

BARFORD NEWS

AUGUST 2013

Price 30p where sold

Get Ready For Another Great Village Weekend



VILLAGE BAR-B-QUE & BAR



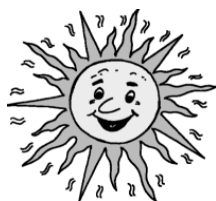
**BANK HOLIDAY SUNDAY
25TH AUGUST**



**6pm onwards
In the village hall gardens**



Barford St Michael and St John - Church Fete



starting at 2pm **Monday 26th August**
at The Manor House

Games and competitions for all ages

Bouncy Castle Bottle Stall Plants Raffle Books
Toys, Cakes & Produce, Summer Punch, Bric a brac
Delicious Teas by the moat



~ ~ ~

**Including
A Companion and Novelty Dog Show**



Parish Council Notes

The meeting took place at 7.30pm on 3rd July 2013 at Barford Village Hall and was attended by Cllr Hobbs, Cllr Best, Cllr Bullard, Cllr Eden, Cllr Stiles, Cllr Turner and Cllr Woolgrove. Also attending was Mrs R Watts (Clerk).

Dog Bins: Councillor Hobbs will ask Chris Cox if he would install the new bin by the salt bin situated opposite the church.

The Rock: Mrs Greaves has confirmed that repairs to The Rock face are in hand.

Replacement Oil Tank for Village Hall: The Village Hall Management Committee had received estimates of around £2,000 to replace the oil tank and therefore asked permission from the Parish Council to proceed with the purchase. Councillors agreed unanimously that the purchase could go ahead.

Cherwell District Council Conservation Area

Appraisal: The Parish Clerk had notified Cherwell District Council (CDC) of inaccuracies in their draft document and some, but not all, had been addressed. CDC held an exhibition in the village hall during the afternoon of 27th June, followed by a public meeting at 7.00pm. The document showed little change to the previous appraisal. There was some discussion at that meeting as to whether or not Bishop's Close should remain in the conservation area, or if Robin's Close, Broad Close and Church Street should be included. Cllr Hobbs has a copy of the CDC slide show for anyone who may be interested.

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)

Notice of Intent TCA (Trees) Received: There were none.

Approved TCA:

13/00143/TCA Treen/VHMC, Village Hall; T1 x Pear – fell. No objection but with a proviso that the VHMC plant a large tree of the non-fruiting variety elsewhere in the garden. Granted 13th June 2013.

Planning Applications Received: There were none.

Planning Applications Approved by Cherwell District Council:

13/00622/F Cox, Holly Cottage, Townsend, Barford St Michael – Erect a pvcu conservatory at rear of property. No objections. Granted 20th June 2013.

13/00646/F Wheeler, Weston House, Netherworton Rd, Barford St Michael – demolish single storey

front hall and construct a two storey extension. No objections. Granted 20th June 2013.

Councillors noted that decisions are awaited for the following:

Appeal by Mintondale Developments, land south of Milton Rd, Bloxham (85 houses)

Appeal by Gladman Developments, land off Barford Road, Bloxham (75 houses)

Miller Homes – application for a development in Tadmorton Road, Bloxham (60 houses)

Reports from Meetings: Cllr Hobbs had attended the Parish Liaison Meeting at Bodicote House on 12th June. Subjects covered were Affordable Housing/Community Land Trusts; Sale of Land for Affordable Housing (some market-value properties may now be included on these plots); Localism Bill; Parish Councils are no longer restricted to a maximum rise of 2% on the precept; Assets of Community Value (The Seven Stars in Piddington is the only property on the Register. Three more properties are under consideration); the next Parish Liaison Meeting will be on 13th November.

Cllr Hobbs had met a representative from Oxfordshire County Council Highways to discuss repainting the white lines through Barford St John to encourage motorists to slow down. Oxfordshire County Council is of the opinion that removing the white lines actually reduces speed and is therefore not prepared to re-paint them. The SLOW sign does need re-painting but Oxfordshire County Council has no finances to fund the £650 needed to do this. Bernard Lane's letter regarding damage to The Green had been passed to the appropriate department.

New Homes Bonus (NHB): This bonus is a grant paid by central government to local councils. It is aimed at encouraging new homes and bringing back empty houses into use and does this by rewarding new housing with a bonus.

The NHB will be awarded each year for six years, starting 2011/12. However, money that has been granted for the first two years can be seen as a 'real' bonus in that it is in addition to existing local authority grant allocations. All awards thereafter (from 2013/14) will be taken from the local authority's government grant and therefore are not 'additional' funding.

The NHB can be used for any service expenditure or for improving local facilities.

Any Other Business:

Cllr Turner had asked the grass cutting contractor to trim the weeds on the far side of the bridge to improve visibility for motorists.

It had been noted that, on the day of the house fires in Lower Street, fire engines could not get through Church Street because of parked cars.

The play equipment needs cleaning. It was agreed that Cllr Best will inspect it and arrange for someone to deal with the problem.

Cllr Hobbs had circulated a draft letter to Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) before the meeting regarding their proposals for changes in school bus transport. He proposed that the Parish Council send this letter to OCC Admissions and Transport Services Manager, County Councillor Fatemian and Sir Tony Baldry MP and this was unanimously agreed. The deadline for submissions has been extended to 15th July.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.27 pm.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday, 4th September 2013 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

The above is a report of the council meeting. Draft Minutes are displayed on the Parish Council noticeboard one week prior to the PC Meeting and until replaced by the next set. Full Minutes, once approved, are put on the Barford website at:
<http://www.cherwell.gov.uk/barfordpc/index.cfm?articleid=5334>

Bakehouse or Shepherds Charity Barford St. John and St. Michael

Charity Commission Registration No. 309173

Grants are made annually, at the Trustee's discretion, to young people attending College or University.

In order to qualify, applicants should be under 25 years of age and they, or their parents should be resident in the parish of Barford St. Michael or Barford St. John for at least three years.

Please give the following information on your application:-

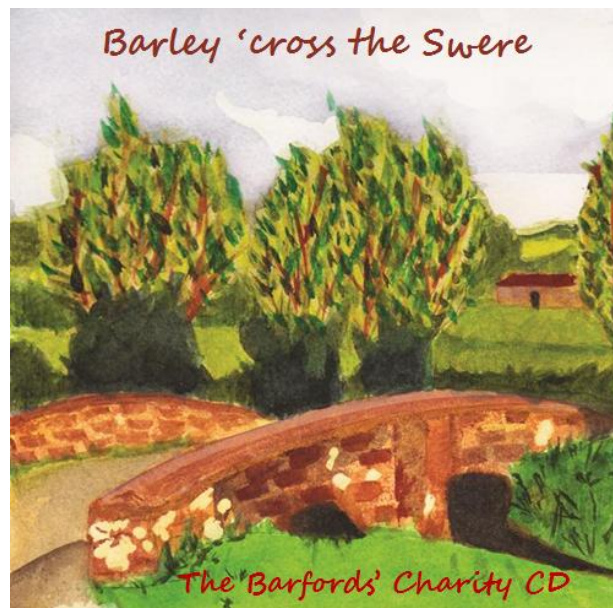
- 1) Your full name, age and address in Barford and state how long you have lived here.
- 2) Name and address of the College or University where you are planning to study.
- 3) Exact description of the qualification you are studying for, including length of course and subjects to be studied.

