

**HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE BARFORD NEWS TEAM**



## **Clearing the Swere**



**Thanks to all those who turned out on a November Saturday morning to clear debris from the river by the bridge to prevent flooding.**

**In no particular order.. (Environment Agency) Richard Dale, Jamey Street, Dave Crook, Simon Somerscales, Dave Glancy, Wayne King. (local crew) Bryn Williams, (Organising District Councillor) Lisa Styles, Sarah Best, Tony Ecclestone, Helen Taylor, Diana Muirhead, Veronique Semple, Danielle Semple. Ben Nicholson.**

## New Year's resolutions for pets

**Vet Sophie Hanmer writes:**

It's that time of the year again when many of us decide to start the New Year afresh and change our lives for the better. But what kind of resolutions might our pets make for 2015?

**Eat better;** Christmas is an indulgent time for all of us and although our pets may not have to worry about getting back into that pair of jeans, to give your pet the best start in 2015 make sure they are being fed the correct diet. That means the right food in the right amount that is suitable for their life-stage, activity levels, and breed. Just like us, getting their diet right will help them look good and feel great.

**An apple a day;** we all know that prevention is better than cure. This is also true for our pets so make sure they are up to date with their annual health checks, vaccinations, and flea and worming treatment. Neutering can also help prevent certain life-threatening conditions, not to mention unwanted litters of pups.

**Keeping up appearances;** most of us will make an effort to improve our appearance as part of our New Year's resolutions. Our pets may not be as concerned with their looks as us but keeping your pet clean and groomed will help keep their skin and coat healthy and will alert you to any lumps or bumps that can be well hidden under thick fur.

**Exercise more;** there is nothing less motivating than the cold, dark winter months when it comes to walking your pet. But as the days get longer making the effort to wrap up warm and venture outdoors will help shed those extra Christmas pounds and keep you and your pet in great condition (be sure you are both suitably kitted out in high-visibility clothing if it is dark).

**Make new friends;** many people chose to keep dogs these days so it is more than likely that on your daily walks you will meet at least one other dog that wants to say hello. Making sure your dog feels comfortable and safe around other animals is paramount in reducing aggressive behaviour and nervousness. Socialisation is generally easier when started at a young age but is important for all dogs.

**Try something new;** taking your dog to agility or obedience classes, or even teaching them a new

trick, will help keep their brain ticking over and is a great chance for you and your pet to bond and have fun together. This can be especially useful in pets displaying disruptive behaviour which may stem from excess energy levels and boredom.

So let's hope we can all stick to our New Year's resolutions and help make 2015 an even better year for you and your pets!



### **200 CLUB WINNERS**

#### **November draw:**

£15, No. 122, Rick Allen

£10, No. 80, Chris Cox

£5, No. 75, Martin Gannon

The draw took place at cuppa morning

#### **December draw**

£100, No. 58, Palmer Family

£50, No. 118, Barbara Moulton

£25, No. 83, Dodwell Family

£15, No. 135, Barb Greenwood

£10, No. 196, Edith Garrett

£5, No. 153, Andy Neal

The Draw took place at The Christmas  
lunch

Join us for  
an  
**African drumming workshop**



**Wednesday 14 January**  
**in the Village Hall**  
Visitors welcome to join us  
£4  
at our WI meeting

## **Robin G. Woolgrove**

The villages were devastated to hear of the sudden death of Robin Woolgrove on Friday 12th December 2014. His wife Lindsay was injured in the crash but after a short time in the John Radcliffe hospital is now with her family.

Robin played a huge part in the village life of the Barfords for much of his life and his passing leaves a massive gap in our lives.

Our condolences go out to his family at this difficult time.

A full obituary will appear in the next issue of Barford News.

## **TUESDAY LUNCH CLUB**

**20 January**

### **Menu**

#### **Main course**

**Honey roasted gammon**

served with

Dijon and parsley sauce and new potatoes

or

**fish pie (salmon, cod and smoked haddock)**

Both above meals served with peas and spring greens

#### **Desserts**

**mincemeat and almond tart and custard**

or

**queen of puddings and cream**

Price £5

To book and notify us of your choices please ring Anne and Mick on 01869 337074 and let us know by Friday 13 January.

## Quiz night

Saturday 7 Feb.

7:30pm for an 8pm start.

In the Village Hall

Just a few pointers. It will be up to our usual standard of catering (can't say the same for the quiz master), Nepalese curries (yes plural) from that wonderful chef that is Spencer Richards of "The Catering Company". There will, of course, be a veggie option.

Teams must consist of no more than eight persons. That is EIGHT per team max; for clarification ring 01869 338061. Bring your own booze and nibbles, but we will provide the main course.

Plus, can you please book your teams in advance, as for last couple of years we have been right on the limit (and we hate turning folk away).

Please ring in with your team name and how many people (we can always join you with another team if needed) on 01869 338061 or email leondaly@gmail.com

Bring a bit of dosh, as we will have a raffle and a "roll the pound coin" competition.

Watch the notice boards and the next Barford News for exact timings.

And remember, all the proceeds go towards the Kathmandu Kids Home.

## Winter walk

**Don't forget folks –  
New Year's Day**

We will be having our "Blow The Cobwebs Away" winter walk. As the title would suggest it will be 1 Jan, meeting outside the Village Hall. At the end of the walk is a steaming bowl of homemade game soup, with tinned tomato for the veggies.

