

# BARFORD NEWS

DECEMBER 2015

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

Price 30p where sold



**Christmas Carol Service**

**With a Brass Band!**

**Sunday, 20th December**

**4.00pm**

**Barford St. Michael Church**



**Stay for mince pies !!**

*A Happy and Peaceful Christmas  
To All  
From The News Team*

### Parish Council Notes

A Meeting of the Parish Council took place at 7.30pm on 4 November 2015 in Barford Village Hall and was attended by Cllrs Hobbs, Eden, Hanmer, Styles, Turner, Best, Campbell, District Cllr Williams and Mrs Watts (Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer).

**Minutes of the last meeting:** The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 7 October 2015 were unanimously RESOLVED as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

**Dog Bin for Bloodybones Lane:** a dog bin for Bloodybones Lane will be installed this month.

**First Aid Courses:** A third first aid course with St John Ambulance took place on 8 October.

**Hedges:** owners of hedges are asked to cut them back from verges, pavements and roads.

**Proposed Wooden Play Equipment for West Close:** Cllr Styles reported that she has collated the information required for re-applying for pre-application advice from Cherwell District Council and that the documentation will be sent to them this week.

**Planning Application Refused by CDC since the last meeting:** 15/01354/F - land to rear of Applea Banks, Lower St; change of use of land to garden.

**Allotment Rents 2016:** Allotment rents are considered annually. Following a short discussion it was unanimously agreed that allotment rents for 2016 will be increased by £2.00. Invoices will be sent out in the next few weeks.

**S137 Grants 2016 – 2017** Councillors unanimously agreed that an advertisement inviting applications for S137 grants for 2016-2017 will be put in the December, January and February Barford News, with a closing date for applications being 15 February 2016. Applications will be discussed at the March 2016 meeting, with a decision being made on grants at the April 2016 meeting.

### Report from District Cllr Williams:

- Hook Norton Neighbourhood Plan was adopted unanimously by CDC on 9 October at the full council meeting. The plan becomes the first Neighbourhood Plan to be adopted in Cherwell.
- 'FREE after THREE' - there will be free parking after 3.00pm at CDC owned car parks in Banbury from 28 November - 12 January to promote trade and encourage more footfall in the High St during the Christmas trading period.

- Roadside Drains and Gullies - Mr Kelman of OCC has advised that the gully north of the bridge will be cleared on 10 November and the drains cleared and jetted soon after that to allow excess water to flow freely back into the river.
- A Cherwell Parish Liaison Meeting will take place on 11 November at Bodicote House. Cllr Hobbs is going to attend.

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

**Fix My Street** – residents can report defects in the highway to Oxfordshire County Council on <http://fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk> 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 6 January 2016 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

**December Parish Council 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.

### Barford St John & St Michael Parish Council - S137 Grant Applications 2016

Barford St John and St Michael Parish Council sets aside a sum of money each year to grant to organisations in the parish for projects that will be of benefit to residents.

Any organisation wishing to receive a grant in 2016 will need to

- a) apply to the Parish Council in writing,
- b) give details of what the money will be used for and
- c) provide evidence of the financial status of the organisation (e.g. end of year accounts and/or bank statements).

Completed applications and supporting documentation should be submitted to the Parish Clerk (address below) no later than **15 February 2016**. Applications received by that date will be considered by Councillors at the March 2016 Parish Council meeting and will be approved or rejected by them at the April 2016 Parish Council meeting.

Organisations should note that submission of an application does not guarantee that a grant, or the full amount requested will be awarded.

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



Join us to sing  
**Carols Round the Village**  
**Monday 21st December ,**  
meet at junction of Robins Close at 6.30  
Raising funds for local charities



### 1st Barford and Deddington Rainbows

We've had a fun term with lots of seasonal crafts and cooking and playing games. We started with our traditional campfire and marshmallow toasting with help from 1st Deddington Guides, which is always a very popular meeting! We made bread rolls at harvest time (and our own butter to go with them!) and then Deddington Pudding Pies to coincide with the traditional Martinmas Fair. We also got very gluey making autumn-leaf covered jars, which look lovely with a (battery) tea light inside.

Very excitingly we finally got our unit flag (Rainbows haven't had a flag until now) which Ella did a great job of carrying at the Remembrance Sunday parade, with Evie and Lois making up the colour party as escorts. We had a really good attendance rate, as usual, and the girls that came were a credit to the unit. We've said a sad goodbye to Vivi and Jemima A, and have welcomed Eden and Matilda, so we remain full.

Hazel Neal [hmkn@sky.com](mailto:hmkn@sky.com)



Evie, Ella, Lois with our Rainbows flag



Ready for the Off!

## POST

Your local Christmas cards  
For delivery in,  
Deddington, Hempton,  
Clifton & The Barfords  
By The Scouts & Guides

Collection boxes in  
Eagles, Butchers &  
Barford Post Office



20p per item

Last collection Saturday Dec 19th

## THE 200 £ CLUB £

Raising funds for our Village Hall

~ ~ ~

Tickets for 2016 will be on sale shortly

£6 covers your annual subscription  
and enters you in

12 monthly draws offering  
guaranteed prizes

£5, £10, £15 every month

£25 once each quarter

£50 twice a year

Christmas bonus of £100

~ ~ ~

So please – have a go and help raise funds to  
maintain YOUR village hall.

For 50p a month you can really make a difference.

Existing members will be contacted soon.

New members - to reserve a ticket (or two!) please  
contact Mariann on 338570.





## Changes for Barford News

The first change is that, after twelve months as editor of Barford News, Tony has decided to resign and hand the job back to me (Mariann) for the time being.