Address your application to:

Mrs. Helen Honour

Clerk to the Shepherds and Bakehouse Trust
The Cottage, 5 Mead Lane, Barford St. John,
Banbury, Oxfordshire, OX15 0PW
Applications must be received by
30th September 2013, at the latest.

By popular demand the 'Barley 'cross the Swere' concert is back!



In December last year there was a fund raising concert to launch the charity CD...

'... If you weren't there then you missed a little gem!....' '...It was an incredible night. We had no idea we were living amongst such a talented bunch...'

We are planning another concert in Barford St Michael Church on Saturday 28th September at 7:30pm – same great musicians and maybe a few extras as well.

The money we raise is to be shared between Barfords' churches, Helpless Children Mothers' Centre in Nepal, Shepherds and Bakehouse Charity and the Village Hall.

Once again entry will be free but hoping for generous donations. We have already raised over a £1,000 for these charities from selling the CDs and last year's concert. It would be wonderful if we can add to that with this concert to help these village causes.

To add a bit of extra fun we are holding a
limerick competition.

To get you started here are four ideas for opening lines or you can always use your own.

There once was a young man from Barford
There's a troll 'neath the bridge 'cross the Swere
When crossing the Swere with some barley
I once booked a weeks cruise on the Swere

£1 per limerick but you may enter as many times as you like! Entries and £1s to Tony Elvidge at The Old Post Office, High Street, Barford St Michael by 21st September.

1st Barford and Deddington Rainbows

THE RAINBOWS had a lovely meeting making pottery butterflies with Sandi Turner. She brought butterfly shaped pieces of clay and the girls decorated them before they were fired and returned to the girls at the end of term- they all looked amazing. The girls always so delighted to make something from 'proper pottery'; we're very grateful to Sandi for giving up so much time to enable us to do this.



We had a fun visit from the local Neighbourhood Police team. We learned about Stranger Danger, shouted "hello" to the control room on PCSO Tom's radio and had a look at the team's van. As ever, the most popular view was from the inside of the cell! Being 'locked in' is always the highlight of the visit, along with operating the sirens (sorry Barford and thank you to Martin at The George for letting us use the pub car park!) The visit was immediately before Deddington Rocks, so Tom the PCSO had a stream of Rainbows telling him they'd just seen him in Barford; mission of showing that the Police are friendly and approachable accomplished!

We finished the term with a water fight, making the most of the glorious weather. It was great fun with enthusiastic participation from parent helpers, especially Paige's Grandad, a certain Rodney Hobbs. Please address all complaints about noise in the village hall garden to the Chairman of the Parish Council...

We ended with the wettest enrollment ceremony ever, pinning promise badges onto the swimming costumes of Ellie, Isabella, Abi and Lottie and said a sad goodbye to Izzy, Lizzie, Milly and Daisy-May who move up to Brownies and Lucy who has moved to Norfolk with her family.

We return in September with lots of brand new Rainbows!

Hazel Neal, 01869 337822
hmkn@sky.com



Butterfly Meadows

Children's Centre

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

We offer a range of weekly stay & play drop-ins, creative play, learning and volunteering opportunities, outreach support, as well as running groups and specialist courses, such as on parenting support, healthy eating and family learning. We can offer advice and support with a number of topics, including getting back into work & training, breastfeeding support, smoking cessation, and benefits & tax credits information.

We offer a warm and friendly environment and we cater for everyone who has responsibility for young children including parents, childminders and grandparents. Just pop along to the centre (based next door to Bloxham Primary School) or contact the team for further details.

Full details are also online:

www.oxonchildrenscentres.org.uk/ButterflyMeadows.

We hope to see you soon!

Butterfly Meadows Children's Centre

Tadmarton Road

Bloxham

OX15 4HP

Tel: 01295 722240

Email: butterflymeadows@oxfordshire.gov.uk



Family Services

Family Services at Barford St Michael

There is a Family Service in the church on the second Sunday of every month at 10.30am.

Come along for this informal, interactive service with activities, stories and songs.



Upcoming services
include

Sunday 11th August - hunting for treasure in the churchyard.

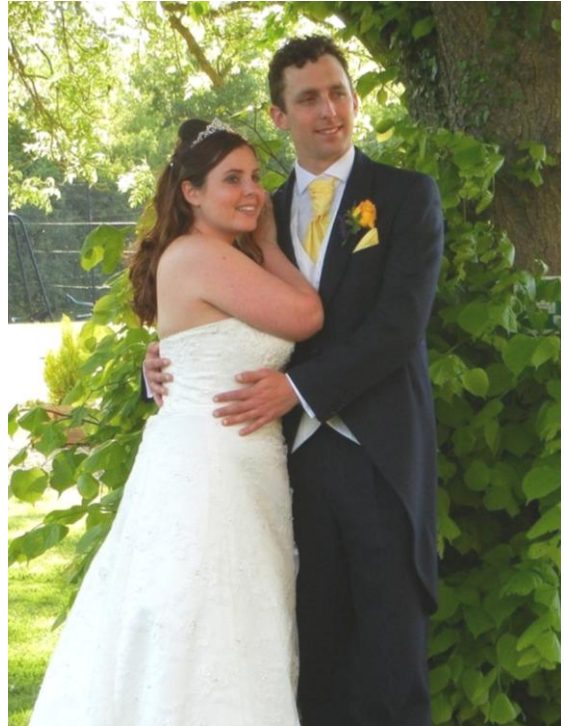
Sunday 8th September- with playdough, fingerprints and lots of 'creating'.

Sunday 13th October- where we think about all the things we have to be thankful for.

Celebrating Weddings – Past and Present
Congratulations!!!



To Jeff & Carolyn Elliott
Who celebrate their Ruby (40th)
Wedding Anniversary on 4th August



To Andrew & Lynsey Jenkins
1st June 2013



To David and Christina Cox
8th June 2013



To Colin Cohen & Avril Leigh
28th June 2013

Diary Date for next month

Sat 14th Sept

'Oxford Historic Churches

Ride & Stride'

A bike ride or walk for all the family



The sponsored Ride and Stride this year is on Saturday 14th September between 10am and 6pm and the money raised is divided equally between Oxford Historic Churches Trust and our own Barford churches. OHCT have been very generous with grants towards our repairs in the past few years and we will need to ask again for grants in the future in order to maintain our churches. There are very few people who have taken part in the past and it's always a very disappointing turnout from the Barfords. This is one of the fundraising efforts of the year in support of your churches and it would be good to see more villagers taking part this year. There are no central funds for maintaining our churches and the only funds are the ones that you raise. So please make an effort this year either to get sponsorship for the event or donate a sum to Ride and Stride if you cannot raise your own sponsorship, and join others all over the country on this particular day to ride, cycle or walk to as many churches in the area you can manage. It is a good day out and the churches you visit will have refreshments available.

Please contact me for lists of churches so you can plan your route and for sponsorship forms.

Cubby Brett, 01869 338300

Keeping it in the Family



Chris Cox of Broad Close won the Heythrop Hunt Hedge Laying Championship of 2013, pictured above with the Silver Bilhook Trophy.

The Cox family have won the trophy nine times in all, starting with Chris's late father Glyn whose first win was in 1979.

Father and son are pictured below working on the beautifully layed boundary hedge at Rignell Hall in 2008.



