



Wishing all of our readers a very merry Christmas



PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

A meeting of the Parish Council took place at 7.30pm on 4th November 2020 using Zoom Video Conferencing and was attended by Cllrs Turner, Hobbs, Eden, Cox, Charman, Best, Cosgrove, District Cllr B Williams and Mr Best, (Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer). Apologies were received from County Cllr Fatemian. A member of the public attended the meeting.

Minutes of the last meeting: It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 7th November 2020 were a true and accurate record (unanimous).

Report from County Councillor Arash Fatemian: None

Report from District Councillor Bryn Williams: Published separately.

Public Participation:

Mr R Warner advised the Parish Council that new plans are being submitted for stabling at Mead Farm and the Parish Council confirmed that the application will be reviewed by Councillors when it is issued by Cherwell Planning.

Parish Matters:

Post Office in the Village Hall – The post Office has ordered the telephone line that is required to run the systems, but no installation date has been advised yet.

Security – Mr Jim Holmes has provided security recommendations to householders which will be published in The December issue of the Barford News. He would also be happy to give a talk on improving house security.

Pyracanthas on The Green – This has been pruned as much as it can. Further pruning would require a chain saw.

Village Green Mowing — Mr Bernard Lane has confirmed that he is giving up mowing the Village Green. The Parish Council is extremely grateful to Mr Lane and it was agreed that a gift will be presented to him from the Parish Council.

Christmas Lights on The Green – These will be switched on from 1st December.

Broken Gate Post on Footpath from the Church – This has been reported to OCC.

Dog Bin opposite the Church – The post has rotted, and it is leaning. District Cllr Bryn Williams will see if Cherwell District Council will repair this.

Flooding at the bridge – District Cllr Bryn Williams will contact the Environment Agency to check if any remedial action can be taken such as dredging the Swere or clearing the ditches to improve the flow and reduce flooding. The raised footpath has been damaged by the flooding.

Bottle Bank – Alternative locations for bottle banks were discussed as the Post Office has closed. Summer Ley was considered the most suitable. Cllr Ray Cox will ask the Whats App Zone Captains for suggestions.

Damaged footbridge on footpath from Horn Hill – The Clerk will report this to OCC.

Salt Bins – The Clerk has reported the levels of salt in the bins for OCC to top them up.

Planning:

20/01599/F – Ayot Croft – retrospective permission for garden buildings – Parish Council supports but has concerns with the noise that has been reported by neighbours.

20/02858/CLUE – Thimblefields – Certificate of Lawfulness – Parish Council supports.

Finance:

The Clerk sought approval for payments totaling £7,705.41. This was agreed unanimously. £6,764.52 of this expenditure is for the Village Hall which will be repaid from a grant from Viridor.

Next Meeting: The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 2nd December 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 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.



WOLFGANG ALT 1921 – 2020

Wolfgang Alt who lived at the Manor House, Barford St Michael passed away peacefully at the Horton Hospital on 4 November 2020, aged 99 years.

He was born in Geissen, Germany and had three sisters Elfreida, Elsbeth and Annaleise. He started work at the Leitz Company in Wetzlar manufacturing the famous Leica cameras. He served with the German Army during World War 2, in Russia first and then the Channel Islands. Life there was very hard, not just for the Islanders, but for the occupying forces as well. No supplies were getting through and

parsnips seemed to feature on the menu every meal. Wolfgang did not eat another parsnip for the rest of his life. In May 1945 he was made a Prisoner of War and moved to the UK mainland. Those POWs who were deemed not to be Nazi sympathisers were put to work on the land, Wolfgang, being an officer, did not have to work but chose to do so and was sent to a farm in Barford St Michael owned by Barbara's parents, Mr and Mrs Bennett. These again were difficult times for him, as he said 'people did not like German soldiers and some spat at us.' The Bennetts looked after and fed their three POWs very well and he always remembered this kindness. He worked hard, learnt some English and got on very well with Barbara. In 1947 he was repatriated back to Wetzlar.

In 1948 Wolfgang decided to return to England and the girl he loved, so made his way back to the Bennetts farm. He enjoyed being back in Barford St Michael and working with Barbara. In 1953 they married at St Michael's church and set up home in the vicarage. He was a natural farmer who developed a herd of prize winning Freisan cows. In 1956 his father in law died and Wolfgang, Barbara, daughters Elizabeth and newly born Rachel, moved out of the vicarage into the Manor House, where they were blessed with a further two daughters Naomi and Sarah. The farm slowly moved away from its milking and beef herds to arable and sheep. Wolfgang was always a man of precision; he would not accept shoddy workmanship and continued to cast his eye over activities on the farm well into his eighties.

He was a naturalised British citizen, but always remained a German at heart, supporting their sports teams (1966 was a bad year) and regularly visiting Germany with his family. He was a great fan of Dave Allen, Terry Wogan and the James Last Orchestra. He went to the Albert Hall with Barbara, when he was in his nineties, to see James Last play his final UK concert. He was a warm hearted, quiet character with a great sense of humour and a ready smile, lovingly remembered by Barbara, his four daughters, four grand children and two great grand children.

His funeral will be held in St Michaels Church, Barford St Michael and he will be laid to rest in the cemetery.

Barbara has asked me to share the details of Wolfgang's funeral. It will be held on Monday 30 November at 12:00pm at St Michael's Church. Due to the current Covid 19 restrictions the funeral will be attended by family and close friends only but should you wish to make a donation, for the Barford Churches, please do so via Humphris Funerals, 32 Albert Street, Banbury, OX16 5DG.

OUR POSTMISTRESS RETIRES AGED 89

Our Long-serving village Postmistress Barbara Alt retired on 31 October after 30 years. Barbara became Postmistress on 9 January 1990 when she took on the Post Office at the family farm. Over the years the shop was added and run with the help of daughters Rachel and Naomi.

Many villagers have popped in to say thank you and goodbye and have given cards and gifts. On the final day of trading villagers assembled in the pouring rain to see Parish Councillors present her with garden plants along with a letter of thanks. She also received a bouquet of flowers from The Post Office Area Manager, who thanked her for her loyal and dedicated service.

