



£10 notes given away!

Barford Church would like to give you a £10 note at the October Barford Farmers Market on Saturday 17th or during a special service at 6:00pm on Sunday 18th!



We would like you to use this to raise money for the Nepalese Orphanage, the Church and Barford News. For example, buy ingredients to bake and sell cakes, make some jam or hold a dinner party and charge people to come along, sow seeds for produce to sell, make and sell things for Christmas or Easter, run a quiz - the possibilities are endless; only make sure it is legal!

The project will run for a year but you can return your £10 and the money raised, however big or small, whenever you like.

The idea is based on the parable told by Jesus where a wealthy man entrusted his servants with large sums of money (five Talents to one, two to another and one to a third) while he went on a long journey. On his return two of the servants had doubled the money left with them and the third simply buried it in the ground and dug it back up on the master's return.

Avoid burying the £10 note but see if you can come up with an ingenious way of making it grow! Look out for the small adverts in future copies of Barford News.

Parish Council Notes

A Meeting of the Parish Council took place at 7.35pm on 2 September 2015 in Barford Village Hall and was attended by Cllrs Hobbs, Eden, Hanmer, Campbell, Turner, County Cllr Fatemian (part), District Cllr Williams (part) and Mrs Watts (Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer). Apologies were received from Cllr Styles.

Minutes of the last meeting: The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 1 July 2015 were unanimously RESOLVED as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

Report from County Cllr Fatemian:

- OCC consultation on the household waste recycling strategy for Oxfordshire ends on 5 October. Residents are urged to put their views forward on www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/waste
- OCC consultation on supported transport ends on 14 September
- OCC's CEO has stepped down. The CEO post is being reviewed.
- OCC is sharing some services with Hampshire CC (e.g. IT, payroll, HR).

Report from District Cllr Williams: OCC is going to clear the drains and gullies north of the bridge and Cllr Williams is chasing them for a start date.

Dog Bin for Bloodybones Lane: a dog bin for Bloodybones Lane is due to be installed.

Noticeboard Townsend: a request from a villager for a new noticeboard for Townsend was considered. It was unanimously agreed that the present noticeboard is still functional and the request was therefore refused. The Village Hall Management Committee is responsible for the noticeboard in the village hall grounds.

Proposed Wooden Play Equipment for West Close: The Parish Council is still waiting for a review from Cherwell District Council of the pre-application advice previously given by them.

Bus Routes: There is a new Bartons/Duns Tew/Deddington shuttle bus service. This is very similar to one which Councillors would like to see serve the Barfords. County Cllr Fatemian will speak to OCC's transport department to see it would be possible for a shuttle bus to call at the two villages.

Council Tax: Every year, the level of council tax for Cherwell District Council (CDC), Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley (PCC) is determined by dividing the amount of money required to cover spending on service delivery by the

number of properties for which council tax is payable – expressed as band D equivalents. The number of band D equivalent properties varies each year as a result of new homes being built and old ones being demolished. The number is also affected by the level of people eligible for discounts and council tax reduction (the replacement for council tax benefit).

The cost in 2015/2016 for the Barfords is £1,548.87 for a Band D property. This is made up of OCC - £1,232.46, PCC £163.70 and CDC 123.50 (includes £29.21 for the Parish Council).

Planning Applications/TCAs received by the Parish Council since the July meeting:

- 15/01263/F October House, The Green, StM. Single storey rear extension. No objection
- 15/00244/TCA College Farmhouse, Horn Hill, StM. T1 x Sycamore – fell. No objection
- 15/01278/TPO Orchard House, Lower St, StM. T1 x ash – crown lift 6m from ground level and remove overhanging branch. No objection
- 15/00259/TCA Stonehaven, Lower St, StM. T1 x Maple – reduce height & width by 10ft. T2 x Willow – remove and shorten branches. T3 x Ash – remove lower branches overhanging neighbours drive and road. No objection
- 15/01349/F Ayot Croft, Townsend, StM. Demolish garage and erect single storey front, side and rear extension. No objection.
- 15/01354/F Land to rear of Applea Banks, Lower St, StM. Change of use of land to garden. Councillors have raised concerns that by allowing the land to be turned into a brownfield site, the site could be developed at some time in the future.
- 15/00270/TCA The Homestead, StM. T1 x Yew – crown thin by 15%, cut back from roof by 1.0m. T2 x Sycamore and T3 x Norway Spruce - fell

Decisions Received from Cherwell District Council:

- 15/00170/TCA Staddlestones, Horn Hill, StM. T1 x Ash, T3 & T4 x Leylandii – fell. T2 x cherry – reduce overall crown by maximum of 1m. No objection. Granted 3 July.
- 15/01074/F Blackingrove Farm. Summer Ley, StM. Alterations and conversion of existing garage to ancillary living accommodation. No objection. Granted 6 August.
- 15/00873/F 20 Broad Close. Erection of first floor rear extension. No objection. Granted 16 June.
- 15/00205/TCA St Michael's Church. T1 x Western Red Cedar – fell. T2 x Unknown ornamental – fell. No objection. Granted 7 August.

Application Withdrawn by Applicant:

- 15/01030/F 3 Old Council House, Townsend, StM. Erection of two storey side, single storey rear extension and garage with associated internal and external works.

External Audit - End of Year Accounts (2014-2015): the accounts for 2014/15 have been approved by external auditors BDO LLP, with no matters arising.

S137 Grant Application: an application for a S137 grant was received in June from Barford Village Hall Committee. Financial details had been provided and at the July meeting Councillors discussed the application with a village hall committee member in attendance. Councillors had had time to consider the application and Cllr Hobbs proposed that a grant of £800 be awarded. This was seconded by Cllr Turner and approved unanimously.

December PC Meeting: There will be no Parish Council meeting in December as the village hall will be in use for the pantomime and there is no suitable alternative venue for the Parish Council to use.

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> OCC's contractor pledges to fix potholes within 28 days, 24 hours in an emergency and within 4 hours for a severe category.

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



BARFORD PICTURE HOUSE

Our first film of 2015/16 Season will be the new take on a classic story.

Far from the Madding Crowd

Saturday, 17th October

A 2015 British romantic drama film directed by Thomas Vinterberg and starring Carey Mulligan, Matthias Schoenaerts, Michael Sheel, Ton Sturridge and Juno Temple.

It is an adaptation of the 1874 novel by Thomas Hardy, the fourth time this novel has been filmed.

It was shot in Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Dorset and London.

TICKETS: £4.00 on the door, or £18.00 for a Season Ticket covering 6 films.

DOORS OPEN 7.15 and films start at 7.45, unless notified.



