



## Village Clean Up Day

Saturday 11th April

Note the date in your diary

and join us for our annual litter-pick around the village.

Start time 10am at  
the Village Hall



## *Barford Village Market*

in the Village Hall, 10am to 12noon

*Saturday, 21 March*

Wooden planters and garden sundries (weather permitting) all at silly prices.

Preserves and chutneys, artisan breads, Meat Joint, Fairtrade goods, home-made ice-creams, books, handicraft items, Paul's great selection of cards and papers, Joan's beautifully gift wrapped chocolates – perfect Easter gifts. Bacon butties/bacon and egg butties. Add a sausage for a breakfast buttie. Not forgetting tea/coffee. Please come along have a cuppa with friends and support our local market.

**All profits go towards Village Hall maintenance**



## Maggie's 50 – the 4<sup>th</sup> year

An update from organisers George and Tony

The 50 mile cycle ride is on Saturday 13 June.  
We'll meet at 12:30pm for 1pm start from the  
George Inn, Barford St Michael.

Before that we'll be meeting at the Village Hall  
for the practice rides. We plan to start the  
weekly Sunday practice rides, weather  
permitting, from 10am Sunday 22 March. We  
plan to start the weekly Wednesday evening  
practice rides when the clocks change to  
summer time, weather permitting, from  
6:30pm on Wednesday 1 April.

Hope to see you.

**George Williams and Tony Shrimpton.**

George mobile 07801 956642. Email  
gselog@gmail.com



**theWI**  
INSPIRING WOMEN

### Reminder to all members

Annual Meeting  
7.30pm  
Wednesday 11 March  
in the Village Hall  
Please come along to make your  
choice of our next president.

**Welcome**

To

**Simon & Wendy Bannister  
and their family**

Who have just moved to  
their new home in Broad Close  
We wish them many happy years here in  
our Lovely village.

## *Rock 'n Roll Night*

By popular request they are back,  
doin' what they do best!

**Freeway Jam are playing at the  
Village Hall on 11 April.**

It's another fund raiser for those kids  
in Kathmandu.

See notice boards for the exact times  
T'Committee



## Barford Picture House

21 March at 7.45 in the Village Hall



**The Grand Budapest Hotel**, directed by Wes Anderson is gorgeous and extravagant camera movements. Its eye-popping visuals are complemented by Alexandre Desplat's jazzy score and by lively and eccentric star cameos dotted throughout the movie.

This film has recently won five Baftas for original screenplay, costume, original music, production design and hair and makeup.

Starring Ralph Fiennes, Bill Murray and Tilda Swinton the film tells the story of the Grand Budapest Hotel, a popular European ski resort in the 1930s, presided over by concierge Gustave H. Zero, a lobby boy, becomes Gustave's friend and protege. Gustave prides himself on providing first-class service to the hotel's guests, including satisfying the sexual needs of the many elderly women who stay there. When one of Gustave's lovers dies mysteriously he finds himself the recipient of a priceless painting and suspect in her murder.

This is a lament for the decadent, glamorous 1930s Europe. It is made clear that we are being spun a yarn. Anderson provides us with multiple narrators and frames within frames. During the absurdly lengthy prelude, a girl approaches a bust of the head of a celebrated author (from whose statue plinth, bizarrely, hang hotel keys).

The film is every bit as mannered as director Wes Anderson's recent features, such as *Moonrise Kingdom*, *The Darjeeling Limited* or the animated *Fantastic Mr Fox*. Here, though, he makes us care deeply about his characters.

## Parish Council S137 grant applications

Barford St John and St Michael Parish Council sets aside a sum each year to grant to organisations for projects that will be of benefit to residents. From April any organisation wishing to receive a grant will need to apply to the Parish Council in writing, giving details of what the money will be used for and providing evidence of the financial status of the organisation.

Completed applications and supporting documentation should be submitted to the Parish Clerk a minimum of one week before a council meeting (meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month – there is no meeting in August). Submission of an application does not guarantee that a grant or the full amount requested will be awarded.

Application forms are available from the Parish Clerk, Foxglove Cottage, Kings Road, Bloxham, OX15 4QE or by email to [rwattsbarfordspc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:rwattsbarfordspc@hotmail.co.uk)

## 200 Club Winners

### January draw

£15, No. 171, Jo Blackhall

£10, No. 65, Wheeler family

£5, No. 104, Barbara Alt

### February draw

£15, No. 200, Ann Beesley

£10, No. 31, Diana Muirhead

£5, No. 163, Jo Purton

Both draws took place at  
cuppa mornings

# Harry's half marathon

My name is Harry Melling; I am 17 and I've lived in Barford St Michael for over 11 years.

I am currently studying for A levels at Chipping Norton School and, through a charity called Project Trust, I have been offered an amazing opportunity to work as an English teacher for a year in Thailand.

