

# BARFORD NEWS

MARCH 2022  
www.barfordnews.co.uk

Price 50p where sold



**BARFORD ST. JOHN & ST. MICHAEL**



**Jubilee Celebrations**



**Please can you help??**

We are planning to set up a  
**Jubilee Celebrations Group**  
**70 Years**

To co-ordinate village activities over  
**The June Bank Holiday Weekend**

**Volunteers** are needed from all village areas to help  
make this a

Truly Memorable Village Event.

If you would like to be involved, or would just like to find  
out more, please contact Carole Coppin

on Whatsapp, 07768 378758



**DEDDINGTON FOUR FARMS  
CHALLENGE**

The Deddington Four Farms Challenge 2022 (*affectionately abbreviated to the 'Four Farms'*) has been running, no pun intended, since 2014 and was hugely missed in 2020 and 2021 for its fun, frolics and farmyard muck

It is a local charity (split equally between the Deddington Fire Service, PTA, PFSU) fun-run offering a 5k and 10k option, together with family entertainment into the early afternoon. Local 'celebrity' coffee Buzzy Beans will be there and they'll be a BBQ, bar, snack and tuck stalls alongside young children's entertainment.

This year, after its absence for the last two years, it is back... on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2022

We've got new sponsors on board, an injection of energy with new members behind its organisation and plenty of fresh blood that has arrived in the parish and beyond during the 'Covid years'...

The updated website is now up and running, entries already being taken on [www.fourfarmschallenge.run](http://www.fourfarmschallenge.run)



**Congratulations!**



**On the birth of  
James Kay Elliott on  
Tuesday the 18<sup>th</sup> of January  
weighing 9lb 3oz**

**Dad Tom, Mum Anna  
and elder brothers  
Leo (7yrs) and Euan (5yrs)  
are very proud of his arrival.**

**Another beautiful grandson for  
Barford Grandparents  
Carolyn & Jeff Elliott  
Sue & John Christie**

**CONGRATULATIONS and very best  
wishes to  
Lizzie Eden and Joe Mumford**



**Pictured at their civil wedding  
ceremony  
On 14<sup>th</sup> February...to be followed by a  
Family Celebration in May**

**Congratulations!**

**To Elly & Danny**



**On the birth of  
Winnifred Ofelia  
on 19<sup>th</sup> of January  
weighing 7lb 10oz...a sister for Frankie  
and second granddaughter for  
Lavinia & David Crowther**

*Thank  
You*

**to a lovely lady who was visiting her  
daughter and family in Townsned and gave  
us a really kind and generous donaton of £20.**

**The BN Team**

## WILD FLOWERS IN THE BARFORDS

By Margaret Murdin & Janet Payne

### Snowdrop : *galanthus nivalis*



The snowdrop has also been called 'candlemass bells' (celebrated on 2<sup>nd</sup> February), February Fairmaids and 'snowpiercer'. Even if it does appear through snow, we see it

as indicating that spring is on the way. This little bulb, which may have originated in South West England, will spread happily along verges, under hedges and more spectacularly over meadows and woodland. It prefers damp places such as the bank by the watercourse running down from Horn Hill. It was associated in the past with the Virgin Mary and also, therefore, abbeys and church buildings – as in the St Michael graveyard.

Older 'Archers' fans may remember Mollie Harris, who played the shopkeeper 'Martha Woodford' in the series. She also wrote books on local Oxfordshire history. According to her, snowdrops were often planted on either side of the paths leading to the outside toilet, which must have been helpful on dark February nights.

There are very many types of snowdrops besides the wild one. To see some of the huge variety of cultivars or enjoy them in big drifts go to Evenley Woods, or to open gardens in the Cotswolds or in Wiltshire.

At this time of year the queen honey bees are just starting to lay eggs and the developing larvae needs feeding. Snowdrops usually offer the first pollen of the year for the bees who use it to produce what we call 'brood food'. They produce only a small amount of nectar.

The little white flowers are bell shaped specifically to protect their supply of goodies; their pollen. Look closely at them. In bad weather the flowers partially close and droop in order to prevent the rain or wind from destroying their hidden hoard.

The flowers are too early for bumble bees or solitary bees but, on fine, dry days the honey bees can be seen with the bright orange pollen on their hind legs.