Sunday 4th October

4pm St. Michael's Church

The church will be decorated on Saturday, 3rd from 10.30am

Please could you leave your donations of flowers, vegetables, fruit and general produce in the porch on Saturday morning.

Your donations to the harvest festival service will be given to the Leonard Cheshire Home in Banbury

Church Fete

I would like to thank all those who gave their time so generously towards the running of the church fete. The weather yet again was not good but not as disastrous as last year, and we managed to raise £1,867 which will go towards the maintenance of the two churches and the Parish Share, which this year is over £11,000. Most of that amount goes towards our share of the vicar for her salary and pension and no, there are no central funds for the running of our parish, it all comes down to you and your donations.

So thank you all who turned out on such a damp day and spent your money on the various stalls. It is all much appreciated. And thank you to all of those who contributed to the stalls, whether with cakes, bottles, bric a brac, plants, produce or a dog show, as without your donations it wouldn't be possible.

If anyone feels inspired to set up a standing order to help maintain our churches, please ask Jeremy Eastwood on 01869 337021 and he can give you a form to fill in. It is solely up to the Barfords themselves to fund our two churches. If no further funds are forthcoming we shall have to look again at closing St John's.

Cubby Brett
Churchwarden for the Barfords

FETE FIGURES

	Stalls	Takings	
		2015	2014
1	Bottle Stall	£175.00	£162.00
2	Tombola	£54.70	£79.20
3	Punch	£106.00	£88.90
4	Raffle	£123.00	£159.10
5	White Elephant	£243.43	£96.70
	WE Pre-sale	£20.00	
6	Weight of the Cake	£18.50	£23.00
7	Books Stall	£103.40	£75.87
8	Plants	£92.40	£92.31
	Pre plant sale	£200.00	£160.00
9	Teas	£186.60	£158.40
10	Gate	£122.10	£205.80
11	Dog Show	£17.00	£16.00
12	Treasure Hunt	£113.00	£15.20
13	Cakes and Produce	£184.40	£151.20
14	Toffee Apples	£25.00	
15	Bouncy Castle	£10.00	
16	Donations	£72.50	
	Total	£1,867.03	
	Coconut Shy		£59.00
	Sweets in a Jar		£15.00
	Toys		£40.05
	Donation		£20.00
		2014 Total	£1,617.73



Stallholders managed to keep cheerful despite the weather ---- particularly those on the PIMMs Stall!!



Barford News Appeal for Funding

Dear and Valued Readers,

For more than 20 years your Barford News has been produced by a small team of dedicated volunteers, and delivered to your door completely free of charge by another small team of volunteers. Over recent years it has become increasingly difficult to increase our income to cover printing costs.

Current printing costs are £189 per issue = **£2,268** per year.

Annual Income (Sept 2014 – Oct 2015):

Advertising £1,041.00

(this fluctuates according to the number and size of ads).

Donations From readers: £230.00

(since September 2014).

Total Income: **£1,271.00**

Leaving a shortfall of **997.00**

In addition to the above our Parish Council gave us a one-off grant of £600 in June, thereby leaving a deficit **£397.00** to cover annual printing costs.

We also have a website to maintain, and, although annual costs for this are relatively low, there is an outstanding invoice of **£400.00** to settle for work done in previous years.

The three of us on the production team spend a good deal of our own time in putting Barford News together and we are now asking for your support to keep us going.

If you enjoy receiving our village newspaper, please help us by putting a small donation for our funds into the enclosed envelope and returning it to Stonehaven.

Many thanks in anticipation

Tony, Mariann and Caroline

What's on this autumn at WI?

Coming up this month is an intriguingly titled talk 'Guns and Roses', a journey from soldier to mother to author. In November, Kathryn Wheeler will be giving a cookery demonstration of Oxfordshire foods 'From Banbury Cakes Hollygog Pudding'. If you don't know what Hollygog pudding is, why not come along and find out? To round off the year in December, we'll be making willow decorations.

Visitors are always welcome in the village hall on the second Wednesday of each month. Look out for more details in each month's Barford News or on the village website.

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Poppy Day Appeal 2015: Collector Needed

After more than 20 years as a volunteer selling poppies for the Poppy Appeal in Barford St John Helen Honour has decided it is time to retire.

If there is any one in the Barfords who would be willing to carry on the task of selling poppies in St John I would be grateful to hear from them.

The task involves knocking on doors in St John and selling poppies before Remembrance Sunday. The period for house to house selling this year is between 24th October and 7th November.

If anyone is interested would they please contact me on 01869 338956.

Finally I must thank Helen on behalf of the Royal British Legion for her dedicated work. She has been a great volunteer and over the years collected many hundreds of Pounds.

Thank you Helen.

Bernard Lane.

Poppy Collection Organiser
The Barfords

Barford Green Garden Club

We are hoping to visit the garden detailed below on the first Saturday afternoon in June 2016. More details to follow but we would need a group of 10 people.



Steane Park Garden in Northamptonshire. This stunning garden is located just outside Brackley close to the borders of Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire. It is situated adjacent to the site of the old medieval village of Steane, which is mentioned in Domesday book.

Steane Park Garden is approached via parkland, with an abundance of classic trees and a smattering of wild flowers. The sense of history is strong with a beautiful church, built by Thomas Crewe in 1620 adjacent to the lake and ancient stew ponds. The attractive formal gardens, governed by a stunning copper beech and a classic cedar of Lebanon, leads to a more relaxed wooded area next to the lake, with wandering paths, wild flowers and an amusing folly. The effect is one of rural peace and calm.

Seed Catalogues

Rodney Hobbs has again offered to organise discount seed orders for members. Catalogues will be available soon. Watch this space.



'Bye for now'
Spade and Fork





Guide report

1st Deddington Guides

News about our Summer Camps.

A large contingent went to Quest, the 5 yearly Oxfordshire International Guide Camp. What a wonderful week that was, here are some of the Guide views:-

"I enjoyed the International Drummers, and the badge swop with American and Mexican Girl Scouts"

"I loved going to the activity camp and doing the trapeze challenge, also the slack lining"

"We enjoyed meeting new people from different places, making new friends, and everything about camp"

And from the Guides who camped at North Aston, where the Guides cooked all their meals on wood fires, and had to collect all the water and wood:-

"My favourite things about camp was all the exciting adventures and activities, including making and testing our own swings."

"The making of the trapeze, the blindfold trail through the woods and stream."

"Exploring the village and church, learning a bit of its history"

"I loved the food, it was home cooked, and I enjoyed doing the cooking, especially egg bread and the chocolate pudding"

"We enjoyed building shelters and all the games"

"We thought moving into the mess tent on the last night in the rain was great, we loved sleeping all together, singing and telling stories, it was fun"

And well done to the two brave Guides who slept out in the shelters they had built themselves. Both are only 11 and obviously made of strong stuff.