My reason for doing this is very simple: foreign cultures have always fascinated me. At 11 years old I travelled to India and was able to witness life in a far flung country first-hand. I also thoroughly enjoy learning languages and I am hoping that having an opportunity to teach will enable me to interact with the community and learn from people on a personal level.



My work whilst abroad is purely volunteer work so I need a bit of help in order to even get out to the country itself. I have to raise about £5,240.

That's a lot right? That's definitely what I thought when I first saw my total in front of me but after being talked to about it from the awesome people over at Project Trust, I saw all the ways that I would be able to raise that kind of money in the amount of time that I have.

So, that segways quite nicely into what I am doing on the 22 March 2015 I will be taking part in the Vitality Reading Half Marathon to raise money for my year abroad. I have been and will train as hard as I can in order to get the best I can out of the day and the run and to show the people who have donated what their charity means to me.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and I hope you will also give a little time to check out my fundraising page and the Project Trust website. They do really valuable work and need all the support they can get.



Project Trust: [www.projecttrust.org.uk](http://www.projecttrust.org.uk) Company Reg. No. 170673. Registered as a charity in Scotland No. SC02566. Email [info@projecttrust.org.uk](mailto:info@projecttrust.org.uk) Phone 01879 230444. Fundraising page: <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/harrysyearabroad>

## A CUPPA FOR KATHARINE HOUSE HOSPICE



**10.00 - Noon**

**Thursday 5th March**

**in aid of**

**Katharine House Hospice**

**Please join us In the Village Hall for**

**Coffee, Tea, Biscuits and Cake**

**To help to raise funds for KHH**

**and support local patients**

**and their families**

**Also Fund-raising Raffle**



# Animal myths uncovered

Barford-based vet Sophie Hanmer writes:

## **If my dog has a dry nose it means he is ill**

There is some truth in being able to detect illness by spotting changes in your dog's nose. A crusty nose, a runny nose, or one which has changed colour can all be an indication of disease. However, dogs' noses may change from wet to dry, and cold to warm all in the course of the day. These changes are mainly related to the temperature and humidity of your dog's environment. But if your dog's nose is warm and dry and they are showing other signs of being unwell it is advisable to seek veterinary advice.

## **When my cat purrs it means she is happy**

If your cat is sat snuggled on your lap, purring like an engine, it is safe to assume they are happy and content. So why do they purr when injured or at the vets? Studies show that cats experiencing pain or fear will also purr. It is believed that purring has a self-soothing effect and theories suggest the frequency of a cat's purr promotes healing and bone growth. It may even lower blood pressure in their owners!

## **My dog's saliva is antiseptic**

It would be nice to think that when your dog licks you it is doing something more beneficial than just covering you in slobber. However most pet owners would agree their dog's mouth is not the cleanest of places, especially after they've just devoured a questionable substance on their walk. The truth is that although dog saliva may possess some antiseptic properties it can also harbour many different bacteria which can cause infection in humans, especially those with a weaker immune system. It is for this reason that if your dog has a wound, even one which has been sutured, they should not be allowed to lick it.

## **Cats have nine lives**

If you think your cat's ability to escape near death rivals that of James Bond it is probably down to their amazing sense of balance. When falling from a great height this allows them to correct their body position in mid-air, enabling them to land on all fours. They are also helped by their low bodyweight and small size. This doesn't mean they are invincible, if your cat suffers a fall it is worth having them checked out by a vet.



## Deddington PTA

The PTA will hold an Easter cake and second hand uniform sale at Deddington Primary School from 3pm on Thursday 27 March. Nearer the time we will be looking for donations of both uniform and cakes.

Our next joint fundraising event with the PFSU/Nursery is this year's muddy race, the Monster Race at Cornbury Park on Saturday 18 April (see <http://www.monsterrace.co.uk/> for more details). We will be tackling mud, water, obstacles, climbing walls and more mud, with some running thrown in.

We currently have 28 parents, carers, family and friends registered for the event and our team name is Deddington Mud Monsters. If you read this and would like to join us, it's not too late. Just contact me on the email address at the bottom. If you don't want to take part but would like to sponsor us, please visit [www.justgiving.com/DeddingtonMudMonsters/](http://www.justgiving.com/DeddingtonMudMonsters/) to donate.

On Sunday 10 May we will be holding the second Four Farms Challenge event. With the start and finish at the historic castle grounds, there will be a 10k, 5k and children's fun run, along with barbecue, bar, and other stalls. It is a joint venture with the PFSU and Deddington Fire Service and will raise funds for all three organisations. Please see the website at [www.fourfarmschallenge.co.uk](http://www.fourfarmschallenge.co.uk) for more info.

