

BARFORD NEWS

DECEMBER 2013

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Price 30p where sold

Parish Council Notes

The meeting took place at 7.30pm on 6th November 2013 at Barford Village Hall and was attended by Cllr Hobbs, Cllr Best, Cllr Eden, Cllr Styles, Cllr Turner and Mrs R Watts (Parish Clerk), District Cllr O'Sullivan and one member of the public.

Apologies for absence: Cllr Bullard

Murreys Lane: Oxfordshire County Council had confirmed that two large Leylandii at the top of Murreys Lane are the responsibility of the owner of 1 Bishops Close.

Invitation to County Councillor Fatemian: The Parish Clerk had written to County Councillor Fatemian once again a) asking for his comments on Oxfordshire County Council's proposed school transport changes and b) inviting him to attend monthly Parish Council meetings as his predecessor had done. Unfortunately she has still not received a reply from him. Councillors expressed their disappointment with the lack of response or contact from County Councillor Fatemian and asked the Parish Clerk to report their dissatisfaction to the Leader of Oxfordshire County Council and Sir Tony Baldry.

The Rock: Work on The Rock face for Mr and Mrs Greeves will commence in March 2014. The Rock will be closed to traffic whilst this work is carried out.

Parish Council Website: Emma Best has volunteered to design a new Parish Council website. She was unable to attend the meeting and will be invited to attend the December meeting.

Planning Matters

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

[dc.gov.uk/publicaccess/tdc/DcApplication/application_searchform.aspx](http://cherweb.cherwell-dc.gov.uk/publicaccess/tdc/DcApplication/application_searchform.aspx)

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

Planning Applications Received:

13/01407/F & 13/01408/LB Turnstile House, The Rock, Barford St Michael. Modifications to existing permission 11/01710/F & 11/01711/LB. Demolition of outbuilding and garden wall, replacing with a one and a half storey extension with glazed link to original house. Although the Parish Council had no objections to the original

application, Councillors had raised concerns with Cherwell about a) the lack of detail in the revised application (modifications are not listed and sketches 'not to scale' are valueless) and b) the potential significant visual impact on surrounding properties and pathways. An email from a resident in a neighbouring property regarding the application and other issues will be passed to District Councillor O'Sullivan for action.

13/01508/F Barn Elms and Stonecroft, The Green, Barford St Michael. First floor rear dual extension with associated internal and external works. No objections.



*A Happy and Peaceful Christmas
To Everyone
From the News Team*

Planning Applications Approved:

13/01189/F The Oat Barn, Church Lane, Barford St John. Conversion of traditional agricultural buildings to form two dwellings. No objections. Granted 27th September 2013.

13/01384/F 1 Red Roofs, Lower St, Barford St Michael – Timber framed car shelter adjacent to dwelling and timber summer house to rear garden. Granted 30th October 2013.

TCA Applications Received:

13/00324/TCA 1 Bishops Close, Barford St Michael. T1 & T2 Leland Cypress – fell. No objections.

Approved TCAs:

13/00268/TCA Rock Cottage, High St, Barford St Michael T1 x Cotoneaster – fell; T2 x Purple Plum – reduce height by 6' and shape, reduce northern crown by 5', reduce southern crown away from roof to give 4' clearance, crown thin by 5% and install cable brace to splitting limbs; T3 x Hazel – remove 2 branches from shed. Granted 21st October 2013.

Secretary of State's Decision on the Bloxham Planning Appeals: On 24th September the Secretary of State approved both the Mintondale Development's Appeal on land south of Milton Rd, Bloxham (85 houses) and Gladman Development's Appeal for land off Barford Road, Bloxham (75 houses). Cherwell District Council had since taken legal advice from Counsel and decided that a Judicial Review was not appropriate. Lack of school places for children in the Barfords remains a concern for Parish Councillors.

Councillors noted that a decision is awaited for the following:

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

Budget

2014/2015: The Chairman had circulated a draft budget to Councillors before the meeting. Following a discussion it was agreed that the Chairman would issue amended budget papers to Councillors for approval at the December meeting.

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

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.49 pm.

Barford Village Hall Committee

THE 200 £ CLUB £

**Tickets for 2014 will be on sale shortly
£6.00 covers your Annual Subscription
and enters you in**

12 Monthly Draws Offering

Guaranteed Prizes

£5.00 £10.00 £15.00 Every month

£25.00 Once each Quarter

£50.00 Twice a Year

Christmas Bonus of £100.00

~ ~ ~

So Please – Have a go! And help raise funds to
maintain YOUR village hall.

For 50p a month you can really make a
difference!

Existing members will be contacted soon.

**New members - To reserve a ticket (or two!),
please contact Mariann on 338570.**

Chr**stingle**

Please join us for our

Christingle Service



A perfect start to the
Christmas celebrations

St. Michael's Church

4pm

Sunday, 8th December

From the Womens Institute to pot!.....

Barford Picture House
December 7th at 7.45pm

‘SAVING GRACE’.....

.....is a 2000 British comedy film, directed by Nigel Cole . Suitable for anyone over 15.

STARRING Brenda Blethyn, Martin Clunes, Diana Quick and Bill Bailey among others.

A brief description of the plot.....

After being unexpectedly widowed, reserved housewife Grace Trevethyn (Brenda Blethyn) discovers that her late husband ran up significant debts and left her facing foreclosure and numerous repossessions.

Despite wanting to help Grace, none of the residents are initially able to find a way to get her out of her dire situation. However a pot-smoking gardener enters the scene and the story continues!

The film contains many comical situations, from hydroponic cultivation of marijuana, through the Women's Institute to a novel by Grace (The unknown widow) called JOINT VENTURE.

Come along and enjoy our cinema!.

Welcome

To
New residents
Nikki & David Tyers
Who have recently moved to
their new home at Rignell Farm

We wish them a happy time
Here in our lovely village

*BARFORD ST MICHAEL
CHURCH*



CRIB SERVICE
4pm, Christmas Eve

Christmas is coming, so in keeping with tradition there will be ...



