

BARFORD NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2013
www.barfordnews.co.uk Price 30p where sold

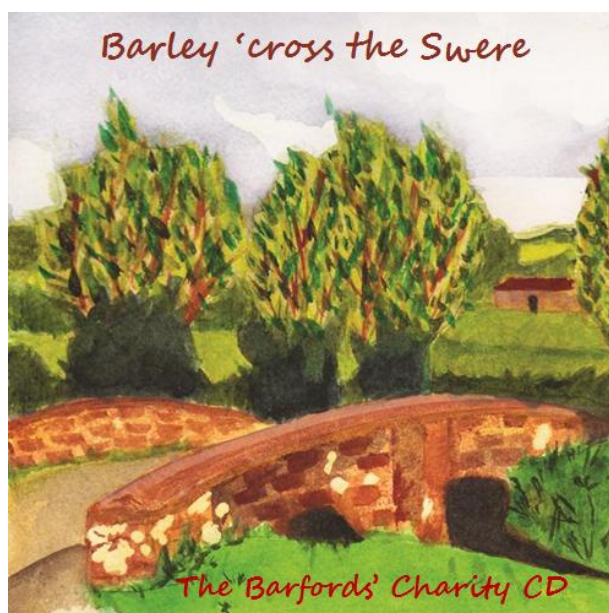
BARLEY 'CROSS THE SWERE CONCERT

Saturday 28th September at 7:30pm

in St Michael's Church

Join us for an evening of music and entertainment with many of the musicians that made last year's concert such a success. We are planning to add a surprise or two as well!

There is no charge but we hope you will make a generous donation at the end of the concert. We will have programmes and refreshments on sale so don't forget to bring a bit extra for these! All the money raised will go to the Helpless Children Mothers' Centre in Nepal, Barfords' churches, Shepherds and Bakehouse Charity and the upkeep of the Village Hall.



We will also run a limerick competition, the best of which will be read out on the night and the winner will be decided at the end of the concert.

Some possible opening lines, but you can always devise 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 can enter as many times as you like! Entries & £1s to Tony Elvidge at The Old Post Office, High Street, Barford St Michael by 21st September.

Changes afoot at Deddington Health Centre

This newsletter highlights some of the changes we are planning. We are preparing to change our computer system, on **Thursday September 19th**. There are several implications for patients with this new change.

Booking appointments after 19/9/13: Our appointments system in EMIS Web has to be created from scratch. Please bear with us particularly in the first part of September as we will be using 2 clinical systems, depending on the date of the appointment. This will inevitably make the appointment booking system a bit slower.

Go Live Day of September 19th: We are going to be starting surgeries later on that day, so that we are not working in a rush,. There will be fewer appointments that day to give the doctors and nurses time to familiarise themselves with the new system.

Dispensary : it will be all change in our Dispensary too, Could you please order your repeat medication early (before 19/9/13) if you are due to order around that time. Those people who are on Automatic Repeat medication will have that medication prepared and ready in advance without needing to request it. And it may take longer to issue medication for the first week or two.

Hopefully, with your help, the process of the changeover will be a smooth one and our patients will feel the benefit too.

Retirement of our Dispenser Ms Jane Brown

Our Dispenser Jane Brown, who is the longest serving staff member at the surgery is retiring in September after 39 years with us. We are grateful for all her hard work over those years, and we are sure you will join with us in wishing her a long and happy retirement.

More Alterations!

New Automatic Patient Check in Screen

Our automatic way of checking in for an appointment has been updated. Both the screen and the software are new, easier to use and more reliable. So do use our automatic check in screen. The final screen to touch is one that says "FINISH".

Parking Cars at the Surgery

You may have noticed that we now have white lines at the entrance to our car park – courtesy of Oxford County Council. These white lines denote a "Clearway" : no parking or waiting at any time, day or night for anybody, including disabled badge holders. Clearways are parts of the highway which

must be kept clear at all times for safety reasons. They are there to give drivers leaving the car park a clear view along Earls. So please take regard of these single white lines, and do not park at the entrance to the car park. *Thank you!*

Yellow Fever Vaccine for Travel

Did you know that we are a Yellow Fever Vaccination Centre?. If you are planning a trip to South America, sub-Saharan Africa, & parts of the Caribbean you may require a yellow fever vaccination. Yellow Fever is caused by a virus and spread by infected mosquitoes that carry the virus. There is no medication to treat the illness, so prevention is the main aim by having the vaccination, and, as far as possible, by avoiding mosquitoes.

To find out what vaccinations you need, there is a link to the 'Fit for Travel' website from our website www.deddingtonsurgery.co.uk on the page called 'Travel Abroad'. If you need to have the yellow fever vaccination or any other travel vaccinations, then ring the surgery and book a travel vaccination appointment. The yellow fever vaccination takes 10 days for your body to develop protection against yellow fever, so remember to book early. Once given, it lasts for 10 years. There is a charge for yellow fever vaccination as it is not provided as part of NHS care. Please talk to the Practice Nurse..

Soon be Flu Vaccination Clinic Time Again!

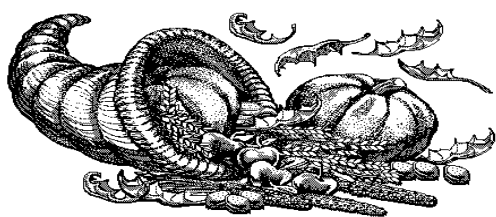
We are starting our annual flu campaign in the last week of September. Saturday morning flu vaccination clinics will start on October 5th 2013.

Those eligible to have a flu jab are :-

- Anyone aged 65 and over on March 31st 2014
- Anyone with a chronic condition eg diabetes, COPD, heart, liver, neurological or kidney disease
- Asthmatics who are on steroid inhalers
- Anyone who is immunosuppressed eg had an organ transplant, or on chemotherapy
- Pregnant women
- Carers in receipt of a carers allowance
- People in residential homes

Please do ensure you fit one of these criteria before ringing to book a jab and that you are not using the basis that 'I had one last year so I will have one this year'.. **Our vaccinations have to be prioritised to these patient groups.** To book a flu jab please contact Reception on 01869 338611 at the beginning of September 2013.