**Please Note There will be
No Barford Village Market In August
We'll re-open for business On third Saturday next month
21st September
Look forward to seeing you there!**

Down On The Farm - August 13

THE CONTINUING WARMER WEATHER in July has certainly boosted grass growth. As a result we were able to shut the sheep out of a couple of fields which have been cut for hay. Not much there to cut - but hopefully enough to see us through the winter.

Main problem is that with the late season it is effectively 'June hay' which always takes some making, even in these high temperatures. They (whoever 'they' are) always say more bad hay is made in a dry time than a catchy season.

The sheep have appreciated the warmth because the shearing gang arrived a few weeks ago and removed their winter coats. The price of wool, which had barely covered the cost of shearing, has now improved due to Wool Board activity in finding new markets. It is also likely that textile



manufacturers are finding the current cost of oil based synthetics a bit steep.

One of our chores in June and July is to reduce the population of docks, nettles and thistles with a combination of spot spraying, cutting and digging. I don't know who originated the old rhyme about 'cut in June is a month too soon, while cut in July they surely die'. July doesn't seem to work for me - or the thistles.

We had an unscheduled visit from some Japanese people recently. While driving past they noticed a sow and piglets in the Paddock and rushed in clutching expensive looking cameras. I showed them another sow and just born litter in one of the pens which prompted cries of 'ahh pigrets', (perhaps the Japanese alphabet doesn't include an 'L') and another blinding battery of flash photography.

They were very nice people with polite Japanese ways such as bowing over clasped hands, also they enthusiastically bought loads of Meat Joint sausages to take back to London.

Enough of this, I had better go and see if the hay is baleable. On the way back I can check on the new pigrets!

Tony Collier, IronDown Farm

Fernhill News

JULY BEGAN WITH our strawberry tea in Mary's club room in Banbury this was on the 3rd. We had home-made jam with our scones and cream, then strawberries with cream.

We also had fun with two quizzes. On the 10th we played cards with a lot of hilarity but I don't think it descended into cheating!

We heard and sang along with music from many artists. I believe there was even some dancing going on, this was on the 17th.

On 24th we played bingo. The following week on the 31st we ended July with a picnic in Avril's garden.

In August we are having a meal at the Wobbly Wheel on the 21st. On the 28th we'll be playing Kurling.

It is always nice to see new faces so visitors very welcome to come along to any of our meetings.

Mary & Avril



RAFFLE PRIZES NEEDED


My Dearest, Generous Fellow Villagers

We have the annual village BBQ on Sunday 25th August and will be needing prizes for the Raffle.

If you can donate something that would be great. Please contact Lucy Norman on 01869 337678. I have transport just in case the prizes are enormous!!

Thank You
VHMC

Red Cross Collection

A BIG THANK YOU  **BritishRedCross** to those who gave this year. . The sum of £270 was raised, a little up on last year's collection.

My grateful thanks to the ladies who gave their time in May, collecting in the two Barfords.

Ann Budd

("Medical loan equipment is still available from our Community Response Unit based in the car parking area at Morrisons Supermarket in Banbury on a Friday from 10.30am to 12.00 Noon. It is recommended that you telephone our HQ in Abingdon on 01235 552660 to reserve requirements so that they can be collected on the Friday following."

The British Red Cross is part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

Maggie's 50, Second Year - 22nd June 2013

Supporting The 'Maggie Harvey' Trust In Aid Of Brain Tumour Research

The event was attended by Maggie's son Anthony and his father who thanked the participants and said how touched they were by the support. Anthony said he was going to take part and cycle next year. It was bigger than last year! We had 51 cyclists taking part.



The route started at Barford St Michael and took in Middle Barton, Somerton, Souldern, and Finmere on the way out to Boycotte Farm Shop which is on the outskirts of Stowe School estate near Buckingham. On the return we came via Shalston, Mixbury, Evenley, Charlton, Kings Sutton and Twyford before arriving back at Barford St Michael.

The riders were supplied with instructions, maps and emergency telephone numbers, as the route covered a lot of minor roads. The advantage of this was that it was mainly free of traffic, but not so easy to follow. Also there were a number of pot holes along the way. The weather although dry was very windy which was against us on the return ride.

There was a wide range of abilities ranging from super fit to beginner cyclists. To accommodate this we had a staggered start. The back markers were accompanied and we had two support vehicles. The fastest cyclist was Jered Allcock who completed the 50 miles in 2 hrs 17 minutes. Two other cyclists Simon Hanmer and Ben Bradley decided to cycle an additional 50 miles taking in Fish Hill as a warm up. At the prize giving they were fined £1 each for exceeding the mileage. The bravest efforts came from Barney Neal aged 12 yrs and his sister Tilly aged 14 yrs who both completed the course. Another brave cyclist was Sophie Gannon who normally

competes in triathlons but was injured after falling off a horse. She cycled to the halfway point with plates in her wrist and collar bone. Tilly, Barney and Sophie were awarded prizes for their efforts. There were also sterling efforts from Ben Warren who cycled the route in a good time on a heavy mountain bike without breaking a sweat, and David Sewell who lead a group using his GPS. All but two cyclists completed the course one of whom had a puncture and opted to be transported back by one of the support vehicles.

A big thank you to Stewart Crichton, Richard Cox, Simon Williams and Garry Church who manned the support vehicles. At the half way point the staff at Boycott Farm Shop had prepared for our arrival, and had laid on the use of their marquee and supplied us with discounted tea coffee and cakes. In the evening we held the BBQ which was superbly cooked by James Whitworth at the George pub and we were looked after by the landlord Martin and his staff.

We did not actively seek local sponsorship, but we had fantastic support from some of the Banbury masons, the people of Barford, and the spinners from Banatyne's sports club many of whom knew Maggie and made donations. As a result of every ones efforts we have managed to raise £1660 which has been donated to Maggie Harvey website: www.maggieharveytrust.com on the Just Giving link. A big thank you to all concerned.

George Williams & Simon Whitworth

Ed's Postbag

From: Barbara Brown, Holly Tree Cottage, Daughter Claire, Son-in-Law Richard



We would like to thank all the people in the village for all their kindness and support when my cottage caught fire, there are too many names for us to mention individually, but we really appreciate everybody's help.

Once again a big thank you.

Barbara, Claire & Richard

~ ~ ~

Dear Mariann,

Everyone in Barford has been brilliant over the last year or so, and it's wonderful to share our special day with the village. The weather was great and it was lovely to see so many villagers pop out to wish us luck.

We spent our honeymoon in Peru walking the Inca trail. Then on to Mexico where we relaxed and even went swimming with Whale Sharks.

Thanks again

Kind regards

Andrew & Lynsey Jenkins

~ ~ ~

Dear Mariann,

We want to send the biggest possible thank you to the whole Barford community for all the kindness and empathy expressed to us during—and since—the horrendous fire at our lovely cottage Sunnycote and Barbara Brown's Hollytree.

We really could not have coped since then without the overwhelming support we have been given, both from those we know and from many, many sympathetic others. We'd especially like to thank those of you who drew the short straw and put us up (and put up with us) fed and clothed us. And thanks to all of you for the multitude of other offers.

What a great place Barford is to live. We feel privileged to be part of such a hospitable, caring community.

We have now moved to our temporary accommodation, a thatched cottage in Milton! We expect to be living here for at least a year while the rebuild takes place. So we'll see you all around. We have no intention of abandoning Barford.

