

# BARFORD NEWS

OCTOBER 2013

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Price 30p where sold

## Parish Council Notes

The meeting took place at 7.30pm on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2013 at Barford Village Hall and was attended by Cllr Hobbs, Cllr Best, Cllr Bullard, Cllr Eden, Cllr Styles and Cllr Turner. Also attending were District Cllr O'Sullivan and Mrs R Watts (Clerk).

Tony Ecclestone was present and he took individual photographs and a group photograph of the Parish Council. These will be added to the Parish Council website.

**Handrail in Mill Lane:** The handrail on the bridge in Mill Lane is no longer loose. However, the step on the far side is eroded. The Parish Clerk will report the matter to Oxfordshire County Council.

**First Aid Courses/Defibrillator:** Cllr Hobbs recently met Dave England from the South Central Ambulance Service. A defibrillator and security box will cost in the region of £1,300 + VAT. The cost includes familiarisation courses and a course on infant resuscitation. Cllrs unanimously agreed that Cllr Hobbs should seek a formal quotation from Mr England.

**Community First Responders:** Cllr Hobbs also discussed the subject of Community First Responders (CFRS) with Mr England. Community First Responders are volunteers that are trained and equipped by the ambulance service to answer certain types of medical emergencies in their local communities while the ambulance is on its way. There is good evidence to suggest that if people are trained to help someone while the ambulance is on the way, more lives are saved and, because the volunteers operate in their neighbourhoods, there is every possibility they will arrive before the ambulance and these seconds and minutes can make all the difference. The two day training course is free. Ideally, CFRS should have a second defibrillator which would need to be funded by the two villages.

**Salt Bins:** The provision of additional salt bins in the two villages was discussed. It was unanimously agreed that there is no need for more at present.

**Public Participation:** District Cllr O'Sullivan reported that Cherwell District Council sold 1,041 blue and brown re-cycling bins during July and August when the price of £10 per bin was on offer.

## 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](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:

13/00209/TCA Elvidge T1 & T2 x fir – fell, T3 Acer Drumundi – prune back by 30%

### Approved TCA:

13/00167/TCA Laurel Cottage, Church St, St Michael T1 x walnut – fell; T4 x Lawson cypress – fell closest limb to Pear Tree Cottage. Granted 1<sup>st</sup> August 2013

13/00173/TCA Brambles, Lower St, St Michael T1 x willow –fell; T2 x willow – crown thin by 30%; T3, T4, T5, T6 x Hawthorn – fell; T8 x Apple – crown lift to 6 foot; T11 x Leylandii – reduce height to 6 foot; T14 x Leylandii – fell. Granted 1<sup>st</sup> August 2013

### Planning Applications Received:

13/01066/F Clowes, 1 Church Cottages, Church St. Extension to conservatory. No objections

13/00964/F Maddan, Worton Grounds Farm. Creation of new farm access on to B4031. No objections

13/01189/F Lovell, The Oat Barn, Barford St John, conversion of traditional agricultural buildings to form two dwellings. No objections. However, a previous agreement to plant screening seems to have been ignored.

### Planning Applications Withdrawn:

13/00741/CLUP Clowes, 1 Church Cottages, Church St, Barford St Michael. Extension to conservatory

### Planning Applications Approved by Cherwell District Council:

13/01066/F Clowes, 1 Church Cottages, Church St, Barford St Michael. Extension to conservatory. No objections

### 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)

Appeal by Miller Homes – development in Tadmarton Road, Bloxham (60 houses)

#### **FINANCE:**

Cllr Hobbs has written to Barclays Bank to ask for a list of current signatories for the Parish Council accounts.

Cheques are approved and signed at Parish Council meetings and Cllr Hobbs raised the question of the need for three signatories. It was unanimously agreed that two signatories was sufficient.

#### **Any Other Business:**

It was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council should invite a representative from Oxfordshire County Council Education Department to an open meeting early in 2014 to discuss the future need for school places.

Cllr Turner said that the hedge alongside Woodworms Hilton needs cutting back again because it is obscuring the view of traffic coming out of Lower Street. The Parish Clerk will write to Mr Jones.

The Parish Clerk has sent a letter to Oxfordshire County Council regarding their proposals for changes in school bus transport. Copies were sent to County Councillor Fatemian and Sir Tony Baldry MP. Sir Tony Baldry had replied stating that unfortunately this was not a matter that he could help with but one for the local County Councillor to deal with. Unfortunately County Councillor Fatemian has not responded to the letter. The Parish Clerk was asked to write to Councillor Fatemian again inviting a reply. She would also invite him to the monthly Parish Council meetings which he had failed to attend since taking office in May.

Cllr Eden reported that two large Leylandii at the top of Murreys Lane are causing residents some concern because they appear to be dangerous. The Parish Clerk will write to Oxfordshire County Council Highways in the first instance to enquire whether or not the trees belong to them or whether the trees are privately owned.

Cllr Hobbs reminded Cllrs that the budget for 2014-2015 needs to be set at the November meeting.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.46 pm.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> October 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.

#### **Church fete**

What a wonderful result this year! We made a record amount of £2,600 and had a really successful day. Many thanks to all of you who helped out: putting up gazebos, collecting donations around the village, manning the stalls on the day and clearing up afterwards. And we were lucky this year that the weather was good and so more people came to enjoy the fun of a typical village fete.

A special thank you should go to the extended Alt family for lending and preparing the venue for the fete and providing the usual excellent teas, to the Neal family for organising the dog show which is always a winner, and to Mariann and Dorrie who between them grow the flowers for the fete throughout the year. And finally a big thank you to all of you who turned up on the day, spent your money and ultimately made it the success it was.

Cubby Brett

CHURCH FETE - INCOME		
	2012	2013
Bottle Stall	£250.95	£251.99
Tombola	£135.30	£105.59
Punch	£108.83	£220.15
Raffle	£167.54	£230.00
White Elephant	£151.88	£145.02
Cake Weight	£23.10	£44.60
Pick a Ticket	£26.40	-----
Hook a Duck	£22.65	-----
Book Stall	£167.82	£163.21
Plants	£275.30	£411.20
Teas	£293.31	£406.80
Gate	£249.60	£286.00
Dog Show	£75.00	£69.00
Toys	£115.69	£44.50
Treasure Hunt	£12.70	£19.30
Cakes & Produce	-----	£208.70
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>£2,076.07</b>	<b>£2,606.06</b>

#### **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 13th October**

When we will be thinking about all the things that we have to be thankful for.

## **Congratulations!**

### **Golden Wedding**



**To Pete & Judy Floyd**  
on their golden wedding anniversary  
Oct 12th 2013.

We hope you enjoy your special day.

With love  
from all your family and friends.

XXXXX

Pete and Judy met at Fritwell & Somerton station in 1958, Pete was a trainee photographer on the Banbury Guardian and Judy a trainee hairstylist at Henry's in Parsons St. Banbury. . Married in 1963 they went on to have two daughters and four granddaughters. They have lived in B.St.M. since 1989.

### **Welcome**

To

**The Bennett family,**  
Bruce and Nonie and children  
Leo, Sammy & Unity  
Who are now living  
At Wooden Hill Farm  
B. St. J.

We wish them all a  
be very happy time living here  
in our beautiful and friendly  
part the county.

### **Wedding Day**



**To Simon & Sophie Hanmer**  
of Horn Hill

who Married in St. Michael's Church on  
Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September  
and held their reception on Irondown Hill

### **CALLING ALL BUDDING ACTORS**

#### **Are you:**

Free Saturday/Sunday the 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup>  
October (all day on both days)?  
Willing to dress up 1950's style?  
Prepared to learn a few dance moves?  
Over 16?

If it's a **YES** then get yourselves down to the Village Hall Saturday morning (time to be displayed on Noticeboards) as local Writer/Director & Producer Tony Jopia will be filming a 'Trailer' for his next film in our very own village hall and he needs 20-25 EXTRAS.