If you need a vaccination as part of your work, then you should visit your occupational health department to get this vaccination.



Harvest Festival

Sunday 29th September
4pm
St. Michael's Church

We will be decorating the church for the service from 1030am on Saturday, 28th and would appreciate help with the decorating, and with donations of fruit, veg, eggs, etc., so please do come along and join us if you can!

Or, please leave donations of produce and flowers in the church porch.



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.

Our next service is on
Sunday 8th September



When we will be having fun with playdough, fingerprints and lots of 'creating'.

Fernhill Club News

Our Last meeting in July was a lovely picnic at Avril's home, then off Avril went on a cruise!

The first two weeks in August we played Bingo, then cards. On the 21st we had a meal at the Wobbly Wheel, lovely, as usual.

On 28th we had a game of kurling with Troy, good fun but I don't think we will be winning any medals in the near future!

On September 11th we are having 'Impromptu', a singing group. Why don't you join us for a lovely afternoon, 2.30pm in the village hall.

Mary Ashbridge



Churchyard Matters

Trees

On **Sunday 8th September** there will be a meeting in the churchyard at **11.30 am**. As you will all have noticed the



churchyard is now completely overshadowed by the trees, which takes away from the beauty of our ancient church and makes the inside very gloomy. We would like to trim some trees, perhaps take one or two out and generally open out the whole front aspect of the church.

Would anyone who is interested in improving the churchyard, and particularly those who live close by and therefore are affected by the trees, please come to the meeting so that we can discuss what action needs to be taken.

Parking

A few months ago I asked that the people who park their cars by the wall at the bottom of the churchyard would kindly remove them at the weekend, so that there is room for people to park for weddings, services and for visiting the church. I would be grateful if this could be carried on throughout the year as there have been problems with visiting vicars and organists being unable to park near the church.

Cubby Brett
Churchwarden



SCARECROW COMPETITION RESULTS



A huge thank you to everyone who made a scarecrow for the open gardens 'Summer Assortment' weekend. This was the best competition ever! 17 households entered 19 fantastic scarecrows plus every one of Hazel's Rainbows entered a scary ghostly head to hang in the churchyard (17 in all! – how does she do it??) Because we had so many entries we had 3 categories this year: **Children, Adults and Families**. (maybe even more next year?) Our judges were looking for Moving parts, Sparkly bits, dangling things and generally how effective they were as bird scarers.

Competition winners were:

Children's Competition:

1st Ben & Jonathan Linsey, Robins Close

2nd Bella Munro, Church Street

3rd Ellie Dodwell, Rock Close.

Special Awards: Barford Rainbows; Becca Warner; Amelia Best and Ava

Hardingham.



Family Competition:

1st Holmes Family (displayed at allotments)

2nd Brown family, The Green

3rd Griffin family, Broad Close

Special Awards: Brodey family; Neal family (2 entries!)

Adult Competition:

1st Maggie Eden, Mill Corner

2nd Chris & Gunilla Murray (displayed in hall gardens)

3rd Paul & Petrina Wilson, Horn Hill

Special thanks: The Hardinghams, The Normans and M&C at Stonehaven.





Barford Green Garden Club

Notes From Our Potting Shed

Summer Assortment: This very successful (and very hot) day in July raised more than £1,000 for our village charities. First, and most importantly, big thanks to all those who opened their gardens, having worked so hard through this difficult spring and early summer to have them ready. Visitors were offered a range of gardens with colourful plantings and inspiring design ideas.

The scarecrows were as inventive as ever – see the separate report in this issue, with photos. This year we added competitions for photographs and containers. Photographs were in five categories, and a display of all entries was shown on screen in the Village Hall. The judge, Judie Waldmann, chose the following:

Close-up: Winner, Karen Gardner; **Highly Commended,** Rachel Speight, Karen Gardner and Nina Sperinck.

An interesting view of your garden: Winner, Linda Newbery; **Highly Commended,** Nina Sperinck.

Municipal Planting: Winner, Ted Sperinck; **Highly Commended,** Linda Newbery

People Gardening: Winner, Karen Gardner; **Highly Commended,** Annie Radford and Ted Sperinck.

My favourite place in my Garden: Winner, Maggie Eden; **Highly Commended,** Karen Gardner.

The Container Competition, featuring combinations of vegetables and flowers and/or herbs, produced some splendid and imaginative entries. These were judged by Joan Giannasi, who awarded **first prize** to Sandra Lees for her wheelbarrow full of beautifully co-ordinated purple pansies, mauve and pink herbs and peas and purslane. **Highly Commended** was Anne Beesley's washing-machine drum installation with fine carrots, chives, courgettes, marigolds and self-set campanula.

All those who entered either competition helped to make up a lovely and varied presentation for visitors to enjoy.

Also very popular in the village hall was Jeff Elliot's wonderful display of watercolour paintings of allotment sheds. These were much admired, and quickly snapped up by allotment holders and others. Jeff very generously donated the proceeds to the day's takings. We're eagerly wondering what his next project will be!

The plant stall at Stonehaven raised a record total of more than £300 from the sale of perennials, bedding plants, shrubs, grasses and vegetables. This is the result of months of nurturing from seed and



from plug plants, and is always a great place to find bargains and unusual items.

Thank you again to everyone who contributed to the day's success, whether by baking cakes, serving teas or washing up, donating books and plants, running the plant stall, supervising the parking or helping to clear up afterwards.

Dates for your diary

Monday September 2nd: Talk and demonstration on pruning by Andy Howard. Village hall, 7.30 p.m. Free to members; others £2.

Saturday October 5th: Visit to Waterperry Gardens to look at apples and autumn planting. Meet there at 2 p.m. Entry is £6.50. No reduction for seniors, but children under 16 are admitted free.

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

Tips of the Month:

- Plant spring-flowering bulbs
- Collect and sow seed from perennials and hardy annuals
- Divide herbaceous perennials
- Plant containers with bulbs for indoor displays at Christmas
- Dig up remaining potatoes before slugs get them
- Enjoy your garden!

Till next time - happy gardening.



'Bye for now'
Spade and Fork



JULY 200 CLUB DRAW:

£15.00, No. 175, Jeff Elliott;

£10.00, 85, Lynn Gray;

£5.00, No. 68, Audrey Smith.