We must also apologise for any inconvenience that will be caused to anyone during the rebuild.

Love David & Lavinia Crowther

Jamie, Elly, Isabel & Rosie

1st Deddington Guides

N ACTION PACKED term!



One of our favourite meetings – backwoodsman cooking – foil parcels, sausages on sticks, muffins in orange skin – great fun!

We put our firelighting and outdoor cooking skills to the test when taking the Brownies on a 'Sausage Sizzle' Lots of excitement and enthusiasm! Guides did very well teaching the Brownies and explaining safety around the fire.

Several guides have gained their 'Traditions of Guiding' badge.

The Rangers visited us and told us all about what the guides can go on to do in the senior section – many varied opportunities ahead once guides are over 14. One of the senior guides is now going to ranger meetings. In the autumn will go to Paris for 5 days – where the rangers themselves are planning days out, to the Eiffel Tower and Disney Land etc.

Older guides have had a go at using trangias – (lightweight stoves), and younger guides could experience camp life in an afternoon camp – lovely setting and great fun and lots of skills learnt – Thank you to Robert and June Stilgoe.

During an 'incident' hike, the guides in patrols had to carry water from the river, follow a quiz, pass a checkpoint test and deal with a 'mock' first aid incident. Apologies to the evening walkers in Adderbury who came upon the 'dramatic' scene in a field!!

Last, but not least, some of the guides and leaders 'slept under the stars', at Horley scout camp site. We joined many other guides, rangers and leaders for the Cherwell Division Patrol Competition. Then after hot chocolate and marshmallows we settled down for the night.

We fell asleep (about 1am!) under a glorious clear starry sky and awoke at about 4am as it was light and the birds were singing. After all breakfasting together we all went home (many for a snooze I think!)

Yet to come - - Updates to follow! Stream Walking – traditionally our end of year meeting – another favourite! And then camp at North Aston! It's going to be brilliant!

Maggie Rampley 01295 810069

Marian Trinder 01869 340806

Catherine Blackburn 01295 258008

From The Fire Station

THIS MONTH AT DEDDINGTON has been another mixed bag, ranging from a parrot rescue to a serious house fire. In all we have been called out 26 times. We were called to a particularly nasty RTC at Wotton, involving two cars, the two drivers had to be extricated using hydraulic cutting gear, and we wish all persons injured by this collision a speedy recovery.



The big incident this month was the thatch fire at Barford St. Michael. It was one o'clock on Sunday afternoon, when we were called to a fire involving a gas cylinder. When we arrived at the incident, it was apparent that the situation was more serious than had been reported. The fire had started from a gas barbeque which was up against the house and had managed to flash off, catching the trellis on fire, then spreading to the thatch. Tom Hall and I were sent in wearing breathing apparatus to fight the fire and start the salvage operation. Within twenty minutes the fire had spread from the roof down to the first floor. With the help of another BA team from Banbury, we had managed to remove as many valuables as possible from that part of the property; and if you are wondering, yes we always keep a keen eye out for the family photo albums. We fought for the pair of thatches for nearly two days, but sadly lost them to the fire but did manage to save most of the owner's possessions. We had up to eight fire engines, the hydraulic platform and many other special appliances at the incident. We would like to thank all the people of Barford for their patience and generosity, supplying us with copious amounts of tea and biscuits and opening their homes to us to store the belongings from the thatches. I often hear people say that things aren't like they used to be, maybe we are not faced by as many life threatening situations as in past, but this experience makes me see that when we are faced with difficulties, it brings out the best in us and makes me realise that I am very proud to be part of this Community. Thank you.

Congratulations to Fire Fighter Emma Glover on her marriage to Steve Flint. It was a beautiful day; Emma arrived in a fire engine, a surprise present from her good friend Fire Fighter Sharon Wilson, with Fire Fighter Adam Franklin as Chauffeur. I have just received the news that Fire Fighter Tom Hall has got engaged to his girlfriend of four years Jenna Lloyd, Congratulations to both.

As a final note, we attend many incidents and they are usually caused by a combination of errors. Please keep flammables away from your home.

Always keep gas cylinders for your barbeque away from the house and never put coals from your barbeque or fire into a bin. Coals stay hot for a long time. If you were wondering about the parrot, it was reunited with its owners.

*Tim Parker, Crew Manager
Deddington Fire Station*

~ ~ ~

Brenda Reaches 100!



Brenda Twigg, of Broad pictured with just some of her colourful jumpers.

As part of the 'Knitting for Oxfam' scheme Brenda has been knitting jumpers for children in Africa since December 2012. In early July she finished her 100th jumper and has also knitted several blankets..

In some desert regions, night-time temperatures drop below freezing and in others the rainy season is cold as well as damp.



For malnourished, under-weight and often sick children a knitted garment or blanket provides warmth and comfort.

Every month approx 500 bales of knitted goods (each bale contains 200 jumpers!) leave Oxfam's emergency warehouse for crisis areas throughout the world.

Please Help Brenda to keep knitting by donating any spare wool that you may have, of any colour and any quantity – it will all be used.

Contact Brenda on 01869 338 313

Barford Green Garden Club Notes From Our Potting Shed

Summer Assortment: Big thanks to everyone who supported our Summer Assortment day, whether by contributing cakes or plants, entering a photograph, container or scarecrow, providing wonderful paintings of Allotment Sheds, setting up the hall and garden, manning the car-park, helping with teas, opening your garden or just by coming! There will be a full report in the next issue, together with details of distribution of funds. We hope that our village organisations will benefit from the proceeds.

Visit to Kiftsgate.

On a coolish, dampish midsummer Sunday three cars from the village took ten visitors to Kiftsgate, having had our appetites whetted to see these famous gardens by the illustrated talk by Anne Chambers last year. The gardens are spread out on two levels - more formal planting around the house and then informal planting down a precipitous hillside, which offers spectacular views across the Vale of Evesham towards Bredon Hill and the Malverns. The descent down the hill can be challenging, but worth it to enjoy the effect of the black swimming pool at the bottom and the view back up to the house through pine trees and a huge variety of plants.



These are the gardens of a skilled plantswoman with a strong eye for form and colour. Many plants we saw were very unusual cultivars: conversations went as follows: "Whatever's that?" "Maybe it's a cornus? Is there a label?" Thankfully there usually was. We particularly admired unblemished banks of hostas, lovely peonies which were still out, masses of fragrant philadelphus and some rhododendrons, blue lavateras all down the hillside (we felt you'd have to rope yourself on to tend them), and roses just beginning in this late season. Unfortunately the famous Kiftsgate rose was not yet out, but a



plant the size of Barford Village Hall is still a wonder, in flower or not.

To look at lots of colour in plants can be tiring, and the pool garden by the house is an antidote; simply green and strongly sculptural. " Very Chelsea! " someone remarked.

After all these visual delights we enjoyed excellent tea and cake in the tearooms and felt pleased to have missed the rain, which held off until we got back to Barford.

(Report by Janet Payne; photo by Annie Radford)

Dates for your diary

Thursday August 22nd: Visit to Sue Bedwell's garden in Bletchington - this is the visit postponed earlier in the year. Meet there at 2 pm. Entry £5 for charity. (Tea and cakes will be provided (??))

Monday September 2nd: Talk and demonstration on pruning by Andy Howard.

