

BARFORD NEWS

April 2015
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The game of Aunt Sally has a long and distinguished history in Oxfordshire – with some believing it dates back to the English Civil War. And Barford St Michael is no exception. The village's B Team held its annual House Championship in Stad. De Jelfs at the end of the season.

This year's winner was Big Jim, shown with Steve reluctantly passing on the trophy at the event in Dave Jelf's garden. The event was initiated by the B Team, but it's open for others to play also. And don't forget that Thursday is match night at the George. There are two teams so if anyone is interested in getting involved or watching, please go along. Matches start at 8:30pm. There is a "large stadium capacity", and tickets are free. But please bring a brolly!



The coffee morning on Thursday 23 April will have an English theme to celebrate St George's Day.
Let's celebrate the English national day in style!



theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

The skill of the master saddler

with
Lindsay Pickering
7.30pm



Wednesday 8 April
in the Village Hall

Please come along and join us at
our WI meeting
Visitors £4.

New President for W.I.



After serving her three years of office as president of our village W.I.,

Helen Honour (right) has handed over the reins to Jill Hopcraft (left) in a ballot supervised by county advisor Stella Oates (centre).

A message from Michael Honour



To all my customers, friends and those who have supported me over the years. The time has come for me to hang up my overalls and close the workshop doors. I moved from a workshop in Hempton to Barford St John in December 1989 and have enjoyed every day I've been running my business here. A very big thank you to you all.

Michael Honour

(Thanks for the cuddle Erika, it really made my day)!

Plants, Cakes & Coffee

There will be a coffee morning

with plant and cake stalls at

St Michael's Church on

Saturday 9 May from 10am to 12noon.

Offers of plants and cakes will be gratefully received. Please contact Jan Elvidge 338214

From the Churchwarden

The Annual Parochial Church Council meeting will be held on 22 April at 7.30pm in St Michael's Church. We generally have a very poor turnout of people coming to the APCM and it would be good to see more people taking an interest in their churches. You all use the churches at some time in your lives and unless more people help out, they won't be around, they'll just be monuments. For instance, we should have two churchwardens and it would be appreciated if someone could help me with the day-to-day running of the churches.

However, in order to be voted in as a churchwarden you will need to sign a form before the APCM. We also need six people on the Parochial Church Council to decide on the future running of the churches. These appointments may seem unimportant to most people in the villages, but if you want the future of the churches ensured we need people to put their names forward to help out. There is also a shortage of cleaners and it would be appreciated if a few more people would put their names forward to keep the churches in good order.

I also need to know of anyone who would like to be included on the church electoral roll. You don't have to be a regular churchgoer but anyone who would like to vote for churchwardens and PCC members or has an interest in the running of the churches needs to be on the electoral roll. I have the forms for anyone interested.

And finally, once again, I would like to ask those who park their cars at the bottom of the steps to the churchyard, to move them on Sundays. The vicar and the organist both need space to park and usually the parking area is completely full. Please could you park your cars elsewhere in the village on a Sunday or on days when you know there will be a wedding, baptism, funeral etc so that visitors, some disabled, don't have to walk too far. Thank you.

Cubby Brett. Phone 338300. Email: the_bretts@btinternet.com

Spring is in the air

Barford-based vet Sophie Hanmer writes:

Although spring may be a welcome change from the dull and dreary winter days, it may not be such good news for our furry friends as up to 10% of dogs may suffer from atopy. This is similar to hay-fever in humans and is an allergic reaction caused by an inappropriate response of the body to inhaled or absorbed allergens. These allergens can include pollens, grasses, weeds, molds, dust, and house dust mites.

It is thought to be an inherited condition and can affect any breed of dog, including cross breeds, but seems more common in West Highland white terrier, golden retriever, Irish setter and bulldog. The condition normally manifests between the age of 1 and 3 years but can develop later in life. Common symptoms include scratching the face and ears and chewing of the feet which can lead to hair loss, reddening, and thickening of the skin. In some cases long-lasting or repeated ear infections can be the only sign. The allergy may be seasonal but the animal may go on to develop allergies to other things so meaning symptoms occur all year round.

It is important for your vet rule out other causes of itchiness such as parasites and food allergies. Treatment is based on avoiding the allergen, trying to control the symptoms with medication, immunotherapy, or a combination of these methods. Avoiding the allergen may not be possible, especially if your pet is allergic to house dust mites, but steps can be taken to reduce exposure, such as avoiding walking your dog through fields with certain grasses.

Hypo-allergenic shampoos and fatty-acid supplements can be effective but in more severe cases anti-histamine, steroids and cyclosporin may be needed. There are potential side effects associated with these so make sure you discuss this with your vet.

Immunotherapy is an alternative method and can be used on its own or in conjunction with symptomatic treatment. It is very safe and involves injecting the dog with the substances it is allergic to de-sensitise the immune system. It may take 6 to 12 months but is effective in around 60-80% of cases.

