

# BARFORD NEWS

AUGUST 2020 Price 50p where sold



## BARFORD GREEN GARDEN CLUB PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

...to make up for the cancellation of all our talks and outings this year, we're organising a **photography competition**. Many of you will have been busy with your cameras and phones; if not, there's more than two months until the deadline on August 31st.

Local professional photographer **Chris Normandale** has kindly agreed to be our judge - you can see Chris's work on his website and also on Instagram. Links to both are at the end of this email.

There are five categories:

1. **Wildlife in the garden**
2. **Wild flowers / trees in the landscape**
3. **Pets or people in the garden**
4. **Plant(s) in close-up**
5. **Favourite or least favourite part of a garden.**

- Entries should be in **digital form only** - not prints. They should be 6x4ins at 100dpi, and can be portrait or landscape. Any help with resizing get in touch with Gunilla ...[gt.designs@btinternet.com](mailto:gt.designs@btinternet.com) or Linda
- You can enter up to three photographs in any category.
- There's no entry fee, but this will be a fundraiser for Katharine House Hospice to add to the £82 we raised with our Plant Swap. Please donate either by bank transfer or by delivering cash in a marked envelope to Janet Morris at 3 Rock Close.
- Competition is open to Garden Club members and other village residents only.
- There will be a winner and runner-up in each category, plus one overall winner, and a special prize for the best entry by someone under 16.
- Email your photographs as attachments to Linda Newbery: [L.newbery@btinternet.com](mailto:L.newbery@btinternet.com), with a message saying which category each one is for. Please be sure to say if the photographer is under 16. I will acknowledge receipt, so if you don't hear from me within a couple of days please re-send, or phone to check that I've got them: 01869 337526.
- Bank transfer: to Barford Green Garden Club, Santander Bank, sort code 09-01-54, account no. 86893286. Please state PHOTOGRAPHY as reference.

Happy photographing, and we'll look forward to seeing your entries!

Garden Club Committee  
Gunilla, Janet, Lavinia, Linda and Trevor

*Chris's website: wedding, portrait, corporate photographer banbury oxfordshire  
and Instagram: Chris Normandale (@chris.normandale) • Instagram photos and videos*

## PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

A meeting of the Parish Council took place at 7.30pm on 1st July 2020 using Zoom Video Conferencing and was attended by Cllrs Turner, Hobbs, Eden, Cox, Charman, Best, and Mr Best, (Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer). Apologies were received from and District Cllr B Williams and County Cllr Fatemian. One member of the public attended the meeting.

Minutes of the last meeting: It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2020 were a true and accurate record (unanimous).

Public Participation: Mr R Warner attended the meeting to complain about the item on the Mead Bank planning application in the June Barford News Parish Council Notes. The Parish Council advised Mr Warner that they understood his point of view. The Parish Council apologises for any upset or distress caused to Mr Warner and his family.

Report from County Councillor Arash Fatemian: None

### Parish Matters:

Co-option of Mr Peter Cosgrove as Councillor – The Parish Council were delighted that Peter has become a Councillor filling the long term vacancy.

Bonfire Complaint – A resident complained to Cherwell District Council about two bonfires in a field between Barford St Michael and Barford St John. The first was to burn the cuttings from the hedge in West Close which was trimmed prior to the playground being built and the second was to burn hedge trimmings from the field. CDC confirmed that it is legal to burn hedge trimmings but asked that the Parish Council pay to have their trimmings disposed of in future rather than have them burnt in a field.

Complaint about soil lorries – A resident complained about an excessive number of soil lorries along the road between South Newington and Barford St Michael as they were a danger to pedestrians. It is believed that the lorries have now stopped as the job is complete.

**Playground opening** – The Parish Council is delighted that the government has advised that playgrounds can be reopened from Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July. People using the playground are asked to respect social distancing rules and abide by the rules that are displayed on the noticeboards at the playgrounds. These rules are government guidelines to minimize the transmission of COVID-19

Deddington Environment Network – Mr John O'Brien has written to say that they would like to come to the next Parish Council meeting to explain the work that they are doing to assist with improving environmental and sustainability performance. Fiona Smith is part of

the Biodiversity group and has asked if the Parish Council would like assistance developing and obtaining funding for a neighbourhood orchard. It was agreed that a half hour slot will be allocated at the start of the September meeting and this would be publicised before the meeting to encourage members of the public to attend.

