

BARFORD NEWS

MAY 2014

www.barfordnews.co.uk

Price 30p where sold

Parish Council Notes

THE MEETING TOOK PLACE at 7.30pm on 2nd April 2014 at Barford Village Hall and was attended by Cllr Hobbs, Cllr Best, Cllr Bullard, Cllr Eden, Cllr Styles, Cllr Turner, Cllr Woolgrove, County Cllr Fatemian, District Cllr O'Sullivan and Mrs R Watts (Clerk).

The Bridge, Mill Lane: James McKewan from Oxfordshire County Council Environment & Economy has inspected the bridge in Mill Lane and reported as follows: The river levels have dropped sufficiently so that the bridge is passable once again. However, the winter flooding has washed away ground to the north of the bridge (as you step down off the stile). As a short term solution the team will visit and add a second, lower step to the end of the bridge. Whilst on site they will carry out a detailed inspection to find the best solution to problems caused by flooding – this may be to install a longer footbridge or reposition the existing structure. The walkway from Mill Lane to the footbridge appears to have had overgrown vegetation removed. There were a number of cut branches visible. The team are scheduled to carry out the temporary repairs to this bridge within the next two months.

Closure of the B4931 Hempton to A361 South Newington

A complaint has been received from Mr C Seagroatt regarding the closure of the B4931 Hempton to A361 South Newington for urgent road repairs. The Parish Clerk had responded explaining that the Parish Council has no jurisdiction over road closures.

Repairs to the Rock face: Councillors thanked Mr & Mrs Greeves for keeping them well informed reference the repairs. Concerns were raised about large vehicles using Church Street while The Rock is closed

County Councillor's Report: County Cllr Fatemian reported that The Oxfordshire County Council Community budget has been cut by 50% to £5,000. Applications for a grant must in future include details of desired outcomes of a project and details of how the success of a project will be gauged. Government has awarded Oxfordshire County Council Highways £4.1 million towards repairing potholes.

District Councillor's Report: Cllr O'Sullivan reported that the Appeal for a development of 60 houses in Tadmerton Road, Bloxham has been upheld. This, with three other developments in Bloxham will have an effect on through traffic in the Barfords. Castle Quay 2 has been approved and new shops will be built.

Cllr O'Sullivan will retire in May and Councillors thanked him for his support over many years.

Planning Matters:

Details of planning applications can be found on the Cherwell District Council website

<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:

14/00370/F Clowes, 1 Church Cottages, Barford St Michael. Remove existing conservatory and erect single storey extension in its place. No objections.

14/00380/F Hanmer, Maple Cottage, Horn Hill, Barford St Michael. New roof to provide loft accommodation. No objections.

Planning Application Approved: There were none.

Planning Applications Refused: There were none.

TCA Applications Received:

14/00085/TCA Pegg, The Ledge, Barford St Michael. T1 x Ash – reduce by 30%. No objections

Approved TCA:

There were none.

TCA Refused:

There were none.

Any Other Business:

Unpleasant Smells: Complaints have been received during the month about unpleasant smells coming from surrounding fields. Cllr Woolgrove explained that DEFRA now recommended a springtime application of fertilizer to fields rather than an autumn application. Contractors have been working in fields spreading organic chicken manure. The smell lasts from 4-5 days (less if it rains). Cllr Woolgrove has an exemption certificate for storing this compost on land that he farms and contractors are licensed to transport the fertilizer.

Parish Council Elections: Parish Councillors hold office for four years. Barford St John & St Michael Parish Councillors stand down this year. If the number of validly nominated candidates does not exceed the number of vacancies (seven), they will be declared elected as soon as possible after the latest time for the delivery of withdrawals. In the event of more candidates being accepted than seats available, then an election will take place on 22nd May 2014. More details can be obtained from the Parish Clerk, or Cherwell District. Election Nomination Packs have been received by the Parish Clerk and can be obtained from her (Mrs Rosemary Watts – 01295 722647), Cherwell District Council (01295 227005) or elections@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk. The closing date for nominations is 4.00pm on Thursday 24th April 2014. Nominations must be hand-delivered to Bodicote House. The Returning Officer will not accept posted nominations.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on 30th April 2014.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday, 7th May 2014 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.33pm.

Councillor Paul O'Sullivan

AFTER 20 YEARS of loyal service to the community, Councillor Paul O'Sullivan is stepping down this year as Cherwell District Councillor for the Barfords and Deddington Ward. His prospective successor is Deddington Parish Councillor Bryn Williams who has lived in the village with his family since 1996 and is involved in a number of parish council activities and working groups.

Paul thanked the people of the Barfords saying; "It has been a pleasure to serve the community, I have made many friends throughout the years and have thoroughly enjoyed representing the Barfords.

The Cherwell District Council elections will be held on the same day as the Barfords Parish Council elections and the European Parliament elections, May 22nd 2014.



Want To Be A Governor At Deddington Primary School?

WHAT DO THE GOVERNORS DO? It's a good question. In a nutshell, we are responsible for holding the school to account to deliver the best education it possibly can for the children of Deddington and surrounding area. There are many and varied ways that we do this. As we are all volunteers, the best way for us to operate is to have people of varied backgrounds with different areas of expertise then we can all play to our strengths. I'm not going to lie and say there is no time commitment; all of the governors are very busy people, but I believe if you want a job doing you give it to a busy person. I also believe lots of busy people working together can share the work! It is very rewarding when you see the impact of the governors' work – it is also a fantastic way to really understand the school and the broader context in which our children are learning and growing up.

At the moment, we have two vacancies on the governing body. One of our parent governors is standing down, for which there will be an election, and we also have a vacancy for a Foundation governor appointed by the Barford Parochial Church Council. Do you think you can offer something we might need? We are looking for people who care about improving the quality of education, who can bring some specialism to the governing body, and who have some time to give.

We are also specifically recruiting a clerk. The clerk to governors is a paid role. You would need to be someone very organised, prepared to learn about the laws surrounding governance if you have never clerked before, have time to support governors by taking minutes at meetings and providing effective administrative support through the year. Email is essential, good computer skills are recommended, and strong organisational skills are a prerequisite. You can also take professional qualifications in clerking if you wanted to turn it into a career.

If you think you might be interested in being a governor or applying for the clerk's position and would like more information contact me on becky@englishlanguagematters.com. You could also have a look at this website for some background. <http://www.nga.org.uk/About-Us/Be-a-Governor.aspx>

This could be your opportunity to really make a difference to our school.

Becky Jones
Vice Chair of Governors



BARFORD DUCK RACE



DESPITE A pandemic of avian flu, we can confirm that the Barford ducks are fit and healthy, and the Duck Race will go ahead this year, and guess what? It doesn't clash with the tennis this time around (though what are the odds of a Brit in the final again?)

So folks, come on down to the field on July 20th. There will be a BBQ and all the usual entertainment and (yes you've guessed) it will be held in the usual place. Once again many thanks to Dave and Sue Jelfs for the use of the field.

Watch the Barford News and notice boards for exact times.

All profits on the day go to the Barford Playground Fund.