The final big event for the PTA this academic year will be the School Fete on Saturday 4 July. Please put this date in your diaries and more information about the fete will follow in future editions. Thank you for your continued support.

Julia Jackman,  
co-chair, Deddington PTA.  
[deddingtonpta@gmail.com](mailto:deddingtonpta@gmail.com)



## *Mothering Sunday*

*Sunday 15th March*

*10.30 am Family Matins Service*

*St. Michael's Church*



Come along and collect spring posies for Mums, grans, aunties and friends!

## **Tuesday Lunch Club - Menu**

**17TH March**

### **Main course**

**Roast loin of pork with a cider and mushroom cream sauce**

served with

Roasted new potatoes, braised red cabbage, broad beans and carrots

or

**Lamb and apricot curry (mild)**

served with

Basmati rice and naan bread

### **Desserts**

**Pear and ginger upside down pudding with creamy custard**

or

**Chocolate and Baileys Roulade**

Price £5

Please ring Anne and Mick on 01869 337074 by 10th March.

# Barford Green Gardening Club



## Notes from our potting shed

**Final reminder:** AGM will be on 2 March at 7.30  
Possible open gardens and other activities will be discussed - please attend.

**Membership cards:** please bring £3 for your new membership. Cards will be distributed.

**July:** A Saturday visit to Dreamer's Cottage, Little Haseley with a possibility to have lunch at Lassco's in Milton Common. Date to be agreed.



## Jobs to be done in and around the garden

Spring usually arrives by mid-March and the frequent sunny days provide the opportunity for an increasing range of gardening tasks. It's time to get busy preparing seed beds, sowing seed, cutting back winter shrubs and generally tidying up around the garden.

- protect new spring shoots from slugs
- plant shallots, onion sets and early potatoes
- plant summer-flowering bulbs
- lift and divide overgrown clumps of perennials
- top dress containers with fresh compost
- mow the lawn on dry days (if needed)
- cut back *Cornus* (dogwood) and *Salix* (willow) grown for colourful winter stems
- weeds come back in to growth - deal with them before they get out of hand
- start feeding fish and using the pond fountain; remove pond heaters
- open the greenhouse or conservatory doors and vents on warm days

Who knows what the weather will give us?



Bye for now  
Spade and Fork



# Barford Bikers

I have noticed that I am no longer going to and from work in the dark - Spring must be on its way. So it's time to dust off those bikes, check the tyre pressures and get ready to go.



"On yer bike "I hear you say....well...exactly that.

Barford bikers are gearing up for another go at getting fit, having fun and enjoying the countryside on a regular basis.

This year, due to other commitments, we are returning to our original time and day. We are planning to go out on a Wednesday evening for a gentle ride at a sensible pace. This is for those of us who have not ridden for a while. This session is definitely not for those who wish to ride at pace but for us more gentle souls who like a steady pace with lots of stops. I know that there are many Barfordians who have bikes in their garages /outhouses /barns etc...so come on, join us for rides on a Wednesday Evening. All you need is a bike, a helmet and a sense of fun.

**Meet outside the village hall at 6.30pm.**

Our first ride will take place on  
**Wednesday 15th April**

It would be good to see a crowd go out. If you are new to our wonderful village do think about coming and joining in the fun. We are a friendly bunch and always welcome all.

Glynnis Eastwood



# Parish Council notes

The Parish Council meeting took place at 7.30pm on 4 February in Barford Village Hall and was attended by Cllrs Hobbs, Eden, Styles, Best, Campbell, Turner, Mrs Watts (Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer), County Cllr Fatemian (part) and District Cllr Williams (part). Apologies were received from Cllr Hanmer.

**Minutes of the last meeting:** The minutes of the meeting on 7 January were proposed by Cllr Eden, seconded by Cllr Styles, unanimously resolved as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

**Stiles Horn Hill to Hempton:** The Parish Clerk has spoken to OCC about the stile at the end of Horn Hill leading to Hempton and the one further on at the end of the field, both of which are in disrepair. OCC has contacted the landowner who will arrange for repairs to be carried out.

**Sunken drain:** The Parish Clerk had reported the sunken drain in the middle of the road near The Ledge to OCC Highways, it being approximately four to six inches below the road level and a danger to cyclists and motor cyclists. OCC Highways had replied stating that they have assessed that no further work is currently required.

**Painted signage:** Signage on the roads in the two villages is being worn away by traffic. The Parish Clerk has notified OCC Highways but is still waiting for a reply.

**First aid courses:** The first Parish Council St John Ambulance course took place on 26 January in the Village Hall. It was very successful and those attending found it informative and productive. Cllr Hobbs is arranging a second session. Please contact Cllr Hobbs or Turner if you would like to attend one of these free courses.