### Pinto Lounge

grubadvisor

review by Linda Newbery

#### Where did you eat?

Pinto Lounge, 21 High Street, Banbury, [OX16 5EG](https://www.ox165eg.co.uk) • 01295 275 467  
• [pinto@thelounges.co.uk](mailto:pinto@thelounges.co.uk)

#### Cuisine?

Mixed, informal – burgers, tapas, salads, soups, breakfast and brunch, cake

#### RATINGS Food

Out of 5 stars.....  
★★★★★

#### Service

★★★★★

#### Value

★★★★★

#### Atmosphere

★★★★★

#### COMMENTS:

Pinto Lounge is my favourite place in Banbury to meet friends for breakfast, lunch or coffee and cake. The spacious, light-filled interior is decorated with tiles, mirrors and lampshades, and the atmosphere is always relaxed and friendly. Anywhere that offers a vegan menu gets a thumbs-up from me, and I especially recommend the breakfast choices. All the food is fresh and delicious. They've just launched a new menu – hmmm, time for a visit.



**WI Annual Dinner 2022** - The Barfords WI Annual Dinner was held at the George Inn, Barford St Michael on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> January. It was a most enjoyable evening with 23 members in attendance. Everyone could select either a 2 or 3 course dinner with some delicious menu options.

**ANNUAL MEETING  
AND  
BRING & SHARE SUPPER**  
on Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> March  
in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

Please come along to enjoy  
shared food and make your  
choice of our president for the  
coming year

Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> December  
7.30pm in the Village Hall



Christine Hall 338 659  
barfordwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk



**Thank You**  
to Brian Dodwell  
of  
**CUBiCULO**  
for restoring the public benches  
In Lower Street and Townsend

## TUESDAY LUNCH CLUB

15th March 2022

12.30PM for 1PM

### MENU

cream of cauliflower, broccoli & stilton soup  
or  
mild curried parsnip soup  
both served with croutons and a selection of  
crusty bread

followed by  
a selection of homemade cakes and biscuits  
served with coffee or tea  
price £5.00

as usual please bring your own drinks to  
have with your meal

please ring Anne & Mick on 01869 337074,  
or email [mickpearson1@outlook.com](mailto:mickpearson1@outlook.com) by  
Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March to book  
please note: if you do not receive a reply to  
your email, we haven't received it so  
please call us.

we regret we are unable to cater for anyone with food  
allergies

### please note

the meal will only take place if the  
government's covid rules in operation at the  
time allow. Assuming we can go ahead  
please note the following:

- 1) the hall will be well ventilated so please  
wrap up warm.
- 2) in order to protect ourselves as much as  
possible from the risk of covid, we would  
strongly suggest we all, a) carry out a  
lateral flow test the morning of the lunch  
club to be as sure as possible we are not  
contagious; b) use the hand gel in the  
foyer on entering and leaving and c) wear  
a face mask in the hall until you are  
seated.



### VILLAGE CUPPA MORNINGS EVERY THURSDAY IN THE VILLAGE HALL

10.00 – 11.30

Just £1.00 per person pays for your cuppa and  
as many refills as you can drink including  
coffee, caffeine free, tea, fruit teas available -  
biscuits included in the price

Come down to the hall and meet up with  
friends and neighbours of all ages - Babies and  
children welcome!!

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**WIT & WISDOM.....***"The bad  
news is time flies. The good news  
is that you are the Pilot..."*

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### Deddington PFSU and Village Nursery

The first term of 2022  
has already flown by and it  
has been a busy one.

The Nursery children  
have been finding out  
about 'people who help  
us'. It has been a treat to  
welcome a nurse, the police, and the fire service  
to the Nursery, to find out at first hand about the  
work they do.

At the PFSU we celebrated the start of the Year  
of the Tiger with Chinese music, snacks, lion and  
dragon dances, red lanterns, money envelopes,  
and tiger puppets made from wooden spoons!  
We have also been thinking about animals and  
had a visit from the vet as well as talking about  
our own pets.

Thank you to all our visitors this term who have  
given up their time to support our children. It has  
been fantastic to be able to welcome you back! A  
belated thank you to everyone who supported  
our Christmas raffle. We raised an amazing  
£700.

Lucy Squires | ☎ 337484

# BARFORD MARKET

SATURDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> MARCH  
10.00 – 12.00 IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Kan's Kitchen – Thai Food

Two Jolly Cooks – Freezer ready meals

Moore & Lyon – Home-reared meats, eggs

Lovas Bakery from Hempton, with their delicious artisan breads

It's A Chocolate Thing – Wonderful artisan chocolates. Bar flavours include: Salted Caramel, Ginger & Pepper, Eton Mess, Black Forest, Rocky Road,  
Plus an excellent range of local producers selling,  
Potted Herbs, savouries, cakes, preserves.  
Hand knitted woollies and made-to-measure items.

