

# BARFORD NEWS

November 2014  
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## Parish Council notes

The Parish Council meeting took place at 7.30pm on 1 October in the Barford Village Hall and was attended by Cllrs Hobbs, Eden, Turner, Styles, Best, Campbell, County Cllr Fatemian, District Cllr Williams and Mrs Watts (Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer).

**Declarations of Interest:-** there were none.

**Minutes of the last meeting:** The minutes of the meeting on 3 September 2014 were proposed by Cllr Styles, seconded by Cllr Best and unanimously resolved as a true record of the meeting.

**Appointment of Vice Chairman:** Cllr Eden proposed that Cllr Turner be appointed as Vice Chairman of the Parish Council. This was seconded by Cllr Campbell and agreed unanimously.

## Parish Clerk's Report:

- Co-option: CDC had confirmed that the Parish Council can proceed to fill the vacancy on the Parish Council by way of co-option. The position has been advertised on the website and on the village noticeboards (deadline 22 October).
- Damaged 30mph sign in Barford St John – this has been re-instated by OCC.

**County Councillor's Report:** the full report can be seen on the Parish Council website.

- Buses. Cllr Fatemian had been contacted by the Parish Council regarding increasing the frequency of buses through the Barfords. He is aware that there is money available from new housing developments to pump-prime new bus routes and he is investigating this further.
- Changes to Electoral Registration. Since 10 June the voter registration system in

England and Wales has changed.

Previously the 'head of the household' was required to register all its eligible residents. The new system, known as IER, requires that everyone is individually registered using their National Insurance number and date of birth. 35 million voters will automatically be transferred using the Department of Work and Pensions database. If you have concerns that you might not have been transferred, more information is available via:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/biggest-change-to-voter-registration-in-a-generation>

**District Councillor's Report:** the full report can be seen on the Parish Council website.

- Cherwell Local Plan - The consultation period for the Cherwell Local Plan came to an end on 3 October and will be presented to full council on 20 October. The inquiry will resume on 9 December and is expected to conclude before Christmas, with a final decision anticipated three months later. The revised number of dwellings to be built in Cherwell between 2011 and 2031 has increased from 16,750 to 22,800.
- Cherwell Boundary Review – CDC has been advised by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England that they have reviewed and amended the timetable for the CDC Boundary Review. This is because the Commission needs to give consideration to related alterations arising from the Community Governance Review that was concluded last year. The implementation will remain 2016.

## Parish Matters:

- First Aid Courses: Cllr Hobbs has received 17-18 enquiries so far from villagers

interested in these free three-hour first aid courses with St John Ambulance. Please contact Cllr Hobbs for more details if you would like to attend one of the courses.

- Play Equipment West Close: Cllr Styles has researched what grants may be available to the Parish Council if they pursue the playground project. There are numerous potential funding sources, though most of these would also require some funding to be provided by the Parish. The Council is looking at the deeds for West Close in order to establish what planning restrictions or covenants may be applicable to the land. The outcome of these investigations will then inform and influence the next steps in the process.

#### **Planning Applications Received:**

- 14/01382/LB Laurel Cottage, Church St, Barford St Michael. Replacement of 5 No. windows (4 to the front elevation and 1 to the rear). No objection.
- 14/01416/F Blackingrove Farm, Summer Ley, Barford St Michael. Erection of garden shed. No objection.
- 14/01568/F Camp Site, Manor House, South Newington Rd, Barford St Michael. Variation of Condition 3 of 04/00308/F. Removal of Condition 3 to allow year round usage. Whilst the Parish Council has no objection in principle to this application, some councillors felt that the screening should be natural vegetation (not Leylandii). The proposed 10m long fence does not preserve or visually enhance the amenity.
- 14/01486/F Ashburne, Townsend, Barford St Michael. Front, side and rear extensions. No objection.

#### **Planning Applications Approved by Cherwell District Council:**

- 14/01083/F Blackingrove Farm, Summer Ley, Barford St Michael. Ancillary garage with room over. No objection. Granted 16 September 2014.

#### **Notice of Intent (Trees):**

- 14/00289/TCA St Michael's Church. Various trees – fell. In general there was no objection from councillors to this application, although one councillor felt that the four yew trees should be 'reduced' in size, not felled and that the number of prunus trees to be felled should be reduced by half
- 14/00285/TCA Swere Villa, Lower St, Barford St Michael – T1 & T2 x Leylandii – fell to leave stumps 8" above ground level. No objection.
- 14/00283/TCA 1 Bishops Close, Barford St Michael – T1 Norway Spruce – fell. No objection.

Reports from Meetings: Cllr Styles attended a meeting on 30 September with Governors of Deddington Primary School, OCC and the Diocese. The reception year at the primary school will be full from 2017. Governors have been considering the potential expansion of the school; however this matter has been deferred until January 2015.