There are plans to start an outreach Post Office at the Village Hall, for which a new telephone line will be installed, the service will be restored as soon as possible and will be run by the Postmaster for Fritwell.









Barbara has asked me to share this with the Barfords – From The Editor

Dear Lucy

I would greatly appreciate it if you would allow me to use The Barford News to express my sincere gratitude to all those villagers who have sent gifts and good wishes to me following the closure of the Village shop and Post Office. Special thanks go to those who came to the Village Shop, in the pouring rain, on our last day of opening; I was touched by their kindness. The round of applause, gifts, flowers and good wishes was really wonderful.

I know that our closing will make it difficult and inconvenient for some, having to go elsewhere for their postal services and general goods, but we have had a lot to deal with recently and, as I am not getting any younger, I thought it was the right time to shut the shop.

I will always be grateful for the kindness and loyalty the villagers have shown me Rachel and Naomi.

With many thanks and loving thoughts.

Barbara Alt



District Councillor Update Barford Parish Council – 4/11/20

The ongoing pandemic and the difficulties associated with it continue to limit the extent that councillors can meet with parishioners and parish councils with meetings still held remotely on Zoom or Microsoft Teams.

You may have been aware that OCC wanted the county to move to Tier 2 over the school half-term break but it was refused by government, however circumstances have now changed very quickly and we are heading for a second Lockdown from Thursday, November 5th. It will not be as severe a Lockdown as the initial one in late March but will still prove challenging for individuals, families and businesses, especially the smaller organisations and those in the hospitality sector.

Statistics shared with councillors prior to this second Lockdown show that Cherwell had the highest CV-19 infection rate, per 100,000 residents in Oxfordshire, especially in the middle to higher age groups, therefore moving to Tier 2 was likely to happen in November but the nationwide Lockdown has pre-empted that decision.

A fund still exists for voluntary organisations who are supporting the vulnerable within our communities and I can forward the contacts and application form to anyone interested within the parish. I am enquiring to see whether additional funds will be available and will share information with you, but for now it's still the original budget from the first Lockdown that's available.

On a more local level there is some unrest over at Adderbury where a West Adderbury residents Association group have requested to create a separate West Adderbury Parish thus splitting with the existing Adderbury Parish and creating their own council. There is currently ongoing a Community Governance Review which will conclude in January to decide the outcome.

One last issue which cropped up was a rather poorly erected sign for 'The George' at the crossroads where Nether Worton Road crosses the B4031 which completely obstructed the original sign for the villages. Thankfully OCC Highways admitted their guilt and quickly rectified it by erecting a new pole and attaching

the new sign and existing ones to the new one, pic attached.

The next month in Lockdown will be challenging but our community is strong, resilient and supportive, if there's anything I can do practically or within CDC please don't hesitate to contact me.

Bryn Williams, Deddington Ward Cherwell District Councillor

In Memory Of



Donald Wyatt

12 January 1933 - 03 November 2020
Who died suddenly in the J.R. Aged 87.
Don came to the village when he married
Betty Tew in 1958. They lived in Lower
Street until 2011, when they moved to
Banbury.

Don will be well remembered in the Barfords.



Kindly note that the BOTTLE BANKS at The Post Office will be removed sometime in December.

The Parish Council are discussing alternative locations.



A THANK YOU

I had a lovely surprise last Saturday (7th Nov) when there was a knock at the front door and a group of friends and neighbours had come to thank me for mowing the Village Green and keeping it tidy for 27 years.

They had come with much good will and bearing gifts: a bottle of Brandy, a chit for two Butties of my choice at the next Village Hall Market, a lovely water colour by Jeff Elliott of a golfer lining up a putt and £50 card for local garden centre plus two pages of lovely comments from everyone.

I was so overwhelmed by the kind thoughts and generosity being shown to me over what has been a great pleasure over the years that I could only manage to stutter out repeated words of thanks which were at the time insufficient to reveal the totality of my full feelings.

Cutting the Green has not been totally altruistic. I started because when I first came to the Barfords the Green was being cut by a contractor about six times a year and the grass was never picked up. There were many comments by passers-by that the Green looked like a hay field. Verna and I then went away for seven years and when we came back there had been no change. People were still commenting and I agreed with them It was then I decided to cut the Green. I was not totally alone. Basil Butler cut the large bush at the end of the Green annually for me. When I have been away on holiday or the mower in for repair, Rodney Hobbs or Mick Bullard have stood in for me. I soon found that there were benefits: a normal cut would take about 45 minutes to an hour but as time went on many villagers stop for a chat. So, what started as 45 minutes to an hour got longer and longer. I also had a sneaking thought that keeping things tidy might add value to the properties around the Green and perhaps to the rest of the village. Over the years I have got to know a lot of lovely people in the Barfords because I cut the Green and so the years have passed, rather too quickly unfortunately. Latterly old age and failing knees have warned me that it is time to give up.

So many thanks to all those who have helped me and to those that stopped and chatted over the years. Another thank you to those that recorded their comments and who came to the front door.

Thank you all, Bernard Lane







BARFORD ST. MICHAEL – A Short History, Final Part

of Oxford: Volume 11, Wootton

Hundred (Northern Part),

Pages 45-58)

CHURCH

The church was probably given to Chacombe priory by Hugh of Chacombe between 1163 and 1176. Moves towards appropriation were made in 1326 and 1344; it was again planned shortly before 1406, and was achieved finally in 1412 when a vicarage was ordained. The advowson (the right to present a candidate to benefice or church vacancy) of the vicarage descended with the manor until 1890 when it was acquired by the bishop of Oxford. The chapelry of Barford St. John was annexed to the living at the same time.

