

BARFORD NEWS

October 2014

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Parish Council notes

The Parish Council meeting took place at 7.30pm on 3 September in the Village Hall and was attended by Cllrs Hobbs, Eden, Turner, Styles, Best, Campbell, District Cllr Williams and Mrs Watts (Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer).

Apologies for absence: County Cllr Fatemian sent his apologies after the meeting.

Present: Chairman's Announcement: Cllr Hobbs asked the Council to observe a minute's silence in memory of Cllr Tracey Bullard, who sadly died at the end of August. He conveyed the Parish Council's sincere condolences to her family and friends.

Declarations of Interest: there were none.

Minutes of the last meeting: The minutes of the meeting on 2 July 2014 were proposed by Cllr Styles, seconded by Cllr Eden, unanimously resolved as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman

Parish Matters:

Noticeboard Barford St John: The Parish Clerk has ordered a new noticeboard for Barford St John, the old one having collapsed. Delivery expected late October.

Local Audit and Accountability Act: A new law approved by Eric Pickles has given the go-ahead for filming, recording and tweeting from council meetings. The changes, under the Local Audit and Accountability Act, will "allow a robust and healthy local democracy".

First Aid courses: Cllr Hobbs had received quotations from the Red Cross, St John Ambulance, Prime First Aid and Thames Training. After a general discussion Cllr Eden proposed that the Parish Council engage St John Ambulance to carry out training. This was seconded by Cllr Campbell and agreed unanimously. Cllr Hobbs will put a notice in Barford News inviting villagers to sign up for one of the three-hour courses. Dates and times will be agreed later.
Play equipment West Close: Cllr Styles will research the availability of grants.

Saturday bus service: The Barfords have one bus to and from Banbury each Thursday. Cllr Campbell had researched bus services in other villages and felt that the Barfords should have a much better service than the one currently in place. Cllrs agreed that the Parish Council should in the first instance look at the possibility of a Saturday bus service being introduced. Cllr Campbell will carry out further research to ascertain who the Parish Council needs to approach to request additional services.

County Councillor's Report:

Cllr Fatemian sent a written report to the Parish Clerk after the meeting. Some items are noted below. The full report can be seen on the Parish Council website.

- Cllr Fatemian was saddened to hear of the death of the Parish Council Vice-Chairman Tracey Bullard and offered his condolences to her family and friends.
- He had spent a half-day at Deddington Highways Depot seeing the processes that go into repairing highways.
- A Growth Deal will see at least £108.6m invested in Oxfordshire. The deal will help create up to 5,700 jobs, allow over 4,000 homes to be built and generate over £100m in public and private investment.
- A master plan for Oxford Station was launched on 24 July.
- A Draft Local Flood Risk Management Strategy Consultation is open until 19 September.
- The County Council's library service has joined forces with the Publishers' Licencing Society and Society of Chief Librarians leading to the computers at all 43 Oxfordshire libraries being linked up to a system that allows online access to research of many varieties. The service offers access to research literature on art, architecture, business, engineering, history, languages, politics, philosophy, mathematics and sciences, medicine and health and social sciences.

District Councillor's report:

Cllr Williams said that due to the summer break and with several Councillors being away on holiday, there was little to report this month relating to the Barfords.

- The proposed modifications to the Cherwell Local Plan were presented for consultation at the end of August. Supporting documents are available at www.cherwell.gov.uk/LocalPlanExamination
- There are a number of district councillor training events scheduled for the coming months which Cllr Williams plans to attend in order to better understand the role and responsibilities of a district councillor.
- Cllr Williams took the opportunity to convey his own and fellow Cherwell District Councillors' sincere condolences to the family and friends of Tracey Bullard, who he sadly only met on a few occasions in his capacity as District Councillor.

Planning matters: details of planning applications can be viewed on the Cherwell District Council website, www.cherwell.gov.uk/planning
Planning applications received: there were none.

Planning applications approved by Cherwell District Council:

- 14/00836/F – Buttermilk Cottage, Barford St Michael. Single storey front extension to form porch. No objections. Granted 3 July.
- 14/00707/LB – retrospective application. Traherne House, The Rock, Barford St Michael. Replacement of two existing windows. No objections. Granted 7 July.
- 14/00928/F & 14/00929/LB – Turnstile House, The Rock, Barford St Michael. Modifications to existing permission 11/01710/F & 11/01711/LB. Re-submission of 13/01407/F. No objections. Granted 7 August.
- 14/00987/F – 3 Broad Close, Barford St Michael. First floor rear extension and single storey side and rear extensions. No objections. Granted 12 August.

TCAs approved by Cherwell District Council:

- 14/00173/TCA – St Michael's Church. T1 & T2 Irish Yew – fell. No objections. Granted 10 July.
- 14/00211/TCA – Brambles, Lower St, Barford St Michael. T7 x Conifer – fell. T9 x Hawthorn – crown reduce by 30%. No objections. Granted 14 August.