Understandably, Tony has found it increasingly difficult to find time for full-time work, home-life, BN plus a little bit of leisure too.

I am grateful to Tony for giving me a year off and come back to the job with renewed enthusiasm (I think!!) let's see how it goes.

Thanks Tony, for giving it a go, and All Good Wishes from Caroline and Mariann.

The Second change is that, In an attempt to cut printing costs, we are trying a lighter grade of paper for this issue. Hopefully, it will prove suitable and we will be able to save some cash, if not we will go back to the previous paper grade and look for cost cutting measures elsewhere.

## Barford News Appeal For Funding

Thank you to all who have supported our appeal. We are still receiving one or two envelopes and will give a full update in our January issue.

## CHRISTMAS TUESDAY LUNCH CLUB 15<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2015 - 12.30PM for 1PM

MULLED WINE AND NIBBLES ON ARRIVAL

### Menu

#### Main Course

##### **Roast Turkey Breast**

Sausage and Bacon (Pigs in Blankets)

Cranberry & Sage Stuffing Balls

Bread Sauce & Cranberry Sauce

OR

##### **Roast Pork Loin**

Apricot & Spring Onion Stuffing Balls

Apple Sauce

Both main courses served with Brussel Sprouts, Carrot &

Swede Mash,

Vegetable Medley and Roast Potatoes

#### Desserts

Mincemeat and Almond Tart with Brandy Sauce

Tiramisu

Lemon Soufflé with Raspberries

#### Finally

**Coffee & Tea with Chocolates**

**Price £7.00**

PLACES ARE LIMITED SO PLEASE BOOK EARLY

As usual please bring your own alcoholic drinks to have with your meal

Please ring Anne & Mick on 01869 337074

by Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December.



## *Barford Village Market*

**Saturday 12th December**

**A week early to avoid clashing with Deddington**

**10am to 12noon in the Village Hall**

**All the usual stalls plus one or two new ones**

*Join us for a complimentary glass of mulled wine  
and home-made mince pies*

Lots of stocking fillers and Christmas delights on sale at bargain prices

Not forgetting tea/coffee and bacon/egg/sausage butties

We hold regular markets on the third Saturday every month (except January and August)

Come along and support YOUR local market

All profits for Village Hall maintenance

## A TREK UP MOUNT TOUBKAL, MOROCCO

**M**y sister, Sarah, suggested to me that we climb Mount Toubkal to raise money for a children's hospital in Marrakesh - Association Enfance Espoir Maroc - based in L'Hospital Espoir (Hospital of Hope). I had a quick look at it all on the internet and thought why not, it should be fun! Mount Toubkal is the highest mountain in N. Africa and at 4,167m, the second highest in Africa after Kilimanjaro.

On the 24<sup>th</sup> of October we set off for Luton to join the seven others in our group for a flight to Marrakesh. The flight took about three and a half hours and we arrived to a beautiful sunny day, spoilt only by the long wait we had to endure to clear their passport controls. Eventually we boarded a minibus and set off along a series of winding roads to get to a little village called Imlil. We then started to walk to a place called Armed, where we were to spend our first night. After about an hour we arrived at our Gite where we had a lovely meal and our first taste of hot sweet mint tea. We relaxed for the rest of the day and had an early night as it had started to rain and got quite chilly. Next morning after a slow breakfast and a quick wash under a hand held, luke warm shower, we set off up the mountain. As there are no roads, mules were used to carry our heavy kit and food. En route, our guides prepared a nice lunch for us, accompanied of course by mint tea. For a toilet there was a hole in the ground surrounded on three sides by some wood and a flappy curtain as a door. At least the curtain covered your face so no one would recognize you! We got friends to stand in front of the curtain to save our blushes – a friend in need....After 9 miles of uphill walking, we eventually arrived at a place called the Refuge (3,210m) this was where we were to stay the night. On arrival we had mint tea and biscuits – you can't beat it. The Refuge was full of trekkers from all over the world, our group were lucky enough to have a room full of bunk beds to ourselves. The facilities here were basic to say the least. The water was freezing and although there was a shower of sorts, no one dare use it as it sprayed a feeble jet



of freezing cold water.

Thank goodness for wet wipes! So after a supper and more mint tea, we retired for

the night, fully dressed, as it was very cold.

Next morning it was cold and wet and everyone said they had a dreadful night's sleep, although strangely there was a lot of snoring! After a breakfast of watery porridge and mint tea (getting bored of this now) we got our waterproofs on and set off for the summit. The higher we went, the worse the weather. We were soon in deep snow with gusts of wind, laced with needle sharp icicles, which were strong enough to blow you off your feet.

Crouching was the only option. Quite unpleasant really and it wasn't just the weather that was taking its toll, altitude sickness was also affecting some of us and it soon had the effect of reducing numbers, five of our group with a guide turned back, leaving four of us with the other guide, Hassam. Sarah took it nice and steady and did not come down with sickness, I on the other hand started to feel short of breath, got terrible stomach ache and started to feel nauseous. Luckily the group rallied around me and we plodded on to the summit, where I promptly threw up. Without the encouragement of the group I might still be up there. After a short stay at the top, we set off down the mountain. We got back to the Refuge at 5.30pm only to find that the rest of the group had decided

they couldn't stand another night there and had headed off back to Armed. So the mules



were loaded up and we kept on going, we eventually arrived back in the dark at 8.30pm, having walked 15 miles in the most atrocious conditions. My altitude sickness went as fast as it had affected me and I was able to have a good meal and more mint tea before getting to bed.

