad St Banbury 2pm**





A reunion of
'The Prince of Wales Folk Club'
is to be held at
The Mill, Banbury
at 8 p.m.
on Friday 3rd May

Further information from
Annie Radford
01869 338338

Annual Parish Meeting
7.30pm, 8th April
in the Village Hall.

~ ~ ~

To be followed by
Annual General Meeting
Of the Village Hall
Management Committee
Everyone is invited to attend both
meetings.

Samples of the materials proposed for the
replacement hall doors will be on display

Barford Village Market

In the Village Hall, 10-12noon

Saturday, 20th April

Home-made Scones, Preserves, new laid eggs
Artisan Breads, Cheeses & Olives and
all the usual food and craft stalls

Ridgway's Farmhouse Ice Cream from Tysoe,

Pots of Spring Bulbs - Fairtrade items

Hand-finished cards & gifts

Freshly baked Pasties and Sausage Rolls

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

NOTES FROM OUR POTTING SHED

APRIL 2013

On March 12th Sue Bedwell gave a lively and very informative talk and demonstration to a good turnout of members. A woman who is so committed to her garden that she has a TV in the potting shed so as not to miss favourite programmes at night, Sue gave us the benefits of many years as a professional gardener at Waterperry and as a keen plant enthusiast. We looked at bulbs first, which Sue recommended because they are relatively labour free, although an over potted agapanthus was going to need TLC. None of us seemed prepared to spend £700 on a rare snowdrop! Other favourite winter plants were daphne bholua (species) and iris unguicularica.

We were shown how to multiply our heucheras (now, in March), save seeds from our cyclamen and sneak cuttings from shop chrysanthus. The difficult weather conditions led to her suggesting staggering sowings this year, and she pointed out that pea and bean seeds should remain viable for two or three years, while carrots and other umbellifers will need to be bought fresh each year. Freesias can flower from seed in one year but can be kept in a cool greenhouse to reflower annually. Another tip included becoming aware, when buying plants, that if they have been undercover in a garden centre they will be unused to rain.

Managing perennials led to her recommending particularly sturdy wire plant stakes from UK Plant Stakes – if members mentioned her name when contacting them they would be entitled to free p and p!

Sue is a mine of gardening information and advice, so if you have a query why not come along to visit her garden in Blechingdon on Thursday **April 11th at 2.30** – she has plants for sale and delicious cakes in her fascinating garden. Her smallish garden, called '**Monks Head**', can be visited any time by prior arrangement. It is open under the National Gardens Scheme and is good at all times of the year. £6 entry fee.

TIP OF THE MONTH

This month we are alerting you to our new **Summer Assortment** day on **July 14th**, (see separate article). All final details will be given in May Barford News but now it is important to plan your containers for our competition. Please sort out any spare plants you may have for the Plant Stall on that day.

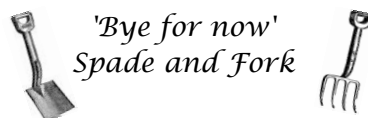
DATES TO PUT IN YOUR DIARIES

Thursday April 11th at 2.30 visit to Monks Head in Blechingdon £6 per person

Sunday June 23rd visit to Kiftsgate, meet there at 2.30

Saturday October 5th visit to Waterperry

HAPPY GARDENING



Thank You!

Sylvia would like to thank everyone for their cards, flowers and good wishes during her stay in Hospital.

I am now well on the mend.

*Thank you
Sylvia*

Fernhill Club

MARCH 6th we played carpet bowls, which was very enjoyable. Joyce came out as the winner by one point! On 13th we had our birthday lunch at 'The Bowling Green'. The 20th was our date for playing bingo and on 27th Troy from AgeUK came with various games, films etc., to show us what's on offer, free, or for a small sum – e.g. Kurling, Boccia and a long list of films. We missed Avril at the birthday lunch and hope she is feeling better soon and back with us again.

10th April we are having a cookery demo by Kathryn Wheeler. We may be having a lunch out later in the month and our AGM is on 24th.

Anyone interested in joining us would be most welcome, or for more information please get in touch with either Mary 01295 252298 or Avril on 338381.