Finance: The Parish Clerk had presented the schedules of receipts and payments to Councillors before the meeting and sought approval to pay the cheques itemised on the schedule totalling £991.16. Cllr Styles moved acceptance of the payments detailed, this was seconded by Cllr Eden and approved unanimously.

External Audit Report 2013 – 2014: BDO LLP completed the external audit of the accounts on 26 August 2014, with no issues arising. Cllr Turner proposed acceptance of the conclusion of audit. This was seconded by Cllr Best and unanimously accepted. The Notice of Conclusion of Audit will be displayed on the noticeboard by the village hall and will remain there for at least 14 days.

AOB:

- a) The de-restriction/30mph sign in Barford St John has been laid flat by an unknown vehicle. The Parish Clerk has reported the matter to OCC Highways.
- b) Fix My Street – residents can report defects in the highway to Oxfordshire County Council on <http://fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk> Once verified, OCC's contractor pledges to fix potholes within 28 days, 24 hours in an emergency and 4 hours for a severe category.
- c) The Barford St John and St Michael Parish Council website can be accessed on www.thebarfordvillages.co.uk

The meeting closed at 8.50pm. The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on 1 October at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Barford Village Market

Saturday 18 October

10am to 12noon

in the Village Hall

**The Meat Joint prize winning faggots,
sausages and meat.**

**Artisan breads, scones, preserves,
farmhouse ice cream,**

**Green Lane Farm cheeses and yoghurts,
fresh eggs, Fairtrade items, food and
craft stalls**

**Garden sundries, beautiful Alpines
(weather permitting)**

**Joan's beautifully gift wrapped
chocolates**

**Paul's Phoenix Cards, gift wrap,
stationery and gifts.**

Bacon butties/bacon and egg butties.

Add a sausage for a breakfast buttie!

**Not forgetting tea and coffee
All at bargain prices**

**Come along and support YOUR local
market**

**All profits for Village Hall
maintenance**

Thank You

To everyone who attended the KHH cuppa morning in the Village Hall, to those who bought raffle tickets and all who donated so very generously. Our total raised at the event was £346.

With subsequent donations this has grown to a £360, plus £55 raised on the sale of KHH Christmas cards. Neil Gadsby, the co-founder and Chairman of KHH Trust came along to thank everyone and to draw the raffle. A very lively morning, with lots of chat and universal admiration of the three sets of twins who joined us!



Theresa Anne Bullard
"Tracey"

On 24 August I lost my wife, my best friend and my mate.

I would like to thank, on behalf of all the family, all of you from this wonderful Swere valley for the overwhelming loving response to the premature passing of my lovely wife.

Peace and love
Mick



Tracey was born in Edgbaston, Birmingham and went to Holly Lodge Grammar School before training as a hair stylist.

After marrying Glen, her only son Spencer was born in March 1967. They moved to Kidderminster where she qualified as a shorthand typist and was also accepted as a Mensa member.

The family later moved to Waterloo, near Brussels where Tracey worked as a bi-lingual PA. On returning to the UK in the early 1980s she lived in Leatherhead, Surrey, before moving to Barford St Michael where she became the much-loved hostess of the George Inn, with music nights, Fairport parties, Freeway Jam gigs and other bands with many lock-ins, hangovers and happy memories.

She first met Mick, drummer and vocalist with Freeway Jam, at The George and they married in 1993, moving to their house in Church Street, whilst Spencer ran the pub. Tracey became PA to Dave and Chris Pegg at Woodworm Studios and together with Chris organised and ran the Cropredy Festivals.

She travelled widely with family and friends. After visiting Nepal, Tracey got involved with the Kathmandu Orphanage. Following retirement in 2011 she continued to raise funds for the orphanage and for the children's playground here in the village. Tracey was Parish Council Vice Chairman for many years and an active member of the WI, Great Tew choir and indoor bowls.

Tracey and Mick spent 21 very happy years together. She was very well respected in the Barfords and will be well remembered by the whole village community. She leaves a gap in our lives and will be greatly missed by her many friends.

TUESDAY LUNCH CLUB

Please note there will not be a Lunch Club in October. However it will start again on 18 November and a menu will appear in the November Barford News.