**Play equipment West Close:** Villagers (especially children) will be asked what type of timber play equipment they would like to see in West Close.

**Path warden:** David Campbell has been appointed path warden by the Ramblers' Association. This involves walking all the local rights of way as often as possible and reporting problems to OCC.

**Parish transport representative:** David Campbell has volunteered to be the parish transport representative. He will represent the Barfords at bi-annual OCC parish transport meetings.

## **County councillor's report:**

**Bus service:** County Cllr Fatemian is still discussing the possibility of an enhanced bus service for the Barfords with OCC. Cllrs thanked both County Cllr Fatemian and District Cllr Williams for taking this matter forward.

## **District Councillor's report:**

**Drains and gullies by the bridge:** OCC Highways (Drainage) has agreed that the drains and gullies returning water to the river need clearing. The work should be carried out during February. The gully to the east of the river (north of the bridge) is the responsibility of the landowner and Cllr Williams will contact him to discuss.

**Damage to Barford Bridge:** OCC Highways (Bridges) has visited the bridge but as the river level is running high they will not recover the fallen masonry because it will cause road closure and delays. OCC will monitor the water levels and schedule any work around school holidays to cause minimal disruption.

**Bus service:** The bus services manager at OCC is considering suggestions put forward by Cllr Williams.

**New Cherwell district boundaries:** At a special meeting at CDC held on 27 January, new district wards were agreed. Barford St John and St Michael will be in a revised ward consisting of Deddington, Duns Tew, Hook Norton, Fritwell, Middle Aston, Milcombe, North Aston, Somerton, Souldern, South Newington, Steeple Aston and Wigginton.

## **Planning applications received by the Parish Council since the January meeting:**

- **14/02088/F** Blackingrove Farm. Erection of tractor store. No objections.
- **14/02170/F** Seaton House, Horn Hill. Free-standing greenhouse to rear of property. No objections.



#### Planning application withdrawn

- ~~14/02~~2015/F 2 Old Council House, Townsend, StM. Application withdrawn by applicant in January.

#### Planning applications/TCA approved by Cherwell District Council:

- ~~14/01~~201903/F Blackingrove Farm. Erection of garage.

#### AOB

- a) Fly-tippers have dumped old windows and glass in Bloodybones Lane. The Parish Clerk has contacted CDC and asked them to remove it.
- b) Councillors thanked the Cook family for kindly disposing of the large amount of rubbish cleared from the river by volunteers. Councillors apologised for inadvertently allowing the rubbish to be temporarily piled on top of daffodil beds. Thankfully it has been removed in time for the daffodils to sprout through.
- c) The Annual Parish Meeting will be held in April, date to be confirmed.

#### Parish Council website:

[www.thebarfordvillages.co.uk](http://www.thebarfordvillages.co.uk)

**Fix My Street:** residents can report defects in the highway to OCC 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 four hours for a severe category.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 4 March at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.



## Cherwell tops Which? Poll – again

Respected consumer survey magazine Which? has just published its latest list of best and worst councils for food hygiene enforcement - and Cherwell has come out on top.

The Which? survey investigated 398 councils across the country using the latest data submitted to the Food Standards Agency. Cherwell District Council was rated as the best performing local authority for a second year running.

Businesses must comply with hygiene rules but councils are tasked with enforcing that compliance. The survey revealed that 96 per cent of people said it was important that councils ensure compliance with food hygiene rules.

Cherwell District Council's deputy leader, Cllr George Reynolds, said: "Whilst it's the responsibility of food businesses to make sure they comply with the legislation, our residents can rest assured that we will carry out effective enforcement that ensures they do this.

"The public rightly has high expectations of council food law enforcement and it's largely down to Cherwell's experienced and dedicated staff, who continue to carry out inspections during the evening and at weekends, as well as during normal office hours, that we have once again topped this national survey."

The survey based its rankings on three criteria: the proportion of premises ranked as high or medium risk in a local authority that were compliant with food hygiene requirements; the percentage of premises that had been rated for risk; and the proportion of inspections and other follow ups that were carried out by council inspectors.



## Nature Notes 136

As I closed Nature Notes on 15 January fast moving cold fronts were streaming in on low pressure circulation from NW. However the breeze stood at SW and, during a sunny break between fronts, the temperature reached 6°. All the usual birds were visiting feeders and a green woodpecker was noisy on Fernhill. But it couldn't last and by nightfall gales and sleet storms were bringing floods to the Barfords. The 16th continued thus and a bitterly cold wind had moved up to due W. After a short absence the Manor Farm Swans were back in residence, and, following a day of 6°, a strong red sunset brought a hard frost and a thin fall of ice pellets overnight at -1°. On the 17th the green woodpecker crossed the Worton Road and was now noisy below Steepness. The 18th was a repeat, but the 19th was very still (tiny breaths from due N) and a day of bright sunshine at only 5°. A night of bitter white frost at -8° followed. There was a clear sunrise but cloud grew through the morning. In the small roadside chestnuts, buzzards were perched to both east and west of Hempton. The 21st was raw cold at only 3° with spells of drizzle and rain showers later. A dull overcast persisted all day on a miserable E breeze with a frosty night of -1.5°.

