

BARFORD NEWS

FEBRUARY 2014

www.barfordsnews.co.uk

Price 30p where sold



BARFORD VILLAGE MARKET

THIRD Saturday of each month in the Village Hall, 10-12 noon

ALL THE USUAL STALLS INCLUDING:

Artisan Breads | Eggs | Preserves & Chutneys |
Meat Joint | Handicraft Items | Handmade Cards | Fairtrade Goods |
Homemade Ice-creams |
Decorative Glass | Books | Sushi

**NOT FORGETTING TEA/COFFEE & DELICIOUS BACON,
SAUSAGE and/or EGG BUTTIES**

2014 DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES:

15TH FEBRUARY	19TH JULY
15TH MARCH	AUGUST - NO MARKET
19th APRIL	20TH SEPTEMBER
17th MAY	18TH OCTOBER
21ST JUNE	15TH NOVEMBER
	13TH DECEMBER

**PLEASE COME ALONG AND SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL MARKET
ALL PROFITS GO TOWARDS VILLAGE HALL MAINTENANCE**

Calligrapher wanted

WITH THE CENTENARY of the beginning of the First World War being remembered this year, I wondered if there was anyone in the villages who would have the expertise to restore the lettering of the names on the Roll of Honour of those who fell during the two world wars. The red lettering of the capitals of the names have faded over the years and it would be fitting to get them restored for future generations to see who had given their lives from our two villages.

The Roll of Honour is next to the side altar in BSM church if anyone would like to see it and I would be pleased to talk to anyone who feels he/she could help.

Cubby Brett
Churchwarden
01869 338300

1st Deddington Scout Group

Cubs

Term has just started & we have two new Cubs, Dylan & Ben. Our first meeting was a games night, energetic & raucous to blow away the cobwebs & prepare us for the weeks ahead. We start with a visit to the panto followed by the chefs badge (stomach pumps at the ready!). There's scrapheap challenge, mothers day & new to the village, the St Georges Day procession, watch this space.



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

Scouts

We are back & looking forward to a term full of wonder! Emergency aid, swimming & dragon building are all on the cards, plus night hikes.

Pete Churchyard S.L.
pete.churchyard@btinternet.com

Explorers

At long last the new unit is established, we're still waiting for our colours to be ok'd but we are planning a busy programme for this term. Emergency aid, a trip to the driving range & a visit from an auctioneer (a village auction could be in the pipeline) are all coming up.

Pete Churchyard S.L.
pete.churchyard@btinternet.com

Thanks to all the villagers who used the Scout/Guide post service we raised £183.75, which goes towards our insurance.

Parish Council Elections

ELECTIONS FOR THE Parish Council are to be held on Thursday 22 May 2014 with the new council taking office on Monday 26 May 2014. All 7 places are up for election.

Full details of where to obtain nomination papers and the procedure will be published in due course but in the meantime anyone interest might like to give consideration to standing.

Parish Council meetings are held monthly in the village hall on the first Wednesday in the month (except August and not January this time). All meetings are open to the public so if you are interested to see how the council works why not pop along and sit in on a meeting. There is a 10 minute slot for 'public participation' as well.

Do contact the Parish Clerk or any councillor if you want any more information.

Rodney Hobbs: Chairman

Contact details for the Parish Clerk and all councillors are on the back page of every BN. Ed.

New Year's Day Walk



Sixteen brave souls and three little terriers turned up for the walk in what must have been the worst possible weather, an absolute downpour and very chilly too. More sensible folk just walked with their dogs to the pub to enjoy some delicious home-made soup.

Although it didn't have quite the usual turnout, the event was far from being a washout as £90 was raised towards the Kathmandu Orphanage.

Thanks to all who supported us.



Tuesday Lunch Club

New Monthly Lunch Club (Open to All Barford Residents)

Starting 18th February

At 12.30pm for 1pm lunch

In Barford Village Hall

Cost £5.00 per person
(Cash payment on day please)

**For Home-cooked set menu
Of Main course & Pudding**

~ ~ ~

This Month's menu

*Roast Loin of Pork with Apple Sauce and Stuffing,
Seasonal Vegetables and Roast Potatoes.
or Vegetarian option (booked ahead)*

~ ~ ~

*Apple and Blueberry Crumble with Custard
Or
Vanilla Ice Cream and Butterscotch Sauce*

~ ~ ~

Tea or Coffee

~ ~ ~

*Water and squash provided,
Bring your own wine*

Places must be pre-booked by 11th February
please call Anne on 01869 337074 or Mariann (338570)
or leave contact details on answerphone

**This is a 3 month trial and, if it proves successful,
could become a monthly event.**

Offers of help on the day would be appreciated

BARFORD PICTURE HOUSE
February 15th 2014
UNTOUCHABLE...



..a film at your local cinema.

After 'The Artist' comes yet another unlikely box-office smash from France. Now an irreverent film about disability has broken box-office records across the world. This film, based on a true story tells of Pozzo di Borgo a 61-year-old French aristocrat and former director of the Pommery champagne house who has been in a wheelchair since a paragliding accident in 1993. It shows the unlikely friendship between Philippe and his 'guardian devil' who is his carer.

It was unlikely because Philippe, who is the second son of a French duke, was born into a life of great wealth and privilege. Abdel was a career criminal from Algeria who had immigrated to France and had only applied for the job of Philippe's carer so that he could keep claiming his income support!

Untouchable is both heartbreaking and, at times, very funny. The two men discover that they both have disadvantages in life – one a physical disability, the other socioeconomic. The film confronts the emotional and physical implications of paralysis, and the way that society makes disabled people invisible or "untouchable".

Most times movies only display the despair of disability and do so in a way that doesn't portray the day-to-day challenges. This movie tells the story with truth and integrity and humour towards the ignorance that those who live with paralysis face each and every day. It is a true gift.