The film is a musical set in a fishing village in 1950's Cornwall. The hall will be turned into a fish restaurant so if you have anything nautical/fishy themed that could be used as props that would be great.

**VHMC**  
**September 2013**

## Barford Picture House...

October 19th

Our first film of the new season will be



Made in 2012 and directed by Tom Hooper

Certificate 12A

Starring Hugh Jackman, Russell Crowe, Anne Hathaway, Helena Bonham Carter, Eddie Redmayne and Amanda Seyfried, among many others.

For those who do not know the story.... Jean Valjean, known as Prisoner 24601, is released from prison and breaks parole to create a new life for himself while evading the grip of the persistent Inspector Javert. Set in post-revolutionary France, the story reaches resolution against the background of the June Rebellion.

One of the biggest treats, are the sets and special effects. The beauty and squalor of 19th century Paris is showcased magnificently and it really allowed you to become engrossed in the story. This is a movie that both fans of the novel as well as fans of the musical can both fall in love with, since even though there are some deviations from the novel this is still the closest a film version has ever come to being completely faithful to the book.

The film is 158 mins long and there will be a short interval for refreshments.

Bring your own chairs if you wish, alcohol and yourselves with any friends who may wish to come along.

Doors open at 7.15pm, film starts at 7.45pm. Tickets £4 or £20 for a Season ticket for the 7 films we will be showing between now and April. Contact: Gunilla 01295 720521 for details.

### Bloxham Village History Club

16th October

### Oxfordshire Country Houses

By Alastair Lack

7.30pm Jubilee Hall, Bloxham

Details from Ian Myson  
01295 720951, 07801 200403

## Deddington PFSU and Village Nursery

THE CHILDREN HAVE had a happy return to school. A warm welcome to the new

children who have joined us this term.

Our AGM will be held at the Nursery on

**Thursday 3rd October at 8pm**

and we encourage all parents of Nursery and PFSU children to attend. We are a parent managed setting and need the support of the membership (parents) to make decisions and elect a new committee. Please come along and find out more about how we work and what we have been up to this year. Our main fund-raising event this term will be our **Christmas Fayre and Pamper Evening on Tuesday 3rd December**. Put the date in your diaries and watch this space for more details.

Lucy Squires  
(01869) 337484

## 1st Deddington Guides

OUR SUPER SUMMER out-door term came to a conclusion with



our annual stream-walk! We were joined by some American friends who thought that we were all very strange.

We welcomed 4 new guides into the unit at a promise ceremony and bid farewell to 3 guides who had been members for 4 years or more and were now moving on – so good luck to Sophie, Jasmine and Tilly in all they do.

A week later we were at camp in North Aston. We were spoilt with lovely weather, amazingly bright moonlight nights – no torch required. The storm missed us completely, we were so lucky!

The senior guides helped us get up and running and then had their own mini camp along side us!

We had great fun in the stream, activities in the woods, screamed down our awesome water shoot, enjoyed laughter and companionship around the campfire, good fun and lovely surroundings. Thank you to Clive and Trudy Busby, who made it possible.

We have appreciated meeting up again this term and played old favourite games, tried new ones, toasted marshmallows, learnt about our new promise, work on badges and generally prepared ourselves for exciting times ahead.

Maggie Rampley 01295 810069  
Marian Trinder 01869 340806  
Catherine Blackburn 01295 258008

## Notes From Our Potting Shed

**O**n August 22nd about 15 of us visited Sue Bedwell's garden, MONKS HEAD, in Bletchingdon. The afternoon was really enjoyable, we explored this real gem of a small garden and marvelled at the number of plants Sue has managed to fit in. It is unusual, lots of small 'rooms' with winding paths and plants of all heights and colours.



It is not overly designed, indeed Sue would say that it has just developed over the years by her mother and latterly by her. We had delicious tea and cake under the trees. Her garden is well worth a visit at any time of the year. There were plants for sale too. Her saying 'Plants want to live for you, but it is just what we do to them that kills them' ....is ringing in my ears!

There was an enthusiastic turnout on 2<sup>nd</sup> September for Andy Howard's talk on pruning fruit trees. Andy, whose Heritage Fruit Tree company is based in Adderbury, showed us the importance of summer pruning of apple trees to promote fruit production in the season to come. He also talked about the cultivation of a range of soft fruits (useful to fill the "hunger gap" in which home-grown apples aren't available) and advised us on the best varieties. We all briefly decamped to Maggie Eden's front garden to inspect her espalier-trained apple trees and for Andy to demonstrate the controlling and shaping of the luxuriant growth.

## Dates for your diary

**Saturday October 5<sup>th</sup>:** 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 4<sup>th</sup>:** Talk on Design Ideas for Small Gardens, by Peter Richardson of Preston Bissett Nurseries.

THIS TALK WILL BE FREE TO MEMBERS...£3 for visitors

## Top 10 things to do this month

1. Clear up fallen autumn leaves regularly
2. Cut back perennials that have died down
3. Divide herbaceous perennials and rhubarb crowns
4. Move tender plants, including aquatic ones, into the greenhouse
5. Plant out spring cabbages, plant bulbs
6. Harvest apples, pears, grapes and nuts
7. Prune climbing roses
8. Order seeds for next year
9. Last chance to mow lawns and trim hedges in mild areas
10. Renovate old lawns or create new ones by laying turf
11. Clean all bird feeders regularly

Till next time - happy gardening.



'Bye for now'  
Spade and Fork



## 1<sup>st</sup> Deddington Scout Group Cubs

**W**E HAVE started the term with several new members, Samuel, George, Ben & Ethan, lets hope they enjoy their time with us.

The pack has begun the scientist badge, they will be making 'rubber eggs' to see how cells work, firing balloon rockets along strings & making bicarb volcanoes.

Jo Churchyard C.S.L. [jochurchyard@hotmail.com](mailto:jochurchyard@hotmail.com)

## Scouts

**T**HE SCOUTS have been on a brilliant trip to Warwick where they spent the night in the Market Hall Museum. They were taken on a private tour then given video cameras to make their own feature films in amongst the exhibits. The results were – energetic & frankly confusing but they all had a great time making them, I'd like to say that Quentin Tarentino had nothing to worry about but I think they would be right up his street! Next came pizza & chips & a viewing of 'Night at the Museum 2' before snuggling down next to a fossilised elk.

Pete Churchyard S.L.  
[pete.churchyard@btinternet.com](mailto:pete.churchyard@btinternet.com)

**T**HE GROUP is pleased to welcome Janet Duxbury as our Group Scout Leader. Janet has been in scouting since the year dot, having run Beavers, Cubs & Scouts in Hook Norton before becoming the District & County Cub representative. Pete & I have known her for many years & we're sure she will bring a great deal of experience & fun to the group.



## Another successful Village Show

Photos give just a flavour of entries and happy winners.

Thanks to all who helped to bring it about.