Next day we set off on our walk back to Imlil - downhill all the way, lovely warm weather – bliss! We walked about 14 miles that day and stayed at a lovely riad. Didn't have any mint tea though, as it was now getting to be something to be avoided at all costs. Next day we travelled to Marrakesh a hot 28°C day and visited the hospital/orphanage which we were there to support. We took along supplies, nappies, baby milk and other essentials bought with money raised from the trip. The babies here have been abandoned at birth due to family circumstances or disablement. All are up for adoption, although baby girls are the preferred choice by adoptees.

At breakfast the following day we all had English tea with real milk, what a treat, you just can't beat it! We spent the day in Marrakech, but that's another story. On Friday 30<sup>th</sup> Oct we flew home having had an experience we surely won't forget.

Rachel Speight



Left – Our Group  
Above top – Rachel on the left at the summit  
Bottom – At the orphanage with our donations



**Congratulations to  
Sheila Taylor of Bishops Cleeve**

Who is pictured with her trophies on becoming ,  
Ladies Match Play Champion of Cotswold Golf  
Club, Chipping Norton.

**BARFORD PICTURE HOUSE...CHRISTMAS  
FILM**

**SHOWING AT THE VILLAGE HALL on  
DECEMBER 12th at 7.30**



***Paddington***

is a 2014 British-French [live action/computer animated family comedy film](#) directed by [Paul King](#), written by King and [Hamish McColl](#), and produced by [David Heyman](#). Based on '[Paddington Bear](#)' by [Michael Bond](#), the film stars [Ben Whishaw](#) as the voice of the title character, along with [Hugh Bonneville](#), [Sally Hawkins](#), [Julie Walters](#), [Jim Broadbent](#), [Peter Capaldi](#) and [Nicole Kidman](#) in live-action roles.

After a deadly earthquake destroys his home in Peruvian rainforest, a young bear (Ben Whishaw) makes his way to England in search of a new home. The bear, , finds shelter with the family of Henry and Mary Brown. Paddington's amazement at urban living soon endears him to the Browns, someone else has her eye on him: Taxidermist Millicent Clyde (Nicole Kidman) has designs on the rare bear and his hide.

A FILM FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS

**1st Deddington Scout Group**



**Cubs**

The Cubs have finished their Digital Citizen projects, they were very ably led by two of our older scouts working towards their D.O.E. award, they are all wearing their new badges, We are now well into the Air Activities badge, we've made paper planes ( of course ), jet engines & parked an airliner, we hope to finish with a visit from a pilot & a trip to The Midlands Air Museum.

A group of Cubs & Scouts ( & leaders ) raised £70 at the last market by carrying 10 litres of water over 3.5 km, this will be donated to Water Aid, well done everybody.

Benjamin, Ben, Ethan, Dylan, George, Jack & Lewis have all received their Silver Award.

[jochurchyard@hotmail.com](mailto:jochurchyard@hotmail.com)

**Scouts**

The Scouts have finished their Astronomy Badge with a chaotic recreation of the solar system with glo sticks which we managed without a big bang! We've now started work on bearings & map reading & after a visit from a representative from 'Dogs for Good', we are trying out some sports for the disabled. Hopefully they will raise a lot of money from their £1 challenge to donate to the charity.

Next – a night hike, a film night & some seasonal fun.

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

**Spartans Explorer Scout Unit.**

The Explorers spent an enjoyable evening at The Cotswold Comedy Club, who were supporting Special Effects, our current charity. Over the past few weeks they have also completed Part 1 of their Chefs Badge by cooking a variety of dishes that the Scouts then sampled – yummy. They are looking forward to Part 2 – baking.

They have also started their Science & Technology badge & will soon be training for the Tour de Trigs. Climbing at The Dewey Centre nicely rounds off the term.

Janet Duxbury 01608 737959.

Thanks to all the boys who attended Remembrance Parade, very smart, well done.

Many thanks to the Market Committee for their generous donation, we will put it to good use.

**Christmas Card Delivery –**

look for our boxes

in Eagles & Barford Post Office,  
on site from

Dec 5<sup>th</sup>. Deliveries on Dec 20<sup>th</sup>.

Details on Page 3



## Deddington PTA News

### Fireworks night

**W**e hope you enjoyed our Fireworks night on 6th November, we certainly did! You may have noticed the paramedics on site and a lost children area as well as lots of 'Hi-Vis' jackets! These were all introduced for your safety and we will ensure that level of security is provided again next year.

We are thrilled that we raised over £1000 which will go towards our funds for the school and we will let you know how we spend our money in these Newsletters.

### Year 4 school Trip

Previously the PTA give the teachers £500 to spend as they wish for their class. We are delighted to continue the tradition this year. Our first donation will be for Year 4. They planning a trip to Warner brother's studios in London, to compliment their literacy work on stories set in imaginary worlds and they will use our PTA donation to pay for the transport.

### Donation

On behalf of the PTA I would like to say a huge thank you to the Farmer's market who donated £225 to the PTA. Thank you!

### School Disco

Don't forget the school disco is on Thursday 10th December 2015 in the School Hall (access via Y3/4 entrance).

Key stage 1: 4.45 to 6

Key stage 2: 6.30 to 7.45

This event is a gift from the PTA to the children so there is no charge. Each child will get a bag of sweets, some popcorn and some squash/ water.

### Father Christmas

Once again Father Christmas has found time in his busy schedule to come to Deddington and meet the children. This year he will be in the church. Please come and visit him on Saturday 19th December between 9.30 and 12.30.

### Looking ahead

Please look out for details of a quiz early in the new year and more information of other fundraising and community events.



I would like to take the opportunity on behalf of the committee and the school to thank you all for your continued support.

