

BARFORD NEWS

September 2014
www.barfordnews.co.uk Price 30p where sold

Congratulations to all those who made the Village Show such a great success. Who won what? See the full results on page 2



Cup Winners

L to r: Tony Collier, Jeff Elliott, Carol Hopkins, Cathy Peacock, Christine Hall, Ellie Dodwell in front proudly holding her two cups.



VILLAGE SHOW 2014 - CLASS and CUP WINNERS

ADULT CLASS	1ST PLACE	2ND PLACE	3RD PLACE	CUP WINNERS
3 Beetroot	Jeff Elliott	Sally & Trish		Fruit and Vegetables Jeff Elliott
3 Carrots	Carol Hopkins	Jeff Elliott		
3 Courgettes	Les Hall	Mariann Young	Linda Newberry	
3 Onions	Basil Butler	Jeff Elliott	Bernard Lane	
5 Shallots	Mariann Young	Gunilla Treen	Basil Butler	
3 Potatoes	Jeff Elliott	Tina Hirons	John Hirons	
3 Runner Beans	Carol Hopkins	Jeff Elliott	Basil Butler	
5 French Beans	Basil Butler	Jeff Elliott		
5 Cherry Tomatoes	Carol Hopkins	Mariann Young	Maggie Eden	
3 Round Tomatoes	Carol Hopkins	John Hirons	Les Hall	
A Cucumber	John Hirons	Mariann Young	Jeff Elliott	
Pair of Vegetables	Mary Holden	Jeff Elliott	Carol Hopkins	
5 Assorted Veg	John Hirons	Jeff Elliott	Linda Newberry	
Largest Marrow	Trish & Sally	Paul Semple		
3 Apples	Jacki Thunder	Carol Hopkins	John Hirons	
Dish of fruit	Tony Bastable	Chris Murray	Carol Hopkins	
Vegetable Animal	Gunilla Treen			
3 Eggs	John Hirons	Mary Holden	Maggie Eden	
Lemon Drizzle	Sylvia Butler	Alan Rampley		
4 Fruit Scones	Tina Hirons	Alan Rampley		
6 pieces of shortbread	Sylvia Butler	??	Alan Rampley	
Victoria Sponge	Jill Hopcraft	Sylvia Butler		
Treacle Tart	Carol Hopkins			
Carrot Cake (men)	Pete Hopkins	Angus Norman	Simon Hanmer	
Jam	Gunilla Treen	Chris Murray	Carol Hopkins	
Marmalade	Jess Romain	Sarah Best	Mariann Young	
Lemon Curd	Sandi Turner			
Chutney	Christine Hall	Ann Beesley	Lucy Norman	
Sloe Gin	Simon Hanmer	Ann Beesley	Chris Murray	
Arr in glass container	Cathy Peacock	Ann Linsey	Sarah Best	
Arr with foliage	Cathy Peacock			
Miniature arr	Sarah Best	Cathy Peacock	Annie Radford	
Wedding arrangement	Cathy Peacock			
1 Gladiolus	Maggie Eden			
Sunflower	Mary Holden	Maggie Eden	Pete Eden	
3 Dahlias	Sarah Best	Basil Butler	Pete Eden	
3 Roses	Jess Romain	Carol Hopkins		
4 Marigolds	----	NO ENTRIES	---	
4 Fuchsia heads	Ann Beesley			
6 Sweet Peas	Gunilla Treen	Bernard Lane	Pete Eden	
Mixed flowers	Carol Hopkins	Trish & Sally		
Handmade Toy	Emma Brodey			
Jewellery	Sandi Turner			
Knitted/crocheted	Jill Hopcraft			
Needlecraft	Chloe Rafferty/Rachael Speight	Maggie Eden/Christine Hall	Cathy Alsworth	
You Made it"	Les Hall	Christine Hall		
Drawing/Painting	Christine Hall	Carol Hopkins	Jeff Elliott	
Photo My Pet	Tony Collier	Philip Brodey	Annie Radford	
Barford Stile	Christine Hall	Annie Radford		
An Arch	Tony Collier	Emma Brodey	Mary Holden	
A Flower	Tony Collier	Sandi Turner	Philip Brodey	
CHILDREN'S CLASS				
Colouring Picture	Alfie Parish	Ellie Dodwell	Evie Radford	
Decorated Jam Jar	Phoebe Morgan	Jonathan Linsey	Ellie Dodwell	
4 Rock Cakes	Ellie Dodwell	Imogen Tillier		
Vegetable Animal	Ellie Dodwell			
"You Made It"	Imogen Tillier	Ellie Dodwell		
A photograph	Caitlin Butler	Amy Butler		
4 Decorated Cupcakes	Caitlin Butler	Grace Tillier	Amy Butler	
Handmade birthday card	Caitlin Butler	Ben Linsey	Amy Butler	
Drawing/painting	Beth Parish	Ellie Dodwell		
"You Made It"	Grace Tillier	Ellie Alsworth	Caitlin Butler	

Hip hip hoorah for “the Young”

As someone who contributes regularly to this illustrious monthly magazine I would just like to say...a big Hip Hip Hoorah for our previous editor. Mariann has been very patient with all our late contributions and bad grammar and spellings! I am sure others will agree with me that the Barford News plays a very important part in our village life, as far as general information and amusing articles are concerned. We must continue to contribute as writers and readers.