Carols in the Pub Friday 20 December 7.00 pm
with Mike Horth on Keyboard - other musicians are more
that welcome to join us and of course anyone who can sing –
Please give us a rest from Glynnis!
(Empty Vessel and all that)



Carols round the village Monday 23rd December
meet by the letterbox on Townsend 6.30 pm

These two events raise money for a small local charity
Spurgeons Oxfordshire Young Carers



Martin and Julia provide mulled wine and mince pies for a donation
to this charity so please give generously
thank you

From The Fire Station

AS THE NIGHTS are drawing in and the weather is defiantly starting to feel like winter, we are breaking out the snow socks and the grit. We had a quieter month with only 20 call outs; NO chimney fires and a completely incident free Guy Fawkes too. Looks like everyone got their chimneys swept and adhered to the firework code, we thank you.



We did get called to a very unusual barn fire; it was down at Middle Barton. Crew Manager Graham Harding was in charge that night with me and George Williamson wearing the breathing apparatus (BA). As we raced along toward the incident we started to wonder whether this was a real fire or not because barns generally light up the night sky incredibly quickly. On arrival we met the owner who informed us that the fire was completely out of control and he had shut the door and was more than a little concerned about the 50 or more very heavy solar panels on his roof that would come crashing in if the fire was to break through. At this point the crew are in auto pilot sorting out our hoses and getting ready to get in and put the fire out. That's "the easy bit", whilst Graham is trying to slow everything down in his mind because it's his decision to send us in or not, and all I can say is I'm glad he was in charge that night and not me. We get the green light from Graham to go in when he says, "2 BA, 1 HOSE REAL, STAGE 1, OSCAR OFFENSIVE MODE". From the time we rocked up to the time we opened the door to the barn, it was less than two minutes.

We were confronted with a wall of fire, with hundreds of bails of straw alight. I knew that the amount of water we had would not even start to put this out and with no water hydrants anywhere close we were going to have to fight clever. Our driver Adam Franklin who was also command support, radioed for three more fire engines and Colin Smith and Lewis Mahony started to sort out the equipment to pump water from a nearby small lake. George and I were inside trying to cool the structure with a very fine mist and hitting it hard, in short bursts where needed. The trouble with fighting fires like this is the heat. We were making steam and with no ventilation you can over heat very quickly. Twelve minutes have passed and Graham informs us that we are just about out of water. But Banbury have arrived, music to our ears, because another tank of water will give us the valuable time we need to get the water pumping from the lake, then we could really get to work. Within twenty minutes the main jets are out and the

water is flowing and I knew we had a good chance of saving the building. But the work was a long way from being completed. We were there for about another seven hours wearing BA and using large machinery to drag the whole contents of the barn out and douse it down. But we had managed save the building.

I never found out if the owner of the property had shut the barn door on purpose or not, but that one small single action was probably the main reason for us managing to save the barn. If you ever have a fire in your home and can just shut the door on your way out of the house, which cuts off the oxygen supply, radically reducing the fire spread. So remember, always shut your doors before you go to bed.

Congratulations to George Williamson and Tom Hall on successfully passing their BA Team Leader written assessment. They are now well on the way to becoming Team Leaders, which will enable them to be in charge of their own teams going into a burning buildings.

Tim Parker, Crew Manager
Deddington Fire Station



**MULLED WINE
Mince pies
&
Festive Singing
With
Mike Horth, Mick Bullard
and Tony Ecclestone**



**7.30pm
Wednesday 11th December
In The Village Hall**

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

BARFORD ST JOHN & ST MICHAEL VILLAGE
HALL 2013 END OF YEAR REPORT

The VHMC thought you may like to see how its members allocate their time and how monies are spent on running and maintaining the hall. Below are the 2013 'targets hit'

TASK	SPEND £
Replaced broken tiles on kitchen roof	180:00
2x cigarette bins have been fitted to the front and garden side of the hall	25:00
As requested by a villager, 2x bicycle racks have been fitted	45:00
Due to a rodent problem, mainly under the stage, we have instructed a registered company to solve the problem. Once under control preventative measures will be put in place and the area professionally cleaned	180:00
New microwave	40:00
Sound & Projection box and several cables were damaged and had to be replaced	200:00
Replaced 2 kettles	26:00
Fixed the leaking toilet in the Ladies	30:00
Kitchen roof area, extending above the toilets and corridor has been insulated to a depth of 210mm	275:00
Wasp infested pear tree removed	180:00
For safety, legal and environmental reasons we replaced and repositioned the oil tank. This has been completed along with the annual boiler service	2,534:00 97:00
Broken waste pipe from the kitchen	20:00
Broken fire extinguisher replaced	60:00
Works in Progress	
The VHMC have been strongly advised to carry out a Fire Risk Assessment which will cover fire alarms, emergency exits, etc. This is currently our top priority	400:00
2x garden lights will be replaced with 2x non-sensor bulkhead fittings. Wiring to be updated	140:00
TOTAL	£4,432:00

As you can see we have achieved so much in just 12 months and this is down to our dedicated, hard-working team and also the volunteers who help at our twice-yearly Maintenance Days. As always, your continued support is very much appreciated.

The VHMC
November 2013

The above is an extract from the End of Year Report which can be seen in full in the glazed Parish Council notice board by the seat outside the village hall. Ed.

1st Deddington Guides

FIRSTLY, THANK-YOU to the Deddington Farmers' Market Committee for the generous donation to help us get up to date with handbooks and uniform – much appreciated by us all.



Well done to all who attended the Remembrance Day Parade – All deserve a mention – Penny and Elen in the band, Charlotte and Casey carried the colours, and escorts and wreath layers Sophie, Ellie A, Megan, Chloe and Amy U, also did a great job with no rehearsal – Well done to all!