Mary Ashbridge

FREE Compost Giveaway



Grab your free bag of local compost between 9am – 1pm

Cherwell residents have got another chance to grab a free bag of locally produced compost. We have over 2000 bags to give away at three events across the district. *There is a maximum of one bag per household, whilst stock last.*

Sunday 5 May

Location TBC, please check local press. Will be centrally located.

Or you could the other giveaways,

Sat 4 May **Sat 11 May**
Kidlington **Bicester**

More than just FREE compost

Residents will also be able to buy home compost bins so they can make their own compost all year round.



Blue and brown bins will be for sale at the discounted price of £10. You can buy one and take it away with your free bag of compost. (cash & cheque only)

Recycle for Cherwell

www.cherwell.gov.uk/recycling customer.service@cherwell-dc.gov.uk
Customer Service: 01295 227003 [@CherwellRecycle](https://twitter.com/CherwellRecycle)

Cherwell
DISTRICT COUNCIL
NORTH OXFORDSHIRE

YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAM BANBURY RURAL



A/PS Richard Miller



PC Jen Culley



PCSO Angie Alford



PCSO Tom Bailey



PCSO Lana Smith

The neighbourhood policing team works on issues identified by local residents and businesses. Visit our website at www.thamesvalley.police.uk to find out where you can come and meet us and have your say. To contact us call:

101

This is a non-emergency number. In an emergency dial 999.

Alternatively, email us on:

BanburyRuralNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk



PATRIOTIC FOODIES LAUNCHES FARMERS' MARKET AT THE INSTITUTE IN ADDERBURY



PATRIOTIC FOODIES are holding a new evening indoor Farmers' Market starting on

18th April at 6.30 p.m.,

showcasing locally produced, seasonal, fresh, food and drink.

Each month there will be a talk by a featured producer providing insight into their ethos and aims, and the development of their business.

Suppers with desserts will be available and there will be a licensed bar, featuring local beers, wines and soft drinks.

In light of the recent revelations in the media, this is a superb opportunity to meet the producers and be sure of the provenance and quality of your food and drink.

Come along and join us for a sociable, friendly evening, and learn what Patriotic Foodies is all about.

Free entrance.

Future markets will be held on the **second Thursday** of each month.

May 9th, June 13th, July 11th, August 8th, Sept 12th,

Oct 10th, Nov 14th, Xmas Market Dec 19th.

For further details please contact Alison Frost 01295 816068 alisonfrost@o2.co.uk

Katharine House News MIDNIGHT WALK 2013

Our 7th Midnight Walk will be on Saturday 29 June, details and application forms will be in our shops and on our website shortly and included with our Spring newsletter. Last year this fantastic event raised almost £75,000 despite driving rain and blowing gales! Surely the weather will be better this year...?

BROUGHTON GRANGE GARDENS

The fabulous Broughton Grange gardens will be open again for us this year on Saturday April 27th. The gardens are beautifully set in 350 acres of parkland, farmland and open meadow and are only open to the general public three times a year .. Delicious refreshments will be served. Tickets are £6 and will be available on the gate.

KATHARINE HOUSE HOSPICE PLANT SALE & SPRING FAIR

This year, our Annual sale will be on Tuesday 14 May, between 9am - 3pm at The Great Barn, just outside Aynho (OX17 3AY). As well as fantastic plants, there will be a range of original and unique home accessories, furniture, leather goods, gifts, jewellery, craft items, clothing, food items and much more! Entry is £3 and light refreshments will be available for a small charge

HOSPICE MAY BALL

The Masquerade Ball in aid of the Hospice is on Sunday 5 May at Bloxham School. There will be live entertainment from The Blue Meanies, dancing, a raffle and delicious food. Tickets at £50 each available from Lucinda Lloyd on 01295 720623 or Margaret Sutton on 01295 262429.

BRING A POUND TO WORK DAY!

Building on the success of last year, on Friday, 26 April we will be holding another 'Bring a Pound to Work Day!'. This is a really simple way to support the hospice so we'd love to see lots of businesses and schools taking part. Help us to beat last year's total of £3,423! Call Sheila on 01295 812161 or email sheila.norton@khh.org.uk for more details or to register your workplace or school.

Are you following us on Facebook and Twitter?

Our Twitter and Facebook pages are gaining followers Find us on Twitter @khhosp and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/katharinehouse

Katharine House Hospice Newsletter

Our newsletters are produced twice a year in Spring and Autumn, and if you'd like to be added to our mailing list please contact Valerie Carter on 01295 812161.