It has sold nearly three times as many tickets worldwide as 'The Artist'. Box-office takings are staggering. 'Untouchable' is topping national charts, including those of Switzerland, Spain, Italy, South Korea and Germany, (where it has become the highest-grossing French film) and figures exceed those for blockbusters such as Harry Potter in some countries.

Doors open 7.15, film starts at 7.45. Bring your own alcohol and comfortable chairs if you wish.

ALL PROFITS FROM OUR NOVEMBER FILM were given to Philippines Earthquake Appeal. Many thanks.



Ed's Postbag

A Huge Thank You From The Potteries!

Our twins were born on Christmas Day at 31 weeks. We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has offered support, lifts to the Horton, and the many cards we have received. The community spirit in Barford is absolutely amazing and we feel so blessed to be part of it!



Emmie and Lewis are in the Special Care Baby Unit and doing really well. We are so proud of them and can't wait to bring them home and introduce them to the village!

Peter, Karen, Emmie and Lewis x
 (More photos are with the congratulations announcement on page 9. –(two babies = two photographs!)



**Holly Tree and Sunnycote Cottages,
 Lower Street, B.St.M.**



Dear Sir / Madam

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce our company and notify you of building works will commence Monday 20th January 2014, at Holly Tree and Sunnycote Cottages.

We are J. W. Hughes Building Contractors Ltd, and the Principle Contractor responsible for undertaking the scheme. We wish assure you that we will do all possible to minimise any disruptions throughout the duration of our works, which are scheduled for 24 weeks.

Regrettably, it will be necessary for us to receive deliveries of materials and plant throughout the programme, however, we will strive to make these arrangements for periods that will cause least disturbance or distraction to the neighbourhood.

Please feel free to introduce yourself to our Site Manager, Mr. George Louis, who will be happy to assist with any queries you may have.

Contact numbers for our Site Manager and Head Office are shown below. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with any questions or concerns.

Mr. George Louis – 07710 318 644
Head Office – 01992 633 365

I would like to thank you in advance for your consideration and patience throughout the duration of our works.

Yours faithfully

Jon Hughes
 Managing Director





**Elizabeth Novello Smith
'Vello'**

31 December 1927 – 7 December 2013

'Vello' was born in Newbridge, South Wales to Ben and Clara Morgan, the second of four children. She went to junior school in Pentwynmaur and then to Greenfield Secondary School, Newbridge.

A tomboy at heart, she enjoyed a very athletic childhood with her best friend Gwenny Parry. Somewhat against her wishes her mum would enter her in local 'Carnival Court Lady' competitions and appeared in the local paper.

After Secondary School Vello and Gwenny worked in Pennistones Dept Store in Newport. Later, a stay with an uncle who ran The Rising Sun, introduced her to horseriding which she accomplished with some skill and entered many local races.

It was during this time that she met Tom whom she married in 1948 and they enjoyed 63 years of married life together. They moved to Hempton where son Malcolm was born in 1950. Vello worked at Steeles Carpets in Bloxham. During the late fifties the family moved to Summer Ley where Neil was born in 1965 and Nicola the following year. The family moved to Bloxham in 1968, but returned to Barford six years later, where they spent the rest of their lives. Vello enjoyed helping at church sales and village fetes. In the eighties she and Tom worked part-time for Mr. Dalafield at Worton Grounds, becoming good friends.

Vello enjoyed gardening, reading and shopping, going to Banbury each week to seek out bargains. Her life focussed around her family and she was a very good cook. You could never visit her without being offered something to eat and she wouldn't take 'no' for an answer. Tom often remarked that 'it's easier to say 'yes' than to say 'no'!'

Vello's Welsh roots never left her and it was her typical Welsh spirit and determination that helped her to care for Tom during his last illness. Her best friend in recent years has been daughter Nicola, who contacted her every day to check that all was well.

Deddington PTA News

SOMEWHAT BELATEDLY we wish everyone a very Happy New Year! Even at the time of writing Christmas seems long gone, but hopefully everyone had a great holiday season and that those New Year Resolutions are going well!



A quick update on our Christmas fundraisers, Santa came to town on the 14th and 15th December, thanks to everyone who came out to help Father Christmas on his float and to everyone who so generously helped us raise just over £1,000. We also ran a Disco at school, sold the childrens beautifully designed Christmas Cards, sang carols in the church, helped Father Christmas at the market and a few of the school children ran a very successful Christmas Tuck Shop at the market. Altogether – our total funds raised for these events reached over £3,000. We have been lucky to have been generously supported by Bibby Financial Services through the £ for £ matching scheme, but this really is a fabulous total – Thank you.

We are planning to run the ever popular pub quizzes jointly with the PFSU this year, the first quiz will have taken place on the 31st January, and the next quiz will be the 28th March. Two opportunities to enjoy a great night out and exercise the brain cells!

We are also involved with planning a really exciting, new, event jointly with the PFSU and the Fire Brigade. On the 18th May, the Four Farms Challenge will take place, incorporating a childrens run, a 5k and 10k race. The event will be run as a fundraiser to support all three organisations, it'll be a great community event, and you have fair warning to start your training now!

Funds raised this year will be used as always to support the school in many ways, but we hope that the majority of the money we raise this year, will go towards continuing to develop the outdoor areas of school, so that the children can take full advantage of the lovely grounds at school and use them to their full potential. The school are hoping to develop an area to be used as Forest School, with a giant story telling chair, an outdoor amphitheatre, covered benches and outdoor white boards.

Lucie Sydenham
Chair Deddington PTA
luciesydenham@aol.co.uk

Just Another Thank You Letter

JANUARY IS HERE and we have all just finished our thank you letters haven't we? All that stuff that you have been given that you didn't even know you needed has been safely stuffed out of the way into cupboards, and all the stuff you bought out of desperation and have given to others is safely stuffed into other people's cupboards until a decent period of time has passed and it can make its way to the white elephant stalls at local fetes.

Well that's enough of my Christmas cheer it's time for a really important thank you letter now.