Welcome to our new editor and I for one hope that he will be as patient and forgiving. We will support you Tony.

Gunilla Treen, on behalf of VHMC, the Garden Club and the Barford Picture House.

The new editor writes: I can only echo that Gunilla. Mariann will be ~~a difficult~~ an impossible act to follow, but I'm looking forward to correcting your grammar and spelling! Tony.



Harvest Festival

Will be on
Sunday 28th September at 4pm
(please note the time)
At Barford St. Michael Church

The church will be decorated on Saturday 27th September from 10.30am and some help would be appreciated with decorating and with donations of flowers, vegetables, fruit and general produce. Please could you leave any donations in the porch on Saturday morning and they will be delivered to Featherton House after the service for the residents to enjoy.

Thank you

Many thanks to all my friends
in the Barfords for their good
wishes and cards.

Verna

200 CLUB WINNERS AUGUST

£15.00, No. 49, Ben Linsey

£10.00, No 164, Cubby Brett

£5.00, No 146, Streeter Family

The draw was made at a
Cuppa morning.

FREEWAY JAM

collected

£227

for the

Kathmandu Orphanage

at their gig

at

the Duck On The Pond

on 11 August

Thank you to everyone who
donated so generously.

Katharine House News



Care for a Cuppa

There's still time to organise a Care for a Cuppa event. We're inviting supporters to organise a coffee morning or afternoon tea between 13 and 21 September. You provide the cuppa, cake and chat and we will provide a Care for a Cuppa fundraising pack complete with posters, balloons, recipes and top tips to make your event a success. For a pack, please call Sarah Brennan on (01295) 812161, or email sarah.brennan@khh.org.uk. We'd also love to hear from schools and playgroups, Lions and Rotary clubs, WIs and NCTs or business or community group who'd like to hold an event.

Coach and Horses Fun Day, the Green, Adderbury

6 September from midday. Attractions include a classic car show, Morris dancing, bouncy castle, beer festival, stalls, traditional fete games, treasure map, Historical Society quiz and a grand raffle. Part proceeds to KHH.

Lynn's Day – Family Fun day 8am till late on 6 September, Chipping Norton Football Club

Car boot from 8am - 11am; pitches £6, can be booked by calling 07855 290012. A football match, pool competition and horse racing will be held, alongside children's stalls, games, face painting, BBQ, raffle and auction, topped off by music from the band, Chaser. All proceeds to KHH.

Ladies' Pamper Evening and Shopping Evening - Feldon Valley Golf Club, Lower Brailes

An extra-special shopping and pamper evening from 7am on 12 September. Pampered Chef, Forever Living, La Peach, Bagalicious, Tropic Skincare, Arbonne, Snowdrop Gifts, Usborne Books, Orange Tree Toys, Phoenix Cards and Velvet Paws. Raffle with fabulous prizes. Fully licensed. Entry £2 includes a glass of bubbly for the first 50 ladies (tickets available). Profits to Katharine House Hospice.

Wardington Manor Open Gardens, Wardington

1pm- 5pm. Entrance £5 (children free). Beautiful four acre garden, with a variety of plants and shrubs and tree-lined walks. Refreshments and hospice stall. Dogs on leads welcome.

Family Fun Day and Thanksgiving Service

Middleton Cheney Baptist Centre is holding a fun day on 27 September between 2pm – 5pm. There will be family activities and a barbeque. A thanksgiving service will also be held on Sunday 28 at 10am.

Judith Baxter Singers Concert

A concert by the Rotary Club of Brackley at Waynflete Hall, Magdalen College School, Brackley on 4 October, 7pm start. Includes songs from the movies and West End shows. Tickets £15 (call KHH on 01295 812161).

Business Networking Evening

On 9 October, 6pm – 7.30 pm, Katharine House will host a business networking evening at the hospice in Adderbury. Meet other business people and find out about the specialist care that is provided and how you can support the hospice. The meeting will fall within Hospice Care Week, the theme of which will this year be 'Hospice Care, Everywhere'. Places are limited. Contact Sheila Norton on 01295 812161 or email sheila.norton@khh.org.uk to book a place. Closing date Friday, 3 October.

Make a Will Week 13 – 17 October

Have you made a will? Does your existing will need updating? Why not take this opportunity to ensure your loved ones are taken care of? Solicitors and will writers are donating their time and expertise and will write a basic or standard will or update your existing will in return for a donation to the hospice. Please be guided by their usual fee when making your donation. Last year's campaign raised over £20,247 to help fund the hospice services. For information and details of participating solicitors and will writers, please phone Sheila Norton on 01295 812161 or visit www.khh.org.uk.

Faure's Requiem Workshop and Concert.

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. It will run throughout the day and the Requiem will be performed as part of a concert at the church in the evening. Also an accomplished organist, Stephen will perform pieces including J.S Bach and Lefebure-Wely. Places for the workshop are limited so book early. Tickets for the workshop are £10, and for the evening concert, £10 (£5 under 16s). For further information call Sarah Brennan on (01295) 812161 or email sarah.brennan@khh.org.uk.