BARFORD PICTURE HOUSE 2014-2015

Our new season starts in November
at the VILLAGE HALL CINEMA

NOVEMBER 15th...*Gravity 2013*

DECEMBER 13th...*Frozen 2013 This is a pre-Christmas film for all ages, refreshments. Start time 7.0 pm*

JANUARY 10th...*Twenty Feet from Stardom 2013*

FEBRUARY 14th...*The Graduate 1967
Dinner with a romantic movie. Start time 7.0pm*

MARCH 14th...*The Grand Budapest Hotel 2014*

APRIL 18th.....*Nebraska 2013*

All films except December and February start at 7.45
The pre-Christmas film will have a Family ticket of £8 for
2 adults and 2 children and start at 7.0pm
The February film will be preceded by a meal for £5 starting 7.0pm
(bookable in advance)
TICKET PRICES are £18 for a Season ticket (6 films)
or £4 on the door

Our films are provided by AgeUk.
Ticket money will go towards the upkeep of the Village Hall
SOFT DRINKS AVAILABLE, BRING OWN ALCOHOL
DOORS OPEN AT 7.15

YOU CAN BRING YOUR OWN CHAIRS!
contact Gunilla on 01295 720521

News from Deddington Primary

The start of the new school year has gone very smoothly, the summer holidays seem a long way off!

At the start of term the circus came to school organised by the PTA, the Big Top welcomed children and their parents and great fun was had by all. The week before the circus the children were able to experience circus workshops where they learned to juggle diablos and spin plates.

This term several after-school and lunchtime clubs are starting up after a well-attended sign up afternoon. Clubs include: musical theatre, choir, art, computing, football, gardening, French, multi skills, golf and tag rugby - hopefully something for everyone.

Mrs Lynch organised a whole school cross country. Winners from each year group will go forward to represent Deddington at our Warriner Partnership competition.

We are looking forward at the time of writing to welcoming parents into the school for an open morning; they will have a chance to see children at work and to join us for our morning worship. On 1 October I am running two parent information meetings (afternoon and evening) to outline what the new 2014 curriculum entails, how it is being delivered at Deddington and what changes have been brought in. E-safety and reading meetings are also be organised by other members of staff for the coming term. Parents are also welcomed into the school every Thursday morning before registration.

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

Mrs Jane Cross, Deputy Headteacher.

200 CLUB WINNERS SEPTEMBER

£25.00, No. 101, Stuart Hobbs

£15.00, No. 61, Gina Mumford

£10.00, No. 12, George & Freda Parker

£5.00, No 197, Peter Addison

The draw was made at a
WI meeting



Deddington Guides

New term. New members. New patrols. New ideas, challenges and projects! But it's also great to see old friends, share holiday news and plan activities that are old favourites.

Marshmallow toasting is always a good way to start the term along with outdoor games. Then already we are planning next badges and events. Exciting times ahead!

Well done to all who gained campers and advanced campers badges in the holidays. By the time you read this we will have joined the Brownies at their celebration bonfire at Horley. The end of an exciting year now that they are 100 years old. We will also have to show the Rainbows how to toast marshmallows the best way. More news next month. Look out for our new uniform - designed by young people for young people. It's great!

Any girls over 10 are welcome to join us.

Guiders

Maggie Rampley 01295 810069

Marian Trinder 01869 840806

Catherine Blackburn 01295 258880

Deddington PFSU and Village Nursery

It's the start of a new year and the children have settled in quickly to their new nursery and pre-school. We would like to extend a warm welcome to all the children and families joining us for the first time this term.

The PFSU will be holding a parents' evening for PFSU parents on 14 October from 7.30pm to 9pm. After a short presentation and a chance to ask questions, there will be the informal opportunity to speak to staff about how your child has settled in, and to meet other parents.

The Nursery and PFSU Annual General Meeting will be held in late October (date TBC). It is essential that as many families as possible attend this meeting as without a minimum number of families represented we cannot elect a new committee to manage the settings in the coming year. Please join us for this short but vital meeting if you possibly can.

Lucy Squires 337484



The Poppy Appeal

Remembrance Sunday this year is on 9 November. Another year has quickly gone by but the need for generous donations to the Poppy Appeal has not reduced. Our servicemen may not be actively involved in fighting at the moment, but the need for financial help for those injured in recent conflicts continues. The dependants of the wounded and deceased servicemen also need help of all kinds. This need extends beyond the recent wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Help still needed by servicemen and their dependants from 1939/45 war, Korea, Malaysia, the Falklands, both Iraq wars and other smaller conflicts like Sierra Leon. It is a massive financial requirement needing great generosity by all of us.

The official Poppy Appeal starts on Saturday 25 October (although you may see the Prime Minister and Members of Parliament wearing poppies some time before that) and continues right up to Remembrance Sunday. Between 25 October and 8 November volunteers will be knocking on your doors asking for a contribution to the Poppy Appeal Fund. Barfordians have always been well known for their generosity and long may that continue. Your contribution will be used by the Royal British Legion to help the servicemen and their families who are in need. In return for your generosity you will be given a Poppy to wear. Wear it with pride. PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY.

Bernard E Lane, Poppy collection organiser for the Barfords

Many thanks to Mariann Young for these photos from the Barford Sportsday



St John Ambulance



Emergency life support procedures for adults, children and infants

The Parish Council has been looking into providing first aid courses for village residents and we have chosen St John Ambulance to provide the training in the Village Hall

The course is Essential First Aid, which is suitable for everyone over 12 years old. If under the age of 16, you must attend with a responsible adult family member or guardian (maximum of two young people per adult).

