

BARFORD NEWS

MARCH 2021
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Wishing you, in whatever way, shape or form that may be, a very Happy Mother's Day



In  Loving Memory

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

A meeting of the Parish Council took place at 7.30pm on 3rd February 2021 using Zoom Video Conferencing and was attended by Cllrs Turner, Hobbs, Cox, Charman, Best, Cosgrove, District Cllr B Williams and Mr Best, (Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer). Two members of the public attended the meeting.

Minutes of the last meeting: It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd December 2020 were a true and accurate record (unanimous).

Report from County Councillor Arash Fatemian: None

Report from District Councillor Bryn Williams:

The District Councillor update is displayed in the Parish Council noticeboard by the Village Hall for Parishioners to read

Public Participation:

Bottle Bank location – Two residents living near Summer Ley attended the meeting to explain their concerns about the siting of a bottle bank there. It was agreed that a bottle bank will not be located in the village unless residents are happy with the location. District Councillor Bryn Williams advised that Cherwell District Council had advised him that there had been a marked increase in use of the Deddington Bottle Bank which was being emptied more frequently and that they were happy to locate one in Barford St Michael if a suitable location could be found.

20's Plenty signs on the High Street – A resident requested that additional signs are located at either end of The Rock as the Rock Close junction is dangerous when cars exceed the speed limit. It was agreed that the current signs would be moved there temporarily to see if it made a difference.

Pavement between Rock Close and Lower Street – A resident asked if a footpath could be built but it was decided that the verge was flat here and there are no plans to install one currently.

Parish Matters:

Footpath sign at the top of The Rock footpath – A resident has suggested that a sign should be placed at the top of The Rock as lots of pedestrians and joggers are using the road which is dangerous rather than the footpath. It was agreed that a suitable location would be investigated.

Grass cutting quote – Thomas Fox has offered to hold the prices for grass cutting and it was agreed to accept this.

Gaps in hedge in West Close – It was agreed fill the gaps in the hedge on the Murreys Lane edge of West Close.

Mobile Post Office – BT has advised the Post Office that there are no available ADSL lines at the Deddington Exchange. This is preventing Post Office services from being provided. The Post Office has asked permission to install a mobile phone receiving aerial on the Village Hall so that the Post Office services can be offered. It was agreed that the Post Office will be given permission to install an aerial. Planning permission is not required if the aerial is less than 1 metre long.

Damaged wall in The Rock – The Clerk contacted Oxfordshire County Council Highways who has removed the cones and plastic fence but not repaired the wall. It was agreed that the Clerk will contact them again to request the repair work.

Gate on footpath leading out of the Churchyard – The Clerk has repaired the gatepost. The OCC footpaths officer is checking if there is a spare 6 inch square gatepost that can be supplied to replace it

Christmas Tree Lights on The Green – The timer and plugs were replaced on the Christmas tree lights but some of the LEDs have failed and it was agreed that replacement lights will be purchased.

Planning:

20/02682/F – Ayot Croft – Cherwell Planning decision – Permitted on 22/12/2020.

20/02828/CLUE – Thimblefields – Cherwell Planning decision – Permitted on 22/01/2021.

20/03384/F – Applea Banks – Cherwell Planning decision – Permitted on 03/02/2021.

Finance:

Payments - The Clerk sought approval for payments totalling £492.29

Next Meeting: The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 3rd March 2021 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall if restrictions have been lifted or by video conferencing if they are still in place.

Please note that this is a summary of the minutes from the meeting. The full minutes can be viewed in the Parish Council noticeboards or at:

www.thebarfordvillages.co.uk in the Parish Council meetings page.

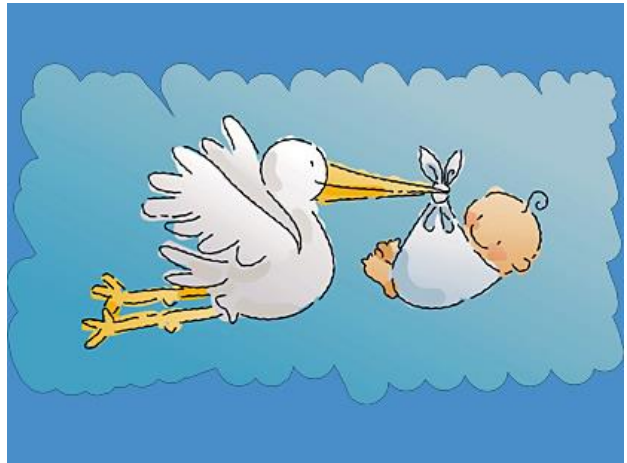
Members of the public wishing to attend video conferencing meetings are reminded that they should email the Clerk at:

davidbest.bardfordspc@gmail.com who will email back the log in details.

THE BARFORD'S BABY BOOM

Our Co-Editor, Mariann, mentioned the other day that there are 9 new babies in the villages. So, it seems that whilst most of us during the 2020 Lockdown had a Banana Bread in the oven some of our fellow villagers were cooking something a little bit more special....

BIG CONGRATS..!!