Parish Council Notes – It was agreed that the Parish Council Notes would be a summary of the meetings with a note referring to the minutes published in the notice boards and on the website for a full record of the meetings.

### Planning:

20/01538/TCA – Brambles, Lower Street – Fell Eucalyptus – No objections from Parish Council  
20/01646/TCA – Merriweather Cottage, High Street – Fell Conifer – No objections from PC

### Finance:

Payments - The Clerk sought approval for payments totalling £919.60. This was agreed unanimously.

### Next Meeting:

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020 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](http://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.barfordspc@gmail.com](mailto:Davidbest.barfordspc@gmail.com) who will email back the log in details.



### RUBBISH & RECYCLING COLLECTION DATES

*{always a Thursday}*

6<sup>th</sup> August.....green

13<sup>th</sup> August.....blue 'n' brown

20<sup>th</sup> August.....green

27<sup>th</sup> August.....blue 'n' brown



***congratulations to***  
***Annie & Steve Norris of***  
***Robins Close on the safe arrival of***  
***SUMMER AMELIA***  
***on the 12<sup>TH</sup> July,***  
***weighing 10lbs, 12oz...a little***  
***sister for Harry***



**JULY Draw**  
£15, 071, David Hobbs  
£10, 034, Chloe Cooke-Yarborough  
£5, 022, Aggie Booth  
the draws took place 'over the garden  
fence' in strict accordance with Social  
Distancing rules!!



**welcome back! to**  
**JIM MURREY**  
**who has returned to live in**  
**the village after an absence**  
**of over 30 years, we hope you will be**  
**very happy in your new home**

## NOTE TO LOWER STREET RESIDENTS

### What's In a House Name?

Once upon a time, way back in the day  
We married in Bloxham village, still a  
lovely church today  
Our friends and family gathered round  
the vicar and I recall  
That we said our vows sincerely "in  
sickness and in football!"

Well 'twas true that in this marriage there  
were soon to be 3  
Me, hubby and Georgie Best - so I was  
happy to agree!  
After Georgie, Alex stayed for over 20  
years  
So you can guess that Man Utd provides  
Les's happiness (and tears)

He's been a supporter for 60 years so it's  
no surprise to know  
That we've named our home 'Stretford  
End' in each village we go  
When we moved here, our home already  
had a pleasant name  
But we've finally changed it, in honour of  
'the beautiful game'

Occasionally I see a driver looking quite  
perplexed  
Seeking a house name with no number  
and becoming sometimes vexed  
So if you see one looking for us, about to  
go round the bend  
Please send them to what was Westfield  
and is now 'Stretford End'.

Thank you  
Sue and Les Lane  
Lower Street

HOME  
sweet  
HOME



## Thank you VIRIDOR CREDITS

Many thanks to the people who wrote letters in support of the proposed work at the village hall. It seems that your comments must have impressed the Trustees at Viridor Credits because we were very pleased to hear that they have awarded us a full grant!

The grant means that we will be able to have four metre wide doors into the garden, re-plastered ceiling and redecoration throughout which will hopefully make the hall an attractive option for parties.

The building work is all set to start on 3<sup>rd</sup> August and should be finished late September. Whilst the builders are there it will be necessary to close the hall, garden and play area but hopefully this should just be for a few weeks. The builder will need a skip in the road to take away the stone and rubble so we hope this doesn't cause inconvenience to people living nearby.

Once the building work is completed we will need to look in detail at the guidance for use of public facilities in relation to keeping people safe during the Covid 19 pandemic. Hopefully most regular activities and bookings for parties will be able to go ahead but it is likely that there will be new rules around hygiene and safe distancing that we will have to learn to adopt. Let's hope it isn't too long until we are able to start meeting friends and neighbours there again.

## LiberHouse Garden Buildings

### New for 2020. Our Studio Multi

With an internal floor area of 20 sq m (215 sq ft) our Studio Multi offers a range of possibilities

This can be a space for a home workshop with plenty of room for workbenches and machines.