Saturday October 5th: Visit to Waterperry Gardens to look at apples and autumn planting. Meet at 2pm in car park.

Monday November 4th: Talk on Design Ideas for Small Gardens, by Peter Richardson of Preston Bissett Nurseries.

Monday March 3rd 2014 Talk on DELIGHTS OF THE KITCHEN GARDEN by Tim Miles.

Tips of the Month:

- Collect seed from favourite plants
 - Pot up rooted strawberry runners
 - Dead-head regularly to encourage plants to continue flowering
 - August can be an "in-between" time for flower borders. Gaps can be filled with large pots of annuals.
 - There's still time to grow quick-maturing salad crops.
 - Keep ponds and water-features topped up.
 - Above all, enjoy your garden!
- Till next time – happy gardening.



'Bye for now'
Spade and Fork





Thank You From Will

A very BIG Thank You for sponsoring me! I raised over £1100 for Daisy's Blades.

On Wednesday 3rd July I teed off at 4.45am after having to climb into the golf club!! I managed to play 100 holes and finished at 9.45pm feeling absolutely spent. It was quite emotional putting my last hole for parr – I had done it and managed to play 100 holes which was my own target, and raised a lot of money, more than I set out to achieve.

I had a lot of support from Mum and Dad, Ed my brother and Narnie and Papa (who drove the support buggy full of food!). The members up at the golf club were awesome too particularly Stewart Allen taking over from Mum and Dad and arriving at 5.45am playing 18 holes before he went to work and Richard Blayney a Junior member turned up at 8am and played and stayed with me to the bitter end.

The day time line goes like this:

- 4.45am tee off – Mum and Dad walk with me
- 5.45am Stewie arrives for 18 holes
- 8.00am Richard arrives for the day
- 8.30am Ed arrives with bacon butties for us all
- 10.30am Harry Melling arrives to play 9 holes
- 10.45am Narnie and Papa arrive with sustenance in the support buggy
- 1pm Kathryn Pitts joins in for 18 holes
- 5pm Jane Flemming, Lady Vice Captain arrives with more food and buggy for my clubs and trolley for a while
- 6pm Mum and Dad arrive and Lorna Daisy's Mum who takes over driving the buggy with my clubs
- 7.30pm Danny Philips joins me for 9 holes
- 8.30pm Laura Howlett and her Mum arrive for support and Kathryn and Laura take charge of the buggy with my clubs in
- 9.45pm I putted my last hole to gallery of on lookers – I did it in par too!!

Thank you.
Will Preece



The Report From Chipping Norton Golf Club:-

Yesterday Junior Captain Will Preece played a dawn to dusk golf marathon to raise money for Daisy Pashley.

He started just before 5am and managed to achieve his goal of 100 holes (5.5 rounds plus 1 hole) at approx 9.45pm. He was ably supported by another of the junior's Richard Blayney who played along for 73 of the holes, Brother Ed, Stewart Allen, Harry Melling, Kathryn Pitts and Danny Phillips joined in throughout the day.

Support crew included Mum and Dad, Granma and Granpa, Lorna Pashley (Daisy's Mum), Jane Fleming, Lynn Norman, Sue and Laura Howlett.

Thanks to Stewart in the pro shop for support throughout the day and the donation of the buggy for the grandparents. Will has raised over £1100 and would also like to thank everyone who sponsored him as well as everyone else who provided him with moral support and sustenance on the day.

Any monies still to be submitted should be passed to Stewart in the Pro Shop.

Many thanks

Will's scores for 100 holes included 17 birdies and one eagle. Very Well Done!!

Whist Drive Proceeds

Our Thanks To

Avril Green & Judy Hobbs

For the donation of
£80 to Barford News
raised from whist drives this year

Regular whist drives are held fortnightly on alternate Friday evenings throughout the year in the village hall. New players are always welcome to come along and join in.

(Sincere and grateful thanks to Avril and Judy for their continued support to Barford News

1st Deddington Scout Group

Cubs

WE FINISHED the summer term with the Cubs gaining their naturalist badge – a hedge survey & pine cone bird feeders. They visited the Castle Grounds after a tour of the village & designed their own coats of arms for the local knowledge badge & spent a wet evening in Daedas Wood building a very impressive shelter.

Some Cubs went to the county camp at Thame (see Scouts).

Matthew, Archie, Ryan & James have all gained their Silver Award & we are looking forward to them starting at Scouts, with Joe, next term.

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



Scouts

SCOOTS HAVE SPENT this term outside, as they should do. They gained their Athlete Badge, spent several evenings in Daedas Wood & played a version of Pacman round the village, but the camps dominated the last few months.

We started with The 24, the Scouts walked (unsupervised) with their kit to Horley, where they camped overnight & cooked their own meals on camping stoves (they carried those as well). Next day they walked into Banbury to bus back to Deddington.

Aqua camp came next, a weekend of all things water! Sailing, canoeing, kayaking, dragon boating. Always a great camp, even the weather wasn't too bad.



Last camp was One World held at Thame showground, 4000 plus from all the sections across the county. Lots of activities & entertainment and very hot weather.

Coming soon – a night at the museum.

Pete Churchyard S.L.

pete.churchyard@btinternet.com

The Duck Race



Pictured above: Pete Eden encouraging the duck flotilla and Jill (duck) Hopcraft on hottest day of the year!

The overall winner was George Murrey (Arthur and Angela's grandson)

Second was Harry Murrey (another of Arthur and Angela's grandsons)

Seem to remember another Murray (perhaps a different spelling) winning something that day as well!.

The takings for the day were just below £300.00.

A huge 'thank you' to everyone that helped at and came to the event on an extremely hot day.

The money raised helps towards the maintenance of the playground in the village hall (inspections, replacing bark, etc.) and when there was an excess it paid for the goal post in West Close.

Painting and Drawing at the Village Hall

No experience necessary just a desire to draw and paint. Why not give it a try and discover the inner artist in you?

Each structured class will last 2 hours, a range of drawing and painting skills will be taught enabling beginners to gain confidence and those who are more experienced to develop their skills further. Materials and paper will be supplied to introduce each technique.

Drop in Classes cost £8 per class.

Taught by Frances Eason a fully qualified teacher with experience in fine art and textiles teaching.

For details contact: 01295 272607

Email frances2.eason@virgin.net

What's in your green bin?

Over 80% of household waste can be recycled in Cherwell District Councils recycling scheme. However, some residents still have full green bins. So what is going into your green bin?

Nappies – They often take up a lot of space and can smell if not properly wrapped up. However, there are ways to avoid nappy waste. Real nappies have come a long way in the last decade and are now easy to use, cheaper and more environmentally friendly than disposable options. Visit goreal.co.uk for lots of information on Real Nappies.

Food Waste – Despite the food waste service being available lots of food is still going to landfill. All food waste should be going into the brown bin. It is easy to do and saves more CO2 from going to landfill than any other type of waste. All cooked and uncooked food can go in the brown bin, bones, meat, cheese along with the standard vegetable peelings can all be recycled in the brown bin.

Plastic bags and films – with all those hard plastic containers being recycled you might find lots of plastic bags, liners, films and other flimsy plastics in your green bin. They can be recycled though, just at the supermarket rather than at home. Most major supermarkets accept plastic bags, liners and films at the stores for recycling. So save yours up and on your next trip you can recycle them.