Cats can also suffer with atopy but the symptoms may be harder to spot. If you think your cat or dog may be suffering with atopy speak to your vet.

Down on the farm

We returned from a trip to Australia and New Zealand in early March to find that Clarissa had given birth to 14 piglets, lambing was in full swing and the sun was shining on our winter sown crops.

Readers may recall that I was nearing getting rid of Clarissa and Bertha (two new sows), but Clarissa now has a definite reprieve and I am now waiting to see if Bertha shows signs of following suit.



I dislike February, so visiting a hemisphere where it is summer was a real tonic. We stayed with friends in New Zealand who included Aaron's parents. Some of you may remember Aaron Duff, he worked for Pete Eden for a while and was a regular in The George. He is now married with two small children and has become chief pilot for a firm flying tourists over the mountains from Queenstown.

His father still runs a few thousand sheep but his neighbour, Ross Burnett, (with whom we also stayed) converted to dairying several years ago when he replaced 4000 ewes with 750 milking cows. This type of conversion has been widespread; as a result New Zealand's sheep population has shrunk from 70 million to around 35 million.

Unfortunately the biggest markets for NZ milk powder are Russia and China and a combination of trading sanctions against Russia, the disastrous Chinese economy, and an exceptionally dry summer have conspired to reduce good profitability to subsistence levels; a situation our own dairy farmers also share for different reasons.

The Burnetts however have seen some years of good returns which have enabled them to pay off serious loans for boreholes for water, cows, a massive rotary milking set up and the installation of 8 metre wide stone roads for cow movement across their 2000 acres. So they are fairly well set up to cope with the downturn.

The rotary milking parlour holds 60 cows and enables two men (a Kiwi manager and a Filipino helper) to milk the whole herd in just three hours. I commented to Ross that the Kiwi herd manager seemed a good chap who clearly knew his business: He grinned and said: 'no he's not bad for a former bank manager'. I asked him what he meant and he told me that he had been their bank manager when they switched to dairying but had left the bank to go contract milking (his parents had been dairy farmers) and ended up coming to their farm two years ago!

It goes to show that New Zealand's South Island which has a population of 2 million and is roughly the size of England still has its roots firmly in farming. We noticed, for example, that even their television and national newspapers carry advertisements for tractors, breeding stock and other agricultural commodities. Farming is still its biggest industry which is what makes the current downturn and its consequent loss of tax revenue a significant national problem.

Tony Collier

TUESDAY LUNCH CLUB

21 April

Main course

Sausage, leek and pepper plait

or salmon, asparagus and brie quiche

, both served with cheese and potato pie,

peas and sweetcorn, ratatouille

Desserts

**Apricot and white chocolate bread and butter
pudding or triple chocolate eclairs**

Price £5

Please ring Anne and Mick on

01869 337074 by 14 April.

Please note: there is no lunch club in May

Barford Picture House



18 April at 7.45pm in the Village Hall

Nebraska is a 2013 American comedy-drama, black-and-white, road film directed by Alexander Payne.

An irascible old man with incipient dementia receives some junk mail which convinces him that he has won a million dollars. Humouring his delusion, his son drives him all the way to Nebraska to claim his prize. This road movie has much of the atmosphere of The Last Picture Show and is full of mordant humour. Although a tragic outcome looms at the outset, the film has a surprisingly upbeat and life affirming conclusion.

Bruce Dern stars as Woody Grant. Other members of the cast include Will Forte, June Squibb and Bob Odenkirk. Nebraska has received several awards and nominations since its release.

See you at the cinema. Bring alcohol and comfortable chairs if you wish. Contact Gunilla on 01295 720521. This is our last film of the season.



Village

Clean Up Morning Saturday, 11th April

Volunteers will be asked to cover small areas of the village, picking up any litter and debris that they find.

This is YOUR opportunity to do your bit for the village by giving it a bit of a Spring Spruce Up.

If you can spare an hour or so then please join us at the village hall to collect plastic bags and protective tabards, please bring your own old gloves.

Tea, Coffee, soft drinks and delicious doughnuts will be served to all volunteers on their return to the hall.

**Start Time 10.00 at
The Village Hall**

Barford Village Market

in the Village Hall, 10am - 12noon

Saturday 18 April

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 fantastic variety of garden-ready plants, and Chris's alpiners,

**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

For sale

Due to a change of printer, two Epson ink cartridges. Completely new.

T0541 Photo Black

T0549 Blue

£20 - to go to church funds.

Contact Tony or Jan Elvidge 338214

Deddington and District History Society

For our March lecture the Historical Society ventured deep into pre-history when the very lively Paul Sargent held us enthralled on the subject of 'The Dinosaurs of Oxfordshire'.

Few were aware of Oxfordshire's important role in the early years of palaeontology. A diverse range of dinosaurs flourished in this area 170-150 million years ago, when Great Britain was still joined to the continental land mass and when what is now Oxfordshire comprised a series of tropical islands on a latitude with Bermuda today (much wistful sighing from a large audience which had ventured out on a raw March evening). From the earliest recorded discovery of dinosaur remains anywhere (at Stonesfield in the 17th century: the bones were thought to be those of Biblical giants) through to pioneering Oxford scientists in the 19th century, the county has had significant position.