Alternatively, with the addition of a WC and kitchenette area, it could be a home office or studio space.

Adding a shower room and a kitchen makes a possible granny flat or guest room which can also be used for holiday/Airbnb lets.

All our garden buildings carry a 10 year guarantee.

High quality Garden Buildings built to your specific requirements

Made in Oxfordshire



*"Thank you for the excellent service through organising the planning approval, the delivery and the assembly. First rate and a nice change to deal with a company that really understands what the customer wants and then supplies it."*

*Happy to recommend you to friends and if someone would like to come and have a look at the finished job we would be delighted to show it off."*

★★★★★

Call now to discuss your requirements  
01869 349825

design@liberhouse.co.uk www.liberhouse.co.uk



**BARFORD GREEN GARDEN CLUB  
NOTES FROM OUR POTTING SHED  
August 2020**

*I love to see the summer beaming forth  
And white wool sack clouds sailing to the north  
I love to see the wild flowers come again  
And mare blobs stain with gold the meadow drain  
And water lilies whiten on the floods  
Where reed clumps rustle like a wind shook wood  
Where from her hiding place the Moor Hen pushes  
And seeks her flag nest floating in bull rushes  
I like the willow leaning half way o'er  
The clear deep lake to stand upon its shore  
I love the hay grass when the flower head swings  
To summer winds and insects happy wings  
That sport about the meadow the bright day  
And see bright beetles in the clear lake play*

**John Clare 1793-1864**

As we continue our gardening year still in lockdown we are not having any of the usual outings and talks. However we all keep in touch via emails from Linda, thank you very much.

**NEW EVENTS** Just in case you are wondering what to do with all this time in the garden...and to get you all to observe your own gardens in a different way, we are having a **PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION**.,see separate announcement in this BN for all details. Images are to be submitted online to l.newbery @btinternet.com If we have our Autumn Plant Swap in the Village Hall we will have a Powerpoint presentation, otherwise the winning images will be emailed to you. All details have been emailed to you if you are a Garden Club Member, but anyone living in the village is welcome to enter. **NO ENTRY FEE BUT DONATIONS TO KATHARINE HOUSE HOSPICE** should accompany your entry. These donations will add to our £81.45 from the PLANT SWAP. The Committee are thinking about future talks and visits when current circumstances allow. Any suggestions will be very welcome.

**JOBS TO DO IN THE GARDEN...**Top 10 jobs this month...from RHS website.

Prune *Wisteria*; Don't delay summer pruning fruits trained as restricted forms; Deadhead flowering plants regularly; Watering! - particularly containers, and new plants, preferably with grey recycled water or stored rainwater; Collect seed from garden plants; Harvest sweetcorn and other vegetables as they become ready; Continue cutting out old fruited canes on raspberries; Lift and pot up rooted strawberry runners; Keep ponds and water features topped up; Feed the soil with green manures. Have a good look at your garden and think about possibilities for next year. Read about possible plants and seeds. Rodney will very kindly be doing seed orders later in the year. The seeds will now come from Kings Seeds, not DT Brown. If you are going away, arrange for watering of house plants and maybe bring outside pots into the shade.

TAKE CARE....KEEP OUT OF THE SUN and WEAR HIGH FACTOR SUNCREAM or better still wear a BIG HAT, DRINK LOTS OF WATER and rest in the middle of the day - Who knows what might have happened when we next go to press!



HAPPY LATE SUMMER GARDENING, SPADE AND FORK



## TURKEY & CORIANDER BURGERS WITH GUACAMOLE



### INGREDIENTS

- 400g turkey mince
- 1 tsp Worcestershire sauce
- 85g fresh breadcrumb
- 1 tbsp chopped coriander
- 1 red onion, finely chopped

### FOR THE GUACAMOLE

- 1 large ripe avocado
- 1 chilli, deseeded and finely chopped
- juice 1 lime

- 4 ciabatta rolls, cut in half
- 1 tsp sunflower oil
- 8 hot peppadew peppers, roughly chopped

### METHOD

1. Mix the mince, Worcestershire sauce, breadcrumbs, half each of the coriander and onion, and some seasoning until combined. Form into 4 burgers, then chill until ready to cook.
2. To make the guacamole, mash the avocado with the remaining coriander and onion, the chilli and lime juice, and season.
3. Heat a griddle pan or barbecue until hot. Griddle the rolls, cut-side down, for 1 min, then keep warm. Brush the burgers with the oil to keep them from sticking. Cook for 7-8 mins on each side until charred and cooked through. Fill the rolls with the burgers, guacamole and peppadews.