Thank you so much to Mr. Taylor and Mr. & Mrs. Busby for their kind hospitality.

Now we're back to business for the new term fire lighting and 's'mores', (toasted marshmallows, chocolate and biscuits), (you'll be back for more.) We're also planning wide games, patrol leader elections, a pet evening, winter camp, science sensations, film night, craft activities and much much more,

Girls aged 10 or over are all welcome.

Maggie Rampley. 01295 810069
Marion Trinder. 01869 340806
Catherine Blackburn

200 Club results

September draw

£25, No. 142, Dorrie Cox

£15, No.176, Emily Cox

£10, No.136, Heather Nason

£5, No.188, David Tew

The draw took place at a
Thursday cuppa morning

DEDDINGTON HEALTH CENTRE

2015 Flu Vaccination Clinics

FLU VACCINATION SEASON IS HERE

Saturday mornings

October: 3rd, 10th, 17th 9am–12pm

November 14th 2015

Weekday clinics in October & November 2015:

Mondays 5pm - 6pm

Tuesdays (CHILDREN ONLY – dob 31.8.08 to 1.9.14)

3.30pm - 4.30pm

Wednesdays 5pm – 6pm

Thursdays 2pm - 3pm

Fridays 3pm – 4pm

Those who are eligible:

- Children with date of birth 31.8.08 to 1.9.14.
- Anyone 65 years old and over on March 31st 2015.
- Anyone with a long term condition: Asthma (if on a steroid inhaler), COPD, Diabetes, Heart Disease, Chronic Kidney or Liver Disease, Neurological Disease.
- Anyone who has an organ transplant or on immunosuppression drugs.
- Anyone on chemotherapy.
- Anyone who has had a stroke.
- Nursing home residents.
- Pregnant women.
- Carers.

Book up now and get protected from flu!

Please phone for an appointment on **01869 338611**

Please note, flu vaccinations needed for your job are provided by your employer.



The Barfords Annual Christmas Lunch 2015



Saturday 28th November 12.45 for 1pm

This is open to all residents of the villages who are over 60, and their spouses/partners. Invitations will be sent out at the beginning of November to everyone that we know of who qualifies. If you are eligible to attend and you do not receive an invitation, please accept our apologies and let Aggie know (01869 338406).

Please can we have your replies by **Saturday 21st November**, even if you are unable to attend, so we can plan the quantities of food to purchase. **Please let us know about special dietary requirements ie. nut allergy, gluten intolerance etc.** PLEASE NOTE: we are not planning on offering a vegetarian option unless informed of vegetarians attending.

Funding: Following the very generous contributions received at the more recent lunches, we will have a donations box again on the day. Whilst donations are purely voluntary, all are gratefully received and can help towards the continuation of this village event. Anyone with additional fundraising ideas please let Sarah, Mary or Aggie know.

Helpers: Although we have a list of helpers who volunteer regularly we are always keen to add new names to the list so we have a wide pool of people to call upon. So if you have some time to spare on the day or could make a pudding please get in touch with Aggie on the above number. It is always a lovely event and starts the Christmas season off in the village. We will be in touch in the next few weeks with those people who have helped in previous years.

Aggie Morrison Booth, Mary Brodey and Sarah Best



A Big Thank You from Rodney Hobbs



Many of you will know that I have decided to retire on 30th September and I would like to thank all in the villages for the wonderful support you have given me over the years.

I saw my first hypnotherapy patient on 1st January 1985 and subsequently qualified as an osteopath at the end of 1991, initially working in Deddington before working exclusively from my own clinic at Pear Tree Cottage a few years later.

I have lost count of the number of people from The Barfords I have treated over the years and I really appreciate the support and loyalty you have shown over the years. I'll miss massaging and adjusting backs, necks, shoulders and limbs and, even more, miss helping to ease the aches and pains of all who have trusted themselves to my care.

I'll still be around and will do my best to point anyone in the direction of others I can trust to offer good professional treatments and I am negotiating with another therapist experienced in massage and related techniques to work from my clinic.

Once again a huge Thank You to everyone.

Rodney

What's On At Banbury Museum

Frost, Family and Friends

A Unique Centenary Celebration of Sir Terry Frost RA. Until 9th January. Entry Free- Donations welcome

This exhibition sees a return of artwork by Sir Terry Frost RA, one of Britain's most successful and highly acclaimed abstract artists of the 20th Century. During the Sixties and early Seventies he lived in Banbury and this exhibition, marking what would have been his 100th birthday, celebrates the personal side of his life.

Once Upon A Time

Saturdays 10.30-12.30 and 2.00 – 4.00pm Ages 3+.
£2.00 per child

Once upon a time there was a crafty corner at Banbury Museum where creative children could make their own versions of fairy-tale characters from the big bad wolf, the wicket witch, Rapunzel's tall Tower to the kissable frog, a pet-doll fairy, and a porridge loving bear

Banbury Museum Survey 2015-09-08 Have your say and shape the future Of your museum

We have received funding from Arts Council England to undertake an important piece of research, as part of our ongoing commitment to best understand the perceptions and requirements of our visitors.

To help us with this we have commissioned **Muse Research**, an independent market research company. You may be contacted by them in the next few weeks to ask whether you would be willing to take part in a survey, the email invitation to the survey will come from banburymuseum@cobalt-sky.com.

Electric Blanket Testing

OCC Fire & Rescue Service

Offer free tests In Banbury on

7th October

Testing by appointment only

Contact 01865 815000

Charity Dinner Huge Congratulations to

Anne & Mick Pearson

and their team of volunteers for the fantastic charity dinner they provided for 48 hungry supporters on Saturday 5th September.

Anne & Mick used the surplus from Tuesday lunches to fund the entire three course dinner. The total raised on the evening was a stonking **£931.05**, all of which will go to the Helpless Mother Childrens Centre in Kathmandu.



Pictured l to r: Ray Cox, Maya Sherpa-Moore, Kathryn Wheeler, Anne & Mick Pearson, Gunilla Treen. In front a Geoff & June Ward. Mariann Young ran the raffle, Pete Eden organised the pound rolling to help bolster the takings and Leon Daly gave the vote of thanks. A fantastic evening and an excellent result.



October 25th

3 – 5pm

Barford Village Hall

**Kids..... bring and adult!
Adults Bring a child!**

CELEBRATION

ACTIVITIES FOOD

FUN

&

MESSY STUFF!



LECTURE PROGRAMME

All lectures are from 7.00pm-8.30pm at the SOFO Museum, Park Street, Woodstock, OX20 1SN, 01993 810 210. See www.sofo.org.uk for more information

'CHURCHILL'S SECRET ARMY'

Gilly Halcrow

A fascinating insight into SOE.