Barford Environment Network – Offering refills of household products, Bring your own bottle, or have one filled for you.

Free delivery to our market of zero-waste shopping from  
'Nothing But Footprints' - order online by Thursday. [www.refillnotlandfill.co.uk](http://www.refillnotlandfill.co.uk)

.....and for the birds we have seeds, mealworms, sunflower hearts, fat balls  
+ Mick & Anne's bacon /bacon & egg/breakfast butties - from the Kitchen

TEA AND COFFEE SERVED ALL MORNING FROM THE BAR

All profits for our Village Hall



## 200 CLUB DRAW FEBRUARY

£25	169	Bryn Williams
£15	184	Christine Hall
£10	082	Maggie Blackhall
£5	146	Robert Pietruszkiewicz

The draw took place at Tuesday  
Bowls in the Hall

Calling all woodworkers especially  
wood turners –

I have a large quantity of wood - all  
seasoned including Yew and  
Laburnum - but also some planks of  
oak and Scots Pine - Much too good to  
burn!



If you are interested, please  
contact John Hirons on ☎  
07795 632363.



## 1<sup>st</sup> DEDDINGTON SCOUT GROUP

### Cubs

This month, Cubs have enjoyed activities around road safety and finishing some of the activities around their Pioneer badge involving learning knots and a lashing. We have also had evenings of activities focused on road safety. During these activities the Cubs learnt the Green Cross Code, how to behave safely as a car passenger or driver, and also studied different road signs and different types of road crossings. We had a very special evening last week when we had an evening learning about Chinese New Year.

We are lucky enough to have a cub in our pack who has Chinese heritage and he taught us to say Happy New Year in Mandarin, how to make paper decorations, and also shared some Chinese food with us. Thank you to Will and his family for sharing a bit of their culture with us. Also thanks Popular Chinese Takeaway for donating fortune cookies for the cubs. We played some great team games related to the Chinese Zodiac and using chopsticks to lift individual peas between bowls. There was lots of noise and lots of fun! This coming week, in the run-up to half term, we are looking forward to visiting Deddington Fire station - I am sure it will be fascinating and we are grateful to the local Fire Service for accommodating our visit to this important community service.

Paul Honess [deddingtoncubs@gmail.com](mailto:deddingtoncubs@gmail.com)

### Scouts

Global issues & the world outside Deddington have been the focus for the Scouts recently. Finding out where things are manufactured & why, looking at the possibility of international harmony through sporting events (jury's still out) & natural disasters. Did you know there's a 'top ten' of disasters based on loss of life, charming! We divided the Scouts up, gave them a disaster to investigate after which, they presented a news report. Then for a little light relief they played a game called Diseases & Antidotes (much more fun than it sounds).

The next topic was for the International Badge, we picked Switzerland from a selection of countries after Toblerone was mentioned!

They learned to say 'Where are the toilets please' in French, German, Italian & Romansh which links nicely with our Toilet Twinning fundraising topic. A quiz, a game of ice hockey & boulder throwing (a national sport apparently) rounded the evening off.

Pete Churchyard [deddingtonscouts@gmail.com](mailto:deddingtonscouts@gmail.com)

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From The Fire Station.....

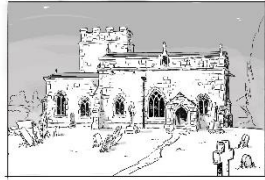
An exceptionally busy month for the fire station, with just over 20 call outs consisting of 8 fires, 4 rescues, 4 alarms, 4 standbys and one hazardous materials incident. Training has been intense with 2 exercises taking place at the Horton hospital and Moreton in Marsh fire college. A third training scenario had to be cancelled as crews were busy with a real life incident.

Garin Wilby, Adam Perry and Corrie King all passed their BA theory exam, and Ben Fenemore is now fully BA leader (BAX) trained. The nurse school received a visit from the fire station, looked over the truck and were allowed to have a go shooting water from the firehose reel – too much amusement!

The recruitment truck has been resident at the station, although we are not currently recruiting, to raise awareness of the fire service and all it provides for the community. As always, please be mindful when driving of the continued low sun and frosty mornings. As home fires are still welcoming in the evening, please inspect your chimneys and get them swept if necessary. **James Greenwood FFD**

[james@cyclogicalshop.co.uk](mailto:james@cyclogicalshop.co.uk)

The Barford churches  
of  
St Michael and St John



On 23 March, let's take time to connect, supporting the millions of people who are grieving, and remembering the family, friends, neighbours, and colleagues we've lost during the pandemic.