## Pimm's iced tea



### INGREDIENTS

- 4 tea bags
- 20g pack [mint](#)
- 100g caster sugar
- juice 2 large [oranges](#), plus slices to serve
- juice 2 [lemons](#), plus slices to serve
- 400ml Pimm's No 1
- a few sliced [strawberries](#) and plenty of ice, to serve

### METHOD

1. Put the tea bags and half the mint into a large jug, then pour over 1.2 litres boiling water from the kettle. Leave to infuse for 10 mins, then remove the bags and stir in the sugar. Once cool, remove the mint, add the orange juice, lemon juice and Pimm's, and chill thoroughly. Can be made up to a day ahead.
2. Serve over plenty of ice, with slices of orange, lemon and strawberry, and remaining mint sprigs.



# CHURCH MATTERS



From 4 July, church buildings have been able to reopen for gathered worship again, albeit with restrictions, and many have already reopened for individual prayer, St Michaels' included.

At the time of writing, SS Peter & Paul at Deddington is already open for Morning Prayer. The first Sunday service open to worshippers took place on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July. The Church in Deddington will continue to be open for the following services:

Sunday	10.30am	Holy Communion
Monday to Friday	8.45am	Morning Prayer
Wednesday	10.00am	Holy Communion

All are welcome at any of these services but it is understood that some people may not yet be ready to come to public worship. Services will continue to be streamlined online with this in mind. Details are available at <http://www.deddingtonchurch.org/>.

St Michael's is already open daily for private prayer and reflection between 10am and 4pm. The Barford St Michael & St John PCC is giving serious thought to the implications of re-opening the Churches for Services and will be meeting (via Zoom!) to discuss when we will be able to safely open our churches for public worship.

As we plan to enjoy the freedom to meet again and consider the responsibilities this brings, here are three commitments which should influence our thinking.

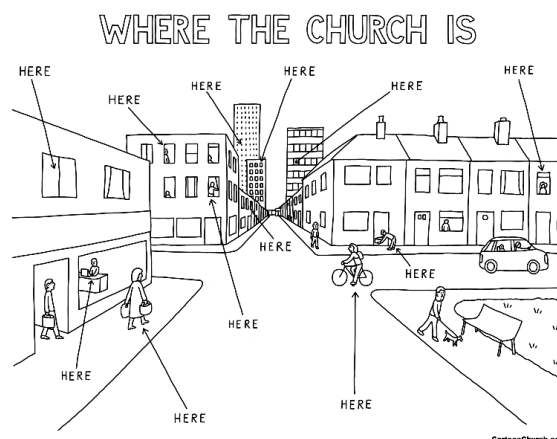
**Love** – Our decision making should be driven by our love of Jesus and for our neighbour. This may drive us towards opening some aspects quickly for those who are isolated and lonely but also to proceed with caution remembering those who are particularly at risk.

**Wisdom**- We need to stay up to date with the latest information, government guidance and scientific findings. However, these will not always tell us the wise way to proceed in our context – that requires prayerful deliberations and collective decision-making.

**Grace**- We are going to have to make different decisions in the current circumstances. We need to humbly reflect on our own possible biases and pressures. We need to honour others who chose a different path and have the grace to acknowledge there will often not be a 'right' way.

In the words of the Archbishop of Canterbury '*Let's remember that we are in this together. Let's look after ourselves and our communities, gain courage from each other, and walk together in hope and faith.*'

**Sue Addison  
Churchwarden**



We urgently need one or two more people to join our grass cutting team to help at St Michael's Church. If you are interested, please contact the church wardens-  
Sue Addison ☎ 338017 or  
Tony Elvidge ☎ 338214.