Wednesday 4th November 2015

Tickets £15.00



'ABOVE THE DREAMING SPIRES— OXFORDSHIRES GREAT WAR AVIATION STORY'

Peter Dye

Wednesday 5th December 2015

Tickets £10.00

'600 YEARS OF OXFORDSHIRE YEOMANRY'

Colonel (Retd) John Bridgeman

Wednesday 3rd February 2016

Tickets £5.00



'MY FATHER AND I'

Sir Felix Brunner's Great War letters

Sir Hugo Brunner

Wednesday 2nd March 2016

Tickets £15.00

'REDCOATS TO RIFLEMEN'

Key moments from the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry's history

Brigadier (Retd) David Innes

Wednesday 5th April 2016

Tickets £5.00



THE POPPY APPEAL 2015



To all Barfordians

Remembrance Sunday this year is to be held on Sunday 8th November. There is never a lessening in the need for funds to enable the Royal British Legion carry out its important work helping the veterans of all our recent conflicts. Those who fought recently in Iraq and Afghanistan and were injured are still in need. In addition there are still servicemen and their dependants affected by the 1939/45 war, Korea, Malaysia, Falklands, and other smaller conflicts like Sierra Leon: they still need your help.

Between Saturday 24th October and Saturday 7th November willing volunteers will be knocking on your doors asking for a contribution to The Poppy Appeal Fund. Your contribution will be used by the Royal British Legion to help Servicemen and their families who are in need.

In return for your generosity you will be given a Poppy to wear. Wear it with pride.

PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY

B.E.L., Poppy Collection Organiser for the Barfords

So you think you know all about the Barfords' Treasure Hunt Results

A huge thank you to everyone who bought an entry to the Treasure Hunt. The idea was for something different as a fund raiser. Most everyone who took part said they enjoyed exploring our lovely villages and when they were out and about it became quite a sociable event meeting people in the village they hadn't spoken to before and found things they had not really ever noticed!

We tried to choose a range of photos to identify, some easy through to more difficult - many of you found the old fire insurance symbol on Laurel Cottage which we thought would stump you! The phone number for the B&B at Little Bridge House seemed more challenging. There was no way we could predict the tap in Horn Hill would be cleared of weeds in the short space of time between photo and launch! - this did not affect the chance of a winning entry.

There were two almost perfect sets of answers and they will be sharing the 'Treasure' of £43.75, the Best family - Robin, Emma and Amelia and the Dodwell family - Brian, Tess and Ellie. Well done to them and everyone who took part. Tony and Jan Elvidge.

Here are the answers the judges were looking for - * denotes some ambiguity in street name, either accepted, **no house name displayed, a good description accepted

From the clues:

Brambles, Lower Street/Murreys Lane*
Avalon, Horn Hill
Copperfields, Lower Street
Barleycorn, The Green
Seaton House, Horn Hill
Cornerways, Lower Street
Woodworms Hilton, Lower Street
Honeystones, Townsend
River Swere

Photos

Holly Cottage, Townsend
Turnstile House, The Rock/High Street*
The Homestead The Green/Murreys Lane*
The George, Lower Street
Letterbox Cottage**, Mead Lane/Bloxham Road*
The Old Forge, High Street
Staddlestones, Horn Hill
4, Townsend
The Old School House, The Green
Crown House, Church Lane
April Cottage, Church Street
Newfield, High Street
1, Redroofs, Lower Street
20/21, Broad Close
2/ Mead Cottage, Mead Lane
8, Horn Hill
The Old Vicarage, South Newington Road
The Old Chapel, High Street
Farthings, Lower Street
The Old Bakehouse, Horn Hill
Village Hall, Lower Street
St John's Church, Church Lane
Barford House, Horn Hill
October House, The Green
1/Coombe Cottage, Rock Close
Laurel Cottage, Church Street
Winters Grace, Hempton Road/High Street*
Brasenose College Farm, Horn Hill
Little Bridge House, High Street

Tony & Jan Elvidge

(Thanks to Tony & Jan for your efforts, you really got Barfords buzzing, especially over the final weekend!)

Christmas Knitted Novelties

We've got some fab new patterns to add to our collection for this year's Christmas knits, including a Christmas tree, Santa sack and festive hedgehog and we'd love to hear from any supporters willing to knit some for us! Last year's Christmas novelties raised almost £5,000 towards Hospice care. Please call Fundraising for our new pattern booklet on 01295 816484 or email sarah.brennan@khh.org.uk to receive one via email.



Christmas Cards

This year we have 16 beautiful new designs on offer this year these are now on sale at our charity shops and Hospice reception. Application forms can be downloaded from our website at www.khh.org.uk

Make a Will Week -12th – 16th October 2015

Have you made a Will? Does your existing Will need updating? Local solicitors and will writers are generously donating their time and expertise and will write a basic or standard Will or update your existing Will in return for a donation to the hospice.

Please be guided by their usual fee when making your donation.

Last year's campaign raised almost £20,000 to help fund the hospice services. For further phone Daphne Robertson on 01295 816484 or download a form from <http://www.khh.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/makeawillweek.pdf>

JS Auctions Charity Auction and Open Day Viewing from 9am, auction 2pm, Saturday 17th October- JS Auctions Sale Room, Oxford Rd, Bodicote.

JS Auctions are holding a special charity auction in aid of KHH and The Blue Cross. Auction staff will be on-hand during the morning to offer advice, refreshments will also be on offer. For more information on donating items or about buying at the auction please call them on 01295 272488 or email enquiries@jsauctions.co.uk.

Banbury Camera Club Exhibition 20th - 25th October, The Michael Heseltine Gallery, Chenderit School, Archery Rd, Middleton Cheney.

This annual event offers supporters the opportunity to view a delightful collection of photographs and purchase prints in aid of the Hospice. Entry is free and opening hours are 9am – 5pm (Tuesday-Friday) and 11am- 4pm (Saturday and Sunday).

Matalan KHH Promotion Day 9.30am, Monday 26th October, Matalan, Cherwell Street, Banbury.

We need volunteers to hold a collecting tin and to man the KHH Information Stall. We have 1.5 hours slots available from 9.30am and would be delighted

to hear from anyone who'd like to volunteer. Please call Wendy in Fundraising on (01295) 816484 or email wendy.crosse@khh.org.uk

KHH Lottery

Our lottery is a vital income source for KHH, having raised over £1 million since May 2000. If you're stuck for a birthday present idea, we have Lottery Gift Membership solutions. For more information call the Lottery Office on 01295 816484 or email lottery@khh.org.uk.