**CONGRATULATIONS to
Nina & John of High Street
who welcomed
Rosie Elizabeth Cranfield,
born at home, on the 19th January
2021, weighing 7lbs 7oz**



Also, I hear that Nina & John never had the traditional Barford News Barfords Welcome so here it is....



to Nina & John and now the beautiful little Rosie who have moved into the High Street. May we wish you many years of health and happiness in your new home in our beautiful villages

**CONGRATULATIONS
to Ami Harding
on the birth of her
beautiful daughter
CALLIE ISABEL
on 11th October 2020**



wishing Callie a long and happy life



There are lots of ways that you can make your garden friendly for wildlife. Roselle Chapman from Wild Oxfordshire shares some of her top tips here (listen from 5 minutes 30 seconds) or read the attached.

pennypost.org.uk/2020/12/wildlife-friendly-gardening-tips/?fbclid=IwAR2Mr_n35twGCux42gX9A7TQ7DY5X2Os9ibaRbJqaOgaZ1lhguwURmp1TM0

GARDENING FOR BEES AND OTHER POLLINATORS

BEE FACTS

250 species of bees in the UK
224 wild solitary bees
25 wild bumble bees
One domesticated honey bee

TREES YOU CAN PLANT THIS WINTER TO HELP POLLINATORS

- Male grey willow (sallow) *Salix cinerea*
- Goat willow *Salix caprea*
- Small-leaved lime *Tilia cordata*
- Service trees: *Sorbus torminalis*, *Sorbus domestica*
- Apple *Malus* sp - any, fruit bearing, or ornamental
- Cherry Plum - *Prunus cerasifera*
- Wild Hawthorn - *Crataegus monogyna/laevigata*

GARDENING TIPS

- Leave the dead plant stems over winter. Hollow stems may be used by bees for over wintering.]
- Provide flowers throughout the year – some bees emerge as early as February.
- Buy organic to ensure bulbs and plants haven't been treated with neonicotinoids.
- Have a flowering lawn.

- Provide a source of water for bees.
- Leave a patch of bare earth – mason bees gather mud to build egg cells.
- Include a variety flower shapes – different species have different tongue lengths.

More information can be found

at: www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk/communities/resources/



Clare Mowbray

My normal working days are Monday – Wednesday. All staff are currently working from home.

BOOKWORMS The History Room by Eliza Graham



Another meeting via Zoom, who would have thought twelve months ago that this would be the only way we can get together? It's been a long hard year but we are all very grateful for our monthly chats.

In January we discussed *The History Room* by Oxfordshire author Eliza Graham. The story is set around a private school in the Cotswolds where Meredith Cordingley's father is the headmaster. Meredith is the central character and returns to the school (which was also her childhood home) when her soldier husband is injured in Afghanistan and the trauma puts the marriage under strain. As we get to know the characters, secrets are revealed; from modern day as well as those that have been kept hidden for many many years. Graham covers the modern day issues along with historical ones in a neat way. With believable characters this is an easy and enjoyable read. Although at times the story felt a bit predictable it turned out to have a twist at the end.

At the next Zoom meeting we will be discussing *Mirror World of Melody Black* by Gavin Extence.

Bookworms, Deddington Library

**YOUR HELP IS NEEDED TO STOP THIS
DISGRACEFUL BEHAVIOUR**



Someone in the vicinity of our village has a problem. On my daily walk along the Nether Worton Road I have successfully retrieved all of these bottles from the ditches along with 2 wheelie bins full of tins, plastic bottles and other litter.

If anyone around here knows who this clown is, as they are clearly drinking and driving, and littering, can they let me know who they are. I can either inform the police or return the bottles to them, or both.

from a BSM Resident

PLEASE Look After Your Drains!

A recent sewer overflow in the village was found to have a blockage caused by an accumulation of fat and wet wipes!!

Regular cleansing of household drains with a simple solution of Soda Crystals and hot water would help to prevent future fat blockages.

Soda is cheap and readily available in supermarkets and has clear instructions on the packaging.

Flushing baby wipes, even biodegradable ones, down the toilet is a **big no-no**. They take a long time to decompose in a sewerage system and consequently clog up pipes and machinery.

Wipes and disposable nappies should be disposed of in your green bin after which they will be treated at Ardley Energy Recovery Facility



....to a very kind family from The Green....PS £25:00 is hardly a small donation, it is extremely generous and your words are much appreciated by The Team

Dear Caroline and the Barford News Team

This was a small donation towards the Barford News. We do so enjoy reading every month and this year it has been particularly valuable reading material. A huge thank you.



VILLAGE HALL POST OFFICE

Thursdays, 2.45pm – 4.15pm
Offering Full Postal and Banking Services
+ basic grocery items and household supplies

Call 01869 345229 to order your dairy, larder and fresh meat products for delivery on Thursdays
Wrightons of Fritwell..... for our full range please visit
www.wrightons.co.uk/grocer

Enquiries Welcome - 01869 345 229

**Be a part of
Census 2021**

Census day is 21 March 2021.

By taking part and encouraging others to do the same, you'll help make sure your community gets the services it needs.



Find out more at www.census.gov.uk

Follow @Census2021

Office for National Statistics www.census.gov.uk



Census 2021 - The Census is coming on 21 March

Information from the digital-first Census will help decide how services are planned and funded in our local area. Census outputs inform where millions of pounds of public funding is spent on services like transport, education and health, and on cycle routes, schools and dental surgeries. Everyone will receive a letter with a unique access code in the post, allowing them to complete their questionnaire online. Paper questionnaires will be available on request. For more information visit Census.gov.uk

Cases of COVID-19 are at an all-time high across Cherwell

STAY HOME

STOP THE SPREAD

SAVE LIVES

oxfordshire.gov.uk/stopthespread



COVID-19 SCAM ALERT - Unfortunately, the pandemic has brought out more and more scammers. Criminals are using the COVID-19 vaccine as a way to target the public by tricking them to hand over cash or financial details. They are sending convincing-looking text messages letting people know they are eligible for the vaccine or phoning people directly pretending to be from the NHS, or local pharmacy.