## GREEN THOUGHT OF THE MONTH

### LOCKDOWN LIFE – AND BEYOND?

***“There’s a tremendous reserve of help in local communities.”***

*A survey of residents of Banbury and surrounding villages has investigated how lockdown has affected us and continues to do so. Thanks to everyone who responded.*

The global pandemic and lockdown has been a heart-breaking time for many, and our sympathies go out to those who’ve lost loved ones, suffered illness, and endured the stress of working in terrifying conditions. But for those of us who haven’t been so personally afflicted, lockdown has produced a surprising number of positives. Many people say that they’ve found much to appreciate in spending more time at home with family, in rediscovering the joys of gardening and slow cooking, exploring the countryside and finding new local paths for walking and cycling.

Only 12% of the 185 who completed the questionnaire were furloughed, with 23% continuing as key workers. Almost half were able to work from home some or all of the time; 18% home-schooled children and/or cared for others, and 15% were volunteering. 12% of respondents spent lockdown alone. *Who or what has helped you most during the crisis?* This question produced many comments about community spirit. *Having volunteering roles made me feel valued and of help to those suffering, and Knowing that much of it was out of my control made me focus on things I could make a difference to.* Religious faith and prayer were frequently mentioned, as were yoga, meditation and art. Social media has been enormously beneficial, letting us stay in touch with friends, family and various groups.

It’s been undeniably tough for some, particularly those living alone. These have often felt anxious, lonely or bored. But an amazing 75% report that their most frequent feeling is of gratitude; as one respondent puts it, she is *Feeling more relaxed and grateful for good health and simple pleasures.* A majority report more positive emotions (being happy, purposeful, relaxed) than negative ones. Answers about what people have enjoyed most during lockdown add up to a resounding vote for Nature. One respondent talks of time *literally to smell the roses – rediscover balance in how we live within our environment.* The single hardest thing, for most of us, has been isolation from friends. In contrast, the least difficult have been the restrictions on travel and shopping for non-essentials. *Consumerism can’t save you. Globalised supply chains create the problem – both of pandemics and economic destructions. Only localised interdependency can get us through incidents like this* are sentiments echoed again and again.



Most have made a change they’ll stick with, such as *cooking from scratch, buying local food to reduce waste and processing and cut back our reliance on supermarkets.* Many aim to maintain new exercise regimes; others aim to continue working reduced hours to spend more time with friends and family. Asked about transport, almost half say they’ll walk more and a third will do more cycling, while half intend to fly less than they did before. Understandably, a question about public transport produced a mixed response, about a quarter intending to use it less than before.

What should we learn from the pandemic? Again, community was emphasised: *There’s a tremendous reserve of help in local communities, and we’ve come together as a community rather than living our lives separately in the same places.* Many have reassessed their values: *There’s a big difference between what we want and what we need.* Government response to the pandemic came under criticism – *A virus is not unexpected. How could we have been so unprepared?* - and several mentioned the NHS and other key workers. *We need to appreciate the members of our community that we take for granted – NHS, retail workers, council workers, carers – people who keep society running but get very little recognition.* Another comment was *We have to use it as an opportunity to build a greener economy.*





One respondent's opinion is echoed by many others: *We've learned that people can change their behaviour quite drastically in the face of an emergency. We must try to bring about adaptations to the climate crisis which is likely to be far more drastic than the pandemic, affecting not only humans but habitats, farming and ecosystems.*

It seems the majority of us are moving towards a more sustainable way of living, as individuals, and want to see leadership in system change from our government.

The question *What should the government do to be better prepared for the Climate Emergency?*

produced more detailed and thoughtful replies than we have space for, but included: *Tax frequent flyers, sanctions on fossil fuels, subsidy for renewable energy ... Better provision for electric cars . . . Pass a law of ecocide with strict penalties. Be transparent with the people, if they know and understand then they are more responsible.*

The survey was carried out by **Extinction Rebellion Banbury**, and this summary was written by Jane Rogers and Linda Newbery. Email [xrbanbury@protonmail.com](mailto:xrbanbury@protonmail.com) to find out more, or see Extinction Rebellion Banbury on Facebook.