The Draw took place at
a Fernhill Club meeting

Barford Village Market

In the Village Hall, 10-12noon

Saturday, 21st September

Artisan Breads, Cheeses & Olives

Home-made Scones, Preserves,

all the usual food and craft stalls

plus one or two new ones!

Ridgway's Farmhouse Ice Cream from Tysoe,

Home grown Plants - Fairtrade items

Cards & gifts - New stalls and traders each month

Not forgetting Tea/Coffee & **Bacon & Egg 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

Would you like to

Make your community
more dementia-friendly?

Get involved and we can help you to:

*I understand
dementia much
better now- and
what we can do
together to help
people affected*

*The informal
nature of the
course made
it easier to
discuss
difficult issues*

- **Start and join** a friendly informal group in your locality
- **Benefit** from six FREE sessions to learn more about dementia
- **Discuss** practical ways to support people in your community affected by dementia
- **Take action** together

Learn:

- More about **signs and symptoms**
- Practical ways to **support** people you know living with **memory loss**
- How to get current and **up to date information** about dementia
- How to create a local dementia **action plan** for your **community**



We need your help to support people to live well with dementia in their own community

To find out more, call Beth Weston at ORCC on
01865 883488 ; email beth.weston@oxonrcc.org.uk

A partnership project supported by NHS South Dementia Challenge Fund



Oxfordshire
Skills
Escalator
Centre
Supporting learning in Oxfordshire

BARFORD PICTURE HOUSE 2013-14

Our new season of 7 films starts in October

OCTOBER 19th...*Les Miserables* 2012
NOVEMBER 16th...*Silver Linings Playbook* 2012
DECEMBER 7th...*Saving Grace* 2000
JANUARY 18th...*Skyfall* 2012
FEBRUARY 15th...*Untouchable* 2011
MARCH 15th ...*The Spirit of '45* 2013
APRIL 19th...*Wadjda*.2013

We have chosen a wide variety of films
all from the last few years.

*There will be an interval in Les Miserables
as it is a long film.*

COME ALONG TO OUR VILLAGE HALL COSY CINEMA
£4 on the door or Season ticket £20 for 7 films

SOFT DRINKS AVAILABLE, BRING OWN ALCOHOL
Doors open at 7.15, films start 7.45
Our films are provided by AgeUk.

Ticket money will go towards the upkeep of the Village Hall
YOU CAN BRING YOUR OWN CHAIRS!
contact Gunilla on 01295 720521

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

Bloxham Village History Club

18th September

The Coming Of The Railway In Oxford

By Liz Woolley

7.30pm Jubilee Hall, Bloxham

Details from Ian Myson
01295 720951, 07801 200403

Congratulations!



To Martin and Rozanna Moore who were married in St. Michael's Church on Saturday, 20th July,

Rugby League World Cup



Congratulations to Austin Lawler and Gwen Van Spijk of Church Street, whose production company 'CUE' in partnership with their sister company Grand Visionary Solution have been commissioned to produce a series of dance events for this year's Rugby League World Cup. The programme will include performances for the Opening Ceremony which takes place in the Millennium Stadium Cardiff on 26th October; for each of the 24 group games; and also for the semi-final at Wembley and Final at Old Trafford. Its going to be an action packed autumn! The Opening ceremony will be broadcast on BBC1.

The Millennium Stadium supplies the perfect backdrop to the tournament showpiece event. The Opening Ceremony gets underway ahead of two world-class matches Australia vs England and Wales vs Italy.

Barford Challenge 2013

As explained in an earlier issue of Barford News, the challenge, this year was called 'back to basics'. This was proposed in an effort to get more Barfordians on their bikes, sadly on that front we failed. We did however, have a core ride of nine cyclists with a fantastic back up team of two. Sky eat your hearts out.

Sunday 14 July was the day set – Now we have ridden through rain, wind, the bitter cold and all three together but never in the soaring temperatures of Sunday.

Challenge 1- What to wear! - We set off at 7.00 am (hopefully not waking up too many Lower Street inhabitants). Our route took us through Sandford, Wootton, Woodstock, Bladon and Yarnton to the canal just before the Pear Tree roundabout, a good ride of 22 miles that took a little over two hours to complete. Here we changed into our walking gear.

Challenge 2 – Exercising a complete change of clothes discreetly, some did some didn't (no names as promised!) - Simon, Sophie and George left us here to ride back to Barford as they had other commitments for the day, but thank you one and all for your cheerfulness and your company. The remainder of the team set off for a 9.5 mile walk through Oxford to Marston.

Challenge 3 – The map reading skills of our walk leader! - Who put YOU in charge (sadly Pete was our back up man and so was unable to lead the walk which was left to his side kick).

Everyone should have known that although I can ride and talk for England that is where my skill ends. As we walked over Magdalen Bridge Jeff asked a passerby, who happened to have two cans of lager in his hand, the way, although slightly unsteady on his feet the gentleman gave us



excellent directions to turn around and go the other way. Unfortunately there was no exchange of currency for his advice and we received, in addition, a smattering of words that not only cannot be repeated but that I could not comprehend (these Southerners with their funny language!)

Despite joining the Walk for Life for a short spell we managed to arrive safely at our destination, 'The Victoria Arms' at Marston at approximately 11.45am after a very hot and long but on the whole good tempered walk. Pete was amazed to see us so early in the day (well he has mapped out several challenges with me, I drive Pete reads the map and gives directions and even then we get lost, something to do with my left being Pete's right)!

Challenge 4 – Getting something to eat. - The pub is set in beautiful grounds on the banks of the river Cherwell and is a popular place to stop for a spot of lunch, provided of course you arrive after they open at 12.00. I got in the queue first which was just as well as after I had placed my order the tills went down (not sure where) and they had to stop serving food. The chips and Chicken sandwich was wonderful and most welcome.

Challenge 5 – Changing again – less of a problem this time as we used the pub facilities. Outfit of the day was modelled by Jeff a real lady killer. - We set off for home at 1.05 pm; a long hot ride back to Barford, Jeff knew the way so no detours this time!