Results on next page



## VILLAGE SHOW 2013 – CLASS & CUP WINNERS

	ADULT CLASS	1ST PLACE	2ND PLACE	3RD PLACE	CUP WINNERS
1	3 Beetroot	Jeff Elliott	Pete Floyd	Sophie Holmes	<b>Fruit &amp; Vegetables</b> Jeff Elliott
2	3 Carrots	Carol Hopkins	Jeff Elliott	Sally Williams	
3	3 Courgettes	Trevor Stevens	Pete Floyd	Stephanie Collier	
4	3 Onions	Jeff Elliott	Pete Floyd	Bernard Lane	
5	5 Shallots	Jeff Elliott	Pete Floyd		
6	3 Potatoes	Jeff Elliott	Ann Beesley	Cathy Alsworth	<b>Cookery &amp; Preserves</b> Kate Griffin
7	3 Runner Beans	Pete Floyd	Jeff Elliott	Jess Romain	
8	5 French Beans	Michael Budd	Jess Romain	Jeff Elliott	
9	5 Cherry Tomatoes	Hazel Neal	Jess Romain	Maggie Rampley	
10	3 Round Tomatoes	Sarah Best	Jess Romain	Sally Williams	
11	A Cucumber	Jeff Elliott	Cathy Alsworth	Sally Williams	<b>Flower Arranging</b> Sarah Best
12	Pair of Vegetables	Cathy Alsworth	Trevor Stevens	Pete Floyd	
13	5 Assorted Veg	Jeff Elliott	Pete Floyd	Ann Beesley	
14	Largest Marrow				
15	3 Apples	Tony Collier	Stephanie Collier	Ann Beesley	
16	Dish of fruit	Tony Basttable	Carol Hopkins	Pete Hopkins	<b>Cut Flowers</b> Pete Floyd
17	Vegetable Animal	Tessa Dodwell			
18	6 Flapjack pieces	Kate Griffin	Hazel Neal		
19	4 Cheese Scones	Amelia Best	Kate Griffin		
20	6 Choc Brownies	Cathy Alsworth	Kate Griffin		
21	Victoria Sponge	Cathy Alsworth	Kate Griffin		<b>Crafts</b> Cathy Alsworth
22	Apple Pie	Carol Hopkins			
23	Ginger Cake (men )	Angus Norman	Stephen Drummond	Christopher Murray	
24	Jam	Pete Floyd	Sarah Best	Hazel Neal	
25	Marmalade	Sarah Best	Sophie Holmes	Hazel Neal	
26	Lemon Curd	Cathy Alsworth	Kate Griffin	Ann Beesley	<b>Photography</b> Annie Radford
27	Chutney	Hazel Neal	Ann Beesley	Sophie Holmes	
28	Sloe Gin	Hazel Neal	Carol Hopkins	Paul Turner	
29	Arr in gravy boat	Lucy Norman			
30	Arr with herbs	Sarah Best			
31	Miniature arr	Sarah Best			<b>Allotment Cup</b> 1st - 79 points Jeff Elliott 2nd - 77 points Mick Bullard
32	Arr for Harvest				
33	1 Gladiolus	Pete Floyd			
34	Sunflower				
35	3 Dahlias	Lucy Norman	Pete Floyd	Ann Beesley	
36	3 Roses	Michael Budd	Stephanie Collier	Rick Allen	<b>W.I. Cup</b> Ann Beesley
37	4 Marigolds	Cathy Alsworth	Pete Floyd		
38	4 Fuchsia heads	Carol Hopkins	Pete Floyd	Rick Allen	
39	6 Sweet Peas	Bernard Lane	Gunilla Murray		
40	Mixed flowers	Pete Floyd			
41	Handmade Toy	Cathy Alsworth	Amelia Best	Ava Hardingham	<b>Victor Ludorum</b> Pete Floyd
42	Handmade Cushion	Cathy Alsworth	Gunilla Murray	Amelia Best	
43	Knitted/crocheted	Ann Beesley			
44	Needlecraft	Cathy Alsworth	Christine Hall	Carol Williams	
45	You Made It"	Carol Williams	Lisa Styles	Amelia Best	
46	Drawing/Painting	Diana Basttable	Christopher Murray	Christine Hall	
47	Children at Play	Annie Radford	Tessa Dodwell		
48	Barford Weather	Christine Hall	Annie Radford		
49	A Chair	Annie Radford			
50	Holiday View	Christine Hall	Annie Radford	Diana Basttable	
	CHILDREN'S CLASS	1ST PLACE	2ND PLACE	3RD PLACE	
51	Colouring Picture	Amelia Best	Ellie Dodwell	Katie O'Hanlon	<b>Most Entries</b> Amelia Best
52	Handmade Mask	Ellie Dodwell	Lucy Holmes	Charlotte Kenny	
53	4 Rock Cakes	Amelia Best	Ellie Dodwell	Ava Hardingham	
54	Vegetable Animal	Ava Hardingham	Amelia Best	Ellie Dodwell	
55	"You Made It"	Amelia Best	Izzy Kenny	Ava Hardingham	
56	A photograph	Barney Neal	Connie Neal		<b>Most Points</b> Amelia Best
57	4 Decorated Cupcakes	Barney Neal	Connie Neal	Tilly Neal	
58	Illustrated Map				
59	Drawing/painting	Cicely Best			
60	"You Made It"	Ben Linsey			



**Clothing Collection  
For Deddington Primary PTA**

There will be a collection of second hand clothing on **23rd October** to raise money for the PTA. Bag2School collects good quality adults and children's clothing, sheets, blankets, curtains, soft toys, shoes, belts and handbags to re-use. Please note they cannot accept bric-a-brac, books, dirty/damaged clothing, mats, pillows or duvets.

All bagged donations should be at the school by 9am on 23rd October. You can also take bags to Hazel Neal at 25 Broad Close or phone her for collection on 01869 337822.

Thank you for your support.



**theWI**  
INSPIRING WOMEN

**21 YEARS OF  
BROADCASTING ON BBC**

**A talk by  
Bill Heine (Radio Oxford)**

**7.30pm  
Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October  
In The Village Hall**

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

# ***Barford Village Market***

**In the Village Hall, 10-12noon**

**Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> October**

**Artisan Breads, Cheeses & Olives  
Home-made Scones, Preserves, all the usual  
food and craft stalls plus one or two new ones!**

**Farmhouse Ice Cream, Fairtrade items  
Joan's beautifully gift wrapped chocolates  
Wonderful Wood Turned pieces by Gary  
All at Bargain Prices!!**

**Not forgetting Tea/Coffee & Bacon & Egg Butties!!**

**We hold markets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday every month (except August)**

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

### **Police Warning Over Bank Card Courier Scam**

Thames Valley residents are advised to be on their guard to a new type of scam which is becoming prevalent across London and is now spreading to other areas.

The courier fraud scam often targets the elderly and vulnerable and takes the following steps:

1. The victim receives an unsolicited telephone call from fraudsters saying they are from their bank (or in some cases claiming to be the police), stating that their systems have spotted a fraudulent payment on their card or that their card is due to expire and needs to be replaced.

The person may be asked to ring the bank back using the phone number printed on the back of their bank card. This helps to convince the person that the call is genuine. However, the fraudster has kept the telephone line open so even though the person has called the bank, the call does not go through. Instead they are unknowingly connected straight back to the fraudster.

2. The fraudster then gains the person's trust by pretending to be from the bank and seeming to offer assistance. In many cases the person is asked to provide their full bank card details and key in their PIN so that their existing card can be cancelled and their new one activated or authorised. The fraudster will then explain that the bank will need to collect the card.

3. The fraudster will then attend the person's address or send an innocent courier company driver to collect the card and sometimes provide them with a replacement card which is subsequently found to be fake.

4. Therefore, the fraudster has obtained the person's name, address, full bank details, the card itself and the PIN. The bank cards are then used fraudulently without the victim's knowledge.

There are a number of variations to the scam, including:

Fraudsters pretending to be from the police cold calling members of the public and telling them that their bank account has been compromised by criminals. The fraudster suggests that the person should transfer their bank balance into a 'safe' police bank account.

Fraudsters pretending to be from the police attending people's addresses and retrieving the person's card and PIN.

Members of the public receiving letters on bank headed paper informing them that their account has been the subject of a fraud. The letter advises

them to transfer their funds to a 'safe' account and that an official will be in contact to provide them with a new card and PIN.

Fraudsters contacting members of the public requesting them to cut their cards in half because their account has been compromised. They are then asked to post the cut card to an address where fraudsters simply tape the card together again and can use the details to commit fraud.

Between May and August, Thames Valley Police has received 17 reports of fraud of this type, all in the central Milton Keynes area. Police advice is that if you receive such a call, end it immediately. If you have elderly or vulnerable family members, friends, or neighbours, let them know about the scam.

#### **Please be aware that:**

Your bank will never attend your home

Your bank and/or the police will never collect your bank card

Your bank and/or the police will never ask for your PIN

If you receive this type of call, report it to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040, or via [their website](#). In an emergency, dial 999.