#### **AOB:**

- a) The Lower Street nameplate near the church has collapsed and will be repaired.
- b) A resident had reported fly tipping in Fernhill. CDC operatives had dealt with the matter speedily and efficiently.
- c) The lock to the front door of the village hall is to be changed to comply with insurance requirements.
- d) 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.
- e) The Barford St John and St Michael Parish Council website can be accessed on [www.thebarfordvillages.co.uk](http://www.thebarfordvillages.co.uk)

The meeting closed at 8.56pm. The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 5 November at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

We  
Curry



theWI  
INSPIRING WOMEN

**Fancy a curry?  
but not sure how to make one?**  
Then come along to

## Curry Making



**By Sarah Best**

**On Wednesday 12 November**

**At 7.30pm**

**In the Village Hall**

**Visitors most welcome to join us at  
our meeting £4.00**



## Village 200 Club

The 200 Club is a fundraising scheme administered by our Village Hall Committee. Tickets are just £6 annually and members may hold as many tickets as they wish.

Members are issued with a membership number for each £6 spent. All membership numbers are entered into the monthly prize draws, in which cash prizes can be won.

12 monthly draws offering guaranteed prizes of £5, £10, £15, every month plus £25 once each quarter. Plus £50 twice a year and a Christmas bonus of £100.

50% of the total value of subscriptions is retained for hall maintenance, the remaining 50% is used as prize money.

More members means increased prize money and more funds for our hall. £6 for each annual subscription is such a small price to pay towards supporting our lovely hall. So please – have a go! And help raise funds to maintain YOUR village hall. For 50p a month you can really make a difference.

If you would like to join please contact Mariann on 338570 to reserve your tickets. Existing members will be contacted soon. 200 Club members must be 18 years or over.

## A Barford Variety Evening

Calling Barfordians of all ages! Do you have a talent you'd like to share? Are you in a band, can you sing, dance, juggle, tell jokes or do anything else to entertain and amuse?

We're looking to see if we can get an evening's worth of entertainment together for early next year, around February or March, in aid of charity. If you're interested all it takes is to drop an email by 1st December to:  
mickpearson@uwclub.net or  
clairecox07@btinternet.com

If we get enough interest we can go ahead and finalise a rehearsal schedule and performance dates before Christmas ready to start in the New Year.

## Erika's Birthday Bash

**Friday 21 November 10.30am to 2pm.**

**Please join me at 2 Church Cotts, for coffee,  
biscuits and a laugh to celebrate my 85<sup>th</sup>  
birthday.**

**No cards or gifts please but a donation to the  
Air Ambulance Service would be much  
appreciated.**

**I hope to see you then,**

**Erika**

# **Barford Village Market**

## **Saturday 15 November**

### **10am – 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,  
Tasters of Christmas goodies to try  
Fairtrade items food and craft stalls, 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**



## **First aid courses**



Would you know what to do if your child, partner, parent, neighbour, friend, or work colleague collapsed, had severe chest pains, was choking or had stopped breathing? Would you be able to help them stay alive until the paramedics came?

The Parish Council and the St John's Ambulance Service will be running FREE first aid classes including CPR (Cardio-vascular Pulmonary Resuscitation) in the Village Hall. We will run as many classes as are required for all the villagers who would like to learn or refresh their technique.

So we can book dates please contact as soon as possible indicating when would be the best time for you to attend. For more information or enrolment enquiries contact: Rodney Hobbs, Pear Tree Cottage, The Green on 01869 338078 email [rshpersonal@gmail.com](mailto:rshpersonal@gmail.com) or Sandi Turner, Farthings, Lower Street on 01869 337228, email [sandi@farthingwood.co.uk](mailto:sandi@farthingwood.co.uk)

## **Bloxham Country Market**

Invite you to their

### **CHRISTMAS TASTING MORNING**

**FRIDAY 14 NOVEMBER**

**10am – 11.30am**

**Ex-Servicemen's Hall**

Mince pies, mincemeat,

Christmas cakes

and more Christmas treats

Plus coffee and mince pies for our  
customers.

**ORDERS FOR CHRISTMAS TAKEN**

**Free coffee and mince pies to all our  
customers on Friday, 5 December**

## **A warm welcome to...**

**Annie and Steven Norris  
who've recently moved into Robins Close**

**and Melanie and Terry Doyle who've  
moved into Church Street.**

**We wish you many happy years in our  
villages.**



## **Quiz Nights at the George Inn**

**The next two quizzes are on Wednesday 19  
November and Wednesday 17 December.**

**8.30pm start**

**It's a chance to become a millionaire as well as  
meet friends old and new.**

**Not got a team – then join the team at the bar**



## **TUESDAY LUNCH CLUB - 18 November**

### **Menu**

**Main course: pork, mushroom, carrot and cider casserole with herby dumplings served with mash potato  
and Brussel sprouts**

**Or chicken Korma curry (mild) served with boiled rice and poppadoms**

**Desserts: rich chocolate mousse with almond macaroons or pineapple upside down pudding and creamy  
custard**

**Price: £5 adults. To book and notify us of your choices please ring Anne and Mick on 01869 337074 and let  
us know by Friday 14 November.**

## Deddington PFSU and Village Nursery

It's hard to believe we are already at the end of our first term. The children have settled in brilliantly and are enjoying all their new activities. These have included finding out about autumn, celebrating Diwali, planting bulbs and making apple crumbles.

The PFSU held a well-attended parents' information evening where we shared lots of information about our profiles, planning, phonics and numeracy activities. We hope you found it useful.

By the time you read this we will also have had our AGM - a full report next month.