To all the people in The Barfords and any one that has contributed to the Kathmandu kid's home in the last 13 years:

Thank you very much for the £30,000.00

That's what you have given over those years. Yes, Tracey has done the figures and since we stepped into the breach when the original founder of the orphanage pulled out 10 years ago we have sent three thousand pounds a year, every year. (Before that we sent bits of money, shoe boxes of goodies, anything that we thought would help them).



The thirty thousand pounds you have given has been used to pay rent, buy food, bed linen and all the household needs of the children's home. It pays for the two members of staff and whatever day to day things that crop up. We get copies of the expenses and how much is spent on rice and how much goes to rent etc. so we know just how the money is spent.

In these last ten years we have seen the small children's names move up the list and learnt what grade their school work has got to and if they are learning a musical instrument, what sports they play and what they will do when they leave.

Over those ten years quite a few of the villagers have visited the home and seen for themselves how it all works. They have seen that the children live in a basic but comfortable home. Like all kids they would rather play football than do their homework but from a very early age you can tell they know the importance of the education they are getting that most children in Kathmandu don't get.

So when you next stand on a piece of lego in your bare feet, find a plastic toy stuffed down the back of the sofa that hasn't even been missed and throw half the turkey away because you can't face it any more, don't mumble about the waste of Christmas. Just think about twenty four children with the best presents that can ever be given, a childhood and a future. Without you and the other villagers they would now be living on the streets in one of the poorest cities of the world. You have done that, you and the rest of Barford. So on the children's behalf, Thank you, Thank you, Thank you.

The committee

~ ~ ~ ~

**Concert in Aid of
Ataxia UK
at St Peter and Paul's Church
Deddington
Friday 14 March
7.30pm to 9.30pm**

Featuring
'Rhythm is Life'
a local choir directed by Robin Martin-Oliver
singing a selection of songs
from Gospel to Classical
Together with
'Sunshine Quartet'
a local string quartet playing pieces
by Pergolesi, Schubert and Dvorak
Entrance £10 Concessions £8 on the door
including wine or a soft drink

ATAXIA UK IS a charity providing research and support for people with ataxia, a neurological condition causing a range of mild to very severe progressive balance, co-ordination and mobility problems.

Richard Brown who lives in Middle Barton (originally from Barford) has a severe form of Ataxia, 'Friedreich's Ataxia' which progressively destroys the nerve connections which control movement. This is due to an inherited genetic defect which stops the body producing sufficient amounts of the protein Frataxin which is essential for nerve connection function.

Ataxia UK, of which Richard is a trustee, has launched a fundraising '*Appeal 2020*' with the aim of producing a cure by 2020 which will arrest the progressive deterioration by using gene therapy to enable Frataxin to be produced properly again by the body.

Respected Barford Village Community (Namaste)

FIRST OF ALL we would like to wish you a very Happy New-Year and hope this New-Year can bring all your Organization's success. Also wish for the God to every Donor, Helpful person and well supporter's every success and happy life too.

We are very much pleased to hear that your Organization is going to publish some of our children's article on your Magazine



very soon. So here we enclosed some article written by children themselves. Hope it works to you.....

Dear readers thank-you for giving us your few second ... We (Helpless Children Mother Center) family are very much pleased and honor to Barford Village Community for their support to our center and center's children good future since year 2003... And HCMC center is running in 15 years. It is all by the help and support from Barford Village community and it's member's every small effort to promote. Once again many many thanks to all the members and supporter to us and Barford Village community .

We wish you all the best regards and greetings from:- Nepal HCMC Thank-you

Deddington Brass

WE HAD AN ENJOYABLE Christmas season, playing out on a number of occasions including the Christmas Eve carols in Deddington Market Place, followed by a quick tour of the local pubs for a few carols. We were delighted to play our part in raising almost £1000 for Katharine House hospice and thank you for your generous support. After a busy December we were back in action by the beginning of January, resuming our regular Monday evening practices, and playing at the Boys Brigade Service of Dedication and Enrolment in the Church. We have lots of plans for the coming year including our late Christmas dinner, a concert, and an opportunity for some of the new younger brass players in the area to get involved.

We are keen to attract new members to our growing friendly band, so if your new year resolution was to dust off that old euphonium, we would love to see you! Come and find us in Deddington Church - Monday nights 7-9pm.



Lucy Squires

Thank you

*To the Townsend couple
who donated
a very generous
£20.00
for Barford News funds.*

Every donation received is put towards our
ever rising printing costs
(£185 for 24 pages/ £205 for 28 pages)
Ed.

Katharine House News

THE OXFORD CONCERT PARTY AT BROUGHTON CASTLE

We will be holding this extra special concert in the magnificent medieval Great Hall at Broughton Castle, on Saturday 22nd March, 7.30pm. The renowned Oxford Concert Party will perform a wonderful evening's entertainment. Described as "Europe's only Baroque and Tango Orchestra", OCP's repertoire includes original compositions, Vivaldi, Piazzolla, French café music, Argentinian tango, Irish laments and Finnish polkas. Tickets are £25 from Fundraising ((01295) 812161 or email sarah.brennan@khh.org.uk) and include a glass of wine and nibbles. Book early to avoid disappointment-the last performance sold out and places are limited.

FESTIVAL OF OPEN GARDENS 2014

Would you like to open your garden to raise money for the hospice in 2014? Last year's festival raised almost £7,000 towards hospice care. We already have gardens opening in Broughton, Bloxham, Middleton Cheney and Farthinghoe and would be delighted to hear from anyone else willing to take part. Contact Nicky on 01295 812161.

KATHARINE HOUSE HOSPICE LOTTERY

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

DIARY DATES:

ZUMBA 2014, look out for our fantastic brand new Zumbathon, taking place in April. see www.khh.org.uk or Facebook to find out more!

MIDNIGHT WALK On Saturday 14 June.,

OUR FACEBOOK AND TWITTER pages are gaining followers. Find us on www.facebook.com/katharinehouse and Twitter at @khosp.