For fundraising information, please contact Sarah in the Fundraising Department at the Hospice, tel:01295 816484, email: sarah.brennan@khh.org.uk or visit our website: www.khh.org.uk

1st DEDDINGTON SCOUT GROUP

Cubs

Cubs are just back after the summer break & will be tackling their digital citizen badge with help from some of the older scouts for their Duke of Edinburgh Award service.

This term we will be looking at, air activities, silhouettes, & water & instead of our usual display of guys at the market we will be raising money for Water Aid with a sponsored water carry.

Also – trips to Coventry Air Museum & the County Activity Day at Horley.

jochurchyard@hotmail.com

Scouts

Our numbers have swelled due to an influx from Cubs, we are happy to have them all. This term we are hoping to cover astronomy & astronautics with a trip to The National Space Centre in Leicester. Plus they are raising money for Dogs for the Disabled with the £1 Challenge. The Scouts have to make £1 grow by any means (legal) they can. This was very successful the last time we tried it. We shall also be visiting Cotswold Outdoor to look at equipment & possibly entering teams for the district night hike, County Patrol Camping Weekend & the District Cooking Competition, hopefully we'll be invited to try the results.

pete.churchyard@btinternet.com

Spartans Explorer Scout Unit.

So far this term the unit has spent 2 sessions at Horley, trying & improving their archery & shooting skills.

Janet Duxbury 01608 737959.



Village Panto Update

After an excellent turnout for the first panto session we're delighted to confirm that creating the show is now underway. The cast and crew have been sworn to secrecy regarding the title and storyline so you will have to wait for the next edition of the Barford News for that juicy bit of information; in the meantime if you want to make a note of the performance dates and hold them in your diary they are: 3 and 4 December at 19.30 and 15.00 and 19.30 on 5 December.

Tickets will be on sale in November..

Austin and Gwen



Tuesday Lunch Club No Lunch Club in October

Our next one will be
17th November

Menu details will be published next
month

Captain Jelf's Fishing Trip.

This year's second annual Captain Jelf's Fishing Trip weekend saw twenty one hardy Barford residents brave a very wet and windy Salcombe. There was a suggestion that an ark would be required rather than a Charter boat for the fishing.

Saturday's trip saw five of the group head out onto the sea aboard Salcombe's top Charter boat "Anglo Dawn" to fish for flatfish, this was a great success with over sixty fish caught. Top fish of the day was a fine 15lb Blonde Ray caught by Zalie, this fish was safely returned to the sea. About twenty of the Plaice caught were kept for the evening BBQ along with a fine Brill caught by Rodney.

The Sunday trip where the target species was to be Cod and Bass was cancelled due to the high winds. This allowed Saturdays night's BBQ to be a rather relaxed affair with some alcohol consumed, of course Captain Jelfs remained sober.

A huge thanks goes out to Nick and Zalie for their hospitality and BBQ skills (the Plaice were delicious).

A great turn out despite the weather from Dave and Sue Jelfs, Nick, Zalie, Owen and Ryan Butler, Derek, Lisa, Jack and Adam Styles, Ian, Kim and Theo Hobday, Steve and Sonia Cook, Martin and Julia Winter, Rodney Hobbs, Steve Cox, Rob Wilkie and Sarah. Next year Ilfracombe, let's hope for better weather.

Steve Cook

PS, only one tent lost its pegs and only one looked like ending half way up the trees.



Photos opposite

Top: The crew with some of their catch

Middle: The Captain with Mackerel and Beverage

Bottom: Zalie with her Blonde Ray

From The Fire Station

Deddington has attended twenty five incidents in the past month. There was a large blaze of stacked straw at Hanwell Fields in Banbury. This required eight fire engines which were there for most of the night. Unfortunately this coincided with Rachael Freeman's leaving meal which half of the crew missed. However the crew have all decided that there will be another meal for her. The Deddington crew have also attended a burst water main on Broughton Road in Banbury. This we found to be particularly challenging as it was a twelve inch water main that was amongst other things supplying the Horton Hospital. Houses on the Broughton Road were being flooded so we had to divert the water flow away from the houses. 70 millimetre hose was charged with water and laid along the footpaths which managed to temporarily divert the water until our high volume pump could get there and lay bigger and heavier hose to do a more permanent job. The electricity and water board were at the scene really quickly and managed to isolate those services. Only small amounts of water got into some basements which was quickly pumped out.

Another busy day was the day we were called to an electricity transformer that had caught fire on a timber pylon in the middle of a farmer's field. What at first seemed to be very straight forward quickly became more serious. People started coming from their homes saying that their household appliances were blowing up! Crews were sent from house to house to isolate electricity supplies. The transformer that is designed to convert electricity from 400v down to 220v had failed but not shut off and was pushing 400v into people's homes. The electricity board were soon on the scene and isolated the transformer. Straight after this incident the crew were then mobilised to a restaurant where the cleaner had mixed acid and bleach in a toilet to clean the pan. Without knowing it he had made chlorine gas and was quickly overcome by the fumes. He managed to get himself out of the toilet and quickly in the hands of the ambulance service. It is really important not to mix any cleaning products together and if you are putting them down the toilet always flush away several times before adding other products.

The crew also helped out with marching and marshalling at the VJ Day service in the Marketplace in Deddington. This is the first time that this has been done. We marched with a brass band and it was great that people came out to support their community.

Training is always on going at the station and it's R.T.C. (road traffic crash) training at the moment. For several weeks we have been at Smiths of Bloxham practising our cutting techniques such as



the standard ways to remove a roof from a car plus some other techniques that we do not use as often.

This is a good time to start thinking about readying your car for winter and of course getting your chimney swept.

Crew Manager
Tim Parker Deddington Fire Station

THANK YOU

To the village couple
Who donated a
Very generous £50
for Barford News



Countryside Champion needed for Bicester District

The Campaign to Protect Rural England is looking for a new Chairperson to help co-ordinate its activities in South Cherwell, including Bicester, Kidlington, the Heyfords, Otmoor and all the surrounding areas

CPRE works to protect and promote the countryside. We have a very friendly and experienced Bicester District committee, but would love to find someone to come on board as Chairman. It's a great way of getting to know your local area and helping to influence local decision-making on issues as varied as planning policy, affordable housing, litter, minerals and water. With so much development scheduled to come through in the area in the next 20 years, it is vital that someone is in place to speak up for the countryside and make sure that we can keep thriving village communities.

The role is voluntary and needs a commitment of just a few hours a week. No particular knowledge or qualifications are required, but it would suit someone with leadership or organisational experience and good people skills.