The course covers:

- communication and casualty care
- looking after yourself and the casualty
- adult, child and infant resuscitation
- treatment of severe bleeding and chest pain
- treatment of choking in adults, children and infants
- treatment of an unconscious casualty.

It's a three hour course with continuous assessment by the trainer. A minimum of six and a maximum of 14 people can attend each course but with two trainers up to 28 people could be accommodated.

We plan to run courses at different times so that as many as possible can attend. If there is sufficient demand there will be courses on a weekday morning, a weekday evening and a weekend. If demand is high further courses will be organised.

These courses will be free to village residents, all costs will be paid by the Parish Council from existing funds and a community grant from Oxfordshire County Council. We now need to get an idea of interest so dates can be booked. If you wish to take part please contact me as soon as possible indicating when would be the best time for you to attend. This is a great opportunity to get a large number of residents trained so as to make our villages a safer place to live and it's free. We hope to get a very good response.

Rodney Hobbs, Pear Tree Cottage, The Green, Barford St Michael. Email rshpersonal@gmail.com Phone 01869 338078.

Barford Green Gardening Club



Notes from our potting shed

The Garden Club committee has six members, sharing various roles. Trish Field, Linda Newbery, Anne Radford, Helen Taylor and Gunilla Treen are the main members and Stephen Bunce remains our Treasurer.

Dates to remember

4 October: Make a mosaic for your garden.

Workshop at the Village Hall, tutored by artist Fiona Pancheri. Materials included. Phone Linda on 337526 or email l.newbery@btinternet.com. £40 per person for a whole day, plus a small contribution towards rent of the Village Hall. Check if any places available.

3 November: Sex, Lies and Putrefaction. A talk by Timothy Walker, until recently the Horti Praefectus of the Oxford Botanic Garden. The talk will look at the variety of animals and other vectors that are exploited by plants for pollination. He has spoken to us twice before and is an extremely amusing speaker. Members £3 and visitors £4. Please encourage as many people as you know to come to this talk.

7 December: Fun Garden Quiz with refreshments. This will be a light-hearted evening with questions for every level of knowledge. A fun get together in the darker evenings. £2 for everyone to cover costs.

AGM: date to be decided. To be followed by an informal exchange of gardening tips and ideas. The Open Garden Event will be discussed at AGM with a suggested early June date.

18 July: a visit to Dreamer's Cottage, Little Haseley with a possibility to have lunch at Lassco's in Milton Common.

Other possible events are Oxford Botanic Garden and Worton Organic Gardens near Cassington. It would have to be on a Tuesday or Wednesday, with a minimum of 10 people.



Fernhill Club News

On 3 September we had a wonderful afternoon with Ronnie Johnson, the owner of Star Travel in Banbury.

He started with his history in travel services, excursions, day trips and holidays, then kept us entertained with many tales of customers' experiences and some of the silly questions that they asked.

On 17 September we travelled around the world by campervan, with Simeon Courtie and his family, who took a year out of their normal lives of work and school, making money for charity by busking Beatles songs.

We ended the month with a meal at The Bowling Green.

Coming soon we plan to play Carpet Bowls on 1 October and on 15th we will have Dusty Rhodes coming to entertain us with sea shanties.

We offer a warm invitation to anyone who would like to join us for any of our meetings. We meet at 2.30pm on Wednesdays in the Village Hall; you would be very welcome.

Mary Ashbridge 01295 252298

Maggie Blackhall 01869 338930



Bye for now
Spade and Fork



Annual Barfords Fun Dog Show

It was a very soggy dog show this year, meaning there were far fewer entries and the dogs in the Best Trick category were not at all happy about performing in the rain.



The classes were reduced to make it the show shorter; Tess Eden won Prettiest Bitch, Teddy Craig won Handsomest Dog, Angus Hardingham and Rocket Lord were the winners of Best Trick or Command, awarded jointly for performing (or not!) in challenging conditions, William Parker won Best Child Handler with Lily and Nelly Flux won Best Veteran.



These winners all entered the Best in Show class and the overall Champion was Teddy who was very proud of his rosettes.

A big thank you to Sophie Hanmer for judging and to the spectators and exhibitors who braved the weather.



Down on the farm

As a small person I used to be packed off to Llandudno every summer holiday to a strictly Methodist run seaside establishment. I have to say it wasn't always huge fun. What reminded me of this were the seagulls. They have been following the plough all week and it struck me as odd that while the ones at the seaside make a constant raucous mewing noise those that wheel and settle behind the plough appear to make no sound whatsoever.



I doubt, of course, they have ever seen the sea and their home on a local landfill site will provide easy pickings, so maybe they don't feel the need to be noisy.