The church of *ST. MICHAEL* stands at the west end of the village on a mound which seems to be man-made, perhaps to support extensions to the original building. In the 12th century the church seems to have comprised only a chancel and short nave, with the tower, perhaps because of the nature of the site, built in an unusual position on the south side of the chancel; the continuation of the tower's plinth moulding around the west side shows that there was no aisle. The church was distinguished by ornate north and south doorways of *c.* 1150. The superior quality of the north door, with its elaborate beakhead design, suggests that then, as later, the manor house and village lay on that side of the church. During the 13th & 14th centuries the church was enlarged and remodelled

There were occasional complaints about the condition of the chancel, and in 1684 roof repairs were held up because several landowners refused to contribute. Both chancel and church were in poor condition in the mid 18th century, but £40 was spent in 1796, a gallery of unknown date repaired in 1805, two bells replaced in 1810, and a sanctus bell added. Shortage of funds meant that a restoration in 1854 under the supervision of G. E. Street was limited in scope; much of the floor was tiled, the western gallery removed, and the church substantially repewed, although a few medieval poppy-head bench ends survive. The 15th-century carved wooden screen, originally surmounted by a roodloft, was restored. The church contains a 12th-century tub font. The north door has decorative strap hinges which may be of the 12th century. The lectern and prayer desk incorporate Jacobean panelling, although the latter at least was built in the mid 19th century. The stone pulpit apparently replaced a carved wooden one in the 1890s.

In 1975 an organ, removed from the church at Clifton in Deddington, was installed in memory of Canon A. J. S. Hart, vicar 1938-68. The plate includes a chalice of *c*. 1571.

Barford was not deeply affected by the revival of church life until the incumbency of Philip Hookins (1851-91), who brought about a restoration of the church and, despite the lack of local financial aid, raised money to rebuild the vicarage house under the supervision of G. E. Street in 1855-6. It was largely through him that the two Barfords were united and placed under the bishop's patronage in 1890. From 1938 the living was held in plurality with that of Wigginton and from 1968 with that of South Newington.

NONCONFORMITY

A few recusants were reported in the 16th century, but there was evidently no strong tradition in the parish. In 1676 there were two Protestant nonconformists in Barford who may have been Quakers, of whom several were recorded there in the late 17th century. In 1738 there were three Quakers, two Anabaptists, and three Presbyterians, described predictably by the incumbent as 'of the meaner sort'.

In 1798 a house was licensed for Methodists and in 1799 mobs harassed the meeting, on one occasion throwing the preacher, into a pond at Barford and then into another at Hempton; damages of 8 gns. were paid for by the rioters. The chapel (in High Street) was built in 1840. On census day in 1851 there was a congregation of 40 in the morning and 92 in the evening. In 1866 the incumbent claimed that there were no more than eight families of 'out and out dissenters' but admitted that the Methodist chapel drew many more occasional attenders, sometimes as many as 100 for the evening service. By 1864 the congregation had joined the Wesleyan Reformers. The chapel is now a private dwelling.

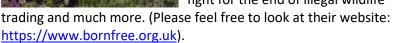
A Baptist community had a meeting house in 1823 and built itself a chapel (*in Lower Street*) 1838. It had an average congregation in 1851 of 20; in 1854 the incumbent claimed there were only 2 members and an average attendance of between 7 and 10. The chapel was closed in the 1890s and became a reading room; it survived as the garage of a private house and later became a recording studio.

I hope to find details about Barford St. John, which was recorded separately along with Adderbury and Bloxham Hundred. If successful I will ask Lucy to publish what I find.



My name is Maisie Bird and I have lived in the village all my life. I am currently studying veterinary medicine at the Royal Veterinary College (RVC) in London and I am in Year 3 of 5 years into my studies. RVC Raising and Giving (RAG) society, this year are undertaking the Three Peak Challenge as part of their charitable venture. I am excited to undertake this challenge from the July 2nd 2021 climbing Snowdon, in Wales (1085m), Scafell Pike, in England (978m), Ben Nevis, in Scotland (1345m). Our charity of interest is the incredible charity, 'Born Free'. The charities goal is to ensure that all wild animals, whether living in captivity or in the wild, are treated with compassion and respect, which is an area of veterinary I am particularly passionate about. The charity works across the world to preserve, protect and rescue wild animals in

need, to stop captive animals suffering, eliminate trophy and canned hunting of wild animals and fight for the end of illegal wildlife





During this next month in lockdown I am determined to complete a daily 5km run (5th November-5th December)in order to start my fundraising journey for the National Three Peak Challenge. I would be so grateful of your support and donations to be made to this unbelievable charity as I aim to raise £680 in total for my RVC team - Please feel free follow my progress on Strava to see how I'm doing (Link: https://www.strava.com/athletes/48210514).

My JustGiving page can be found: https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/maisie-bird

OUR FARM SHOP....after the recent closing of our shop in the village after 30 years I wanted to find out a bit of its history so I asked Rachel from The Post Office for a bit of background on the Manor House and Farm Shop. Here are a few things you may not have known....

- The Manor House on the edge of the Oxfordshire village of Barford St Michael dates from the sixteenth century and the property is recorded in the Domesday Book
- The first shop was a hut in which Rachel's Grandmother sold home grown fruit, veg and eggs in the late 80's
- The ponds around the manor were expanded in 1987 with the idea of diversifying farm activities.
 They were initially stocked in 1987 with Trout and Carp followed later. Fishing started in 1988.
 Soon after as a continuation of the farm diversification, a camping licence was gained and toilet facilities provided.
- On the 8th January 1990, after Joyce Smith had closed her office. (this was in the bungalow where the Colmers now live) the Post Office was opened at The Manor House to provide facilities for the village, At the same time, the shop was expanded and the product range developed to include newspapers and magazines

SECURITY IN THE VILLAGE

Following the robbery at the Barford St Michael Post Office the Parish Council has discussed the matter with Criminal Justice Detective Inspector Jim Holmes who lives in Barford St Michael. We are very grateful for Jim's help and advice. We hope that the perpetrator of the robbery at the Post Office is soon apprehended

DC Charlie Eden at Banbury is heading the investigation and she has been delighted with the response from the village, both personal sightings and from CCTV footage have been extremely helpful. Jim said that villages like The Barfords have a low incidence of crime because they are off the beaten track. Criminals usually focus on places where they can make a quick and un-noticed getaway. They also look for easy targets.