Full details are available on the CPRE Oxfordshire website – www.cpreoxon.org.uk or by calling the CPRE Branch Office on T. 01491 612079

Home Instead Senior Care, Deddington Looking for Carers and Companions

Home Instead is on the look-out for new Companions and Carers. We are a small, friendly, busy office based in Deddington with Clients based all over North Oxfordshire.

No previous experience is necessary as our best Companions and Carers are those who find it easy to talk, listen and connect with people. It is commonly assumed that working for a Care Agency is all about Personal Care and driving long distances to visit a stranger for 15 minutes. Over 50% of our Clients are just looking for Companionship (playing games at home, walks around their village or visits to garden centres or theatres etc) and what they need most is to establish a trusting relationship with someone that they see on a regular basis. We feel that having great communications skills, and desire to make a difference to someone's life is the key to this incredibly rewarding and fulfilling role.

We are very different to other Care Agencies as we are relationship based rather than task based. We have a minimum of an hour per visit, with many for much longer making it possible to actually enhance a life rather than just rush in, try to get everything done in a 15 or 30 minute call and dash on to the next stranger. Our staff are all personally introduced and then see the same Client, for the same hours, each week. We don't wear uniforms and we try to match our staff to our Clients. Schedules are set weeks in advance and we remain very much on board to provide support and actively encourage feed-back from our staff. Our Carers and Companions are just as important to us as our Clients.

We take great pride in our relationships with all our staff and work as a team. We would happily offer the opportunity for anyone interested in joining us the chance to speak to a Carer or Companion already working for us. Please do call if you would like to have a chat about the possibilities of working for Home Instead. We offer part-time hours only (between 6 – 25 hours per week) and most of our staff are either retired, parents or have other part-time jobs.

Please contact Issy Robinson on 01295 237 237
Or email issy.robinson@homeinstead.co.uk or Visit us at www.homeinstead.co.uk/northoxford

Please see enclosed flier for more details



Crime

There has been one shed burglary in Bodicote. If you have any information in relation to the offence please contacted the Banbury Rural Neighbourhood Team on 101 or via our email BanburyruralNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk or alternatively via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

What the team has been doing

In August the team attended Deddington Farmers Market taking the opportunity to engage with the local community.

The team attended Cropredy for the 3 day Cropredy Fairport Convention, this event attracts over 18,000 visitors to the village and there were only 3 criminal offences reported during the event.

Changes to Dangerous Dog legislation

We would like to remind dog owners of changes to the legislation regarding controlling your dog. It's against the law to let a dog be dangerously out of control anywhere, such as:

- in a public place
- in a private place, eg a neighbour's house or garden
- in the owner's home

The law applies to all dogs.

Being out of control

Your dog is considered dangerously out of control if it:

- injures someone
- makes someone worried that it might injure them

A court could also decide that your dog is dangerously out of control if either of the following applies:

- it attacks someone's animal
- the owner of an animal thinks they could be injured if they tried to stop your dog attacking their animal

A farmer is allowed to kill your dog if it's worrying their livestock.

The link below takes you to the Gov.UK webpage for more details.

<https://www.gov.uk/control-dog-public/overview>

TWITTER and FACEBOOK

You can also follow us on Twitter @_ThamesVP or on our local Twitter Site @TVP_Banbury alternatively you can give us a 'like' on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/thamesvp>

Crime Reduction

For further crime reduction advice you can also visit our website www.thamesvalley.police.uk or call the 24-hour Police Enquiry Centre on 101.

Down on the farm

HAVING PERMANENTLY damaged the 1980s engineering on my old combine harvester during the wet 2013 harvest we now rely on my good neighbour Charles Baker to cut our corn. He moved in with two huge Claas combines at 7.30pm on an uncommonly dry august evening and cleared all our wheat by 2am – there was no dew that night.

It was quite a sight as the giant machines blazed with light and the 'magic eyes' on the 30ft wide headers glued them to the edge of the uncut crop obviating the need for the driver to concentrate on steering. Monitors also assess grain yield and allow the machine to run as fast or as slow as necessary to avoid overloading threshing ability.

Such is the wonder of modern equipment; it would have taken me a week with our old Massey Ferguson!

We had previously cut our winter barley and have since harvested the spring barley just before the rains came again.

The straw has been a different matter. It was raked about for almost two weeks between showers before sufficient fine weather arrived to dry it enough to bale. As a result the quality will be far from brilliant; but at least all is now gathered in, stubble turnips are germinating and the plough is being dusted off.

I enjoy ploughing and have been judging ploughing matches for many years. For that reason I have to be careful with my own work – after all if you are a ploughing match judge people expect you to make a half decent job of your own efforts!

What to plant is the next question? We are examining seeds catalogues for alternative crops to wheat for next year and may well not be alone in doing so; there was a 3.5 million tonne UK wheat surplus before this year's crop came in so I don't have much faith in prices being better than awful for the foreseeable future.

It is ironic that people in the world starve in a situation of global surpluses. But then supply and demand is largely influenced by an ability to afford. Even in affluent society retail outlets tend to tread water until pay day when takings accelerate markedly. Hence the special offers to keep electrically operated doors humming.

Our livestock enterprises are doing okay and the chickens continue to do better than pay for their food. Now the nights are drawing in I shall install some lighting to encourage them to continue to put in the eating and laying hours. Mercifully the fox has kept away from them thus far, and now that local gamekeepers have released their pheasants there should be plenty of pickings without the need to bother our hens.

For a fox, of course, this is a surplus in a supply and demand situation in which the ability to pay is not an issue!

Tony Collier, Irondown

Another Great Village Show.

Unfortunately there isn't space to show more of the wonderful entries



Cup Winners

L to r: Philip Brodey, Cathy Peacock, Christine Hall, Pete Eden and Ann Beesley, Ellie Dodwell in front proudly holding her two cups.

Not present for the photo were:- Mike Boyd, Sylvia Butler and Jeff Elliott.