Challenge 6 – Getting up 'Riddal' - For those of you who don't know it's the hill from Hempton down to Duns Tew. A lovely long and very steep downhill, not so good coming the other way especially after a long hot day!! Sarah, John, Tony and Jeff made it to the top under peddle power, I managed half and Emma well!!!

We arrived back in Barford at 3.00pm very hot, tired, but still laughing after a cracking day out in good company doing it 'cos we could.

Thanks to Pete who is always there and Paul Christmas for their support. Thank you to all riders and walkers, particularly the walkers who didn't throw me in the river, or push me under a bus for the many errors in the simple route I made. Planning next year as I write, anyone good at reading a map?

Glynnis.

Banbury Neighbourhood Police Team

THE TEAM HAVE BEEN BUSY over the past month with a wide range of events to cover. The Banbury Steam Rally was a great success and there were no incidents of crime or disorder reported during the two days it took place. This is excellent news considering over 10,000 people attended!

On 14th July our PCSO Tom Bailey attended the Broughton Castle Cycling Festival and ran a Data Tag Bike Register Stall. Due to a recent spate of theft of cycles Tom marked over 100 bikes. We often recover stolen bikes and have great difficulty returning them to the owners. This data tagging means that we can easily identify stolen bike and return them as soon as possible

Following concerns from residents of South Newington a Community Speed Watch took place on Thursday 18th July. Our team work together with volunteers from the community to catch speeding vehicles and issue them with a warning letter should we find that they are driving over the speed limit. Seven vehicles went over the 30 mph speed limit (with the worst offender at 41 mph). Special Constable Ruairidh MacIver also caught speeding vehicles with the radar and these were fined accordingly. We will continue with the Speed Watch in South Newington over the coming months.

After a spate of catalytic converter thefts and with the help of our PCSO Angela Alford two offenders were arrested and numerous converters were recovered. The investigation is still ongoing. This is an excellent example of PCSO's working together with response officers and CID officers to get a great result, Angie is also receiving a commendation this month which reflects her hard work and dedication.

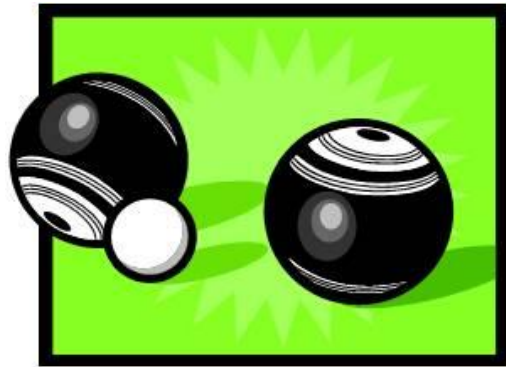
PC 7507 Jen Culley

Thank you!

To the lady from High Street
who donated £10.00

also to the couple
Who found £10.00 in the street
and donated that
To
Barford News funds

Carpet Bowls Re-Starts



Tuesday 17th September
7.15pm
In the Village Hall
Don't be shy
Come along and give it a try!

Festival fans recycle four tonnes of glass

Revellers at this year's Fairport's Cropredy Convention recycled four tonnes of glass during the three-day festival - equivalent to the weight of four small cars.

Cherwell District Council distributed 134 glass recycling bins around Oxfordshire's biggest music festival, which collected four tonnes of glass between 8 and 10 August.

The provision of the glass recycling bins came with the support of Grundon Waste Management, which provided the overall facilities for general waste and other recyclable materials.

Cllr Nigel Morris, Cherwell's lead member for clean and green, said: "Grundon did a fantastic job of providing recycling opportunities for materials such as paper and plastic but we didn't want to overlook the opportunity to recycle glass as well.

"Festival goers have been brilliant at making use of our specialist bins and ensuring items which can be recycled are kept out of landfill. The huge amount of glass collected is proof that people in Cherwell are keen to 'do their bit' for the environment wherever and whenever they can."

Cherwell staff dropped off the glass recycling bins prior to the festival beginning and collected them after the event.

This year's festival was headlined by rockstar Alice Cooper and featured acts including 10CC, The Levellers and Nik Kershaw before it was closed by folk legends Fairport Convention themselves. Up to 20,000 people attended.

Cherwell now has over 100 bring bank sites across the district where residents can recycle their glass. For details on the nearest bank visit www.cherwell.gov.uk/recycling

Down on the farm

Because of the late season August was surprisingly lacking in things to do. We desiccated the rape and planted two fields with turnips to provide winter keep for the sheep and weaned the lambs but aside from routine chores that was that until, finally, we came to harvest.

Surprisingly despite reports of poor yields for oilseed rape the price has slumped. So it looks like being a 'double whammy' unless it picks up again before we sell.



The pigs have been making good use of the wallows we made for them this hot weather. A coating of mud keeps the sunburn away - they love it!

At a loose end early in the month I took the opportunity during a thunderstorm to go to the farm office and examine the bulging contents of its in-tray. Here amongst several things overdue for attention I came across two reminders from DEFRA that I had not yet completed and returned their June Census form. The main reason I then discovered was that I had not been sent one in the first place. However both reminders carried a banner telling me the easy way to complete the form was to go on line.

Having done so I spent the next hour and a half laboriously keying in everything about the farm, its livestock, cropping, workforce, even how much I pay my wife (good sense of humour these DEFRA people). Finally, after numerous pages and painstaking research I came to the end and with it a box that said 'enter your password'. Password, what password? I never had one and why on earth do they need one to be sent a form. Nevertheless without it the computer flatly refused to send my labours anywhere.

Having pressed its delete button I rang the DEFRA help line. Three days and fifteen calls (I counted them) later the Daleks who had been telling me that everyone was busy playing cards and drinking tea were replaced by a human being who turned out to be very pleasant and promised to send a form to fill in by hand.

It arrived two days later and I completed it in black biro (the form actually says black ink - which part of history do these people live?) and posted it back the same day. Since then I have had two more reminders so clearly I am now firmly on the computer's list of people on which to routinely spend postage money.

Paperwork and forms are the bane of every farmer's life and I know this is not exclusive to agriculture. Most forms duplicate information already handed over to different departments and many are increasingly seeking information of a personal nature. The thing that (almost) amused me about the June Census form was that at the top it said I was selected to provide the information, as though this was a rare privilege, but lower down it warned of dire consequences if I failed to do so.