Christmas is not far off and we would like to invite everyone to join us for our Christmas Fayre in Deddington Church on Tuesday 2 December from 7pm to 9.30pm. This event is fast becoming the start of the festivities for many of us. There will be stalls, mulled wine, and the opportunity for a little pampering as well. Please join us for this fantastic evening whilst also raising money to support the great early years settings in our village.

**Lucy Squires. 337484.**



## Deddington PTA

The PTA AGM was held on 2 October. It was well attended and a new committee was formed. We are lucky to have some new people join us but also to retain all of last year's committee. I want to thank Lucie Sydenham for her hard work and commitment as the PTA chair last year. Although Lucie has stepped down from the role we are fortunate that she remains on the committee. Karen Matthews and I have been appointed as co-chairs this year. Chris Kaye remains treasurer and Tammy Marrett as secretary and we are grateful to them and the other committee members for their hard work. The main items the PTA funded last year were a story telling chair and covered

benches which will be installed this October holiday.

We kicked off this school year with Happy's Circus visiting for a fun performance in the big top. We had a great turnout.

The annual firework display will take place on 7 November; as always we have our fingers crossed for dry weather. The event opens at 6pm with a barbecue, licensed bar, hot drinks, toffee apples (with thanks to the Co-op), fresh popcorn and tuck shop. We will have some new glow products and expect them to be popular as ever. The fireworks blast off at 7pm. Thanks to the Farmers' Market who kindly provide us with stalls and manpower. Tickets are £5 for adults, £2.50 for children and £12 for a family. Tickets bought in advance include a free drink voucher. Tickets will be available to buy at the school from 3pm w/c 3/11/14 or via email at deddingtonpta@gmail.com.

With thanks again to committee members (old and new), helpers and everyone for their continued support; we are looking forward to another fun and successful year.

Julia Jackman PTA co-chair



## Christmas PAMPER FAYRE & EVENING

**TUESDAY, 2nd DEC, 7.30pm - 9.30pm**

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



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

**Get into the Christmas Spirit!**

In support of Deddington Village Nursery & PFSU Charity No 1100275/11179563



# Barford Green Gardening Club

## Notes from our potting shed

On 4 October a mosaic workshop was held with eleven members and friends gathered in the Village Hall to work under the supervision of local artist Fiona Pancheri. Fiona brought all the necessary materials, including containers of coloured glass and ceramic tiles that were as tempting as old-fashioned jars of sweets. Soon everyone was busily working, and by the end of the day most pieces were complete and ready to be glued in place and grouted. Collectively the group produced house numbers, grid patterns, designs of hedgehog, turtle, swallow, jackdaw, fuchsia, sunflower and palm tree, and a decorated flower-pot. We are planning to hold another workshop with Fiona next year.



## Future events

**3 November:** "Sex, Lies and Putrefaction" A talk by Timothy Walker, until recently the Director of the Oxford Botanic Garden. The talk will look at the animals and other vectors that are exploited by plants for pollination and how important this knowledge is. Members £3 and visitors £4. Please encourage as many people as you know to come to this talk.

**7 December:** Get ready for our fun garden quiz - with refreshments. 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.

**Open garden event:** to be discussed at the AGM, but suggesting early June for this.

**18 July:** a visit to Dreamer's Cottage, Little Haseley with a possibility of 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.

## Jobs to be done before winter sets in.....

1. Clear up fallen leaves - especially from lawns, ponds and beds
2. Raise containers onto pot feet to prevent waterlogging
3. Plant tulip bulbs for a spring display next year
4. Prune roses to prevent wind-rock
5. Plant out winter bedding
6. Cover brassicas with netting if pigeons are a problem.
7. Insulate outdoor containers from frost....bubblewrap.
8. Stop winter moth damage to fruit trees using grease bands around the trunks
9. Put out bird food to encourage winter birds into the garden
10. Use a seasonal bonfire - where this is allowed - to dispose of excess debris unfit for composting

Happy gardening



Bye for now  
Spade and Fork





### Tackley Christmas Craft Fayre

**Sunday 30th November 10.00-4.00pm**  
Held at Tackley village hall

Organised by Tackley Craft Club  
Lots of great handmade crafts and gifts to see and buy.

Stalls including Silversmith, fused glass artist, handmade soaps, scarves, Christmas decorations, cards, boxed gifts, handbags, and much much more

Great opportunity to do some Christmas shopping.  
All proceeds from the raffle and the Christmas refreshments will go to Macmillan

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## From the Churchwarden

First of all, thank you to all of you who kindly sponsored cyclists for the Ride and Stride this year. We made a total of £208 and this will be divided between Oxford Historic Churches Trust and our churches in the Barfords.

The OHCT have been very generous to us in the last few years and this year have given us a £500 grant to help towards the repair to the outside of the west wall at BSJ (removing the old cement and repairing it with limestone mortar).

They have also now given us a grant of £1,000 to help towards the installation of a sound system which, together with a very generous donation from a parishioner, means that we can go ahead with this project as soon as a Faculty has been obtained.

This will be a very welcome addition to our services, both the weekly ones and the various special occasions, as at times it is almost impossible to hear the priest at the altar or those reading the lessons or giving an address.