We discussed the meaning of the poppy and Remembrance Day and tried to come up with some rules ourselves that could help us all to live peacefully together. *No Bullying *No Racism *Share the land * Compromise when you disagree *Sign a peace contract *people of all faiths to try and understand the faiths of others *be kind, helpful and friendly to everyone..... This last one really echoes one of our Guide Laws and something, we agreed we could all make sure we stick to straight away. So the peace movement is spreading as of last Tuesday night!

You can see why we are very proud of all 1st Deddington Guides.

We love the Halloween events, and the glamour night, put on by the senior guides, and are going to wear our outfits to our home film night and eat lots of popcorn!

Guiders: Maggie Rampley, 01295 810069
Marian Trinder, 01869 340800
Catherine Blackburn, 01295 258008



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Sainsbury's Banbury Store has very kindly allowed us to hold our

Annual Christmas Bag Pack Day

On

Wednesday 18th December

and we'd be delighted to hear from anyone who'd like to volunteer. Perhaps you belong to a local group and would like to come as part of a team? 1.5 hour slots will be available from 9.30am. Last year's event raised over £1,000 in just 6 hours! If you'd like to help with this fantastic fundraiser, please call Fundraising on (01295) 812161 or email sarah.brennan@khh.org.uk

Notes From Our Potting Shed

On Monday 2nd December, 17 of us were treated to a talk by Peter Richardson of Preston Bisset Nurseries, near Buckingham. This nursery covers a 2 acre site. He had brought a huge array of plants to talk about, in relation to the subject of his talk.....'Designing for Small Gardens'. They have 4,000 varieties at the nursery!



Peter is very knowledgeable and after 28 years of having the nursery, listening to customers and gaining expertise he gave us many things to think about in planning a garden. 'Look at the view....the aspect of the garden...the soil type.....create the structure first....leave gaps and buy plants throughout the year to see which are best at each time....you need to control your plants!' 'Remember it is YOUR garden and nobody else's....think how you want to ENJOY your garden...sitting in it' He talked about all the plants he had brought and I am looking forward to a visit to the nursery. They are also able to do site visits and advise customers, free of charge.

A good tip he gave was about David Austin roses... 'do not prune them, just cut out old wood. They become spindly if you prune and stems cannot bear flower weight!' Finally he said that gardening is all about HOPE, try to include uplifting scents and colours. Despite having the DT Brown seed catalogues there were not many takers. Any ideas for future visits would be most welcome.

Things to do this month, as always everything depends on the weather! In last year's diary I have put the last lawn mowing as 7th December!

1. Keep clearing up fallen autumn leaves Cut back perennials that have died down
2. Cover tender plants with fleece or if you can, move into the greenhouse if a frost.
3. Finish planting bulbs
4. Harvest last of the apples
5. Prune climbing roses
6. Order seeds for next year and plant sweet peas in greenhouse.
7. Last chance to mow lawns and trim hedges in mild areas
8. Tidy up your borders ready for winter.
9. Keep feeding the birds regularly and keep seed heads available for them if you can



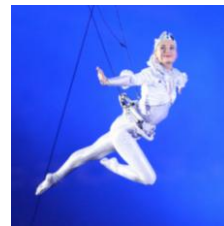
'Bye for now'
Spade and Fork



Rugby League World Cup 2013:

Opening Ceremony Best Bits

IF, LIKE ME, you were disappointed at the BBC's lack of coverage of the RLWC2013 Opening Ceremony you can see the highlights of the colourful and exciting show by following this links



www.bbc.co.uk/sport/0/rugby-league/24696096 or visit the gallery of great still images at www.walesonline.co.uk/news/wales-news/rugby-league-world-cup-opening-6245224.

Village Residents Gwen & Austin produced the performance elements for the Ceremony and also for the Semi Final at Wembley on 23 November. Ed.

1st Deddington Scout Group

Cubs



The display of guys at the market was a great success as we raised £170 towards our next Shelterbox, the need for which was brought home when we saw the extent of the disaster in Indonesia. Thanks to everyone who donated.

The Cubs took part in the annual White Sheet Walk which was held in Bloxham. They walked around the hidden alleyways & followed the 'pest route' (very apt!) dressed as ghosts, much to the surprise of residents & shoppers at the Co-op.

We also talked about Remembrance Day & made a big poppy for the wall at The Windmill.

Coming next – Home help badge, Christmas crafts & hopefully, a party.

Jo Churchyard C.S.L.

jochurchyard@hotmail.com

Scouts

The Scouts finished their communicator badge with an evening of Morse code, phonetic alphabet, walkie talkies & emergency whistles. They now carry a whistle when doing any activity outside of the centre.

We then moved on to maps, firstly looking at different scales & attempted to scale up a playing card by dividing it into sections.

Coming up – Extreme Ox – assault course & paracord activities.

Pete Churchyard S.L.

pete.churchyard@btinternet.com

Well done to everyone who came to Remembrance Day Parade – a great turnout.



Barford Village Market

Saturday, 14th December

A week early to avoid clashing with Deddington

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

All the usual stalls

*Join us for a Complimentary
Glass of Mulled Wine
& Home-made Mince Pies*

**Lots of stocking fillers and Christmas delights
on sale at bargain prices**

**New stalls and traders each month
Not forgetting Tea/Coffee & Bacon/Egg/Sausage Butties**

**We hold regular markets on the
3rd Saturday every month (except January and August)**

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

Changes on the News Team

Welcome and thanks to

The Brown Family

Archie, Poppy (and probably mum & dad)
Who are now delivering BN around
The Green area and Church Street
and Thanks to

The Preece Family

Ed, Will (and certainly mum & dad)
Who are handing over after several years
of faithful service

1st Barford And Deddington Rainbows

The Rainbows have made their annual walk along The Park



to collect conkers. Last year we were worried we wouldn't find any at all, but this year, how we were going to carry the bulging carrier bags home was the problem! Ivy very cleverly turned her conkers into Viking soap (yet to be tested!) and a caterpillar ornament at home. We've been visited by Brownies, Guides and Senior Section (Rangers and Young Leaders) who showed us a bit about what they do. The Rainbows ate crepes (Tilly went to Paris with her Ranger unit), decorated bookmarks with the Brownies, practised carrying the Guide flags and talked about camping with the Guides. The sleeping bag in the bedding roll was very popular- luckily we have our 'sleepover for an hour' to look forward to later this term!