Be there for 10:30am and bring your family, a friend, the dog, a neighbour or any late night revellers that you 'appen across on the way to the venue. Donations of £5 per person (kids free). All profits go towards the Kathmandu Kids Home.

## *Barford Village Market*

### **No Market in January**

**Next one 21st February**

**Thank you for your support  
in 2014**

**Hope to see you again  
in 2015!**

*Happy New Year To All!*

## *For Love and For Life*

**A concert of songs for  
Valentine's Day**

By Local choir

*'Rhythm is Life'*

led by Robin Martin Oliver.

Remembering Tracey,  
(a former member of our choir)

**Deddington Parish Church,  
February 14th 2015  
at 7.45pm**

**Tickets include refreshments  
& soft drinks**

**Adults £10 concessions £8,  
children under 16 half price.**

Wine available.

**All Profits to Katharine House  
Hospice**



# Parish Council Notes

The Parish Council meeting took place at 7.30pm on 3 December 2014 in Barford Village Hall and was attended by Cllrs Hobbs, Eden, Styles, Best, Campbell, District Cllr Williams, Mrs Watts (Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer) and six members of the public. Apologies were received from Cllr Turner.

**Minutes of the last meeting:** The minutes of the meeting on 5 November 2014 were proposed by Cllr Eden, seconded by Cllr Best, unanimously **RESOLVED** as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

**Parish Council Vacancy - co-option:** The Parish Clerk had received one application for the vacancy on the Parish Council from Mr Simon Hanmer, Maple Cottage, Horn Hill, Barford St Michael, OX15 0RQ. Cllr Hobbs proposed that Mr Hanmer be co-opted as a Councillor to Barford St John and St Michael Parish Council. This was seconded by Cllr Eden and agreed unanimously.

**County councillor's report:** the full report can be seen on the Parish Council website.  
[www.thebarfordvillages.co.uk](http://www.thebarfordvillages.co.uk)

**Winter gritting** - OCC is committed to keeping a network of major roads free from ice to minimise the risk of accidents and ensure the smooth flow of traffic. Precautionary salting (sometimes called 'gritting') helps achieve this aim. Gritting teams have already been out in November due to falls in overnight temperatures. The County Council's website displays a considerable amount of information including up to date information on road surface temperatures that indicate when and where gritting will take place. It also shows the roads that are routinely salted during the winter. The page also links to general advice on dealing with snow and ice, and school closures. Daily updates on the roads are also sent out via twitter for those following @oxfordshirecc. All the information can be obtained from:  
<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/salting-gritting-and-snow-clearance>

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

## Public participation:

Residents complained about the constant noise being heard in the Barfords from a generator being

used on South Lea Farm, South Newington. District Cllr Williams explained that as the property is in South Newington, written complaints should be made to South Newington Parish Council, District Cllr Ray Jelf and Rob Lowther, Enforcement Officer at CDC. Barford St John and St Michael Parish Council will support South Newington Parish Council but have no powers to intervene directly in the matter as the property is outside the Barfords area.

Geoff Elliott is the allotment representative. He raised a number of issues which will be discussed at the next meeting (i.e. tenancy agreements, rabbit fencing, vacancies, an overgrown plot, a shed with an asbestos roof).

**New noticeboard for Barford St John:** an oak noticeboard has been purchased by the Parish Council and will be positioned where the old noticeboard once stood.

**First aid courses:** Enough interest has been shown to arrange a St John Ambulance course early in the New Year.

**Barford Bridge:** County Cllr Fatemian has been liaising with the county council and district Cllr Williams regarding the removal of masonry in the river following the collision on Barford Bridge. County Cllr Fatemian had received the following prompt reply from highways: "At present the bridge is safe but there is stone in the river and we will make arrangements to remove it and then rebuild. We will need to organise traffic management and possibly shut the road in order to get the stone out of the river. The parapet will be rebuilt with as much of the same stone as possible."

**Roadside drains** – District Cllr Williams has contacted OCC Highways to arrange a site visit to schedule much needed clearance of roadside drains and gullies at the bridge. Richard Dale of the Environment Agency and County Councillor Fatemian are assisting with enquiries.

**Clearance of River Swere:** District Cllr Williams reported that Richard Dale and his colleagues from the Environment Agency, plus councillors and members of Barford Parish helped clear a stretch of the river on 22 November. It is hoped this will have a positive effect on reducing flooding. Councillors unanimously agreed to purchase a number of 'muck' forks and 'slashers' to enable

interested villagers to clear other areas of the river.

**Outages in power supply:** The Parish Clerk has written to Western Power Distribution to express residents' concerns about outages in the power supply to the Barfords.

#### **Budget 2015 – 2016:**

Councillors unanimously agreed that in future a sum will be ring-fenced for S137 grants. An annual advertisement will be placed in the Barford News inviting organisation to apply for a grant. Applicants will have to provide financial details and give reasons for their application. An application will not automatically result in a grant being approved. It was unanimously agreed that the precept will rise by £500 to £7,500 to cover the increased cost of grass cutting (OCC is reducing its contribution by 2/3rds in 2015). This equates to an increase in Council Tax of £2 per household.