A bright but cloudy sun rose over mist on the 22nd. By mid-morning this had become a dense, sun-less fog. On a very slight SW breeze, this cleared through an afternoon of 4° to reveal an unbelievably thin wisp of a crescent moon, against a starlit night. This night was reported at (I think) -8.7° at Brize Norton - the coldest night to date so far! I recorded -8° again here at St. Michael.

At last we seem to be getting a winter with some seasonal weather this year- let's hope it kills of some of the infectious complaints that are circulating!

A heavy, deep, white frost greeted a red sunrise on the 23rd. A clear morning encouraged the narnia123times, but a light SW breeze brought cloud from 1pm to a full overcast by mid-afternoon. After a golden sunrise, the 24th became a day of near flawless, if raw cold, sunshine, followed by a brilliant, starry night at -0.5°. Sunday

the 25th was a repeat, but with more and variable cloud on a W breeze. There was a distinct warming of the air to 8.5°, compared to temperatures of late. The green woodpecker was once more noisy below Steepness; from whence also issued a kite, soaring on the rising air. This was also the day of the RSPB 'Big Garden Birdwatch' a day upon which my garden usually seems devoid of birds. Its performance improved this year and I actually managed to record 14 species, the best of which were three long-tailed tits. Ah well!



From a peak of 8.5° on the 27th, day temperatures for the rest of the month seemed locked at about 5°, although nights ranged from 5° (26th) down to -1° (30th).

Starting with showery rain, the 26th quickly became sunny with variable cloud. Snowdrops were now well under way toward flowering and even a few daffodils were showing bud in sheltered places. The day ended on an angry, coppery, ragged sunset. Largely overcast, the 27th was mild, becoming wet on a gusty wind after dark.

A succession of very deep, abrupt changes in direction of the jet stream now developed over the next few days. On the 28th, the wind rose to gale force by late morning, abruptly clearing the persistent overcast of yesterday to SE under the influence of very fast moving fronts from NW. This caused the equally sudden change to very clear blue sky, which, because of the wind-chill, caused the air to feel very cold.

At this point a solitary cormorant had adopted the moats at the Manor, to which the swans (having gone away for another short break) also returned.

The 29th dawned on a stiff W breeze, sunny with variable cloud, under a blue sky. A buzzard was

active over Steepness and, not seen for a while, a kestrel was hunting at the south end of Barley Lane.



Clouding over, hail and sleet showers quickly developed through the afternoon with flurries of snow in the evening. A very cold night followed but without further snow. Under a cold NNW breeze on the 30th, the cloud broke to brilliant sun early in the morning. It clouded again after 11am, but cleared to give clear moonlight into night. A fall of tiny ice crystals in the night produced a thin, general cover on all surfaces into the morning of the 31st. These ice crystals persisted under a cold drizzle from an overcast sky until late pm when the cloud broke a little. Under a high, cold NW breeze, January fled screaming, in near blizzard squalls over higher ground - a fitting end to a wintry month.

And so, enter February - on a NNE breeze with variable cloud and sunny spells. To add some cheer to the picture, bright yellow winter aconites were blooming in gardens and some woodland in the district. At about 8.30am a kite was gliding over the village looking for breakfast. On the downside, a tawny owl was reported lying on the road near Bloodybones. Apparently it had soon disappeared, so hopefully it was only stunned. The day had been a cold 5°, with night down to -4°.

The 2nd was, of course, Candlemas Day. A brassy sunrise over hard dry frost had, I suppose, to be regarded as dawning 'bright and clear' and therefore we should 'expect two winters in one year'. Any brightness was soon overwhelmed by an advancing flat overcast which thinned somewhat through pm under the influence of a light northerly breeze. Finally, I was very lucky - and so were four roe deer at 8pm that night. I was on my way home from Banbury and, as usual, taking it pretty steady

after leaving Bloxham. Experience tells one of several hazards possible from the deceptive visibility of that road, be it cyclists, runners, walkers, sheep - or wild animals! As I came round the first slight bend, a plump Roe deer *walked*, not trotted or galloped, out of the hedge less than 10 metres in front. I braked very hard, but mesmerised by my lights it stopped and looked at me. To my horror it was followed by three more, each one a little closer than the first - and all stopped. Thank heavens so did I, without impacting any, but my car was within a metre of the closest. Shocked, I could not believe what had just happened - nor what happened next; the four deer, their jaws working and their tails flicking, finished slowly ambling across the road, over the verge and disappeared through the hedge. It took me a little while to recover my senses, and I've rarely been as thankful to park my car as I was that night.