We have been joined by Ava C, Jemima A and Rose, who have all joined in enthusiastically. We made poppy hair slides from felt to wear at the Remembrance Day Parade with our British Legion poppies. We had a fabulous turn out for the parade; it's a long service for 5 year olds and we were very proud of them.



Andrew Jenkins from Cherwell District Council visited us to tell us about Major Sparkle's quest against litter. The Rainbows were all pretty good at knowing how to recycle rubbish to avoid litter, but were shocked at how long it took different types of litter to biodegrade, especially the plastic bags.

Hazel Neal, 01869 337822

Thames Valley Alert

Winter officially began when the clocks went back an hour; so now is the time to check your house is not vulnerable to opportunist thieves. Thames Valley Police is working in partnership with Community Safety Partnerships across the Thames Valley to keep you safe as the darker nights draw in. You can pick up security advice from the Thames Valley Police website; about the importance of not leaving your house in darkness, as well as via our social media sites.

People who work full time, and usually leave and return from work in the dark, are more likely to fall victim of opportunist burglars. It is vital that we engage with those at risk of burglary and this year we are encouraging people to look at our Twitter sites and website for crime prevention information. Officers will be patrolling neighbourhoods and burglary hot spot areas identifying houses that could benefit from improved home security and posting a leaflet advising people to contact them for further crime reduction advice.

If no light is on in your home, curtains are not drawn, and no car is in the drive, it's an obvious sign to an opportunist burglar that no-one is in. At this time of the year more than any other it pays to secure your home.

There are a number of simple and low-cost or free ways to do this, all of which will help reduce the chance of your home becoming the next target.

- Purchase a 24 hour segment timer for under £5. The timer can be used with a lamp, radio or TV to give the impression that someone's home. Remember to use an energy efficient light bulb
- Register your valuables on www.immobilise.com - its free and takes just a few minutes and if your valuables are stolen, will allow you to tell the police, your insurer, and the second-hand trade to assist in recovering your property and catch the thief
- Keep valuables out of sight
- Look your doors and windows, if you have a UPVC door make sure you have double locked it

You can also follow us on Twitter @ [ThamesVP](https://twitter.com/ThamesVP) ([opens new window](#)) (localise this if there is one) alternatively you can give us a 'like' on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/thamesvp> ([opens new window](#))

For regular updates on crime and disorder in your area you can sign up to [Thames Valley Alert](#) ([opens new window](#))

For further crime reduction advice you can also visit our website or call and ask to speak to a Crime Reduction Adviser via the 24-hour Police Enquiry Centre on 101.



Deddington PFSU and Village Nursery

THE NURSERY children have been exploring the story of the Little Red Hen and the PFSU children finding out about celebrations. We also made our own Autumn lunch - vegetable soup and bread rolls - yum!



Thoughts are now turning towards Christmas. We will be holding Christmas parties at both settings: Nursery on December 19th and the PFSU on December 18th. The PFSU children will be taking part in a production of 'Prickly Hay' with the school F1 class. This takes place in Deddington Church at 2pm on December 16th. At Nursery we will be presenting an interactive Christmas performance, 'Journey to Bethlehem'. This will be a celebration including arts and crafts, costumes and fun for all the family, and it will take place on Friday 13th December.

The PFSU also invite all PFSU parents to join them to make decorations and put them up on 4th and 5th December from 1.30 - 3.00pm. Christmas snacks will be provided!

Kick-starting the Christmas celebrations will be our Christmas Fayre and Pamper Evening in Deddington Church at 7.30pm on Tuesday 3rd December. We will have over 35 local stallholders selling unique Christmas gifts, and therapists offering seated massage and manicures. There will also be the chance to relax with friends over a mince pie and a glass of mulled wine, whilst listening to Christmas carols. This Christmassy evening is open to everyone - an easy opportunity to support your local pre-school settings whilst having a great night out!

Lucy Squires, 337484

Deddington and District History Society

ALARGE ATTENDANCE of members and guests came along to hear our October speaker, Colin Cohen. The subject of Colin's talk was his father Kenneth, a quietly remarkable man. What began as a routine piece of family history research developed into something altogether more significant when Colin discovered what his father had never told him, viz. that he had escaped from France in 1940 just ahead of the invading German army and that he then became second in command of SIS, running secret networks and liaising with Free French forces. It was dangerous, relentless work. A crucial agent was Marie-Madeleine Fourcade (later to be Colin's godmother), who ran a group of 3000 resistance fighters, almost 500 of whom were killed. There were some lighter moments: accounts of bruising encounters with the impossible General de Gaulle, and the souvenir champagne bottle marked 'Only to be drunk by German officers' whose label had been signed by leaders of the Resistance celebrating with Kenneth the liberation of wine cellars that was a patriotic duty during the Liberation of Paris. After the war Kenneth served as Controller of MI6 Europe. What astonishing people Colin revealed to us. It was a fascinating and in many ways a humbling talk.

As ever, all will be welcome at our monthly meetings, which take place at 7.30pm at the Windmill Centre.

Chris Day (Chairman) 337204
Moiria Byast (Secretary) 338637

Katharine House News

CHRISTMAS KNITTED NOVELTIES: Our knitted Christmas puddings, robins and Santa hats are sold in many local shops, schools, and events in the run-up to Christmas. Last year's Christmas knitted fundraiser raised £3,000- can we beat it this year?

CHRISTMAS CARDS: We have seventeen beautiful designs of Christmas cards on sale in our six charity shops, and hospice reception. Or download a mail-order form from our website at www.khh.org.uk Prices start from £3.95 for a pack of 10 cards.