The late summer and early autumn weather has enabled us to catch up with almost everything work-wise. We got a contractor in to mole plough the bottom fields to aid drainage and subsoiled a couple of fields ourselves that had suffered from last winter's constant wetness.

The mole plough has tines that penetrate the soil to a depth of a couple of feet and these have short forward pointing tines followed by a bullet shaped expander to create a three inch diameter channel. This runs through the gravel backfill above the land drains where it deposits any water it has collected.

We have also limed two fields and applied a potash/phosphate fertiliser to get next year's crops off to a good start and the hedge cutter contractor has come and gone and made a tidy job of the hedges in doing so. The sheep have been sorted ready for tugging next month and I have almost finished ploughing the arable land ready for sowing wheat and barley.

Compared to last autumn when we were splashing and skidding around in mud it has been a joy to get so much work done in dry weather. However the two fields we planted with stubble turnips will soon need some rain! A bit of damp would also help to break down the lumps of dry soil thrown up by the plough.

Our latest enterprise is chickens. Yes, we are running what business jargon would describe as a 'pilot scheme' to see if they can make money. Okay, it's only ten birds. But that makes the maths easy; i.e. 100 should do ten times better (or worse). Anyway they are doing fine at present and have averaged eight eggs a day for the past five weeks. If they show a favourable return we will get some more and go from there - free range, of course.

Mind you, since the hens arrived the weather has been perfect; I need to remind myself that when the rains start beating down things won't look quite so rosy. To date I have not needed to clean a single egg: that will change for sure. Also when I shut them up last night I heard a dog fox barking up on the hill.

Hopefully local gamekeepers will by now have released enough pheasants to keep him in dinners without feeling the need to bother our little 'pilot scheme'.

Tony Collier, Iron Down Farm

A warm welcome to...

Laura and Louis Holtzhausen who moved into Crown House in July, with their two young daughters Letitia (3) and Cecilia (7 months). They'll be making a great effort to meet people and become a real part of the village.

Also to Anthony, Joanna, George, Eliza and Chloe Cooke-Yarborough who recently moved into Rignell Hall. We hope you have many happy years ahead in our village.

From The Fire Station

We've had a busy summer - called out to chemical spills, house fires and road traffic accidents. Remember a power cut at the start of this month? A pylon caught fire by the council depot in Deddington. The cause was never found but we believe it was from a power overload.



We have had false alarms where the occupier of the property was not on the phone list for the monitoring centre. If your alarm is connected to one of these agencies please make sure that they ring you. If they ring a neighbour first they can't verify that there isn't a fire and we have to attend.

We've been to field fires too - time consuming and really hard work. The only way to put them out is with beaters, a two feet long piece of fire hose strapped to a wooden pole. Old fashioned, but it works.

We still have thirteen crew and they are all now qualified to wear breathing apparatus (BA). This is great for the station but raises problems with training. We only have three BA sets at the station and so have to travel to other stations to do a large drill.

There has been a lot of cost cutting over the past couple of years but a lot of good has started to emerge. We have a new electronic crewing system where we can book on and off on our PCs at home. If there are more than six on call you can release yourself and it saves money. The money saved is put aside for extra training. A couple of the crew have just come back from doing some very realistic training at the fire college at Morton in the Marsh.

We have another recruit in the pipe line but it will be a while before he gets through all the process to join us at the station but I will keep you posted on his development.

With our numbers at full strength we have started sending some of the crew to Banbury to do full time shifts to help with their crewing levels.

We have a really great crew at Deddington and they have given up so much of their own time to attend the local festivals and fetes on our patch. They also give presentations at the station to children from schools, Cubs, Brownies and Boys' Brigade on safety advice and how to use some of our equipment. The nights draw in and you start to think about having a fire roaring in your grate, give a thought to having your chimney swept first. It's amazing how many chimney fires we go to. If your chimney is clean, don't forget you still could have a birds nest or dislodged piece of masonry blocking it. Please don't forget to check your smoke alarms every week.

Crew Manager Tim Parker, Deddington Fire Station

The Barfords Christmas Lunch

Saturday 29 November 12.45pm for 1pm

This is open to residents of the villages over 60, and their spouses or partners. Invitations will be sent out at the start of November to everyone that we know of who qualifies. If you are eligible to attend and you do not receive an invitation, please let Aggie know (01869 338406). Please can we have your replies by Saturday 22 November, even if you can't attend, so we can plan the quantities of food. Please let us know about special dietary requirements - nut allergy, gluten intolerance etc). We are not planning to offer a vegetarian option unless informed of vegetarians attending.

Funding: Following the last two years and the very generous contributions, we will have a donations box again on the day. Whilst donations are purely voluntary, all are gratefully received and can help towards the continuation of this village event. Anyone with additional fundraising ideas please let Sarah, Mary or Aggie know.