We still have a shortfall of £1,000 towards the cost of installation and if anyone would like to donate something to the Barford Churches to help fund this project, a cheque written out to Barford Churches PCC and delivered to 10 Broad Close, Barford St Michael would be much appreciated. I was told recently that my endless pleas for funds for the churches were not rewarded because people preferred to give to a particular project, so now's your chance.....

And one more request, which tends to go unheeded. Please could those who park their cars outside the church on South Newington Road be kind enough to remove them on Sundays so that the visiting priests and organists are able to park

near the church. This also applies to the times when there are funerals and weddings, with some people unable to walk far and who need to be dropped near the church. Your help would be much appreciated.

**Cubby Brett**

**Churchwarden for the Barfords**

## BBQ 2014

Firstly a big thank you to the Jelfs for the use of their field behind The George and to Glynnis Eastwood for arranging a great 'games' afternoon prior to the BBQ.

The BBQ, as always, was a great success although we are down on last year's profits in raising just over £400. Still a fantastic achievement though.

A massive thank you as always to 'the team' who work so hard behind the scenes and on the night to make the event a success and raise much needed funds for the village hall.

VHMC

September 2014

## Barfords' Polly Box

**Many thanks to all the Barford folk that put food items in the box in the Post Office or gave me Morrisons vouchers as gifts for Polly Preedy, the Banbury lady who feeds the homeless and friendless in Banbury every day. She has done this for 26 years.**

**I try to support her by spreading the word but she refuses to be a registered charity and will not let me write letters as she tells me that God will provide, so my hands are a bit tied. Donations for her have definitely reduced over the past few months as many people are giving to the Foodbank. Baking ingredients are particularly welcome. Please consider leaving a gift next time you visit the Post Office. Thanks again. Jen Green**





## Barford Service of Remembrance Sunday 9 November 9am St. Michael's Church



### Down on the farm

The new chickens are still laying well; not yet in profit but slowly closing the cost/expenditure gap. I bought a fairly large poultry house in a farm sale at the end of September and apologise if any reader was caught up in the inevitable Sunday tailback as I ferried it back from Aylesbury! At least I got back in time for the Harvest Festival at Barford Church.

We completed drilling by 1 October (three weeks earlier than last year) and put the rams in with the ewes on the same day, so all the basics are now in place for another farming year.

October saw the arrival of two new Gloucester Old Spot sows. They came complete with piglets and are called Bertha (as in big) and Clarissa, a name borrowed from one of the Two Fat Ladies; this perhaps leaves little to the imagination as to their size.



Interestingly they had been mated with a British Lop boar – an old and rare breed, originally from Cornwall and noted for its length and lack of fat. The inability of the GOS to transfer its spots when bred with a white pig means they are all white and it will be interesting to see how they eventually kill out. It could be that this genetic cross may suit our purposes better than pure bred Gloucesters. We shall see.

The last Gloucester Old Spot boar I bought came from a breeder called Malcolm Hicks who hails from Hob Lane near Balsall Common. I mention

this because when I went to collect the animal I became hopelessly lost in what has become a vast dormitory for Birmingham and Coventry with burgeoning population, vast new housing estates, shopping centres, pedestrian crossings and all the other trappings of shoulder to shoulder living. Not the most interesting part of Warwickshire.

Anyway, having driven deeper and deeper into this morass I finally decided to seek help. By this time I was in yet another vast housing estate. With a choice of several people to ask I chose a man who was cutting his garden hedge.

“Lost are you?” He enquired as I approached. I explained that I was seeking Hob Lane whereupon he studied his shoes for so long that I told him that a Post Office may help if he would direct me to one.

“Oh I know Hob Lane”, he said. “But you are four and a half miles away and I’m trying to figure out the best way to get you there. Where in Hob Lane are you going?”

I rather dismissively told him it was a farm at which, to my astonishment, he said: ‘That will be Malcolm Hicks then’. “How on earth did you know that”, I spluttered. He smiled: “Well, you see, Malcolm is my nephew”.

With the aid of a sketch map I finally managed to get to Hob Lane and asked Malcolm how many uncles he had. Just the one, he replied regarding me as someone who may be slightly touched. I then told him the story.

He looked at me with awe. “You should go straight home and do the lottery” and, waving his arm in the general direction of Birmingham added: “The odds of winning that must be a damn sight better than the chance of finding my uncle in that lot”.

Small world isn't it!  
Tony Collier

## From The Fire Station



With over 200 call outs so far this year, this month has been particularly challenging.

A 40-ton articulated lorry turned over on the Croughton Road. It took nearly two hours to release the driver. There was also the biggest barn fire I've ever seen, just outside Bicester. The heat was so great flash hoods had to be worn to get near it. We generally don't put barn fires out. Instead water is applied to the structures to stop the fire spreading; then they're left to burn themselves out. On this occasion it took nearly a week. This is because straw was so dense that putting water on it would only trap the heat and turn it into a huge mess to be cleaned up afterwards. And the amount of water that is used and the run off that can cause environmental issues. The barns next to the ones in the fire were covered in solar panels and you can't turn off the electricity supply - even in the middle of the night there were two massive barns acting like small suns. The panels were still producing a very large amount of electricity so we had to shield the cables and keep them cool with water to stop them melting.

In contrast there was a stacked bail fire in Duns Tew at three in the morning that was put out in five minutes. It was just one bail that kids had set on fire. There was a car fire between Deddington to Adderbury. Tyres, gas cylinders, oil drums and vegetation were being engulfed in fire. With no water supply close by we requested an appliance from Banbury.