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### **Deddington CofE Primary School News**

**T**HE START OF the new school year has gone very smoothly, the summer holidays seem a long way off!



The school has welcomed two new members of staff, Mrs Sally Barber who is teaching in Year 3 and Mrs Wendy Whitehouse who is working for a day in Years 3 and 4. We have also welcomed the return of Mrs Tracy Fane from maternity leave, she is teaching alongside Mrs Barber in Year 3.

A lot of work has gone on in the school over the holidays, we have had the work area outside Years 3 and 4 remodelled, a complete deep clean of the school, and have received delivery of 48 new laptops. In our playground we have had a tyre play area built, funded by our PTA, which all year groups are enjoying playing on.

This term several after school and lunchtime clubs are starting up, including Musical Theatre, Choir, Art and Crafts, ICT and Web Design, Football and Rugby clubs! Hopefully something for everyone!

So it's another busy and exciting start to the new academic year!

Mrs Jane Cross, Deputy Headteacher

**Katharine House News  
CHARITY GALA NIGHT**

Friday 4 October promises an evening of entertainment at Banbury Town Hall.

Local-based UK drag act Shona Shuffles will be performing alongside numerous guests including chart-topping 80's star Hazell Dean, pop hit 90's star Nicki French plus local singers and dancers. Doors open 7pm and show starts at 7.45pm. Tickets £10 to include drink on arrival and table nibbles. All profits will be shared with Terence Higgins Trust and Banbury Town Mayor's Charities Fund.

**FROM BROADWAY TO BANBURY**

Banbury Operatic Society are presenting a celebration of the best award-winning musicals of Broadway and the West End musicals on Friday 18 and Saturday 19 October (7.30pm both evenings plus 2.30pm Saturday matinee) at Marlborough Road Methodist Church Banbury. Drawing on shows from both the present day and some old favourites material will include Chicago, Sweeney Todd, Phantom of the Opera, Oliver!, High Society, The King and I and Les Miserables to name but a few. Tickets are £10 and available from Ankers and Partners, Banbury, tel 01295 271414. One third of the profits are to Katharine House.

**PHOTOGRAPH EXHIBITION**

Banbury Camera Club is running its annual Exhibition at the Michael Heseltine Gallery, Chenderit School, Middleton Cheney from 22 to 27 October between 9am - 5pm Tuesday to Friday and 11am - 4pm Saturday and Sunday. Many exhibition items will be on sale and part proceeds are donated to Katharine House

**MAKE A WILL WEEK – 14<sup>th</sup> to 18th October 2013**

Have you made a Will? Does your existing Will need updating? Over 20 local solicitors and will writers are generously donating their time and expertise and will write a basic or standard Will or update your existing Will in return for a donation to the hospice.

No one knows what the future holds, so take this opportunity to ensure your loved ones are taken care of. For further information and details of participating solicitors and will writers, please phone Sheila Norton on 01295 812161 or visit [www.khh.org.uk](http://www.khh.org.uk)

**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](http://www.khh.org.uk).

**SANTA FUN RUN 2013**

We have already received the first entries for our 4<sup>th</sup> Santa Fun Run on Sunday 8 December at Spiceball Park! Adults £13, children £7 and under 6's free. To join in see our Autumn Newsletter for an application form on the back page, apply online at [www.khh.org.uk](http://www.khh.org.uk) or call fundraising on 01295.

**Katharine House Hospice Newsletter**

Issued twice a year the Autumn edition of our Newsletter is due out in early September! Packed with updates, reviews and news, it is available by post, by email and to view online at [www.khh.org.uk](http://www.khh.org.uk). If you'd like a copy give the Fundraising Office a call on 01295 812161.

Thank you,

**Alison Webber,**  
Community Fundraiser



**Will Preece Qualifies for European Open**

CONGRATULATIONS to 16-year-old Will of Robins Close who has qualified for the Andalucia Junior European Golf Open in association with Daily Express.



Will, who is Chipping Norton junior captain, finished joint fourth at Lingfield Park Golf Club to qualify for the tournament in November.

The first four rounds will be played at Alcaidesa Links and Heathland Courses, after this there will be a cut and the final round will be played at the Finca Cortesin venue for the Volvo World Matchplay.

**Do You Need Odd Jobs Doing?**

Clearing Out Garage?

Cleaning?

Baby Sitting?

Dog Walking?

Pet Sitting?

Ring Lizzie: 07747 595 752

**WARNING FROM CHERWELL  
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

We have had notification from the Council informing us that the Village Hall wheelie bins are being mis-used. **PLEASE** ensure that if you do put something in the bins that you use the correct one.

Because we have been served with this notice we therefore do not get the bins emptied and rubbish is starting to pile up which is obviously going to cause problems.

**THINK BEFORE YOU BIN  
BEFORE YOU.....WALK OFF.....**

**VHMC  
September 2013**

### **Fernhill Club News**

We will be holding our usual afternoon get-togethers each Wednesday in the village hall at 2.30

Two slightly different meetings will be:



#### **9<sup>th</sup> October**

#### **We will be showing The Film 'Miss Potter'**

The story of Beatrix Potter, the author of the beloved and best-selling children's book, "The Tale of Peter Rabbit", and her struggle for love, happiness and success.

#### **23<sup>rd</sup> October**

#### **Carpet Bowls**

New members and visitors always welcome to join us for the afternoon.

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**Painting and Drawing  
Barford St Michael Village Hall  
Tuesday mornings 10.30 – 12.30  
Starting 1<sup>st</sup> October 2013**



Come and join this relaxed and friendly class. No experience is necessary just a desire to paint and draw. 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.

#### **Cost £8 per class.**

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

For information/enrolment contact 01295 272607,  
Or email frances2.eason@virgin.net

### **An Email from Kathmandu!**

From: HCMC Kathmandu

hcmc1998@hotmail.com

To: Theresa bullardoua bullard0ua@btinternet.com

Sent: Sunday, 1 September 2013, 12:30

Subject: Thank-you

Respected Members ( Namaste ) ,

Behalf of Helpless Children Mother Center family are very much pleased and honor to tell you that the money which you had transferred last week was deposited on center's bank account.

Here in Center all the children are in good health and busy on their studies. They all are working hard to get good marks in their progress report also getting good knowledge for their bright future. We know that without your organizations support it can't be a possible for us to send children in boarding school for children's good education. So it is our great to get your entire team's support and kind assistance and also hope to get your more support in near future. We wish all your Organizations every success.

We wish you all the best regards and warm greetings from:- Helpless Children Mother Centre family.

---

### **Barford Aunt Sally News**



Steve Cox with Dave Jelfs

The B team came runners up in the Banbury Division 2, which has gained them promotion to the top Division for next season. It was an outstanding season of sunshine which suited our fair weather players, who often fail in the wind and rain.

Congratulations to Steve Cox who won the 2013 B Team House Championship after a playoff with his son Richard and Captain Dave 'Worzel' Jelfs

We really need to sign up extra local talent for next season so if you want to try your arm please let Dave J or Martin know you are interested. We will hold a practice night before next season if you fancy a go, our matches are Thursdays at 8.30.

# YOUR VILLAGE HALL



England's 80,000 village hall volunteers are being urged to get behind a campaign to form an **All-Party Parliamentary Group on village halls**. The idea has sprung from an initiative by BBC Radio 4's PM programme to set up an APPG on a subject suggested by its listeners. Reporter Becky Milligan met with Sir Peter Bottomley MP, a champion of APPGs, to discuss potential topics. The tentative list was whittled down to two - **village halls** or grammar and punctuation. We wish all village halls committees, users and community groups to lobby their MPs to support an APPG on village halls, which was suggested by Chris Perry-Yates, chairman of a small village hall committee.

An APPG could champion funding and other important issues for village halls such as VAT; music licensing fees; incentives for energy efficiency; use of renewable energy.