So with all your paper, cardboard, plastic bottles & containers, metal tins, aerosols, drinks cartons, tin foil going in the blue bin, and following the tips above, your green bin should be on its way to empty. If so, you can always swap your large green bin for an easier to store and move 180l bin. Contact www.cherwell.gov.uk or 01295 227003 to have yours swapped over for free.

Andrew Jenkins, Recycling Officer
Cherwell District Council, 01295 221913
Follow us on Twitter [@CherwellRecycle](https://twitter.com/CherwellRecycle)

Rainbow

Garden Services

Growing England, one Garden at a time

We offer a free and friendly consultation in your garden to establish just what you require.

A reliable garden design construction and maintenance service at a competitive rate.

Contact Nick and Mac today for your free no obligation quote

01295 276323
07999 548229

Email: info@rainbowgardenservices.com
www.rainbowgardenservices.com

Bin Sale

To celebrate ten years of our recycling scheme we are offering all residents discounted blue and brown bins.

Now only  **each**

10 years of top notch recycling

Bin Sale 1 July - 31 August
Blue and brown bins are being sold for £10 including delivery (saving at least £5).

Order now:

- online at cherwell.gov.uk/recycling
- or call 01295 227003

Hurry
Offer ends 31 August



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

Deddington PFSU and Village Nursery

We spent the last few weeks of the summer term preparing the children for their moves up to the PFSU and to school. We wish everyone good luck in September! The PFSU children visited the Deddington allotments where they saw different fruits and vegetables growing and were able to feed some hens. We also celebrated the end of their pre-school career with a party to send everyone on their way. Thank you to all the organisers and supporters of the Sixties night, held at the Windmill Centre on 13th July. Over £4500 was raised which is absolutely brilliant! Summer holiday club continues over the summer holiday and the children will be having fun finding out about pirates, magic and under the sea.

Lucy Squires
(01869) 338442





In the run up to the opening of Oxfordshire's newest museum, The Soldiers of Oxfordshire are giving you a little taster of what you can expect to see in the new galleries. SOFO are showcasing some of their collection at The Oxfordshire Museum at Woodstock. From War Horses, Prisoners of War to the secret work of the FANY you can experience what the new museum will have on offer

The First Aid Nursing Yeomanry, (the FANY), was formed in 1907 as a corps of volunteer female nurses who would ride onto the battlefield on horseback to pick up wounded men and carry them to the Regimental Aid Post.

In WWI the FANY drove motor ambulances and organised privately-funded military hospitals, canteens and soup kitchens in Belgium and France. In the era of the Suffragettes the Corps attracted powerful and well-connected women and in spite of male opposition to women in the war zone, established a formidable reputation for determination, resourcefulness and bravery. 17 FANY were decorated with the Military Medal.

At the outset of WWII the FANY provided the instructors and the initial recruits to the Auxiliary Territorial Service (Womens') Motor Transport Companies. Later, they also provided the administrative staff, drivers, wireless operators and cipher clerks for the secret training schools and radio stations of the Special Operations Executive in the UK and abroad. They were trained in SOE establishments in Oxfordshire and many served in three special wireless stations near Bicester working with agents in occupied Europe. A special detachment of the FANY supported the Polish Forces. Several FANY were sent as secret agents into France to serve as radio operators and couriers. Twelve died in concentration camps; three were awarded the George Cross.

Today the FANY continues as an exclusively female part-time unit providing civil and military communications, language skills and drivers. The Commandant in Chief is HRH The Princess Royal and today the Corps is known as the FANY (The Princess Royal Volunteer Corps).

The museum is continuing its work behind the scenes on the galleries ready for the grand opening next year. If you were in the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry or have a story about them to tell we would love to hear from you. Please contact the Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum on 01993 813 832 or email admin@sofo.org.uk

Sivananda Vedanta Yoga.
Group classes. Private tuition.
Beginners. Intermediate
Gentle yoga for mind, body & spirit.
01295 780309 jbadger2011@btinternet.com

BEGINNERS CLASSES

Barford Village Hall

Tuesday 20th August

Tuesday 27th August

From 7.45 p.m to 9.15 p.m

£10 per session (90 mins)

All welcome. No experience needed.

Please bring own yoga mat or blanket or towel to lie on. Bring a second blanket or towel to cover self during relaxation and bring cushion to sit on.



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.



MONITORING FAIRNESS AND RESPECT FOR PEOPLE IN CUSTODY

THE INDEPENDENT PRISONS MONITOR - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT HM PRISON BULLINGDON

Here's an offer you don't see every day – the chance to monitor the standards in your local prison. We are currently looking for new volunteers to join the Independent Monitoring Board (IMB) within HM Prison Bullingdon, Patrick Haugh Road, Arncott, near Bicester, OX25 1WD helping to ensure that proper standards of care and decency are maintained. HMP Bullingdon is a male Prison accommodating up to 1114 prisoners.

Please visit www.justice.gov.uk/about/imb to find out how being an IMB Member can benefit you.

An application pack along with further details on how to apply is available by downloading a copy from <http://www.justice.gov.uk/jobs/independent-monitoring-board>. Alternatively, please telephone 020 7035 2261, providing your name and address and we will post one to you.

Completed applications should be emailed to IMBrecruitment@justice.gsi.gov.uk or posted to IMB Secretariat, 2nd Floor, Ashley House, 2 Monck Street, London, SW1P 2BQ by the closing date of 31st July 2013.

Please quote campaign reference **34/Bullingdon/2013** on all correspondence and forms.

The Banbury Rural NAG Survey Results:

The Neighbourhood team launched an online survey for the rural community around Banbury. The aim was to seek opinions in identifying the top three local priorities that most affect the neighbourhood, to help us to focus our resources and expertise when dealing with any issues. Following the survey, the top three local community priorities are:

1. Speeding/Road Safety/Parking
2. Burglary/Theft
3. Anti-Social Behaviour

If you would like more information or would like to get involved, please contact Sgt 6600 Richard Miller to discuss.

Crime News:

Theft of Catalytic Converters across the area. A number have been stolen from vehicles parked in villages. The latest being stolen in Adderbury and Bloxham. Thieves cut off entire exhaust pipes and later cut open the Catalytic Converters to retrieve the precious metal inside. The metal carries a high value and thieves are well organised taking just a couple of minutes to steal the exhaust. Particular targets are 4 x 4's which higher ground clearance and easier for offenders to lie underneath. Take care where you park your vehicles when unattended. Perhaps block your vehicle in so that people cannot get underneath it or use your garage if you have one. Park vehicles in areas which are likely to be overseen by neighbours and report anyone acting suspiciously as soon as possible on 101 or 999 in an emergency.

Crime Prevention:

Number plate theft is on the increase with thousands stolen nationally every year. Stolen allow people to get away with several offences, including:

- Driving away from petrol stations without paying ('bilking').
- Dodging the London congestion charge.
- Evading speed camera fines.

Report the loss of your number plates to the police as soon as possible. Call 101, the 24-hour. If the crime is in progress, call 999. It is an offence to drive a car without number plates,

Fit theft-proof screws or special number plates to your vehicle. 'Clutch head' screws are cheap and specially-designed to be virtually impossible to remove once they've been fitted. For more information, visit: <http://www.secureplate.com/>. We recommend that you contact your vehicle's manufacturer and seek warranty advice before fitting.

BanburyRuralNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk you can call us on 101 our non-emergency number. Please dial 999 in an emergency.

Computer Hackers Strike In Barford

Several Barford residents have been victim to computer hackers who have 'got into' their computers, and taken details from their email address books. They then sent bogus pleas for



money to all the email contacts, usually pretending to be stranded abroad without money. At the same time they 'trash' the hacked computer, deleting/corrupting files.

Viruses and spam-bots are now designed to go through mail files and address books looking for potential addresses. Sending a single message individually addressed to a large list of people in the '**To**' field increases the chances that they all will be spammed or sent a virus should any one of them get infected. The **To**: field is not the only place to put an addressee. Two more fields **Cc**: and **Bcc**, accept recipients and are particularly useful when **sending an Email to Multiple Recipients** -

"**Cc**" is short for "carbon copy". An email is sent to the person in the **To**: field, of course. A verbatim copy of the message is also sent to all the addresses listed in the **Cc**: field, though. To enter more than one address in the **Cc**: field, separate them with commas. **The Shortcomings of Cc**: When you send a message to more than one address using the **Cc**: field, both the original recipient and **all** the recipients of the carbon copies see the **To**: and **Cc**: fields **including all the addresses in them**. This means that every recipient gets to know the email addresses of all the persons that received your message. Many people do not like their email address exposed to the public.

Bcc: — Blind Carbon Copy - The difference is that neither the **Bcc**: field itself nor the email addresses in it appear in any of the copies (and not in the message sent to the person in the **To**: field either). The only recipient address that will be visible to all recipients is the one in the **To**: field. So, to keep maximum anonymity you can put your **own address** in the **To**: field and use **Bcc**: exclusively to address your message.

Bcc: lets you send a newsletter, too, or send a message to "undisclosed recipients".

BARFORD VILLAGE SHOW SCHEDULE
SATURDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2013

Vegetable & Fruit Classes

1	Three Beetroot, with tops cut to 10cms (4ins) approx.	
2	Three Carrots, long, with tops cut to 10cms (4ins) approx.	
3	Three Courgettes	
4	Three Onions	
5	Five Shallots	
6	Three Potatoes of one variety	
7	Three Runner Beans with stalks	
8	Five French Beans with stalks	
9	Five Cherry Tomatoes	
10	Three Round Tomatoes	
11	A Cucumber, house or frame	
12	A Pair of Vegetables (same variety) not in other classes	
13	Five Single Assorted Vegetables	
14	Largest Marrow	
15	Three Apples of one variety, eating or cooking	
16	Dish of one variety of soft or stoned fruit	
17	Adult Fun Class: A Vegetable Animal	

Cookery Classes

18	Six Flapjack pieces	
19	Four Cheese Scones	
20	Six Chocolate Brownies	
21	A Victoria Sponge Sandwich, Raspberry jam, no Cream	
22	A Family sized Apple Pie	
23	A Ginger Cake (men only) Recipe in Barford News	
24	A Jar of Jam	
25	A Jar of Marmalade	
26	A small pot of Lemon Curd	
27	A Jar of Chutney	
28	Sloe Gin (decanted into small bottle)	

Flower Arranging Classes

29	An arrangement in a gravy boat	
30	An arrangement with herbs	
31	A miniature arrangement 10cms (4ins) overall	
32	An arrangement for Harvest (max 12" w x 18" h)	

Cut Flower Classes

33	A single Gladiolus	
34	A sunflower in a vase	
35	Three Dahlias	
36	Three Roses	
37	Four Marigolds (one variety)	
38	Four Fuchsia heads in a saucer of water	
39	Six stems of Sweet Peas	
40	Vase of mixed garden flowers, 6 varieties, (max 18 stems, no oasis)	

Crafts

(NB Crafts must not have been entered previously in the Show)

41	A Handmade Toy	
42	A Handmade Cushion	
43	A hand knitted or crocheted article	
44	A piece of needlecraft (embroidery, tapestry, patchwork, cross-stitch)	
45	You Made It, Let's See It (Handmade article not covered in other classes)	
46	Drawing or Painting: any subject, any medium (mount or frame optional)	

Photography

(13cm x 18cm or 5" x 7")

47	A Child/Children at Play	
48	Barford Weather	
49	A Chair	
50	A Holiday View	

Children's Classes

7 Years and Under (age to be stated on all entries)

51	A Colouring Picture (available from the Post Office)	
52	A Handmade Mask	
53	Four Rock Cakes	
54	A Vegetable Animal	
55	You Made It, Let's See It (Handmade article not covered in other classes)	

8 - 15 Years (age to be stated on all entries)

56	A photograph (Any Subject, 13cm x 18cm or 5" x 7")	
57	4 Decorated Cupcakes	
58	An Illustrated Map of the Barfords	
59	A drawing or painting (any subject, any medium)	
60	You Made It, Let's See It (Handmade article not covered in other classes)	

NATURE NOTES 118

IN LAST NATURE NOTES I wondered whether conditions would improve and rise above the 20° temperature mark. Well, they did, but it was well into July before that happened! Anyway, we'll get to that later, so let's go back to mid-June.



As I was concluding those *N. Notes* on the 15th, Bas Butler was watching a pair of Hobbies performing aeronautics around the allotments, and Ian Hobday was watching twelve Lapwings in the field where 'our' Lapwing pair had bred. I'm convinced this flock collected the family and they all went off to pastures new.

Next day was overcast with increasing turbulence at cloud level on a SSW breeze. Temperature peaked at 18° and rain set in from late afternoon. In the morning however, I was carrying out a breeding bird survey around St. John and watched a pair of Buzzards warn off a pair of Sparrowhawks from their breeding territory. There were good numbers of Whitethroats and two lesser Whitethroats singing. Blue Tits were doing well and – gardeners beware! – there were large numbers of fledged Jackdaws flexing their wings! Amongst Great Tits however, plus Robins, Wrens and Dunnocks, numbers were very low. Nevertheless, to boost spirits again a pair of English Partridges peeped out of the grass along Bloxham road.

On the 18th, Sylvia Butler listened to a Tawny Owl 'kewick'ing on The Green at St. Michael between 2 and 3am. This is good news, because many failed through that awful winter/spring.

High Pressure to SW now pushed a finger over the U.K. raising the temperatures from the 20° mark to 27° (day) 14.5° (night) on the 19th.

Coenagrion virgo, the star damselfly of the R. Swere and the attractive day-flying Burnet Companion moth were to be seen in meadow land and I found their abundance surprising.

On the 20th I counted 65 juvenile Starlings on the overhead wires in Townsend. They were sublimely unconcerned at the sight of a Buzzard flying from Hornhill to Hempton. By the 22nd Low Pressure regained control and temperatures returned to 18° – 19° and, once again, a female Hen Harrier appeared west of the parish.

There were heavy daytime showers on the 23rd, but, being the shortest night of the year and with a full moon on one of its closest approaches to Earth, it was a very light night, in fact, it hardly got dark at all!

The next five days became stuck at around 19° despite a HP extension of the Azores anticyclone in our direction. However, the night of the 24th dropped to 6°, whilst on the 25th, the day rose to 23°. A cool NW breeze dominated and the sky was clothed with heavy haze. All Nature seemed very subdued and there were almost no butterflies on the wing. There were also very few bees or hoverflies. Bas Butler however was happily reunited with his Warren Farm Little Owl and Mike Budd was delighted by a family of Bullfinches in his garden on the 27th.