This crew helped deal with the blaze and their fire engine was used as a water shuttle to keep our fire engine supplied with water. A normal car fire can be extinguished with one tank of water and it takes about twenty minutes. This one took many tanks of water and three hours to put out.

This has been a very interesting month for us. There have been house fires, car crashes, leaking cylinders and animal rescues from the river Cherwell at Somerton. It has felt more like an episode of London's Burning rather than a small rural fire station.

Four of our new recruits have just come back from their fire behaviour training. It's one of our favourite training events. Large fires are built in steel containers and crews have to manage the fire with very small amounts of water to keep the temperatures down and to stop the gases getting to the point where they flash over, but at the same time not creating steam which will boil you.

The science behind fire is complicated. Mastering the skills to spot and then deal with the different phenomena of fire is very empowering and helps us deal with difficult incidents.

The weather has turned wet. This means it will probably be another busy month. I'm sure there will be more flooding and I'm sure there will be more car crashes. Standing water on the roads can cause lots of problems with aquaplaning and brakes failing to name a few.

The best way to stay safe in bad weather is to slow down and leave plenty of space between yourself and other road users. Don't forget to check your smoke alarms every week. I'm pretty sure I will be talking about chimney fires next month so please get yours swept.

## Crew Manager Tim Parker Deddington Fire Station





For one of the county regiments, 11 November holds a significance other than the Armistice and to mark this, SOFO is hosting a talk by Simon Harris at 6.30pm in the Museum. Tickets (£15) are available by calling 01993 810 210 or from reception, Tuesday to Saturday 10am to 5pm, Sunday 2pm to 5pm. The talk is entitled 'The County Regiment Goes to War'.

11 November is also the anniversary of a turning-point in the war when on a rain-swept and foggy battlefield to the east of the Belgian town of Ypres, the Prussian Guard were stopped in their tracks by the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry.

Simon has written three books. His book on the 52nd Light Infantry in France and Belgium is now the authoritative second volume of the regimental history in the Great War.

The Soldiers of Oxfordshire Trust (SOFO) museum has been built in the grounds of the Oxfordshire Museum in Woodstock and will promote greater awareness of the history of conflict as it has affected the people of Oxfordshire through the ages.

## Upton House and Gardens Christmas Market

Upton House is holding its Christmas Market on Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 December between 11am and 4pm.

Get in the festive spirit and shop in a beautiful place. We have over 30 wonderful stalls with a huge variety gifts to choose from, so come and wander round with a glass of mulled wine and find the perfect present for friends and family. Victoria Wright, Marketing and Events Officer commented, 'We are excited to welcome our visitors during the festive period to a beautifully decorated house, festive music and of course our annual market. There is something for all the family so come along and find a treat for everyone.'

The house is open from midday and is beautifully decorated, including our wonderful Picture Room tree with over 1000 lights on it. Children can also look forward to visiting Father Christmas and taking part in craft activities in the old kitchen. £4 per child.

No booking is required. Normal admission prices apply.

<http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/uptonhouse>



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## 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 133

### OVERCAST CAST AND FOGGY, light east breeze?

Still looks rather disappointing, I thought, as the second half of September commenced. I was right, as this rather gloomy weather persisted up to the 21st. Even so, temperatures were more encouraging - around 23° by day and 18° at night! Over the Atlantic, High Pressure to NW and Low Pressure to SW battled for domination over us, but Nature seemed to be recovering its spirits with the fading memory of that baleful August.

Garden birds were starting to return from their seasonal dispersal out in the countryside:- Robins, Wrens, Dunnocks, occasional Blue and Great Tits - to accompany the ever present Jackdaws, Collared Doves, House Sparrows and nowadays - Wood Pigeons and Gold Finches.

Out in the country the Buzzards and Kites were scavenging behind late harvesting and ensuing stubble discing. The Tawny Owls were starting to announce their first intentions of courtship, calling and moving all around the bar-fords, and there was an encouraging sighting of a Barn Owl to the west, although no reports yet of Little Owls. Green Woodpeckers were active here and there and, for me, one of the best occurrences was, after being unseen for so long, a Kestrel on the wires along near the airfield.

Overnight on the 21-22nd, a cold front passed across from NW, dropping to 3° and producing a light grass frost (first this autumn?) on a clear, flawless dawn and sunrise. A heavy sky haze burned off by 9.30am on the 22nd, leaving very light yet chilly NW airs and a warm, hazy sun. Next day, a large area of HP started to move over the U.K. from SW, although the NW breeze continued as did the warm sun.

Under these sleepy conditions the birds settled into quiescence again, those remaining active were mainly scavengers - Buzzards, Kites and the various Crows. Fortunately Bas Butler and Ian Hobday reported Kestrel activity around the allotments and Tawny Owl activity (at least two pairs) around St. Michael.

With the warm air now moving up from SE, the wind backed from NW to SW on the 27th and the weather became even more balmy. Under the influence of HP these conditions continued into early October.