Another cottage crafts sale

Saturday 25 October, 10am – 12.30pm.
Entry £2 including refreshments, in
Tadmarton village hall. Easy to find on the
main Banbury to Shipston road (B4035),
next to the church, opposite the Lampet
Arms. Plenty of parking.

Come for Margaret and Peter Whittle's
unusual crafts – a bear in a basket with a
patchwork quilt, luxury Christmas table
mats, wooden toys, a runaway goose,
stubborn donkeys, Heyland and Whittle's
quality soaps, hand creams, scented
candles (think Fortnum and Mason). Come
to support the Katharine House Hospice.
Card facility available.

Thank You

To our faithful reader
up in Leicestershire
for her generous donation
to BN funds

Welcome

to new arrivals

Mr R Wilkie and
Miss S. Thornley
who are moving into their
new home in
Lower Street

and to Neil Lizzie, James and
Emma Easter who moved into
Robins Close in July.

We wish you all a happy time
here in our lovely villages.

Barford Village Market

in the Village Hall

10am-12noon

Saturday 20th September

All the usual stalls

**The Meat Joint prize winning faggots,
sausages and meat
artisan breads, scones, preserves,
farmhouse ice cream,
Grange Farm cheeses, home-made
quiches and fresh eggs.
Fairtrade items food and craft stalls
wooden planters and garden sundries
Beautiful Alpines (weather
permitting)
Joan's bargain plants
plus one or two new ones!**

And those unforgettable...

**...bacon butties/bacon and egg butties.
Add a sausage for a breakfast buttie!**

**Tea and coffee served all morning
All at bargain prices!**

**Come along and support YOUR local
market**

All profits for Village Hall maintenance



1st Deddington Guides News

Everyone loves the last meeting of term.... stream walking! A real adventure – lots of squeals as creepy crawlies, fallen branches, ‘whirlpools’ and ‘waterfalls’ and water of varying depths are negotiated along the route. Result: 20+ very wet and muddy and happy guides! Dry clothes and hot chocolate plus biscuits and a game of rounders soon warmed everyone up.

Camp at Wiggington was brilliant – with a site set in stunning countryside, weather was amazing! We cooked on open fires – pork stirfry, chocolate steam pudding, etc, hiked, played water games, learnt camp craft skills, saw the sun rise at Rollright – up at 3.45am, then back for bacon butties and bed. We had super camp-fires, made lots of crafty things, built our own shelters and slept out in them. Well done Guides – real challenge, especially as majority were only 10 yr olds. We gained Campers’ badges and two older guides gained their Advanced Campers badge.

See you all on 9th September.

Maggie Rampley 01295 810069

Marian Trinder 01869 840806

Catherine Blackburn 01295 258880

Thank you to Mr and Mrs. Plunkett for the use of the camp site.



OHCT Ride and Stride

The sponsored Ride and Stride this year is on Saturday 13 September from 10am to 6pm.

The money is shared equally between the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust and our Barford churches. OHCT have provided substantial funding for our Barford churches over the years and will continue to do so in the future. This is a very important fundraising event for the churches and it would be wonderful to see more participation this year from the Barfords, either from villagers securing sponsorship and taking part by walking, cycling or riding to as many churches as possible, or by sponsoring other participants. If you would like to take part, please contact me for lists of churches so that you can plan your route and for sponsorship forms.

Anne Perry, 01869 338033.

Butternut squash soup with chilli and crème fraîche - serves 4

Ingredients:

- 1 butternut squash (approx. 1kg), peeled and deseeded
- 2 tbs olive oil
- 1 tbs butter
- 2 onions diced
- 1 garlic clove, thinly sliced
- 2 mild red chillies, deseeded and finely chopped
- 859ml hot vegetable (or chicken) stock
- 4 tbs crème fraîche, plus more to serve

Heat oven to 200C/180C fan/gas 6. Cut the squash into large cubes, about 4cm/1½in across, then toss in a large roasting tin with half the olive oil. Roast for 30 mins, turning once during cooking, until golden and soft.

While the squash cooks, melt the butter with the remaining oil in a large saucepan, then add the onions, garlic and ¾ of the chilli. Cover and cook on a very low heat for 15-20 mins until the onions are completely soft.

Tip the squash into the pan, add the stock and the crème fraîche, then whizz with a stick blender until smooth. For a really silky soup, put the soup into a liquidiser and blitz it in batches. Return to the pan, gently reheat, then season to taste. Serve the soup in bowls with swirls of crème fraîche and a scattering of the remaining chopped chilli.

**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

This coming season we have put together a series of recent films with one older film. Two of the evenings will be slightly different though, the pre-Christmas film, **Frozen**, will have a family ticket available for £8 to include 2 adults and 2 children. Starting earlier at 7pm. The Valentine's Day film, **The Graduate**, will have a simple dinner beforehand, bookable in advance for a cost of £5. (The film price is £4 as usual.)

All other films start at 7.45 with doors opening at 7.15.