Local awareness, especially the unusual behaviour of strangers and unusual vehicles is particularly important and calls reporting such behaviour to the police non-emergency number 101 (or 999 in serious cases) are valuable as are any photographs that can be safely taken.

Measures such as CCTV doorbells are good deterrents and the police often get good leads from footage from these. Locking side gates to prevent easy access to the back of properties is important. Burglar alarms are of less value though an obvious alarm box (even if it is a dummy) can help. PIR lighting devices are also of limited value.

The Parish Council will be discussing with Jim the possibility of him giving a talk on general crime prevention measures we can all take in the near future.

In the meantime stay alert.

BARFORD ST JOHN
AND ST MICHAEL PARISH COUNCIL



We have greatly missed meeting together and particularly missed all our outdoor summer activities.....stream walking, hiking, cookouts and camping and so on.....

We managed to meet twice in September, and had a great time. We had a super time cooking a variety of tasty foods, backwoodsman style..... with no pots and pans, over open fires! Then we spent a lovely sunny afternoon hiking from Adderbury to Bodicote and circular route back.

Time for another break again now. Due to greater work commitments during the pandemic, the leaders have not been able to sustain much contact on line..... but we're here ready and keen as ever looking forward to when we can meet again! If you are interested in joining us when we can return to meetings please contact us.

Maggie Rampley 07957 600755 Marian Trinder07786 001641, or Tilly Neal 07557 095681



DECEMBER Draw

£15, 040, Carol Hopkins £10, 060, Christine Hall £5, 163, Jo Purton

the draw took place at Stonehaven, witnessed by 4 socially-distanced residents

FOOTPATHS

Please will Barford residents take care when using public footpaths. Oxfordshire County Council has advised that they have received a number of reports from landowners who are having issues with people using the footpaths and bridleways. In particular, they are having issues with people not keeping their dogs under control which are then scaring/chasing livestock and wildlife.

Landowners are also asked to keep footpaths free from obstructions, overhanging vegetation and clear of crops to legal minimum widths to assist residents to keep to the correct line of the footpath.

Maps of the footpaths can be viewed at:

https://publicrightsofway.oxfordshire.gov.uk/Web/standardmap.aspx

Information on Public Rights of Way including advice for dog owners, information for landowners and how to report issues can be viewed at:

https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/environment-and-planning/countryside/countryside-access/public-rights-way

LIONS CLUB 'MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE' SCHEME



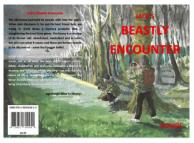
The 'Message in a Bottle' scheme is a voluntary scheme to make essential information readily available to emergency services should the need arise.

Details are stored in a clearly labelled clear plastic container which is kept in your fridge. Two labels are placed inside your house, one just inside your front door (but NOT visible from the outside) and one on the fridge door.

The form supplied with the bottle enables you to record personal details such as date of birth, NHS number, GP surgery, illnesses, medication, emergency contacts details, etc, etc.

I have a number of these bottles available so please contact me if you would like one.

Rodney Hobbs 01869 338078



NOTICE FROM ROSCOE
JACK'S BEASTLY ENCOUNTER'

By Roscoe

Due to COVID 19 (that nasty virus!) the launch of this latest book featuring those Warriner Kids, Jack, Rob and Winnie will now be on:-

SATURDAY 12th December at the Ex- SERVICEMAN'S Village hall, Bloxham.

Time:-10am to 1pm

Book signing-meet the author-wear a mask! (If you cannot wait until then and you live locally, send me an Email: rodwal@btinternet.com, for further details)

The Perfect stocking filler for those with adventure in their veins!



GREEN THOUGHT OF THE MONTH



DEDDINGTON ENVIRONMENT NETWORK – helping our local communities reduce our climate impact by becoming more sustainable

This month's contributor is **John O'Brien**, who leads the DEN energy team and lives in Barford St. John with his wife Anne and two lively daughters, Lois and Nikita.

If you found watching David Attenborough's latest programme, *Extinction*, sobering, then perhaps you would like to join us here at Deddington Environment Network (DEN). We are a group of concerned residents who are working together to help respond to the environmental crisis at a local level. We are a Community Interest Company, made up of volunteers from Deddington and the surrounding area, and we would love you to get involved in any way you can...whether it's coming up with new project ideas, helping us to apply for funding, assisting at the Refill Station, or sharing your views on making life in our community more sustainable and environmentally friendly. Over the last few months we've been generating debate about local environmental initiatives that we would like everyone to be engaged in, whether in Energy, Transport, Biodiversity or Resource Efficiency.

Here at DEN we were delighted to hear the news that Cherwell District Council has unanimously agreed to the 8.2 MW extension to the existing 5 MW solar panel installation between Deddington and Duns Tew which has the potential to power another 2,500 homes. Below is a brief round-up of some of the projects we are working on. Please visit DeddingtonEnvironment.net for more detailed information or if you would like to get in touch.

- The **Street Bank** platform is slowly growing so far we have items listed on it ranging from roof bars, to fancy-dress costumes and pressure washers. Have a look at Streetbank.co.uk. Membership is free and most items are available to borrow for free too.
- On the car sharing front we are trialling Turo.com which has a gathering fleet of cars in our local area. Insurance is all sorted by the app and it is very easy to use. We're looking for people to help test this out so please get in touch if you are interested.
- Our Energy team is continuing to work on plans for achieving our 2040 zero carbon aim for Deddington and
 the surrounding area including how to create a zero carbon home, community centre and businesses. We've
 also been speaking to sports and community centres, offering support with constructing new and extended
 environmentally sustainable facilities.
- As you might have seen at the September Farmers' Market we have teamed up with SESI to offer eco-friendly detergents in refillable bottles. Available products include washing-up liquid, non-bio laundry detergent and conditioner, vinegar and general purpose cleaner. We are gathering a small stock of bottles for use but please do bring your own for refilling if you can. More details, including prices are on the DEN website. The Zero Waste shop in Banbury, Nothing But Footprints, is also offering people the chance to order other goods from their website "refillnotlandfill.co.uk" and collect from the DEN stall at the market. Over time, we may be able to offer more products and refill/collection opportunities between market days if there is enough demand.
- RepairDEN now have a good list of local make-do and menders on the DEN website. Most are trades people and we'd like to include more people from the community who might help people out. Let us know if you are one of them. On a similar theme you'll begin to see resources on the website to help you repair, reuse, sell, or donate things that you might otherwise throw out. Contact John@lcmb.co.uk or via the DEN website www.deddingtonenviroment.net, info@deddingtonenvironment.net, if you'd like to be part of the team.