Enjoying the warmth, many insects thrived! Some Bumblebees were foraging as in summer, the ginger *Bombus pascuorum* being most numerous, and everywhere collecting nectar from White Dead-Nettle flowers. There were also some big fresh queens of *B. lapidarius* (black with a red tail) and *B. terrestris* (black with two yellow bands and a buff tail! I was pleased to see the former, especially as they were so depleted in the sodden conditions of early summer. *B. terrestris* had fared better, but now I saw queens that were parasitised, gradually dying in sunny places. I hope no queens were trying to start new broods - just building up fat reserves to survive their hibernation.

Having mentioned the bees (except the honeybees which have been numerous - and have well taken care of their keepers?) I should mention the Social Wasps. Of the seven British species, I have seen only two this year, the Common Wasp and Hornet. I suspect that the conditions of summer limited the variety and numbers of the wasps as it did the bees.

There have been fewer Common Wasps (*Vespula vulgaris*) searching for dry hibernation sites in our homes this autumn. They prefer cavities and dark places, holes in walls, and in roof spaces, where they like to build their nests. They also like holes in trees; they don't usually hibernate in holes in the ground, although they do like to enlarge and nest in them.

I ought to mention the other social species, such as the German Wasp, *V. germanica*. Very similar to the Common Wasp, it builds its nest in the same places - so does the Red Wasp, *V. rufa*. Then there is the Tree Wasp, *V. sylvatica*, that builds its nest in trees and hedges - as does the Norwegian Wasp, *V. norvegica*. This leads to the Cuckoo Wasp, *V. austriaca* which has lost its social behaviour, become solitary and lays its eggs in the nest of the Red Wasp! All these have differences only in their marking detail, distinguishing them superficially, one from another.

So finally we come to the Hornet, *Vespa crabro*. Brown, orange and yellow, very big and intimidating, but if you leave them alone, they will leave you alone. You can walk into a moderate-sized shed containing a big Hornet's nest, and, provided you are not eating anything, move slowly and do not threaten them, they will just go about



their business, avoiding you. I know, I've done it, just to watch! Hornets love to drone slowly around *Buddleia* bushes, where they will catch and take back to their nest large flies - even the smaller moths. The larvae of all Social Wasps are carnivorous and the adult workers will kill prey or strip carrion to obtain fat and flesh. The adults themselves love anything sweet, and that's where *our* troubles usually begin.

The bees and wasps are among the four-winged insects, but there are huge numbers of two winged flies, many of whom we recognise as Blue-or Greenbottles and the like, most of them domestically unwelcome. They also include the rather amusing Hover Flies, which are harmless and do what their name suggests on warm, quiet days. There were still good numbers enjoying the Michaelmas Daises at the end of the month.

Also being two winged flies, there were high numbers of Crane-flies (Daddy Long-legs). That will not make the gardeners happy - their larvae are leather-jackets.

To round off the insects for now, I must mention the butterflies. That little frost on 22nd killed many and sent most of the others into hibernation. Nevertheless a male Brimstone fluttered round my garden after that frost had lifted! Subsequently there were plenty of Green-veined Whites along the hedgerows and also a few Large and Small Whites; there were also the occasional Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock and Red Admiral. And so, having given the insects a good hearing, let's return to the progressing year.

On light SW airs and with HP dominant over the last three days of September, the hazy warmth persisted (23° on the 29th) and it was fitting that the mewing of Buzzards and the laughter of Green Woodpeckers became gently hushed as September bid farewell for this year.

October was welcomed by a bright, golden sunrise fronted by a trellis of jet vapour trails. The SW breeze continued, the days were pleasantly warm. Much stubble discing warranted the close attention of two Kites on the Deddington road, which also caught the interest of a Kestrel, who sat on the wires observing operations and anticipating dinner. The two Kites were to become familiar over and around the Barfords for many days during cultivating activity.

Owls had been active over recent nights, with at least three pairs of Tawnies around St. Michael. Two well separated Barn Owl sightings were reported by Andrew Murrey, one frequent south of the parish and a pair to the west. In addition, two Little Owls were calling and answering near Manor Farm. Deer were also making their mark with a group of four Roe below Steepness.

During the early part of September, days, though variable, remained in the low 20°s, with starry nights at around 11°, but there were warnings of LP and a cold front approaching from NW. It arrived on the 4th. A bright start quickly clouded over, with steady rain setting in about 10am. It ceased just as quickly about 2pm and within 15 minutes a beautiful sunny afternoon developed on a fresh NW breeze! Buzzards were noisy over Steepness as the two Kites attended to nearby discing activity. However, the brunt of the change was felt at night - it dropped to 0° with appreciable frost. A clear start on the 5th slowly clouded over, and later, the NW breeze dropped, backing to due S. The day temperature didn't rise above 16.5°. Early night showed a clear moon.

The 6th was a thoroughly wet day (max. 14°) with a strong, gusty SE wind. It cleared to bright moonlight on a night of 6°. Low Pressure was now the order of the day, with huge Atlantic systems dominating until mid-month. Winds were mainly SW and there was frequent, if variable, rainfall. Day temperatures stood at about 11° and, until the 13th, nights were around 6.5°.