T'committee



25th May

Rogation Eucharist

**with Blessing of crops, animals
and communities, followed by
Bring and Share picnic
Calcutt Farm, Hempton**

10.30 am



Tuesday Lunch Club Menu

12.30 for 1pm - 20th May

Beef Lasagne & Garlic Bread

Or

Fish Pie & French Baguette

(Smoked haddock, Salmon & Cod topped with mashed potato)

Both served with

Peas, Broccoli & Parmesan Tomatoes

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*Strawberry & Raspberry Pavlova with Summer Fruit Couli*

*Or*

*Lemon Crème Brule with Hazelnut Shortbread Biscuit*

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£5.00 per person (Cash payment on day please)

Pre-book by 13th May - 01869 337074 or 338570

When booking please give your choice for both courses

Water and Squash will be available - Please bring your own wine.

Bloxfest 2014

The Fifth Bloxham May Festival (aka Bloxfest) takes place on Saturday, 10th May.

Starting at 11am and going through to 11pm, the festival will have five music stages as well as stalls and children's entertainment. All for free. More details at <http://www.bloxfest.org.uk/>



A DEEPER MAPPING

An exhibition about local places.....

WHERE?.....At Pegasus Theatre, Magdalen Road, Oxford, OX4 1RE, (off Iffley Rd, by Magdalen Arms pub).

WHEN?.....The exhibition will run from 6th to 10th May as part of **OutBurst** and will continue until May 26th as part of **Oxfordshire Artweeks**.

In this exhibition, two villagers, photographer Gunilla Treen, and writer, Claire Cox, respond to shared landscapes in images and text, creating monologues and dialogues, statements and questions about how we gain a deeper understanding of place and how we map ourselves into our world. We have concentrated on landscapes close to the Barfords and this part of Oxfordshire.

Pegasus is open Tuesday-Friday, 12 until the end of the last event in the evening; Saturday 10am-9pm (after last event)

The **OutBurst** festival dates: Tuesday 6th May - Saturday 10th May

Oxfordshire Artweeks: Fri.2nd – Mon.26th May

The exhibition will also be shown at Barford St.Michael Village Hall on Saturday 28th June.

Oxford Brookes annual OutBurst festival showcases the work of students and staff in a diverse range of disciplines and genres: exciting and stimulating workshops, readings, installations, lectures and performances from departments across the University: Fine Art, Business, Creative Writing, Drama, Education, Film, History, Languages, Health & Life Sciences, Media Technology and Music.

Here is the Brookes OutBurst website:

www.brookes.ac.uk/OutBurst

Here is info about the OutBurst festival events on the Pegasus website:

<http://www.pegasustheatre.org.uk/our-shows/>

1st Deddington Guides

TO BRING THE Spring term to a close, we had a table games

evening – which actually became very lively. The Penguin patrol invited us to take part in their slumber parties – onesies being the dress code! Well done to our brand new patrol, who also did some experiments – very tasty – with fruit cocktails.

Elen, who is working towards her Baden-Powell Award gave a presentation about Fair Trade products, followed by a quiz.

Some of our older guides are working on the 'World Issues' badge, learning all about paper recycling, and we all made Mothering Sunday cards using recycled bits and pieces.

Well done to the guides who attended the Mothering Sunday service in church. They did a grand job, helping to take the collection and forming the colour parties – well done to Amy, Charlotte, Connie and Sasha.

The term finished with a very exciting evening! Firstly the guides took part in a quiz trail around the village market place. Much more to see and discover than you realise! Then back to the hall before dark! And a lovely ceremony to present Lorna Murray and Ellie Cox with their Baden-Powell Award – Congratulations! (more of this on page 10)

Maggie Rampley,
01295 810 069



FREE To a New Home



Glass fronted, illuminated
Display Cabinet.

With 3 glass shelves.

Ht 4ft 2in (107cm) W 2ft (61cm)

01869 338 570



Avril J. Green 5th August 1929 - 16th March 2014

Avril was born in Tackley, the youngest of 3 sisters. The family moved to the White horse, Duns Tew. After leaving school Avril stayed at home to help Granny in the pub and it was in the White Horse that she met her future husband Alf whom she married in 1954.

They set up home in Kings Sutton, where Alf got another job as cowman, but soon after they moved to Barford St. Michael, living briefly on Horn Hill before moving to Ayot Croft in 1956. With Alf's help Avril built up their nursery business there, producing all types of bedding and vegetable plants, hanging baskets and greenhouse tomatoes for sale.

In 2000 Avril was named in the Banbury Guardian New Year's Honours List and received a silver salver from the town mayor. This was in recognition for over 15 years of fund raising, making many thousands of pounds for village organisations and charities through regular Bingos and Whist Drives, Autumn Sales and the Village Hall 200 Club. Avril served on the Village hall Committee for 6 years and was chairman for 4 of them. Right up until the time of her death she was helping to run the Fernhill Club, selling 200 Club tickets and providing plants for the church fete plant stall.

Our whole village community has benefitted from funds raised by Avril. She was a great character and a good friend to many of us, her parting was all too soon and she will be greatly missed by her family and many, many friends.



Alex Griffin 16th April 1933 - 25th March 2014

Alex was born in St. Helens, the oldest of 3 children. He did well at school and enjoyed playing rugby and cross-country running, becoming county champion running for Sutton Harriers. As a teenager Alex enrolled with the Air Cadets then did National Service with the RAF. Poor eyesight prevented him from making this his career, and he started work as hospital records officer near St. Helens.

He met Laura at this time and they married in 1957. After the birth of Helen the family moved to Barton-Under-Needwood where Alex worked at Burton-upon-Trent hospital. Alex later joined the staff of Lloyds Bank and after promotions and two further moves he transferred to Banbury and the Griffin family, now with two young daughters, Helen and Kayt, came to Barford St. Michael in 1976.

Both Alex and Laura fully embraced village life, Alex was treasurer for the Village Hall Committee for many years. He was also Bingo caller, panto dame, fete organiser, race night organiser, boat race chief, carnival float builder and church warden and bell ringer. He became a keen member of Tadmarton Golf Club where he partnered son-in-law Ray for many years.

Freemasonry was a large part of his life and he became Master of Castle Lodge in Banbury and was also member of Weyland Lodge Bicester. Following retirement he and Laura enjoyed travelling, to Canada, USA and New Zealand as well as closer to home.

Alex suffered a stroke 10 years ago and despite his determination to continue enjoying his retirement, he was gradually forced to give up the things he loved doing.

Deddington CofE Primary School

ON MARCH 24TH-28TH my Year 6 class spent a wonderful week in the heart of Exmoor. They had a fantastic time and I was extremely proud of their determination to take part in every activity, the respect and care they showed one another and their sense of fun- we came back exhausted but very happy. Dominik Bagot would like to share his highlights with you:-

On Thursday I woke up really excited because myself and the group were going on the cliff adventure- I'd heard lots of amazing things about it so I could not wait to go. After breakfast we went to get the right clothes on, then went to get the rock climbing equipment. We had two amazing instructors to take us (Shaun and David) and they encouraged us all the time.



When we got to the beach we all went rock pooling, everyone found great things like: crabs, fish, anemones and lots of different shells. We found out that if you touch anemones you get stung 200 times but since you have skin it protects you.

After we had lunch and went rock climbing- I have a bit of a fear of heights but David encouraged me and I got to the top. I don't really think anyone noticed that was my fear though. I was really proud of myself.

When it was time to go home, I was very sad because we had so much fun at the cliff adventures. Overall I thought it was a fantastic day and would like to go back!

Dominik



1st Deddington Scout Group Cubs



Having tried some cooking & studied healthy eating we thought it would be fun to try growing some food. The Cubs grew a runner bean in a jar (fascinating to see how it all works) & made a cress guinea pig with a hollowed out potato, my bean is doing very nicely on the kitchen window sill!