Helpers: Although we have a list of helpers who volunteered last year we are keen to add new names to the list. If you have some time to spare on the day or could make a pudding please get in touch with Aggie on the above number. It is always a lovely event and starts the Christmas season off in the village. We will be in touch in the next few weeks with those people who have helped in previous years.

Aggie Morrison Booth, Mary Brodey and Sarah Best.

NATURE NOTES 132

AFTER THE VERY HOT WEATHER we experienced in July, the first half of August was much cooler and more changeable. True, there was a three day spell from the 6th which averaged 27°, but under the weakening remains of Hurricane Bertha, the days had dropped back to the low twenties with showers and a NW breeze.



beautiful sunset, revealing numerous developing Meadow Grasshoppers bustling around in long grass.

A large high pressure system had now installed itself over our Islands and would remain dominant during the first half of the month, and, by its stability looked like remaining beyond that. However, the usual autumnal wealth of wildlife had been forestalled by the vagaries of August and remained rather poor.

This was the situation as I concluded our last *Nature Notes* on the 15th. The weather remained showery on a cool, variable NW breeze until the 23rd when the wind changed to SW for the rest of the month. Also from the 15th however, temperatures dropped to the mid 'teens until the 24th. This was because the Jet Stream had moved south over the British Isles allowing cold air down from the arctic on the NW wind. On the 24th the temperatures rose once more to the low twenties, producing a lovely, quiet summer's day, as the SW breeze set-in until the end of the month

This latter half of August was a very barren period for nature observation and I can only suggest that the largely dull, cloudy skies and the chilly wetness were the cause. Yes, the Buzzards were mewing occasionally from Steepness and Fernhill; the occasional Raven croaked from various perches, and small numbers of Greenfinches, plus the odd Chaffinch, made an appearance. But bird wise that was all, apart from 'my' second brood of House Martins which flew the nest on the 20th. Neither they, nor the parent birds, were seen again!

After the 24th, butterfly numbers improved a little, featuring a pair of Red Admirals and a male Small Blue in my garden. By the 30th, this had risen to 7 Small Tortoiseshells, 3 Red Admirals, a Painted Lady and a Comma. A beautiful orange-pink mackerel sky at sunset foretold a warm morrow. On the 31st the Small Tortoiseshells increased to 13 and the Red Admirals to 5! Lovely - but note, there were *no* Peacocks; I fear that they were victims of the weather in a critical stage of their development; let us hope for some sightings in September!

And so a largely disappointing and miserable August departed, but the morning of the 1st held no promise, being overcast with early morning rain and a nominal W breeze, although virtually windless. By 2pm the wind had veered to N, producing a warm (22.5°) sunny afternoon and a

On the 2nd, Buzzards were noisy on Steepness all day. A female Raven went gliding low and slow over my garden, and the advancing year was being signalled by Robins, as they started to compete for territories in our gardens. On the 3rd a vixen set up a short spell of screaming below Hempton around 10.30pm. During this period very light airs veered to an easterly direction before backing NW on the 7th; temperatures ranged between 19.5° and 24° by day, and around 12° at night, although remaining sultry, humid and cloudy. The sun was unreliable in appearance, but fierce when it did appear.

Ravens were noticeably active all around the district, and so were Buzzards, but little else.

On the 7th the wind backed a little further to NW. On the 8th and 9th there was clear hot sun all day (up to 26°) with a clear night to see the large, bright full Harvest Moon. Although two Buzzards and two Kites appeared over Steepness, wildlife remained stubbornly out of sight.

From the 10th, temperatures in the low 20's continued, whilst the nights dropped abruptly to 6° or 8°. Insect activity was low, mainly the grasshoppers, a few hoverflies and crane flies (daddy long-legs) several species of solitary wasps and the bumblebees, mainly the ginger *Bombus pascuorum* and the black and yellow banded, white-tailed *B. lucorum*.

On the 11th there was quite a spectacular, dispute between a raven and three crows at high-level between St. Michael and Steepness. Then, on the 12th, when it was almost dark as I stepped out to take a last look around, I heard a very familiar, quietly conversational twitter from my House Martin's nest. There were House Martins roosting in there! I have no way of knowing if they were 'my' Martins, but I rather suspect they were northern passage birds en route to Africa.

Despite listening for several more nights, I didn't hear them again.

By now the breeze had veered to the east. On the 13th, two Buzzards were soaring at a great height above Steepness, their calls barely audible.

Next day they were back down around the trees, mewing all day long. In the evening, as I set off toward Chipping Norton with a friend of mine, a hunting male Sparrowhawk shot across my friend's head and disappeared to the right along the Townsend gardens. Just after we turned into Worton Road, the same bird tore past us flipping from side to side of the hedge as he tried to drive any bird (his supper) into the air! And for me, an equal delight was the sight of a female Kestrel going to roost across Fernhill - it was so long since I had seen one in this traditional location. Now, on the 15th, it has been cool, almost windless and overcast, but with a little sun and light rains through the afternoon. How fitting it seems that I should finish such a sparse *Nature Notes* in the evening, as a Raven is amusing itself annoying the crows near my house.