- Feed the Birds ... without buying single-use plastic! Lorraine Simons, who sells bird food at Barford Market, will deliver free within three miles of the village, and can refill your own containers or use recycled milk bottles. She sells fat balls, mixed seed special mix, suet, mealworms, sunflower seeds, black sunflower, niger, peanuts and nut granules, all at £2 per kilo, and a cheaper seed mix at £1 per kilo. Phone 338048 or 078626.
- I'm dreaming of a green Christmas ... and in many ways Christmas will be greener than usual, with fewer people taking flights or making long journeys. Ways to avoid making it a festival of over-consumption include aiming for zero waste, giving home-made, home-grown or sustainable gifts, or making charity donations instead. Banbury Food Bank needs your support and see #FoodBankAdvent for a great way to support them.

Linda Newbery



DEDDINGTON PFSU AND VILLAGE NURSERY

Christmas is coming and provided circumstances permit the Nursery and Preschool children will be enjoying many of their usual Christmas activities this year, albeit in a slightly altered form.

We have already started rehearsals for our Christmas performances, songs at the Nursery and a simple nativity with the preschool children. In both cases these will be recorded and sent to parents to view at home. We intend to hold Christmas party activities at both settings, and there will be the usual fun of making decorations, crafts and cards.

In the busyness of Christmas we would like to remind all our preschool parents that applications for primary school for next September (that is children who were born between 1 September 2016 and 31st August 2017) must be made to Oxfordshire County Council by 15th January 2021, or you risk missing out on a place at your preferred school. Finally, despite these unusual times, we hope you all have the best Christmas possible.

Lucy Squires 337484



To put the record straight!!

You will have read our editor's column in November Barford News where Lucy heaped praise on those of us who help with the production and delivery of our wonderful village newspaper.

However, I must point out one glaring omission in the aforementioned article, which is that there was no mention of the huge effort that Lucy (the editor) makes month in and month out without fail, even when holidaying in Spain!!

Many of you will know that Lucy faces daily challenges due to quite serious health issues, which sometimes makes getting through the day difficult. Despite this, or maybe because of it (she is a very driven and determined lady!!) she turns out what I believe is a better than average village newspaper every month of the year.

Thank you Lucy, your efforts are very much appreciated by us all.

M.Y.







BARFORD GREEN GARDEN CLUB NOTES FROM OUR POTTING SHED December 2020

"Spring passes and one remembers one's innocence.
Summer passes and one remembers one's exuberance.
Autumn passes and one remembers one's reverence.
Winter passes and one remembers one's
perseverance." — Yoko Ono

"Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth, for the touch of a friendly hand and for a talk beside the fire: it is the time for home." — Edith Sitwell

"What good is the warmth of summer, without the cold of winter to give it sweetness." — John Steinbeck

JOBS TO DO IN AND AROUND THE GARDEN

As we approach the shortest day of the year in December you will need work to keep you warm outside, such as digging and tree pruning. Check your winter protection and if you have a greenhouse make sure the heater is working. Hopefully there are not too many jobs left to do this year so you will have time for some fireside garden planning.

Insulate outdoor taps and prevent ponds from freezing; Prune open-grown apples and pears (but not those trained against walls); Prune acers, birches and vines before Christmas to avoid bleeding: Harvest leeks, parsnips, winter cabbage, sprouts and remaining root crops: Reduce watering of houseplants: Avoid walking on lawns on frosty mornings. It can damage the grass and often leads to brown footprint-shaped marks: Continue to remove fallen leaves from lawns before they block out light and moisture to the grass: Grass will continue to grow in temperatures above 5°C (41°F), so if the weather remains mild it may be necessary to use the mower to keep the lawn in trim. Ensure the cut is 3-5mm higher than during the summer to prevent turf stress. On average, this means a cutting height of around 2-4cm (1-1.5in) for a utility lawn.

Check on tender plants outdoors to ensure winter protection is still in place, especially after storms. Raise patio containers onto feet or bricks to avoid them sitting in the winter wet:Large tubs that are at risk of cracking in the frost should be covered with bubblewrap, hessian or fleece, to insulate them over the winter. Tender plants and pots can be brought into the greenhouse or conservatory if not done so already.

Even in mild areas, the winter usually gets much harder after December: Apply a mulch to protect plants that are borderline hardy.

All these tips are taken from RHS Website. More information can be found there.

SEED ORDERS for members. After much research and consultation Rodney has kindly organised for us to get our seeds from KINGS this year. All members received an email from Linda explaining the procedure. Thursday 19th November was the deadline for getting your orders in. Many, many thanks to Rodney for organising and Lavinia for helping to distribute when they arrive

PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION We are still hoping to hold a small 'actual' exhibition of winners and runner up photographs as prints. Venue and date to be announced.

TOP JOBS THIS MONTH as taken from RHS website. Clear up fallen leaves, especially from lawns, ponds and beds. Plant tulip bulbs for a spring display next year. Order bulbs for spring flowering. Prune roses to prevent wind-rock. Plant out winter bedding. Cover brassicas with netting if pigeons are a problem. Stop winter moth damage to fruit trees using grease bands around the trunks. Put out bird food to encourage winter birds into the garden; Use a seasonal bonfire - where this is allowed - to dispose of excess debris unfit for composting; Check any bulbs (e.g. hyacinths and 'Paper White' daffodils), being forced in darkness into early flowering. When they have made about 2.5cm (1in) growth, bring them into a light, cool room or frost-free greenhouse to grow on. When flower buds appear, they can be brought into warmer rooms to provide a seasonal display. Christmas cacti can be treated in the same way. Pelargoniums can be cut back, de-leaved, watered less, not fed and kept relatively dormant and just moist until spring.