Gentle, steady rain commenced about 3.30pm on the 27th, continuing as drizzle throughout the night and well into the 28th. This seemed to instil action into some wildlife. A Green Woodpecker became noisy below Steepness, as did a pair of Great-spotted Woodpeckers and their family. This wasn't helped later on, by a Raven croaking on Steepness and then flying off over Horn Hill.

There was now a sudden burst of heat with fierce sun on high humidity through the afternoon of the 29th – very unpleasant!

A pretty pink sunrise greeted the 30th and a warm, but pleasant summer's day followed. A cooling W breeze held the temperature at 26°. In the afternoon, Bas counted five Red Kites soaring between St. Michael and Turnpike junction to the A361.

Then, through the gloaming, June disappeared in the cool of night, for another year.

A series of cold fronts was moving down from NW as July made its entrance. Despite high haze and light cloud, it was a sunny day with a cool NW breeze. It became overcast by 4pm with a max. of 20.5° falling to 7° at night.

A Shepherd's Warning sunrise on the 2nd quickly became overcast on a chilly breeze. A Great-spotted Woodpecker flew about Townsend around 8am, 'keck'ing as it did so, then it was showery from late morning onward and overnight.

By the 5th the cold fronts had passed and a big HP area stood over England. The wind was backing SW and a very warm sun brought the thermometer up to 28°, although the night dropped to 8°.

Ever since the end of June a Garden Warbler had sung beautifully and almost incessantly, from a roadside hedge bottom below Hempton Hills. Probably into his second brood, the warbler surpassed himself in the fierce 31° heat of the 6th, singing from dawn until a little before sunset!

HP was now well embedded over England and temperatures continued to rise (we must be basking in one heck of a loop of the Jet Stream!).

By the 10th the wind had veered to NE, keeping a refreshing touch to the high temperatures. Having seen their first brood of three safely away (what took them so long? They arrived on the 21st of April!) 'my' House Martins had now settled into their second brood. Two Chiffchaffs competed by briefly singing half-heartedly on Hempton Hills. This, I think, points to their dispersal after completing their nesting period, and now going out of breeding condition.

Hay making has started and what a joy to see – and *smell* – proper hay being made once more, in many places. Mown, turned while it makes over time, then baled, instead of being chewed-up and crammed into heavy grade cling-film all on the same day. Ah well, I suppose that has its place, especially in poor weather. But, of course, mowing attracts the Kites, who love to prey on whatever runs out of the standing sward before the mower – or lies dead after the mower!

The 12th saw the temperature rise to 28.5° despite the deliciously cool NE breeze. A Green Woodpecker called from the shade of the trees below Steepness and the Garden Warbler sang from his dense hedge bottom.

However, so far I suppose, it will be the 13th that lives on in memory of the 33°C (91.4°F) heat of the afternoon. Yes, the Met. Service pronounced a highest for the year so far of 31° on the 13th. But they haven't got a thermometer in our hollow at Barford – and I say whatever makes a frost-hollow also makes a heat-trap!

Now, as I write these *Nature Notes* on the 14th, the grass is full of Ringlet and Meadow Brown butterflies. There are Small and Large Skippers, Small Tortoiseshells are plentiful, and the Gatekeepers are just getting airborne. And those beautiful day-flying moths, the black and scarlet Burnets, are looking for vetches and other trefoils on which to lay their eggs. All are insects that we were so concerned for through the awful previous 16 months or more. Wonderful!

Now as the air cools, there are still thermals for a Buzzard to exploit – and he does, over Steepness. The Crows try to harry him, but it's too hot for them and he climbs ever higher.

The weather man says there is no end as yet in sight for this hot spell. I wonder how I shall be able to respond next month!

Ron Knight

Village Show – Cake Recipe For Men

Gingercake with Lemon Icing

For the cake

75g unsalted butter
60g dark brown sugar
100g golden syrup
100g black treacle
1 heaped teaspoon ground ginger
½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
125ml milk
1 large egg, beaten to mix
½ teaspoon bicarbonate of soda, dissolved in 1
tablespoon warm water
150g plain flour

You will need a lined and greased average size loaf tin

For the icing

1 tablespoon lemon juice
175g icing sugar, sieved
1 tablespoon warm water

Preheat oven to 170C/gas mark 3

In a saucepan, melt the butter along with the sugar, golden syrup, treacle, ginger and cinnamon. Off the heat, add the milk, eggs and bicarbonate of soda in its water.

Measure the flour out into a bowl and pour in the liquid ingredients, beating until well mixed (it will be a very liquid batter). Pour it into the tin and bake for approximately ¾ hour until risen and firm. Be careful not to overcook it, as it is nicer a little stickier, and anyway will carry on cooking as it cools.

When the cake is cool, get on with the icing. Whisk the lemon juice into the icing sugar first, then gradually add the water. You want a good, thick icing, so go cautiously and be prepared not to add all the water. Spread over the cooled gingerbread with a palette knife, and leave to set.

*“JOIN - US “ BREAKFAST
COMMUNITY EVENT
Full English Buffet style Breakfast
including Tea and Coffee
to be held at The Joiners Arms
Old Bridge Road Bloxham
From 9am to 11am on 31st August
and the last Saturday of each month
See you there
in aid of St. Marys Church
Building our Future Project.
Cost £6.00 per person*

The Oxfordshire Woodfuel Programme

has launched a woodfuel standard, OxLogs, which aims to improve woodfuel quality in Oxfordshire, and counter the uncertainty of what is meant by 'a load of seasoned wood'. OxLogs suppliers will specify the volume, moisture content, type of wood (hard or soft) and length of the wood. When you buy logs, ask for OxLogs!

If you own a woodfuel boiler – chip, pellet, log batch or wood burning stove with back boiler – please fill out a short survey at www.surveymonkey.com/s/9SZBD9T? The results will help others who are thinking about installing similar boilers.

If you own a woodland that needs managing, or are interested in working outside in return for logs, do join the programme's Logs for Labour scheme as either a 'log offer' or a 'labour offer'.

The woodfuel programme will have a stall at the Botley 'not the Jubilee' festival on 13 July; the Elder Stubbs festival on 17 August; and the Wychwood Fair on 1 September. Do come along!

For more information on any of these please see www.oxonwoodfuel.org.uk.

(information supplied by our Parish Clerk)



Sandford St. Martin Cricket Club Fixtures



Date	Opponents	Venue
1st XI – Division 2		
Aug 3	Bledlow Ridge	Home
10	Banbury III	Away
17	Oxford Downs II	Home
24	Cublington	Away
31	Bicester & N. Oxford	Home
2nd XI – Division 6		
Aug 3	Banbury IV	Away
10	Oxford & Bletch Ns II	Home
17	Didcot II	Away
24	Bledlow Ridge II	Home
31	Bledlow Village II	Away
Sunday Fixtures		
Aug 4	Chipping Norton	Home
11	Headington Quarry	Home
18	S.O.A. U17s (Ground Hire)	Home
25	Tbc	Home
Midweek Fixtures		
Aug 8	South Oxford Amateurs	Home

POST CROPREY CHILEOUT

GEORGE INN, BARFORD ST MICHAEL
MONDAY 12TH AUGUST

FREEWAY JAM

ROCKS THE GEORGE
NOT TO BE MISSED!