Katharine House Hospice Lottery

Our lottery is a vital income source for Katharine House, having raised over £1 million since May 2000. If you're stuck for a birthday present idea, we have a variety of Lottery Gift Membership solutions. For £1 per week you might get a phone call on a Friday morning from Wendy our Lottery Administrator telling you that you've won £1,000, Wendy loves making that call! For more information call the Lottery Office on 01295 812161 or email lottery@khh.org.uk.

2013 Collections

We have the dates now for our street and supermarket collections, various dates in June in Banbury, Chipping Norton, Bicester and Brackley. If you can spare an hour and a half, please call the fundraising office on 01295 812161. Last year our collections raised £3,433.

Thank you,
Nicky Hanson
Community Fundraiser



BEREAVEMENT VOLUNTEERS

Our bereavement service is currently looking for caring people who are interested in training to become volunteer bereavement support workers. A foundation training programme will start in early September 2013, and all training days must be attended.

An enhanced criminal records check will be required for these positions.

For a volunteer application pack please contact:

Rachel Wegerhoff, Human Resources,
01295 811866

Email: humanresources@khh.org.uk

Website: www.khh.org.uk

For further information please contact: Mrs Srinder Singh, Bereavement Service Manager at Katharine House Hospice, as above

Closing date for receipt of completed applications: Friday, 5th April 2013. Interviews will be held on the 22nd, 24th & 25th April 2013

RE: Retrospective planning application for The Red House

OUR RETROSPECTIVE planning application was approved this month, but we felt that following comments made at the last Parish Council meeting and from friends within the village reading the last publication of the The Barford News, it is necessary to clarify the purpose of the retrospective planning application we made.

Our original approved planning application was amended to change the external wall finishes to comply with the Building Regulations. This amendment was formally applied for in 2011 but it was never executed by Cherwell District Council due to administrative errors. We therefore had to re-apply for planning consent to clear the original amendment they had overlooked.

The retrospective planning application therefore did not relate in any way to any unauthorised changes in the original building works, and only sought to regularise the CDC oversight. The detail of the application was quite clear and should not have attracted comments on the height of the construction. It has otherwise been built as the original fully approved planning application.

Bill and Sue Brown
The Red House,
The Green

NATURE NOTES 114

GRADUALLY BY NIGHTFALL the wind of the 16th of February had backed through SE to NE producing a cold night of -5° . This gave way to a morning of freezing fog which lifted by 11am, the accompanying overcast by 11.30am. A beautiful, almost Spring-like day followed, revealing Snowdrops, Aconites and Crocus coming into bloom – there were even a few Primroses in sheltered places. But, it was a false dawn! There now began the most colossal battle between two weather systems, with high pressure being the first to dominate. This system was centred over Northern Europe with a huge low pressure area over the Atlantic, trying to move eastward. Result: long term stalemate!

You will no doubt remember that from the 1st February to the 16th, overnight temperatures were permanently at or below freezing, in the 0° to -4.5° range. This state of affairs now persisted until the 6th of March, but with harsher values of -6.5 (19th Feb), -7° (2nd March), -6° (4th Mar.). That is ***thirty three continuous nights of frost!***

Days in this latter period (17th Feb. to 5th March) were, with a few exceptions, at or near freezing point and either almost windless, or with a terrible, shriving, parchingly dry blast between E and N.

The 18th and 19th of Feb. were easier days with Green Woodpeckers calling below Steepness and Kestrels here and there, hovering in the hopes of some small creature becoming a meal.

At 4am on the 20th, Andrew Murrey came across both a Barn Owl and a Little Owl sitting in the road at Nether Worton.

On the 21st I witnessed a Buzzard circling at about 100ft (33m) over winter cereal near Swere Villas, in that freezing, easterly blast that the folk of Deddington call “The North Russia” – ‘nothing between us and the Urals!’; and a Red Kite doing likewise but much lower over St Michael village.

On the 22nd I was excited to see, as I drove towards Bloodybones corner, a Barn Owl quartering the verge and suddenly dropping to take prey from the long grass. It was 5.30 pm and getting colder after a bitterly cold day.

By the afternoon of the 23rd, flurries of very fine snow began falling; it became heavier after midnight.