VILLAGE CHAMPIONS NEEDED! Could you help us promote KHH's various fundraising events and initiatives by putting up posters and flyers throughout your local community in shops, post offices and prominent noticeboards? If you could spare a couple of hours every month then please call Helen or Sarah on 01295 812161. Thank you,

Sarah Brennan Community Fundraiser

From The Fire Station

WITH THE NEW YEAR upon us we now look back and see that 2013 was our busiest year in living memory with a total of 262 call outs. We were on call all over Christmas and were called out every day. Watch manager Chris Fenemore with his crew Martin Freeman, Tom Hall, Emma Flint and Lewis Mahoney were out most of Christmas Eve saving Bicester Village from flooding. We were also called out on Christmas Day and I was called out to a house fire very early on Boxing Day. The fire was caused by a tea light that had caught onto some table decorations and spread to the wall and picture. All the doors to that room were shut so the fire could not spread. The owner had discovered it but hadn't opened any of the doors and called us out. The owners of that property were very lucky if the doors had been open it could have cost lives. We always discuss the incidents we attend and when I told my watch manager Chris Fenemore about the incident he reminded me that we recently attended a fire in Milton where someone had sat a tea light straight onto a TV. It had quickly melted through the TV causing the occupier to have to go to hospital suffering from smoke inhalation. If you do use tea lights or any type of candle, please make sure they are in an appropriate container.

Congratulations to George Williamson he has now had his first team leaders BA wear. He led the team into the house fire on Boxing Day. It is always good to get that under your belt.

We haven't had any training courses over the Christmas period which is a welcome break as the training schedule is quite arduous. This will change at the end of January with our FBT (Fire behavioural training). This is one of the toughest but most enjoyable part of firefighting. We light a fire in a large shipping container and then shut all the doors with us on the inside and watch the fire develop. We then have to control the gasses to stop them reaching their auto ignite temperature (flash over). Temperatures can quite easily get up to 750 degrees Fahrenheit and we have had crews come out with burnt knees and shoulders in the past.

On a final note I have been asked by my crew to put people's minds at ease about the industrial action that has been taking place over the country. We all at Deddington have chosen not to take industrial action because we believe in serving our community and will always put them first.

Tim Parker
Crew Manager Deddington Fire Station



A CUPPA FOR KATHARINE HOUSE HOSPICE



On
Thursday 6th March
in aid of
Katharine House Hospice
Please join us
In the Village Hall for
Coffee, Tea, Biscuits and Cake
To help to raise funds for KHH
and support local patients
and their families
Also Fund-raising Raffle

New 'Shooter' Single 'Recycled Teenagers'



You may have seen "Shooter" play at the George, the Barford Bash, or at Bloxfest over the last year or so. Or heard their track "Don't Wanna Say Goodbye" on Barford's "Barley 'Cross the Swere" CD. Well the band has a new download single, "Recycled Teenagers" released on 27 January with all profits going to Macmillan Cancer Care and the MS Society. If you'd like to buy it from Amazon, it costs 89p. And before buying you can hear it and see the video here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QRaOY9yEzIE>

Congratulations
To
Karen Gardner & Peter Cutress
On the arrival (early!)
Of twins



Lewis: 3lb12



and **Emmie: 3lb7**
Born at 31 weeks
on Christmas Day at 21.45.

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

'MOVERS & SHAKERS'

The WI Story

**About those who inspired and
shaped the WI**

The largest voluntary organisation

**For women in the UK with
212,000 members**

7.30pm

Wednesday 12th February

In The Village Hall

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

1st Deddington Guides



IT'S GOOD TO get back in the swing of things! We are delighted to welcome new members who have moved up from Brownies so we got straight into action with Patrol planning and challenges and looking forward to our next entertainment evening and international activities and so many other things that we want to cram in.

Well done and thank you to some guides who helped with the scout and guide post, and our thanks to Scout leader Jo Churchyard and her family for all their efforts with this.

Well done too to the Guides who helped the Wardington House Nursing home Christmas Party go with a 'swing'. They sang carols beautifully and helped with games and the tea. Also a guided tour of the nursing home and facilities provoked lots of interest and questions. One of our guides also helped with the Division Charity bag Pack – so well done guides!

Happy new Year to All!

Guiders: Maggie Rampley, 01295 810069

Marian Trinder, 01869 340800

Catherine Blackburn, 01295 258008

P.S. We recently worked out that we come from 11 different villages!

HAVE YOUR PARTY AT UPTON HOUSE & GARDENS

If you have a special birthday or anniversary coming up then Upton is ideal for you, your family and friends. Upton House & Gardens, in



partnership with Aubrey Allen Catering, can cater events for up to 60 people. The menu and drinks can be tailored to your requirements.

This amazing opportunity to have a very special venue 'all to yourself' means you can wander round the garden and have drinks on the terrace before going in to dinner in our fine Pavilion Restaurant.

Assistant Visitor Services Manager Andrew Overton said "We are very excited about working with Aubrey Allen, because we can be a lot more flexible in arranging parties in the evenings and on closed days. So you can now have Upton House & Gardens at a modest cost, with amazing food for your special celebration".

More information and sample menus can be downloaded from our website. To book, phone Cathy Kavanagh, Catering Manager on 01295 671112 www.nationaltrust.org.uk/uptonhouse

Banbury Rural Police Team

Crime News

The Banbury rural neighbourhood has experienced a number of auto crime offences including theft of and from vehicles and criminal damage to Pvehicles. Many thefts from vehicle are by opportunist thieves. Please don't be a victim, do not leave anything of value within your vehicle and make sure you lock it when you leave it.



Neighbourhood Watch

Please consider joining your local Neighbourhood Watch. It is all about people getting together with their neighbours to take action to cut crime.

How does it work?

Schemes are community initiatives owned and run by their members. They work by developing close liaison between neighbourhood households and the local police. It is an active partnership.

Neighbourhood Watch schemes can:

- Cut crime and the opportunities for crime.
- Help and reassure those who live in the area.
- Encourage neighbourliness and closer communities.