From the 7th Nature went back under cover, so on the 9th I took a steady trip around our lanes to see where everybody was! In a brighter spell along Barley Lane, in the quiet, there they were: Yellow Hammers, Chaffinches, Robin, Dunnock, even a Green Woodpecker, all making little contact calls, and with fleeting flurries, finding food in the hedgerows. Then again, along the Worton gated-road, sure there were Rooks, Crows and Jackdaws on cultivation, but under a big Oak tree, in the roadside puddles was a mixed flock of Chaffinches and Great Tits. All 'talking' quietly to each other, washing, drinking, chasing around and continually flying between the Oak and the puddles, and occasionally dropping onto a bit of churned up ground to find a morsel of food. About forty Chaffinches - fifty birds in all. I spent about three quarters of an hour in each place - what joy, what fun, what peace, to share with just the birds!

On the 10th, which developed as a pleasant autumn day, breaking the trend at 17°(!) I encountered a wayward Small Tortoiseshell butterfly in the yard at Manor Farm - probably it will be the last for this year.

A huge new Low was setting in on the 11th, so I decided to take an evening trip to Clifton, to see if I could spot any wading birds on passage, or maybe a late Kingfisher. I saw none of those but I did see a remarkably acrobatic Swallow flying west in the sunset. (Plus 2 Great Spotted Woodpeckers and 40 Lesser Black-backed Gulls).

The 12th was foggy, very still and chill. After cloud built through the afternoon, the sunset produced a strange, orange-brown reflection, dimly through the cloud, above a horizon of flat grey cloud - eerie! Against this backdrop I picked out the two Kites, still following stubble discing, up the Park road, in the gloom. There were also forty-odd Rooks making their way to roost around St. John, and a Heron calling from the Swere riverbank.

On the 13th autumn really set in; a cold, very wet day on a blustery, near gale-force wind from SE. The 14th was dry with a very light NE breeze, but the light levels were so low - a horribly gloomy day.

And so, as I finish these *Nature Notes* on the 15th, it is brighter than yesterday, and the NE wind has veered again to SE. It has rained this afternoon, and now as I close my windows at dusk, I come across an old friend that I haven't spotted this year. He is quite a big oval spider, until you see him sideview, when he is barely as thick as a book cover! He is very shy, only comes out in the dark, and his web is small so that he doesn't have to move far from his hiding place. His thin, flat body is able to squeeze into the narrowest of gaps, often in fences, and being dark brown and almost black he doesn't stand out. He hasn't got an English name, so he is *Nuctenea umbratica*. And I'm intrigued.

Thank you to everyone who has provided me with records - hope you like these *Notes*; will be in touch next month. *Ron Knight*

## Barford Picture House



**We'll be showing  
Gravity  
at Barford Picture House  
on 15 November**

at our Village Hall cinema.

A science fiction thriller released in 2013, this is our first film of the new season.

Starring Sandra Bullock, Ed Harris and George Clooney, Gravity Academy Awards for Best Director, Best Original Music, Best Visual Effects, Best Cinematography and more. Despite being set in space, the film uses motifs from shipwreck and wilderness survival stories about psychological change and resilience in the aftermath of catastrophe.

This film took four and a half years to complete due to the enormous technical details.

£4 on the door or £18 for a season ticket for six films. Doors open 7.15pm and the film starts at 7.45pm. If you wish, you can bring your own chairs and alcohol. Soft drinks are served.



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## Residents encouraged to recycle clothes and textiles

Cherwell residents are being encouraged to recycle their unwanted clothing and textiles at 15 new Salvation Army Trading Company Ltd (SATCoL) clothing banks located at sites across Banbury, Bicester and Kidlington.

SATCoL, is working with CDC to promote textile recycling in the community. Profit received from donations of unwanted clothing will be shared between the Salvation Army and the council.

All donations of shoes (in pairs), clothing, handbags, belts, bed linens, underwear, towels and blankets will be gratefully received. It doesn't matter if items are damaged, but they must be clean and dry. "The new textile banks are located across the district and provide a quick and easy way to recycle unwanted clothing. SATCoL reuses or recycles 99 per cent of the donated textiles it collects., which means we can be confident that our residents' recycling efforts will be rewarded, environmentally as well as financially."

Each tonne of textiles that's reused or recycled and not thrown away prevents seven tonnes of harmful CO2 emissions and reduces the amount of unnecessary waste sent to landfill. Profit raised from donations also helps to fund The Salvation Army's valuable work with people who are vulnerable and in need across the UK. Over the last five years alone SATCoL has presented over £39.5 million to The Salvation Army.

**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)

### Country Dairy

01608 737971

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We have two milk suppliers



#### Wiseman

National milk supplier

Whole, semi and skim available in standard milk only

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#### Cotteswold Dairy

Regional local supplier

Whole, semi and skim available in (Standard and organic milk)

1 Pint Bottle  
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1 Litre Plastic  
2 Litre Plastic

### Wiseman Special Products

#### "The One"

Available in 2 Litre only  
(Taste of semi but only 1%)

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So pure it last longer!  
Semi and whole milk in 1 or 2 litre

We can also supply yogurt, cheese, bread, cream, cottage cheese, fromage frais, crème fraiche, potatoes and household kitchen consumables (cling film, foil, black bags and freezer bags)

## Bloxham Christmas Tree Festival



**Come and see the stunning spectacle of St Mary's Church full of decorated Christmas trees, with musical performances through the weekend, and refreshments available**

**St Mary's Church, Bloxham**

**Fri 5 December, 10.30am to 5.30pm  
Sat 6 December, 10.30am to 5.30pm  
Sun 7 December, 11am to 5.30pm**

**Admission: £2.50 (free for under 16s)  
Refreshments in Parish Rooms.**

## Water quality

David Speight writes from Summer Ley.....