In the UK, COVID-19 vaccines will only be available through the National Health Services of England, Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland. You can be contacted by the NHS, your employer, a GP surgery or pharmacy local to you, to receive your vaccine. Remember, the vaccine is free of charge. At no point will you be asked to pay.

- The NHS **will never** ask you for your bank account or card details.
- The NHS **will never** ask you for your PIN or banking password.
- The NHS **will never** arrive unannounced at your home to administer the vaccine.
- The NHS **will never** ask you to prove your identity by sending copies of personal documents such as your passport, driving licence, bills or pay slips.

If you or a resident receive a call that you believe to be fraudulent, hang up. If you are suspicious about an email you have received, forward it to report@phishing.gov.uk. Suspicious text messages should be forwarded to the number 7726 which is free of charge. All the details above can be found on the internet.

HEDGELAYING

Hedgerows are an important part of our landscape, as a boundary, shelter and so our wildlife can flourish. A well-managed hedgerow is thick and bushy, an impenetrable barrier to sheep and cattle and a haven for wildlife. Left unmanaged a hedgerow will continue to grow upwards and outwards and will eventually become a row of trees unless mechanically cut to keep the height down. Hedgelaying is the only hedgerow management which promotes regrowth from ground level and which ensures the health and longevity of the hedgerow.

The skill of laying a hedge was once common practise. However due to the introduction of cheaper and less labour intensive methods of stock control this traditional form of land management is now a much rarer skill. How lucky we are to have the generational skills of the Cox family in our villages and here at Grange Farm, Over Worton. Chris Cox is the son of the late Glynn and Dorrie Cox and nephew of the late Mervyn and all have won many prizes for their work.

The theory behind laying a hedge is easy. The practice is much harder, requiring skill and experience. The aim is to reduce the thickness of the upright stems of the hedgerow trees by cutting away the wood on one side of the stem and in line with the course of the hedge. This being done, each remaining stem is laid down towards the horizontal, along the length of the hedge.

A stem which has been (or is to be) laid down in this manner is known as a pleacher. A section of bark and some sapwood must be left connecting a pleacher to its roots to keep the pleacher alive — knowing how much is one part of the art of hedgelaying. The height and condition of the trimmed stool, known locally by names such as a stobbin, is vital as this is where the strongest new growth will come from.



Traditionally and as preferred by Chris, the hedgelayer's tool was a billhook, supplemented with an axe. Nowadays some professional hedgelayers often use a chainsaw on larger pleachers. At regular intervals upright stakes are placed along the line of the hedge. These stakes give the finished hedge its final strength. Additional strength and a fancy effect is achieved by binding the uprights with hazel whips woven around the tops of the stakes, and cutting off the tops of all the stakes at the same height and at the same angle. The stakes and binders provide strength and stability to the hedge.



Then there is another advantage for the countryside from hedgelaying in that the stakes and binders required come from coppicing in the woods and in this case Worton Wood. Coppicing which involves cutting back woodland to ground level periodically to stimulate growth prevents over-shading from the canopy, great for ground layer plants such as bluebells. Many butterflies benefit from the increase in light and heat and as the area regrows the dense area of scrub provides a valuable habitat for ground nesting birds and smaller mammals.

All in all a win win to preserve the countryside for one and all.



GREEN THOUGHT OF THE MONTH

What's your favourite village tree?

Deddington Environment Network's Biodiversity group is asking local people to choose their favourite tree, and it would be lovely to do the same in the Barfords. Is there a tree you're especially fond of, in or near the village? Do please send a photo – I'd like to build up a gallery of trees throughout the

year.

One of mine, to start us off, is this venerable oak, in a field adjoining Summer Ley. As the seasons move on, you could photograph your tree in leaf or with blossom or berries. Send your photo with brief details of where the tree is. Thank you!

The Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill (CEE Bill)

The time to tackle the climate crisis is NOW. If we delay, we'll be powerless to prevent critical levels of global heating. **CEE Bill**, a cross-party initiative which tackles both the climate emergency and the threat of a sixth mass extinction, was written by scientists, lawyers and activists, and is supported by campaign groups, businesses, charities and individuals. It was presented to Parliament in September; the date of its second reading is yet to be announced. The Bill's demands are, in brief:



- That the government makes and enacts a serious plan to deal with our real fair share of emissions, and avoid exceeding critical limits.
- That this takes into account our entire global footprint, including that of imports from other countries
- The protection and conservation of nature here and overseas along supply chains, recognising damage caused by goods we consume
- That those in power should not depend on technology of the future to save the day, meanwhile polluting as usual
- That ordinary people should influence the way forward by participating in a citizens' assembly.

"We can't wait until 2050 to reach net zero – we will have long missed the moment by then if we are to limit the global average temperature rise to 1.5C. That has to be the goal and is a welcome focus of this Bill." *Caroline Lucas MP.*

CEE Bill is looking for support from individuals as well as organisations and MPs. Will you join in? Can you ask our MP, Victoria Prentis, for her support? Visit the **CEE Bill Alliance** website for more detail: <https://www.ceebill.uk/bill>

From John O'Brien: **Barford Environment Network (BEN)**

If you're interested in joining our new group or just finding out more, please email john@lcmb.co.uk. We're planning a virtual meeting to launch our group at **7pm on Thursday 18th March** and it would be great to have you join us.