Organised by [Marie Curie](#), the National Day of Reflection looks to reflect on our collective loss, support those who've been bereaved, and hope for a brighter future.

There are all sorts of ways to get involved as a member of the public:

- Take a minute to reflect. We'll come together to honour loved ones who have died and reflect on the challenges we've overcome by observing a nationwide minute of silence at 12 noon.
- Shine a light at 8pm. At 8pm on 23 March 2022, the National Day of Reflection culminates with the nation coming together to light up the night.

There are several ways to join in as we illuminate the UK in memory and in support at 8pm.

- Stand outside with a light – a candle, a torch, or your phone – to remember someone who's died and show your support to people living with the trauma of loss.
- Shine a light in your window for everyone to see. Buildings across the UK will be lighting up yellow – find one near you on the activity map on the Marie Curie website.
- Wear an [official daffodil pin](#) to show your support for the 2022 National Day of Reflection or put spring flowers in your window.

There are many more ideas on how to participate on the Marie Curie website. ([www.mariecurie.org.uk](http://www.mariecurie.org.uk))

**Mothering Sunday (Mother's Day)** is always the fourth Sunday of [Lent](#). This year it falls on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> March.

During the 16th century, people in the UK used to return on the 4th Sunday in Lent for a service to their 'mother church' - the main church or cathedral of the area. ... Eventually, the religious tradition evolved into the Mothering Sunday secular tradition of giving gifts to mothers.

Young British girls and boys 'in service' (maids and servants) at the local Manor House or in a large household were only allowed one day to visit their family each year. This was usually on Mothering Sunday. For some this could be a significant journey since their mother may have lived some distance away, indeed another town altogether from the Manor where they were in service. Often the housekeeper or cook would allow the maids to bake a cake to take home for their mother. Sometimes a gift of eggs; or flowers from the garden (or hothouse) was allowed.



**Did you know?**  
Mothering Sunday is also sometimes known as **Simnel**

**Sunday** because of the tradition of baking Simnel cakes. It was not eaten on Mothering Sunday because of the rules of Lent, instead it was saved until Easter.

*'I'll to thee a Simnell bring  
'Gainst thou go'st a mothering,  
So that, when she blesseth thee,  
Half that blessing thou 'lt give to me.'*

**Robert Herrick 1648**

**Sue Addison Churchwarden**



**BARFORD GREEN GARDEN CLUB  
NOTES FROM OUR POTTING SHED  
March 2022**

Oh, such a commotion under the ground When  
March called, "Ho, there! ho!"  
Such spreading of rootlets far and wide, Such  
whispering to and fro;  
And, "Are you ready?" the Snowdrop asked, "'Tis  
time to start, you know."  
"Almost, my dear," the Scilla replied; "I'll follow as  
soon as you go."  
Then, "Ha! ha! ha!" a chorus came Of laughter soft  
and low,  
From the millions of flowers under the ground,  
Yes—millions—beginning to grow.

O, the pretty brave things! through the coldest  
days, Imprisoned in walls of brown,  
They never lost heart though the blast shrieked  
loud, And the sleet and the hail came down,  
But patiently each wrought her beautiful dress, Or  
fashioned her beautiful crown;  
And now they are coming to brighten the world,  
Still shadowed by Winter's frown;  
And well may they cheerily laugh, "Ha! ha!" In a  
chorus soft and low,  
The millions of flowers hid under the ground Yes—  
millions—beginning to grow.

**A Laughing Chorus. Anonymous**

**Recent Events**

On February 14<sup>th</sup> we had a very interesting, illustrated talk by Ed Munday from BBOWT who came to talk about 'Gardening for Wildlife'. He explored why we should garden with wildlife in mind and suggested some of the 'ingredients' we need to incorporate into our gardens to encourage wildlife. 28 members and guests came, and much knowledge was gained. Beautiful hampers for the raffle were assembled by Sue and refreshments amply supplied by Janet and Lavinia.

This talk had been previously postponed, so it was great that we were able to welcome Ed. There were masses of questions and a shock to hear that many children in England spend less time outside in nature than prisoners! Hedgehogs seemed to be the most popular subject for questions, along with

pigeons. Linda will be doing a full report in her article in April Barford News.