Is it just me or does a cup of tea in Barford taste awful? I recently popped back home to see the folks in Summer Ley and was passed a cup of tea that tasted like a cross between a swimming pool and a rusty nail. I can imagine that most visitors are either used to the same experience and have developed some sort of biological resistance or are more polite and proper than me and choose not to comment.

I discussed the bad taste with my parents. I was surprised to learn that they didn't notice anything wrong. I put this down to over-exposure resulting in the taste becoming the norm. They did report that on occasion the tea had tasted pretty vile and had a couple of theories as to why, namely recent inclement weather and brand of tea bag. I was sceptical so I decided to investigate using science.

Let's look at the tea-making process: cold water into kettle, boil, pour into pot or mug with tea bag, brew, add milk and sugar, drink.

Somewhere along the line, something is going wrong. Either the water starts out tasting horrible, the kettle was passing on a bad flavour, the tea bag bad, or something else. A series of experiments followed in the form of theory, test, results, conclusion until the source of the problem was discovered. For example dishwasher residue in the mugs. Test – put boiled water in a hand-washed mug vs. boiled water in a dishwasher washed mug. Result - same taste. Conclusion - The dishwashing process works fine. From here the tests went as follows:

Boiling the water makes it taste bad.

The kettle is imparting a bad flavour (kettle is metal).

Boiling for longer makes the taste worse.

After these tests we found out that the cause of the problem is boiling. Cold water from the tap tastes okay. Boiled water tastes bad. But boil it for a few minutes and it tastes disgusting

Do this experiment at home by re-boiling your tap water a few times. See how the taste gets worse with each boiling. Thus the first recommendation from these experiments is not to reboil your tap water when making tea.

Finding out the cause of the bad taste was a nice result. Theories about rain and alternate brands of tea bag could be put to bed. But what about a solution. The following theories were tested:

There is chlorine in the water which can be nullified by cooling the water in the fridge

The water from the mains supply is fine but as it passes through the local pipes it picks up a bad taste especially if left for a long period

Purify the water with a carbon stick

The chlorine may be nullified in solution by salt

Of these, only adding salt had a positive effect. Adding salt did reduce the poor flavour of the boiled water although a hint of salt could be detected too. On reflection the efficacy of salt makes sense: rice, pasta, vegetables and gravy are cooked in boiling water which should now expect to taste bad. These foods almost always have salt added to them nullifying the bad taste. The remedy in this house has been to buy bottled water for tea and to continue to use salt in regular cooking.

This is not particularly satisfactory. Tap water should really be tasty from the tap and after boiling. According to Thames Water the water in Deddington is top quality with no reported issues. Well there are in this house! Next I shall look at the effects of filtration.

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We had three burglaries

in the Broughton area in

September where garages and sheds were

targeted. If you have seen anything or anyone acting suspiciously in the area over the last month, please contact your Rural Neighbourhood Policing Team on

BanburyruralNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk.

### Neighbourhood Watch

Please consider joining your local Neighbourhood Watch. It's 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 develop 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 email your local Watch Administrator Deb Hextall at Banbury Police Station,

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

### Have your Say – meeting dates

22 November, the Font Cafe, St Peter's Church, Hook Norton. 10am to 11am – PCSO Ange Alford.





## Katharine House News



**KHH Christmas Cards.** Sixteen beautiful card designs available available from our charity shops, hospice reception or from [www.khh.org.uk](http://www.khh.org.uk).

**Jenny's jumble sale date changed.** 2pm, 8 November, Grimsbury Community Centre, Burchester Place, Banbury

**Birmingham Ensemble Concert.** 7.30pm 8 November, SS Peter and Paul Church, Deddington. Concert the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. Mozart Quintet in D minor and a Brahms Sextet in B flat major. Tickets £10 from Hamptons Estate Agents, Market Square, Deddington, 01869 876245.

**Lights of Love Services.** Remembrance Services, St Mary's Banbury, 27 November 7.15pm, and St Peter's Brackley 3 December, 7.30pm. Details from Sheila on 01295 812161.

**Barn Farm Plants Charity Evening.** 6.30pm 26 November, Barn Farm Plants, Wardington. Special offers, gift and craft stalls and tombola. Entry £2 (under 16 free).

**Christmas Knitted Novelties.** Call Fundraising on 01295 812161 for a pattern or download a copy from our website [www.khh.org.uk](http://www.khh.org.uk).

**KHH Christmas town centre collection day.** 9.30am to 5pm, 4 December, Castle Quay Shopping Centre and Banbury town centre. We'd love to hear from anyone who'd like to hold a tin for us at this annual collection day. Please call Wendy in Fundraising on (01295) 812161.

**Santa Fun Run 2014.** Our Santa Fun Run is scheduled for 11am on 7 December at Spiceball Park, Banbury. There will be reindeer, real snow and Father Christmas. Adults £13, children £7 and under 6s free. For information visit [www.khh.org.uk](http://www.khh.org.uk) or call 01295 812161.



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