An APPG for village halls is a brilliant idea as it would allow campaign groups, charities, and other non-governmental organisations to become involved in discussions and influence politicians.

I have written a letter to him from the VHMC. I have asked him to pass on to Sir Peter Bottomly. It seems as though the APPG has already been set up so we must 'watch this space' as they say and follow any news.

"I am writing as one of over 80,000 volunteers working with village halls in England. It is vital for us to be represented in such an All Party Group. Our village hall in Barford St.Michael, Oxfordshire has a Management Committee of 13 volunteers and forms a vital part of our community. It is used every day by groups of all ages and provides a venue for a multitude of activities ranging from coffee mornings, children's and adult's parties to a cinema, village market, a whist club, charity events and concerts. Recently it even became an emergency refuge overnight for members of the Fire Service while they tackled a serious fire in the village. An All Party Parliamentary Group on Village Halls would allow us to become involved in discussions and champion various issues, such as music licence fees, renewable energy uses, energy efficiency matters pertaining to our hall and any funding problems we may have. As village hall members we all share similar problems and much could be learned from such discussions. The strength in numbers that this would provide would be a significant benefit to village communities throughout the country.

According to DEFRA's *Statistical Digest of Rural England*, published February 2013 certain figures are pinpointed that emphasise the importance of village halls as a meeting place for the community, where villagers can come together, enjoy themselves at a Big Lunch or Jubilee celebration and share any problems they may have at the same time as enjoying themselves within a close distance of where they live, especially in an area like ours where there is no public transport.

I quote from this document....

## *Rural Context*

*In 2010 the population of rural England was 9.8 million, or 19% of the total population.*

*The rural population is predominantly aged between 45 and 64, and has more older people than the urban population.*

*Between 2001 and 2010 the population of Less Sparse Villages, Hamlets and Isolated Dwellings increased by 7%, greater than any other rural or urban area type. In 2009/10 net internal migration to rural areas was 54,000, compared with -75,000 for urban areas with approximately 50% of those living in rural areas aged over 45 years, the rural population is on average older than in urban areas. The most marked difference between rural and urban populations is at the 16 to 29 age group. In urban areas this age group accounts for 20% of the population whereas in rural areas they make up just 14%.*

*At a more detailed level, settlements in sparse areas tend to have the highest proportions of their populations amongst the older age groups. This reaches its peak in Rural Town and Fringe areas where on average 26% of the population are over 65 years old and 54% of the population are over 45.*

I therefore welcome and thoroughly support the initiative by BBC Radio 4's PM programme to set up an APPG on a subject suggested by its listeners, one subject of which was Village Halls. I feel very strongly that for our future and that of our children and elderly we should maintain the village halls and all their benefits, with the support and cross party dialogue that this APPG would provide and urge that such a group be set up."

Gunilla Treen, Village Hall Management Committee,  
Barford St.John and St.Michael Village Hall, Oxfordshire.

## Down On The Farm

**H**ARVEST AT IRON DOWN this year was a doddle. The weather held firm, my neighbour Charlie Baker came with his giant combine, the oilseed rape yielded better than I had feared and the price picked itself up from the floor and rose to a respectable height. All in all - a result.

Since our only arable crop this year was oilseed rape we baled a field of wheat straw that was surplus to requirements at Milton. As a result I probably need to apologise to residents of the Barfords for chugging through the village(s) at strange hours. Anyway in my defence I wasn't the only one and we did get it all done in the dry.

Certainly the pigs are more appreciative of some dry absorbent straw this year after the stuff that was baled in the wet and had the consistency of armour plated cardboard last harvest. Mind you it kept them busy trying to shred it up enough to be comfortable.

The real 'high' this summer was being able to host Simon and Sophie's wedding reception which was held in a marquee in our top field and also made use of the hovel as a bar (run by Martin) and sitting area in the same field. The weather, which had been pretty foul, decided to have the afternoon off and the result was sunshine and no rain for the duration of the event.

Well done Sophie and Simon and best of luck for the future! \*\*

It's sad that the nights are drawing in so quickly. Summer doesn't seem to last long before we face the chill and the early darkness. At least we have lights on the tractors and can continue ploughing and cultivating for next year's crops.

We are ploughing in a lot of the grassland that is past its sell by date this year and by the time this goes to press it should all be into winter wheat. We have also planted 30 acres of turnips to keep the sheep fed through the autumn and winter after the grass has decided on dormancy.

This ground will be ploughed for spring barley in January/February and we are sowing a malting variety in the hope of attracting a premium and giving the beer trade a bit of support.

We had a pH test carried out on the fields that are going into arable to see if we need to use lime to correct any acidity. The result is that we do on some fields but, strangely, not on those where we have run pigs. Maybe someone has an answer to this; I confess that I don't.

\*\* (a photo of the happy pair is on page 3 Ed.)

## Lentil Salad

(From Ainsley Harriott's Barbecue Bible)

This recipe appears after numerous requests from folks who enjoyed it at the village BBQ

225g (8oz) Puy lentils or Lentilles Verte, which keep their shape and texture better than the larger green lentils.

(Ainsley says tinned green lentils can be used if you're in a hurry.)

1 bay leaf

1 tsp red wine vinegar

2 peeled garlic cloves

pinch sugar

1 large red onion, finely chopped

50g (2oz) sundried tomatoes in oil, drained and chopped

1-2 tbsp balsamic vinegar

4 tbsp extra virgin olive oil (I often use a mixture with some of the oil from the sundried tomatoes)

100g (4oz) goats' cheese or feta cheese, crumbled. You could also use mozzarella.

3 tbsp chopped fresh parsley

salt and pepper

Put lentils in a pan with bay leaf, vinegar, 1 whole garlic clove, sugar and some salt and pepper. Cover with 1.2L (2 pints) cold water, bring to the boil and simmer for 25 minutes until just tender but still holding their shape.

Drain well, discard bay leaf and garlic clove and tip into a bowl. The instructions say to allow to cool here, but I dress the lentils whilst still warm so they absorb the flavours better.

Finely chop the second garlic clove and stir it into the lentils with the remaining ingredients. Season to taste (and adjust vinegar and other flavourings as desired) and chill for 2 hours before serving.

Hazel Neal

If you have a favourite recipe that you would like to share, please send it in to BN. Ed.

**Margaret and Peter Whittle of Cottage Crafts Tadmarton, have sold their crafts since 1993 in aid of Katharine House Hospice.**

**They are holding a  
MINI COTTAGE CRAFTS  
at the Village Hall, Tadmarton, on  
SATURDAY OCTOBER 26<sup>TH</sup>**

**10.00 am – 12.30 pm**

**Their crafts include wooden toys such as acrobatic Shakespeares, ski men, a peasant with a stubborn donkey; patchwork, home products, Christmas items and lots more.**

**There will also be  
HEYLAND AND WHITTLE merchandise  
such as can be found at Fortnum and Mason  
and John Lewis.**

**All in aid of**

**The Katharine House Hospice  
Entry £2 including refreshments**

**Good parking.**

### 1st Barford and Deddington Rainbows

**W**E STARTED the new term with five new



Rainbows. Ella, Summer, Katie and Vivi joined us to toast marshmallows on campfires that Deddington Guides helped us to build and light. (Two of the Guides- Amy and Ami- used to be Barford Rainbows!) The rain held off and we had a great time. I'm not sure how hungry any of the girls were when they got home! Thank you to Mrs Bouverie who kindly lets us take over a corner of her garden, and to the Guides for helping.

The fifth new Rainbow, Thea, will start when we have our yearly walk from Adderbury to the windmill at Bloxham Grove. The weather forecast is looking good after a week of rain, so fingers crossed... We've got lots planned for the term; should be fun!

Hazel Neal  
01869 337822

### Hall and Fernhill Trust Barford St John and St Michael

Each household in receipt of a state pension and having three years residency in the villages of Barford St Michael and St John will qualify for a small amount from the above trust.