As we continue our gardening year still in a state of uncertainty 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.

HAPPY DECEMBER GARDENING, keep warm, take care and continue to follow guidelines re: Covid19.



We wish you all a PEACEFUL CHRISTMAS.

SPADE and FORK

CHURCH MATTERS



Remembrance Sunday



As the church was closed because of Lockdown 2, we held our annual Remembrance service around the War Memorial outside. Many people turned out to honour those, from our village and beyond, who gave

their lives in conflicts throughout the world.

The collection enabled us to send £188 to the Royal British Legion. Thank you to those who attended the service for their generosity.

This Christmas the Church will need, in the words of St Paul in Romans 12:15, to 'Rejoice with those



who rejoice; weep with those who weep'. We will aim to celebrate where we can in one place and embrace the wider community that wants to join the celebration who may not be physically or emotionally able to do so.

Christmas this year will feel different. The family gathering may well be smaller. Some of us may be joining in the familiar carols online rather than in church. It will still be -as always- a time to care for one another and to be together.

It will be a time to look back on a year when so much has changed. To those who have died, to support those who have lost jobs, to be thankful for all who have cared for the sick and vulnerable. What has not changed is the story and the meaning of Jesus' birth. *God is with us.* With us in this uncertainty as in times of confidence, in the disappointment and the difficulty, in sorrow and celebration.

During this Christmas season may we know God's comfort and be surprised by God's joy.

[Comfort and Joy is the Church of England's Christmas campaign for 2020. The words above are courtesy of the Archbishops of Canterbury and York]

Advent Windows in the Barfords



Despite COVID 19 we are very much hoping to turn the Barfords into a Living Advent Calendar.
Windows throughout the village will be decorated and 'opened' each evening between 1 December and Christmas Eve.

These displays have been popular in the past (last one 2016) and were very much admired by villagers and visitors who walk round the Barfords during the Christmas season.

Requests for volunteers have been circulated on the village Facebook page, emails have been sent, and personal appeals have been made to unsuspecting



villagers! If you didn't hear about the scheme and would like to take part - it may not be too late! Please contact me.

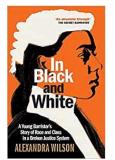
Sue Addison, Churchwarden T: 338017 Email: sueaddison7@gmail.com

Reading recommendations from BARFORD BOOKCHAT



The Weekend, by Charlotte Wood, is a novel focused on female friendship and the experience of ageing, which has been widely acclaimed this past summer. It is set in Australia and takes place over a Christmas weekend when Adele, Wendy and Jude assemble to clear out the beach house which belonged to their friend Sylvia, who has recently died. At the same time the friends, each of them very different, are assessing their own passing years and their views of each other. Charlotte Wood describes beautifully the contrast in the way we see ourselves and how others see us. She also conveys the broad sweep of years and how the fabric of friendships evolves over difficult times. Dog lovers will also appreciate the way that Wendy relates to her aging mutt Finn, given to her by Sylvie as a

puppy. The writing is precise and insightful and slips elegantly between the different viewpoints. *Suzanne Franks*



In Black and White: A young barrister's story of race and class in a broken justice system, by Alexandra Wilson. Pupil trainee barristers shadow a fully-fledged barrister for six months, then can get on their own feet in court and start earning money. The travails of the pupil are set out by Alexandra Wilson in this excellent book.

Like me, on her first day she got there very early, an hour before the court opened; she felt imposter syndrome; she was made uncomfortable by the fact that so much judging of pupils occurred by socialising after work; she got locked into her chambers because she was working when everyone else had gone home. The purchase of wig and gown dealt a real blow to her finances. She also describes many micro-aggressions endured as a black pupil.

On several occasions she was approached at court and asked if she *were* the barrister, having been taken for the defendant. *John Bowers QC*



Arts of Living on a Damaged Planet: edited by Anna Tsing, Heather Swanson, Elaine Gan, Nils Bubandt. An invitation. A puzzle. A provocation. Even the topsy-turvy, back-to-front format of this extraordinary book, intrigues and challenges. It's in two halves, each of which coalesces around the theme of 'Ghosts' or 'Monsters'. The 'Ghosts' section engages with landscapes of loss; ghosts as 'the traces of more-than-human histories through which ecologies are made and unmade'. Similar themes run through the 'Monsters' section which delves deeper into the entangled nature of life that the Anthropocene so disastrously fails to appreciate. (Who knew that in our bodies is a similar volume of bacteria as our brains, and that we depend on these tiny cohabitees to function?!) All contributions to the book in some

way seek to awaken the curiosity about life on earth so urgently needed to forestall our current trajectory towards the sixth mass extinction. They can also be read of as love-letters to terrestrial life. However, the question remains – will humans, in continuing to precipitate irrevocable global damage, emerge thereafter? *Claire Cox*

Are you buying books as Christmas presents? Independent bookshops need your support! Rather than buying from the behemoth Amazon, you could order from **Jaffé and Neale** or the **Woodstock Bookshop** – both offer Click and Collect. Alternatively, you could order from **Bookshop.org** or from **Hive Books** – purchases from either will benefit a local bookseller of your choice.

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

KATHMANDU KIDS' HOME UPDATE Namaste

Just to keep you all in the picture, here is an update as to what is happening in Kathmandu.

Most of you are aware of what we do to help those kids, but for any new people to the village, there is a small group of us that hold events throughout the year to raise money to support a kids home in Kathmandu. We have New Year's Day walks with soup and crusty bread, quiz nights, rock and roll nights, plus we get occasional donations from sales of pumpkins and flowers etc. Each year we send around £3,000 to the home to help out with rent, food, clothing, education and heaps of TLC. This helps out a bunch of kids, (it varies between 25 and 40) that would otherwise be street urchins. £3,000 might not sound a lot, but in one of the poorest countries it goes a long way. Incidentally, I say one of the poorest countries. The only real asset Nepal has, is Everest. This brings in tourist revenue. Well in 2020 all permits to visit Everest and other trekking areas have been cancelled. You do the maths. They really haven't recovered from the 2015 earthquake yet.