#### **Planning applications received by the Parish Council since the November meeting**

- **14/01839/F**, Coombe Cottage, 1 Rock Close, StM, Demolition of existing shed for replacement with a stone and timber clad garage – re-submission of 13/01590/F. No objections.
- **14/01813/TPO**, Land adjacent 6 & 8 Summer Ley, StM, 9 x Poplar – fell. Subject to TPO 2/90. No objections.
- **14/01684/LB**, Laurel Cottage, Church St, StM, Retrospective – replacement of 5 wooden windows and 2 wooden doors with PVCU fittings to the rear of the property. No objections.
- **14/01859/F**, Blackingrove Farm, Summer Ley, StM, Change of use and construction of hard surface tennis court with surrounding fencing. No objections.
- **14/01903/F**, Blackingrove Farm, Summer Ley, StM, Erection of garage. No objections.

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

- 14/00335/TCA, Honeystone Cottage, Lower St, StM, T1 x Beech; T2 x Cherry; T3 x Sycamore; T4 x Oak – fell. No objections. Granted 5 November.
- 14/00353/TCA, Dyers Farm, Horn Hill, StM, T1, T2 and T3 x Leylandii – remove lower

branches. No objections. Granted 12 November.

The Parish Council website can be accessed on [www.thebarfordvillages.co.uk](http://www.thebarfordvillages.co.uk)

**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 within 4 hours for a severe category.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 7 January 2015 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

## **Poppy Appeal 2014**



Once more there was another good result for the Barfords' Poppy Appeal.

The 2014 total collection amounted to £683.59. As to the sources of the collection: £519.59 came from door to door collections, the Post Office and The George, £104.50 from the Remembrance Service collection and there were donations of £35.00 from the Parish Council and £25.00 from the Fernhill Club. The thanks of the Royal British Legion go to all Barfordians for being so generous.

Thanks must also go to those uncomplaining volunteers who collected your money: John Langlands, Barbara Greenwood, Jim and Ella Booth, Helen Honour, Lucy Norman and Angus, Alison Drummond, Barbara Alt and Martin Winter. All were very persuasive in encouraging generosity.

The work of the Legion is important helping as it does those in need who have fought in the many conflicts the United Kingdom has been involved in since the last war and their families. The need for funds never diminishes and a bounteous Poppy Appeal will be well spent. Again, thanks to you all.

**Bernard Lane. Poppy Appeal Organiser for the Barfords.**

*And thanks to Bernard for organizing it – Editor.*

## Deddington PTA News

We were very busy in December preparing for Christmas.

The children enjoyed a fun packed and energetic evening at the school discos on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December. This really got everyone into the festive spirit.

Following on from this, we were lucky enough to have Father Christmas visit us in The Unicorn at the Farmers' Market on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December. This was a new event for us, as a replacement for the float around the villages, and proved a popular event with many happy children getting to see and chat to Father Christmas in warm surroundings. Also at the Farmers' Market, we enjoyed carol singing, selling festive sweets and holding a raffle for a hamper, which was kindly donated to us. We would like to thank everyone for supporting us at this busy time of year.

So far our fundraising this year has been utilised by Deddington Primary School to purchase team sportswear and to subsidise some activities in school, including a survival day for Years 3 and 4.

We would like to wish you all a Happy New Year and look forward to seeing you at some of our events in 2015.

Julia Jackman

**PTA Co-chair**

[deddingtonpta@gmail.com](mailto:deddingtonpta@gmail.com)



## 1<sup>st</sup> Deddington Scout Group



### Cubs

Goodness, we have been very busy lately. We took our guys to the market for our annual display and this year they represented scouting through the ages, as our group was exactly 104 years old that day. We collected £165.85, which is the last instalment towards a shelterbox, which now cost over £600. Many thanks to everyone who donated their change. Also thanks to the market committee for the generous donation, which will go into our Brownsea Island fund.

Our next event was the White Sheet Walk around Adderbury, cubs wearing sheets and looking for clues while we tried to scare them with daft stories. Then a 1940s evening; we turned the cubs into evacuees, played themed games and even tried Walton Pie.

Jo Churchyard C.S.L. [jochurchyard@hotmail.com](mailto:jochurchyard@hotmail.com)

### Scouts

The scouts rounded off their fitness training with a session of badminton; thanks to Caroline and Barry for putting them through their paces.

Several of the boys enjoyed a trip to Silverstone where they were guests of the Silverstone Race Club, who proved to be generous hosts. The boys were given a tour of the facility meeting drivers and even got the chance to sit in one of the cars.

We have been doing a lot of research into the history of the group and discovered the name of our first scoutmaster, plus the names of three scouts whose names are on the war memorial. As we also have photos of them, it gave the service a new meaning for the boys - a connection.

Parade was very well attended and we continued the theme with a visit to the 'Soldiers of Oxfordshire' exhibit at Woodstock Museum. Very interesting and worth a visit if you haven't been.

### Explorers

The explorers went paint balling at Hinton airfield, using some of the money they raised from the auction they ran in the summer. Great fun plus pizza - does it get any better than that? We took the opportunity to invest Harry on a large field gun. Coming soon, bowling and a hike to Adderbury.

Pete Churchyard S.L.

[pete.churchyard@btinternet.com](mailto:pete.churchyard@btinternet.com)

### Thank you

to

**the Broad Close lady  
for her donation of £5.**

**Also to the Townsend couple  
For theirs of £25**

**to Barford News funds.**

**It will be put towards the cost of  
producing our monthly issues.**

## Down on the farm

Winter is a great time for maintenance on the farm. Nothing else much happens aside from routine feeding and mucking out chores and daylight is in short supply so all those broken bits in the workshop and elsewhere can, at last, get some attention.