The year end for the charity is October 31<sup>st</sup>, with the distribution of monies in December.

A list of likely beneficiaries is held but persons wishing to ensure that their name is on the list should contact the Clerk of the Trustees:-

(Mrs Helen Honour, The Cottage, 5 Mead Road, Barford St John) before 31<sup>st</sup> October.



### Babysitting!

Hi, I'm Tilly and I am available for babysitting,  
I live in Broad Close Barford St Michael.  
I am 1<sup>st</sup> Response First Aid trained.  
You can call me on 01869 337822 or on my mobile at  
07557 095681.

### this year's BBQ

was a resounding success and 100 burgers, 50 sausages (there will be more next year) and a fair few bottles of Hooky later, we raised just over £600, slightly up on 2012.

This money will go towards the on-going maintenance of the village hall, namely the removal of the wasp infested pear tree, boiler service, new oil tank....the list goes on....

see you next year

VHMC  
September 2013

### Autumn at Upton House & Gardens

As autumn arrives our thoughts turn to the county pursuits that Lord Bearsted and his family would have pursued at Upton in the 1930s. This theme has been developed throughout the house and gives a fascinating insight into that aspect of life, so do come and explore the many artefacts and pictures we have on display.

Our new contemporary art exhibition will open on the 29<sup>th</sup> of September with works by artist such as Lowry and others, reflecting contemporary art that was on display at the Whitechapel Gallery, where Lord Bearsted was Chairman in the 1940s.

Other events at Upton House and Gardens are -

**All About Asters** 16 -29 Sept 11am-4pm

**National Garden Scheme Day** Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> Sept., 11-5pm

**Autumn Walk in the woods** Sun. 13 Oct., 12-4pm

**Civil War Camp** with Fairfax Battalia 26 & 27 October, 11am-4pm

**Halloween Trail**, Mon.-Sun. 28 Oct /3 Nov, 11- 4pm

**Christmas Market** weekend 30 Nov/1 Dec 11-4pm

**Visit Father Christmas** Saturdays and Sundays in December

**Kids trail** in the school holidays

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

[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/uptonhouse](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/uptonhouse)

## From The Fire Station

We have been called out 20 times in August, which looking at statistics, is about our average. We have been back to Banbury for several of the calls including more garages on fire, and a very early call to Marussia Formula1 where a small fire had started in an alarm panel but was easily extinguished using Co2. We also rescued a horse that had become entrapped in a ditch, which went without a hitch, and the horse walked away making a quick and complete recovery. Our longest shout was acetylene cylinders involved in a fire in a large barn workshop in Milcombe. If an acetylene cylinder is heated or shocked the cells can start to deteriorate which starts a chemical reaction that causes them to heat up and explode. We had to set up a two hundred metre cordon and cool them with water jets. Unfortunately we completely lost the building and it can be very frustrating to have to stand back, but no amount of property is worth a life.

The harvest is now finally in and so our fear of field fires is diminishing and our focus is now turning to barn fires and road traffic crashes. Now autumn is upon us and we have already been to an early morning RTC where damp roads and early morning mists can catch out even the most experienced drivers. Remember 'drive to arrive'.

August gave us a fantastic celebration with Jim and Helen Denley's wedding. Jim's attached to Wantage but was training with us. It was a beautiful day with the bride arriving in an old fire engine. We were asked to be the guard of honour and so we all wore traditional uniform. We managed to get a station photo of just about the whole crew with the exception of FF Emma Glover who unfortunately could not make it.



*Crew Manager Tim Parker Deddington Fire Station*

## Community First Responders

(CFR's) are volunteers who can be sent by the ambulance service to attend certain medical emergencies to assist until an ambulance arrives. They carry a full responder kit which can be used to provide help within seconds or minutes in an emergency in their immediate neighbourhood. Typically they are sent to cardiac arrests, strokes, epilepsy, diabetes and haemorrhaging incidents and can save lives.

CFR's normally operate within a 4 mile radius and, at present, there are 4 volunteers in Deddington and 2 in Bloxham but none in The Barfords.

If anyone is interested in finding out more and possibly training to become a CFR please contact me and I will arrange for the ambulance service to discuss things further with us. The article below gives more details about the scheme.

Rodney Hobbs  
Pear Tree Cottage  
The Green  
Barford St Michael  
Tel: 01869 338078



**D**O YOU WANT TO make a difference and give something back to the people in your local community when they need you the most?

You could make a difference by providing emergency life saving skills to a member of your community until an emergency ambulance arrives.

Community First Responders are volunteers that are trained and equipped by the ambulance service to answer certain types of medical emergencies in their local communities while the ambulance is on its way. There is good evidence to suggest that if people are trained to help someone while the ambulance is on the way, more lives are saved, and because the volunteers operate in their neighbourhoods there is every possibility they will arrive before the ambulance and these seconds and minutes can make all the difference.

Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) is the UK's single biggest killer. On average, 150,000 people suffer a SCA every year. Every minute that passes after someone has suffered SCA the chance of a successful resuscitation reduces by about 10%. The UK national average chance of survival is 4%. In areas where there is an active Community First Responder scheme, this increases to 20%.

When the ambulance service receives a call in an area where there is a volunteer available and if the call is suitable for a volunteer to attend, the responder receives a message on a mobile phone alerting them to this job. If the responder wants to attend, they call the Ambulance Service control room and make their way to the incident. This means that help is on the way within seconds of a call being made. Responders can arrive at the incident while the person is still making the 999 call!

Responders are not sent to all the 999 calls in their area, only the life threatening calls where time can make a difference. Also, your safety is our priority, so you won't be sent to fights or vehicle collisions.

The initial training is done over 2 days, normally a weekend, and gives the responder the skills to use in real life situations. We hold monthly update and refresher training and there is always the liaison officer if you want to talk about something, so you are never alone.

Most responder schemes work in groups with a volunteer coordinator to arrange an "on call" list so all the responders within that scheme do as much time on call as they want to commit to, without affecting their work and family life and their other commitments. There is no compulsion for the volunteer responder to attend any incident and there are no minimum requirements for being on call, although, the more calls you attend, the better your skills become and the more confidence you build up. The personal rewards are great, the knowledge that you have helped save a life are almost indescribable. All we ask is that you are assessed in performing resuscitation and using a defibrillator every six months, although lots of the existing volunteers do lots more.

All you need to join is to be over 18, have a full driving licence and pass an enhanced criminal records check and be willing and able to give up some free time to help your community.

We are currently looking for volunteers in across North Oxfordshire. If you would like to help in this literally life saving and very rewarding project please e-mail [cfr@scas.nhs.uk](mailto:cfr@scas.nhs.uk) for an information pack or call our 24-hour hotline on 0800 5870207.

Thank you

David England  
Community Training Officer, South Central  
Ambulance Service Foundation  
Trust.



## Memories of National Service. 1952 to 1954

**M**Y FIRST ENCOUNTER with the R.A.F. (except for being in my school's Air Training Corps, which was to have unexpected consequences) was The Medical. Somewhere in Bristol, our intelligence was tested; and so were most bits of our bodies. Almost all of this was conducted openly in one room: but the man who tested our ears had, strangely, a large room to himself. I eventually guessed that this was because of the fact that he was a sadist: leaning over me and pinioning me with his probe he breathed, "before long you'll be splattered in pieces over a battlefield."

"No I won't," I swiftly and quietly countered – which (to my surprise) silenced him.

Very fortunately, unlike some of my near-contemporaries who were injured or killed in Korea, the man's prediction for me proved wrong. My family has hardly at all contributed to those who have faced battle; and if I write with irony and amusement about some of the ways of the military, this should not be taken as a lack of wondering admiration for those who have taken part in real war.

In most examinations one hopes to pass; but in a sense this is not true of a conscription medical. A school contemporary of mine, who was so huge that his nickname was "Tiny", and who was Captain of Rugby, Hockey and Cricket, was excused National Service – on account of flat feet: whereas I, who have distinguished myself in no sport, was passed A1.