Would you like to write a **Green Thought of the Month?** (They are usually much shorter than this!) If you have a green idea to share, please contact Linda Newbery: [L.newbery@btinternet.com](mailto:L.newbery@btinternet.com)

### **Shepherds & Bakehouse Charity**

Barford St John and St Michael - Charity Commission Registration No: 309173

Grants are made annually at the Trustee's discretion. Young people taking A levels, attending College or University or undertaking an apprenticeship are encouraged to apply. There is a maximum limit awarded. In order to qualify, applicants or their parents should be resident in the parish of Barford St Michael or Barford St John for at least three years.

Please give the following information on your written application:-

- 1) Your full name, age, address in Barford and length of residence.
- 2) Details of where you are planning to study.
- 3) Exact description of the qualification you hope to achieve.
- 4) Length of course and subjects to be studied.

**Address your application to the Shepherds and Bakehouse Trust clerk**

Carole Coppin, Barn Elms, The Green, Barford St Michael, OX15 0RN

[carole.coppin@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:carole.coppin@hotmail.co.uk)

**Applications must be received by 30<sup>th</sup> September**

**HALL & FERNHILL CHARITY....**Barford St Michael or St John residents of any age can apply for grants from this charity. Applicants should have been resident in the villages for three years and all grants will be at the Trustees discretion.

People may wish to apply for support with costs relating to health or infirmity, family difficulties or payments to relieve sudden distress. Grants may also be used to help people to make their way in life.

The Trustees (John Hirons, Helen Honour, Les Hall, Maggie Eden, Jill Hopcraft, Rev Annie Goldthorp and Zalie Butler) can offer further information or applications can be made to the clerk –

[carole.coppin@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:carole.coppin@hotmail.co.uk) Barn Elms, The Green, BSM ☎ 07768 378758

## **District Councillor Update Barford Parish Council - 01/07/20**

Over the past three months there has been a dramatic reduction in activity across the ward and district due to the Government's social distancing guidelines, however this is now being reviewed and relaxed in stages. At CDC we have continued with remote meetings via Microsoft Teams (similar to Zoom) but as face to face meetings have been restricted, what can be achieved has been limited. There has been one full council meeting during the pandemic and several of the sub committee's as well as the monthly planning committee, however we now have a revised schedule from July onwards with more meetings scheduled.

One of the more active sectors within the council has been housing, and in particular that of accommodating refugee families, rough sleepers, the homeless, and the vulnerable throughout the Covid-19 pandemic.

**Syrian Refugees** - The Syrian families who have already been accommodated within Cherwell district have continued to receive support during the Covid-19 lockdown arrangements, although the support has been mainly via telephone contact. We are currently waiting for more details from the South East Office in relation to arrangements and dates for settling the two families who were due to join us in March 2020 but who were unable to travel.

**Housing Strategy Review** - A progress report on the Housing Strategy Action Plan 2019/20 and new action plan for 2020/21 was considered by CEDR on 24/2/20. The report was presented to Exec BPM on 23 June and then to Overview and Scrutiny on 14 July 2020. The report highlights that plans for 2020/21 have been revised in light of the impact of Covid-19 on delivery/supply of affordable housing and the resources available to realistically implement new projects within a limited timeframe. At its meeting in July, the O&S Committee will have an opportunity to identify any other actions or any amendments to the new action plan before publication.

**Oxfords Unmet need** - Following the report to CDC Executive (agreed under delegated powers) in April, CDC Officers met with

Oxford City housing colleagues on 12 June to set out the proposals for allocating new-build affordable homes that are to be delivered in CDC area to meet Oxford's needs. This was a positive meeting with input from CDC legal team. Oxford City officers will now discuss the proposals with their Members and seek agreement on the proposed way of working. It is hoped that CDC will have a decision on the Local Plan Partial Review by that point as this will provide clarity on the timescale for implementation.