On 8 April Carol Anderson, director of the Oxfordshire Museum at Woodstock, will speak on 'Glovesmaking in Oxfordshire'. We meet at the Windmill Centre at 7.30 and all are welcome. Contact Chris Day (Chairman) on 337204 or Moira Byast (Secretary) on 338637.

Thank You



10.00 - Noon

To everyone who supported our Cuppa for KHH morning last month.

Especial thanks to our lovely cuppa morning girls (Tom, Jo and Zalie for keeping the kettle boiling) and to those who made cakes and provided raffle prizes.

You helped us raise a wonderful £250.00 for hospice funds.

Rock and Roll Night

Don't forget the rock and roll night with Freeway Jam, in the Village Hall

on 11 April.



It's another fundraiser for those kids in Kathmandu.

See notice boards for exact times.

T'Committee

Parish Council Notes

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

Minutes of the last meeting: The minutes of the meeting on 4 February were unanimously resolved as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

Painted signage on roads: Signage on the roads in the two villages is being worn away by traffic. OCC Highways has no plan to resurface the roads in the Barfords and therefore the Parish Clerk asked them if the roads markings could be repainted throughout the two villages. OCC responded stating that there are no funds available this financial year but that they will consider the matter in 2015/2016.

Damage to Barford Bridge: OCC Highways (Bridges) repaired the bridge during the half-term holidays. Councillors thanked Cllr Fatemian and Cllr Williams for their support in this matter. The Parish Clerk had written to Chris Softley at OCC thanking him for arranging the repairs so quickly.

First aid courses: A second Parish Council St John Ambulance first aid course will take place on 9 April. Please contact Cllrs Hobbs or Turner if you would like to attend one of these free courses.

Village spring clean: The annual village spring clean will take place at 10am on 11 April, starting at the Village Hall.

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

Fly tipping: CDC had removed the windows and broken glass which were dumped in Bloodybones Lane, Barford St John. Someone has dumped a window/door frame and broken glass on the road from Barford St Michael to Hempton. The Parish Clerk has contacted CDC and asked them to remove it.

Members' allowance scheme 2015/2016: CDC had issued guidelines for the Members' allowance scheme 2015/2016. Councillors have always elected not to claim any reimbursement and councillors agreed unanimously that this decision should stand for 2015/2016.

District councillor's report:

Clearing of roadside drains and gullies by the bridge – OCC's senior engineer (drainage) recently met the landowner and agreed that OCC will clear the roadside gullies. OCC is now scheduling the work and will inform Cllr Williams when this is possible since it may involve a further road closure. Work will not commence until the new financial year, i.e. after 1 April.

Planning applications received by the Parish Council since the February meeting:

15/00023/TCA St Michael's Church - T15 x copper beech adjacent to Irish yews. Crown lift to 5m and reduce from church by 2m. No objections

15/00164/F 3 Broad Close - First floor extension with single storey extensions to side and rear. Re-submission of 14/00987/F. No objections.

Planning application refused by Cherwell District Council:

14/01859/F, Blackingrove Farm, Summer Ley. Change of use and construction of hard surface tennis court with surrounding fencing. The PC had not objected to the application.

AOB

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on 15 April at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. This will be followed by the Barford Village Hall AGM.

The footpath from Barford St John to South Newington is impassable in places. David Campbell, path warden for The Ramblers' Association, will report this to Sarah Aldous at OCC.

Villagers would like to continue clearing the River Swere. The Environment Agency must be approached in the first instance to ascertain the best time of year to do this because of the conservation of wildlife.

The **Parish Council website** can be accessed on 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 four hours for a severe category.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 1 April at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

**Annual meeting
of the Parish Council
Wednesday 15 April 7.30 pm
in the Village Hall.**

Hear what the Parish Council has been doing during the past year and its plans for the future. Have a say, ask questions, make suggestions. Followed by the annual general meeting of the Village Hall management committee.

Barford Green Gardening Club

Notes from our potting shed

Our AGM was held on 2 March and 28 members attended. It was decided to revive the Open Gardens this year, with renewed vigour. Everyone seemed very keen about it. Many things were discussed and the following decided:



Tuesday 19 May. Plant swap for members at Sarah Best, Street Farm, Barford St. John at 7.30pm. Bring a plant, swap for another....bring something to drink. Light snacks provided.

Sunday 14 June. Open Garden event. Centred around the Village Hall. Teas, scarecrows, photographs and more.

Saturday 25 July. Outing to Dreamers Cottage, Little Haseley with a lunch at Lassco's, Milton Common, beforehand for those that want. Members and friends welcome. Lunch 12.30pm
<http://www.lassco.co.uk/venues/three-pigeons/> and for Dreamers Cottage see
<http://gardenandwood.co.uk/> More details in the next Barford News.