I couldn't feel especially victimised, though, after meeting during my Initial Training (better known as "Square-bashing"), a delightful character whose passion was painting – and who was blind in one eye. He assured me that he had pointed out this possibly limiting factor before and after his call-up, and again during his first few weeks of basic training. He had then been sent to an R.A.F. hospital where he had again explained his condition. There he was taken into a booth; told to drop his trousers; inspected; and assured that all was, in fact, well. With mild graciousness he was now serving out his two years.

On September 17<sup>th</sup> 1952 I took a train from Temple Meads Station, Bristol, to Padgate. I remember little of the journey, or of the place. The general feeling of that week is of being sucked into a black vortex: out of the darkness, I and the others (we had no time to become "we") were handed uniforms, and given the first of a million orders. One ridiculous memory, however, stays with me as the first of many times when I sought out and found (or

did not) touches of the human amid a general blankness. Outside some kitchen I saw an elderly civilian squatting over a bucket, peeling spuds: in my innocence I saw him as not only luckily not caught up in this alien military machine, but as a kind of old retainer, quietly carrying on his "normal" life.



"How long have you worked here?" I asked the man, fatuously. He gazed past his bucket, rather than at me. "Three days," he said; and sounded as though that had been quite enough.

I had a lot to learn.

From there I was posted to R.A.F. Hednesford. It would be tedious to add too much to the many descriptions of the ludicrous misery of such weeks. It was far worse for those who had never before been away from home, or never (as I had) slept in a dormitory: but the vast majority of us were perfectly willing to do anything sensible (or even senseless) and had no dangerously free wills to be broken – so that the way we were treated seemed at best brainless. I retain no fond memories of Corporal Marshall, whose cap seemed to have been carved out of solid Brylcreemed cloth, and whose manner of cutting his route down the billet reminded me of the action of a bacon-slice. In fairness, though, I should say that he did show signs of an ability to become reasonable, and even to joke: this interesting reform happened to occur just after he learned that the father of one of us was a Group Captain.

We were, of course, marched and inspected and criticised – daily and nightly: most of this subsides in the memory into a general murk, lit quite often by kindnesses and humour of conscript to conscript.

One night stands out as memorably pointless and vile: I was detailed to stand guard over a coal dump, to protect it from non-existent thieves, with non-existent weaponry and about as much authority as a cobweb. To buoy myself up for this task I bought (rather resourcefully I had thought at the time) what I have managed to ensure was the last steak-and-kidney pie of my life.

After the six weeks of statutory Hell, I was sent for and told that "they" had realised that I had an A.T.C. Proficiency badge: we had all joined the A.T.C. because we were told that this would reduce the length of basic training. Even I had forgotten this fact, but now I was to be "up-flighted": this is R.A.F. language for being put amongst people who have done two more weeks than you, and who consequently know two more weeks' worth of things like how to fire a rifle, and how to parade. The ignorance of how to fire a rifle was, as we will see, to risk outrage at an already tragic funeral: the ignorance about how to parade haunts occasional dreams fifty years afterwards, as I see myself on that

Passing-out Parade wandering off on a course of my own, while the whole mass goes elsewhere. But, in the event, by dint of being put well inside the ruck, ("We'd better put YOU in THERE, airman,") and improvising what was going on around me, I passed-out without passing out.

After a few days leave (during which I recall extreme gratitude to a favourite uncle who, hailing me in my uniform in which I felt an idiot, appeared not to notice anything unusual). I returned to wait for my posting – which had been included in those of the batch with whom I had started. For two weeks I sat in a warm hut, sorting letters with a gentle and kind Corporal – and began to remember what it is like to be human. With trepidation I went to learn about my posting – and was told that it was to a place called Hullavington. Someone helpfully showed me a map, where I saw to my delight that this place was mid-way between Chippenham and Malmesbury – within easy reach of my home in Bristol.

As things turned out, I was to remain at Hullavington for the whole of my National Service –

I was to train as a "Clerk Personnel". I was assigned to Station Headquarters (a well-designed brick building at the entrance to the camp) and given a chair and table which were to be my work-station for the rest of my time. The job can be succinctly described: it was to collect and file information about postings, promotions, charges, and other daily events, and to type this out on stencils for duplication and distribution. When amendments to Air Ministry Orders came in, it became my job to cut out appropriate sections and paste these into our copy of the R.A.F. Bible: when these were especially fiddly, I found it easier to file them in a bin conveniently placed at my feet. I have yet to hear that this caused any major incident. We also tried to answer questions from anyone who came in: some of these were people who had joined the R.A.F. as "boy-entrants", generally to get a meal-ticket and a training – but who had woken up to the dreadful realisation that in the process they had signed for as much as twelve years: it became a matter of satisfaction to help such people learn about a process of buying themselves out. Others who came to ask questions could be senior officers up to, and including, the Station Commander; and I wish I could report that I had been treated many years later by some superiors in the world of Higher Education with as much interest and courtesy as I was as a "sprog" airman. (Anyone who had done less service than oneself was a "sprog", and the way of ramming this fact home was to chant, "GET SOME IN!" Naturally new methods were introduced at times, but that's about all there is to tell: the bulk of what I had to learn could have been mastered in a week..

Those of us in that office were billeted first of all in a large brick barracks; then for many months in a draughty hut with a bouncy floor; then for a while we were at another Station called Rudloe Manor, and had to be bussed there and back: and for the last part of my time there we were put into the comparative luxury of "Z Block" which in the case of some of us meant a room to oneself.

There was a NAAFI from which music blared incessantly; and a Salvation Army hut where one could also eat, in a quiet atmosphere of kindly dolefulness. Upstairs in the NAAFI was the one small room in the camp where there was anything approaching quiet – just about ten armchairs and a carpet. I associate this room with the touching story of S.A.C.W. Ann Chadwick (a fellow S.H.Q. Clerk Personnel): when her boyfriend was called up, she had approached the R.A.F. and herself enlisted for three years, on condition that they could be stationed in the same place: she was a cheerful and friendly girl, and the two of them could be found sitting in that room, apparently finding (as she herself told me was the case) just being together was well worth all the sacrifice and the extra year. There was a welcome tennis court, and a place where films were shown. There was also an Education Hut, with a small library: extra courses were available there, and the Clerk Personnel who had been assigned to the Education Office was a very amiable, slow-speaking chap – whose name was Oscar Wild.

The whole of my time at Hullavington was under the immediate supervision of Flight Sergeant Wolstenholme. Behind his (extremely broad) back he was known as "Sludge-guts" – but there was absolutely no ill-feeling in the nick-name: very much the reverse. Part of his value was that he DID expect standards: much of what we did was nearly pointless, but it was saved from uselessness by our being expected to do it properly, and by being thanked. (For this reason only, I regret my occasional "creative" way of handling A.M.O.s)

Flight Sergeant Wolstenholme's kindness went beyond the call of duty: seeing in "Radio Times" that my father (a Methodist minister) was to broadcast, he invited me over to his house, and introduced me to his wife (his second, I think) – of whom he frequently spoke with affection and for whom, he once told me, he had bought by their common consent a fridge rather than a ring when they became engaged. I sat in their garden and, slightly bashfully, heard my father speak. On another occasion, discovering that a posting had come for me to Lincolnshire, he found out which other Clerk Personnel on the station lived nearer there, made a few phone calls, and kept me on the station and nearer to home, while doing a favour to someone else. .... To Be Continued ....

## NATURE NOTES 120

**T**HE TURN OF THE YEAR! Gently, almost imperceptibly, the first hints of Autumn intrude on mid-August evenings. A tiny, indefinable sharpness and smell to the air as darkness gathers; an owl call, the screech of a distant vixen, as inferred at the end of last *Nature Notes*. We wait and anticipate.