Ah, the postman has arrived bearing if I am not mistaken another reminder; or perhaps this time a letter telling me the boys are coming round to load the farm on a lorry and take it away.

PS

It actually turned out to be a form from the Environment Agency to 'Register your new Agricultural Waste Exemptions'. In other words its completion allows me to have a muck heap. I am being serious.

Tony Collier, IronDown Farm

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:-

- 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.

Open Gardens Accounts

Entry tickets	£384 (96 Adults)
plants	£320.35,
teas	£177.17,
photo comp.& containers	£32.50,
books	£40.05 (for Church funds)
Jeff's pictures	£146.50.
Income:	£1,100.57
Total Less books of £40.05	£1,060.52

Expenditure

Rosettes	£33.76
Hire of Hall	£12.00
Total	£1014.76

Distribution

Church	£255.60
	(+ £40.05 from Books)
Barford News	£153.23
Senior Cits Lunch	£64.21
Fernhill Club	£41.96
Playground Cttee	£99.82
Shepherds & Bakehouse	£148.78
Village Hall	£251.16
	£1014.76 (£1,054.81)

Courgette cake

(Not to be confused with Village Show cake recipe - This cake was served at a Thursday cuppa morning last month and Christine was asked to publish the recipe)

225g plain wholemeal flour

2tsp baking powder

1tsp bicarb of soda

1tsp salt

225g soft brown sugar

50g sultanas

25g walnuts (optional)

175g ripe bananas, mashed

3 large eggs (beaten)

225g grated courgette (no need to peel)

150ml sunflower or olive oil

Sift flour, baking powder, bicarb of soda and salt into a large bowl.

Add sugar, sultanas and nuts. Mix well.

Add mashed bananas, beaten eggs, courgettes and oil.

Beat mixture thoroughly for 1 minute (it will be slightly lumpy).

Butter and line a 9in cake tin, or large loaf tin. Put mixture into tin and bake for 1 hour at gas mark 4, 350°F / 175°C until a skewer comes out clean from the centre of the cake.

Christine Hall

From The Fire Station

JULY HAS BEEN a much quieter month with 13 call outs, which is exactly half the amount of calls that we had in June.



The summer is now upon us and it really is turning out to be unusually warm. We have been called out to several incidents where if people had taken a little more care, they would have been totally avoided. We were called to a field fire at Somerton lock where people had lit a portable barbeque straight onto the grass. I'm afraid this has not been an isolated event. We were also called to a muck heap fire on a farm which was caused by discarded cigarettes. We have to try to be mindful of all the dangers around us at this time of year with all the crops that are being harvested, it takes thousands of pounds in diesel, seeds and fertilisers and months of hard work to produce our food and it only takes one discarded cigarette or a badly sited barbeque to destroy that. We are also very concerned about the growing use of Chinese lanterns and the only advice we give on these is "Do Not Use Them". Our environment is far too flammable to have flying fires!

The heat has also started taking effect in other ways too. We were called to some cylinders that were venting off due to the heat, fortunately these were Co2 and venting into the open they were easily made safe. Cylinder must never be left in direct sunlight. We also attended Hopcrofts Holt service station where a vintage car had leaked sixty litres of petrol onto the forecourt. This was a major concern to the environment and the risk of fire which would have quickly escalated into a major incident but with the help of our specialist environmental protection unit we managed to clean it up without further incident.

Deddington is a community fire station and we do lots of extra activities for clubs and groups which help to educate our children to be safe whilst also having some fun. If you would like to bring your group to the fire station you can contact us on 01869338281 and leave a message and someone will contact you to arrange your visit.

Crew Manger Tim Parke,
Deddington Fire Station

Show Number:

No of Entries:

Name:

Age (15 or under)

Vegetable & Fruit Classes

		V
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	V
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)	

Please hand in a completed form with
your entries on Show Day morning
Last Entries accepted at 10.15am

Show Number:

No of Entries:

Name: _____ Age (15 or under) _____

Vegetable & Fruit Classes

	V
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

	V
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)

Please hand in a completed form with
your entries on Show Day morning
Last Entries accepted at 10.15am

A MURDER IN BARFORD ST JOHN - in 1871

I have been researching my family tree for some time and I have a friend in Middleton Cheney who is on the same trail and we send each other any bits of information that we come across that are relevant to the family. Recently she sent me an email and had attached an item from The Times dated 6th July 1871 and the heading was 'MURDER NEAR BANBURY'.

I started to read the article and when I realised that it was about a murder in Barford St John, and the name Castle was mentioned, I wanted to know more. In our search we have collected some interesting information and I thought perhaps present day Barford residents might be interested in the sad story that shocked their village 142 years ago.

Thomas Castle was born in 1840, the youngest child of William and Hannah Castle who lived in Barford St John. Thomas's older brother John Castle was married to Joice Tew, and her illegitimate son James Tew became my great grandfather, and so through previous investigations into our family tree, I already had information about the Castle family from census forms and birth, death and marriage registers, but the newspaper article inspired me to look into it further. I found the criminal trial records for July 1871 - and went from there.

In April 1867 Thomas Castle married Margaret Evans, daughter of William and Mary Ann Evans of Barford St Michael. Thomas was an agricultural labourer and Margaret was a milkmaid at Lower Grove Ash Farm. At the beginning of 1870 Margaret had a baby daughter, Sarah Ann, but a few weeks later at the beginning of June, Margaret died leaving Thomas a widower and alone with a tiny baby, so a month or so later he took in a girl called Rachel Busby as his housekeeper and promised to marry her.

Rachel was 24 and came from Boarstall, a small village near Brill in Buckinghamshire. She had an illegitimate son Edward Patrick aged four, who came along with her to Barford St John. After Rachel had lived with Thomas for four months he changed his mind about marrying her and they began to have terrible arguments, usually about the little boy who always seemed to be in the way. Thomas ill treated the child all the time and one day he told him he had no 'victuals' for him and he must go out and beg for it, but the boy played in the street with other children and Thomas beat him with a cane for not begging for his food. Thomas told Rachel that she must get rid of the boy and in desperation, she said she would.