For more information on how these schemes work, their benefits, and running a scheme in your local area, please contact your local Watch Administrator Deb Hextall at Banbury Police Station,

deborah.hextall@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk.

Equestrian Crime Prevention

Horse/equine theft is not particularly common although horse tack, trailers and horse boxes are regularly targeted by thieves. Insurance will help to soften the blow, but owners can take a number of precautions to avoid loss and disruption. Marking tack is something that could deter a would-be thief. Thieves are less likely to steal valuable tack that can be traceable to an owner.

[Thames Valley Horse Watch \(opens new window\)](#) coordinators have access to tack marking equipment and would be happy to provide additional advice.

follow us on Twitter [@ThamesVP \(opens new window\)](#), Facebook [\(opens new window\)](http://www.facebook.com/thamesvp (opens new window))

Samantha West

Neighbourhood Policing Administrator - Cherwell LPA

Banbury Police Station, Warwick Road, OX16 2AE
Tel: 01295 754541

1st Barford and Deddington Rainbows

We started back after Christmas with an evening of



races and team games including 'flip the kipper' with newspaper fish and skipping relays. All lots of fun but curiously not at all tiring- the girls always have as much energy at the end as they had at the beginning. Not sure the same can be said for the leaders!

We've got lots to look forward to this term with felt making, our annual lamb visit and hopefully some chocolate cookery to fit in before Easter.

The unit is still full with a waiting list. All new members now have to join online - search for 'girlguiding join us' for a simple online form which registers your interest.

Hazel Neal, 01869 337822

Village Whist Drives

The fortnightly whist evenings in the village hall raised a total of £230 during the period June-December.

This has been divided among villages causes as follows:

Barford Churches £115.00

Barford News £57.500

Shepherds & Bakehouse £57.50

. New Players always welcome to come along.

Avril & Judy

Grateful thanks to Avril and Judy for their contributions to Barford News funds. Ed

Allotments

FOR THE PAST 14 years Chris Cox has done the administrative work for the allotments, keeping the waiting list up to date, allocating plots when they become available and collecting the annual rent to pass on to the Parish Council. Chris has decided that now is the time for him to step down and pass the baton onto someone new. The Parish Council and allotment holders past and present would like to thank Chris for all his work over the past 14 years.



Jeff Elliott has agreed to take over so anyone wishing to go onto the waiting list please contact Jeff. He will, in due course, be pestering you for the rent as well.

Jeff can be contacted at
Slate Cottage, Lower Street, B St M
or on 01869 338 125

Fernhill Club

WE STARTED after New Year on 15th playing cards, on the 22nd we had Fish & Chips and a quiz and on the 29th it was Bingo, all in the village hall.

In February on 19th we will have Alan Brewer, the former BOAC Air Steward to tell us more of his 'up in the Clouds' stories. And 26th will be Carpet Bowls.

All over 55 welcome to join us at the village hall every Wednesday at 2.30pm – 4.15pm.

Mary Ashbridge 01295 252 298

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Deddington PFSU and Village Nursery

WE HAD A LOVELY CHRISTMAS, full of parties, decorations and glitter! The younger children and their parents enjoyed another wonderful interactive performance of 'Journey to Bethlehem'. The Nursery rooms were transformed into a meadow, the Fox Inn, a nomad's tent and even heaven, and outside in the garden the children followed a star along a pathway which led to a nativity tableau. The children and their parents had learnt the story of The Little Donkey which they all recited together and afterwards they sang some Christmas songs. Meanwhile the PFSU children joined with their friends in the F1 (Reception) class for a production of Prickly Hay in Deddington Church. It was lovely to see the church so full and the children sang and danced brilliantly!

We'd like to thank everyone who supported our Christmas events, in so many different ways, not least by coming along to support the children. Our Christmas Fayre and Pamper Night was a big success with almost £1500 being raised for the Nursery and PFSU. Thank you to everyone who helped, to Deddington Church for letting us use their beautiful building, to Deddington Brass for their seasonal music, the Co-Op for our mince pie voucher and Hamptons for their wine donation, and of course to everyone who came along on the evening.

Our next fund-raising event will be a jumble sale on Saturday 1st March. Start clearing those cupboards now and watch this space for more information. Happy 'New' Year!

Lucy Squires



NOTES FROM OUR POTTING SHED

Diary Dates.

Monday February 3rd: 7.30 Village Hall BARFORD GREEN GARDEN CLUB 2014 Annual General Meeting.

Refreshments will be served. Please attend if possible as there are important decisions to be made! In the meantime please think about if you want to continue to have a Garden Club and why? Minutes of previous AGM and Accounts will be emailed to all members and placed in the Village Hall for perusal.

Monday March 3rd: 7.30 Village Hall. OUR LAST PLANNED TALK . Talk by Tim Miles of Cotswold Wildlife Park on **VEGETABLE GROWING. THIS TALK WILL NOT BE FREE TO MEMBERS...£3 for everyone**

Things to do this month, as always everything depends on the weather! Maybe we should develop **WATER GARDENS** and investigate Hydroponics!! If we are to continue having wet winters we will need to check which plants are most suitable. Look at the RHS website for ideas. Too much water can cause the same problems as too little water.

1. Prune climbing roses
2. Keep off the wet soil and grass as much as possible.
3. Keep feeding the birds regularly
4. Check planted bulbs and push back in the soil if washed away!
5. Check all trees and shrubs have not loosened from their stakes in all the wind. A wet soil will make roots vulnerable.
6. Dream of SPRING!

Till next time - happy gardening.