If anyone did not collect their membership cards, Jeff has them. Please take £5 and collect your card. Thank you. Discounts at several garden centres. New most welcome.

Jobs to be done in and around the garden. Who knows what the weather will give us

- keep weeds under control
- protect fruit blossom from late frosts
- tie in climbing and rambling roses
- sow hardy annuals and herb seeds
- start to feed citrus plants
- increase the water given to houseplants
- feed hungry shrubs and roses
- sow new lawns or repair bare patches
- prune fig trees
- divide bamboos and waterlilies

Think about our garden event...design a scarecrow.



Bye for now

Spade and Fork



Nature Notes 137

After a wintry January the first half of February had followed in similar vein, but with very little snow. Persistent high pressure had drawn cold weather down from northern Europe over the first half of the month. This produced very dry air and hard frosts (but not harsh temperatures) as it moved very slowly south-eastward. There was no rain and only a flurry of snow. This belied the old weather-saw of 'February fill-dyke' and the implication from its name as 'fever-month' i.e. 'catch-cold' weather of mist, wet, and cold - sayings still widely used in the 1960s!

High pressure still held sway as I continue these Nature Notes for the 16th, but low and behold, following a frosty night of -0.5° , the day dawned on rain that continued all morning.

A clear, brilliant morning on the 17th encouraged the Steepness green woodpecker to call several times through the day. Two ravens also appeared around Steepness and croaked loudly. During the 18th the HP finally cleared away to SE and cold fronts approached. Nevertheless it did manage to achieve 10° . The 19th was a day of miserable overcast and drizzle, increasing to periods of rain through afternoon on a SW wind. However it didn't deter one or two greenfinches from wheezing their songs from trees in Townsend. After overnight rain, the 20th was a pleasant day of hazy sunshine.

After a night at 0° , a bright sunrise and morning greeted the 21st, but heavy cloud with a little rain, on a light NW breeze, developed after midday. There were heavy snowstorms to the west of the parish, but we Barfordians managed to miss them and the green woodpeckers were noisy between Steepness and Fernhill. The night was one of clear brilliant starlight with the winter constellations edging away to westward. One of the night-sky wonders was revealed with the merest whisp of a crescent moon glinting above brilliant Venus, magnificent as the Evening Star.

After a night of -3° , a clear sunrise on the 22nd quickly dimmed under increasing sky haze and a shriving NW wind at only 3° , to produce early rain.

After a bright sunrise, the 23rd was a day of towering ice-clouds, not cold but with a boisterous SW wind. The green woodpecker was noisy as usual on Steepness, but the day produced for me, one of the most exciting moments in my garden that I've ever had! I was looking at my bird feeders in the Buddleia from my conservatory when, on the fatballs, an unfamiliar grey Tit appeared. It was very bull-necked and its black bib was noticeable. It had dark greyish flanks and a large black cap and a fluffed, almost unkempt appearance. I expected it to



be gone in seconds, but it kept on feeding. In near panic I fetched my binoculars and watched for a couple of minutes as it fed and perched around the fatballs. And then it suddenly stiffened, looked straight at me for a second - and I saw what I was hoping for - the big black cap was dull and slightly fluffy. A willow tit!

Over the years this species has become rare, probably due to loss of its wet woodland, osier-bed type of habitat where it excavates its nesthole in rotting tree stumps. I do not remember the last time I saw one, but it must be 15-20 years ago!

But, back to near normality. On the 24th, I went with my old pal to spend two days on the Norfolk Coast and then the Ouse Washes on the way home. Bitter winds, but wonderful waders and geese on the coast, and then the Bewick and whooper swans on the washes. What a sight - we certainly saw over five hundred whoopers (there were reported to be up to 800) which, with their inflight trumpet calls, made a vista reminiscent of the Arctic Circle on telly. Soon they will be on their way home, the Bewicks to the north coast of Siberia and the whoopers to Iceland and Greenland.

And so, returning to a wet morning and sunny afternoon of 9.5° on the 26th, I was drowsily greeted by the wheezing of our greenfinches again. These beautiful, small birds of soft green, with bright yellow wing and tail markings, have also been the victims of several years' fatal epidemic. Thought to be in a weak recovery now, the epidemic may well have occurred through rotten, infected food from bird tables, etc., that the owners have not kept clean. From now on day temperatures were rising despite the approach of a series of fronts. However, nights remained at or near freezing. The 27th was a day of increasing cloud at 10° . It managed to squeeze out a bronze sunset on the horizon, but the green woodpecker had remained noisy on Steepness. During the night a strange and alarming bout of screaming awoke the residents at the Warren. It was near the newly re-excavated old fish-ponds. The screams induced barn qwls to screech in unison with it and they stopped and started as it did. I could think of only five possible causes:

- a mink catching a water fowl or rabbit
- a stoat doing like-wise
- a fox similarly
- a display/confrontation between a water rail with a rival, or an attack
- Roe deer mating/territorial confrontation.