Ron Knight



Crime News update from Sgt Becky Fishwick

This month unfortunately we have had another two vehicles broken into in the Wigginton area, with items stolen. We are paying particular attention to the village and ask that anyone within the locality remains vigilant. If you see suspicious persons in the village, contact us on 101 or via the Banbury Rural NHPT email address on BanburyruralNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

There were a number of burglaries at Vantage Business Park, Bloxham over the Bank Holiday weekend. Entry was forced to these locations and items stolen including a vehicle. If you saw anything suspicious or out of the ordinary contact

Banbury Rural NHPT on 101 or contact the Local CID at Banbury on 101.

The majority of the summer events that we were asked to attend are now over for another year. The team really enjoyed getting out to meet as many of you as possible and we look forward to being involved in the events again next year. If you have events planned for next year and would like us to be involved or attend please let us know as soon as possible on our email address BanburyruralNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk The end of October sees the clocks go back and the evenings getting darker earlier. The team is in the process of planning for operations focused around Halloween and Bonfire Night. I will provide further safety advice around Halloween, Trick or Treating and Bonfire Night in next month's update.

Neighbourhood Watch

Please consider joining your local Neighbourhood Watch. Neighbourhood Watch is all about people getting together with their neighbours to take action to cut crime. Neighbourhood Watch 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 please contact your local Watch Administrator, Deb Hextall at Banbury Police Station, deborah.hextall@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk.

Twitter and Facebook

You can also follow us on Twitter @_ThamesVP or you can give us a 'like' on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/thamesvp>

Thames Valley Alert

Receive free local crime alerts and crime prevention advice by signing up at www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk

Crime reduction

For further crime reduction advice you can also visit our website www.thamesvalley.police.uk or call the 24-hour Police Enquiry Centre on 101.


Have Your Say – meeting dates

3 October: Wonderful Wheels Event, White Horse Pub, Wroxton. 2pm-4pm. PCSO Angela Alford.

21 October: Claydon Library Bus, 12:40pm. PCSO Angela Alford.

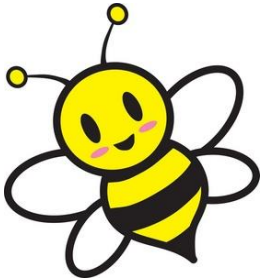
30 October: Outside Bodicote Primary School between 8:30am-9:30am. PCSO Tom Bailey.

22 November: The Font Cafe, St Peters Church, Hook Norton. 10am-11am: PCSO Ange Alford.



The Incredible World Of the Honey Bee

By
Steve Mott



7.30pm
Wednesday 8th October
In The Village Hall

Visitors welcome to join us £4.00
At our WI Meeting



News from Cherwell District Council

Learn the techniques of Nordic Walking

Residents are being encouraged to take steps towards a healthier lifestyle by signing up to a new Nordic walking course.

Over three weeks, Cherwell District Council will deliver the course to teach people the technique and benefits of Nordic walking.

Cllr George Reynolds, deputy leader, said: "Nordic walking is a sociable and fun way for people to get fit and explore the great outdoors. The technique uses 90 per cent of muscles in the body. By signing up to this course people will be able to learn the skills involved in perfecting the technique and equip themselves with the knowledge to take this up as a new hobby for the future."

The courses will all be based at Kingsfield, off Whitepost Road in Bodicote. The first session will take place over an hour on Saturday, 4 October and will be followed by two one-and-a-half hour sessions on Saturday 11 and Saturday, 18 October. All three sessions start at 2pm and the cost of the full course of £20, which includes the hiring of poles.

The sessions are open to people of all ages, genders and abilities as part of the Go Active Get Healthy initiative to increase fitness and activity levels in Oxfordshire. For more information or to sign up email anne.tustian@cherwell-dc.gov.uk or call 01295 221607.

From the Churchwarden

Church fete

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who generously gave up their time to man the stalls, hand out flyers, make teas, grow plants during the year, erect gazebos, collect donations around the villages and generally help out at the fete this year. As you know, August Bank Holiday Monday brought atrocious weather and we had to relocate to the village hall and garden. This meant that we didn't have as many people through the gate and buying from us as we usually do and therefore the final sum we raised this year was about £1,000 less than last year.



The Church fete is our main money raising event for the year and we now have to find a way to make up our loss. We have no vicar at the moment, but we still have to pay our Parish Share of £10,600, plus insurance of £2,265 and general running costs such as electricity, etc. The insurance for Barford St John is another £981 plus running costs. This is a tremendous amount for our small community to raise, but with your help we can keep our churches up and running.



If you don't already contribute to the running of our churches, I do urge you to think about making a donation by standing order and if you could contact our Treasurer, Jeremy Eastwood (tel.no. 01869 337021) he will give you the form to fill in. You as villagers are our only source of income and we are desperately short of funds to keep our churches open.