Alex Elvin  
Chair, Deddington PTA  
deddingtonpta@gmail.com



**Alice in Poundland**  
**Two VIP tickets for the**  
**Saturday night performance**  
**for sale on Ebay.**  
The winning bidder gets two seats in the Royal Box with VIP treatment.

## Deddington Report

## Guide



The guides really loved the "Street Dance" session with a professional teacher. In just an hour they had learnt a dance routine to perform all together. It was brilliant.

Following the half term break, guides came to the meeting in some super Halloween costumes. We played traditional games (to us) games like apple bobbing, biscuits on string and the "Mummy" game.

We continue to keep busy with our patrol activities and challenges, with most patrols about to gain their "Go For It" award. On topics such as passion for fashion, keep fit and show time.

Well done to Amy U. Who organised some activities for the Guides connected with keeping fit, this is part of work towards the Baden-Powell award.

A small contingent did us proud on Remembrance day. Well done Becca, Amy U, and Connie. (many of our guides come from other villages some distance away, for example Fritwell and often were involved with their own churches)

Film night is very popular at this time of year, and we are looking forward to that. Then I expect we'll be starting to make preparations for Christmas.

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



**A date for your diary!!**  
**6<sup>th</sup> December 2015**  
**Putting up the Christmas Tree**  
**Barford St Michael Church**  
**2.30 – 3.30pm**



**The Christingle service**  
**4pm**

will follow Messy Church  
Please ensure, that for the time being  
children attend with a parent or allocated  
responsible adult.

We are currently unable to be solely responsible  
for a child due to Safeguarding, DBS checks  
And The Church of England laws for running  
public events.

Many Thanks for helping us to protect your  
children.

**Deddington PFSU and Village Nursery**

This month is full of Christmas festivities. Our Christmas Fayre takes place in Deddington Church on Tuesday, 1st December from 7.30 to 9.30pm. There will be stalls selling unique and special Christmas gifts including jewellery, cards, and crafts. There will be mulled wine, and the sound of carols played by Deddington Brass. Come and enjoy the opportunity to relax with friends over a drink and a mince pie and to make a start to your Christmas shopping. Everyone is welcome!

Both settings will be presenting Christmas performances for friends and family. The Nursery will be doing 'Journey to Bethlehem' on Tuesday 15th December, and the PFSU children, along with their friends in the F1 class, will be showing 'HeyEwe' on Monday 14th December at 2pm in Deddington Church.

Both settings will hold their Christmas parties on Thursday 17th December. The PFSU will also be holding a 'decorations' afternoon on Wednesday, 2nd December from 1.30 to 3.00pm, when parents are invited to join their children at pre-school for a creative afternoon and a Christmas snack. We hope to make the classroom look wonderfully festive on this occasion. Happy Christmas everyone!

Lucy Squires, 337484



**Welcome**  
**to new arrivals**

**Henry and Victoria Foster**  
**and little Imogen**

who have just moved into their  
new home in  
Horn Hill  
We wish you a happy time  
here in our lovely villages.



**Christmas Whist Drive,**  
**Friday, 18th December**  
**Barford Village Hall**

All the money raised from the Whist Drives  
is shared between the Church, the  
Shepherds & Bakehouse Students Trust  
and the Katharine House Hospice.

I am currently looking for suitable prizes for the  
raffle e.g. chocolates, biscuits, wine, plants  
etc.. Any item will be gratefully received!

Please contact  
Judy on 01869 338475.

*Seasonal greetings*  
*from the Daly family.*

*We will not be sending cards*  
*but will be making a donation to our*  
*favourite charity.*  
*Leon Lynn and Hannah.*



## Barford Green Garden Club Notes from our Potting Shed

We plan to have another **members only** event next year in the spring.. The second of a few 'private' **Nosey Gardens** visits. There is one garden opening to date, Buttermilk Cottage. If you wish to join us on the next visit, or would be prepared to open your garden for a peek Contact Linda Newbery on .....L.newbery@btinternet.com



We are visiting **Steane Park Garden** in Northamptonshire. Our visit is confirmed for **June 4th 2016** at 2.30 pm with a gardener to show us round.. More details to follow but we would need a group of **10** people. 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. Booking details to follow next year.

## GARDENING TIPS for DECEMBER

Frost, rainfall and winds are increasingly common, sunshine hours are much reduced and it can be bitter with a risk of snow. You may not want to be working outside at this time of year, but luckily there's not a lot to do. Keep an eye on winter protection, and if you have a greenhouse, make sure the heater works. It's time to think about pruning apples and pears too. Prune acers, birches and vines before Christmas to avoid bleeding. If you still haven't planted your **tulip bulbs** there is still time, provided the ground isn't frozen. **Insulate outdoor taps** or turn them off at the mains. Also pack away **hoses** that are not required. Wash down all of your **garden tools** and give them a wipe of linseed oil on the wooden and metal areas to help prevent rusting.



Look at your garden in the winter, see what is giving pleasure and what is not! Look at other gardens for ideas and plants with winter interest. Maybe you will have a Christmas present to add to your garden activities!

Did you know the colourful wrappers of **Quality Street sweets** are compostable? They are made from cellulose, derived from wood pulp, so rather than chuck them in the bin with your Christmas wrapping paper place them on your compost heap!



Bye for now &  
Happy Christmas!  
Spade and Fork





## Hempton Christmas Bazaar

**Saturday 5th December**  
**11am through lunchtime**  
in the Old School Room.

Join us for homemade soup and bacon baps.