Mysterious indeed - any other ideas?

And so the weather of the 28th was a follow-on from previous days; a westerly breeze bearing rain with a few early afternoon sunny breaks; unpredictable because of the endless passage of warm and cold fronts. Small goldfinch flocks populated the village and small groups of pied wagtails foraged farmyards. Thus February slid away, apparently recorded by meteorologists as the sunniest February since records began. Judging from the absence of wildlife records, it was certainly a month in which to keep under cover.

Despite every winter's worst efforts, there are moths flying in the cold of night. Many of them are small, incredibly frail creatures, whose wings flicker as they move slowly along hedgerows. They are worth looking at, should you notice them as you drive along a lane, or if the light attracts them to your window. I shall probably repeat this paragraph again in the autumn - so here are some now:

The November moth. Flight Oct/Nov.

Wingspan 35mm. Pale grey crossed by four slightly darker cross-bars.

The December moth. Flight Nov/Dec. Wingspan 37mm (male). 47mm (female). Chubby, furry, dark brown. Each wing crossed by a cream bar.

The Winter moth. Right Oct/Feb. Wingspan 26mm. Small, fragile, pale grey-brown. Females almost wingless. Flies only on windless nights; often in light frost.

The Early moth. Flight Jan/Feb. Wingspan 28mm. Pale grey-brown with dark brown marks. Females Wingless.

The March moth. Flight Spring. Wingspan 32mm. Pale grey-brown crossed by dark wavy cross lines. Females wingless.

The mottled umber. Flight Oct/Dec. Less often into March. Wingspan 42mm. Soft russet-brown. Dark cross lines. Females wingless

There are others, often much bigger and more robust, such as the Oak Beauty, but that's enough for now - look them up in a good Moth book.

I did have a mottled umber arrive at my lighted window one evening in late February. I gently coaxed him into a jar and brought him in for a good look.

What a reserved design of rich chestnut browns!

Then I released him back into the night.

But to return to the date.... enter March, on a clear sunrise and a SW breeze - it didn't last; vicious rainstorms on a high wind, filled the afternoon and into night. However, it did clear to bright moonlight, revealing a beautiful, white barn owl on a fence post beside the B4031 to the west of the parish as I drove home.

The 2nd saw brilliant sun on a high cold wind. The max. temperature was 5° and the long-tailed tits

were happy on my feeders. It appeared to me that the goldfinch flocks were now breaking up into smaller parties.

On the 3rd, broken shower clouds gave way to a heavy rain squall after mid-day, but the birds were active - the green woodpecker below Steepness, a buzzard on top of Steepness and, after dark, a barn owl near Hempton.

Once more there was L.P. to the NW and H.P. approaching from SW. On a cool westerly breeze a flawless sunrise and morning arose on the 4th. The wind dropped and it became milder reaching 11°. The 5th was cooler and near overcast, but a great spotted woodpecker 'kecked' noisily in a churchyard lime tree and a kite sailed around above Irondown. In the air of night time, several larger robust moths were flying, almost certainly there were oak beauty moths among them.

With H.P. now in charge, day temperatures were higher but quite variable. Despite a cool edge to the SW wind, the 7th was a lovely warm day at 16°. buzzards were the bird of the day with a pair at the Manor and one keeping watch from a small chestnut on Steepness.

On the 8th the wind veered to NW in the afternoon with cloud and showery rain increasing. The temperature reached 11.5° but by midnight there was ice on some surfaces! That however, did not put the barn owl off hunting along the B4031.

The weather now went through a welter of changes. A deep Low to the north of the UK on the 9th, put a bite in the air, despite its westerly direction, with a day temp, of 9.5°. Here and there, one could pick up the 'toy, toy, toy' of calling nuthatches, which can be so insistent at this time of year.

The 10th saw the approach of a very rapidly moving High from SW and the temperature went up to 15°. This was enough to bring my first hoverfly of the year on the wing. It flew in a window, settled for a few minutes on a bunch of chrysanthemums I had bought, and then flew off through the window into the sun once more. It was *eristalis tenax*, one of our commonest 'hovers'. Just great!

By the 11th the H.P. was passing, We were faced on the 12th by oncoming L.P. with fronts in the NW and continental winds from SE. There was now an E - W weather divide up the UK. Temperatures remained fairly warm at 14° and skies tended to be overcast. The 13th dawned wet, but a little blue sky slowly developed in the afternoon, with pleasant sun at 11°. However by the 14th there was a cold NE breeze and despite sunny breaks, the temperature was back down to 6°. As I close these Nature Notes on the 15th, there is a numbing NE wind under an overcast sky. The max. temperature for the day has been 6°. Most wildlife has retired under cover again, having

been led astray by the recent unseasonably warm spell. Now is the starvation time for both little ones and big ones. Several birds will already have eggs, if not young. The insect food sources have retreated again, and the seed scatter is spent. Let us hope this cold spell will end quickly and bring relief to our birds, mammals and insects.