The 3rd dawned on a thin covering of snow under a cold, but light, N breeze. A bright but complete overcast broke by 12.45pm to give a sunny afternoon and clear sunset, against which a Buzzard was making his way to roost near Swere Villas on the Deddington road.

For the rest of the week, a large high pressure area moving SE from NW was drawing very cold air from northern Europe down the east of the country. The 5th arose on cold but very dry air, without frost deposit on surfaces. On my travels, I encountered a buzzard low in his roadside Chestnut at Hempton and a kestrel watching from a high perch at Swere Villas. The 6th was a day of clear sun, with light flecks of white cloud, from sunrise to sunset. The temperature never rose above 4°, but it didn't stop a green woodpecker from calling on Fernhill. In contrast, the 7th was wholly overcast all day. However, a great spotted woodpecker was drumming down by the R. Swere.

After considerable white frost, the 8th was a day of sunshine throughout, milder than of late at 7°, with the green woodpecker now calling back on Steepness.

The UK was still under the charge of HP and a period of very quiet weather reigned until after mid-month. The 9th was a really mild day of variable sun at 11°, but the next three days were chilly at 5° under a gloomy overcast and negligible SE airs. On the 11th, the little male kestrel was

keeping his watch from the overhead wires near the airfield; on the 12th, Buz Murrey spotted an unprecedented three barn owls, within a mile and a quarter south of the Barfords, at about 5am.

The wind now started switching around under fast moving cloud with glimpses of sun. First from SW on the 13th as a stiff warm blow at 9.5°; then from NE on the 14th at 8° and now, as I finish these AW. on the 15th, overcast but very still and misty, at 9°. Bas Butler came up with a nice observation this morning - two female ravens and one male (lucky chap - perhaps) croaking seductively at each other in the big sycamore at the Turnstile in West Close.

On such mornings as this, bird song is starting to develop well, with robins (of course) collared doves and wood pigeons, wrens, dunnocks, song thrushes in gardens, a few blackbird notes and the tits and house sparrows all practising. Let's hope that the days ahead will bring increasing news of new-comers returning, being born and hatching, with the onset of wild flowers blooming in hedgerows and woods. Looking forward to bringing next Nature Notes.

**Ron Knight**

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### **Thank you**

To two of our faithful readers  
for their donations of £5 and £20  
for BN funds

### **Thanks also**

To our wonderful  
Tuesday Lunch Team  
For their very generous  
Donation to funds.

Monthly printing costs are now £215 for 28 pages and £189 for 24 pages which is our usual size, so every donation is greatly appreciated. Ed.

## **An invitation to residents of the Barfords**

If you're the sort who likes to combine fresh air and gentle exercise with a little fun and socialising, then



how about having a go at lawn bowls, just a few miles down the road at Bloxham? Our green is considered to be one of the finest in the area and is the envy of many visiting teams.

The idea that bowls is for 'old folks' could not be further than the truth. Our youngest member is just 17 years old and we have members of all ages who enjoy the game. Experience is not necessary as we have coaches on hand to teach the basics, if required. New players often pick up the game very quickly and can sometimes give those with considerable experience a good contest.

We are looking for new playing members who can either practice and learn the game, or make themselves available for team selection whenever they feel ready. We play in men's league and mixed league matches as well as many mixed friendlies. These include visits to delightful venues such as Adderbury, Charlbury and Woodstock as well as many home games. Social membership is also available.

In 2014, the men's team won promotion from division 4 to division 3 of the Oxfordshire County League. Our ladies combined with a Banbury team to win the Bowls Oxfordshire Ladies County Top Club Competition. Each season we hold various club competitions for our members to compete for trophies amongst themselves. We run a few social activities too.

So why not come along and have a go, without obligation, to see if you like it? All you need to start with is a pair of flat soled shoes or plimsolls and we will provide the rest. Our practice sessions are held every Monday evening during the season, which starts towards the end of April. Our open day will be on Sunday 14 June. Bloxham Bowls Club, Barley Croft – adjacent to Jubilee Park

Please phone 01295 720531 or 720236 for further information





During the night of the 27 January we have had three vehicles damaged in Horley. If you have any information please contact BanburyRuralNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk or phone 101.

On 14 January there was a burglary where a car was stolen from The Shearings, Hook Norton. This is being linked to three other burglaries on the same night in the Banbury area. The vehicle that was stolen has since been located but we are still working in order to bring the offenders to justice. If you can provide any information please contact the neighbourhood team.

We have recently seen a re-emergence of reports of courier fraud.