We had a visit from a local artist who helped the boys make book marks for Mothers Day presents & made flags for the St George's parade.

We are now looking forward to spending a lot of time outside.

Jo Churchyard C.S.L.

jochurchyard@hotmail.com

Scouts

The Scouts took part in a mammoth relay cycle ride to Youlbury camp site to raise money for Sport Relief (£122) but as it was a bit dark, we let them use an exercise bike in the Windmill Centre! We followed this with an evening decorating shopping bags for Mothers Day helped by the same artist as above, they were unusual & striking.

Several of the Scouts attended the district Survival skills day at Horley, the weather was good & fun was had.

Pete Churchyard S.L.

pete.churchyard@btinternet.com

Explorers

The Explorers have all undergone their moving on ceremony by completing the 'walk of pain', which consists of trying to find a uniform while blindfolded & pelted with tennis balls! You have to be tough to join our group. We also helped out at the market with a footfall audit.

A lot of work is being done to prepare for the auction on June 21st, we are currently looking for donated items to sell, please contact one of us if you have anything suitable.

Pete Churchyard S.L.

pete.churchyard@btinternet.com

Warning From Thames Valley Police

Over the past few weeks there have been a number of thefts of money and credit cards from purses and wallets where the victim has been approached and asked for change. Victims are usually elderly. They will have come out of a store where they have used their card and the suspects will have been close to see the PIN being entered.

The suspects will then approach the victim outside the store, waving money and either speaking very broken English or in a foreign language. They will gesticulate and try and get the victim to open their purse or wallet as they want change. Once the wallet or purse is open they will wave their hands around whilst speaking and distracting the victim. During this they remove credit cards or money. This all happens very quickly.

The suspects for this offence are of Eastern European origin and are either a male working alone or with a female. Descriptions so far - Male 5' 10", 50's, slim build, short brown hair, smartly dressed. Female, 50's, short with short black hair. Sometimes described as Polish.

There has also been an increase in thefts from unattended bags or shopping trolleys.

Cat bells and lanyards are available from local Police stations, that can be attached to purses to warn victims if they are moved.

Message received from Rosemary Watts, Clerk to Barford St John & St Michael Parish Council

Fernhill Club News

WE WERE DEEPLY saddened when we lost Avril, she had kept Fernhill afloat for many years, as a member since 1986 and then as chairman since 1990. She will be a very hard act to follow and will be greatly missed.



By various members taking on different part of Avril's workload for the club we are hoping to keep going.

We have a new programme for 2014/15 which ranges from Sea Shanties to 'Beatnik Beatles', tips and funny stories from a driving instructor to Ukuladies and a Strawberry Tea to Fish and Chips among other activities.

We would like to attract a few more members to keep the club viable, with this in mind we hope to arrange an open afternoon soon, where anyone can come along to see what we do and offer suggestions which might encourage new members. More details soon.

Subs for the year are £10 and £2 each meeting to cover hall rent, refreshments and raffle. We meet every Wednesday at 2.30pm.

Forthcoming events for May: On 14th we have Martin Sirot-Smith to tell us about 'Daily Life in Tudor Times'. We are going to Robbins nest restaurant on the 28th, which is the first large building on the left in Ruskin Road after leaving Springfield Road in Banbury.

Mary Ashbridge
01295 252298

Deddington PFSU and Village Nursery

OUR EASTER holiday club was a great success with the children enjoying cookery, creative, and other activities with an Easter theme. Lots of fun! This term we will be enjoying lots of time outside, with our activities including mini-beast hunts, feeding the birds and growing things.

Thankyou to everyone who supported the Curry and Quiz Night. Our next fund-raising event will be the Four Farms Challenge on 18th May.

We are now offering free places for eligible two year olds at our Nursery. Please contact us at the Nursery on 337383 for further information. We have places at both the Nursery (for 2-3 year olds and PFSU for 3-4 year olds) from September. Please contact us soon via our website, e-mail (deddingtonpfsuandnursery@hotmail.co.uk) or by phone to reserve a place for your child.

Lucy Squires
337484

200 CLUB DRAWS

APRIL WINNERS

£15.00 No 133 Sandi Turner

£10.00 No. 123 Elliot Dyson

£5.00, No. 179 Tommy Blackhall

The draw was made at Cuppa Morning

BARFORD GREEN GARDEN CLUB

NOTES FROM OUR POTTING SHED

PLANT SWAP on Thursday, 15th May, hosted

by Sarah and David Best, Street Farm, Barford St.John. As usual bring some plants to swap if you have and a bottle of something to drink. 7.0 for 7.30pm

Sarah will be offering some light refreshments. This evening is a very social occasion and we welcome new members who may not have been before.



OPEN GARDENS EVENT on Sunday 13th July, held in the village. This event will centre on the Village Hall with many events.....Open Gardens, Scarecrows, Plant Stall, Photography, Delicious Teas and some surprises. As usual all proceeds will go to Village Charities.

We do need help to make for a successful day. Please contact Linda Newbery on 01869 337526 or L.newbery@btinternet.com if you feel you can offer assistance.

Forms will be sent out asking if you would be willing to open your garden. Please complete and return either to Gunilla at Buttermilk Cottage (01295 720521) or Annie Radford at 6, Church Street. Linda Newbery (01869 337526) will co-ordinate the Plant Stall, Photography and a Container Competition. Mariann will be in charge of Scarecrows! Trish Field at Little Bridge House, High Street, will be organising the Teas and will be asking for cakes, scones and help!

FUTURE TALKS AND VISITS will be organised soon, to start in the autumn. Any suggestions welcome.

1. Loosen compacted soil
2. Weed!!!!!!
3. Dead-head bulbs and other spring flowers
4. Think about how you could help with Open Gardens...
5. Dream of SUMMER

Till next time - happy gardening.



'Bye for now'
Spade and Fork



**Resolutions
Followed by
Beetle Drive
&
Social Evening**

**7.30pm
Wednesday 14th May
In The Village Hall**

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

GARAGE SALE DAY



**Spring Cleaning? Decluttering?
Would you like to make a few pounds,
or raise funds for a favourite charity?**

**Barford Garage Sale Day
Saturday May 10th
9am-1pm**

**Sell your unwanted stuff from the comfort
of your own front garden!**

**To be included on a map of Garage Sales,
please contact**

**Hazel Neal on hmkn@sky.com
or text on 07919 448818**

Barford Village Market

17th May

In the Village Hall, 1000-1200

**Wooden Planters and Garden Sundries, Beautiful Alpines and Plants
all at silly prices.**

**Home Produced Meat From Iron Down Farm,
Artisan Breads, Scones, Preserves, Farmhouse Ice Cream,
Fairtrade Items Food and Craft Stalls Greetings Cards
plus one or two new ones!**

**Bacon Butties/Bacon & Egg Butties
Add a Sausage for a Breakfast Buttie!!**

**Not forgetting Tea/Coffee
All at Bargain Prices!!**

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

From The Vicar

WITH SPRING undeniably in the air and the Church year moving into Eastertide it's fitting that the most densely-packed sequence of funerals I've known in the benefice in thirteen years, three of them for Barford people, has come to a close and that I have nothing to do with death in the diary (except Good Friday) for the first time for months. To say that is to tempt fate, I suppose, but at least for a while the shadow of the suffering and sadness death brings won't lie across my days.