Ron Knight



As the weather continues to warm up, so the opportunities for cutting back and pruning in the wood diminish for various reasons. One is that the birds will be nest building and should not be disturbed and another is that the trees will be putting on new spring growth.

The very successful Logs for Labour events run by the Woodland Trust during the winter have now ended and the Friends will be focussing on general tidying and maximising enjoyment and appreciation of the wood. We will be holding our AGM in April. If you would like to get involved and become a Friend, at present £5 annually, contact Annette Murphy at Annette-orchard@live.co.uk or phone 336195.

I'm looking for a jogging buddy or buddies

Is there anyone in Barford who'd like to jog....at a nice steady pace, perhaps working towards a 10k run later in the year.

Phone Helen on 01869 337850.



**Alice would like to thank everyone who bought cakes from her on Red Nose Day.
She raised £50.**

**Many thanks
Gillian, The Long House**

Fernhill Club News

Due to various colds, visits to hospital and doctors, a knee operation and radio therapy, we had a bumpy start to this year. I think that we are all recovered now.



However, we are very disappointed to have so few members from Barford St. Michael and only one from Barford St John. It is **your** club and has been going since 1977.

Our year started on 14 January with playing cards. On 21st we were amused and educated by Chris Smith, a driving instructor who gave us tips and funny stories from some of his pupils.

On 4 February we enjoyed a fish and chip lunch in the hall. On 11 March we had a birthday at Barn Farm Plants up Upper Wardington. Everyone thought their meal was wonderful, which was followed by a look around the garden centre, the shop and the antique centre.

On 18 April we will have Kathryn Wheeler coming to give us a cookery demonstration.

We are in the process of arranging a new programme and would really love to see some new members come along to our meetings. Everyone is welcome to join us in the Village Hall at 2.30pm on Wednesdays.

Mary Ashbridge 01295 252 298,
Maggie Blackhall 01869 338 938.



The Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum is unveiling a new exhibition in August that celebrates the links between Oxfordshire and military aviation. 'Above The Dreaming Spires – Oxfordshire's Great War Aviation Story' will chronicle the impact of the first air war on individuals and families across the county.

Airfields and depots sprang up at Bicester, Milton, Port Meadow, Upper Heyford, Weston-on-the-Green and Witney. Ground training was undertaken at Henley as well as Christchurch and Merton Colleges. Oxfordshire's Home Front played an important part in sustaining the air war on the Western Front and in the creation of the Royal Air Force.

The Museum would to hear from any readers who have a personal or family connection with early military aviation or who have stories, documents and photographs about military aviation in Oxfordshire. Contact Ursula Corcoran on 01993 810 212 or email airpowerteam@sofo.org.uk

Friends of Deddington Library

The Friends of Deddington Library have been busy these past weeks; the volunteers are now trained and are supporting Monday, Thursday and Saturday opening hours each week. Subscriber numbers are now up to 75 but we need to reach 200 to maintain library opening hours. Please join us to help keep this fabulous community resource functioning.

Subscription forms can be found at www.friendsofdeddingtonlibrary.org



Renowned local author Linda Newbery has agreed to become our patron, Linda is an enthusiastic supporter and we thank her for her continued support.

Used inkjet cartridges: Deddington Library is collecting spent ink cartridges for recycling, an eco-friendly way to dispose of your used cartridges and help us raise funds too. Drop them off at the library, they will be very gratefully received.



1st Deddington Scout Group

Cubs

Two new members have joined us, Charlie and Will. Let's hope they are with us a long time.

During the half term break, the Cubs performed their puppet show, The Old Lady Who Swallowed the Fly. They were great and the show was enjoyed by a large number of parents. We have been continuing work towards the animal carer badge, pet passports and bird feeders; we should see a lot of cubs counting birds and walking dogs.

Dylan, Ben, Harry and Daniel represented the pack at the District Egg Race where they had to build and race a small cart to safely carry an egg. Both teams did very well. Coming soon: trips to Crocodiles of the World, district camp and fun day. Jo Churchyard C.S.L. jochurchyard@hotmail.com



Scouts

The Scouts contribution to the evening of entertainments was, well, unforgettable and it will take a long time before we will erase the memory of Fynn as Carol Vorderman, in their version of Countdown (Scoutdown). Jack's faultless card tricks in The Great Nate counteracted the bloodthirsty "cutting the Scout in half" that followed.

A representative from Special Effects, a local charity that adapts gaming machines for disabled children, visited one evening, with some impressive equipment that the scouts tried out. Coming soon: aqua camp and the 24.

Explorers

The lads helped out with refreshments for the entertainments night and are working on fundraising ideas following the Special Effects visit. Coming soon: County Explorer scout activity weekend. Pete Churchyard S.L. pete.churchyard@btinternet.com

Deddington PTA



We are pleased that the PTA and PFSU/Nursery curry and quiz night in Barford Village Hall was a huge success.