CHRISTMAS QUILT RAFFLE AND QUIZ: Tickets are on sale at hospice reception and our six charity shops for our Christmas Quilt Raffle. The prize this year is a beautiful handmade batik-style double quilt. It has been made and very kindly donated by a local craft group and can be viewed on our website at www.khh.org.uk. Tickets are £1 and the draw is to take place w/c 16th December.

Cryptic and riddles are the theme of this year's Christmas Quiz and there are forty tricky questions and brain-teasers to solve! Sheets are on sale at hospice reception and in our charity shops, priced £2 each.

KATHARINE HOUSE HOSPICE LOTTERY GIFT MEMBERSHIPS: Stuck for what to give as a gift this Christmas? Why not get your loved one a Lottery Gift Membership? Our weekly lottery draw has a first prize of £1,000! Just choose the number of weeks membership you wish to buy (minimum of 10 weeks) and call our lottery Administrator, Wendy on 01295 812161.

Thank you, Sarah Brennan, Community Fundraiser

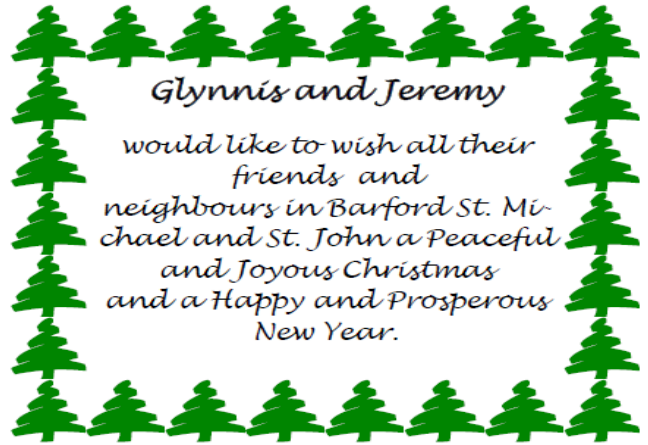


Seasons Greetings

From Avril

*Wishing everyone in the
Fernhill Club
and friends in the Barfords
A Merry Christmas
and a*

*Happy & Peaceful New Year
No cards this year, but a donation
to the Christmas Lunch Fund
Avril*



Glynnis and Jeremy

*would like to wish all their
friends and
neighbours in Barford St. Mi-
chael and St. John a Peaceful
and Joyous Christmas
and a Happy and Prosperous
New Year.*

Seasons Greetings from the Dalys



As per usual we will not be sending Christmas cards to friends that live locally, instead we will donate to our chosen charity.

SO -.

The Daly family (Leon, Lyn and Hannah) would like to wish all our friends in the Barfords a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Cathy & Mariann (Stonehaven)

*Send village friends and neighbours
their best wishes
for Christmas and the New Year.*

*Instead of sending individual cards we
will each be making donations to the
Guides Christmas Postal Fund and to
the
Shepherds and Bakehouse Trust*



**Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas
and Happy New year!**

Martin, Julia, Rachael and Dillon



To the Editor

A Murder in Barford St John c1871



Following this article written by Brenda Kirkham in the September issue of the Barford News, we wanted readers to be aware of the project being undertaken by a former Barford resident (and helpers!) looking into the history of houses (and the people who lived in them) in Barford St Michael and St John.

The intention is to produce a social history of the villages through the eyes of those who lived in the houses in existence in 1900 and those who live in them today.

An immense amount of work has already been done and vast quantities of information collated but there are still gaps in the story. We will be particularly interested to hear from people who have access to family papers belonging to the following old properties or any information relating to them.

- Buckingham's Cottage
- Glebe Cottage
- The Old Post Office
- Brookhouse Cottages

Any information about other old properties would help to build up the picture of the Barfords from 1900 to the present will be most welcome.

Please contact:

Ann Hook (née Taylor) ann_hook@btinternet.com
01280 848766

Or Sue Addison
susanaddison234@btinternet.com
01869 338017

Exercise Classes In Banbury For Over 50's

Dear all,

I wanted to reach out and let you know about two exercise classes in the Banbury Area supported by Age UK Oxfordshire which may be of interest. . Tai Chi Classes and a new Zumba class (suitable for people already active), both held weekly in Banbury.

However, if Tai Chi or Zumba isn't for you then perhaps Generation Games can help to get you active in another way? Generation Games is a service co-ordinated by Age UK Oxfordshire in partnership with Oxfordshire University Hospitals NHS Trust focused on encouraging, supporting and inspiring everyone over the age of 50 in Oxfordshire to be more active. We offer an exercise prescription and signposting service (we signpost people to opportunities locally whereby they can be active and we have a database of over 1000 activities in Oxfordshire!) that can be accessed via the internet:

www.generationgames.org.uk or by phone: 01235 849403. We also have a free home based exercise DVD available to anyone in Oxfordshire over the age of 50 – please simply give us a or email us at: generationgames@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk.

Anna Hegley, Head of Generation Games,
Age UK .01235 849403, Mob 07827235411
www.generationgames.org.uk

Down On The Farm

HAVING SPENT a lot of time around pigs I think George Orwell may well have done the same before he wrote his parody on Marxism called Animal Farm in which the pigs end up running the place. They are by far the most intelligent animal we have at Iron Down (we don't keep horses). If I wanted to appoint a helper and there were no humans available I would seriously look at choosing a pig. Their anatomy is the same as ours too!

They know apples grow on trees - I have watched them shaking branches to induce them to fall off. In summer they will find a spring, leaky water pipe or low place, make a hollow and give themselves a 'sun screen' mud bath when it fills with water.

Also they soon get to know their way around the farm; steer them in the right direction when they are being moved and they will amble off and wait for the appropriate gate to be opened - mercifully they haven't learned to do that yet.

I generalise, of course. A few of them can be awkward customers, but in the main they are easy to deal with providing they are not rushed; they have their own pace.

Maybe this is peculiar to Gloucester Old Spots. Other people tell me pigs can be a real chore to move around. Or perhaps it has to do with the amount of time we spend with them which is really only possible with a small herd such as ours.