Browse and buy from our stalls  
tombola, raffle, cakes  
Katharine House Christmas cards  
Somebody must win £50!  
games and much more



## What's on at Banbury Museum

**Who do you think you are?**

Thursday 17 December

**Telling your own family story**

Many of us are inspired to search for our ancestors by the TV programme. But how can you transform dry information from



census and other sources into a fascinating story of your family? Whether you are just starting out or are already researching your family tree, this session led by amateur genealogist Susan Walker will share ways to bring that story to life.

Starting with the sources to find your roots, we will focus on how to turn a pile of names and dates into an inspiring family story that you can pass on to future generations. You are welcome to bring your own discoveries to share.

Who: Adults

When: Thursday 19 December 19:30

Cost: £5 per person

## The Oxfordshire Home Front 1916. Cost £8.



Saturday 23 January Oxfordshire on the Home Front 1914-18' will explain about the impact of the war in the towns and countryside. It will focus upon fundraising and

charitable events, munitions production, recruitment, the effects upon women and children, the fear of invasion, the influx of Belgian refugees and many other themes. The talk is fully illustrated and uses testimony from those who were there.

## Deddington Primary School

National attainment and progress results for the academic year 2014-15 have just been published. We would like to share with the local community the impressive results achieved by Deddington Primary school in all year groups last year.



- ❖ The percentages of children achieving the expected and better than expected levels by the end of Foundation Stage (age 4-5) were higher than the national average.
- ❖ 90% of children achieved the required standard in the year 1 phonics test. This is the highest score ever achieved by the school and is higher than national average of 77%.
- ❖ For the third year in a row, results achieved in Reading, Writing and Maths at the end of year 2 (age 6-7) are significantly higher than the national average figures.
- ❖ At the end of year 6 (age 10-11), 97% of children achieved the 'secondary ready' level of 4b or higher in Reading, Writing and Maths. This is much higher than the national average.
- ❖ In addition, the progress made by children from the end of year 2 to the end of year 6 was greater than in any previous year at the school. Our overall value added score of 101.6 is the highest ever achieved at Deddington. It indicates that the amount of progress children make at our school is much stronger than seen in the vast majority of other schools.

These pleasing results show the impact of significant improvements made by the school over the last couple of years. They are not only well above national averages, but data shows that they are also comfortably above the results achieved by similar schools to Deddington. We should all feel proud of these fantastic achievements and see them as a clear demonstration of our commitment to excellence and the on-going journey towards being an outstanding school.

Mr Clive Evans, Head Teacher

~ ~ ~

Further to this good news about the school results, I would like to add that the governors of the school are committed to improving the school buildings to reflect the excellence going on inside.

Prior to June of this year, there had been a long period of doubt over whether Deddington school would be forced to expand to cater for children from the new housing developments in the surrounding area. As most of the houses are not to be built within our catchment area, we voted against expansion at the current time and are seizing the opportunity to make some much-needed improvements on the site.

Further to an article in the Deddington News in the summer, we had the unbelievable luck of an offer of help from *Grayling Thomas Architects*, a local firm specialising in Education Projects. They have been

amazingly generous with their time in helping us to gauge what we can do

We now have some early plans and some broadbrush costs to contemplate. At the time of writing, I'm not able to give you any more detail but we hope to unveil our plans and our fundraising target early in 2016. Just to say that we are really excited about the opportunities these plans will offer, not just to the children at the school and to those who will join us in the future, but to the community as a whole.

Mrs Becky Jones, Chair of Governors

### 200+ CLUB PRIZE WINNERS NOVEMBER DRAW

£15.00, No. 90, Mick Honour  
£10.00, No. 12, George & Freda Parker  
£5.00, No. 83, Dodwell Family

The Draw was made a cuppa morning



### Winter walk



Friday, 1st January

Meet outside the Village Hall at  
10:30am.

Two routes available one each for the robust and the frail, or just pay your fiver and join us for soup at the end.

Both routes should get you back around the same time.

What a better way to blow away the cobwebs?.

All we ask is a £5 donation towards the Kidz Home.

Dogs are welcome. Do come and join us - it's such a great way to begin the New Year...

Oh yeah, the soup is "game soup" - with tomato for the - veggies.

Leon

**'THANK YOU' From the  
Barford St Michael  
Messy Church Team**



We have now had our 3<sup>rd</sup> session of BSM's Messy Church. The children and adults have enjoyed getting VERY MESSY with ..... paint, glue, sticky paper, glitter and had lots of fun at the same time in a relaxed environment.

So far we have made a life size Joseph's Coat of Many Colours, A fish scene for feeding the 5000, and made Christmas decorations.

We have shared food including; Home made sausage casserole, parsnip soup and carrot soup.

All in all a GREAT SUCCESS and we are looking forward to more messy stuff in 2016

Bring your child or Bring your grown up and come and have some fun, All are Welcome

We are currently unable to be solely responsible for a child due to Safeguarding, DBS checks and

The Church of England laws for running public events.

Many Thanks for helping us to protect your children.



**CRIB SERVICE  
4PM, 24th December  
Christmas Eve  
St. Michael's Church**

**VILLAGE HALL UPDATE**

Dear All

The Village Hall Management Committee thought you may be interested to see what is involved (and achieved) in running the village hall.