On the 31st May, Rachel told her next door neighbour, Sarah Messenger, that she had sent 'Little Teddy' to stay with an uncle in Tetsworth. She had put him on the train at Aynho station in the charge of the guard and her uncle, William Weston, who worked at Thame railway station had met him from the train. She said she had had a letter from her uncle to say the boy arrived safely. But in fact Rachel was so frightened of what Thomas might do that she had secretly hidden the boy in the cellar under the cottage and kept him there for three days until Thomas went to Deddington on the evening of the 3rd June.

Almost a month later on Monday evening the 26th June, John Calcutt who was a shepherd employed by Mr Francis Sellers in Little Barford, was walking with his dog along the farm road and the dog ran across to a pool in First Hill Ground, a field about 30 yards from the cottages, and started 'sniffing about', so John

Calcutt went to see what it had found. He looked into the pool and saw a child's body half submerged in the water. He went home and told a neighbour, John Plester, who fetched a wheelbarrow and the two men went across to the pool. They pulled the body out of the water and wheeled it, in the barrow, to Mr Seller's barn and left it there and informed the policeman. On the Wednesday an inquest was held at the Crown Inn, owned by John Crofts, next to the church in Barford St John and a post mortem was performed by Edward W Turner, surgeon from Deddington and Wm. W Hyde, surgeon from Bloxham.

Identification was almost impossible, but clothing from the body was recognised by Sarah Messenger who had seen the child playing in the garden next door wearing the brown smock with black braid around the sleeves and also she remembered seeing his mother, Rachel Busby, making it for him. The Superintendent of Police for Banbury and Bloxham, William Whadcoat, described how the child had been found bundled up in a large calico apron with the four corners knotted together and a large stone, 9lbs in weight, had been tied to the back, before he was drowned in the pool. In the evening of the same day as the inquest, 28th June 1871, little Edward Patrick Busby was buried in the churchyard at Barford St John.

When she was questioned by the policeman Rachel said Edward was with her uncle and she had a letter to prove it, but when spoken to by the police the uncle denied seeing the boy at all and had not written the letter, as he could not write and no one had written for him.



Rachel Busby and Thomas Castle were both charged with murder, and on the 6th July 1871 they went on trial at Oxford Assizes. Thomas was acquitted, as he was at Deddington on 3rd June, the evening of the murder, and knew nothing about it. Rachel was too ill to attend the trial, but had already confessed and made a statement to the fact that she had done it alone. She said, *"I was drove to it. It grieved me to see the child always in the way and being knocked about, till it was bruised from its foot to its head. I did it to put the poor little thing out of its misery"*. The newspaper article claimed, *'Great indignation is felt against the prisoners'*.

Rachel received the death sentence, but it was later commuted to penal servitude for life. She was sent to Knaphill Prison for female convicts in Woking. According to the notes on her prison record, she was only 4'11" tall and had light brown hair and grey eyes and had 'a diseased right foot'. Her job in prison was 'brush making'. After three years at Knaphill she was removed to Fulham Female Convicts Prison where the women were trained in laundry and other domestic duties. Rachel behaved very well and became matron at the convalescent home attached to the prison. The photo of her was taken when she arrived at Fulham Female Prison.

In February 1883 after twelve years in prison, Rachel Busby was released 'on licence' but she continued to be matron at the convalescent home until she retired at 65 and lived the rest of her life in Guildford and died there at the beginning of 1930 at the age of 84 years.

As for Thomas Castle, in 1872, a year after the murder trial, he was in trouble again and went to prison for six weeks for 'indecent assault'. After 1872 I could find no information about him or his daughter Sarah Ann so as it was possible they had gone abroad. I asked Anne Williams in Adderbury if she could find any information on her overseas ancestry programme. The mystery was solved when she discovered that Thomas had emigrated to Johnson, Missouri, USA and had taken his daughter Sarah Ann with him and on 16th November 1879 he had married a widow named Mrs Belle Hann. She was English but living in America when he met her.

It has been a sad but very interesting project and all because Denise chanced to find that long ago newspaper article and sent a copy to me. When she found other prison notes complete with a photo that was a bonus, as then we could see what Rachel actually looked like. Anne found details for me in old Oxford newspapers of 1871, about the inquest, post mortem and the trial. Thank you to both of them for all the extra information. (Too much to include it all here).

I contacted several people who have lived in Barford for a long time, but none had any knowledge of the murder that happened in their

village 142 years ago or where the pool had been. The passing years have erased the cottages and filled in the pool.

If anyone has any information to add to this story, I would love to hear from them.

Brenda Kirkham

UNICEF

COFFEE MORNING

at

Ashburne, Townsend, Barford St Michael

Monday 2nd September 10.30 am

Everyone welcome

Order your UNICEF cards and gifts

UNICEF is the United Nations Children's
Emergency Fund,
bringing health protection, emergency nutrition
and education
to the neediest of the World's Children

Sandford St. Martin Cricket Club Fixtures		
Date	Opponents	Venue
1st XI – Division 2		
Sept 7 th	Long Marston	Away
2nd XI – Division 6		
Sept 7 th	Brackley	Home
Sunday Fixtures		
Sept 1 st	Hook Norton	Home
8 th	Barton Abbey	Home



Late Summer at Banbury Museum

With four galleries, museum shop, Cafe Quay, stunning position overlooking the Oxford Canal and vibrant temporary exhibition and events programme, Banbury Museum has a wealth of family activities designed to excite and inspire.

Celebrity

Till 7 September Mon – Sat. 10am – 5pm (Bank holidays 10.30am – 4.30pm) Free. Highlights Marilyn Monroe's Little Black Dress, Fred Astaire's shoes, film costumes and props. Film or TV include Emma Thompson, Vanessa Williams, Graham Norton and Christina Ricci

'Art Cart' Action 10.30am - 12.30pm and 2 - 4pm. Saturdays and every day during the Oxfordshire school holidays. Family drop - in activity. Suitable for children aged 4 - 12 years old. £1 per child. Self-service activity.

Celebrity Jumping Jacks Till 7th September Make and take home your very own celebrity jumping jacks.

'Always available during museum opening hours'

'Drawing for All' Cart. Suitable for all ages. Free. Come and be inspired by the museum collections and create your very own masterpiece. Materials and inspiration provided!