The winter weather also provides a few pointers as to what needs fixing around the place. So far we have rebuilt a screen that prevents the worst of the weather blowing into the barn we use for lambing, replaced some timber cladding that had been providing nourishment for woodworm and put a new polythene sheet on the poly tunnel.

The best thing about most of the work is that we have been able to use timber, sheeting and other odds and ends that were lying around. It is quite satisfying to stand back and look at a completed job and realise that the cost of doing it was minimal with the added bonus of clearing up odd bits of wood and other materials that had been put aside over the years in case they came in handy.

We try not to accumulate too much of the latter. A farm is a great place for doing so because it provides the space; the areas behind buildings are favourite for dumping stuff and I make a conscious decision not to let that happen, if possible. Using odd heaps of stone and rubble in gateways, sorting timber and burning that which is unusable and taking the occasional load of scrap metal to Smiths at Bloxham puts paid to most of the accumulation.

However the next two jobs are going to prize open the wallet. One is the refurbishment of the old Case tractor and the other is the repair of gates, doors and concrete areas in the old pig yard which also needs a new water supply.

The Case is a lovely old girl (why are tractors always female?). I bought it second hand some years ago and it does all the primary cultivations and other heavy work. Patching it up - with some expert help, I may add - will be well worthwhile. The great thing about it is that it has no electronics; it is simply a machine with an engine, gearbox, clutch, hydraulics and not much else. No place to plug in a laptop to find out what is wrong. A lot of modern farming kit is highly complex and

defies routine tinkering. Repairs can cost an arm, a leg and a few other limbs.

The old pig yard has done its time. Gates fail to shut properly, concrete has cracked, walls need re-pointing and the water system, based on self fill drinking bowls, has suffered generations of pigs that have spent their leisure time looking for something to break.

I am replacing the bowls with nipple drinkers – activated by a pig's mouth. They soon get the hang of making it work and the fittings are strong enough to withstand even a curious pig. Unfortunately they come from Germany so I am still waiting for delivery and there is growing pressure on the job because what few pigs are still outside need to come in to a warm sty.

Other than that the lambs are on the stubble turnips, the barn is now ready for the next big job (lambing), the pigs are (mostly) in strawed yards and the crops are dormant and waiting for spring. And so begins another calendar year of farming!

Tony Collier  
IronDown Farm

### Welcome

to

**Tim Bullard, Gemma Phillips**

**and family**

who have just moved to Broad Close,  
and to

**Paul and Candy Evans**

who have moved into Townsend.

We wish them all a very happy time  
living here in our lovely village.



## The Barfords Annual Christmas Lunch 2014

Sixty three people enjoyed another very successful Barfords Christmas Lunch on 29 November. It was so popular that we had to turn away late applications to attend this year. The menu was smoked mackerel pate followed by Braemar pheasant with potato and celeriac mash and braised red cabbage; fruit salad and cream; mince pies; Christmas cake and coffee or tea. The atmosphere was wonderful, with the hall beautifully decorated by the VHMC. The wine flowed freely and judging from the noise level in the packed hall, everyone enjoyed the occasion.

A huge thank you must be said to everyone who worked so hard to make the day such a success. Firstly to Maggie Eden, Ella and Jim Booth, Emma and Will Brodey for setting out and laying the tables. Next, a very big thank you to all the waitresses, and three waiters, who gave up their day to serve the food and wine, and stayed behind to clear up. These were: Liz Callow, Lyn Daly, Sue Broughton, Sam Harding, Tilly Neal, Ella Booth, Emma Brodey, Will Brodey, Amy Harding, Brian Dodwell and Jim Booth with young Ellie Dodwell lending a helping hand. Another thank you to the Barford fruit salad makers: Hetta Nicholson, Sam Harding, Veronique Semple, Lisa Styles, Tess Dodwell, Barbara Allen, Liz Callow. Also we are very grateful to Lorraine Langlands for making and donating the delicious Christmas cake, Hazel Neal for making and donating the alternative main course (for the non-pheasant eaters), and Sandi Turner for making the excellent mince pies. A big thank you to the parish council for their financial donation, and to those who made donations following last year's lunch.

The final thank you goes to those who gave donations on the day; we were very grateful for these generous donations which will make a good start towards funding the lunch for next year. It is an enjoyable event, both for those invited, and for those who help to run it, and it seems to start off the festive season in just the right way.

**Aggie Morrison-Booth, Sarah Best and Mary Brodey**

### **The hard-working chefs, waiters and waitresses**

L to r: back, Emma Brodey, William Brodey, Tilly Neal, Amy Harding, Ella Booth and Brian Dodwell; front, Liz Callow, Mary Brodey, Aggie Morrison-Booth, Sam Harding, Sue Broughton, Sarah Best, Lyn Daly, Jim Booth.



# News from Deddington School



As we enter 2015 most of us at school are looking forward a quieter term than last.

Near the start of term OFSTED visited us and came to the well-deserved conclusion that Deddington Primary was 'a good and improving school'. Our children were praised for their behaviour and attitude to work, responding well to the high expectations of teachers. We feel the report produced is recognition of all the hard work all the staff and children of Deddington have put in since our last OFSTED.