That said, as I come to the end of my period as vicar in the Barfords, it seems to me that a lot of my best-spent time has been with families dealing with death. The presence of a priest in these circumstances is generally appreciated by people and it's apparent that the Church does still offer something worthwhile. That's true, too, of the other 'Occasional Offices', chiefly weddings and baptisms, and with these, as with funerals in all their sadness, it's been a privilege to serve the community in the Barfords. Weddings and baptisms have brought a lot of joy and laughter. One of my best memories is of a small dog wandering into Barford St John Church for a baptism ('let him come,' I thought, 'must belong to the family'; 'let him come,' thought the congregation, 'must belong to the vicar'), threatening to do something unspeakable on the officiating ministers' albs and then, before anyone noticed, eating half the christening cake prepared by the Church for the family.

The provision of Occasional Offices has a lot to do with people feeling an affection for their churches and in the Barfords they account for a large number of church attendances. There are also a number of big services which are popular, especially in the Christmas season. Ordinary Sunday by Sunday attendance, though; is not brilliant (average per Sunday, including the big services, about 14). Things could certainly be worse; worship does happen week by week thanks to a small body of very loyal people; we have some younger people, children and adults, coming; we generally have an organist; we are going to get a sound system. It wouldn't, actually, take a lot for a flourishing Sunday School to come into being – there was one not many years back.

Nevertheless, one of my greatest frustrations in Barford has been to see glimmers of light appear as various new initiatives have been put in place, only for gloom to descend again as those initiatives have not born much fruit. The constant 'can-we-afford-it?' worry about finance has itself inhibited efforts



to move in new and potentially productive directions (the recent appeal for funds produced an extra £15 per month, by the way) and it has to be said that the capacity of the Barford churches to act creatively and imaginatively is not great. As I wrote last month, a new vicar with new ideas, new perspectives and a new style may help in this respect but the underfunding is severely limiting. It would be easily remediable through concerted financial action by the community as a whole - £1 a week per household would produce about £10,000 per annum. The question that's been around for most of my time as vicar remains still: Do the Barfords have the will to maintain not just the fabric of their churches (or one of them, anyway) but also the health of church life, given that a healthy church life is good for the community at large (or so the examples of Hempton and Deddington suggest)?

Of course, the incentive to invest in the church for the sake of community life is reduced rather when community life is already more than satisfactory. There is so much that is good going on in the Barfords: monthly markets, weekly coffee mornings, film nights, duck races, pig roasts and so on – turn to the back page of this issue of BN (and the BN is itself seriously good for the community, of course). Being involved in this community life has been very agreeable for me and people have always been very pleasant, which has assuaged the church-derived frustrations and occasional bit of aggro.

Actually, though, I've also on the whole enjoyed the challenges of being vicar in the Barfords. It will be very interesting to see how things compare in the Ironstone Benefice, north-west of Banbury, where eight communities smaller than the Barfords have to put in a lot to keep their churches up and running. I shall be working half-time in Ironstone as a colleague of the Rector there and half-time on Oxford diocese's link with Sweden. It will be a big change, indeed a wrench. But because I shan't be moving from Duns Tew, I shall be passing through the Barfords several times a week and no doubt coming to the market from time to time, which will keep memories fresh and me in touch with your future. All the very best for that future and many blessings upon all of you. Thank you for so much by way of fellowship and friendship and for allowing me the privilege, the rich experience of being your vicar. Do think about what quality of church life you want to see in the Barfords and how much by way of effort and money you need to put in. And do, as I am sure you will, be as gracious and kind to my successor as you have been to me.

Hugh



Don't forget our BIG LUNCH
is on

SUNDAY, 1st JUNE

The Village Hall is the venue as last year and help with decoration and setting out tables would be greatly appreciated. Let's hope the weather is sunny...just bring a picnic to share with friends, or as a family.

Contact: Gunilla (01295 720521)

VERY POLITE NOTICE

Further to actions taken by a village hall user which subsequently caused a Health & Safety problem, may we stress that if you have any issues or encounter any problems when using the Village Hall please notify one of the Committee members and kindly do not take matters into your own hands

Thank You
VHMC
April 2014

Deddington Guides Achieve Highest Award



Congratulations to two of our Guides on gaining the highest award in Guiding. Lorna Murray and Ellie Cox were presented with their awards by Division Commissioner Gwyneth Davies (pictured above left). The ceremony took place at the Windmill Centre in Deddington and was attended by parents and friends of the girls. at a the Guide meeting. The two girls both live in Adderbury where they first attended Guides, but transferred to the Deddington unit in order to take part in the Oxfordshire Gang Show (rehearsals clashed with their meeting evening)

The Baden Powell Trefoil is the highest award a guide can achieve. Each Guide must complete 10 challenges from five zones. Healthy Lifestyles, Global Awareness, Discovery, Skills and Relationships and Celebrating Diversity. Once completed the final challenge is attending a BP adventure weekend.

The idea is to select challenges that they enjoy but that inspires new skills and to try new things and challenges them to extend existing skills.

Lorna and Ellie have done some tasks together and these have ranged from organising a 'ready, steady cook challenge', mini Olympics and an international and pamper evening. Individual events they have done are Ellie attended a music workshop and at the end recorded a CD and Lorna extended her drama skills. They ended with a monopoly inspired challenge around Cambridge for their adventure weekend, where they joined a group of Guides in Bedford.

Pictured right are the girls with their unit leaders – Catherine Blackburn, Marian Trinder and Maggie Rampley who have all encouraged and advised the girls throughout.

ALEX GRIFFIN

Helen and Kayt and family would like to thank everyone who attended Alex's Funeral Service and for all the cards and messages of sympathy. Also a HUGE thank you to all friends and neighbours who delivered newspapers, popped in for a chat, rushed to help Dad when he fell over or just kept an eye on both Alex and Laura. It was very reassuring for us and enabled Mum and Dad to live in Barford for as long as possible

Barford Carpet Bowls

The Winning team for last season was **The Colts**
Target Mat winners were:

Highest scores:

Lady – Judy Floyd – 100 points

Gentleman – John Langland – 125 points

Thank you to Peter Floyd and Bob Falconer for putting the carpet down and getting the equipment out every week, and to Alan Hand for keeping the books in order and organising our social events.

Another fun year, see you again on September 16th
Margaret Churchill

(Thanks should also go to Margaret, who arranges all of the sessions and records our scores. M)

BARFORD ST. MICHAEL CARPET BOWLS CLUB FINANCIAL REPORT YEAR ENDING 31.3.2014

INCOME

OPENING BALANCE	787.59
MEMBERS SUBSCRIPTIONS	652.00
SALE OF BOWLS CARPET	67.50
MEMBERS ANNUAL DINNER (APRIL 2013)	185.00
	1692.09

EXPENDITURE

HIRE OF VILLAGE HALL	414.00
MEMBERS ANNUAL DINNER	286.15
REFRESHMENTS	68.50
MISCELLANEOUS	10.00
	778.65

SUNDRY DEBTORS

0.00

LIABILITIES

VILLAGE HALL RENT 4 WEEKS (4TH TO 25TH MARCH)	72.00
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YEAR END NET POSITION = 841.44

NET BANK POSITION AT 31.3.2014	858.34
CASH IN HAND	55.10
	913.44

NOTE: CASH IN HAND EXCLUDES £169.95 MEMBERS ANNUAL DINNER PRE-PAYMENTS.