Full results opposite



ADULT CLASS	1ST PLACE	2ND PLACE	3RD PLACE	CUP WINNERS
3 Beetroot	Cathy Alsworth	Basil Butler	Les Hall	Fruit and Vegetables Michael Boyd
3 Carrots	No Entries			
3 Courgettes	Cubby Brett	Cathy Alsworth	Mariann Young	
3 Onions	Mike Boyd	Basil Butler	Bernard Lane	
5 Shallots	Mike Boyd	Basil Butler	Mariann Young	
3 Potatoes	Basil Butler	Mike Boyd	Angus Norman	
3 Runner Beans	Cathy Alsworth	Mike Boyd	Cubby Brett	
5 French Beans	Mike Budd	Linda Newbery	Mariann Young	
5 Cherry Tomatoes	Sandi Turner	Mariann Young	Gunilla Treen	
3 Round Tomatoes	Mariann Young	Les Hall	Mike Boyd	
A Cucumber	Mariann Young			
Pair of Vegetables	Cubby Brett	Les Hall	Mariann Young	
5 Assorted Veg	Les Hall	Linda Newbery	Mike Boyd	
Longest Runner Bean	Mike Boyd	Cubby Brett		
3 Apples	Gunilla Treen	Tony Collier	Bernard Lane	Cookery and Preserves Sylvia Butler
Dish of fruit	Sandi Turner	Cathy Peacock	Angus Norman	
Vegetable Animal	Angus Norman			
3 Eggs	Patrick Craig	Tony Collier	Les Hall	Flower Arranging Cathy Peacock
Swiss Roll	Kayt Griffin	Sylvia Butler		
4 Cup cakes	Sylvia Butler	Maisie Bird	Kayt Griffin	
6 Brownies	Maisie Bird	Sylvia Butler		Cut Flowers Pete Eden
Victoria Sponge	Sylvia Butler	Sheila Taylor	Cubby Brett/Kayt Griffin	
Bakewell Tart	Sylvia Butler			
Cherry & Almond Cake (men)	Angus Norman	Bernard Lane	Roger Booth	Crafts Christine Hall
Jam	Ann Beesley	Grace Palmer	Christine Hall	
Marmalade	Christine Hall	Caroline Bird	Jess Romain	
Lemon Curd	Kayt Griffin	Ann Beesley		Photography Philip Brodey
Chutney	Sylvia Butler	Ann Beesley	Christine Hall	
Sloe Gin	Ann Beesley			
Arr in Teapot	Anne Lindsey	Cathy Peacock	Gunilla Treen	Allotment Cup 1st - Jeff Elliott 2nd - Steve Cox/Pete Eden 3rd – Cathy Alsworth/Basil Butler
Arr of herbs	Ellie Dodwell	Ann Beesley	Gunilla Treen	
Miniature arr	Stephanie Collier	Ann Beesley	Linda Newbery	
Dinner Table Arrange..	Cathy Peacock			W.I. Cup Ann Beesley
1 Gladiolus	Pete Eden	Basil Butler	Cathy Alsworth	
Sunflower	Pete Eden	Ellie Dodwell	Ann Beesley	
3 Dahlias	Basil Butler	Mike Boyd	Ann Beesley	
3 Roses	Ann Beesley	Cubby Brett	Jess Romain	
4 Marigolds	Pete Eden			
4 Pelargonium heads	Sandi Turner	Jess Romain		
6 Sweet Peas	Bernard Lane	Gunilla Treen		
Mixed flowers	Pete Eden			
Mosaic item	Linda Newbery	Ava Hardingham	Ellie Dodwell	
Jewellery	Ellie Dodwell	Tanya Dawes	Ann Beesley	Victrix Ludorum Ann Beesley – 22 points Sylvia Butler/Michael Boyd 19 points
Knitted/crocheted	Sylvia Butler	Christine Hall	Carole Williams	
Needlecraft	Grace Palmer	Christine Hall	Cathy Alsworth	
You Made it"	Mariann Young	Mike Boyd	Christine Hall	
Drawing/Painting	Ollie Miles	Maisie Bird	Christine Hall	Children Most Entries Ellie Dodwell (15 Classes)
Photo My Pet	Cathy Peacock	Philip Brodey	Tanya Dawes	
A Garden Bird	Philip Brodey	Rachel Speight	Stephanie Collier	
An Apple	Tony Collier	Ann Beesley	Ava Hardingham	
A Flower	Philip Brodey	Rachel Speight	Stephanie Collier	
CHILDREN'S CLASS				
Colouring Picture	Charlotte Kenny	Jonathan Lindsey		Most Points Ellie Dodwell
Decorated Jam Jar	Jonathan Lindsey	Charlotte Kenny		
4 Chocolate Crispies	Jonathan Lindsey	Charlotte Kenny		
Lego Animal	Charlotte Kenny	Patrick Craig	Hugh Craig	
"You Made It"	Jonathan Lindsey	Charlotte Kenny		
A photograph	Izzy Kenny	Ellie Dodwell	Ben Lindsey	
4 Decorated Cupcakes	Ellie Dodwell	Izzy Kenny		
Design for mobile phone cover	Izzy Kenny	Ben Lindsey	Ava Hardingham	
Drawing/painting	Ava Hardingham	Ellie Alsworth	Ellie Dodwell	
"You Made It"	Ellie Alsworth	Ben Lindsey	Izzy Kenny/Ava Hardingham	

NATURE NOTES 141

AS JULY ENDED, the pattern of sunny mornings with cloud building slowly, then clearing again at evening, continued into August. Day temperatures remained warm around 22° and the SW breeze persisted. But July had a last little surprise for us - the full moon of the 31st was a 'Blue Moon' - the name traditionally given to the second of two full moons in one month - a relatively rare occurrence!

And so August opened on a mild sou'westerly with plenty of cloud. I'm afraid I have no temperature records - a max./min, thermometer marker decided to sink into the fluid. It took me almost a fortnight to get a replacement, local shops had sold out of max./mins!

The 2nd was warm, with plenty of sun and a lovely fresh S breeze. The 3rd was cloudier but still warm and a Kite was soaring around Bloodybones corner above St. John.

Wildlife activity continued to be very low with my only records being of birds of prey — especially, a Hobby soaring and playing on the wind as it drifted north across the Swere valley on the 4th.

The SW breeze became very light from the 5th to the 7th with evening showers on the 5th, stormy clouds on the 6th with sunny spells, then hot sun at times on the 7th with heavy cloud in the evening. The 8th rose on a flawless sky with warm sun, a pleasant SW breeze and variable fairweather cloud through the afternoon. On the 9th, I was apprehensive of storms as a pink sunrise spread across the sky, right into the west, a 'Shepherds Warning' if ever I saw one! However, a solid overcast rapidly developing at 7am, failed to produce rain and cleared as quickly from 10am. The sun then broke through to give a warm day of variable cloud and SW breeze.

I had only one entry in my diary for the 10th - 'Hot' - then for the 11th, a pleasant day of light cloud, with a Hobby (the same one as the 4th?) soaring over St. Michael at 9am, then drifting north, suddenly disappearing at great speed!

By now a strange weather phenomenon was taking place. A weather system was moving in from the *West* but bringing warm air up from the *South* and a breeze from *North-east*! This produced a cool day of light overcast on the 13th with spots of rain through afternoon and then heavy rains overnight. Light showery rain continued into afternoon on the 14th; such moisture was very welcome on the dessicated land. I took a wander round the nearby roads and encountered two Herons drifting softly down onto the lake at Bar-ford House,

and a Buzzard keeping watch from a tree-top at the Barley Lane/Park junction.