The rest of the term has seen Year 3 and 4 take part in a survival day, a small group of Yr5 and 6 children go on a science day at Dr Radcliffe's school and Year 1 and 2 go to the pantomime at Chipping Norton Theatre.

Our choir has been busy; following on from performing at St Mary's in Banbury as part of the 'Children Singing for Children' concert they recorded for Radio Oxford's Christmas broadcast. Parents of children who learn guitar plus those in Years 2, 5 and 6 saw the progress their children have made in music lessons led by the talented Rhys Owens at a music recital at the church. Year 5 and 6 played Christmas Carols on their brass instruments. Year 6 also gave a wonderful singing performance of Bon Jovi's Living on a Prayer, not very Christmassy but brilliant! Then Year 2 won the hearts of everyone playing Rockin' Robin on their ukuleles. The choir and recorder group gave very impressive performances too.

The rest of the school enjoyed preparing and performing their Christmas Nativities and concerts, whilst making decorations and enjoying class parties.

At the end of term Mr Evans announced he had booked tickets for the whole of the school to travel to London to see the Lion King in July. I think the staff are as excited as the children.

Mrs Jane Cross,  
Deputy Head



## Team News

I am pleased to announce that we have had a new member of staff join our team. PCSO Louise Beaumont joined us at the start of November and I am sure you will all welcome her to the area.

Louise has worked for Thames Valley Police for over 14 years, previously working in the control room and police enquiry centre so she has plenty of experience..

## Crime news

We have seen two of our churches suffer thefts. On 21 October St Peter and St Paul's Church, Deddington suffered the theft of a Hoover and Barford Church, Barford St Michael suffered a theft of two priest chairs. PC Miller is working hard to try to locate a possible suspect. If you have any information in relation to these thefts or any suspicious activity you would like to report in this location contact us via 101 or our email address [BanburyruralNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:BanburyruralNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk)

## Neighbourhood Watch

Please consider joining your local Neighbourhood Watch. Neighbourhood Watch is all about people getting together with their neighbours to take action to cut crime. Neighbourhood Watch schemes are community initiatives owned and run by their members. They work by developing close liaison between neighbourhood households and the local police. It is an active partnership. Neighbourhood Watch schemes can:

- cut crime and the opportunities for crime.
- help and reassure those who live in the area.
- encourage neighbourliness and closer communities.

For more contact local watch administrator Deb Hextall at Banbury Police Station, [deborah.hextall@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:deborah.hextall@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk).

You can also follow us on Twitter @\_ThamesVP alternatively you can give us a 'like' on Facebook at

<http://www.facebook.com/thamesvp>

## Thames Valley Alert

Receive free local crime alerts and crime prevention advice by signing up at [www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk](http://www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk)

For further crime reduction advice you can also visit our website [www.thamesvalley.police.uk](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk) or call the 24-hour Police Enquiry Centre on 101.

## From the churchwarden

As many of you will know, a new vicar has been appointed, will be licensed on 12 February and she and her springer spaniel will be living in the vicarage at Earls Lane in Deddington. Her name is Ann Goldthorp and will be coming from the Coventry Diocese where she has been curate in the parish of Harbury and Ladbroke. We are very lucky to have the opportunity to gain from her enthusiasm and approachability, and I'm sure you will all welcome her to our villages.

On a more sombre note, two priests' chairs were stolen from St Michaels between noon on 21 November and 9am on 22 November. They were removed through the south porch door and, although I have been in touch with the police, local antique dealers, police stolen property website, etc, there has been no news of their retrieval. If anyone, perhaps walking their dog, came across anyone acting suspiciously at that time in the churchyard, I would be grateful if you could get in touch with me. I'm sure our priests' chairs will be long gone by now. However, someone recently told me he had been having a cup of coffee in a café in Tokyo and had looked over his shoulder to see a small stained glass window in a shop window which had been stolen from his church 40 years previously.

On 14/15 January the new sound system will be installed at St Michaels. We had hoped that it would be ready in time for the Christmas services, but with the church being Grade 1 listed and with all the C of E bureaucracy involved we can only now go ahead in January.

The benefactor funding the installation wishes to remain anonymous but we will be forever indebted and we would never have been able to afford such an improvement to our church services without the very generous donation.

Cubby Brett  
Churchwarden

## Fernhill Club News

In December we had a Christmas Lunch at Robin's Nest and then on 10th we had our own small party in the hall. Everyone brought a plate of food to share and we had a lovely spread. We were entertained by Margaret Thomas who led us through the Christmas story with singing and prose. This was our last meeting until 14th January.



As an extra treat we are going to the Theatre at Chipping Norton to see Mother Goose on January 7th.

On 21st January we will be having Chris Smith, a driving instructor, who has many tips and funny stories for drivers.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and All the Best for the coming year.

**Everyone Over 40 Welcome!!**

**Wednesdays 2.30pm – 4pm**

**Contact: Mary on 01295 252 298**

**Or Maggie: 01869 338 938**

**Office to let**  
on local farm.

All amenities, plenty of parking  
and  
fibre optic connection.

For further information  
please call Stephanie Collier on  
01869 338635



## 1<sup>st</sup> Deddington Guides

Everyone loved our film night. A chance to get together with peer group and enjoy a film with pop and popcorn. Onesies seemed to be the order of the day!

We welcomed Annabel and Becca as fully fledged members of the unit at their promise ceremony and since then we have welcomed six new members – ex-brownies who are keen to join.