**Top gardening jobs this month**

Protect new spring shoots from slugs: Plant shallots, onion sets and early potatoes: Plant summer-flowering bulbs: Lift and divide overgrown clumps of perennials: Top dress containers with fresh compost: Mow the lawn on dry days (if needed): Cut back *Cornus* (dogwood) and *Salix* (willow) grown for colourful winter stems: Weeds come back in to growth - deal with them before they get out of hand: Start feeding fish and using the pond fountain; remove pond heaters: **Prune bush and climbing roses**: Open the greenhouse or conservatory doors and vents on warm days.

**Future of Barford Green Garden Club**

By the time you read this there may or may not be a Garden Club, depending on the outcome of the AGM on 21<sup>st</sup> February!!! We all hope that the Garden Club manages to continue as we have some future planned talks and visits. Firstly, Richard Preston from Primrose Cottage Garden Steeple Aston who could give us a talk early March on the history of his garden followed by a visit in June. Danielle Semple from FarmEd can give a talk "Soil science made simple" Followed by a visit to FarmEd between Chipping Norton and Burford later in the year. FarmEd has been mentioned before in Notes from Potting Shed and there are guided Farm Walks every Friday. Well worth a look. An excellent café too. These together with Plant Swaps, discounts and other things make our Garden Club quite special.

You can see that there is still so much for us to share and enjoy. Let's try to keep going, it is up to all of us.

There will be a full report of AGM in April BN. In anticipation of a proper Spring with not too many storms and the future of the Club we wish you many days of Happy Gardening.



**SPADE AND FORK**



## DEDDINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

It seems unbelievable that we are already fast approaching the Half Term holiday!

As always, this term has been extremely busy. The Year 4 class thoroughly enjoyed their trip to The Oxford Story Museum. Since that day, their enjoyment in writing has increased, partly due to the motivation brought about by their visit, but also because of their development as authors from writing in lessons 😊.

A group of Year 6 pupils enjoyed a morning at the Warriner School when they took part in some orienteering activities. Their skills gained from their journey to Yenworthy earlier this term put them in great stead for this event! The children followed various courses and solved a challenge at the end of the session. It was a most worthwhile and enjoyable morning for all participants.

Also, some Year 5 children went to Tudor Hall to do a 'Play in a Day'. It was a fantastic experience for all involved. The 16 people who attended absolutely loved it.

The whole school was able to attend church on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February for Candlemas, a service led by Reverend Annie. It was wonderful to be able to join together in the church once again. We are now looking forward to World Book Day on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March and Fair-trade fortnight, which takes place during the half term break, followed by the week after the holiday.

We hope you all enjoy the weeks to come, as we head towards spring and the lighter nights that come with it.

With best wishes from all of us here at Deddington Primary School.

**DENISE WELCH**



## Deddington Bookworms

At our last meeting we discussed *Flight* by Isabel Ashdown, a book that did not live up to its promising reviews.

A similar thread to our previous read, *Missing Rose*, the story is of secrets and lies.

Wren and Rob have a seemingly happy marriage made complete with the arrival of a new baby, Phoebe. However, one day Wren leaves both Rob and the baby with no explanation or details of her whereabouts. Over 20 years life goes on with Rob finding happiness with their best friend Laura, raising Phoebe between them.

Events take a turn and Laura tracks down Wren, who has been living in seclusion in North Cornwall for the past 20 years (not an easy feat these days!). Parts of this tale are very thought provoking, touching on post-natal depression and the effects of guilt held for many years. This was an easy but frustrating read.

This month we are reading *The Horseman* by Tim Pears.

If anyone would like to join the Bookworms we have a couple of places. A friendly group, we meet on the last Thursday of each month. Please feel free to contact me for more information.

**Janet Macey | 01869 336156**



### **Banbury Foodbank**

to help local people in crisis.

Hunger remains a reality for many.

Please help by buying items from the list below and putting them in the box inside the porch of St Michael's church.

**Cereals, Tea/coffee, Soup, Tinned vegetables, Pasta, Tinned fruit, Rice, Biscuits, Tinned tomatoes, Pasta sauce, Lentils, beans & pulses, UHT milk, Tinned meat, Fruit juices**

**NON-PERISHABLE ITEMS ONLY,  
PLEASE - Many thanks**

## GREEN THOUGHT OF THE MONTH

**BARFORD ENVIRONMENT NETWORK** is a friendly, informal group that looks for ways of greener living in our villages. To join or learn more, contact John O'Brien: [john@lcmb.co.uk](mailto:john@lcmb.co.uk) – or see us at our village market stall.