Whatever the reason their natural intelligence is beyond doubt. We have had them farrow outside before we have woken up to the fact they are due when they will select a dry, sheltered place under a hedge, hollow out a shallow pit and then scour the field for bits of dry vegetation to make a nest for their piglets.

On one such occasion I provided a hut to give shelter from the rain. Both hut and I were completely ignored; the inference being that if she had wanted a hut she would have asked for one.

Maybe promoting a pig to help around the place would not be such a good idea. They don't care for taking orders. As George Orwell has already surmised, they are better at giving them.



Tony Collier, Iron Down Farm

Deddington Primary School News

DECEMBER IS UPON US already and the children are getting ready for a long deserved break.



There has been a lot going on this term, it started with some of our Yr5 and 6 children taking part in a Warriner Partnership Cross Country Competition, girls and boys ran separately and there were 180 children in each race. All the children did very well but special congratulations must go to Olivia Shepherd and Cas Rowbotham in Year 6, Olivia came 9th in her race and Casian came 1st! The following week Years 1-4 took part in their cross country competition, again we did very well, Matthew Edmunds came 3rd in the Yr1/2 race and Harley Finch came 4th in the Yr3/4 race – both races had approximately 100 children in them. All will go on to represent the partnership at the County meeting later this term. Mrs Knox and Mrs Lynch took the children to the events and were really impressed with their attitude and team spirit.

At the beginning of November I ran a maths afternoon for parents, the following week Mrs Sharland ran a literacy event. I enjoyed the maths afternoon which was well supported by parents, I showed them some of the maths our children do in class and I think they were rather impressed! Myself and Mrs Sharland shall be offering a maths and literacy evening in the new year for parents who are unable to attend afternoon meetings.

Our Fireworks evening was a great success as always though the weather was looking fairly awful early on in the day the PTA were determined the evening would go ahead, and within minutes of the gates opening the rain stopped and we were left with a beautiful, crisp November evening. The fireworks were great, as were the burgers and mulled wine!

On November the 11th Jean Morris and David Hood from the Royal British Legion joined us for our Remembrance Service, David read the ode and then Year 6 pupils, Chloe Reilly and Grace Swadling, played the Last Post on their cornets to signify the start and the end of the 2 minutes silence, it was a very special service. David and Jean also visited the Year 6 class with artefacts from World War 1, they spent an hour with my class discussing events and sharing stories, I know my class really appreciated David and Jean giving up their time, we hope they enjoyed it too (I think they did!).

Later that evening a group of Year 5 and 6 children joined other schools in St Mary's Church, Banbury, for the Rotary Club's annual Children singing for Children concert. It was a wonderful evening, Mrs Welch and Mrs Rumsby worked very hard with the children at an after school club for the

past few weeks, the children sang and performed beautifully- it was a very moving performance.

Last, but not least, we are busy preparing for our Christmas productions, which are as usual a mixture of modern and traditional, with singing, acting and narration. The children, as always, are working extremely hard and are looking forward to performing in front of friends and family. F1 and F2's production will take place on Monday 16th December, Key Stage 1's will take place on Tuesday (17th) and Key Stage 2's will be on the Thursday (19th), all performances will be in Deddington Church. I'm sure they will be well supported and all performances will be enjoyed by all!

Jane Cross
Deputy Head Teacher

Have Your Say on

Home to School Transport

Read the proposals and respond online at
www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/htspconsultation

Come to the public meeting on

Thursday 12th December

7pm till 8.30pm at

The Warriner School, Bloxham

Fernhill Club News

WE STARTED November with a trip to Wyevale, I think everybody came back to the mini bus carrying shopping bags. We'd all been into Hobby Craft and Lakeland and then into the shop and garden centre where he enjoyed lunch and looked around the Christmas decorations.

On 13th of November we were entertained by Martin Sirot-Smith from Sulgrave Manor. He was dressed in Tudor costume and was presented as Lawrence Washington, a forefather of George Washington and the purchaser of Sulgrave Manor. Martin described how the tudors celebrated Christmas and how customs have changed through the years to present days.

We will be having lunch at The Red Lion in Adderbury on 4th December and our party in the village hall on 11th when Maddy & Mo will be there to entertain us.

We start again on 15th January, weather permitting.

We would like to wish everyone a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mary Ashbridge
01295 252298





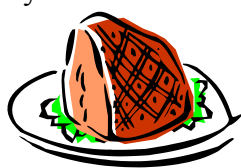
On the 6th October, we were delighted to open the farm to host the Banbury and District Vintage Ploughing Society's ploughing match, organised as a fund raiser on our behalf. Visitors were able to watch a variety of trailed, mounted and horticultural ploughs working our fields in the unexpectedly warm sunshine in addition to being able to

see the animals. Our home-grown hot dogs, bacon rolls and burgers went down well on the BBQ, along with a range of delicious cakes being served with the teas in the Warriner Centre for Rural Education. By the end of the day, a total of £1375.84 had been collected, with the additional £377 donated by the Vintage Ploughing Club making a fabulous grand total of £1752.84. Thanks very much to all who came along and supported us, making the day lively and memorable.

We are now looking towards Christmas and have a series of workshops lined up for those of you who fancy trying your hand at making some different decorative items and gifts this year. (No 'artistic ability' required – these are skills that are easy to learn and yield great results. You will be able to produce posh handmade items at a fraction of the cost of buying them in the shops!)



If you don't have time to come along and have a go, don't forget to visit our farm shop (Saturday mornings, 9am-1pm.) We will soon be stocking a range of our handmade items for Christmas, along with our delicious home-reared meat. If you want to place an order for fresh Christmas gammon or beef, please give us a ring on 01295-721471, or call in on a Saturday to reserve it as we will only have limited availability.



All of our Christmas meat will be ready to collect from the 19th to the 21st of December.