All the guides have been working well in their patrols and have completed many and various activities and have gained 'Go For It' awards. These represent the teamwork involved and are on subject of the girls' choice e.g. 'Chocolate', 'Passion for Fashion' and the 'Five Senses'.

We're trying to do our bit in the community and are growing trees from seeds and nuts to help with the tree planting projects in north Oxfordshire. We also made table centres on a Christmas theme to give to neighbours living on their own.

Some guides are going to sing carols and help with the Christmas party at Wardington House Nursing Home.

The end of term meeting was a lively Christmas party. We all dressed on a Christmas theme. The senior patrol organised games and food – well done guides!

We meet next term on the 6 January.

**Maggie Rampley 01295 810 069**



## Barford Picture House, 10 January

**Doors open 7.15pm, film starts at 7.45 pm.**

**£4 each.**

Millions know their voices, but no one knows their names. In his compelling film *20 Feet from Stardom*, award-winning director Morgan Neville shines a spotlight on the untold story of the backup singers behind some of the greatest musical legends of the 21st century. Triumphant and heartbreaking, the film is a tribute to the unsung voices that brought shape and style to popular music and a reflection on the conflicts, sacrifices and rewards of a career spent harmonizing with others.

These gifted artists span a range of genres and eras, but each has a fascinating personal story of life spent in the shadow of superstardom. Along with rare archival footage and a peerless soundtrack, *20 Feet from Stardom* boasts interviews with Bruce Springsteen, Stevie Wonder, Mick Jagger and Sting to name a few. But, these take a backseat to the array of backup singers whose stories take centre stage. Rich, insightful, and occasionally heartbreaking, *20 Feet from Stardom* is an energetic tribute to the passion, talent, and hard work of backup singers. Made in 2013, it won an Academy Award in 2014 for Best Documentary.

Refreshments served, bring your own alcohol and/or your own more comfortable chairs, see you there.

Our February film, on Valentine's Day will be the classic, *The Graduate*, preceded by a simple supper. The supper will need to be ordered beforehand at a cost of £5. Menu and booking details will be in February Barford News. Contact Gunilla on 01295 720521 for more info.



## From the fire station

The year is drawing to an end and we are hoping for a peaceful Christmas. There have been fewer calls than in recent months but we know that can change at any moment. Deddington is normally busy at this time of year. I can't remember any incidents in Barford this year and very few in Deddington and Clifton.

Most of our 250 calls have been to either the M40, Banbury or Bicester and with the extra development of these I am sure we will be spending even more time there.

For the first time that I can remember the Deddington crew was available for fire calls for 100% of last month. It is usually 98% - the 100% has always eluded us. Our aim for 2015 is to maintain the 100%.

Training is the key and it's time to train some of our newer recruits into more senior rolls. George Williams and Tom Hall are being put forward for driving. This can take up to a year. They need to get on a course, then there are medicals and a driving test with a practical and theory. They then have to drive the fire engine for six months in a non-emergency roll. Then it's another training course to drive on blue lights. Nicky Isted, Tom Hall and Lewis Mahony will be doing their breathing apparatus team leaders assessments too. All of these things take a long time because of the level of responsibility for other's safety.

With the Christmas and New Year upon us I would like to remind you of some basic safety issues. Candle safety is a major concern. Never leave a candle unattended and make sure they are well away from any combustibles.

A few years back we were called to a house fire in Banbury where someone had left a candle alight on a window sill. It was well away from anything combustible but when they opened the door the dressing gown on the back of the door came into contact with the candle and quickly set their house on fire.

People still put tea lights directly onto plastic surfaces that melt. Christmas trees are a hazard especially when they get dry. Disconnect all of your lights before leaving them unattended. Remember to make sure your smoke alarms are checked and working properly.

From all the crew at Deddington we would like to thank you for your support over the past year and wish you all a very safe Christmas and New Year.

**Crew Manager Tim Parker, Deddington Fire Station**



## Intergenerational opportunity update

**Deddington Primary School is looking for people over the age of 50 for an intergenerational friendship group starting in the New Year. The group will provide a positive experience for children and older people to get to know each other, enjoy each other's company and learn lots from one another. The school is working with Full Circle, an Oxfordshire charity, and is following in the footsteps of Bloxham Primary School and Radcliffe's School, Steeple Aston where groups are running very successfully.**

**The group will meet for an hour each Wednesday lunchtime (or Thursday if that suits more people) in term time, will be looked after by a dedicated member of staff, and will be supported by Full Circle.**

**Contact Ruth Stavris at Full Circle on 01865 246456 or email [ruthstavris@fullcircleoxon.org.uk](mailto:ruthstavris@fullcircleoxon.org.uk)**



## **Barford Green Gardening Club**

### **Notes from our potting shed**

You win some and lose some. Maybe we made a mistake having our Fun, Family Garden Quiz on a Sunday afternoon in December, but for those who came there was fun, a lot of 'gasps of ignorance' and 'whoops of joy' at the questions set. The three teams were very close and there was a lot of tea and cake! The Committee had spent many hours preparing rounds of questions, from seed identification to the portraits of Arcimboldo. Final results were: winners, Cover Leaf with 115.5 points; Teasel with 114 points and Pond Life with 110 points.

We have decided to repeat a Garden Quiz at another time of year. The hope was to get some young gardeners along, but.....