'Bye for now'
Spade and Fork



Painting and Drawing
Barford St Michael Village Hall
Tuesday mornings 10.30 – 12.30

Postponed until the Spring



Contact Frances for details
01295 272607
Frances2.eason@virgin.net

Deddington Players

AS I WRITE we are one show into our four performance run of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. It is amazing how it all comes together on the night



and we hope you enjoyed the pantomime if you came along. If you didn't you missed a treat! Our cast were brilliant, willing to dress up in silly costumes and make fools of themselves for the sake of their art. Behind the scenes a lot of people were furiously paddling to keep the show together, not least our talented costume team who were still sewing minutes before the curtain opened, the backstage crew with some speedy scene changing, our runner who made sure everyone was where they should be at the right time, and our pianist, sound and lighting team, and prompt, attempting to keep up with the cast. We



rely on so many people to get a show together; choreographers and singing coaches, scene painters, front of house team, make up team, people who loan us props, ticket sellers and many many more. Over 70 people were named in the programme and plenty of others have helped us in many ways. So **THANKYOU** all.

If you have been inspired to get involved next year then please give me a call!

Lucy Squires
338442

Butterfly Meadows

Children's Centre

We Provide Weekly drop-ins

From advice drop-ins to ones that focus on messy play and arts & crafts.

Family & Community Support

Our team is fully trained in providing family support and one to one outreach in the home or at our centre.

No need to book; just turn up to any session!

Contact the team for further information.

Butterfly Meadows Children's Centre, Tadmorton
Road, Bloxham, Oxon, OX15 4HP

Tel: 01295 722240 or 07500 766598

Email: butterflymeadows@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Visit us online:

www.oxonchildrenscentres.org.uk/butterflymeadows

Adderbury Village Morris Men



Want to be part of a great local tradition?
Adderbury Village Morris Men, as seen at the annual Day of Dance and on stage at the Cropredy Festival and featured in the film "Way of the Morris", are recruiting new dancers from Adderbury and local villages. Practice sessions for beginners will start shortly. No previous experience necessary. Interested? Contact John on 01869 811741 for more information.

Deddington CofE Primary School News

AS WE ENTER 2014 I think most of us at school are looking forward another busy term which may be nearly as hectic as December!



During December our School Council decided to raise money for victims of the typhoon in the Philippines, raising money with a non-uniform day and Children in Year 4 held a raffle with some lovely Christmas chocolates and biscuits, as prizes, which had very kindly been donated by the co-op in Deddington. Together as a school we raised £308.60, which we have sent to the charity "Shelterbox". 3 Year 6 children, Laura Burland, Olivia Shepherd and Imogen Mason, wanted to raise money for Children In Need with a sponsored silence and came to school wearing their pyjamas, they raised over £100!

As mentioned this term is also going to be busy due mainly to lots of children rehearsing for our school production which will be taking place over 3 nights in March. We are very proud of our productions and this year we are putting on a version of Disney's Beauty and the Beast- as always it will be all singing and all dancing!

Hopefully the weather will be kind to and any snow will cause minimum disruption.

Mrs Jane Cross, Deputy Head

Down On The Farm

A NEW YEAR - always something I find exhilarating; new growth, and new born lambs just a couple of months away; the gloom of short winter days subsiding as mornings and afternoons gradually become lighter.

We could do without the wet, but having said that we have been lucky compared with those in the Thames Valley and other areas. Being without heat and light over Christmas and then flooded in the New Year as some people were, must plumb the depths of misfortune.



Here at Iron Down the lambs are just finishing the last of their three fields of stubble turnips and, despite the wet, they have done well on them. Just need a dry week or so now to plough in the residues ready for planting spring barley.

The pre-Christmas period was as hectic as ever with hundreds of turkeys, geese and other products to prepare for butchery customers. We heaved a collective sigh of relief on Christmas Eve when the last turkey disappeared and we were able to look at an empty chiller - no spares and, more importantly, nobody asking 'where's my turkey'!

The next job will be to clear out the big barn ready for lambing. Depending on the weather the ewes will come in a couple of weeks before they are due to lamb so they can go onto a decent ration of sheep nuts and hay to stimulate lamb growth and milk yield. Beyond that it is largely a question of how well they have been managed for a good crop of healthy lambs. The target - as ever - (we nearly made it one year) is 200% - two lambs per ewe. Usually we end up with around 1.7 to 1.8 lambs per ewe which is satisfactory enough. Let's see what 2014 has to offer!

On the pig front we have four litters due for weaning in the next few weeks that were born before Christmas. The pigs did a fair amount of 'gardening' before we brought them in when the monsoon season arrived, so the grass areas will need some attention in the Spring. We usually harrow and roll the roughed up areas and it always surprises me how quickly it all recovers when the spring growth kicks in.

In some ways I would have liked to see some harder weather beyond the few desultory frosts we

have had, but I may eat my words if we get the backlash of the North American chill. I am well aware that some of our worst winters have occurred in February/March.

Whatever happens it's a New Year with all its new challenges and opportunities and although no two years are the same weatherwise nature always seems capable of evening things out in the end.

Tony Collier
Iron Down Farm

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Banbury Museum

Natural Histories

[Until 22 February,

Mon – Sat. 10am – 5pm (except 1 January. Open to 4pm New Year's Eve). Free

A special exhibition of rare and wonderful specimens from the Oxford University Museums and Collections. Get up close to the jawbone of the Oxfordshire Megalosaurus, the world's first scientifically-described dinosaur; meet creatures collected by Charles Darwin, and discover the oldest thing you are ever likely to encounter! With touchable specimens for hands-on investigation, the exhibition explores important themes and ideas that have shaped our understanding of the natural world. Natural Histories is a collaborative project between the Oxford University Museum of Natural History, Museum of the History of Science and other University Collections.

Art Cart Action: Animal Magic

Until 22 February,

Drop in 10.30am-12.30pm and 2-4pm on Saturdays and every day during the Oxfordshire school holidays.

Suitable for 4+ years. £1

Drop in and make a hand-puppet animal or moving 'jumping jack' dinosaur to take home. Self-service activity. (Jumping jacks for older children or with greater parental help)

'Nature close up' Prize Trail

Until 22 February during museum opening times.

Suitable for children of all ages. £1.75 per trail booklet incl. pencil and prize.

Match the 'close-up' pictures in your trail guide with the animals, plants and minerals in the Natural Histories exhibition to complete the trail and claim your prize.