Green Thought of the Month is compiled and edited by Linda Newbery. If you'd like to contribute, please email L.newbery@btinternet.com



BARFORD GREEN GARDEN CLUB - PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION 2021

This year we are organising another competition which is to be judged by Craig Churchill who is mainly a wildlife photographer. He exhibits at country shows and fairs and Deddington Farmers Market. *His Instagram account is craigchurchillphotography.* You do not have to be a member to enter. Anyone who lives in the Barfords can take part as well as their families who may not live in the village.

Please start taking your photographs now and through the next few months. Look for interesting light, different times of day, unusual angles and think about composition within the frame. They can be made on a phone or any camera, landscape or portrait format.

CATEGORIES

1. Home-grown food, cooked or uncooked
2. Hedges, fences, walls, gates or stiles
3. Garden tools, sheds or greenhouses
4. Wildlife in my garden or on my walks
5. The smallest wildlife I have found
6. A group of flowers growing anywhere

CHILDREN UNDER 16 CAN ENTER ANY CATEGORY BUT ALSO

7. My garden taken lying down
8. Looking up into a tree
9. The sky (*look for interesting cloud shapes and colours*)

THE PROCEDURE

All photos must be submitted digitally. Send to Linda Newbery by email l.newbery@btinternet.com There is NO ENTRY FEE, but DONATIONS please to Katharine House Hospice should be made by bank transfer or cash (*details from Linda*) Last year we raised nearly £100. Add your NAME and CATEGORY NUMBER to each entry and be sure to say if you are under 16. You will get an acknowledgement. E mail or ring 01869337526 if any problems.

HAPPY PHOTOGRAPHY..... and we look forward to seeing all your entries. There will be a Winner and Runner-up in each category, plus one overall winner and a special prize for the best photograph by someone under 16.

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IS 31ST AUGUST 2021. ALL WINNERS WILL BE NAMED IN BARFORD NEWS AND HOPEFULLY AN EXHIBITION OF SOME KIND. THANK YOU



FEBRUARY Draw

£25:00, 047, Collier Family
£15:00, 067, Sophie Gannon
£10:00, 010, Mariann Young
£5:00, 211, Jaimie Archer



the drawer took place at the Thursday Zoom Coffee Morning

CHURCH MATTERS



Lent is the six-week period leading up to Easter. It is one of the most important times of year for many Christians around the world, held at a similar level of importance to Advent – the build up to Christmas.



So where does Lent come from, and how do we "do" Lent? The Lenten season developed as part of the

historical Christian calendar. Although its format has varied throughout the centuries and throughout different cultures, the basic concept remains the same: to open our hearts to God's refining grace through prayer, confession, fasting, and almsgiving as we anticipate Holy Week.

Lent traditionally lasts forty days, modelled after Christ's forty-day fast in the desert, and ends on Good Friday. In the Western Church, Lent officially begins with a reminder of our mortality on Ash Wednesday (this year, falling on February 17th) and ends on Easter Sunday (4th April).

As the last day before Lent, **Shrove Tuesday** is a day of self-examination where Christians



would consider what sins they needed to repent of and what changes to their life or spiritual growth they would focus on during Lent. In preparation for Lent centuries ago, those observing the fast would use Shrove Tuesday to purify and remove from their house any of the items that they were giving up for the 40 days. Traditionally this included meat, fish, eggs, fats, milk and sugar – so Shrove Tuesday became the final feast before Lent began. Some of these ingredients combine easily to make pancake batter – hence Pancake Day!

Ash Wednesday begins Lent. The day gets its name from the traditional blessing of ashes taken after the burning of Palm branches (or crosses made from Palm leaves) from the previous year's Palm Sunday

celebrations. In some churches the ashes are used to draw a cross on the head of people to mark the beginning of their Lent fast. The drawing of the cross is often done while repeating the words '*Repent and believe in the Gospel*' (Mark 1:15) or *Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return*' (Genesis 3:19)

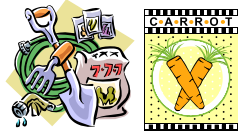


While Advent is a celebration and a time of great anticipation, Lent is more frequently seen as a time of solemn observance and preparation for the celebration of the death and resurrection of Jesus at Easter. Lent has been a traditional time for fasting or giving something up. We give up something or deprive ourselves of something so that others can have it. That's a sacrifice for others, for God. We just let others have it, instead of ourselves. That's giving; that's fasting, caring and loving. That's an act of love for others and for God because we see Christ in them.

These days Christians around the world observe Lent in many ways. Many from more orthodox and traditional denominations will still observe the fast strictly beginning with the wearing of ashes on Ash Wednesday and abstinence of meat, fish, eggs and fats until Easter Sunday. Others will choose to give up just one item for Lent, more commonly a 'luxury' such as chocolate, meat or alcohol. It is also becoming increasingly common for people to give up other things in order to refocus their faith during this time, such as watching TV, going to the gym, even social media!