£18 for a season ticket or £4 on the door. We look forward to seeing you on November 15. Any queries contact Gunilla on 01295 720521.



10.00 - Noon

Thursday 18th September
 in aid of
Katharine House Hospice
 Please join us
 In the Village Hall for
Coffee, Tea, Biscuits and Cake
 To help to raise funds for KHH
 and support local patients
 and their families
Also Fund-raising Raffle



Bloxham Country Market
 will be supporting
BRITISH FOOD FORTNIGHT
 with special tasting mornings
 on
Friday 20th September
 and
Friday 27th September
10.00 - 11.15 in Bloxham Ex-Servicemen's Hall

Come along and try before you buy.
Everything home-produced.



TUESDAY LUNCH CLUB - 16 September

Menu

Main Course

Beef, Guinness and mushroom pie

or

Chicken, smoked bacon and leek pie

Both served with

mashed carrot and swede, broad beans, peas, broccoli and roast potatoes

Desserts

Cappuccino éclairs

or

Blackberry and apple crumble and custard

Price

£5.00 adults

To book and notify us of your choices please ring Anne and Mick on 01869 337074 and let us know by Thursday 9th September.

Bakehouse or Shepherds Charity

Barford St John and St Michael

Charity Commission Registration No: 309173

Grants are made annually, at the Trustee's discretion, to young people attending College or University or undertaking an apprenticeship. The Trustee's can be flexible when considering applications, including Students taking A levels. There is a maximum limit awarded.

In order to qualify, applicants should be under 25 years of age and they or their parents should be resident in the parish of Barford St Michael or Barford St John for at least three years.

Please give the following information on your written application:-

- 1) Your full name, age and address in Barford and state how long you have lived here.
- 2) Name and address of the College or University where you are planning to study.
- 3) Exact description of the qualification you are studying for, including length of course and subjects to be studied.

Address your application to:

Mrs Helen Honour

Clerk to the Shepherds and Bakehouse Trust

The Cottage, 5 Mead Road, Barford St John, Banbury, Oxfordshire, OX15 0PW

Applications must be received by 30 September at the latest.



1st Deddington Scout Group

The end of the summer term was a season of trips and camping. The Scouts went on their annual jaunt to Stratford, which this year coincided with the river festival. They travelled independently by train and explored the town following a quiz trail before meeting up for lunch and a peek at one of the street magicians. He was very funny and managed to involve Jack in one of the tricks.

The Scouts also went for their summer camp at Blackwell Court near Bromsgrove, a fabulous site with loads to keep them occupied. They stacked crates, kayaked, climbed and wizzed down a really steep hill on grass sledges. The weather was spectacular and we all had a great time.

Just before the end of term we sent out four batons to see how far they would travel passed hand to hand before the start of the Commonwealth Games. Well what a triumph, one was pictured outside a hotel in Washington (D.C. not Tyne & Wear), one in a bob sleigh in Calgary Canada and many photos of 'CW' as he trekked across the States, last seen at the Grand Canyon!

The end of term barby was well attended, thanks to all the parents who helped out especially Andrew, the king of the grill.

Jo Churchyard C.S.L.
jochurchyard@hotmail.com
Pete Churchyard S.L.
pete.churchyard@btinternet.com

WI '99 Afternoon' (Pre WI Centenary Tea Party)

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN



Our village WI held their Afternoon Tea with PIMMs party with a twist this year. Instead of the usual strawberries and cream following the cucumber sandwiches, cream scones and cake, members were surprised and delighted to be served individual 99's by Vice President Jill in celebration of 99 years of WI. We were blessed with wonderful weather once again and enjoyed a happy, friendly afternoon in the gardens of our Village Hall.





The Barford Duck Race 2014

A huge thank you to Dave and Sue Jelfs for the use of their field once again, to Nick and Zalie Butler for slaving over the BBQ and to everyone who helped at and came to the event on an extremely hot day.

The total profit raised was £262.81. The money helps towards the maintenance of the playground in the village hall garden (inspections, replacing bark, etc.) Any excess will go towards improvements in West Close.



banbury MUSEUM



News from Banbury Museum

Feeding the Front Line: Banbury's explosive role in the First World War, to 15 November
Discover the part that the people of Banbury played during the First World War, with a feature on Banbury's munitions filling factory, recently designated as a scheduled monument by English Heritage.

Café Red

Our new café, Café Red is open from 5pm-9pm Thursday to Saturday for the summer. Share a meze or ploughman's board with a bottle of wine or jug of Pimms.

Family Fun

Summer Garden Party, until 11 October, 10.30am-12.30pm and 2pm-4pm. Saturdays and every day during the Oxfordshire school holidays. Get creative in our colourful summer garden party display in the Crafty Corner. Make a beautiful balloon, a decorated teacup, summer bunting, or a pretty paper tissue flower. A self-service activity family drop-in, suitable for all ages, materials provided, £2.00 per child.

Battles and Conflicts, the War Prize Trail

This trail will take you on a journey starting in the exhibition Feeding the Front Line and then move onto the battles and conflicts that have taken place in and around Banbury. Suitable for children of all ages, although children aged 6 years and under may require adult support. £1.75 per trail booklet.