**BEN Community Evening:** Thursday 3rd March, Village Hall, 7 pm for a 7.30 start. Come and join us to learn from **Low Carbon Hub Oxford** how to make your home and way of living more sustainable. You can also hear about **The Oxford Artisan Distillery**'s sustainable gin making and sample some of their excellent products. We hope to see you there!

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This month we look at **Fashion**. Clothing may not be the first thing you think of when considering your carbon footprint – but it's significant!

Fashion wants us to buy, buy, buy - encouraging over-consumption and waste. The industry is a massive contributor to global carbon emissions: the **Ellen McArthur Foundation** reports that the textile industry emits more greenhouse gasses each year than all international

flights and sea voyages. This takes in the whole supply line: raw materials, the making of clothes, often in third world countries, and transport. There's a human cost, too: many garments on sale in shops are produced overseas in factories where conditions are not only poor but dangerous.

Clothes that aren't sold fairly quickly are often incinerated or sent to landfill; some never even reach shops. The charity **WRAP (Waste and Resources Action Programme)** estimates that £140 million worth of clothing goes into landfill each year. A Marks and Spencer survey found that 16% of respondents had thrown away a garment after wearing it just once. Worse, £30 billion worth of clothing bought yearly isn't worn at all! So all the resources that went into those garments (human labour, production costs, transportation) are completely wasted.

**How can we, individually, reduce this impact?** Some suggestions ...

Buy only what you **know you'll wear**.

Sort through your wardrobe for clothes that haven't been out for a long while. If you think you won't wear them, or they don't fit any more, **donate them** to a charity shop or **swap** with a friend.

Explore **charity shops**! It's fun and inexpensive, you can find lovely one-offs that can't be bought elsewhere, and what you spend benefits the charity.

**Mend** clothes rather than throwing them out – replace buttons, darn holes, sew up split seams, etc.



**Get creative!** Old clothes can be re-styled by adding new trims, buttons, patchwork or embroidery. Look for brands that prioritise **sustainability** and **workers' rights**, and use **eco-friendly** fibres and fabrics such as hemp and organic cotton. Use the **Ethical Consumer** website to check how your favourite brands score.

Think **slow fashion** - pay for better-quality items, and wear them for ever.

**Buy less** - the most sustainable garment is the one already in your wardrobe!

**BEN** is thinking of holding a **clothes swap / repair workshop** in the Village Hall – let us know if this appeals! Also we offer quick repairs at our market stall.

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**Make One Small Change!** Stop buying plastic milk cartons from supermarkets and have your milk delivered in returnable glass bottles – the old-fashioned way! Hanover Dairies delivers twice weekly to the Barfords.

**Green Thought of the Month** is compiled and edited by Linda Newbery. If you have a green idea to share, please contact [L.newbery@btinternet.com](mailto:L.newbery@btinternet.com)



## **RAISING THE ROOF OF ST. MARY'S CHURCH, BANBURY**

Banbury Choral Society will raise the roof of St. Mary's Church with a concert of JS Bach's masterpiece **St John Passion** on **Saturday 2 April at 7.30pm**. The Choir will be accompanied by the St

James' Players, an authentic Baroque ensemble from London, with a line-up of bright young soloists on the verge of their careers, including **Mollie Smith** (soprano), **Rosamond Thomas** (contralto) and **Christopher Willoughby** (tenor), all under the baton of the choir's inspirational conductor, **Julian Harris**.

Bach *St John Passion* is intensely dramatic with an overriding message of compassion, hope and ultimate salvation, and is one of the most demanding, and rewarding, works for a choir to perform. It will be sung in German. This oratorio was first performed on Good Friday in Leipzig in April 1724. The Banbury choir will perform this masterpiece in English, with some German interpolations.

Julian Harris said: *It is an absolute privilege to conduct this wondrous masterpiece again. It is, undoubtedly, one of the greatest works of genius ever written, and created by the mind of the greatest genius that ever lived. Page after page drips with inspiration and emotion, telling the most dramatic and powerful story ever told. It really is an evening like no other and not to be missed.*

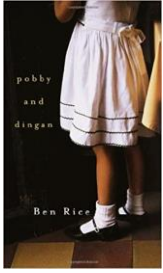
This marks the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Banbury Choral Society, originally founded by Geoffrey Furnish and known as the Banbury Co-operative Choral Society.

Banbury Choral Society goes from strength to strength and attracts members from Oxfordshire, Warwickshire and Northamptonshire.