Those of us crazy enough to be taking part in the Monster Race at Cornbury Park on 26 March! (<http://www.monsterrace.co.uk/> for more details) are training.

The better weather helps, although we will be wet and muddy on the day. Anyone who would like to sponsor us please visit www.justgiving.com/DeddingtonMudMonsters/ You will be supporting Deddington Primary School PTA and Deddington PFSU and Nursery.

We are also looking ahead to the Four Farms Challenge on 10 May, the second year we have run this event with the PFSU/Nursery and Deddington Fire Service.

There will be the 5K, 10K and children's fun run, around Deddington Parish. It will start and finish at Castle Grounds where there will be a barbecue, bar, tombola, cakes and popcorn. For more information visit www.fourfarmschallenge.co.uk.

Finally we are already busy planning the school fete, which will be on 4 July. We would be very interested to hear from anyone with suggestions for the main attraction or sponsorship for the event.

Please contact me on deddingtonpta@gmail.com if you can help.

We continue to use the funds we raise to support the school and have recently purchased team sports kits, music lessons and we will be subsidising the costs of the school trip to see the Lion King in July. Thank you for your continued support.

Julia Jackman, co-chair, Deddington PTA.
deddingtonpta@gmail.com

Deddington PFSU and Village Nursery

With the approach of spring and the warmer weather our thoughts have turned to the outdoors and some special celebrations. The nursery children invited their mums to celebrate Mother's Day with a special breakfast, and the PFSU children spent a creative week making their mums cupcake cards and paper flowers. We hope the lucky recipients enjoyed them!

Easter will bring some chocolatey cooking and Easter egg hunts around the garden and all the fun of our holiday club. We have been watching the bulbs we planted last autumn grow and flower and have been busy planting seeds for some summer colour.

The PFSU children also spent a sunny morning at the castle grounds looking for signs of spring. Thank you to the parents who have brought in vehicles for us to see - a large blue tractor and a motorbike have been in to see us and were much enjoyed.

Thank you also to everyone who supported our recent quiz night and the jumble sale. Our next fund-raising event is our spring hamper raffle, which will take place at Deddington Farmers' Market on 25 April. Please do buy a ticket or several when you see us there.

We also have an intrepid team entering the 10K Muddy Run at Cornbury Park on 18 April, raising funds for the PFSU, Nursery and Deddington Primary School PTA.

Don't forget we also welcome your donations of Sainsbury's active kids vouchers at either the PFSU or Nursery. Lastly, we are delighted to welcome Janet Bird and Charlotte Witka onto the staff team.

Lucy Squires
337484

Cherwell rolls out wheeled bin service

If you are preparing to embark on some spring cleaning or DIY you could benefit from a new service being offered by Cherwell District Council.

The home and garden waste scheme allows you to hire a large wheeled bin with a capacity of about 1,000 litres to dispose of any garden or home waste.

The bins can be hired on a one, two or three week basis and provide a cheap alternative to hiring a skip.

Instead of hiring a skip, which can be expensive, the service allows you to hire a large wheeled bin which is about four times the size of their standard household wheelie bin. You can use it to dispose of either home or garden waste, though the two should never be mixed. Aside from being cheaper to hire than a skip, the benefits of the wheeled bin mean it can be moved for convenience and is lockable to prevent other people flytipping rubbish into the bin.

Each bin costs £48 per order to hire for up to three weeks and includes the loaning of an additional blue recycling bin for household waste such as plastics, paper and cardboard.

Upon being dropped off at a property bins can be moved to suit residents (dependent upon the contents' weight) but will need to be returned to the original drop off point to enable crews to collect on the agreed date.

You can book a bin by calling on 01295 221916, or by emailing homeandgardenservice@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

1st Deddington Guides

A trust band spent a happy few hours getting muddy, working hard at the Horley Scout campsite. We often enjoy using this lovely site, so thought we would say thank you by volunteering to help prepare the site for spring.

We hauled fallen branches onto the tractor-trailer to clear the woods for new growth. We also pruned some of the trees on the camp field. It was great fun, getting a ride in the trailer and learning about how the tractor engine worked.

Many city children enjoy camping on the site, so we planted soft fruit bushes to enhance their experience and to learn where the fruit comes from. Planting bulbs was our last task before having a great cookout on hot dogs and marshmallows.

Thinking day this year was celebrated with international craft activity and a taste of Chinese food by senior guides working towards their Baden-Powell Award. We completed the evening with a candle ceremony thinking of guides in other parts of the world and considering what we can do in our own way to promote world peace.

Look out for our entertainment on 24 March at 7.30pm. Please support us in raising money for Charity

Guiders

Maggie Rampley 01295 810069;

Marion Trinder 01869 340806;

Catherine Blackburn 01295 258008.

From The Fire Station



There have been some unusual call outs this month. I reported before on a fish tank that had caught the early spring light, magnified it, and caught some cloth on fire. This time it was a glass ornament on a window sill that had done the same. This happens more often at this time of year because the sun is low, but still strong. Our advice is to keep glass objects away from the windows and in the shade.