**Each year we are committed to the following, much as running a home.....**Boiler servicing, PAT (electrical appliance) Testing, Insurance for contents of the Hall , (the Trustee pays for Building Insurance), Fire Extinguisher Testing, and the Music Licence (PPL) **Utilities to be paid for:** Electricity, oil, water

**Housekeeping Costs:** Cleaning materials, light bulbs, toilet/kitchen requisites, weekly cleaning costs, gardening costs

**Below is a table of works carried out June 2014 to date**

TASK
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Garden security lights replaced</li> <li>Security key box installed in the porch</li> <li>Sound system replaced and the old one sold on</li> <li>Whist tables mended and re-covered</li> <li>Damp course problem behind the hall (parallel with the Eden's) garden repaired</li> <li>Pointing above gents' toilet window carried out to resolve inside mildew problem. Affected area was repainted at the recent maintenance morning</li> <li>Membrane and gravel laid in shed/oil tank area</li> <li>Porch spruce up – porch fascia replaced and repointed/painted, new security lights outside and in porch</li> <li>X2 air vents installed in the cleaning cupboard to help with air flow</li> <li>New shelving installed in the cleaning cupboard</li> <li>Garden bench and picnic table in-situ</li> <li>Replacement cooker installed</li> <li>Replacement of leaking kettle</li> <li>Handrail and notice board post re-painted</li> </ul>
<b>Works in Progress</b>
New mechanism for fire door
Front step to be made safe and improved
Seeking quotes for replacement doors then beginning the Grant application process

In addition Mariann, Ann Beesley and Lucy run the monthly market where all proceeds from the bread stall, teas & coffees, stall rents and bacon butties go towards village hall maintenance and once a year the Committee hold the BBQ.

Lastly the VHMC would like also to thank the 'Associate' members who kindly lend a hand for the BBQ, the maintenance days, putting up the Christmas decorations and everything else in between.

**VHMC  
October 2015**





### Ed's Postbag

#### Dear Ed, Our Village Shop

I would like to implore residents to try to keep our village shop viable Their Christmas letter states

'If we don't use it we lose it'.

I have a personal interest in wanting the shop as I now loathe driving, having spent many hours behind the wheel both workwise and socially – I'm now burnt out. To think of driving to Deddington just for a newspaper fills me with mild irritation, which, at my advanced years, appals.

What does it cost to start your car on every 'needful' occasion, difficult to cost but frightening to establish!!

'When it's Gone, it's gone'

Yours sincerely

(name & address supplied)

## Ho Ho Ho!

Come and meet Father Christmas



At the Deddington church

**Saturday 19th December 2015**

**9.30 – 12.30**

*Donations to Deddington PTA charity*

*Registered Charity Number 1052715*

### Banbury Rural Neighbourhood Update Vehicle Crime

There have been a number of reported incidents of vehicles



being damaged in Barford St Michael and Sandford St Martin, involving windows being smashed overnight. If you have witnessed anything suspicious or have any information that could help us identify those responsible please contact the team on 101.

#### Fly Tipping

Fly tipping is the common term used to describe waste that has been illegally deposited causing damage to the environment, costing businesses, landowners and tax payers millions every year.

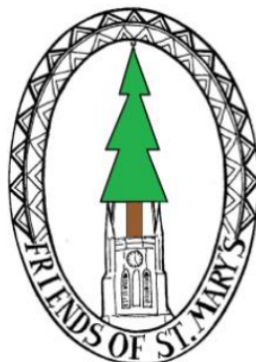
Householder's responsibility: Householders are required by law to check that anyone removing waste from their property are authorised to do so. Check waste carriers are genuine and hold a waste carriers licence.

Reporting Fly tipping:

Where house hold waste has been dumped (fly tipped) on adopted highway:

Residents should contact their local authority / Borough Council who will arrange for its removal.

## Bloxham Christmas Tree Festival



Come and see the  
stunning spectacle of  
St Mary's Church full  
of decorated  
Christmas trees

*\*\*Live musical  
performances\*\*Children's  
activities\*\*Refreshments in  
Parish Rooms\*\*Prayer and  
memorial trees\*\*Vote for the  
"People's Choice"*

**St Mary's Church, Bloxham**

**Fri 4<sup>th</sup> December, 10.30am-5.30pm**

**Sat 5<sup>th</sup> December, 10.30am-5.30pm**

**Sun 6<sup>th</sup> December, 11am – 5.30pm**

**(6pm: Festival Service)**

*Admission: £2.50 (free for under 16s)  
In aid of the Friends of St Mary's, Bloxham*



### Christmas on the Upton Front

Upton House is being transformed to take visitors back in time to Christmas in the 1940s.

This Christmas visitors to Upton House near Banbury will have the chance to experience what celebrating the festive period was like during the wartime years

Upton House will be prepared for a truly nostalgic Christmas from 28 November in true make do and mend style with hundreds of decorations being made by our brilliant volunteers and visitors.

A wartime Christmas Fayre will start the celebrations on the 5 and 6 December with tents and stalls brimming over with local food and handcrafted gifts.

Father Christmas will also be visiting every weekend to have brunch or tea with families after some wartime games and delicious rations!

Exclusive evening blackout tours will also be available throughout December after which cocoa and crumpets will be served from our cosy kitchen. For booking information, prices and opening times visit

[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/uptonhouse](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/uptonhouse) <<http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/uptonhouse>

## Katharine House News

### FESTIVE CELEBRATION CONCERT

There are still a few tickets available for Christmas concert- **A Festive Celebration**, on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm. This wonderful event will be held in the beautiful church of All Saints, Churchill, OX7 6NU. The evening will be a celebration of Christmas, with seasonal music from the talented Voice Box choir and festive readings from local celebrities. Tickets are £20 each (including refreshments) and we encourage supporters to book early to avoid disappointment. Please download an application form from our website [www.khh.org.uk](http://www.khh.org.uk) or call the Fundraising Department on (01295) 816484 to book your tickets.