Many Christians also use Lent to study their Bible and pray more intensively, making use of the many devotional books and courses now available (<https://www.deddingtonchurch.org/> or <https://www.churchofengland.org/> More and more Christians are turning to the 40acts challenge (<https://40acts.org.uk>) as a way of doing Lent differently; using simple daily reflections and acts of generosity as a way of putting others first during their preparations for Easter. What are you going to do for Lent?

Sue Addison, Churchwarden



BARFORD GREEN GARDEN CLUB
NOTES FROM OUR POTTING SHED
March 2021

"The spring is coming by many a sign;
 The trays are up, the hedges broken down
 That fenced the haystack, and the remnant shines
 Like some old antique fragment weathered brown.
 And where suns peep, in every sheltered place,
 The little early buttercups unfold
 A glittering star or two- till many trace
 The edges of the blackthorn clumps in gold.
 And then a little lamb bolts up behind
 The hill, and wags his tail to meet the yoe;
 And then another, sheltered from the wind,
 Lies all his length as dead - and lets me go
 Close by, and never stirs, but basking lies,
 With legs stretched out as though he could not rise."

John Clare, *Young Lambs*

JOBS TO DO IN AND AROUND THE GARDEN - As long as the ground isn't frozen, a key job for this month is to cultivate and prepare seedbeds. To warm them up before sowing, cover them with clear polythene, cloches or fleece. Get planting your bare-root fruit trees, containers and cold-stored strawberry runners. It's a key time for strawberries - planting, sowing seeds of alpine varieties or even pollinating strawberry flowers under glass.

March the first month of spring and the garden is coming alive. March is all about the colour of spring bulbs. In flower are Crocus, Daffodils, scented Narcissus, Fritillaria meleagris (common name 'Snakes Head Fritillary') and the delicate Erythronium. March is a bit of a 'Last Chance Saloon' making sure you do jobs before the growing season really sets in.

Gardening calendars are only a guide because so much depends on the weather in March; sometimes it can be spring-like, other times cold and frosty. The weather will affect the degree to which the soil has warmed up ready for planting. March is the time to prune bush and shrub rose varieties and it is easier than it seems. Look at the plant, remove anything that looks unhealthy. This means removing any branches which are spindly, or don't look good; prune them away. Look at the remaining framework on each major branch, look for a bud which faces outwards (away from the plant) and cut on a slope just above. Cut to around 40cm (1ft - 1.5ft) which is around knee high. You are aiming for a goblet shape. It's a good idea, if you have time, to feed the roses after pruning.

If you haven't already done so March is also the correct time to prune Buddleia. Cut it back to 15cms – it will look very bare, but don't panic. Buddleia is a vigorous shrub and will quickly re-grow. You can also hard prune Lavatera as the new green shoots are emerging; cut the old wood right back and the new growth will flourish and carry this year's flowers.

March is the last chance to plant bare-root fruit trees, and ideally plant container-grown ones too: Plant cold-stored strawberry runners: Sow seeds of alpine strawberries: Plant onions, shallots and garlic sets: Plant Jerusalem artichoke tubers: Chit early and maincrop potatoes: Plant asparagus crowns: Sow seed outdoors in mild areas with light soil, eg: broad beans, carrots, parsnips, beetroot, onions, lettuces, radish, peas, spinach, summer cabbage, salad leaves, leeks, Swiss chard, kohlrabi, turnip and summer cauliflower. Be guided by the weather, and sow only if conditions are suitable: Sow seed indoors of sweet peppers, tomatoes, cucumbers, celery, salads and globe artichokes.

CLUB NEWS - The Committee held a meeting over Zoom, what else! We discussed many things including the AGM, Plant swaps and Photography Competition (see separate notice in BN). All members will be getting an email about the AGM and other matters. They will also receive Treasurer's Report and Chairman's Report for last year's activities!

We have decided to do a Plant Swap on 15/16th May, either in Village Hall Garden if permitted or on a roadside verge as last year. All proceeds to Katharine House Hospice as before. We have decided to abandon Nosey Gardens for this year but hope to resume in future. A welcome notice about the Garden Club appears in this B.N. and all newcomers will receive a printed invitation in due course. If anyone wishes to join, please get in touch. We have some new Committee members, who will be listed in the members' email. We talked about visits in the future as well as talks, possibly via Zoom.

Your subscription won't need renewing until spring 2022. News about AGM will be sent to members.

Happy March Gardening.....sitting indoors / planning / sowing, and we will be in touch again soon.

Keep warm, take care and we shall see you soon.



SPADE and FORK

RAF BARFORD ST JOHN

The airfield was opened on 30 July 1941 as a training facility for RAF Flying Training Command. It had three grass runways, used primarily by Airspeed Oxfords of No. 15 Service Flying Training School RAF from RAF Kidlington. The airfield was closed in late 1941 and rebuilt as an RAF Bomber Command airfield with paved runways and equipped for night operations. The airfield reopened in December 1942 as a satellite for RAF Upper Heyford.

After being used to train bomber crews before they were posted to squadrons in 1942, it was chosen for the jet testing programme in 1943, because of its secluded rural location.

RAF Barford St John was used as the base for top-secret tests of Britain's prototype jet planes, powered by engines designed by Sir Frank Whittle, during the Second World War.

It was also close enough to Coventry, where Sir Frank's Power Jets company was based.

It tested the pioneering Gloster-Whittle E28/39 jet built by the Gloucester Aircraft Company and prototypes including the twin-engined Gloster F9/40, later the Gloster Meteor fighter.