Finding a New Vicar

Deddington and the Barfords are in the process of seeking a new vicar for our benefice.

We have got to the stage of finalizing the Benefice Profile and the Incumbent Profile, and we have sent our advertisement to the Church Times, to be published in the last week of September/first week of October.

Then we have to wait for the applications to come in and decide which candidates are suitable for our benefice, interview them and show them round our parishes.

The final choice of candidate will then need to give notice at his/her present position which is usually a 2/3 month notice. So it's a long process with many people involved but we hope to have a new vicar appointed by February/March next year.

Cubby Brett

Churchwarden for the Barfords

Katharine House News



KHH Christmas cards

Sixteen beautiful card designs available including two by the winners of the KHH Christmas card competition. Cards can be purchased from our charity shops, Hospice reception or by mail order from www.khh.org.uk or 01295 812161.



Judith Baxter Singers concert

At Waynflete Hall, Magdalen College School, Brackley on 4 October, 7pm. Tickets £15, call 01295 812161.

Business networking evening

On 9 October, 6pm at the hospice in Adderbury. Meet local business people and find out about the care that is provided and how can support the hospice. Light refreshments served. Places are limited. Contact Sheila Norton on 01295 812161 or sheila.norton@khh.org.uk Closing date 3 October.

Make a Will Week: 13 – 17 October

Have you made a Will? Does it need updating? Local solicitors and will writers are donating time will write a basic or standard Will or update your existing Will in return for a donation to the hospice. Last year's campaign raised £20,247 to help the hospice. For information phone Sheila on 01295 812161 or visit www.khh.org.uk.

Jenny's Jumble

2pm, 25 October, Grimsbury Community Centre, Burchester Place, Banbury. Jenny Hanks is holding

her annual "Jenny's Jumble", with bric-a-brac, tombola, raffle, and more.

Faure's Requiem

25 October, St. Mary's Church, Banbury. Renowned choral director Stephen Barker will hold a workshop on Faure's Requiem in aid of Katharine House. Followed by an evening concert. Workshop places are limited. Tickets for the workshop are £10, and for the evening concert, £10 (£5 under 16s). For information call Sarah Brennan on 01295 812161 or email sarah.brennan@khh.org.uk

Birmingham Ensemble concert

7.30pm 8 November, SS Peter and Paul Church, Deddington. Concert in memory of Elspeth Cox by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. Includes Mozart and Brahms. Tickets are £10 from Hamptons Estate Agents, Market Square, Deddington, 01869 876245.

Lights of Love services

Lights of Love remembrance services will be held at St Mary's Banbury on 27 November 7.15 pm, and St Peter's Brackley on 3 December 7.30 pm. Christmas trees will be placed in Horsefair, Banbury and in St Peter's Church, Brackley, and the lights dedicated to those being remembered. If you would like to dedicate a light in memory of a loved one please complete a form and return it to the hospice by 10 November. Previous contact with the hospice is not required. Details from Sheila on 01295 812161.

Barn Farm Plants charity evening

6.30pm 26 November, Barn Farm Plants, Wardington. A festive evening, with special offers for one night only, gift stalls and tombola. Entry £2 (under 16 free).

Christmas knitted novelties

We'd love to hear from anyone who'd like to knit our mini Christmas novelties. Please call 01295 812161 for a pattern or download a copy from www.khh.org.uk. To our wonderful supporters who have already been knitting, we'd love to receive any Christmas novelties you've made for us as demand always exceeds supply.

Santa fun run

5th Santa Fun Run, 11am on 7 December at Spiceball Park, Banbury. There will be reindeer, snow and Father Christmas. Adults £13, children £7 and under 6s free. www.khh.org.uk or call 01295 812161.

Another **BIG** thank you to
Simon Hanmer of Horn Hill for the incredibly
kind donation to the Village Hall.

Simon and his colleagues designed,
constructed, painted and delivered two
spanking new oil-drum BBQs, with adjustable
stands, for us in time for this year's BBQ.

Simon, this is very much appreciated.

PS....the burgers tasted so much
better this year!

VHMC



Have you seen Felix?



Felix is 10 months old, small and slim, friendly,
agile and inquisitive. He went out after his dinner
on Monday evening, 15 September, and we've not
seen him since.

He may have got locked in a shed or garage by
mistake or might simply be lost. If you have seen
him please call Gwen or Austin 01869 336231 or
email: info@cueperformance.com

Thank you.

Want to see the Barford News
photos in colour? Then take a look
at the magazine's website version:
<http://www.barfordnews.co.uk/>



And don't forget you can keep up to
date with village events on
Facebook:
[www.facebook.com/pages/Barford-
St-Michael-St-John/76830272830](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Barford-St-Michael-St-John/76830272830)