Everyone went away with prizes, some of which will be appearing in their gardens over next summer. Thanks to all who came.

### **Dates to remember**

AGM date is to be decided. Possible Open Gardens will be discussed at the AGM.

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

Other possible visits are 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 in and around the garden**

Prune your wisteria now, cutting back summer side-shoots to two or three buds. Prune rose bushes now whilst they are dormant. Cut back to just above a bud and remove any crossing or dead branches.

You can plant bare root roses now in a sunny position for spectacular summer colour.

If your garden is looking a bit bare try growing a winter-flowering evergreen clematis such as 'Winter Beauty'.

For a more unusual bare-root plant to add to your borders now, try growing alstroemeria (Peruvian lily).

Cut back the old foliage from ornamental grasses before growth begins - clip them to within a few centimetres of the ground.

Cut down the old stems of perennial plants like sedum - be careful of any new growth. Remove old hellebore leaves to make the new blooms more visible as they emerge this spring.

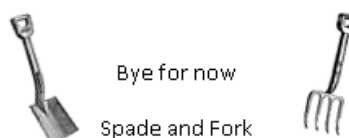
Cut back damaged, diseased and the oldest stems of brightly coloured willows, and thin overcrowded stems.

Remove any faded flowers from your winter pansies to stop them setting seed.

Recycle your Christmas tree by shredding it for mulch. Start forcing rhubarb. Plan your vegetable crop rotations for the coming season.

Keep putting out food and water for hungry birds

Wishing you all a happy New Year



## **Deddington PFSU and Village Nursery**

As I write it is the final week of the Christmas term with our celebrations in full swing. The PFSU children and primary school F1 class presented their Christmas production, Born in a Barn, to a packed Deddington Church yesterday. They were all amazing! The Nursery are ready to go with their interactive Christmas celebration 'Journey to Bethlehem' – a full report next month. We were delighted that so many parents could join us at the PFSU for our decorations afternoons, where we made paper chains, wreaths, wooden tree decorations, and more, with which we made the classroom look wonderfully festive. The Christmas Fayre in Deddington Church on 2<sup>nd</sup> December was a great success. Thank you everyone who came for your support, and we hope you found that elusive Christmas gift you were looking for. Wishing you all a peaceful Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Lucy Squires  
337484

## NATURE NOTES 134

SORRY I WAS NOT ABLE to produce a *Nature Notes* for mid-October into November but, as happens to everyone, I was overtaken by other demands. So, I will now try to precis the notes for that period ....

Since mid-September there had been a variable feeling of Autumn about the days, but now it was Autumn "good and proper" emphasised by Bas Butler encountering a flock of 12 Fieldfares near the main gate of St. John airfield.

For the last fortnight of the month the wind stood in a south-westerly direction, occasionally moving north or south, and low pressure dominated the weather. Despite the Autumnal feel, temperatures remained higher than usual, generally 15° to 18° by day, 10° to 15° at night. There were frequent rushing showers of rain, but also periods of bright sunshine. From the 18th to the 21st there were blustery high winds as we caught the tail end of Hurricane Gonzalo, incoming off the Atlantic and blowing itself out. The 18th and 19th were very warm days and there was a lot of bird activity. I watched 130+ Lesser Black-backed Gulls near Mar Pool for some time, where there were also two Buzzards active - there were also two Buzzards on Steepness.

I spotted my first Redwing (so late this year!) in Barley Lane, and there were Green Woodpeckers active over the allotments and below Steepness. But the skies belonged to the birds of prey. In addition to Buzzards, there were Kestrels around Barley Lane and the allotments. Almost every day there were Red Kites, singly or in pairs, over the Barford villages.

In this mild weather the trees were turning to their autumnal colours, indeed some had already shed their leaves. On the afternoon of the 28th, I went out through my backdoor and there, on the forecourt, was a Small Tortoiseshell butterfly sunning itself! Many songbirds were now behaving as if it were early Spring and starting to develop their songs, especially Blackbirds and Songthrushes. However, the climax came on the 31st, when a national temperature record of 21.8°C was set for the date. I recorded 21.5°



The 1st of November dawned on a general overcast, but that cleared eastward by Sam to give a day of flawless sun at 17.5° on a S breeze. Our smallest bird, the Goldcrest, was numerous and contact-calling all around St. Michael. Buzzards were noisy on Steepness soon after sunrise, and in the afternoon, a Heron drew aggression from local Jackdaws as he dropped into the pool at Barford House. There was heavy overnight rain delivered on a succession of LP fronts, followed by warm sunny spells of sun between torrential lashing storms on the 2nd. Even so, a Kestrel was hovering in pre-storm rain between Hempton and Steepness!

The Jet Stream had now moved south of the U.K. resulting in the passage of huge Lows across us.

The rest of the month could be summarised very quickly as a typical November of years ago - miserable, gloomy, wet and cold! Apart from hungry birds at feeders and a few flies warming themselves on walls in sunny spells, the outside world appeared lifeless.

Thus a huge low dominated the first week, the days of which oddly alternated between sun-filled and rain soaked. Nights from 3rd to 5th dropped to freezing point with rimey roofs and lawns in the mornings. South Newington was singled out on the National News as having dropped to -4.5°! Birds of prey still dominated the skies with a Kestrel at Warren Farm and both Buzzards and Kites on Irondown.