**Rough sleepers – Covid-19 impact** - As of 17/6/20 we are accommodating 39 clients as a response to the Covid 19 emergency. As well as the original group of known rough sleepers, we receive daily presentations from single people reporting themselves as rough sleeping or at risk. The unprecedented number of presentations has put a strain on the Housing Options Team and our ability to carry out prevention focused work. Most new single people presenting are through friend and family evictions and many are not clients who would previously have approached our service and would have been unlikely to qualify for accommodation duties under homeless legislation. We are using commercial hotels for placements as well as our own 10 units of commissioned Temporary Accommodation. The placements are dependent on hotels continuing to work with us and will end once hotels decide to return to normal business. So far placements are secure until mid / end July, but may not continue after this date.

We are working to find move-on options for those placed with partners across the county and by reaching out to RPs and private landlords. So far we have identified move-on options for 11 clients, but if we continue to place all new presentations, regardless of eligibility or priority need status, we are faced with the prospect of having a high number of clients with no accommodation when the hotel placements end.

**Temporary Accommodation** - In addition to the covid-19 placements we have 22 other households in TA @ 17/6/20. Since the lockdown has eased, we have seen an increase in families approaching as homeless and this is likely to further increase over the next few weeks. We anticipate once evictions are allowed after the end of August this number will rise significantly and we will have to consider increasing our capacity of TA units as a result.

**Homelessness** - Approaches from those stating they are homeless has risen significantly, mainly from single clients – but recently also families being evicted. We have put 2 officers on duty each day to cope with the number of enquiries and crisis investigations. With a small team this means officers are on duty every other day. Numbers calling the Out of Hours service has also increased. In April and May 2019 – the duty line dealt with 175 contacts and 10 out of hours calls.

In April and May 2020 – there were 251 contacts to duty and 44 out of hours calls.

**Housing Applications** - Numbers of applications to the Housing Register have increased in the last 4 weeks, with a record number of 73 in the first week of June. The Allocations Team are processing new applications within the target of 21 days and keeping up with suspended applications. Number of active applications on the Housing Register has risen to 1,319 with 290 in progress.

**Registered Providers** - RPs are now advertising properties again and we have had 42 properties available so far in June. Sign-ups and void works are taking extra time. We have taken the opportunity to make a number of direct matches to some of those placed under covid-19 and also to request that some units be considered for Housing First. We may need to escalate the request for RPs to offer properties for Housing First tenancies.

**Oxfordshire Growth Deal** - There are 46 affordable housing units planned for year 3 of the Growth Deal. Discussions are continuing with RPs and developers to establish how the Growth Deal Affordable Housing programme can assist in recovery of the housing market post Covid-19. It is early days but there may be opportunities to secure additional AH through the purchase of off shelf market units (subject to value for money) and use these to substitute those in the Year 3 plan that could be at higher risk due to development plans being stalled during lockdown.

**Bryn Williams**  
District Councillor - Deddington Ward  
bryn.williams@cherwell-dc.gov.uk  
07836 271998

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*"JLDA has done 3 designs for us. The first one has transformed our lives. It was a ground floor extension and involved redesigning our kitchen as well. The work was of the highest quality and the level of service excellent."* ★★★★★

Call now to discuss the project you have in mind

**01869 349825**  
**design@jlida.co.uk**  
**www.jlida.co.uk**



**Congratulations to  
Eleanor Best & Dan Bland who  
were married in  
St Michael's Church  
on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July**

**We wish them every happiness**





## Reading recommendations from **BARFORD BOOKCHAT**



**Facebook; *The Inside Story*** by Steven Levy. Facebook is a potent symbol or totem of our age. Its vertiginous rise has been superseded by a steep fall. Originally, it was the coolest social network for university students, then a necessary accessory for the young, but now it is considered a has-been and a repository of hate speech. It is presently suffering an advertising boycott because of its failure to control its content. The young have moved to Instagram (owned of course by Facebook). Facebook can be a force for good; if you want to find people with an interest in an obscure disease, this is the right place to head to. In this new book, Steven Levy a technology writer charts the novelty, the thrusting and the hubris of Facebook which in many ways reflects the personality of its still wholly dominant Founder. He presents some extraordinary facts in a racy and riveting mainly chronological narrative. Can Facebook bounce back? You bet it can. **John Bowers**