- vulnerable members of the public receive an unsolicited phone call from the fraudster, who purports to be from the police or the victim's bank, stating that their systems have spotted fraudulent activity on the victim's account.
- the victim may then be asked to ring the bank or police back on a genuine number – 999 or 101, for example. This helps convince them that the call is genuine. But the fraudster keeps the line open. Even though the person calls the bank or police, the call does not go through. Instead, they are connected straight back to the fraudster.
- there are variations to the next stage of the scam, but one of the most prevalent is that the

fraudster requests that the victim helps the police by withdrawing a large sum of money from their bank and taking it home.

- a courier will then attend the victim's home and collect the package containing the cash. These couriers are normally local taxi drivers or courier companies who have been asked by the fraudster to collect the package on their behalf.

If you receive such a call from fraudsters, end it immediately. To clear your line from the scammer wait at least five minutes before making any calls. Alternatively, call the police from another phone line, e.g. your mobile.

Do not hand over any money or other items as a result of this type of phone call, and report the incident to the police immediately.

It is vital that the public is aware so please pass this information onto your friends and family members. Police officers or banks will never ask you to withdraw cash or handover cards and PIN numbers. If you or elderly family members receive these types of call, immediately report it to your local police station, ideally in person. If you feel that you may have been targeted contact the police on 101.

Follow us on Twitter @\_ThamesVP or give us a 'like' on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/thamesvp>

Thames Valley Alert: Get free crime alerts and crime prevention advice by signing up at [www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk](http://www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk) For further crime reduction advice visit [www.thamesvalley.police.uk](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk) or call the 24-hour Police Enquiry Centre on 101.

Sgt Becky Fishwick





## Chipping Norton Literary Festival – better than ever

This enticing festival is now an annual event, with something for everyone. This year's programme features Sheila Hancock, Polly Toynbee, David Baddiel, S J Watson, Lee Child, Mark Billingham, Helen Lederer and too many others to mention here, plus events for children and families, photography exhibition and writing workshops. Don't miss it!

See [www.chiplitfest.com](http://www.chiplitfest.com) for the full programme and booking details.



CPRE Oxfordshire is petitioning Secretary of State Eric Pickles and local MPs to protect rural Oxfordshire from unsustainable development. We believe current planning rules are unfairly penalising villages and greenfield sites. Whilst many welcome more affordable housing for local people, developers are bringing forward inappropriate developments that threaten to swamp communities. For more information go to:  
<http://www.cpreoxon.org.uk/>  
 Dr Helena Whall, Protect Rural Oxfordshire (PRO)

To find out more see our website ([www.cpreoxon.org.uk](http://www.cpreoxon.org.uk)) or follow us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/CPREOxfordshire](https://www.facebook.com/CPREOxfordshire))



## 1st Deddington Scout Group

### Cubs

We have a new member in the pack, Matthew. And welcome back Mees after his recent travels. We have been busy rehearsing for our show, using shadow puppets and yogurt pot characters in 'The Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly'. We hope this will be a great success as the boys have worked very hard. The evening will include a presentation about the travels of our commonwealth batons.



The Cubs spent an evening at Pets at Home learning about some of the small animals for the animal carer badge. The animals all behaved very well until the gecko jumped on Noah's head!

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

### Scouts

Scouts have also been rehearsing for the show and to honour our founding scout leader, who was keen on entertaining, we will be performing a magic show and our own version of Countdown. For a change we took the boys bowling, a very good evening.

### Explorers

The boys have been helping with arrangements for the show and racking their brains over some tricky problem solving. They spent an evening with prospective new members from Bloxham scouts, games, puzzles and chocolate biscuits.

**Pete Churchyard S.L.**  
[pete.churchyard@btinternet.com](mailto:pete.churchyard@btinternet.com)

Some of us took part in the Winter Challenge, a nine and eighteen mile walk along the Ridgeway. Although it was a bit cold and dreary we managed nine miles. It was fun walking with a thousand other scout members.

## Farming Club

### Broughton Grounds Farm

Every Wednesday afternoon 1.30pm to 3pm

Activities vary throughout the year:

- Collect eggs
- Feed lambs, calves and pigs
- Make jam or chutney
- Help to sort the sheep for market
- Countryside walks
- Grow vegetables
- Country crafts

Seasonal 'hands-on' farm activities in a welcoming and friendly environment.

Have fun on our traditional mixed farm, learn some new skills and make some new friends.

£5 per person – free for carers and support staff.  
Free tea and coffee.

There is often produce to take home. (jam, honey, eggs, vegetables etc)

Contact James Taylor for details:  
07875 626590  
[james@broughtongrounds.co.uk](mailto:james@broughtongrounds.co.uk)



## Medical Detection Dogs

The charity Medical Detection Dogs is training dogs in the detection by scent of human diseases and life-threatening health conditions.