Dale Johnston
Events & Exhibitions Manager

WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE, **And not** a drop to drink", my Granny used to murmur to herself, as torrents of rain poured onto the huge vegetable garden, many decades ago. I think she quoted from 'The Ancient Mariner', but her musings never held better than they do at this time!

Anyway, to avoid endless boring accounts of our current weather, I'll try breaking it into manageable sections. Generally, reports on Barford's wildlife are scarce, so I will venture further afield to enliven the picture. Let's start where I left off in last *Nature Notes* with a trip to north Norfolk on 10th - 12th December:-

It was humbling and sobering throughout, to see the damage and storm-wrack inflicted on the sea shore, coast road and seaside villages by the unprecedented storm-surges of 4 — 5 days earlier. Council workers were loading huge quantities of reeds and mud onto lorries from the coast road and village streets from Snettisham to Hunstanton and on through Wells and Blakeney to Cley and Salhouse. Great gaps smashed by the tide through sea defenses had destroyed property, flung boats far into the marshes and ravaged wildlife reserves, not least by contaminating the freshwater marshes with huge quantities of seawater.

In the end, my pal and I settled for observing at RSPB Titchwell. Even so, the big range of sea-front sand dunes had been practically destroyed and, despite massive, recently built sea defence systems there was some spill-over into freshwater marsh. Even so, we spent many hours watching the behaviour of land, marsh and sea birds. The land birds were as we encounter around the Barfords, the interest being in watching their behaviour in unfamiliar (to us!) habitats.

We both enjoyed the unfamiliar sea birds - the pre-historic looking Great Northern Diver, the sea-ducks Scaup, Common Scoter, Red-breasted Merganser and Goldeneye. The shore birds were mostly waders - Oyster Catcher, Knot, Dunlin, Sanderling, Black-tailed Godwit, Curlew, Spotted Redshank, Turnstone and Avocet; several of these also frequent the marshes and some are even local to Barford! There was also the chunky little Rock Pipit (which doesn't!).

The more particular marsh waders were Grey Plover, Golden Plover, Ruff, Redshank and Greenshank. Other fabulous marsh birds were Slavonian Grebe, Great White Egret, Marsh and Hen harriers, Water Rail, Cetti,s Warbler and finally, the fabulous looking Bearded Tit!

Fresh water birds were also numerous - Great Crested Grebe, Little Egret, Brent and Greylag



Geese, Pintail, Shoveler and Shelduck, equally at home on salt or fresh!

So, if you want a change from the 'usual', wrap up warm, take the binoculars to the coast for a day or two - or go to one of our local reservoirs!

So, now to a spell of weather:-

On returning home the weather was mild (10° average by day) damp and dreary. Soil temperatures still allowed worms and insect larvae to remain at the surface, much to the delight of all the thrushes, there also being fruit still on the hedgerows.

Aerially, the best I could find were a few Crows and a pair of Kite foraging near Pomfret Castle on the A361.

Several of us feel that locally, Buzzards seem to becoming much less frequent than of late, now being outnumbered by the Kites. Personally, I can't help feeling the Kites are out-competing them for carrion (natural and road-kill) even though the Buzzards spend much time on the ground catching worms. (Now, as I write this, after total, protracted, surface waterlogging the situation seems to be exacerbated. Time alone will tell!). Kite killing tough Buzzards is not an option.

On the 23rd we entered another period of crashing storm with wind rising to gale force and torrential rain. The storm ceased suddenly, about 3.30pm and became strangely mild.

At this point atmospheric pressure had reduced to about 325mb - the lowest pressure recorded for *127 years*!

There was now very deep flooding again in the Rivers Swere and Cherwell Valleys, the road between St. John and St. Michael being closed to all traffic.

A Mistle Thrush was active in the trees around Barford House pool, and Bas Butler reported a Raven croaking at Cheney Manor.

We now entered a period of night frosts and on Christmas Day the sun rose on a white morning (-2°) to give a lovely, if cold, winter's day. The deep floods along the R. Swere were subsiding quickly and, in the sunset, about 30 Rooks were making their way from Steepness to roost in the spinney by the Scrapes.

On the 26th, thick fog burned off mid-morning, but another deep Low speeding east caused cloud to build, giving more torrential rain and galeforce wind, with sleet on high ground after dark.

From the 27th to month's end was characterised by a frenetic range of weather - squalls, sudden gale force winds and spells of fine sunshine, all induced by endless Fronts moving NE.

The 28th was typical; after a squally start, it became a quiet, cold, beautiful winter's day, with a Kestrel holding his place on the wires opposite St. John airfield gate, a Kite idling below Irondown and a Mistle Thrush singing from a tree top in Cheney Manor garden.

Tuesday the 31st was a repeat performance, and we bade farewell to December and 2013 on a flawless sunset and frost free night.

And so, 'Welcome' 2014 - except that those weather fronts kept coming! The wind backed a little to SSE, but the 1st was a day of endless rain and high winds.

The 3rd brought a Kite soaring over Steepness at mid-day and a Green Woodpecker calling there in the afternoon. However, under the influence of yet another huge, racing Low, heavy overnight rain continued into and through the morning of the 4th. Everywhere there was the sound of running water. It was rushing down sloping fields and roads to feed prodigious floods. Again the road was closed between the Barfords due to the depth of flood water. Rain ceased overnight, but was followed by considerable, though short lived frost (-2.5°) on the morning of the 5th

There was a stiff blow from due S, but it was mild. This was the day of our 8 hour Winter Bird Species Count, so duly at Sam myself, Bas Butler, Ian Hobday and his cousin, plus Helen Taylor met on The Green at St. Michael, to start our journey around 10km square SP43 (which we have done since 1977). Overall we amassed 62 species of birds - the largest number we have ever recorded on a winter count

We covered the area around the Barfords by 9.30 which achieved 44 species (about the usual number). One of our earliest birds was a minute Goldcrest, busily searching breakfast in the hedge in the gloom of 8 o'clock. Other exciting local species were Peregrine Falcon (2), Lapwing (120+), Snipe, Reed Bunting, Green and Great Spotted Woodpeckers, a Raven, and a great Black-backed Gull with other gulls on a smallish flood pool off the gated road.