***The Naked Island.*** On his 21st birthday, Russell Braddon became a Prisoner of War of the Japanese. He and countless others were held in conditions of slavery, still - just - within living memory. He tells his terrible story with admirable restraint and even a laconic humour. Prisoners were treated with unfathomable cruelty and indifference, but there were fruits of their suffering: brotherhood, courage, ingenuity, heroic endurance. The Australian Medical Officer Kevin Fagan marched, seemingly tirelessly, up and down the lines of men heading to the camps in Thailand, carrying the fallen here, shouldering a kitbag there, and at nightfall ministering to his fellows with exquisite courtesy and gentleness. Braddon knew he owed his life and sanity to such as these. Once, postcards arrived, via the Red Cross. Braddon's was from his sister, and he shared it with a comrade who had received no news. "Dear Russ, Mum's puddings are as lumpy as ever. Oodles of love from us all, Pat." It was enough to tell him that home was still home, and that he was loved - beyond words. **Jenny Greeves**



***Crazy Heart, by Thomas Cobb.*** Bad Blake is 57 and broken. Once a country and western star, now he plays bars and bowling alleys and finds lukewarm consolation in the arms of random women. He never sees his grown-up son. Almost every waking moment is lubricated by oceans of booze. An opportunity to open for young pretender Tommy Sweet seems only to remind Bad how far he has fallen. Yet the entry of journalist Jean Craddock and her boy into his life hints at a chance for redemption. The superb movie based on this novel brought Oscars for lead actor Jeff Bridges and for Ryan Bingham and T Bone Burnett, who co-wrote the song *The Weary Kind*. The film, song and novel are all well worth your time. **Tom Greeves**



***The Skripal Files: The full story behind the Salisbury Poisonings*** by Mark Urban. Anyone who was engrossed by the recent BBC drama 'The Salisbury Poisonings' might be interested in this book by the Newsnight journalist Mark Urban. The drama focused on the way that the town reacted, but contained little about the two Russians at the centre of the poisoning and Skripal's background as a double agent for the Russians and then MI6. Urban quite coincidentally had met and interviewed Sergey Skripal at length in 2017. When the crisis unfolded a year later he was well placed to write about the murky background to the story and the devastating reach of Putin's tentacles. A chilling tale indeed. **Suzanne Franks**



***Olive Kitteridge***, by Elizabeth Strout - a bland title for an insightful, character-based novel with an unusual structure. This is a series of short stories presented as chapters. Olive Kitteridge is a rather opinionated and grumpy retiree who lives with her husband and drifts in and out of most of the stories. In the course of the book we accumulate knowledge and impressions of the major characters and their unexceptional world in an unexceptional small town in the US. Each chapter is complete in itself which is both satisfying and sometimes frustrating as the narrative is constantly dislocated and fragmented, whilst being confined to a parochial orbit. It's an easy read, but also an unsettling one which challenges us to knit together what we know of Olive and her declining husband from disparate accounts and events. **Trevor Arrowsmith**



***Hamnet*** by Maggie O'Farrell. Little is known about Shakespeare's wife, Anne Hathaway, but O'Farrell brings her energetically to fictional life. A split time-frame moves from her initial meeting with the young man referred to only as 'the tutor', 'the son', 'the husband', to the tragic death from plague of their son Hamnet, and on to the height of Shakespeare's fame and the healing of their marriage. With sensuous details of rural life contrasting with the bustle of London and the spell of the theatre, a searing portrayal of loss and a pitch-perfect final scene, this is a richly compelling novel. **Linda Newbery**

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**Barford Bookchat** started during lockdown as a weekly online sharing of reading recommendations. With restrictions eased, it will continue as an occasional meeting in the garden of The George. If you'd like to join us (numbers permitting), contact Linda Newbery: [L.newbery@btinternet.com](mailto:L.newbery@btinternet.com)

For a book review every Monday, all by writers and independent booksellers, follow **Writers Review:** [www.reviewsbywriters.blogspot.com](http://www.reviewsbywriters.blogspot.com)

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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)

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Boys Brigade (Deddington)

**Thursdays** Open cuppa mornings  
Cubs (Deddington)  
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**Fridays** Rainbows  
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**Saturdays** Village Market 3<sup>rd</sup> week  
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**3rd Wednesday** Village Hall Management Committee

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**Copy deadline 15th of each month**

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