A.HAND
TREASURER
2.4.2014

Gold and Silver for The Meat Joint

A GOLD AWARD for Faggot and four Silver Awards were gathered by The Meat Joint at the annual BPEX event held at Newark last month where more than 500 product entries gave expert judges a hard day's work.



The four Silver Awards were for the Pork, Chicken & Ham Pie, Home Dry Cured Gammon Steak, Pork Balmoral and Faggot in Red Wine & Onion Gravy; the latter two products being from the new Ready to Cook Range which is proving popular with customers.

In addition The Meat Joint is also a finalist in the Heart of England Food Diamond Awards for the Moroccan Lamb Meatballs with a decision due at the end of May.

Congratulations to Tony, Stephanie, and all at Iron Down Farm. Ed

A Quick Up-Date On My Fund Raising

On 5th April I prepared a paying 'Come Dine With Me' evening for 7 guests.



The theme was 'French' and I selected the dishes from Rachel Khoo's Little Paris Kitchen cook book.

We had a lobster/ salmon starter, followed by a Pistou Soup, finishing with a dessert duo of black currant trifle and a Bonne Maman biscuit with crème Anglaise and strawberries. The menu seemed to be well liked by everyone.

Every item of food was donated by local suppliers and the Deddington farmers market which meant that the money raised on the night went directly to the charity. I raised £ 125.00 so many thanks to my guests and the produce supporters.

Please don't forget my Quiz night on 10 May to be held in the village hall, and once again I've managed to get a great local support. See next month's Barford News for further updates and many thanks to you all.

Danielle Semple

From The Fire Station

WE HAVE BEEN out 60 times since the beginning of the year which is just about our average. The incidents we have been attending are still a mixed bag. We were the second crew to attend the fire at the Cricket Pavilion, Banbury. We had a large thunder storm which happened really quickly and without any warning. Several properties were hit, the Cricket Pavilion being one of them and it went from a very quiet Friday to very busy one. When we arrived at the incident we knew we had our work cut out for us as the whole roof was on fire. We were also told that there were propane gas cylinders in the building too! We called for more fire engines which now made six. With the other incidents that were happening at the same time this really stretched our resources. We battled the blaze for about six hours but unfortunately we lost it and the building was turned to ashes.

We were also called to a crash on the M40 where we had to remove the roof from a car to rescue a casualty, again resources were much stretched that day and we were supporting the Banbury crew. We removed the roof and just got the casualty into the ambulance when we were called to yet another incident. We can go days without a call and then we can be stretched to the limits and there is no limit to the times we can be called out.

It's been fairly quiet on our own patch this month. We did go to a small fire caused by a washing machine in Mill Close. When we attend any incidents involving property we always check that the house is safe. We always check the smoke alarms and on this occasion we found that the alarms in this property were mains connected. However on further inspection we found they had no battery backup meaning that if the power was to go off for any reason the smoke alarms would not work. If you have mains powered smoke alarms we advise that you check to see if there is a battery fitted and it should be replaced yearly. If you find your mains connected smoke alarms have no battery you should replace them with ones that have.

We are gearing up to have a complete change of breathing apparatus. The new sets are a great improvement on our old ones with more air in our tanks plus wireless communication and digital displays. This involves a huge amount of extra training which we are really looking forward to. Even though some of our equipment continues to change, we still attach string guide lines in large buildings and follow them so we don't get lost. You never know as we move further into the 21st Century they may find a safer way of doing that too.



On a final note I would like to remind everyone about the

Four Farms Challenge 5k and 10k run around the Deddington Parish farms.

**We are organising this event on
Sunday 18th May**

in conjunction with the P.F.S.U. and the P.T.A. We would hope that everyone in our community will join us to either take part, or just come along and support this event. For an application form and more info visit

<http://fourfarmschallengeco.ipage.com>.

*Tim Parker
Crew Manager Deddington Fire Station*

Banbury Rotary Club
Guest Speaker
Tricia Stewart,



**the Original WI Calendar Girl
17th May – Banbury Town Hall**

Tricia's W.I. initially wanted to raise £5,000 in memory of **the**, husband of one of their group .but who have, to date, raised over £3.5 million for Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research.

The evening will start with canapes at 7.30pm
Tricia sharing her story with us at 8.00pm.
Tickets, including canapes are £10 per person,

All profits will go to Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research.

For tickets please contact
Andrew Fairbairn on 07711142887.

Katharine House News

Bring a Pound to Work Day!

This year's 'Bring a Pound to Work Day!' will be on Friday, 9 May. Just collect £1 from everyone in your workplace. Any profession. Anyone. Anywhere. This is a really simple way to support the hospice so we'd love to see lots of businesses and schools taking part. Help us to beat last year's total of £3,931! Call Sheila on 01295 812161 or email sheila.norton@khh.org.uk for more details or to register your workplace or school to take part.

Katharine House Spring Fair. Tuesday 13th May, between 9.30am and 3pm at The Great Barn, Upper Aynho Grounds (OX17 3AY). On offer will be a variety of fabulous plants, knitwear, silks, greetings cards, children's clothing, jewellery, handbags, Neal's Yard remedies, a portrait artist and much more. Coffee and sandwiches will also be available. Entry £4.

Festival of Open Gardens

Our Festival of Open Gardens begins in May, with 35 supporters opening their gardens to the public over the next three months. Dates for May and June 2014 are as follows:

Fri 23 May, 1pm-6pm, The Little Forge (Little Town, South Newington) and South Newington House (Barford Road, South Newington)-£5 entry for both gardens.

Sat 31 May, 1pm-5pm, Wardington Manor (Wardington OX17 1SW), £5 entrance (children free).

Sun 1 June, 2pm-5pm, Katharine House Hospice (East End, Adderbury), £2.50 entrance.

Sat 7 June, 2pm-6pm Bloxham Open Gardens: Entrance £5 for all gardens.

Sun 8 June, 2pm-6pm Farthinghoe Open Gardens: Entrance £4 for all gardens (children free).

Sun 22 June, 2pm-5pm, Wildwood, (Southam Road, Farnborough). Entrance £2.50 (children free).

Sun 29 June, 2pm-6pm, Hill Grounds, Evenley. Entrance £5, children free and dogs welcome on leads.

Midnight Walk

Saturday 14th June, Banbury Cricket Club, Bodicote

Midnight Walk 2014 volunteers needed!

Plans for this year's Midnight Walk on 14 June are going well but we still need more marshal volunteers. The Walk follows a well-lit route around Banbury and you can be involved all night, i.e. from around 10pm on 14 June to 5am on 15



June, or for a shorter period during that time. Anyone who would be interested in helping us should contact Sheila Norton on 01295 812161 or sheila.norton@khh.org.uk.

Village Champions Needed

We are looking for new Village Champions to help us promote KHH's various fundraising events and initiatives by putting up posters and flyers throughout your local community. If you could help us we would be very grateful! To become a Village Champion please call Helen or Sarah on 01295 812161.

Thank you,

Sarah Brennan Community Fundraiser

Monitor Household Energy Use With Device

ENERGY MONITORS are available to loan from Cherwell District Council to help residents identify the largest contributors to their electricity bills.



Between 2004 and 2010, the average household electricity bill has risen by almost 80 per cent with the average annual electricity bill now estimated at £1,342.

In a bid to make residents more aware of the electricity they use, Cherwell has eight energy monitors available to lend to residents for a two-week period to help them identify the costs associated with household appliances.

The devices record just how much electricity is being used and the associated financial cost. This usage and price will change as more or less devices are turned on to show just how much each item costs to run and which is the biggest contributor to electricity bills.