Under a heavy, day-long overcast on the 24th, a bitter N wind swept yesterday’s fine dry snow swirling around the houses, roads and fields.



After a noticeable drop in wind speed on the 25th, a Kestrel hunting over Hempton Hills was forced to seek shelter from a fine, misty drizzle which was dangerously wetting the roads. This drizzle, with a mist over higher ground, continued into the 26th when

Bas Butler spotted three Roe deer crossing the Park. After a gloomy start, next day became much brighter with the blue sky of an afternoon of lovely late winter sunshine, so Bas thought he would have a look at the allotments; he didn’t say much about them (so I didn’t ask!) – but he did say he had watched four Red Kites and a Buzzard in the air, and two Green Woodpeckers all in the vicinity of the allotments.

This was a period, still with harsh nights, but milder sunny days. In fact, on the 28th, the last day of February, it reached 7° during periods of sun. A happy memory for me on this last day was of one of the male Reed Buntings, still at the feeders, but now in resplendent full plumage with jet black head and bib, snowy white collar and a handsome chestnut back with dark brown stripes.

There was drizzle at sunrise on the 1st of March and that persistent cold NE wind. The cloud broke up through the morning to give a beautiful, if chilly, afternoon. During this I witnessed, at close range, a Sparrow Hawk strike at North Newington, startling as always, and quite shocking in its power and savagery. Three Collared Doves were sitting in a sycamore, when one of them leisurely took flight toward a nearby plum tree. Suddenly the hawk, at terrific speed appeared from nowhere and hit the dove at full tilt, grasping it at the same time. There was a resounding, muffled ‘thwack’ and the hawk and dove were gone! The only remaining evidence was a small puff of little grey feathers, descending slowly through the air. I am certain that the dove was killed outright by force of impact – it made no sound nor movement. The incident was so fleeting that neither the other two doves, nor any other birds (including Starlings) seemed to see it. They made no move, nor uttered a sound. This week, all is behaving as normal, and the little patch of feathers on the ground is the only sign that the dove ever existed. Yes, Nature *is* cruel. And has no pity.

Within this spell of milder days, a severe frost of -7° on the morning of the 3rd produced very little rime on the grass, or anywhere else. The same, (with a lighter frost) was true of the 4th. This was due to the intense dryness of the air over such a long period; there was no moisture to condense out

to form rime. More importantly, these very dry, cold winds were responsible for drying the earth to a considerable extent – more so perhaps, and much more beneficially, than by the sun. This would have merely formed a hard, heavily cracked crust. And the cold should have seen off a lot of pests and diseases.

During all this time the persistent, seemingly immovable high pressure area had been holding sway, changing shape and altering its position a little, and had now been more or less overhead for a while. But now the Atlantic Low was encroaching from the west.

On the 4th the windchill factor on the shriving SE wind belied the temperature achieved, 11°. However it was enough to coax a few solitary bees out to start excavating nest holes and stock them with pollen from Crocuses. My favourites are *Osmia rufa*: foxy-red abdomens, jet black thoraxes, very furry and very small!

After a night at -6°, the 5th really was warm at 13.5°. A beautiful early Spring day, it attracted my first Brimstone butterfly of the year into the garden, around mid-day. A lone Sparrow Hawk flying N, high over St. Michael, was energetically attacked by a Crow as it passed through the latter's territory.

But the low pressure area was just getting its leading edge into the English Channel, and light rain greeted the morning of the 6th. This was *twenty-one days* since the last rain fell, and initiated four days of raised temperatures, nights around 4°, days around 8°. I found a Pygmy Shrew that one of the local cats had killed in my garden. It was perfect and without a mark. Cats never eat shrews as they exude unpleasant chemicals in their defence – sadly, too late this time. The Pygmy Shrew is our smallest mammal and has to eat almost continuously. Strangely, it is found high on Ben Nevis where the climate is too extreme for its larger relative, the Common Shrew!

The rain continued throughout the 7th, and the Reed Bunting still visited my feeding areas.

By now the Low was inching slowly up the Channel and the 8th arose foggy, with a rising NE breeze. Rain started at mid-day and continued until after dark – dank, drear and unpleasant. The 9th was a repeat, but very still. It became colder through the afternoon.

Now, in my opinion this big Low was a remnant of the storms that brought such big snowfalls to the eastern U.S. in early February; and what the eastern States get we usually get three weeks or so, later.