Small Talk Activity Backpacks

For children aged 3 - 5. £1 per backpack. Explore the museum with the help of puppets Sally and Simon.

For more information phone 01295 753752, email enquiries@banburymuseum.org or visit www.banburymuseum.org

Barford Green Gardening Club



Notes from our potting shed

Future talks and visits have been organised by the Committee but there are a couple of dates coming up soon to put in your diaries:

Wednesday 10 September, RHS Plant Day at Cotswold Wildlife Park. Talks, demonstrations, displays, and a chance to see the Park's gardens at their summer peak. Free entry for RHS members; otherwise £14.50 for adults, £10 for over 65s.

Saturday 4 October, Make a mosaic for your garden. Day workshop at the Village Hall, tutored by local mosaic artist Fiona Pancheri. Materials and tuition included. Contact Linda Newbery 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.

The Committee

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. We have been very busy organising the programme for 2014/15. Two events are mentioned above. In addition we have the following for our members and friends.

Monday 3 November, 'Sex, Lies and Putrefaction'

A fascinating talk by Timothy Walker, until very recently the Horti Praefectus (Director) of the Oxford Botanic Garden. The talk will look at the variety of animals and other vectors that are exploited by plants for pollination and how important this knowledge is. He has spoken to us twice before and is an extremely amusing speaker. Members £3 and visitors £4.

Monday 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.

Thursday 29 January? AGM, followed by an informal **"Exchange of gardening tips and ideas."**

Open Garden Event to be discussed at AGM, but suggesting early June for this.

Saturday 18 July 2015, a visit to **Dreamer's Cottage**, Little Haseley with a possibility to have

lunch at Lassco's in Milton Common for those that want to.

Other possible events discussed at our meeting were Oxford Botanic Garden and Worton Organic Gardens. This is near Cassington and would be best in June and a guided tour with tea could be arranged. It would have to be on a Tuesday or Wednesday, with a minimum of 10 people.

There is of course lots to do in the garden.....as always.



'Bye for now'
Spade and Fork



Fernhill Club News

We ended July with a fabulous meal in the hall cooked by Anne Pearson and everyone thoroughly enjoyed it.

The first week in August we played Bingo, the following week we were entertained by Paul Dumas, a magnificent singer who mixed his singing with funny anecdotes, impressions and ventriloquism. It was a lovely afternoon, enjoyed by everyone.

On 20th we went to Robin's Nest in Banbury and had another fabulous meal.

Highlights for September are, on 3rd we are having Ronnie Johnson of Star Travel to tell us about his business followed by funny incidents involving passengers. On 17th Simeon Courtie will be telling us about his world trip with his wife and children in a camper van busking Beatles songs.

At our first meeting of October (1st) we will be trying our hand at carpet bowls in the hall again. Visitors will be welcome to join us at any of our meetings, 2.30pm Wednesday afternoons in the village hall.

Mary Ashbridge 01295 252298

Maggie Blackhall 01869 38 938



Protect Rural Oxfordshire

Did you know that current plans for the county include 80,000 new jobs, 90,000 more residents and 100,000 more houses – all within the next 17 years? This proposed growth in housing is the equivalent of every town and village increasing in size by 40%.

The Oxfordshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England is concerned about how the speed and scale of this development could cause irretrievable damage to our landscape and local communities, and the impact it will have on already over-stretched services and infrastructure particularly in rural areas. It has launched a campaign – Protect Rural Oxfordshire (PRO) - to fight for a more sustainable vision for the future of the county.

To find out more see www.cpreoxon.org.uk, or follow us on Facebook www.facebook.com/CPREOxfordshire or Twitter @CPREOxfordshire and sign up to our monthly news bulletin from administrator@cpreoxon.org.uk, phone 01865 874780).



Banking for the community

Around 20 Cherwell residents, including a number of district councillors, grabbed the chance to sign up to an alternative to the high street banks during a launch event in Banbury.

The Cherwell Community Bank (CCB) has been developed to offer residents an alternative way to manage their money, with the introduction of the Universal Credit system prompting Cherwell District Council (CDC) and Sanctuary Housing to help establish the not-for-profit financial services provider in the district.

After signing up for her own account and launching the service on Saturday at the Castle Quay Shopping Centre in Banbury, Councillor Debbie Pickford, CDC's portfolio holder for housing, thanked partners and officers and said: "Cherwell Community Bank is a very safe way to save, borrow and budget.

"I truly believe this is a great asset to our residents and would encourage you to sign up. I've filled in my application form and I'm delighted to be one of the first account holders."

Not only can savers earn dividends from their deposits with the CCB but those about to be moved onto the Universal Credit system might find it easier to manage their finances. The CCB will provide savings and loans services, and deposits can be made direct from a salary, benefits, standing order and PayPoint.

More than a million people in Britain are already members of a credit union and worldwide the CU movement has over £1.5 trillion of assets.

For more information visit the NCU website - www.northamptonshirecu.co.uk.

Down on the farm

At the time of writing the combine had arrived to harvest our crops of wheat and spring barley: the last hot spell had just about ripened them off, but the rains arrived before we could make a start. It will mean a bit of a rush to get the straw carted and plough the stubbles for next year's crop. So nothing new there!