Warriner Christmas workshop details:

Date	Time	Course details	Fee
Wednesday 4/12/13	6.00pm- 8.00pm	Christmas feltmaking. Christmas cards and tree decorations. All materials and refreshments included.	£10
Thursday 5/12/13	9.30am- 4.00pm	Feltmaking day course. Learn a number of feltmaking techniques and create two attractive and useful items for your Christmas table. (Materials, drinks and cake provided – please bring along a packed lunch.)	£40
Wednesday 11/12/13	6.00pm- 8.00pm	Christmas willow workshop. Make a willow door wreath and a selection of tree decorations. All materials and refreshments included.	£10
Thursday 12/12/13	4.30pm- 6.00pm	Christmas willow decorations for families. Bring your children along to make tree decorations from a variety of natural materials. We will provide hot drinks for adults and squash and biscuits for the children, as well as all the materials needed.	£4 per person
Monday 16/12/13	4.30pm- 6.00pm	Christmas feltmaking for families. Bring your children along to learn how to make felt, to produce their own upmarket tree decorations! We will provide hot drinks for adults and squash and biscuits for the children, as well as all the materials needed.	£4 per person
Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Please contact Bev to book on: 01295-721471 or b.james@warriner.oxon.sch.uk			

Found

Green Pashmina Shawl

In the area of 'The Rock'

To reclaim

Contact Mariann, 338 570

New Year Quiz & Curry Night Saturday, January 25th

Q.≡
A.≡



CURRY

Barford Village Hall Quiz Night.

Time to get your brains in gear.

Doors open 7:30pm quiz starts 8:00pm.

Tickets £10 per person. (includes quiz & meal).

Raffle tickets will be on sale and we will have the bottle of scotch rolling competition too.

The curry will be prepared by The Buffet Company, and, following requests, they will provide enough so that takeaways can be purchased for you to stock up your freezer.

A veg option will be available (just poke the meat out).
Teams can be up to a maximum of 8'

Bring your own booze as there will be no bar.
Bookings in advance are crucial, as last year we only just got everyone in the hall.
If you haven't booked and you try to get in on the night - you might get turned away,

Bookings: via email barfordquiznight@gmail.com
text 07957 855454 or
land line 01869 338061

Please note the mobile number is for text messages only

First come first served

If you have any questions please contact us.



Christmas **PAMPER** **FAYRE** AND **EVENING**

TUESDAY, 3rd DECEMBER, 7.30pm

St. Peter and St. Paul's Church, Deddington

Pick up a
unique gift
from our
festive local
stalls

Have your
nails done then
sit down for a
drink with
friends

Entry
Only
£3

Jewellery * Cards * Craft * Gifts * Toys
Food & Drink * Clothes * Flowers
Mince pies * Mulled Wine
Manicures * Facials * Massage

Get into the Christmas Spirit!

In support of Deddington Village Nursery & PFSU Charity No 1100475/11179563



Winter Walk



Yes it has come around again.

Winter Walk with soup and a roll.

As last year was so well attended we have decided to do it on **New Years Day** again.

Meet outside the village hall at 10am.
.....Walk.....

Arrive back to hot soup and crusty bread.

Donations of £5:00 towards the
Kathmandu Kids Home.

The soup will be vegetarian/kosher/halal/and
free from nuts.

Oh and politically correct. So whatever your choice
- we have it covered.

Those really pernickerty folk that don't eat anything
other than *Heinz tomato soup - you will have to
either:

1. bring their own. 2. wait until they get
home, or 3. knuckle under.

We will meet back at the village hall, as Martin's
opening strategy over the Christmas/New Year period,
for the George, is still in the planning stages.

***P.S., Yes, as usual we will, be providing Tomato Soup!**

NATURE NOTES 122

YES, THE NIGHT of the 15th of October *did* produce the first grass frost of Autumn and the near-full moon, the October 'Hunter's Moon', shone 'like a spotlight' through bedroom windows, according to villagers.

The 16th dawned overcast and misty, despite a SE breeze. A significant weather front between two Low Pressure areas now introduced gentle rain which became savage on a gale force wind by 11.30am. This cleared by 2.15pm with sun followed by a flawless sunset, The wind, easing right down and now from SW, produced another mostly clear moonlit night at a frost-free 6.5°.

A clear, brilliant sunrise and a very slight W breeze on the 17th produced a sunny, warm day of variable cloud at 16° and a colourful sunset . . . days such as these two last, were typical of the 'all-four-seasons-in-24-hours' of this period! Only the wind now held constantly to SW for the remainder of the month, but there was still little increase in numbers or movement of birds, although many insects were still active.

On the 19th a Green Woodpecker was calling below Steepness and a pair of Tawny Owls set up a call and answer session at St. Michael's end of Worton Road. A succession of Atlantic Lows was starting to affect the weather and there were showers and heavy rainstorms, although day temperatures remained in the mid-teens with nights well above freezing. Between the rains, about forty village Jackdaws indulged their evening play activities, chasing and diving noisily around the rooftops before going to roost

On the 22nd, as the rains cleared away near sunset, I indulged a pastime that I've not done for several years. I spent an hour and a half parked near the top of Fern Hill and watched the Rooks' and Jackdaws' pre-roost activities and then settling down to roost below Steepness. About 25 of each species had perched in the trees, facing the setting sun, arguing noisily and jockeying for positions. All the time they were joined by other small groups moving in from all directions, at which time sections of the perched birds joined in noisy flight with the newcomers and then contested for perches whilst about the same number that had arrived (but not always the same birds) flew off again to other roosts, mainly to the west. After about an hour, this cacophony of sound and position shifting was becoming less and, as dusk set in, it became clear that the last 'visitors' had departed and that settling-down was taking place. The little rebukes and changes of position became less, and as the last light



faded each bird seemed to become much smaller and rounder, as it tucked in its head and fluffed its wings for heat insulation. Now all was silent and still, and I eased away toward home with a warm feeling that all seemed well in one small corner of the world.