Well this year we have not been able to raise any money due to Covid 19 restrictions, though we have still been sending the money, but our account is slowly heading for a big fat ZERO! Can anyone come up with ways to raise much needed money? With these social distancing rules, we have our hands tied, but there must be some way round it. Any ideas folks. If you do have any bright ideas please share them with us. Call 01869 338061 and let us know. Alternatively, if you are feeling overly generous and would like to make a donation then this would be most welcome.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year. Hoping we can all get back meeting up and fund raising again in 2021.

Regards t'committee



COVID-19 SYMPTOMS APP

This not for profit mobile phone App has been developed by doctors and scientists working in partnership with ZOE (a health science company). (www.joinzoe.com)

One of their programmes aims to advance vital research on COVID-19. Participants report how they feel daily even if they are well it takes about 30 seconds to report in and you can get a reminder. Software algorithms are then used to predict who has the virus and so track COVID-19 infections nationally in real time. The research is led by Prof. Tim Spector, professor of genetic epidemiology at Kings College, London and aims to get a better understanding of the Covid-19 virus and how it is spreading nationally and to identify high risk areas. It does not monitor contacts so is very different to the NHS app. Currently there are over 4 million participants.

You can download the app at https://covid.joinzoe.com/. It is also available to downloads on the App Store and Google Play. You will find more details at covid.joinzoe.com/about



RUBBISH & RECYCLING COLLECTION DATES

{always a Thursday}

3 ^{ra}	blue 'n' brown
10 th	green
17 th	blue 'n' brown
24 th	green
	blue 'n' brown

1st DEDDINGTON SCOUT GROUP

Cubs & Scouts

Scout Christmas Post. Unfortunately, we will not be able to run the post this Christmas due to Covid restrictions.

Thanks to all the Cubs & Scouts who found a way to commemorate Remembrance Day, there were some wonderful & imaginative displays of poppies & many of us donned our uniforms to stand outside for the two minute silence.

<u>Jo Churchyard deddingtoncubs@gmail.com</u> <u>Peter Churchyard deddingtonscouts@gmail.com</u>

Explorers

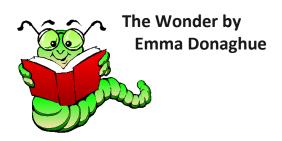
As we said last month we have been hearing about the developments with the Street Child United charity we support. The stories from various young people put into perspective how lucky we are at the moment. Our intention is to try and virtually get from Deddington to Doha where the next World Cup is to be played. Watch out for our inventiveness. The Community Action Trust Group who are assisting old people's homes and orphanages in Zimbabwe, specifically in Bulawayo have now put our donations into a container. We will update you with any news as we receive it.

To take our minds off Covid 19 we have embarked on the Creative Arts Badge. The challenge? To take photos of things that mean Happiness to us. Plus we are entering the Rotary photographic competition for the best wildlife photo.

We had an amazing Zoom meeting with the Scouter who runs the Scoutadelic YouTube channel and FB page. Lots of discussion as to how to create the videos followed by drawing a picture of ourselves and labelling 5 things we think are positive features. Really good for mental health.

Finally the last event has been a debate on whether or not school uniform is a good idea. Many really good reasons on both sides but the decision was a resounding NO! If you are interested in joining the Unit contact any of the leaders at spartansexplorers@gmail.com

Janet Duxbury spartansexplorers@gmail.com



Our last book 'The wonder' by Emma Donoghue had mixed reviews.

Set shortly after the Crimean war, a 'Nightingale' nurse travels to the Irish Midlands to take up a two week, well paid, work role. She is tasked with watching Anna, a young girl who is defying nature and staying alive despite a four month fast. Anna and her family are receiving global religious, medical and media interest.

The landscape, weather and living conditions are bleak and we agreed that the quality of Donoghue's writing spoke so graphically, it was easy to transport ourselves to the degree that it was almost possible to smell the peat bogs. For some Bookworms - this bleakness was too much and they struggled to continue reading through it. One of the Bookworms talked about not being drawn to periodical literature, which may have affected her thoughts. However, on finishing the book she was glad to have persevered.

Some really enjoyed the book finding it multilayered, providing a social view of Ireland shortly after the potato famine, exploring the relationship of religion, guilt and shame. It kept the reader interested to find out why Anna wasn't eating and what might happen.

Overall a well written book of a social time and place with an interesting story, but be prepared for some bleakness!

Bookworms, Deddington Library

Prue Leith's chocolate & chestnut christmas log



Preparation time.....less than 30 mins
Cooking time.....10 to 30 mins
Serves.... 6

Ingredients

- 225g/8oz plain chocolate, roughly chopped
- 1 tsp strong instant coffee powder
- 5 free-range eggs, separated
- 140g/5oz caster sugar
- icing sugar, for dusting
- holly leaves and berries, to decorate

For the filling

- 150ml/5fl oz double cream
- 3 tbsp sweetened <u>chestnut</u> purée

Method

- Take a 33x23cm Swiss roll tin or baking tray and cut a double layer of non-stick baking parchment slightly bigger than the tin. Lay the parchment in the tin. Don't worry if the edges stick up untidily round the sides.
- 2. Preheat oven to 200C/400F/Gas 6.
- 3. Put the chocolate and coffee into a heavy-based saucepan with 85ml/3fl oz water and put over a low heat to melt the chocolate.
- 4. Beat the egg yolks and the caster sugar until pale and mousse-like. Add the melted chocolate.
- 5. Whisk the egg whites until stiff but not dry. With a large metal spoon, stir a small amount thoroughly into the chocolate mixture to loosen it. Fold the remaining whites in gently. Spread the mixture evenly in the lined roasting tin.