During the enforced lull we completed the drainage work on the driveway which will hopefully prevent, or at least reduce, the flooding problem we had last winter. We also managed to plug three old field drains into the new system which will help. All three were old clay pipes which were still running sixty or more years after they were put in, probably by hand.

It took seven hours to dig the trenches with a mechanical digger, lay the pipes and backfill the trenches. I do wonder if our modern high speed technology will last as long as the old tortoise paced skill and muscle craftsmanship of the last century. Possibly not.

I watched a 1908 steam powered car crawling manfully up Iron Down Hill some weeks ago and couldn't help wondering how a 2008 Ford Fiesta would manage to do the same thing in 2124!

Having said that I still use a 1954 diesel powered Ferguson tractor (see picture) for yard scraping and occasional other duties and it seems to run as well as ever after 60 years of abuse and a bit of an overhaul in the 1980s after I found it reclining on four flat tyres in a huge bramble bush in Surrey. By the time I hauled it back and restored it to working order it had cost me £600 - not a bad investment (£15/year to date) as it turned out. It is a sobering thought that if I replaced it with a low powered modern tractor to do the same job it would involve an outlay of around £30,000. This is why we farm with other people's cast off machinery. It may have seen better days, but it still does the job in an affordable manner.

It is all too easy to hark back to the 'good old days' of binders, sheaves of corn, hand milking, horse ploughing and all the rest. But I for one don't miss having to haul and double handle 80lb hay bales, lift and carry sacks of wheat weighing two and a quarter hundredweights (252lb or better than

100kg) or empty the accumulated muck from 50 overwintered bullocks using a hand fork.

Most of us who suffered this kind of labour have become permanently damaged by the experience and I reckon those that I overhear harking back wistfully to such bucolic days of sunshine and tranquillity probably never had to do any of the graft that went with it.

Those were the days of course when labour was both cheap and plentiful. A farm I worked on as a pre-college student in the 1950's amounted to 1100 acres and employed 16 people to work on multiple crop and livestock enterprises. The same farm today is all-arable and managed by the owner and his son. That's progress for you - or perhaps, more truthfully, it is a necessity forced upon them by the economics of 21st century farming.

Tony Collier, Iron Down Farm





IF YOU KNEW ABOUT
FLU
YOU'D GET
THE JAB



Deddington Health Centre flu clinic
schedule runs from 22 September to 28
November. Phone 01869 338 611 for an
appointment.

Oxfordshire Advocacy

**We are looking for volunteers
for our next training course**

Charity no: 1131403

Oxfordshire Advocacy is an Independent, confidential free service supporting adults in Oxfordshire to get their voice heard and their wishes taken into account.

Volunteer advocates work with people who need support to challenge decisions, uphold rights, attend meetings or make a complaint. We have a new project supporting adults over 50 who have been affected by cancer.

Next training course is in Oxford on 2, 3, 10 October.

For an informal interview prior to training contact:

jacinta.sands@oadg.org.uk, phone 01865 230201

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JULY

£15.00, No. 62, Barbara Moulton

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The draw was made at a

Cuppa morning.

Upton House needs you



In an echo of the wartime call to arms the team at Upton House is asking people to join in the effort to recreate a secret side to the house's history.

During World War Two the owners of Upton House moved out and merchant bank M Samuel & Co moved in, driven by the need to protect bank staff and assets from the London air raids.

From 2015 visitors will be able to step back in time to see how the bank staff lived and worked in their new surroundings. They'll be office desks and typewriters in the Long Gallery, just as there were in the 1940s, alongside the world class paintings and porcelain collection.

The property will be opening new rooms and exploring what happened when ordinary people took over this extraordinary place and they want to get every detail right.

Do you have photographs of Banbury and the surrounding areas at wartime? Do you remember the comings and goings at Upton? Do you remember the Home Guard?

If you have any information you feel can help us bring this story to life please contact Upton House on 01295 670266.

THE EIGHT DAYS after mid-June had been very hot (up to 31.5°) but the last six days were much more manageable, generally around 22°. This pattern continued for the first eleven days of July. There were a couple of exceptions - the 1st at 26.5° and the 10th at 28°. Then however, things started to warm up with a bang! This was due to a huge area of high pressure over Scandinavia blocking the normal procession of climatic conditions coming in from the Atlantic. The 12th hit 29°, and from then until the end of the month temperatures remained generally between 29° and 33°, peaking at 34° (94°F) on the 18th! Night temperatures followed the trend, being in the high 'teens until the 28th when they fell away abruptly. This was due to a low pressure system from the Atlantic, at last gaining access to the Channel and northern France. Temperatures then fell away through early August to the low 20's, but a warm front pushed them up again on the 6th, 7th and 8th to 26° - 28°. They then fell away once more, as increasingly, the weather became influenced by the approach of the remains of Hurricane Bertha (by now a Tropical Storm). Bertha had become stuck in a revolving, but weakening, storm over UK/North Sea until at least mid-month, as I write these *Notes*, with cool showery weather in the low 20's by day and a steady 12° at night.