'Small Talk' Activity Backpacks. Perfect for children aged 3 - 5 years old. £1 per backpack. Explore the museum with the help of Sally and Simon, our special puppets, and our ever popular themed activity backpacks.

Trails, trails and even more trails... There are lots of museum trails for children including... 'Teddy's Museum Adventure' - Help teddy find all his favourite objects.

'Toy Trail' - Look for all the toys hidden in the museum.

Please buy your trail ticket at the Museum Tourist Information Centre before joining the activity tables. Children under 12 years old must be accompanied by and remain with an adult at all times.

We reserve the right to change or cancel events and activities without prior notice. Check our website before your visit. Banbury Museum is fully accessible with lift access and accessible toilets available.

For more information...

Telephone: 01295 753752

Email: banburymuseum@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

Visit our website www.banburymuseum.org

<http://twitter.com/banburymuseum>

Find us at Facebook

Katharine House News

FESTIVAL OF OPEN GARDENS 2013

We are delighted with the success of our fourth Festival. Nineteen wonderful gardens opened this year from April to July. In total our 2013 Festival raised over £7,000, a magnificent sum, thank you so much to all who attended and of course to our green-fingered supporters. If you are thinking of opening your garden for us in 2014, call Nicky in the Fundraising Office on 01295 812161. Your garden can be minute or massive, all are of interest to a gardener!



CHRISTMAS KNITTED

Summer may be barely over but already our Christmas knitted novelties preparations are well underway! If you would like to knit our mini Christmas puddings, robins and Santa hats please call Fundraising on 01295 812161 for a pattern. Or download from our website at www.khh.org.uk.

PLANT FAIR

Broughton Grange will open its doors one last time this summer to hold an end of season plant sale. Open Friday 6 and Saturday 7 September, between 10am and 4pm a good selection of garden perennials plus light refreshments. Entry to the plant fair is free and the gardens can be viewed as per open days for the usual fee of £6.

CHRISTMAS CARDS AND CALENDAR

Hot from the printers, this year's Christmas cards and calendar are now on sale! Available from all our shops and by mail order choose from a selection of 17 beautiful designs from £3.95 per pack of ten plus pick up a copy of our 2014 calendar for stunning photos right through the year at just £4.50.

Are you following us on Facebook and Twitter?

Our Twitter and Facebook pages are gaining followers and are an excellent way to keep up to the minute with our news, events and lottery winners. Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/katharinehouse and our Twitter you can follow us @khhosp. Come and visit and say hello!

Thank you,

Alison Webber,
Community Fundraiser



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.

NATURE NOTES 119

INDED LAST MONTH'S *NATURE NOTES* wondering how the coming month would behave. Now we know! Aggressive heat – over the span of about 12 days.

Most people revelled in the Mediterranean conditions, but in truth they probably did more harm than good in gardens, to some crops and to some wildlife.

After the extended period of cool, moist conditions through Spring, with stems and foliage moisture laden, many plants became dessicated, scorched and shrivelled, especially the roots. Many were stunted and new foliage and growing points were burned off. Indeed, not a few plants were actually killed.

Similarly, soil animals fled deep into the ground as it dried, cracked and quickly lost any free moisture within the tine depth of a garden fork. This of course meant that such creatures were not available as food for many animals and birds, both babies and adults.

On a lighter note, many butterflies loved the conditions, and several species indulged in a spell of aestivation (the opposite of hibernation) hiding away in cool, dark retreats until the weather softened a little. Then they burst forth in good numbers, with bright colours to delight all that saw them!

So, what about weather detail? I'm sure you remember that searing 33°C (91.4°F) heat of the 13th of July, the last day I described in last *Nature Notes*! The following day produced 31° and many Ringlet, Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper and Small and Large Skipper butterflies were enjoying the Lavender and Marjoram blossom. Likewise, Small Tortoiseshells were plentiful and keen to try the first flowers of the Buddleia. The sub-adult stages of many Grasshoppers were active low in the grass, whilst high in the atmosphere a Buzzard soared away the afternoon above Steepness.

However, a cover of cirro-stratus cloud was approaching from NW after mid-day, cooling the air by late afternoon. As a result the night temperature dropped to only 10°.

A few patches of red cloud at sunrise on the 15th cleared and the day warmed quickly. It was windless, save for a few puffs from a northerly direction, producing intense heat all day and reaching 32°. The 16th was identical, almost windless with weather vanes pointing anywhere between NW and NE. The heat was truly savage throughout the day, reaching 33.5° (92.5°F). This was the highest temperature I recorded, yet the night dropped to no higher than 14°!

Now was the period in which many creatures started to retire into retreats. Butterflies, except the Whites disappeared, and exhausted birds could be seen lying with wings and tail outspread, gasping for air, on surfaces anywhere.

The next three days continued alike, except for a strange three-quarter hour period on the 17th when, at 9.15am, a sudden bout of cool, gusty wind arose from NE, and was then gone as suddenly as it had begun. The temperature trend was downward; 33°, 31°, 28.5°. Then on the 20th the Jet Stream started to move south and the day temperature fell to 23° with a strong breeze from NE. Blessed relief (for some of us!).

On the 21st, Peter and Audrey Turner and myself spent an enjoyable ten minutes watching a Roe doe with two nearly half-grown fawns, gambolling in the meadow, from their garden.

On the 22nd a large Low Pressure area became suspended over the West Country. It was windless, very warm and humid under hazy sunshine (26°). Then, in early evening, thunder storms became active, with steady rain until about 10pm. The night was hot (16°) airless and with very high humidity. The next morning continued in like manner, with thunder storms to the west and north of the Barfords. In late morning, as the storms disappeared toward NE, the temperature started to climb to 30°; this was tempered by a pleasant breeze from due S. The 24th was horribly oppressive and humid, but by mid-afternoon the air became clear with hot sun and Bas Butler came up with the first wildlife observation for a long time – a Great-spotted Woodpecker 'keck'ing, at the allotments!

A clear sunrise greeted the 25th, with a dense heat-mist on the meadows, burning off by 6.45am. It was a windless, hot, humid, oppressive, unpleasant 29°, but a heavy evening dew heralded a cool night of only 9°.