### CHRISTMAS BAG PACK DAYS- VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

As part of our Christmas fundraising, we are holding three supermarket Bag Pack Days and are looking for volunteers to help on the day. Do you have 1.5 hours available to help pack shoppers' bags? We have been offered:

Sainsbury's Banbury store on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December

The Co-op, Chipping Norton on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December

Tesco's Banbury store on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December

We have 1.5 hour shifts available from 9.30am – 3.30pm and would be delighted to hear from anyone who'd like to come along and lend a hand. Please call Sarah Brennan on 01295 816484 or email [sarah.brennan@khh.org.uk](mailto:sarah.brennan@khh.org.uk)

### CHRISTMAS KNITTED NOVELTIES

Our knitted novelties are available from our seven local charity shops, all knitted by our wonderful team of volunteers! Each novelty is filled with a chocolate and sold for £1. Perfect for table decorations or stocking fillers (please note, they do contain nuts), this year we have Santas, snowmen, penguins, robins, Santa hats, Christmas puddings and festive hedgehogs.

### CHRISTMAS CARDS

This year we have 16 beautiful new designs on offer this year, including local scenes and these are now on sale at our 7 charity shops and Hospice reception. Our 2016 Local Scenes calendar is also available, priced at £4.50.

### KHH Lottery

Our lottery is a vital income source for Katharine House, having raised over £1 million since May 2000. If you're stuck for a Christmas present idea, we have a variety of Lottery Gift Membership solutions. For £1 per week you might get a phone call on a Friday morning from Wendy our Lottery Administrator telling you that you've won £1,000 - Wendy loves making that call! For more information call the Lottery Office on 01295 816484 or email [lottery@khh.org.uk](mailto:lottery@khh.org.uk).

## Bloxham Country Market

Are offering

**Free coffee and mince pies  
for all our customers on**

**Friday, 4th December**

10am – 11.30am

Ex-Servicemen's Hall

Our last market of the year  
will be on 18th December.

Our first market of 2016

Will be on **Friday 5th February**

The  
CHURCH TIMES

## Bloxham Festival of Faith & Literature

A literary festival with a theological slant



## 'All the World's a Stage'

Friday 19 - Sunday 21 February 2016 | Bloxham School, Oxfordshire

The Bloxham Festival of Faith and Literature  
returns in February 2016.

Our theme for 2016 is 'All the World's a Stage' and many sessions  
will explore William Shakespeare's work, life and world-view.

Tickets  
now on  
sale



### Confirmed speakers and performers

John Pritchard, former Bishop of Oxford | Salley Vickers, author of *The Cleaner of Chartres* and *Miss Garnet's Angel* | Richard Coles, parish priest and BBC Radio 4 presenter | Stephen Cottrell, Bishop of Chelmsford | Martyn Percy, Dean of Christ Church, Oxford | Catherine Fox, author of *Angels & Men* and *Acts & Omissions* | Kate Charles, author of the *Callie Anson* crime novels | Mark Oakley, Canon Chancellor of St Paul's Cathedral and regular *Church Times* columnist | Sam Wells, vicar of St Martin-in-the-Fields, London | Paul Edmondson, Head of Research and Knowledge for The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust | Allan Chapman, science historian and author of *Slaying the Dragons: Destroying Myths in the History of Science and Faith* | Stanley Wells, leading international Shakespeare scholar | Angela Tilby, Christ Church Oxford and *Church Times* columnist | Elizabeth Butler-Sloss, retired judge | Ruth Scott, priest and BBC Radio 2 *Pause for Thought* contributor | Alison Shell, Professor at University College London | Malcolm Guite the Chaplain of Giron College Cambridge and The Reduced Shakespeare Company

### TO PURCHASE TICKETS

Visit: [www.bloxhamfaithandliterature.co.uk](http://www.bloxhamfaithandliterature.co.uk)

Call: 0845 017 6965 (lines open Monday-Friday, 9am - 5pm)



Associate sponsors



## Down on the farm

The other day I followed a lorry from which the driver jettisoned an empty coke can. Coincidentally it was the day after Huge Fairly Witteron's war on waste programme and, ironically, the lorry bore the BIFFA waste collection logo.



> You would think the driver of a refuse wagon could have waited until his next stop and chucked it in the back.

> Waste is a huge and increasing problem and, for farmers, one of its seemingly inevitable accompaniments is fly tipping which has become a real menace. It is easier, it appears, for people to bung an old fridge into the nearest field gateway than be bothered to go to the local tip.

> Over the years we have had to clear up washing machines, fridges, sofas, bags of rubbish, mattresses, brick rubble, even a bag of used nappies ..... You name it, we've had it.

> A couple of weeks ago I found a brand new chair at the end of the drive – still in its plastic wrapping. Unfortunately it was a cheapo, uncomfortable job so, resisting a fleeting temptation to put it in my neighbour's driveway I kept it for November the fifth.

> Occasionally such discards can be useful. For example I straightened out a bent aluminium ladder and still use it, and I salvaged a few bits off a dumped filing cabinet to repair my own. But mostly it is a pain in the butt and needs time and effort to clear up.

> One of our worst fly tips involved a huge pile of broken glass which had been dumped into a crop of wheat a few yards from the gateway. It took most of the morning, a stout pair of hedging gloves and a trip to the Alkerton tip before we could get the combine into the field to harvest the crop.

> By comparison the things people chuck out of car windows are relatively minor, although I do sometimes wonder how they were brought up.

> We mow the roadside verge grass a few times a year, partly to make the place look tidy but mainly so we can see traffic coming down the hill when we want to pull out. The operation is always accompanied by bangs and clatters as the mower blades encounter plastic bottles, tins, sandwich boxes and other ex car window detritus.