Bearing in mind the advance of this Low was delayed by that persistent High over Europe, we were due for an unpleasant experience!

Dark storm clouds, on the 10th, driven on a harsh easterly blow, delivered periods of showery rain with pellets of snow on a temperature fixed at 0° all day, falling to -5° at night.

The 11th and 12th suffered a terrible windchill factor making the temperature feel like -11° or 12°! From ragged clouds driven by gale force NE winds, short blizzards of fine snow swirled and lashed around by day and night.. In this harshest of weather I encountered some strange anomalies, At 9.45am on the 11th, in a freezing wind, a large, dark bumblebee flew past me as I went to my car. It wobbled a little as it flew over the garage roof and disappeared. I *think* it was *B. lapidarius*; what had awoken it from hibernation I can't imagine. There were Green Woodpeckers calling in the oaks below Steepness and a Buzzard hung motionless on the gale at tree-top height in Barley lane. In the gloom of evening, a small male Sparrow Hawk shot out of a garden into Mill Lane; it flew about 450mm (18") above the surface before turning abruptly into a driveway. By now the big low pressure area was moving away eastward, only to be replaced straightway by another huge low system from the Atlantic.

On the 12th, Mr. and Mrs. Blencowe spotted no less than six Red Kites between Deddington and the Banbury Road Council Depot.

A flawless sunrise on the 13th was milder with a light NE breeze. Cloud started bubbling up by 9.30am. Ensuing spells of sunshine were quite warm (6.5°) but there were little flurries of snow each time it clouded over, and a brilliant starlit night dropped to -7°.

The resultant heavy frost on the 14th lifted under a flawless blue sky, but this again clouded over around mid-day. It was again biting cold in the light N breeze of afternoon, which slowly backed NW. The scarcity of any birdlife in the countryside as I write this on the 16th, is quite alarming. It is even noticeable at garden bird feeders and one feels that there have been significant losses. Even so, the House Sparrows are showing great interest in my artificial House Martin nests. It will be interesting to see whether the Martins drive them out when they arrive (perhaps unfairly, I do hope so!).

After yesterday's bright start on a boisterous SW wind, continuous rain set in, sometimes heavy,

from mid-day through night and into today. All the good work that those bitter drying winds did is now undone with surface flooding on fields everywhere. Nevertheless, many of our farmers were making good for some lost time during the dry spell; working the land, sowing seed and spreading treatments on emerging cereals. And let us not forget the hardy souls engaged in lambing.

Now I must repeat the last paragraph of last month's *Nature Notes*:- "Was this second blast of snow (that of early February) the second winter foretold by Candlemas? The American NE States have just had another snowy deluge, and I reckon we could follow suit in the last week of February. Next *Nature Notes* will hold the answer!"

Well, my answer is:- 'Yes it was, plus the incredibly bitter cold spell running on into March'. Let's hope for some real Spring weather soon – but at the same time remembering that the Blackthorn has yet to bloom, with its attendant 'winter'!

Ron Knight

Compost Giveaway Springs back!

Spring will see the return of the big compost giveaway, three events will be held in May to thank residents for their recycling and composting efforts. Over 30 tonnes of locally sourced compost was given out last year and we will look to hand out even more this year.

Residents will be able to pick up one bag per household, whilst stocks last, from 9am until 1pm at one of the three events being held in early May. Working in Partnership with Agrivert, the company that produces compost from Cherwell residents' food and garden waste, there will be over 2,500 bags available.

The council's recycling team will also be on hand to answer questions and give advice. Councillor Nigel Morris, Cherwell's lead member for clean and green, said: "The success of the food and garden waste recycling scheme is down to the excellent efforts of Cherwell residents. This is one way we can say thank you to them"

The events will be held in,

Saturday 4 May Exeter Hall, Oxford Road, Kidlington OX15 1AB	Sunday 5 May Banbury Location to be agreed in the town centre	Saturday 11 May The Cooper School Churchill Road, Bicester, OX26 4RS
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with a new location for the Banbury event to be decided. It will be in the town centre with the exact details to be released as soon as possible.

So come along and grab your free bag, chat to our recycling team and get started with the springtime gardening.

Banbury Museum

Step into Spring

29 March – 13 April

10.30am – 12.30pm and 2 – 4pm

Family drop – in. Suitable for all ages.