These were used in 1944 to catch and shoot down German V1 flying bombs launched against London.

After the war the airfield was closed in 1946 and placed into care and maintenance.

In 1951 the United States Air Force opened a communications (transmitter) centre on the airfield, reporting to the 2130th Communications Group (UK Communications Region) at RAF Croughton.

Given its post-war use by the military, all its runways, perimeter track and hardstands still exist but the World War II buildings have been removed, being replaced by modern buildings on the airfield, secured and guarded with fencing and other security devices.



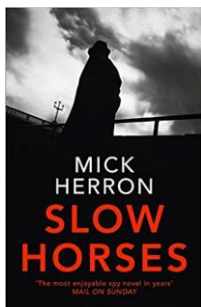
RAF Barford St John 70th Anniversary Commemorative Ceremony (1941 – 2011)

At a ceremony on 16th September, 2011, a permanent memorial was placed at the airfield commemorating the role of RAF Barford St. John and the personnel operating from there during the 70 year period. The memorial was provided by the North Oxon. and Cotswolds branch of the Historic Military Vehicle Trust. Members of our parish council were present at the ceremony pictured with

Mick Cook behind the plaque which is mounted on 3½ tons of local ironstone donated and dressed by Great Tew quarry, which Mick Cook put in place with his JCB. Up until then there had been little tribute to Sir Frank, from Coventry, or the work that was carried out at the base, but passionate locals had sought to change that. Anthony King, chairman of North Oxon and Cotswold Military Vehicle Trust, said: "To quote Michael Caine, not many people realise that this little part of Oxfordshire played a very important part in the work done by Sir Frank and his team.

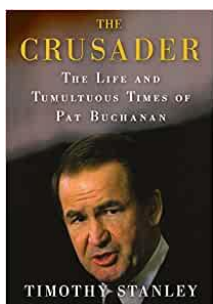
Without it the Meteor jet would not have flown and been able to intercept and destroy the dreaded V1s that were falling on this country at the time of 1944."

The UK's first jet engine flight took place at RAF Cranwell in Lincolnshire on 15 May 1941.



Slow Horses by Nick Heron is the first in a series of popular thrillers by Nick Heron. My impression of this and the later *Real Tigers*, is that it's John Le Carré for those who lack the patience to follow an achingly demanding plot based around the fallibility of MI6/MI5 operatives.

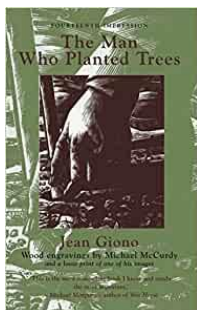
The opening chapter, a thrilling description of the pursuit of a terrorist about to bomb the Tube, stayed with me long after the machinations of the secret service personnel had evaporated. The 'slow horses' of the title refer to those sequestered in a backwater of MI6 designed for staff who have failed in the field: condemned to languish, derided and demeaned daily until they either walk away or expire. But nothing in the world of spies and the spied-upon is as it may first appear. **Trevor Arrowsmith**



The Crusader: The Life and Tumultuous Times of Pat Buchanan, by Timothy Stanley.

Political biographies are brilliant or boring. Brilliant ones like this don't just exhaustively record everything, they reveal the character of their subject. Timothy Stanley's book is comprehensive, but its genius is in getting to the heart of a complex and important man. It is also terrifically funny.

Buchanan's blend of conservatism, pugnacity, Catholicism, hostility to free trade, humour, and an incredible facility with language mean he is a far more significant figure than his CV alone might suggest. He is therefore worthy of study on his own merits, but he also foreshadowed Donald Trump. Had they understood Buchanan, Democrats (and other Republicans) would have ensured in 2016 that a billionaire property developer from New York wasn't the only candidate who appeared to care about unemployment in the Rust Belt. Their tragedy is that they were too myopic and smug to do so. **Tom Greeves**



The Man Who Planted Trees, by Jean Giono. This slender book is a profound moral fable. Indeed, it is a parable. It tells the story of a shepherd, Elzéard Bouffier, who dedicates his long lifetime to the planting of trees, and in doing so restores a barren landscape to abundant natural and human life.

So compelling and life-affirming is the tale, so real the shepherd, that it is a sadness to know that it is a work of the imagination. Yet here is a vision of the world as it could and should be - a beautiful and gentle assertion that a small act of faith, the planting of a seed, can transform the earth. **Jenny Greeves**

Reviews are compiled and edited by Linda Newbery. For a book review every Monday, all by writers and independent booksellers, follow **Writers Review**: www.reviewsbywriters.blogspot.com



VIRTUAL THURSDAY CUPPA MORNING.....Because the Thursday Cuppa Mornings can't take place at the moment in the village hall, we've started to host a virtual 'coffee and chat' on Thursday mornings using the Barford WI's Zoom licence. You can join and leave any time from 10:30 to suit yourself. It usually lasts for about an hour and currently there's a group of eight or so regulars (male and female), but you're very welcome to join in occasionally.

It doesn't matter if you've never been along to the Cuppa Mornings. With so many people at home during the lockdown and with less incentive to be outside in the cold, you might just like the opportunity to see some friendly faces. If you're unaccustomed to using Zoom, we can help you get started.