So, let's return to the natural scene in July ... After morning showers, the 15th slowly cleared to hot sun early in the afternoon on SW airs. This day was, of course, St. Swithun's, so, following the showers, it should now rain on each of the next forty days according to the old weather-saw, but the goodly Saint wasn't heeding - and it didn't! I was pleased that there were butterflies - Gatekeepers, Meadow Browns, Small and Essex Skippers and plentiful Small Tortoiseshells in my garden, but rather surprised there were no others. There were also plentiful juvenile grasshoppers rushing through the grass.

Birdwise, the Green Woodpeckers were noisy below Steepness, whilst at really enormous heights overhead seven Buzzards were soaring, their "peeow"s only faintly audible. Whilst this was going on, I watched a Sparrowhawk make a long glide (I estimated over one mile without a single wing-beat) northward over St. Michael and beyond St. John! This left a single Red Kite scavenging low and slow over St. Michael.



Unfortunately there was very little other movement in the heat. Next day was almost windless after a hot morning, with cloud building, moving NE and very humid. The Green Woodpeckers continued their noise below Steepness, but the Buzzards and Kites were now very low, following the haymaking processes.

The light airs backed to SW on the 17th. It was very hot and humid with clumps of threatening cloud. Butterfly species now included one or two Peacocks and Ringlets.

Between 2.45 and 3.30 next morning, after sudden heavy bursts of rain, there was a concentrated and intense lightning storm between the opposing air masses. It was so exciting that I got up and spent the duration watching from my conservatory! There were very few bolts striking to earth, but the jagged fingers and sheets from cloud to cloud were awe inspiring in their intense continuity, accompanied by crashes and rolls of thunder. In a few connecting concentrations of cloud to cloud strikes, there even a few moments of ball lightning. I don't remember a lightning storm like that since the 1950s when I once saw the St. Elmo's fire glowing around tall objects and dancing along the bolts holding down asbestos roofs!

Next day (18th) dawned quiet and cool, with heavy cloud masses on very light SSE airs. By mid-afternoon the temperature reached that 34° peak and the sweating humidity was awful into the night. There could be only one answer - more rain and thunder, but this time not anywhere near so severe. However, no less than five Peacock butterflies braved the heat to feast on my Buddleia flowers! The same weather pattern was followed on the 19th, and there were very strange atmospheric effects in the evening. It started with a pinkish-orange ground haze. This was followed by weird sky greens and vibrant deep blues vying with the angry orange behind black ribbons of cloud through the prolonged sunset. A cool, quiet night of heavy haze followed and the 20th dawned cool with a thick mist on still air. Later an overcast slowly burned off to give a hot, clear afternoon on a NE breeze. Apart from a few early morning croaks from a male Raven, the countryside appeared lifeless.

On the 21st, overcast, cool and windless I went up to north Norfolk for a breath of sea air and wasn't disappointed. Entertainment was provided by (amongst many others) immaculate Avocets, Black-

tailed Godwits with orange-russet heads and breasts and a marvellous opportunity to compare the Whimbrel with the similar, but larger Curlew, the two being in company. The highlight came on the way home however, in Breckland.

After a look at the stone age flint mines at Grime's Graves, a visit to RSPB Weeting was made with the hope of seeing the uncommon and rather strange Stone-curlew. These inhabit open, heavily rabbit-grazed heaths and open farmland. The birds are hen-pheasant size, hide by flattening themselves on the ground and have large, round, staring, yellow eyes! They also stand and move distinctively. At first there were two, then four, and finally, *ten*! At least three were youngsters. What an hour's enjoyment!

And so home, where good old Bas Butler had been keeping his eyes open! He had seen two Cormorants and a Heron in the Swere valley and, late in the afternoon of the 22nd, had counted at least sixty Swifts in the air, circling and screaming over the Barfords. It is most likely that these were congregating from several villages prior to mass migration. He also noted that five were still resident in St. Michael, thus burying my surmise that they had left us at the end of June! (See last *N.N.*)

This period of intense afternoon heat continued almost to the end of the month, but the breeze wandered erratically between SE and NW.

On the 24th, juvenile Buzzards were mewling almost incessantly from Steepness, and Bas spotted a Hen Harrier flying west along the Swere valley in late evening. Then on the 25th, Bas and Sylvie watched from their car, as a pair of Red-legged Partridges shepherded their family of six tiny, down-covered chicks along the verge near Nether Worton; so late as to be almost certainly a replacement brood!

On the 26th, I watched a male Raven ascending from Horn Hill, croaking and soaring to an enormous height whilst the female rose, croaking, from the same base, but only circling low before disappearing. I lost the male at such altitude.

On Steepness, the juvenile Buzzards kept up their mewling, and the Green Woodpeckers were still noisy, in the morning and into evening. On the 28th, also below Steepness, a juvenile Tawny Owl kept squeaking "ku kuwik" almost incessantly throughout the evening and into night.

Something must have now been favourable to owls because, on the 29th, Ian Hobday spotted two Little Owls at The Warren. This was great news as, from long being residents, they suddenly disappeared. This is the first record for many months. May they now remain for many years.