For the next week the wind settled down to a southerly direction and brought miserable, gloomy days at about 12°. The exception was the 14th which developed into a warm afternoon of sun (14.5°) with a glorious, flawless sunset. Buzzards were still active around Steepness/Fernhill and a good flight of Canada Geese were noisy flying westward on the 11th.

From the 15th to the 21st the weather was controlled by a large LP system to the west and a large HP system to the east. Day temperatures hovered around 11° (nights 6°) as the two systems drew mild air up from the south, but the net result was largely a week of miserable, misty overcast. Nevertheless, the 18th was a sunny exception and a Songthrush

was singing beautifully in the churchyard, A Buzzard was calling in the air over Steepness and there were small numbers of Fieldfares here and there.

On the 22nd the LP system started to move east and by the 23rd HP was in control. It promptly brought a white frost at  $-1.5^{\circ}$  on the 24th and an even heavier layer on the 25th.

On the 25th the breeze moved to a northerly quarter and became raw cold before disappearing altogether and the last week of November was windless. It was mainly gloomy and overcast with some rain and patchy fog. Skies started to clear on the 29th as the imperceptible breeze began moving west. After a misty start clear sunshine reached  $11^{\circ}$  and ending the day in a golden sunset. A Cormorant sat on top of a small conifer at the Manor House, drying his wings in the late sunshine. The 30th was a sunny day of  $9.5^{\circ}$  and so November redeemed itself a little as it passed into history.

Next day, the 1st of December, brought us back to earth! A heavy overcast, gloomy and cold - a real December day ! What did that bode for the rest of the month - we'll find out next month.

Happy New Year everyone.

*Ron Knight*

### Christmas Vodka:

300g (10 .5 oz) mixed dried fruit ( mix of sultanas, currants, raisins)  
75g/3.5 oz caster sugar  
2 cinnamon sticks  
2 teaspoons mixed spice  
6 cloves  
Half whole nutmeg , finely grated  
1 orange zest only, finely grated  
1 unwaxed lemon, zest only, finely grated  
750 ml/ 1 pint 5fl.oz bottle good quality Vodka

#### Preparation:

Mix the dried fruit with the sugar, cinnamon sticks, mixed spice, cloves, grated nutmeg and citrus zest in a bowl {or click-clack box}  
Pour over Vodka and cover tightly  
Place in fridge and leave for 3 days (or more), stirring once each day  
Line a sieve with a double layer of fine muslin and place over a large, clean jug. Pour in the dried fruit and vodka mixture into the sieve and allow to drip through into the jug (press down with a potato masher to get last juicy bits)  
Pour into a sterilized bottle

### Country Dairy

01608 737971

We deliver milk and other products direct to your door, to both of the Barfords and surrounding villages three times a week.

We have two milk suppliers



#### Wiseman

National milk supplier  
Whole, semi and skim  
available in standard milk only

1 Pint Plastic  
1 Litre Plastic  
2 Litre Plastic  
3 Litre Plastic

#### Cotteswold Dairy

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

1 Pint Bottle  
1 Pint Plastic  
1 Litre Plastic  
2 Litre Plastic

### Wiseman Special Products

#### "The One"

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

#### Purity

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

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

## The Friends of St Mary's, Bloxham present

**From Advent to Epiphany**  
**Featuring works by Bach, Pärt, Victoria**  
**and Dove**

**The Choir of Exeter College, Oxford**  
**St Mary's Church, Bloxham**

**23 January, 7.30pm**

**Tickets £15 (£5 for under 16s) includes**  
**interval drink. Available from 01295**  
**720951 and on the door**





thermomix

Do you.....

...love cooking but are short of time?  
...want to save money on your food budget?  
...have food allergies and want to eat healthily?  
...dislike cooking but want to eat delicious food?

Would you like to make your own jam, bread, ice cream, sorbet, mayonnaise, yogurt and much more with utmost ease and get fantastic results every time? Introducing Thermomix TM5, the smallest kitchen in the world...



If you would like to see the Thermomix in use why not arrange a FREE demonstration. See this fabulous appliance in action and taste some delicious food, with absolutely no obligation to purchase at the end of it. For more information call Sue Brown, Independent Thermomix Advisor. Email [sue@redhousecakecompany.co.uk](mailto:sue@redhousecakecompany.co.uk) or phone 01869 338740 or 07584 666561. [www.thermomix.vorwerk.co.uk](http://www.thermomix.vorwerk.co.uk)

**Foot Health Practitioner**  
**Rosie Burland DipCFHP, MPSPract**

**Deddington Private Surgery or  
home visits by appointment**

Tel: **075000 29727**

Web: [www.deddingtonfoothealth.co.uk](http://www.deddingtonfoothealth.co.uk)

Email: [deddingtonfoothealth@gmail.com](mailto:deddingtonfoothealth@gmail.com)

**Treatments:**

Nail trimming, corns and callus,  
fungal and thickened nails, cracked heels,  
ingrown nail treatment, diabetic foot care,  
verrucae treatment, Gehwol foot massage,



**Member of the Accredited Register of  
Foot Health Practitioners**



**SMITHS NEWSAGENTS**

**We deliver daily newspapers  
and magazines to the village.  
Any combination of days per  
week catered for.**

**Ring us on 01295 268499  
or e-mail  
[info@smithsnewsagents.co.uk](mailto:info@smithsnewsagents.co.uk)**

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](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Barford-St-Michael-St-John/76830272830)