Residents will have a better understanding of exactly which items use the most electricity and subsequently make the largest contributions to their energy bills.

The monitors are available to borrow free of charge from the council's depot in Thorpe Lane, Banbury, which is open weekdays between 9am and 5pm. Monitors are also available from Bicester Green, which is next to Sobell House Charity Megstore in Station Approach, Bicester. It is open Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10am – 5pm.

Residents are advised to call ahead as demand for the energy monitors has been high. To reserve through Cherwell District Council call 01295 227001 or through Bicester Green, call 01869 338564.



Down On The Farm

AT THE TIME OF WRITING April has been a wonderful month; English weather at its very best. As a result our lower fields dried out and were ploughed and cultivated for spring barley which is now up and growing well. Ewes and lambs have been turned out to spring grass and we have been able to catch up with spraying and fertiliser spreading work.

Lambing went well this year and the ability to turn ewes and lambs out at will has been a real bonus compared with 2013 when they huddled forlornly under constant rain, sleet and snow with nowhere dry to lie.

We finished up with 1.85 lambs per ewe with few losses. However, possibly because of the mild winter, coccidiosis is beginning to be a problem and we are in the process of treating separate flocks. This involves separating lambs from ewes so that they are not injured by a parent in the scramble through the sheep race.

It is not an easy job with small lambs and I worry about them finding their mothers when we return 200 or so treated lambs back into a field containing 100 or so bleating, agitated mothers; but they always seem to 'mother up' after an hour or so of behaving like people scrambling for bargains at the January sales.

As if I haven't seen enough first hand, I did watch a bit of 'lambing live' on the telly; I have to say I didn't see all of it, but the footage I did see appeared heavily sanitised for the viewer. Aside from a case of ring womb (where the ewe's cervix fails to open properly to release the lamb) I saw little of the problems shepherds encounter in lambing such as prolapse, atrophied lambs that die in the womb, ewes with no milk, etc, etc.

Adam Henson would have known better, but was perhaps under his producer's influence to project a nice bucolic scene of fluffy lambs being held for the camera. It succeeded in that, but for my money it mislaid much of the reality that happens in real life,Maybe I missed the bad bits.

Next job here is to muck out the lambing shed and power wash all the barriers, troughs, etc, before they are put away ready for next year. It is a reminder that almost all the machines and equipment we use on the farm only make a brief seasonal appearance; a big investment in stuff than languishes in the shed after a few weeks - somethings only a few days - use.



Take our grass mower for example which last year worked for just three days to cut our grass for hay. Which reminds me that I will soon need to drag it out, show it the grease gun, check the blades for sharpness, and hope that I remembered to slacken off the drive belts before

I parked it up last July.

Ideally it needs time in the workshop on a wet day: but since we have had more than our fair share of those I'm not in a rush to see another!

Tony Collier
Iron Down Farm

Deddington and District History Society

ON 9 APRIL Martin Way, whose talks are looked forward to by all our members, returned to speak on the subject of canal boats and the people who worked and lived on them. Martin firstly outlined the history of water transport in general. Of particular interest to members were the 80-foot flat-bottomed shallow-draught barges used on the Thames. Amongst many other things, they transported Taynton stone to London for the building of St Paul's Cathedral. The scale model that Martin brought along attracted much admiring attention. The canal barges with which we are familiar were much smaller. Of exceptional interest was Martin's description of the hardworking, socially isolated and fiercely independent barging families, illustrated with some marvellous photographs. To round off the evening we were able to examine and even handle the extensive barging memorabilia from Martin's collection.

Our final talk of the season will take place on Wednesday 14 May when Frank Preece will talk about Florence Nightingale and her links to Claydon House. We shall meet as usual at the Windmill Centre at 7.30pm. All are welcome.

Some places remain on the trip that the Society is organising on 6 June (70th anniversary of D-Day) to the National Arboretum, which commemorates all service personnel who have lost their lives fighting in wars from WWI to the present day. Anyone interested, please contact Moira Byast.

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

NATURE NOTES 127

THE LONGER I LIVE IN THE BARFORDS, the more I'm aware of the rather special micro-climate of our valley! So often we watch storms go by to the south or northwest while we remain snug and dry. The same is true regarding the breeze; with Deddington and Bloxham being blasted by savage winds, we look at the trees on the ridge tops being bent all shapes, whilst we suffer from occasional upturned collars or put on a warmer jacket.

We *do* come unstuck when a storm manages to enter the valley and then gets stuck itself - or the E wind sets in! Most often however, it's frost that troubles us, as cold night air seeps slowly along the valley floor and nips out the tops of our emerging vegetables and flowers with icy fingers that also pinch our toes in the early morning grass-frosts.

However, as I begin these *Nature Notes* we were enjoying a spell of mild weather

A flawless sunrise on the 16th of March continued so all day, with a few puffs of high level ice-cloud and very light airs from NW to W. Most notable through the day was the abundance and variety of insects:-

In the early morning sun (7.30am) several hover flies were sunning themselves on the stone of my house walls rapidly vibrating their wings to speed their warm-up. These were *Eristalis tenax*, shiny black with two red ovals on the first segment of each one's abdomen. Soon, as they warmed, they took off and found a spot in the garden at about head height, where they adopted their common name and hovered in the sun, motionless except for the blur of their wings. As I walked over to the greenhouse, each one buzzed round at terrific speed in an erratic circle, as I disturbed it, Immediately afterwards, it re-adopted exactly the same hovering position as before the disturbance!

But the day belonged to the butterflies, especially the brilliant coloured *Vanessids* (and a few Whites). Most brilliant of course, were the sulphur yellow male Brimstones, searching for, but a bit early, to find a lady-friend. There were red Small Tortoiseshells with blue crescented wing margins; a gliding, fiery-tawny Comma, even a richly coloured chocolate, red and white Red Admiral, but the day belonged to the Peacocks - deep mysterious maroon with four big blue and white eyes, one at each corner of the wings. These were many and, together with the others (except the Whites)

were searching clumps of Stinging Nettles to find mates and lay eggs.

The Bumblebees were limited to *Bombus ter-restris*, the Buff-tailed Bumblebee with yellow bands and *B. pratorum*, small with yellow bands and a red tail. The big black Bumblebee with a red tail (*B.*

lapidarius) was not to be seen - I suspect that it might be rare this year because the ground in which it hibernates may have been waterlogged when many will have drowned.

Bird-wise, the main subjects on view were Kites and Buzzards soaring on the thermals, but I did see a pair of Grey Partridges near South Newington, always a treat after the years of fatal pest infestation.

The day's temperature reached an incredible, unprecedented 21°C! and so far I've only described the 16th of March! But it couldn't last. Over the next two days, the wind backed to SW bringing a chill breeze off the Atlantic and cloudy or hazy skies. Temperatures dropped to mid-teens, nights staying around 6°. Insects were few, but bird-wise Bas Butler reported that Great Spotted and Green Woodpeckers were noisy at their traditional sites below the allotments and that Great Spotted were still visiting Lower Street gardens.

On the 18th, about 9.30am I watched 30 plus Fieldfares flying SE in a very open group, followed much later by two Redwings. The latter proved to be my last sighting of the winter.

On the 19th I watched a very small male Kestrel, perched in a small Horse Chestnut at the top of Steepness, vigorously preening his tail and wing feathers, totally heedless of me in my car on the verge. I've never witnessed that exercise before; absolutely fascinating.