If you'd like to join us, please contact Christine Hall (☎ 338659 or hall94.christine@btinternet.com)



1st DEDDINGTON SCOUT GROUP

Cubs

At last, our Zoom meetings have taken off & we're working through some outstanding parts of our programme. We are meeting fortnightly, alternating with the Scouts & will continue until we can come together properly. We still begin our sessions with flag break, albeit a tiny home-made one & play games such as, Play your Cards Right & Virtual Scavenger Hunt. Our first meeting centred on Birds & the RSPB Big Bird Count & included feeders, a quiz & an eye boggling twirly bird!

Next, we invented a new sport – be amazed at Frugby, a cross between rugby & frisbee using pillows & a telescope for the referee!

Jo Churchyard deddingtuncubs@gmail.com

Scouts

It was great to see so many Scouts on Zoom & we also performed our first online investiture, which was also our first cross border one as the Scout concerned is in France! Our first meeting was all about wellbeing (well, we worry about them), they made Chatterboxes, origami fortune tellers, to aid discussions on the subject with members of their families.

We then threw caution to the wind & made chocolate puddings with a mug & a microwave, harder than you think when everyone is in a different kitchen. They turned out well & we will do some more cooking in the future. More silly games, collecting things in a hat, Guess Who? & What's in the Bag? Always a surprise!

Peter Churchyard deddingtonscouts@gmail.com

Explorers

Our term has started with the Unit arranging the programme. Concentration is on the International part of the Award work combined with the Chef's badge, Hikes Away, Fund Raising, and creative arts.

It's been a mouth-watering start with German biscuits and Indian curry. This followed by Japanese Origami so we're looking forward to knowing what we will be creating. The charity we are supporting, Street Child United, are still planning to get young people to participate in the SCU World Cup in Qatar

immediately after the Football World Cup. So, our aim is, cumulatively, to virtually walk/cycle/run/circuit train our way to the start. It's distance of over 3,000 miles so plenty of fitness to be gained. Watch out for our updates.

www.streetchildunited.org If you are interested in joining the Unit contact any of the leaders at spartansexplorers@gmail.com
www.deddingtonscouts.org.uk/explorers.html
Janet Duxbury spartansexplorers@gmail.com



DEDDINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

As we approach half term, the children at Deddington Primary School are in need of an incredibly well deserved break. By this I don't just mean the children who remain in school but also those who are learning from home. It goes without saying that all parents and carers of our pupils are also in need of an extremely well earned rest. We cannot thank our families enough for their support and hard work, week in, week out since Lockdown began once more in January.

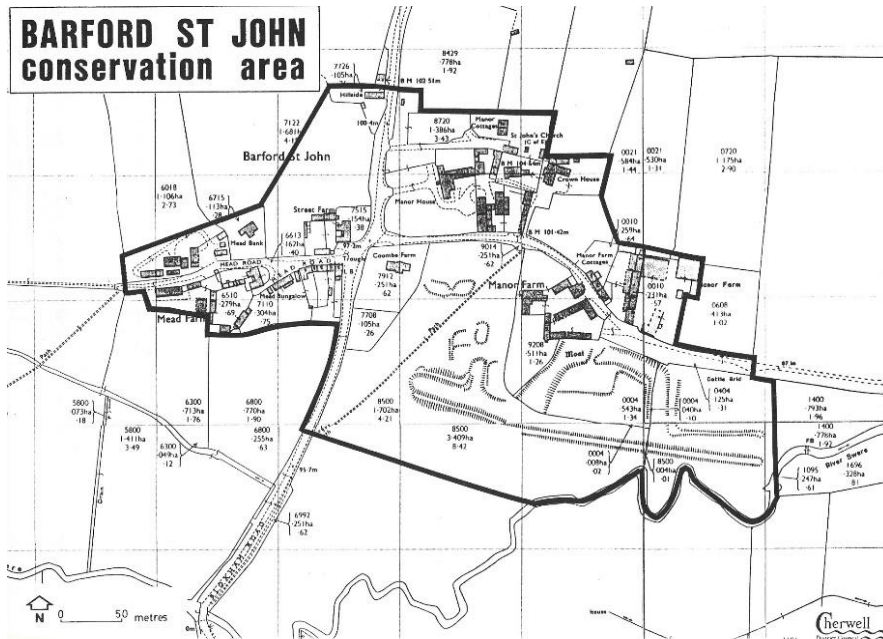
Since our last newsletter, the teachers have increased the number of Live Lessons on offer to their classes. Consequently, the children have been loving 'seeing' their peers online, whilst being taught by their teachers and Teaching Assistants. We have continued to offer online Assemblies and Reverend Annie has supported us with these too. A major focus for us all has been to maintain an upbeat approach in our lessons, with the aim of helping keep our pupils' mental health as positive as possible, throughout this challenging period of time. Our focus on physical exercise, as always, has remained a priority here at Deddington too.

The children all loved the snow when it came in January and it feels like more could be on the way now! This would be perfect timing for our children to enjoy during their half term break!

For now, we would like to send you all our very best wishes and hope you remain well, from all of us here at Deddington Primary school.

DENISE WELCH

TREES IN A CONSERVATION AREA



Residents are reminded that if they live in the Barford St Michael or Barford St John Conservation Areas they need to give six weeks' notice of intent to Cherwell District Council if they wish to carry out works to any trees that have a trunk diameter of more than 75mm when measured 1.5m from ground level. For more information, please check the Cherwell District Council website at:

www.cherwell.gov.uk/info/7/environment/281/trees-in-conservation-areas

Some trees are subject to a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) in which case an application for works to a tree is required rather than just giving notice of intent.