Next day, in warm sun on very still air, with patches of high, fair-weather cloud, a family party of 5 Buzzards was circling over Steepness as early as 9am. Such conditions continued into the 16th revealing a Kestrel watching the stubbles from the wires along Barley Lane. I expect you will have noticed by now, the almost exclusive visual predominance of birds of prey; the smaller birds and mammals were keeping in shade and cool moist cover to help them find food sources.

On the 17th I managed to buy a new max./min. thermometer! Thus I can report the temperatures were 23°(day) and 11.5°(night) with a bright sunrise and variable cloud building to almost overcast by late afternoon. The 18th was similar but a little cooler, with cloud moving almost imperceptibly toward the west.

On the 19th the weather system was moving away and a fresh breeze was blowing from SW. Rain commenced about 3pm, turning to drizzle on a warm and humid night of 16°. Very little wildlife presented itself — a Fox and the occasional Muntjac deer at night, and a few very late Tit families audible by day. The 20th was largely overcast with a warm afternoon (24.5°) and a very warm night (18°). Apart from a few Chiffchaffs, all the warblers appear to have migrated to richer climes, in particular persistent very low water levels have caused the early departure of Sedge and Reed Warblers in my opinion.

Spotting rain from a lumpy overcast slowly cleared on the 21st to give a hot afternoon of 26°. This revealed an attractive, plump, Spotted Bush Cricket (*Leptophyes punctatissima*) hiding in one of my *Cymbidium* orchids in the conservatory. Despite her big curved ovipositor she would have done no harm but, as it was her egg-laying period and she usually deposits her eggs in tree-bark cracks, I removed her to my wild garden. In doing so, I was delighted to see a male Common Blue butterfly, in fresh condition, on the Bird's foot Trefoil. I do hope he found a female! Next day was even hotter (28.5°) with general overall sky-haze and a gusty, hot SSW breeze. This brought towering cumulus clouds through the hot afternoon. Nature again went silently undercover.

After a night of 16.5°, a virtually windless, warm morning slowly disappeared under dark heavy rain clouds. They only produced showery rain and had cleared by evening, which paved the way for a chill night of only 10°. The 24th was a thoroughly wet day, chilly(12°) very light southerly airs and another cold night of 10°. It did however produce a small pleasure in

the form of one of the duller, most boring moths you can find. Along with myriads of brightly coloured Large and Lesser Yellow Underwing (*Noctuinae*) moths, I disturbed from my conifer hedge a Mouse Moth (*Amphipyra tragopoginis*). They are small, usually scuttling into cover rather than flight, and are a shabby grey-brown all over, relieved (sometimes) by a smudgy spot on the forewings — straight off the comedy stage!

On the 25th more battles between Low Pressure areas passing over the U.K. and a large High to the south began. The wind remained at SW, gusty but mild in sheltered places and showery through afternoon. At this point I noted what a poor flight of the highly coloured 'summer' butterflies (*Nymphalidae*) were around my garden. There were the odd Peacock, Red Admiral and a few Small Tortoiseshells (apart from some 'Whites'). Now the first, and I'm fairly certain, my only Painted Lady of the summer appeared, to decorate the Buddleia bush with the others.

Why so few? Well, if you remember, many summer butterflies had started to burgeon in the second week of July, but within a few days were being decimated by periods of rainstorm, showers and drizzle. This became wipeout conditions under 24hrs of continuous rain (starting on 23rd) and 18hrs from 9.30am on the 26th. So not so surprising — that was one month ago, so what appeared now in August were, I think, the results of the few butterflies that were able to breed during the run up to last month's storms!

But to return to the, ragged, rushing, showery conditions in late August. On the 27th (17° day, 10.5° night) one or two more Small Tortoiseshells had appeared together with a worn female Gatekeeper and, joy of joys, a female Common Blue in egg-laying condition on the Trefoil in my wild garden! Meanwhile, in a calm spell, a Buzzard called briefly over Steepness.

As I watched television that evening, a big male House Spider (*Tegenarid*) cantered across my sitting room carpet. That's about three weeks early, I thought, must be another sign of an odd year.

Despite the atmospheric pressure battles, the 28th was a warm day with little cloud and a SW breeze. Going outside I couldn't believe my eyes; there, on the Trefoil, was another freshly emerged male Common Blue! He flew off to enjoy the nectar of the first Michaelmas Daisies and I've not seen him since, but three Blues in my wild garden! In this erratic month? Marvellous!

After a day of 23.5°, the night was cool at 12°, but the Tawny Owls were hooting around the Warren... so more excellent news!

During the day, up to 17 House Martins swirled around my house, flying up to the artificial nest and calling urgently to the one juvenile who was reluctant to fly. I suspected in the evening that he *had* gone, but I would wait and check tomorrow.

Sun through broken cloud on a light SSW breeze greeted the 29th. The cloud became heavy later and it was warm and humid. I spent some time in the garden and there was not a House Martin to be heard or seen! Their urgency to leave had been immediate, and I haven't seen a local House Martin since. Young Buzzards were crying miserably on Steepness, but in the evening, several Tawny Owls were declaring to each other their separate territories, along and under the hills from east of Hempton to beyond Fernhill. They also were calling around the Green at St. Michael, as Sylvia Butler, who loves listening out for them, reported! How evocative of the advancing year!

Heavy rain on the morning of the 30th ceased, revealing a wind change to NE. The afternoon was showery and chilly, but the Buzzards still called weakly from Steepness. Later on I visited St. Michael's churchyard where, in a tree, a Great-spotted Woodpecker was 'kecking'. I was rather bemused when a Kestrel flew toward the noise, then tentatively settled on top of a telegraph pole near the Woodpecker's tree. Very soon the latter flew out and perched warily on top of the same pole, close to the Kestrel. They sat there seeming to eye each other. After some minutes, the Woodpecker suddenly flew off silently toward the village gardens; and the Kestrel flew off toward the Warren!

The 31st awoke to heavy rains and a cold NE breeze. Easing, it was very wet again over midday, then easier once more, but followed by heavy bursts of rain overnight. A wet, miserable chilly day of 14.5° bade farewell to a strange August of erratic contrasts.

September 1st dawned overcast and showery, on a cool NE breeze. It was warmer (21°) with sun after mid-day, followed by showers and immense cloud formations, the wind backing N. A Great-spotted Woodpecker 'kecked' noisily from Barford House pool in the morning; a Kite soared over the Swere valley through the afternoon and a Green Woodpecker laughed from below Steepness in the evening. Not bad for the first day of the new month! But what will the next 29 bring, I wonder?

Ron Knight