Heat was building by late morning on the 26th when, very slowly, high level cloud came creeping in from SSW, nevertheless the temperature reached 26°. Rain then ensued about 6.45pm, quickly becoming torrential, then easing slowly to steady rain throughout the night – again, blessed relief!

The last five days of the month were cooler – between 23° and 24°, with a variable SW breeze. Bas reported a Red Legged Partridge, with two well grown juveniles, running along the road in the far west of the parish. Great-spotted Woodpeckers became noisy below Steepness and Helen Taylor counted no less than 135 Starlings, many of them juveniles, on chimneys and aials in Church Street!

There were showers on the last three days of the month, thundery on the 29th, continuing through the night. Below Steepness, the Great-spotted Woodpeckers had now been replaced by even more noisy Green Woodpeckers.

The 31st was stormy, warm and humid as July sweated its way into history on a night of 14.5°.

Enter August, breezy, and an overcast quickly burning off by 8am. Heat rapidly rose to become intense and searing by late morning, on a hot S wind, once more reaching 33.5°. A brilliantly clear, starry night, with a good view of the Milky Way followed.

The 2nd was overcast, clearing by late morning, breezy and hot through afternoon (27°) followed by overnight showers.

A SW breeze set in and the next two days and nights were warm (25° and 12°). Regarding the butterflies I noted 'High numbers of Whites; good numbers of all the Browns; better numbers of Small Tortoiseshells and Peacocks than in recent years, many now aestivating. My first Small Copper sighting' (on the Lavender).

I also recorded, in Townsend, a family of six Green Finches. I was very pleased with this because, as I expect many of you have read, this species is suffering a big decline in numbers. Why is not yet fully understood, but is thought largely due to use of insecticides, weed-killer spraying, intensive agriculture, inappropriate hedge trimming and excessive rural 'tidying-up'.

The next ten days (5th to 14th) were firmly fixed between 22° and 24°. Nights were much more variable, running up and down the thermometer with (as far as I could see) no real reason! The 8th was a real 'blip' with a day temperature of 26.5° and night-time at a shivery 4°!

There were showers, then heavy evening rainstorms on the 5th; early morning rain on the 9th; desultory spots of rain on the 13th, and rain showers on the evening of the 14th.

Nature-wise there was little to report, all was quiet and much invisible. I noted on the 6th that a few Blackbird broods were still extant and that the 2nd brood belonging to 'my' House Martins had now hatched and could be heard twittering in whispers from the nest. Many adult birds of most species were now heavily moulting and therefore very quiet and keeping out of sight. On the 9th I noted two Buzzards soaring over St. Michael and calling conversationally; and on the 10th a Buzzard calling and a Green Woodpecker laughing on Steepness.

One of the more exciting sightings was by Ian Hobday and Bas Butler of 60+ Lapwings foraging in a field near the allotments, on the 11th. I wonder if this could be part of the same flock that I watched coming in to roost within a few hundred metres, during last Winter (see *N.N.* 112).

On a different tack, who hasn't now heard of the Perseid Meteor Shower after its publicity on the television, etc? I stepped outside for 15 minutes on the 13th at about 3am – and saw nothing!

Next night I went out at 10.15pm and, looking near the constellation of Andromeda, saw seven meteors in four minutes – I was satisfied!

And my last notes before I close this edition? A Little Owl shouting from the bottom of the Worton road and a Vixen screaming from beyond Fernhill, both on the 13th. Together with the lateness of this year's harvest, could there be a better indication of the turning of the year? Something, I have no doubt, which will be reinforced in next *Nature Notes*!

Ron Knight

ORCC Trading Limited Bulk Oil Scheme Vacancy

CHRISTINE BARTLE, known to oil scheme members as the ever helpful and efficient person on the end of the phone/email, is retiring at the end of the month and will be much missed.

To fill her shoes, ORCC Trading is looking for someone equally methodical – this time on a self-employed basis. The work will normally require 2.5 days per week in the winter and 1.5 days per week in the summer, at £15 per hour.

Full details will appear on the website in the next few days so keep your eyes peeled if you are interested.

www.oxonrcc.org.uk



ORCC

Helping Communities to Help Themselves

Jericho Farm, Worton, Witney, OX29 4SZ

Tel: 01865 883488

Learn about Local Heritage Assets

Nominations are being sought for important and distinctive local heritage assets which are worthy of recognition.



Cherwell District Council is inviting residents and professionals to take part in the Local Heritage Assets workshops which will explain how the community can help identify manmade heritage assets.

Two workshops will take place on 12 September where people can learn how they can nominate local assets to be included on the council's Local Heritage Asset register, previously known as the Local List.

Cllr George Reynolds, deputy leader of Cherwell District Council, said: "Across the district there are various assets which hold significant importance to the local community and it is important they are recognised to help preserve and protect them accordingly.

As part of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which came into force in March last year, local authorities are required to identify heritage assets which are important to the local community. Local assets can include anything from buildings and walls to monuments and manmade landscapes.

The workshops will be held by the council's design and conservation team and will invite members of the community to learn what a local heritage asset is and the process to nominate assets to be included on the register. Those assets which are included will then be given special consideration in the planning process.

The 2 hour event will begin with a short presentation by the council's conservation team followed by a workshop which explains the process of undertaking an assessment. Among the topics for discussion are what is a local heritage asset, how can the community help and what happens next.

To assist with the process, a pro forma being prepared to help people assess the value of the district's heritage assets. Guidance notes on how to use the pro forma will be available to download from the council's website in September.

The two workshops will take place on 12 September at 2.30pm and again at 6.30pm. For more information or to register, call 01295 227006 or e-mail design.conservation.@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

For information on Cherwell's design and conservation team visit www.cherwell.gov.uk/conservation

THE 43rd AND 52nd (OXFORDSHIRE AND BUCKINGHAMSHIRE) LIGHT INFANTRY

Simon Harris, an excellent speaker and the author of a detailed and authoritative wartime history of this famous County Regiment, will talk about the 52nd Light Infantry in the first momentous years of the Great War. Join us for a glass of wine and canapés afterwards



Date: Thursday 5th September 2013

Time: 18.15pm

Edward Brooks Barracks, Abingdon, OX13 6HW. Entry £15

All proceeds to the Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum Project.