£2 per child.

Come along to the museum to help create a spring meadow in the museum.

There's lots of fun to be had making paper flowers, spring time animals and lots, lots more.

Marvellous Masks

Tuesday 2 April, 2 – 4 pm (tickets available from 1.50pm)

Family drop – in. Suitable for children aged 3+ years old.

£2.50 per child.

Come and be inspired by the museum collections and the arrival of spring and make your very own mask to take home and wear.

Celebrating Spring

Thursday 4 April, 2 – 4pm (tickets available from 1.50pm)

Family drop – in. Suitable for children aged 3+ years old.

£2.50 per child.

Come and spend a lovely afternoon making your very own springtime/Easter wreath. Lots of fun.

Pond Party

Wednesday 10 April, 2 – 4 pm (tickets available from 1.50pm)

Family drop – in. Suitable for children aged 3+ years old.

£2.50 per child.

Inspired by our museum meadow come and make your very own shoebox pond complete with frogs, fish and lots more.

Springtime Surprise

Thursday 11 April, 2 – 4 pm (tickets available from 1.50pm)

Family drop – in. Suitable for children aged 3+ years old.

£2.50 per child.

Come and make lots of little springtime animals and hide them in a secret little home.

Art Cart Action: Making a Scene

Until 27 April, Drop in 10.30am-12.30pm and 2-4pm on

Saturdays and every day during the Oxfordshire school holidays. Appropriate for 4+ years. £1 per child.

Recreate a street scene of Old Banbury to take home inspired by the pictures in the 'Maurice Draper's Banbury' exhibition. Self-service activity.

'Through the Keyhole' Prize Trail

Until 27 April Available 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

Explore the galleries looking 'through the keyhole' as a clue to finding the answers then claiming your prize.

'Small Talk' Activity Backpacks (for 3-5 year olds)

Perfect for children aged 3 - 5 years old.

Available throughout the year, during museum opening hours £1 per backpack.

Explore the museum with the help of Sally and Simon, our special puppets, and the themed activity backpacks.

'Drawing for All' Cart

Available throughout the year, during museum opening hours. For all ages. Free.

Enjoy sketching the fascinating artefacts on display or the view along the canal. Materials, ideas and inspiration provided!



The Soldiers Of Oxfordshire (SOFO)

Sofo has launched its Friends Organisation with its first event at Ditchley Park in Oxfordshire. The Trust is currently building its museum in the grounds of The Oxfordshire Museum in Woodstock, which is to be completed by the end of 2013.

Al Murray, 'The Pub Landlord' joined them for a lunch, his enthusiasm for history and talked about his series, 'The Road to Berlin' before rushing off to carry on with his stand – up nationwide tour.

Al is a firm supporter of the Trust and its aim to create a museum which bridges the stories and people of the county with its military past and present. With a young family and a serious interest in military history (Al has an MA from Oxford) he was the ideal candidate to both entertain and inform the guests about what a modern museum can do and its ideal position in recording and telling history for the next generation.

He has presented *Al Murray's Road to Berlin* on the Discovery Channel. A series about the last phase of World War II, taking him from the beaches of Normandy, through Arnhem and up the Rhine, ending in Berlin. In the series he drove around in a restored Willys Jeep, and interviewed survivors from both sides of the war.

Al emphasised the importance of making personal connections to bring history alive and hoped the new museum would continue to build its archive and research facility by gathering these stories from all those who have been affected by conflict. The Museum is now preparing its storylines and galleries and is engaging with the local community to bring these to life.

Al is also vice president of the Guild Of Battlefield Guides, perhaps because of a childhood spent with a father who would take him around Europe, showing him the places where history had been made.

During the event, Museum Director, Ursula Corcoran was presented with a 'Christmas box from 1914' by Bill Birch Reynardson (pictured). With the Centenary of the Greta War approaching, the Museum is becoming the natural home for such objects, where they can be cared for and shared with a wider audience.

Brigadier Ian Inshaw DL, Chairman (pictured with Al Murray above right), commented, "The county offers limitless opportunities to tell the stories of conflict and I am confident that we will provide a window on this past and be a fitting tribute to those who continue to serve our country.



The Praetorians and Friends can help make this a reality by supporting us in many ways."