Tickets *St John Passion*: £15 (£5 under 16s) from [www.banburychoralsoc.co.uk](http://www.banburychoralsoc.co.uk);

Box office: 07721 204734 or the Banbury Tourist Information Centre.

## Reading recommendations from **BARFORD BOOKCHAT**

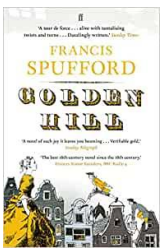


**Pobby and Dingan** by Ben Rice: This short, quirky book defies categorisation. I could say it is about the power of the imagination, of the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen, but to be honest I'm not really sure what its message is. Yet it is oddly memorable and affecting.

Kellyanne Williamson of Lightning Ridge, New South Wales, has two invisible friends, the eponymous Pobby and Dingan, and an older brother Ashmol, who relates the story in his singular gruff, bewildered, sceptical voice.

On the awful day Pobby and Dingan go missing, the children's father is unjustly accused of "ratting" - trying to steal another miner's opals - and becomes a pariah. As the human life which brought Pobby and Dingan into being starts to fade, Ashmol galvanises the community in a search for them, convinced that only by finding them will things come right. In the end, for a true believer, perhaps they do.

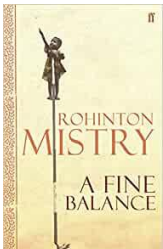
**Jenny Greeves**



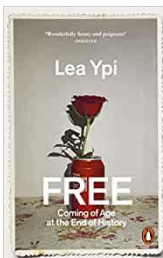
**Golden Hill**, by Francis Spufford: Born in 1964, Spufford published five highly-praised books of non-fiction, described by reviewers as either 'bizarre' or 'brilliant', usually both, before writing this, his first novel. Set in the New York of the 1740s, it's an episodic account of the daily life of Mr Smith, an importer/exporter.

Spufford sacrifices pace and character for extended description of the bustle and rituals of NY. Syntax is frequently extended to the point of becoming overly rich in detail. Smith is a youthful antiheroic everyman who arrives as an unknown and falls into scrapes which put him at odds with potential friends who are men of influence. The ending is entirely unpredictable and includes Smith's backstory which reveals, among other things, that he is a 'mulatto'. The style of the narrative owes much to Fielding and the early exponents of the epistolary novel. One section takes the form of a letter which, in its extended length, seems to mock the notion that characters can convey their feelings through such correspondence. **Trevor**

**Arrowsmith**



**A Fine Balance** by Rohinton Mistry: This is a truly beautiful work that is a page-turner - not because of exciting events but because as the reader we become so completely engrossed in the lives of the characters. It is a rich and sympathetic story of the evolving relationships of four people from different backgrounds in India who are thrown together. Each experiences their own stark and desperate choices. The accounts of the hardships of village life, city life and slum life in India at the time of the Emergency in the 1970's are heart rending but convincing. But the optimism and cheerfulness of the four people, despite their circumstances, lifts the soul. "You have to use your failures as stepping stones. You have to maintain a fine balance between hope and despair". The legacy of the four characters remained with me well beyond closing the book for the final time. **Ish Freeman**



Lea Ypi is now a professor of philosophy at the LSE. But she grew up in communist-era Albania and as a teenager witnessed the rapid dismantling of the Stalinist regime into the chaos of the 1990s. We experience the closed authoritarian system through her young eyes, where she has only the vaguest idea of a world beyond Albania. Her family had been torn apart by the Communist takeover after the war but she knew nothing of this. Her parents and beloved grandmother are determined to protect her from unwisely speaking out against the Marxist orthodoxy and the dangers that would bring. When the regime implodes Lea observes how her fellow citizens are transformed from brave defectors welcomed by the West to despised refugees struggling to board boats and escape to a better life. This is an outstanding memoir, full of warmth, gentle irony and subtle nuance. **Suzanne Franks**

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For a book recommendation every Monday, all by writers or independent booksellers, follow **Writers Review:**

[www.reviewsbywriters.blogspot.com](http://www.reviewsbywriters.blogspot.com)



### **Springing into action**

Just like this time of year, we've got lots of exciting things coming up! From new partnerships and improvements, to a whole range of incredible events to raise money for our hospice. It's thanks to your ongoing support, we can continue to care for local people and families when they need us the most.

### **New lease of life for Banbury shop**

We're excited to announce that we have signed a new 10-year lease and will be staying right where we are – at the heart of the Banbury community.