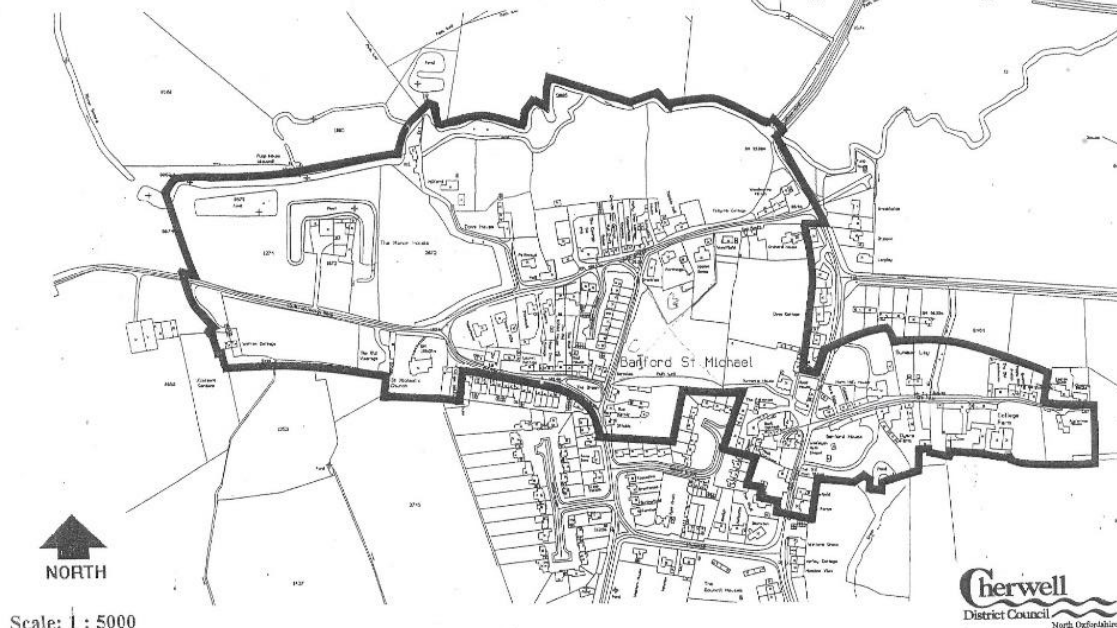
The form for this is the same for notification of proposed works in a Conservation Area or application for works to a tree with a TPO. It is quite simple to complete and can be found on the Cherwell website at:

<https://www.cherwell.gov.uk/info/115/planning/167/apply-online-at-planning-portal>

There is no fee to pay for the application

BARFORD ST MICHAEL conservation area

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BRYN WILLIAMS District Councillor Update Barford Parish Council 03/02/21

To view this document in its entirety please see the Parish Council notice board next to the Village Hall. This document covers:

COVID-19 UPDATE

- The Statistics
- Clinically Extremely Vulnerable
- Vaccination Programme
- New Grant Funding from the Department of Health and Social Care
- Self-isolation Financial Support
- Dr Bike Sessions resume
- Census Update

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www.victoriaprentis.com

Contact Victoria:

Constituency:
 01869 233685
Orchard House
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Barford St. John
OX15 0PR
01295 720566
davidbest.barfordspc@gmail.com

Chairman:	Mrs. S. Turner	01869 337228
Vice Chairman:	Dr R Hobbs	01869 338078
Councillors:	Mrs. S. Best	01295 720566
	Mr P Cosgrove	01869 337552
	Mr. C. Charman	07796 544363
	Mr R Cox	01869 337736
	Mr. P. Eden	01869 338835

Parish Council meetings in the Village Hall. 1st Wednesday in the month at 7.30pm
This is an opportunity for parishioners to bring questions or concerns to the meeting in person
CDC website: www.cherwell-dc.gov.uk – Parish Council minutes at www.cherwell-local.com

VILLAGE AND LOCAL EVENTS DIARY

Diary dates to the editor by 15th of each month please

CHURCH SERVICES

Church of England

March

Revd Annie Goldthorp, Vicar, Deddington with Barford, Clifton and Hempton on 01869 336880
Email: deddingtonchurch.org

Methodist Chapel

For details of services contact:
 Mr Robbie Pilkington ☎ 01295 811367

Roman Catholic

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 Sunday – 11.00am Mass
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Regular weekly/monthly events

Mondays Beavers (Deddington)
 Boys Brigade band practice

Tuesdays Guides (Deddington)
 Carpet bowls – Sept - Mar

Wednesdays Brownies (Windmill - Deddington)
 1st week parish council (not August)
 2nd week W.I. meeting
 Boys Brigade (Deddington)

Thursdays Village Hall Post Office
 Open cuppa mornings
 Cubs (Deddington)
 Scouts (Deddington)

Fridays Rainbows

Saturdays Village Market 3rd week
(except January or August)

1st Wednesday Parish Council Meeting

3rd Wednesday Village Hall Management Committee

DIARY DATES

MARCH

3rd Parish Council Meeting at 7:30pm via video conferencing

BARFORD NEWS

Copy deadline 15th of each month

Editor: Lucy Norman 01869 337678

Dep Editor: Mariann Young 01869 338570

barfordnews@gmail.com

Treasurer and adverts: Caroline Bird

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