- 6. Bake in the preheated oven for about 12 minutes, or until the top is slightly browned and firm to touch.
- 7. Slide the cake parchment out of the roasting pan onto a wire rack. Leave to cool completely (do not cover).
- 8. To make the filling, whip the cream in a bowl, then mix in the sweetened chestnut purée.
- 9. When the sponge base is cooled all the way through (check underneath) you are ready to assemble the roulade. Put greaseproof paper on a work surface. Turn out the roulade onto the paper. Carefully remove the paper used to line the tin.

 Spread the filling evenly across the surface of the cake.
- 10. Using the paper under the cake to help, roll it up firmly from one of the narrow ends. Rest the cake on its seam. Wrap tightly with the greaseproof paper and refrigerate for at least 30 minutes and up to overnight. (It doesn't matter if the cake breaks apart when rolling a little sifted icing sugar will do wonders for its appearance.)
- 11. Serve dusted with icing sugar and garnish with holly leaves and berries



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Age UK Oxfordshire 0345 450 1276



SANTA FUN RUN – 13 DECEMBER 2020

This year our Santa Fun Run is back, with a difference! Due to the current social distancing guidelines we have changed the way we run this year, but still expect lots of fun, festive cheer, and a little bit of fitness! Join team Katharine House wherever you are and be a part of #KHTeamSanta this year to help support those facing life-limiting illness in our community. To find out more head to www.khh.org.uk/santa20

<u>12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS EVENTS – 1-31</u> DECEMBER 2020

This year we are putting together a series of festive events to bring the community together and spread some Christmas cheer this December! Prepare yourself for Christmas Jumpers, Festive Challenges, a Virtual Balloon Race, a Christmas Concert and not forgetting the annual Santa Fun Run! (which is slightly different this year!) Join us as we celebrate making every moment matter this Christmas. www.khh.org.uk/12days

<u>KATHARINE HOUSE CHRISTMAS SHOP</u> 2020

Our online Christmas shop is up and running with a selection of this year's Christmas cards, knitted novelties and our eBay shop has lots of wonderful gifts for sale. Head to www.khh.org.uk/christmas-shop to find yours

LIGHTS OF LOVE - 15 DECEMBER 2020

Our lights of love service will go live, streamed from the hospice to your home this December. We will have a ceremony lead by James our Chaplain as well as some music and readings. You can make your dedication to a loved at www.khh.org.uk/lights

FREE DIGITAL KATHARINE HOUSE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Keep up to date with your hospice. Please sign up to receive our Katharine House digital monthly newsletter, which is designed to keep you in touch with what's happening at Katharine House Hospice, including news of our fundraising events and developments at the hospice. Just head to our website to sign up www.khh.org.uk/newsletter



DEDDINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

We are all continuing to enjoy being back in school, working and learning together once more.

As part of our focus on Remembrance this year, the children have made poppies which are currently being displayed in our classroom windows. There is some beautiful art work to be seen, and we have been reflecting in our classes, remembering all those affected in the past as well as today. The Year 6 pupils on Remembrance Day gathered around the Deddington war memorial, where the crosses which they decorated can now be seen. Some of the children recited war poems as they stood and reflected on this significant day in our history.

At the start of national Anti-Bullying week on 16th November, we decided to wear odd socks to mark 'Odd Socks' day which celebrates we are all different and unique. The children loved wearing the different socks for such an important cause. Year 4 children had a topic-based day on 'Stone Age life', and enjoyed making woolly mammoths as part of this fun and educational day.

Year 5 worked with the Oxford city Fire station on an egg drop parachute challenge. 'Blue Watch' at Rewley Road, Oxford dropped parachutes that had been made at home as part of a Homework task. The challenge was to make an effective parachute and casing for an egg, to ensure it did not break on impact! This was filmed and will soon be possible to watch on our school website. All the children enjoyed this task immensely.

All year groups are now looking ahead to Christmas which will of course be different this year. But, we as a school plan to make the most of being with our family and friends both in and around our school community.

Denise Welch

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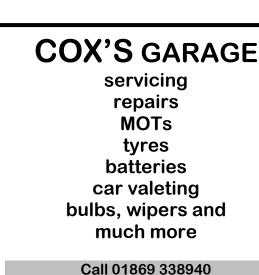




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Buses:

Dial-a-Ride, door-to-door service operates Monday to Friday. Telephone requests at least 7 days in advance please to arrange pick-up 0845 310 1111

Deddington Farmers' Market

Fourth Saturday of each month (Third Saturday in December) 9am to 12.30pm

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01869 338078 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 December

TO BE CONFIRMED

Christmas Eve Thursday 24th December

'Live Nativity'

St Michael's Churchyard at 3:30pm

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

Holy Trinity Catholic Church,

26 London Road, Chipping Norton, OX5 5AX

Phone: 01608 642703

Parish Priest: Father Tony Joyce Email: holytrinityrcchippy@gmail.com On Call: Rev. Deacon Robert Hughes

Tel: 01295 720869 Mobile: 07766 711984

Masses:

Saturday - 6pm Vigil Mass Sunday - 11.00am Mass Weekdays Normally 9.15am, can be subject to

change

Police contact numbers In an emergency call 999

Non-emergencies call 101
Textphone 18000
Banbury office 01295 754 541
Thames Valley Crime-stoppers
0800 555 111

Regular weekly/monthly events

Mondays Beavers (Deddington)

Boys Brigade band practice

Tuesdays Guides (Deddington)

Carpet bowls - Sept - Mar

Wednesdays Brownies (Windmill - Deddington)

Fernhill Club

1st week parish council (not August)

2nd week W.I. meeting Boys Brigade (Deddington)

Thursdays Open cuppa mornings

Cubs (Deddington)
Scouts (Deddington)

Fridays Rainbows

Whist alternate weeks

Saturdays Village Market 3rd week

(except January or August)

3rd Wednesday Village Hall Management Committee

DIARY DATES

DECEMBER

1st, 8th 15th Farm Shop Open (1pm-4pm).
 2nd Parish Council Meeting Village Hall or On-line
 18th Tractor Run – to be confirmed
 24th 'Live Nativity' at St Michaels – to be confirmed

BARFORD NEWS

Copy deadline 15th of each month

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