Sadly missing were Greylag Geese, any ducks, Moorhen and Wagtails.

Temperature reached 9° but (inevitably?) rain set-in after 3.30pm, so we packed up in poor visibility, but very satisfied with our results. The night dropped to -4.5°. So, if you're a bit bored, take a walk around the footpaths, you'll be surprised what's about!

The next four days were generally mild, with sun and rain governed by yet more Atlantic Fronts. However on the 9th High Pressure, at last, started to dominate. A day of brilliant sun ensued on a fresh SW breeze; one could almost hear the land sigh with relief. At night, in frosty air at -1.5°, it was

the turn of those wondrous little specks of life, the Winter Moths to take wing along our country lanes with high hedges, looking for mates. Only the males have normal wings and fly; the females' wings are mere vestiges, and they can only crawl about the twigs. They are said to mate (I've not seen it) often on the chrysalis from which they have just emerged, so presumably, many generations can be raised by the same strain of females on the same bushes for many years! To blazes with genetics!

The next three days were similar. Bas spotted the 'Maingate' Kestrel again, I saw another, plus a Red Kite, on Hawk Hill. A bedraggled, worm-eating Buzzard sat looking equally miserable, in a very small roadside tree, at Broughton Grange in the late afternoon of the 10th, before a hard overnight frost of -6.5°.

After a fair start, cloud building through the morning of the 13th preceded afternoon rain and, once more, a heavy overnight storm. A white frost on the morning of the 14th, under a flawless, windless sunrise, promised much. It was spoiled by a rising, raw SW breeze under building cloud. Nevertheless, if not by the weather, the promise was kept! Following earlier notice, I decided to try my luck in the north of the county, where a rare visitor from NE Europe was reported to be staying. This was the rare Great Grey Shrike, a carnivorous bird about the size of a Blackbird, that catches small rodents and birds for food. Arriving at the site, I kept watch for about a half hour, when suddenly it appeared on a ridiculously slender twig, high on the hedge. At that point it was just a silhouette, yet unmistakeable. Suddenly it flew down onto some scrub, against which it became quite stunning! It was silvery blue-grey, white underneath, with black and white wings and a black 'bandit' mask through its eyes. It had spotted prey but missed it. Then, as mysteriously as it had appeared - it disappeared! What a treat on which to finish this edition of *Nature Notes*.

Happy New Year!

Ron Knight

Bloxham Village History Club

19th February

**From Gough to Google - The
Development of Printed maps of
Oxfordshire**

John Leighfield CBE

7.30pm Jubilee Hall, Bloxham

Details from Ian Myson
01295 720951, 07801 200403



Generation Games is a fantastic initiative from Age UK Oxfordshire and partnered with the Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust. Its prime function is to get over 50 year olds more active and reaping the many benefits of exercise. This service will create a personal programme of activities for you, provide support and help to ensure your safety. We also have a home based exercise DVD which is FREE to the over 50's in Oxfordshire and can also be viewed online; it is a fantastic exercise video that is suitable for everyone whatever your ability or fitness level. The DVD works in tandem with the Generation Games website; an excellent tool to create your ideal exercise and activity programme with information on over 1000 activities.

Activity/Exercise Providers Wanted!

We are looking for more activities and exercise classes located in the Barford area to be added to the Generation Games Website.

If you run an exercise class or organise activities where the emphasis is on physical exercise then we would love to hear from you. We will add your activity details to our website for FREE and you can reap the benefits of increased awareness for your activities.

Contact us today and register your class details to the Generation Games website - www.generationgames.org.uk; generationgames@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk- 01235 849403

Putting A Best Foot Forward To Get Healthy

PEOPLE OF ALL fitness levels are being encouraged to take part in a series of free health walks after a new study highlighted the importance of moderate exercise.



Cherwell District Council is organising short, free walks led by friendly, trained walk leaders as part of the nationwide Walking for Health scheme.

The walks coincide with the launch of Walking Works, a new and extensive review by the Ramblers and Macmillan Cancer Support which shows how walking can help to get the nation moving and bring associated health benefits.

Anne Tustian, health walk co-ordinator for Cherwell District Council, said: "It's wonderful to read how much walking can do to help people live healthier and happier lives and how schemes like ours are helping people to get more active."



The latest report showed physical inactivity tops smoking as one of the nation's biggest health problems, is responsible for 10.5 per cent of heart disease cases and shortens life spans by between three and five years.

Cherwell hosts weekly walks six days a week covering a range of difficulties from flat ground to steep hills. All walks come with the option of a shorter one-mile route and depart from various locations including Banbury, Bicester, Kidlington and rural areas.

Each walk is guided by volunteer walk leaders, normally at the front and back and take place in most weather conditions.

For more information on the health walks visit <http://www.cherwell.gov.uk/healthwalks> or call Anne Tustian on 01295 221607.

Reduction In Electrical Recycling Banks.

BANKS ARE BEING REDUCED across Cherwell as more residents continue to take advantage of the new kerbside collection service. In March this year Cherwell District Council rolled out the new scheme whereby residents could recycle their small unwanted electrical goods and cables by placing them in plastic bags on top of their bins rather than travelling to a bring bank. Since then the service has recycled 46.5 tonnes of electrical goods.. Due to its ongoing success, Cherwell is now preparing to reduce the number of recycling banks from 18 to six, which will generate further savings of £7,500. The savings generated from a reduction in electrical bring banks will be made through reduced cleaning and maintenance costs. Stickers will be placed on the affected banks alerting residents to the changes and those living within the vicinity will receive pink plastic bags for their electrical items to remind them of the kerbside collection service. The six remaining electrical bring banks in Banbury will be located at: Tesco in Lockheed Close off Southam Road, Morrisons in Upper Windsor Street, CDC offices, Bodicote House,