By now an advance front of a LP system was pushing in from W, squeezing the High Pressure SSW toward the Azores and on the 20th drizzle set in about 3pm followed two hours later by rain. This continued into night - the first rain since the 6th March.

Day temperatures now fell to the low teens, with showers and a heavy storm on the 21st; then a violent storm front with local downpours and hail on the 22nd. However, this didn't deter the Green Woodpeckers on Steepness and Hempton Hills from being noisy.

The 23rd witnessed squally showers of hail and snow, but a Buzzard managed to find enough lift to glide around the old Guardhouse at St. John airfield. A Kite also managed some low level soaring over an unidentified road-kill at Potato Town on the Chipping Norton road.

After the late warm spell, the night of the 23rd however, brought a real reminder of Winter with temperatures of -4° and even -6° in more exposed places!

And now on the 24th, another change as LP gained control, and day temperatures dropped to single figures (9°) as the breeze backed to SSE. Despite this there was a good Dawn Chorus, from Songthrush, Blackbird, Robin, Dunnock and Wood Pigeon. Even a Chiffchaff was singing well along Townsend!

The wind now hesitantly backed to E, then NE by the 28th. Meanwhile the weather was showery; a Lapwing watched by Ian Hobday, and later by Bas Butler, was performing territory-holding aerobatics off Barley Lane. Sadly the attempt failed and the bird had disappeared within a week.

On the 26th, when I drew my conservatory blinds, there on the frames was a most attractively coloured Angleshades moth. The wings when closed are almost pleat folded, and decorated with rich brown geometric shapes on contrasting olive green and fawn-pink background. I coaxed the sleepy moth onto my finger, carried it outside and induced it to cling onto developing Cherry blossom buds; perfect camouflage!

Gentle rain and showers were the order for the 3rd on a breezy SW at 8°. Night dropped to -1° giving a light frost by morning on the 4th. Soon the temperature rose to 11° with bright sun and this brought a male Raven honking around Steepness. Despite substantial cloud over mid-day, the weather became clear and still by evening.

On the 27th, amidst afternoon showers, a trip along Barley Lane revealed three Fieldfares in a tall tree. They sped off NE at my approach - it transpired that they would be the last Fieldfares I would see from last winter. Finally, I then encountered a Buzzard flying low over the road at Tew's Barn at the top of Hempton Hills.

And so to the 28th, and another colossal battle of the weather! Heavy sky haze with cloud building and a raw cold NE wind at the head of a dominant Continental Warm Front, were all met head on and diverted eastward by a surging Atlantic Cold Front rushing in from SE. Intense and violent thunderstorms erupted from early afternoon with many lightning strikes locally, especially in Banbury with the Twenty Club Cricket Pavilion being burned out and a strike on the radio mast at the Horton Hospital. There was appreciable (but short lived!) snowfall and huge hailstorms - with stones being measured against, and found equal to £1 coins in size!

The last three days of March were profoundly warmer although the SSE breeze had a cold edge. Following the bewildering sequences of warm and cold, very wet and very drying weather after such a rain drenched winter, erratic behaviour in wild and garden plants as well as wild creatures became evident. I suppose most obvious was the contrasting behaviour of the Hawthorn and Blackthorn of the hedgerows. Blackthorn used often to break bloom from mid to late February, coming into full bloom for the "Blackthorn Winter" in March, just when all those who work the land wanted it dry! Hawthorn broke bud in late March, becoming "bread and cheese" (opening leaf), and then full leaf from late April into May.

This year, the Blackthorn didn't start opening flower until late March, and then sporadically some four to six weeks late. Meanwhile, the Hawthorn was opening leaf!

Amongst the birds breeding is also sporadic and, for some, early; Tits and other woodland dwellers appear to have started, but Herons and Waders (like Lapwings or Curlews) seem to be late, largely in my opinion because a) the water depth and speed has been too great for fishing and b) grass/sedge cover is still so short through waterlogging.

Buzzards still soared to great heights then, diving at each other to fleetingly "catch claws" before soaring up again. There have been many sightings around the Barfords, Hempton, Ilbury and Hawk Hill and along the B 4031.

On the 30th a male Raven indulged in cruising around erratically from the conifers at Barford House, croaking as if to distress the local Jackdaws; he failed, and flew off westward. There was also a Great Spotted Woodpecker continually flying across St Michael churchyard, perching and 'keck'ing but not drumming. I think he may not be connected to the allotments, but has an interest below Lower Street.

And so March drew to a close, with the Continental High and the Atlantic Low still in contention, the wind wobbling between S and SE. There was sun, but also haze that became overcast, with light showers in the evening. However, the day was warm (19.5°) and the Steepness Green Woodpeckers were noisy, although much less strident than of late. I wonder how many of us will be made fools of by the weather tomorrow!

Ron Knight

Thanks to our Advertisers and Contributors

THE CONTRIBUTION made by our regular advertisers is extremely valuable and goes a long way in helping to keep the 'news' afloat. Thank you to them all for their continued support. If you use their services, please do mention that you saw their advert in these pages.

The other big 'thank you' is to our contributors. Without the people who take time to write articles for 'Barford news' these pages would not take long to assemble!

So to everyone who writes for 'BN', be it regularly or occasionally, 'thank you very much'. To everyone who has not yet contributed - why not have a go?? We welcome articles from everyone but particularly from the younger members of our community - so get out that pen and paper, or sit down at the computer, and send us your article. Contact details are on the back page of each issue.

Ed.

The 1942 Barford census and war books': a unique record?

This is an extract of an article by Colin Cohen, which appeared in the newsletter of the Deddington & District History Society in March and June 2005.

Introduction: local defence committees in the Second World War

As anyone who has done local history research will know, a census has been taken every ten years since 1801, although they only become really useful for the details of individuals names from 1841. There is one exception, however: in 1941 no census was taken—well there was a war on. But for the parishes of Barford St John and Barford St Michael in Oxfordshire two very rare sources survive for 1942—a local census and what are known as the 'War Books'. Since both resulted from central wartime directives, it is possible that comparable material may exist for other parishes elsewhere in the United Kingdom. Although preparations for war were in hand long before September 1939 (rearmament, including the construction of airfields, had started soon after the Nazis came to power in Germany in 1933) it took time to establish a local civil defence organisation, usually known as the Local Defence Committee or LDC. The control of the LDCs was through a series of County Defence Committees, first set up under the Air Raid Precautions Act of 1937. County Emergency Committees for Civil Defence were formed following Home Office circular 57 of 1939, which required each county or county borough to appoint an ARP Controller and an Emergency Committee which, in the event of war, would exercise executive powers. These committees were to be responsible for evacuation plans and making preparations for resisting an enemy invasion, as well as providing links between military and civil authorities. For North Oxfordshire, including the Barfords, the sub-controller was based in Banbury.

The County Defence Committee, which would also provide a direct link between the military and the civilian authorities in the event of an invasion, was composed of the members of the County Emergency Committee together with the area commander, Home Guard zone commander, county controller and chief constable. A system of area and local defence committees (representing essential services in each town or village) was set up to prepare for invasion and ensure compliance with military instructions. It was not until 1 October 1941, a full year after the Battle of Britain, that A.J. Woolgrove of Barford St John was formally approached, as 'one person of recognised authority in the community', to chair the Local Defence Committee (LDC) for the Barfords and to have 'sole executive power in the event of an invasion'. He was given a week to decide whether to accept, though as a County Councillor one can assume he already knew of these plans. The three-page duplicated letter started by pointing out that, in the event of an invasion, communities might be isolated and have to live off their own resources. It went on to explain the extent of the chairman's powers and, more importantly, the limits. The LDC was, as one would expect, made up of the great and the good in each community.