> One summer I clipped a box of Mr Kipling's bramley apple pies (my favourite). It was a six pack and, on examination, I found there were still two left. I was tempted but thought better of it, unlike my sheep dog which quickly saw to their disposal.

> Why throw away a packet that still contains one-third of that which you had paid for? Perhaps he didn't want her indoors to know he had eaten four in one go, who knows. But it does underline the chronic food (and other) waste problem that was ably highlighted in HFW's TV programme.

Tony Collier,  
IronDown Farm

Want to see the Barford News photos in colour? Then take a look at the magazine's website version:  
<http://www.barfordnews.co.uk>



And don't forget you can keep up to date with village events on Facebook:  
[www.facebook.com/pages/Barford-St-Michael-St-John/76830272830](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Barford-St-Michael-St-John/76830272830)

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## NATURE NOTES 143

I THINK WE ALL EXPECTED a strong change in the beautiful warm weather of latter September, but the first four days of October were in like vein with a day max. of 18°. Buzzards seemed to 'mew' all day and Robins trilled and 'ticked' through dusk.

However, Low Pressure was pushing eastward and the 5th, 6th and 7th were days of general rain and wild storms, albeit mild with small glimpses of sun. Then, on the 7th another High Pressure system approached from the west and the night cleared to give 3° and a patchy grass frost. The following four days were similar, with light breezes, SW at first then backing to E on the 10th and 11th. Day temps. varied between 14° and 17° with long periods of sun, but there was a morning of thick mist that persisted until 1pm on the 9th. In this pleasant spell occasional Small Tortoiseshell butterflies were still on the wing, with Hoverflies on the Ivy flowers, and Bumblebees busy on the remaining garden and wild flowers. Pied Wagtails were foraging house roofs for minute insects, and a Green Woodpecker called around Steepness. Kites were frequent in the district and a Buzzard appeared occasionally. On the 10th an alarmed Mistle Thrush gave an extended spell of rattling chatter from the trees in St. Michael's churchyard.

The HP had now become locked in by surrounding weather systems and persisted until the 20th. Over these eight days temperatures ranged from 11° to 13° with nights seemingly locked onto 8.5°. It was a mild, dry period of variable cloud and sun with only a little sporadic drizzle. Over this period Kites remained frequently visible; Rooks were still squealing and tumbling with each other on their way to and from tilled ground. Ian Hobday spotted two Swallows over St. Michael on the 16th and I was informed that a Kestrel and a Little Owl were in residence around Warren Farm. From the warmth and dryness of this period many trees were well advanced in the colours of Autumn. Several species appeared to experience a mast-year with Ash, Sycamore and some Oaks laden with fruit. Many Ash trees had already lost their foliage, which had quickly turned brown and shrivelled – let us hope that it is not the dreaded Ash Die-back!

On the 19th the weather started to change and heavy overnight drizzle persisted through the morning. A dry, but dreary afternoon preceded a cold night of only 5.5°. Low Pressure from the Atlantic held sway across the NW of the U.K. which continued until the 26th. This produced a real mish-mash of different weather types; mild, with lumpy overcast and patchy sun and very quiet days; a mild night of 12° on the 21st dropped steadily down to one of only 3° on the 24th, which was very wet,

with a brilliant 'clearing-up' rainbow, and producing a light frost next morning. After a harsh, bright sunrise, the 25th became heavily cloudy; this thinned revealing layers of hazy sky-fog. The 26th saw a brilliant sunrise, with fairweather cloud building, but still a sunny, lovely day and evening, with a warm night of 11.5°. Over this period two male Tawny Owls hooted their territory boundaries to each other from Steepness and Fern Hill. Kites became less evident; a Raven moved around Hempton Hills, croaking occasionally and upsetting the Carrion Crows; a Heron flew SW, low over Townsend, during twilight – I'm always surprised at how nocturnal these birds can be! And, I found a Hedgehog asleep under a thick clump of grass in my wild garden as I cleared the worst of the dead vegetation to simulate cattle grazed turf. I moved Fuzzypeg, and his clump of grass, under thick shrubbery!

On the 26th a persistent loop of High Pressure developed across the south of England and brought a broad sweep of warm, dry air up from North Africa. Temperatures rose slowly, reaching 16° on the 31st, with nights hovering around 9° to 10°, the wind varying between S and SE. Much wildlife seemed to seek shelter or move away, even insects were not readily visible, and several people (including me) said how few, or even non-existent, birds were in their gardens. However, on the morning of the 31st, there appeared to have been an influx of Blackbirds and Dunnocks, presumably from the Continent. They were visible everywhere and noisy, feeding voraciously on lawns and in hedgerows. Several Barfordians spoke of them, but over the next couple of days they had dispersed and were gone!

Thus, October ended with something of a surprise! I wonder what surprises November will bring?

*Ron Knight*



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CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR**



**AS USUAL INSTEAD OF CHRISTMAS CARDS WE WILL  
BE MAKING A DONATION TO OXFORD YOUNG CARERS**



**MARTIN, JULIA & RACHAEL**



**CHRISTMAS DATES  
@ THE GEORGE**



**CHRISTMAS QUIZ @ 8.30PM ON WEDNESDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**

**BRING A TEAM OR JOIN ONE HERE! THE CHANCE TO WIN MILLIONS!**

**CHRISTMAS CAROLS @ 7PM ON FRIDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**

**COME AND JOIN US FOR A GLASS OF MULLED WINE, MINCE PIE & FA  
LA LA LA LAH!! ALL MUSICIANS & SINGERS WELCOME!**



**FOR CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS  
PLEASE SEE THE PUB DOOR.**