But that's not all. We will also be giving our Banbury shop some TLC with a revamp that will make the most of all the fantastic donations we receive, as well as improve the shopping experience.

### **Recycle more with Paw Paw**

As part of an exciting recycling initiative, Paw Paw will donate 5p to Katharine House for every plastic container that is returned in good condition when a customer orders their next meal. It's great news for our hospice and also helps cut down on plastic waste! The recycling scheme runs across all three of Paw Paw's Chinese takeaways in Banbury, Leamington and Warwick.

### **Growing our Open Gardens**

We're always touched by the enthusiasm of our supporters to open their gardens for us – and we'd love to see our events grow... You can find out more about how to get involved and where this year's events will be taking place on our website. We already have six Open Garden events lined up! But keep checking back for others added throughout the year.

### **High and mighty**

Are you looking for a BIG challenge this year? Then why not sign up for the world's highest static abseil? At a staggering 127 metres tall, the National Lift Tower in Northampton makes Big Ben look positively little! Our Extreme

Abseil event is taking place on 2 April and we'd love YOU to be part of Team Katharine House and help us to raise money for our hospice.

### **A run for everyone**

The Blenheim Fun Run is back and taking place on 15 May. Run, jog or walk in the spectacular grounds of the World Heritage site in Oxfordshire – and raise money for Katharine House at the same time. The beauty of the Blenheim Fun Run (aside from the stunning grounds) is that you can choose from the main 7km race, the 4-mile run suitable for buggies or wheelchairs, or the 1-mile route for under 15s. There's even an event for dogs so your four-legged friends don't miss out!

### **On your bike!**

Are you ready for the ride of your life? The RideLondon-Essex 100 event is taking place on 29 May and we've managed to secure three places to ride in this highly sought-after event. If cycling 100 miles on traffic-free roads through the heart of London and neighbouring Essex sounds like the event for you, then sign up today.

Find out more

Head to our website for more details, events and news: [www.khh.org.uk](http://www.khh.org.uk).

## **BARFORD ENVIRONMENT NETWORK**

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### Contact Victoria:

**Constituency:**  
 01869 233685  
Orchard House  
Hopcraft Lane  
Deddington  
OX15 0TD

**Westminster:**  
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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](http://www.cherwell-dc.gov.uk) – Parish Council minutes at [www.cherwell-local.com](http://www.cherwell-local.com)  
**ALLOTMENT QUERIES, PLEASE CONTACT THE CLERK**

## VILLAGE AND LOCAL EVENTS DIARY

Diary dates to the editor by 15<sup>th</sup> of each month please

### CHURCH SERVICES

#### Church of England

#### MARCH

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March - check noticeboard

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> March 9am Holy Communion. BSM

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March 9am Holy Communion, BSJ  
10:30am Family Service, BSM

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> - check noticeboard

**Revd Annie Goldthorp, Vicar, Deddington with  
Barford, Clifton and Hempton on 01869 336880**  
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#### Masses:

Saturday - 6pm Vigil Mass  
Sunday – 11.00am Mass  
Weekdays Normally 9.15am, can be subject to  
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#### Regular weekly/monthly events

<b>Mondays</b>	Beavers (Deddington) Boys Brigade band practice
<b>Tuesdays</b>	Guides (Deddington) Carpet bowls – Sept - Mar
<b>Wednesdays</b>	Brownies (Windmill – Deddington) 1 <sup>st</sup> week, Bi-monthly Parish Council 2 <sup>nd</sup> Week W.I. meeting Boys Brigade (Deddington)
<b>Thursdays</b>	Village Hall Post Office Open cuppa mornings Cubs (Deddington) Scouts (Deddington)
<b>Fridays</b>	Rainbows
<b>Saturdays</b>	Village Market 3 <sup>rd</sup> week (except January or August)

#### DIARY DATES

##### MARCH

2<sup>nd</sup> Parish Council Meeting, village hall  
3<sup>rd</sup> BEN Community Evening  
9<sup>th</sup> WI, AGM & Bring & Share Supper, village hall  
15<sup>th</sup> Tuesday Lunch Club, village hall  
19<sup>th</sup> Village Market in the hall

##### APRIL

2<sup>nd</sup> Banbury Choral Society Concert, St Marys

### BARFORD NEWS

**Copy deadline 15th of each month**

**Editor:** Lucy Norman 01869 337678

**Dep Editor:** Mariann Young 01869 338570

[barfordnews@gmail.com](mailto:barfordnews@gmail.com)

**Treasurer and adverts:** Caroline Bird

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