Another call was to a child that had locked itself in a car. He was given the door fob to hold whilst being put in the car. When the door shut he accidentally pushed the button and locked himself in. Things like this happen all the time. I've put shopping in the car, left the keys on the seat and had the car automatically lock itself. It's important to keep calm. The child is safe and if it's hot you can cover the windows to give shade. If you can't get a second key, call us and we'll have the child out in under thirty seconds.

This month there were just two chimney fires and luckily no road traffic crashes, which is always good.

Colin Smith and I attended the fire college at Moreton to do a one day training event. It was a real success. I was in charge of four practice incidents. One was a light aircraft that had crashed that was on fire and had a person that needed rescuing. Another was a house fire that I had to investigate and found to be an arson attack. The feedback we got from the day was really positive - they are always impressed with how Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue conduct their business. The collegeseers crews from all over the country and world so I take that as a real compliment.

Congratulations to Barney Alton who is now riding the appliance. He has a few shouts under his belt

already. His first was an alarm at Middle Barton in a sheltered housing unit where an older adult had fallen asleep and filled their home with smoke from a burnt dinner. He also helped rescue the child from the car mentioned above. Rachel Freeman is now back after having surgery on her hand. It has been a long process and very frustrating for her. She is one of our longest serving fire fighters and has a lot of knowledge and experience.

It is our charity car wash on 21 March, from 10am until 2pm. We hope to see you all there for your cars to be cleaned by the crew.

Crew Manager Tim Parker, Deddington Fire Station

Deddington Tennis Club



With the evenings getting longer the new tennis season is about to begin. We are holding group adult beginners coaching to encourage more people to try tennis, and rusty racquets coaching for those who have played before and are interested in returning. Courses are open to members and non-members. Details on the club website: www.deddingtontennis.com

Adult club nights begin from 1 April with Tuesday and Sunday club mornings continuing as usual. New members welcome.

Our coach, Wayne Ellis, is running the next kids' tennis camp from 30 March to 2 April. The camp is open to members and non-members but register early as places are limited – see www.deddingtontennis.com/coaching/camp

The club has entered four mixed teams in the Banbury and District Summer League. These matches are played in the evenings. We have also entered one ladies' team and one men's team in the OLT A Wilson weekend league. Any members interested please contact match secretary. Sue Watts www.deddingtontennis.com

Deddington Festival:

Celebrating the UNESCO Year of Light

The 13th annual Deddington Festival will take place between 12 June and 20 June with acts and events celebrating the UNESCO Year of Light. This year's festival will be a fun-packed eight days with new additions to the programme. It offers music, comedy, performing and visual arts to Deddington and the surrounding villages. Highlights this year include:

Wriggle Dance Theatre: 12 June, 3.30pm,
Deddington Primary School Hall

A dance, music, and storytelling workshop for tiny tots. During the workshop performers and participants embark on a journey to find the moon.

Akeman Voices Concert: 13 June, 7.30pm,
Deddington Church

North Oxfordshire's leading chamber choir present their first concert since the 2013 Christmas concert

Clive and Dave Magic Act: 14 June, 11am, Windmill Centre

Award winning duo, Carl and Dave are a comedy magic illusion act for children who keep their audience in suspense and in stitches.

Tam and Tea Children's Art Workshop: 16 June, 4pm -5.30pm, Windmill Centre

Pottery artist and children's art teacher Tam Levene, will run a children's art session. Children can paint a beautiful mug which Tam will then glaze and fire. Older children can create funky designs with specialist paint and tools.

Cotswold Comedy Club: 18 June, 8pm, Windmill Centre

Three professional comedians from the world of stand-up comedy.

Deddy Jazz: 19 June, 7.30pm, Deddington Parish Church

Contemporary jazz with international influences.

Deddy Rocks: 20 June from 2pm, Market Square

This year's line-up includes Platinum, The Vents and Drive Dogs. With a barbeque, ice creams, beers and bands from 2pm. Main concert starts at 6pm. Visit <http://www.deddingtonfestival.org.uk/what-s-on/deddy-rocks/>

For further programme information visit www.deddingtonfestival.org.uk Facebook and Twitter @DeddyFest.

The Deddington Festival is organised by residents in Deddington and the surrounding villages with a passion for the arts. The concept began in 2002 as a way to create an annual event that celebrates local talent and cultural initiatives. To get involved email emmanoon1@gmail.com

To become a Friend of the Deddington Festival email Inceelligarnett@hotmail.co.uk

For sponsorship opportunities email suzieupson@mac.com



200 Club winners March draw

£25, No. 183, Mitchell family

£15, No. 205, Jacq Thunder

£10, No. 112, Danielle Semple

£5, No. 189, The Dave Wheeler

The draw took place at
Cuppa morning



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Trainee dog groomer offering a caring dog grooming service at competitive prices

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*BSc (Hons) Animal Welfare and seven years' experience working in animal rehoming centre

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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



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