Cancer detection dogs work on clinical trials with universities and health professionals in the early detection of cancer, publishing the results in scientific journals. Our dogs are over 90% accurate in the early detection of prostate cancer.

Medical alert assistance dogs partner clients with life-threatening health conditions, acting as early warning systems; for example alerting before a hypoglycaemic attack causes collapse in a brittle Type 1 diabetic person.

We are a small group of volunteers, the Oxon and Cotswold support group, supporting the charity by giving talks and running local fundraising events and street collections. We are looking for help with our fundraising:

- volunteers to help with street collections and events
- offers to run an event, eg coffee morning or sale
- good quality second-hand clothes
- good quality bric-a-brac
- old jewellery, used stamps, used printer cartridges
- new ideas for fundraising

If you would like to join our group (mainly based in west Oxon), or volunteer an event please contact: Heather Shute 01993 831909 or email [oxon.supportgrp@medicaldetectiondogs.org.uk](mailto:oxon.supportgrp@medicaldetectiondogs.org.uk)  
Also, if you would like a speaker to come to your local group, please contact us.

The charity's website is:  
[www.medicaldetectiondogs.org.uk](http://www.medicaldetectiondogs.org.uk)



#### **Care for a cuppa**

1– 8 March. Invite your friends and family around for a cuppa, cake and chat. Simply ask for donations on the day. Call 01295 812161 to order a fundraising pack. See details of the Barford cuppa morning on page 4.

#### **Stall sale**

11am to 2pm 14 March. Our Stall Sale will bric-a-brac, books, toys, cakes and light refreshments. The sale will be at the Institute, the Green, Adderbury.

#### **Black Dyke Brass Band concert**

St. Mary's Church, Horsefair, Banbury on 28 March. Doors open at 7pm. Tickets £20 each. Please call 01295 812161 or visit [www.khh.org.uk](http://www.khh.org.uk)

#### **Lottery**

Our lottery has raised over £1 million since 2000. Phone 01295 812161 or email [lottery@khh.org.uk](mailto:lottery@khh.org.uk)

#### **Katharine House newsletter**

Our spring-summer newsletter will be sent out in early April. Please phone 01295 812161 or email [general@khh.org.uk](mailto:general@khh.org.uk) to receive your copy. Please be assured we will never pass on your details to any third party.

We're also on Facebook and Twitter- check out our page at <https://www.facebook.com/katharinehouse>

Sarah Brennan, community fundraiser



## **1st Deddington Guides**

We had a great start to the term, welcoming five new guides at their promise ceremony, Alona, Libby, Scarlett, Maddie and Elize.

The guides are spending time running their own activities in their patrols, and they are getting much better at clearing up afterwards too.

We have enjoyed some activities and challenges that the senior guides had planned and organised. They are working towards their Young Leader and Baden Powell Guide Award.

Spring is approaching fast, so we are going to help clear and tidy the camp site at Horley as a good turn. In the summer we are often able to make use of this lovely wood enclosed Scout camp site.

Before you know it, we will be putting on our annual entertainment, planned and organised by the guides to raise money for charity, we are rehearsing already.

#### **Guiders:**

**Maggie Rampley 01295 810069,**  
**Marion Trinder, 01869 340806**  
**Catherine Blackburn, 01295 258008.**



## Sales/ promotion work – casual/flexi at Banbury Guardian

We have a number of positions available in Banbury for enthusiastic people to do in-store promotions of the award winning local newspaper- the Banbury Guardian. The work shift is normally 10-2pm but earlier shifts can be arranged. We are very flexible on number of days and hours per week (hours can range from 4 hr to 20hr+ per week).

The successful candidates will be reliable, punctual, good communicators and have a passion for local newspapers. There will be some travel involved so own transport would be desirable. Contact Nicki Atkinson 07740698289, Email Nicki.Atkinson@jpress.co.uk

## Deddington PFSU and Village Nursery

This term the PFSU children have been busy finding out about animals and Chinese New Year. We have had visits from several pets, from the vet, and will be visiting the May Fu II restaurant after the half term break.

Thank you to Juliet the vet, to our pet owners, and to the May Fu II for their hospitality.

The nursery children have been finding out about things that melt, and feeding and caring for birds.

We are collecting the Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers and would welcome any donations at either the PFSU or nursery. As a charity the extra sports and cooking equipment are able to purchase with the vouchers is much appreciated.

Coming up on Saturday 14 March is our annual jumble sale. This is at the Windmill Centre from 11am to 1pm. Come along early to grab the best bargains! We would be grateful to receive any donations at the Windmill Centre on Friday 13 March between 9am and 1pm.

**Lucy Squires 337484**

## 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**

## 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 household kitchen consumables (cling film, foil, black bags and freezer bags)