In a further circular, in July 1942, a specific reference is made to the 'Stand Firm Policy' in the event of an invasion. The LDC had to provide every member of the public with a role, which

meant that the very young or old and infirm would be required to stay at home (and thereby would not clog up the roads by fleeing—the lessons of the Fall of France in 1940 must still have been fresh in the minds of the authorities). This requirement was a key reason for the census. The census exercise was to be carried out under the cover of distributing a circular about gas precautions, and it even provided a script: 'Here is the new leaflet on Gas for your information, and I am required to check on the number of occupants in this house to bring our records up to date and to facilitate rescue work in the event of air raid damage'. There were follow-up instructions on how to categorise the occupants.

The local committee was also instructed to set up an invasion HQ, was given further instructions about how invasion warnings would be given, and was told that a specimen 'war book' was being prepared so that these records could be standardised.

In the Barfords the LDC had been meeting since 29 October 1941. Its minutes were kept in an exercise book, which gives much illuminating detail of the day-to-day concerns of the period after the Battle of Britain. On 12 January 1942, for example, under the heading 'Food store', it was recorded that 'Mr Hudson [Bakehouse] reported that he kept approx four months supplies in hand, & he thought yeast in powder form could be obtained, which would keep, he said he would investigate further; Mr Hudson also stated that he had an adequate supply of coal'. Under the heading 'First aid' it was reported that provision was unsatisfactory because Mrs Sullivan was away and it was uncertain when she might return. It was agreed to ask Mrs Connor, of the Old Vicarage, to take charge. The records include a letter from Vera Sullivan (dated 18 June 1942, from the Regal Hotel, Cleveleys, Lancashire) apologising for being away and saying that Mrs Connor would do the job very well. Mrs Connor subsequently wrote with a list of eight first-aiders in the village, but the LDC deleted four of these and added two others. The minutes for 22 June 1942 show that the LDC recognised the need to select an invasion HQ and to appoint a woman member. They chose Mrs Mouldsdales, wife of Lieutenant Mouldsdales, who was already on the committee, and whose home at Barford House in St Michael was selected as headquarters. The fallback HQ was to be Mead Farm in St John, the home of the chairman. His was one of a few houses with a phone at the time.

Membership of the LDC was not remunerated, but limited expenses were repayable by the Department of Home Security. Postage and stationery were refundable as were telephone calls (though of course there not many telephones in the village). Accommodation, travel for the chairman to meetings, hire of halls for public meetings, printing of 'posters and announcements to bring the existence of the Committee to the notice of persons living in the area, and questionnaire forms to elicit information required by the Committee, were all allowable expenses, and the county council could authorise expenditure up to the princely total of £15 per annum. The last meeting of which a minute survives was on 19 December 1942, but as late as 13 October the LDCs were reminded, by a circular from the regional commissioner, of the importance attached to the preparation of war books. Evidently, only a few LDCs had done so and a deadline was set for the end of the year. Other instructions demanded a limit to the number of official notice boards in the parish; that the voluntary food organiser had to live in the parish; that the location of the committee HQ had to be shown; and that the 'Central channel of communication' had to be located there. As late as August 1943 the risk of invasion was considered sufficiently great for the Southern Regional Commissioner to write instructing LDCs to fill in, on page 1 of their war book, 'a note containing in order of priority the action which will have to be taken and the official, service or authority responsible for initiating it if and when the chances of invasion recur', but it does not seem to have been done in this case. On 6 September 1944 the Home Guard was partially stood down. The final meeting of the Barfords LDC, its ninety-third, was held on 6 September 1945, almost four months to the day after the end of the war in Europe.

..... To be continued

Colin Cohen will be the guest speaker at The WI Meeting on Wednesday 11th June. Visitors welcome to hear his talk about his father's work during the war, entitled 'The Spy I Hardly Knew'.

Cinema And Supermarket - Key To Expansion

A MULTI-MILLION POUND project to expand Banbury's shopping centre will go ahead after councillors voted in support of the scheme.

The development, known as CQ2, will involve the creation of a new cinema, supermarket, hotel and restaurants as well as a glazed canopy over the Oxford Canal linking the two sites.

Cllr Michael Gibbard, said: "This development will inject investment, employment and retail opportunities into Banbury and help to create and sustain a thriving town centre.

"The people of Banbury have been crying out for a new multiplex cinema for many years and since the closure of Somerfield in 2007, the town centre has been without a full-size supermarket. This development will address both of these needs while the glazed canopy will create a focal point around the canal, helping to bring the new and existing developments together in style."

The application will involve the construction of a supermarket on the site of the former Spiceball Leisure Centre, a cinema to the north of the canal and a 92-bedroom hotel to the south.

There will also be restaurant and cafe units to the north of the canal, new car parking and bridges over the River Cherwell and Oxford Canal.

To enable the development, Castle Quay's northern car park and General Foods Sports and Social Club will need to be demolished. The club objected to the demolition with a 58-page petition and despite obtaining planning permission for the work to take place, Scottish Widows cannot demolish the site without the approval of its owners.

Splashing Cash To Boost Town Centre Trade

TENS OF THOUSANDS of pounds are to be invested in Banbury, to help boost trade in the town centre.

At the end of last year, Cherwell district councillors agreed to introduce a series of initiatives to increase footfall in the three urban areas including advertising, regeneration projects and improved signage.

The projects are now beginning to be rolled out and will be funded by the £100,000 Town Centre Innovation Fund, which was awarded to the council in 2012 by the Department for Communities and Local Government following Mary Portas' review into boosting High Street trade. In December 2012 we used part of these funds to offset the cost of offering free parking in Banbury and Bicester and



Three Star Result For Council Website

C HERWELL'S WEB SITE has just received the thumbs up from a nationally recognised IT organisation.

Each year the web site is tested by the Society of Information Technology Management's (SOCITM) website assessment. This year Cherwell has been awarded three stars meaning it passed all 7 tests. It's a big improvement over the one star that the council's website received the last time SOCITM took a look at it.

Cllr Turner, said: "This result is a reflection of the council's forward thinking approach to communications and the extent to which we recognise that social media is an increasingly important tool."

"It reflects the huge amount of effort staff have put into updating the website in advance of assessment - their hard work has paid off."

SOCITM is the professional body for those involved in IT management and digital services delivered for public benefit. The report particularly singled out Cherwell's integration of social media through the website and the social media acceptable use policy as being good.

The assessment, published in the report "Better connected 2014: a snapshot of all local authority websites", identified areas where Cherwell can improve, such as mobile compatibility, and the council will now look to address those.

Visit the Cherwell website at www.cherwell.gov.uk

while this was hugely successful, the benefits were only temporary. The funding has been apportioned so Banbury will receive £50,000 of the total, followed by £30,000 for Bicester and £20,000 for Kidlington. In 2012, Banbury spent £25,000 of their total offsetting the cost of free parking.

Of its remaining £25,000, Banbury will spend £10,000 enhancing signs to better direct and encourage people to shop in the town centre and old town. The remaining £15,000 will be used to fund the Banbury Town Centre Coordination project, providing strategic and practical leadership to increase the vitality of Banbury by working closely and in cohesion with new and existing traders to promote town centre trade.

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