From now until the end of the month the heat persisted, but the 31st slowly clouded over and by mid-afternoon showery drizzle was falling, continuing into night.

Thus July departed and August arose, the 1st being a repeat of the previous day. After a hot, humid night, a gusty SSW breeze on the 2nd brought cool drizzle by mid-morning. This became heavy until early afternoon, ceasing by 2.00pm. There were then strong sunny periods before a short thunderstorm with heavy rain, gave way to a further period of warm sunny spells into evening. On the 3rd there were long warm spells between heavy storm clouds, although there was no rain. However the sting had gone out of the sun and the temperature did not rise above 21°. The night was one of brilliant starlight under a very clear sky and the temperature dropped to a distinctly chilly 11.5°.

From now until the 13th the wind stood, with little variation, at SW with temperatures in the low 20's, except as already stated. The nights however, from the 4th to the 11th produced temperatures that I cannot explain. Starting on the 4th, four alternating nights stood at 12°; starting on the 5th, four alternating nights stood at 18°! It's a weird year all round.

The 4th was a day of warm sun through growing cloud cover and it produced a few males of the summer brood of Holly Blue butterflies. I recorded at least 20 House Martins circling over Townsend and Bas Butler, who undertakes Swift monitoring, said he thought the Swifts had now left, although a few were still present in surrounding villages. And to top things off, Sylvie Butler listened to two Little Owls calling near The Green at about Sam.

The 5th was overcast, humid and with light showers and drizzle most of the time, turning to heavy rain overnight. The Green Woodpeckers were still noisy below Steepness, and during the day I watched as two juvenile Ravens flew croaking and playing together, south to Steepness where they upset the young Buzzards. As this was going on, an adult female Raven flew off croaking from Steepness to Horn Hill (I wonder if it was Mum?).

The 6th was the first of the three very hot days (26° - 28°). Here and there a Peacock or Red Admiral butterfly, or an occasional White was to be seen on flowers, whilst in shady shrubberies one or two Speckled Wood males battled for territory. In my wild garden, only a few Gatekeepers were to be seen. This evening was, for me, the first noticeable evidence of the nights drawing in; the air *did* seem to have an autumnal feel about it.

As if to reinforce this point, I noticed on the 7th, that there were a few robust *Herpyllus black-walli* spiders hunting my walls indoors. (Sorry to use the Latin name, but hardly any spiders have common names). These spiders are not big but are compact and quick. They are mainly blackish but have a smooth abdomen, covered with silvery grey fur, and they come indoors in the autumn. I love to watch them hunting nooks and crannies whilst I read or watch evening television.

By now harvest was in full swing and the Kites and Buzzards were busy clearing up the injured or marooned prey.

Under warm sun in a cloudless sky, the second brood of 'my' House Martins were now being fed at the nest entrance. The first Common Blue butterfly, a male, was exploring the Bird'sfoot Trefoil in my wild patch. Such a dazzling azure!

The 10th, breezy, gusty, with heavy bursts of rain, from the small hours into afternoon amid sunny spells, brought a flock of about 200 Rooks and Jackdaws, in equal numbers, onto the stubbles near Bloody Bones. They have to be quick these days with the rapid turn around from stubble to tilth!

Basil reported a pair of Kestrels around the allotments, adding that they are regularly seen there. Again this is very welcome news as there has been a sharp decline in these birds — at least locally.

The showery nature of the weather continued right up to the 14th as I conclude these *Notes*, but it was pleasant and breezy, and several good things appeared.

On the 11th I took a look along Barley Lane, and in the sunlight I watched a small ginger-brown moth careering along in a madly erratic fashion. If you imagine a drunken moth, that was it! This was a Vapourer Moth, so named because it appeared to have the 'vapours' in the idiom of the early 19th

century. Quite common locally and fond of hot sunny weather, look out for him along our lanes. And it will be 'him' - the lady has only a trace of wings, cannot fly, and in fact sometimes doesn't move at all; she may well emerge from her cocoon, then mate on it, lay her eggs on it, and die on it! No wonder the male has the vapours!

Anyway, back to more sober, but equally joyous events. Our pair of swans were back at the Manor - and being copiously fed. One of the adult Steepness Buzzards was calling and trying to urge the youngsters into the air, but they were having none of it.

On the 12th, I spotted the first Small Copper butterfly of the season on the Marjoram in my wild garden. This was followed next day by another Small Copper, and the scene was quite lively with two Small Tortoiseshells, two Comma butterflies (one 'typical' dark specimen and one bright tawny-orange van *hutchinsoni*) and several Gatekeepers.

On the 14th Bas told me of two Herons that are regularly seen and heard calling, as they fly together eastward in the morning and west, often at dusk, along the Swere valley.

The Buzzards are still noisy around Steepness and the Goldfinches are in numbers, but I'm going to finish back in my wild patch on the 15th where, along with a few other butterflies, were two new glorious Common Blue males - and a freshly emerged female. She was of course more sombre coloured in camouflage colours, but she was exploring the Bird'sfoot Trefoil so I'm hoping, perhaps, for a Spring brood next year!

Ron Knight

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