The weather continued much as in the first fortnight of August - comfortably warm, rather humid and, quite often, showery. The wind (when there was any) stayed as before, in a westerly direction. Day temperatures had been in the low twenties, but the night of the 14th was cold, only 5°. The 15th and 16th saw a sudden rise in day temperature to 26°/27° with 15° on the night of the 15th; then conditions returned to day temperatures in the low twenties, up to the 25th. Unfortunately, the increased moisture brought with it mildews, rusts and other fungal delights, to the detriment of much in our gardens!

Through this period, both Green and Great Spotted Woodpeckers were noisy and Bas Butler continued to note good numbers of both species around the allotments and The Green. Young Buzzards everywhere set up an almost continuous, pathetic mewling from the cover of large trees.

By the 18th, 'my' House Martins seemed ready to leave the nest, and several neighbouring families of newly fledged young and their parents joined 'my' parents in swirling, twittering flight up to the nest, even perching on it momentarily, trying to encourage its occupants to take wing and try the exciting freedom of the air. But, to no avail; the nestlings sat tight! But there was something urgent about the day - clear sunrise, warming early; a fresh sou'wester and fast moving shower clouds. The butterflies were early on the wing, flying round my Buddleia by Sam; a Raven calling and upsetting the Steepness Jackdaws and Rooks before flying off over Horn hill at 10.15; a family of Bullfinches calling plaintively and moving about the trees on Hempton Road; and Swallows and House Martins gathering to flit restlessly from overhead cables.

On the 19th my Buddleia sported 15 Small Tortoiseshells and 9 Peacocks along with the occasional Red Admiral and Comma butterflies.

The next two days and nights were very similar with cool nights (8°)

On the night of the 21st, steady rain began in the early hours continuing until 10.30 in the morning and, after a pleasant afternoon, a bright moonlit night didn't fall below 11°. To counteract this the 23rd was an unpleasant day of heavy, sunless haze, virtually windless, very humid and with apparent heat that belied its actual 24.5°. A windless, close



night of 14°, with fine rain for many hours, followed to complete the discomfort.

A northerly element developed in the westerly breeze of the 24th. It was overcast and chilly, and an adult Blue Tit with eight juveniles foraged my Lilacs and Honeysuckle. A Green Woodpecker yodelled alarm calls from below Steepness and one or two Great Spotted Woodpeckers 'keck'ed likewise. Bas watched two young Kestrels playing together and calling excitedly for some time at the allotments.

Next day, a chilly NNE breeze brought an overcast morning with drizzle which cleared to give a warm, sunny afternoon. I was lucky enough to spot a female Hen Harrier from car window as I went along the A361 beyond the west of the parish. I wonder if this is the bird that wintered with us last year, and will it do so again this year.

During the course of the afternoon I became aware of a silence and lack of activity over my garden. I realised that 'my' House Martins had left the nest and, with their parents had disappeared! As had the other Martin families and the Swallows. It was quiet and rather lonely.

On the 26th despite an overcast with a chilly NE breeze, hot sun broke through from mid-day and took the temperature up to 27°. Then, as the sun was touching the horizon at eventide, a quick movement in the air, a rustle of feathers, the vestige of a twitter, and the House Martins had shot in to their nest to roost! It transpired that this would be the last time I saw the birds so, bon voyage and hope to see you next Spring, Little Ones, and enjoy the African sun.

As if to emphasise the changing season, I noted on the evening of the 27th, that the first males of the big *Tegenaria* spiders were coming indoors for the Winter. So, it won't be long before the even bigger females, my *Grandes Dames*, appear and canter round my sitting room floor whilst I watch the evening t.v. news.

The wind was now starting to back westward on the 28th and Mick Bullard watched two Buzzards circling over The Green in the 24° warmth of the day.

The sun broke through a chilly overcast on the 29th to take the temperature up to 25°. I noted that a few Gatekeeper butterflies were still finding nectar from a few Marjoram spikes in my wild area, whilst the Buddleia now hosted plenty of Tortoiseshells and 'Whites' - and a couple of Small Copper butterflies, which may well have bred on my wild Sorrel. Later one of the Small Copper males was happily imbibing from the flowers of the culinary Mint.

The 30th was in like vein as the month drew to a close. Clear hot sun on the 31st was moderated by a chilly NNW breeze that held the temperature to 21°

only. Nevertheless, what a treat lay in store, out of the wind among the low herbage of my wild patch! Two female Common Blue butterflies and one very fresh Brown Argus were wandering over a big patch of Bird's-foot Trefoil - their caterpillars' food plant. And so, on a night of only 6.5° August melded into September -and Autumn.

Sunday the 1st dawned on a chilly W breeze. The Sun rose shrouded in haze that slowly cleared to give a pleasantly warm afternoon of 22° (8.5° night). Two Buzzards were calling and flying about the trees on Steepness quite early in the morning. Later they circled slowly northward and were joined by four others and all six then circled on a thermal over St. John. In the afternoon a Raven was active on Steepness, croaking and flying between Steepness and Horn Hill. And - there were now *three* female Common Blues on the Bird's-foot Trefoil and behaving very much in egg-laying mode!

A cool W breeze greeted the 2nd which developed on hazy sun and broken cloud. Daytime temperatures however, started to climb from 25° up to 28° on the 4th. The 5th fell back a little to 27° but the night held up at no less than 11°.

As usual at this time of year, larger creatures were very quiet, recovering from the rigours of breeding and starting to put on weight for the harder times to come. My only notes at this time were of a few tit families, Rooks and mewling Buzzards on Steepness and a Kite soaring near the Mason's Arms. Of course, the insects burgeoned, most noticeable being the butterflies and moths, the bees, hoverflies and grasshoppers.

On the 6th the temperatures plunged under a heavy, very still overcast to only 16.5°. A clear sun with fair weather clouds broke through about 4pm to give a beautiful, cool evening with a NW breeze and a max. night temperature of only 4°.

For the next week, temperatures rose again from the mid-teens to the low twenties, with winds between NW and N. Outdoors, Buzzards were the main performers and Pete Turner watched seven circling together over Steepness on the 10th. The sun shone through huge sheets of high level, ice crystal mare's-tail cloud in the morning. On the 12th, an overcast morning of mild, windless drizzle gave way afternoon sunny patches. The Steepness Buzzard-parents spent much time circling up to a considerable height and calling to coax their youngsters into the air, presumably for exercise and practice. However, teen-like, they would have none of it and remained slumped in the trees, wailing pathetically.

A Great Spotted Woodpecker spent some time 'keck'ing in the Oaks below Steepness before flying

off to the conifers in Horn Hill, where it continued calling.

The butterflies responded to the afternoon warmth and, as well as the usual suspects, the Speckled Woods had emerged.

During the evenings, the massive *Tegenaria* female spiders had now come in, each proceeding to canter like a horse and trap around my sitting room floor, on seemingly traditional routes, looking for mates. Around dawn, if you're lucky, you can spot one folding up her legs to manoeuvre into a ridiculously small gap under the skirting. During daylight, you can occasionally spot a badly wounded and dying male, on a curtain or some-sutch, succumbing to the night's revels. I saw one, limp and emaciated and minus one leg, high on the wall paper at breakfast time - by dinner time, he had crashed, limp and lifeless to the floor, so I consigned him to the dust-pan. Sic transit gloria spider!

The three days prior to my writing these N. Notes on the 16th, were variably wet, sometimes drizzle, other times, steady rain. Day temperatures in the low teens, chilly at night, particularly the 14th, which was a near frost at 2.5°.

The late pre-hibernation bumblebee queens are now looking for their winter quarters and foraging to put on fat reserves for the long sleep. Otherwise all seems very quiet, the Rooks and jackdaws on Steepness continue their quarrels and pre-roost assemblies; the odd Raven croaks, the Buzzards 'mew' and the woodpeckers are occasionally noisy. And, whilst the sun shines, the butterflies bring brightness to these quiet days. Let's enjoy them to the full and next *Nature Notes*.

Ron Knight



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