At the same time as this little exercise, I noted the order of the last calls of other birds as each went to roost. These were, in time order:- Dunnock, Yellow Hammer, Magpie, Green Woodpecker, Blackbird, Robin and finally, with most noise, a Pheasant.

From the 23rd to the 25th a fast moving High Pressure area travelled across England. A warm, boisterous wind dominated the 23rd. In the evening a Little Owl was calling behind the Townsend houses from where it flew off toward the Worton Road. After a chilly night of 3°, a cloudless sunrise with mist on the hills developed into a warm day of light breezes. I was surprised to see a Red Admiral butterfly leisurely flexing its wings on my conservatory at 9.45am - so early! At the same time a Green Woodpecker initiated a spell of noisiness below Steepness.

Although not in our area, I must mention a 'fall' (influx) of Blackbirds in Chipping Norton town. There appeared to be several males and females in every tree and shrub, noisy and chasing each other around, and largely dispersing by evening. These were European birds that probably crossed over to us in a flock, their non-nationality obvious from the strange variations in tone of their alarm calls - yes, birds do exhibit different accents and dialects, even within the U.K.!

In this extended period of settled, mild weather, given its awfulness through Spring and early Summer, many garden plants are enjoying a 2nd or even 3rd flowering, many so doing completely out of season.

Now however, a new series of Lows was approaching from the SW. The 26th and 27th were stormy but still warm. Especially notable was the weather of the 27th when it was forecast, with yellow category warnings, that hurricane force storms would cause extensive damage across southern England. We were lucky in North Oxfordshire as we only experienced ordinary gale force winds whereas the southern counties and coast took a real beating with winds over 100mph.

The rest of the month was dominated by Lows with the occasional HP ridge. Day temperatures did not rise above 11° for the last three days of the month and the night of the 29th dropped to 0° but without frost.

Red Kites were seen gliding everywhere across the parish looking for scraps and animal casualties. Another was seen from Townsend, easily outpacing an annoyed, wildly flapping Crow, whilst barely moving its own wings.

A cold, orange sunrise on the 30th heralded another day of unbroken sunshine, albeit cooled by a stiff breeze from SW. Taller trees hosted small flocks of Goldfinches accompanied by the occasional Greenfinch and Blue and Great Tits.

The 31st was a grey, cool day of occasional drizzle. There had been a few sightings of Foxes and Muntjacs, but little sign of incoming bird migration, presumably because of the general mildness and persistent SW winds. Finally, the night rains washed away the last traces of October.

Enter November, still with a SW breeze, mild, overcast and with showery rain. Following the recent huge storms, there were appreciable numbers of maritime Gulls continually passing overhead, notably Herrings and Lesser Black Backs. A lone Kite soared over Hill Farm Cottages on the Chipping Norton road, otherwise all appeared lifeless. The 1st ended with showery rain and fog after dark.

The 2nd was a day of complex weather, but still retaining that SW wind which was to persist until the 14th. Chilly periods of overcast were interspersed by short breaks of wan sunshine until interrupted by a mid-day downpour. As the rain, finished a cold wind rose to near gale force under clear sun through mid-afternoon, then gave way to more heavy rain around sunset. After a clear starry night, there was a repeat of the previous day's weather, except the gale force winds arose soon after dark, driving prolonged torrential rains that caused serious flash floods across local roads. Conditions eased after 4am with a drop in temperature to only 1°.

Under these conditions, wildlife kept a very low profile. Bas Butler spotted a Kite over West Close on the 4th; another friend of mine spied five Red-legged Partridges in Wykham Lane near Bodicote on the 6th. Then Bas spotted a Grey Partridge on Barford allotments on the 7th, which spurred us to speculate as to whether it was one of the pair that bred (unsuccessfully) nearby. (See Nature Notes 116 for April/May). On the same day, I surveyed a gathering of small birds in a tall Hawthorn opposite my house which revealed:- 12

House Sparrows, 3 Greenfinches, 1 Goldfinch, a pair of Chaffinches, 1 Great Tit and a Collared Dove - all waiting for someone to put food out!

On a just visible New Moon, there was a drop in temperature to 0°, producing a white frost on the valley floor next morning. The 8th was a chilly day of rain. A small patch of clear sky appeared through the grey cloud layers, just above the horizon, displaying a weird, bilious green and coppery coloured sunset.

The next three nights varied between -1° and +1°. The 10th was a beautiful day of unbroken sun from sunrise to sunset - cold, but warm in the direct rays of the sun, sufficient to rouse a couple of Small Tortoiseshell butterflies from hibernation and venture abroad. Jays were noisy below Steepness as, I imagine, they garnered a harvest of acorns. Also noisy above Steepness, soaring there and over St. Michael, two Kites kept up there 'Pee-oo' duet for some time. I haven't seen Buzzards in the vicinity of Steepness for a while now, and I wonder if their place has been taken by the Kites. I am rather concerned that some people may take a 'pot' at birds of prey for whatever reason, some unaware that the best regulator of predator numbers lies in prey numbers. Too few prey means predators move elsewhere or starve - such is the harsh rule of Nature. And in any case, killing of birds of prey is generally illegal.

The 11th was the very antithesis of the previous day, miserable, gloomy, wet and windless, perhaps aptly so, considering the date. At sunset the overcast assumed a weird overall hue of faint pinkish-brown for a short while. Later, a Tawny Owl was hooting below Steepness for some while prior to midnight.

Perhaps you will remember that I had recorded Redwings coming in from early to mid October. At this point in November I still hadn't seen any incoming Fieldfares locally, but Basil had spotted several small groups crossing the parish. This must be a good indication of the extended mildness of Autumn, that such a harbinger of winter should be so late. But changes were approaching!

A clear sunrise and morning greeted the 12th, but an afternoon breeze from NW boded change - a cold night of frost with substantial layers of white ice in the morning. Now, as I conclude these notes on the 15th, we have had three similarly frosty mornings. It is a still, cold day but the wind indication has moved up to due N. 'The north wind doth blow, and we shall have' - don't mention it!

Ron Knight