With over 3,500 objects and a history that starts with the Hill Forts of Oxfordshire, the new Museum will offer inspiring opportunities for all visitors especially families and schools to explore the county's role in conflict both here and around the world. Two major gallery spaces are planned to house the museum's collection and provide a home for visiting exhibitions and activities; visiting artists, museum trails, hands on events and lectures.

Now the project is underway, we are looking for new Friends and volunteers to join us. In a community project of this size there is always work to be done; helping with running our office, getting hands on with exhibits, researching stories and putting together our education activities.

To find out more about the Project please contact us via our website or

Email: museumdirector@sofo.org.uk

Tel 01993 813832



[Chris and John from the 'Paperback Writers'.
Photo taken by Kate Staunton.]

Shooter Gig

Tony Eccleston brought not one but two bands to the George Inn on Saturday 2nd March. We were entertained by The Paperback Writers (Beatles tribute band) and the Shooter.

Tony asked for the hat to be passed around in aid of the Kathmandu kids home and they raised just short of £60.

Many thanks to Tony and both bands for their efforts.

T'committee

Prisoner of War Memories Wanted

A child's necklace and a pair of soldier's dog-tags...what do these have in common? Both of these very personal items belonged to a Prisoner of War (POW) during World War II, but each tells a different story. These mementos are now being looked after by The Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum in Woodstock, who are planning an exhibition about POW experiences and are appealing to the public for help in bringing the new museum to life.



The necklace was given to a young girl during the war, having been made by a German POW held at a local camp. It was donated, along with other hand-made pieces by Rosemary Warner from Witney. Local POWs often made toys and children's playthings to sell for a little extra cash.

The dog-tags are a reminder of one young man's time in the Stalag Luft III camp, now in Poland, and infamous for the 'Great Escape'. Sgt Leslie Mitchell from Woodstock was captured aged just 19 after his plane came down in 1940. He remained a prisoner until 1945, moved from camp to around the German occupied territories. All the time he kept in touch with home, and the letters sent to him provide a fascinating insight into war-time Oxfordshire.

If you have personal memories of POWs during the Second World War or if you were a prisoner yourself, SOFO would like to hear from you. We would be also interested in hearing about experiences of relatives who were POWs. Matthew Smaldon from SOFO says:

"We are seeking first-hand accounts, memorabilia, written memoirs, photos, letters, and other items relating to POWs. We want to tell the story of local men held in POW camps, and of how the influx of German and Italian POWs also affected life in the county - to do so we want to ask for the assistance of Oxfordshire residents to help us build the story."

If you can help in any way, we would be very pleased to hear from you. Please contact Sue Cross on 01993 813832, email us at admin@sofo.org.uk, or write to Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, The Old Tannery, Hensington Road, Woodstock OX20 1JL.

STROKE:

Remember the 1st Three Letters....**S.T.R.**

STROKE IDENTIFICATION

It only takes a minute to read this...

A neurologist says that if he can get to a stroke victim within 3 hours he can totally reverse the effects of a stroke.! ..totally. He said the trick was getting a stroke recognised, diagnosed, and then getting the patient medically cared for within 3 hours, which is tough.

RECOGNIZING A STROKE

Remember the '3' steps, STR . Read and Learn!

Sometimes symptoms of a stroke are difficult to identify. Unfortunately, the lack of awareness spells disaster. The stroke victim may suffer severe brain damage when people nearby fail to recognize the symptoms of a stroke.

Now doctors say a bystander can recognise a stroke by asking three simple questions:

S *Ask the individual to SMILE.

T *Ask the person to TALK and SPEAK A SIMPLE SENTENCE (Coherently)
(i.e. It is sunny out today.)

R *Ask him or her to RAISE BOTH ARMS..

If he or she has trouble with ANY ONE of these tasks, call emergency number immediately and describe the symptoms to the dispatcher.

NOTE: Another 'sign' of a stroke is this: Ask the person to 'stick' out his tongue.. If the tongue is 'crooked', if it goes to one side or the other, that is also an indication of a stroke.



Bloxham May Festival Saturday, 11th May

The free festival, which includes music on three stages from 11am to 11pm, also features Morris dancers, crafts, foodstalls and children's entertainment. Bands this year include

Freeway Jam, Chameleon, Shooter, Stone Cold Mary and Folklaw.

More details from <http://www.bloxfest.org.uk/>