

BARFORD NEWS

NOVEMBER 2025

www.barfordnews.co.uk

PRICE: 50p where sold



**'When You Go Home, Tell Them Of Us And Say,
For Your Tomorrow, We Gave Our Today.'**

BARFORD ST JOHN & ST MICHAEL PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN: SANDI TURNER 07919 577486
VICE CHAIRMAN: RODNEY HOBBS 07931 584184
COUNCILLORS: CHRIS CHARMAN 07796 544363
RAY COX 01869 337736
TOM LOVELL 07760 162593
DAWN TUCKER 07808 890495

Parish Council meetings are held every 2 months in the Village Hall on the first Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm, starting with January's meeting. This is an opportunity for villagers to bring questions or concerns in person to the Councillors. Everyone is welcome.

Parish Council Agenda and Minutes at thebarfordvillages.co.uk/parish-council/meetings/minutes

Allotment queries, please contact Chris Charman, as above.

HALL & FERNHILL CHARITY - GRANT ELIGIBILITY

Did you know about one of our village charities called the Hall and Fernhill charity?

It was set up in 1895 in order to benefit Barford residents, originally with the desire to support residents to buy coal in winter months. Traditionally the grant has been offered to older members of the village. We are aware that the original remit for the grant may be somewhat outdated and that, as life has greatly changed over the years, that the trust is in a position to help people of all ages.

The Trustees have, therefore, decided that they will open up the application process to ensure that the funds available should go to those they would help most. So far, we have provided grants to young adults who are learning to drive. Living in a village with a lack of public transport means that it is difficult for children to be independent, so driving lessons was the way to go. We have also provided grants to children who have been on a CAMPS INTERNATIONAL trip, supporting the with the cost of vaccinations and appropriate clothing to go. Grants can be awarded to people of any age and can be used to help with a variety of things such as transport expenses for hospital visits, foot care, medical equipment or aids; costs relating to work to enable individuals earn a living, travel expenses, tools, fees for training courses. Special payments can also be made to relieve the pressure of hard times or ill health such as furniture, bedding, clothing (school uniform), or fuel. This list is not intended to be exhaustive and all applications will be at the Trustees discretion. Applicants should be resident in Barford St Michael or St John and can be made at any time throughout the year.

Those wishing to apply for a grant may speak informally to any of the Trustees. Formal applications should be by email or letter to the clerk.

The Trustees are aware that some people may be reluctant to apply so we would ask friends or neighbours to encourage them to do so. Any contact will be in strict confidence.

PLEASE DO NOT BE AFRAID TO APPROACH US.

Trustees - Helen Honour, Les Hall, Sally Barber, Maggie Eden and Joel Thorogood.

Ex-officio Trustee - Rev Nick Fielden

Treasurer - Zalie Butler

Clerk - Carole Coppin, Barn Elms, The Green, Barford St Michael, OX15 0RN carole.coppin@hotmail.co.uk

Attention all Under 10's...

Look and find **ALL 6** elves in December's Barford News for your chance to win a Christmas treat.

When you spot an Elf, simply write the page numbers below then pop in my letterbox at The Old Chapel by the 7th December.

HAPPY HUNTING

Pages





Raising Funds for our Village Hall

TICKETS FOR 2026 ON SALE SOON!

The 200+ club is a fundraising scheme which supports the village hall. Tickets are bought annually and members may hold as many tickets as they wish. The tickets cost £10 each. Half of the total value of subscriptions is retained for hall maintenance; the remaining 50% is paid out in monthly prizes. More members mean increased prize money and more money to keep the hall running. Assuming we sell at least 200 tickets, there will be 12 monthly draws with prizes of £5, £10, £15 and £25. In addition there is a £60 prize every quarter. At Christmas there will be a bonus prize of £100. £10 for each annual subscription is such a small price to pay towards supporting our lovely hall. So, if you are not already a member of the 200+ club then please join. For just under 90p a month you can make a difference.

New members always very welcome. Our collectors will be putting notes through existing members' doors indicating how they can pay by cheque or bank transfer.

Thank you from the 200+ Club Team

If you would like to join please contact

Les on ☎338659 to reserve your tickets

PRE-LOVED CLOTHES SALE

in aid of  **MAGGIE'S** ✨

Everyone's home of cancer care

Saturday 8th November 2025
The Institute, Adderbury 10am-4pm



To donate good quality items for men, women and teenagers, please contact:

Emma Flint 07850 172190 Nikki Bruce 07875 080212
 Sarah Duffy 07710 171944 Katie Vance 07879 220880

In support of
Sarah's Marathon for Maggie's
 "Anything is possible."
 Find out more by scanning this code: 



LONG TERM RENTAL

**2-bed bungalow
 Bishops Close,
 Barford St Michael**

View via

airbnb.com/h/sallyandpaul

or call Paul on ☎07747 468988.



BARFORD HOUSE GARAGE SALE AT GLEBE COTTAGE GARAGE, HORN HILL, BARFORD ST MICHAEL

Saturday, November 15th 2025

From 9.00am to 3.00pm

More details: Ashley Mitchell

Email: ashleyhmittchell@outlook.com

Tel: 07887 521065 (Peter Bird)

Items for sale include:

- Antique Farm-House Dining Table
- 2 Single Pine Beds with mattresses + Camp Bed
- Pine Bookcase, Office Chair
- 2 Samsung Televisions
- Clocks and Roberts Radio, Mirrors, China & Glass
- Rugs, Lamps, Russell Hobbs Hot plates & Warming Tray
- Medium Sized Plastic Dog Beds + Gardening Tools
- Tri-Wheeler Walker & much more.....

Please come, buy and collect!



WHAT'S ON AT THE GEORGE INN?

FIRST MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH
Village night, 18:30 start

THIRD TUESDAY OF THE MONTH
Quiz Night, 19:00 start

Save the Date! Join us on Saturday, 28th December at 17:00 for music by Tom Rogers — the perfect way to unwind after Christmas and keep the festive cheer going!

Christmas is just around the corner, and we're thrilled to celebrate with you! Please note that we are now fully booked for Christmas Day. Thank you for your incredible support!

HOLIDAY OPENING HOURS

Christmas Eve: 08:00 – 21:00
Christmas Day: 11:00 – 16:00 (Fully Booked)
Boxing Day: 08:00 – 21:00
27th – 30th December: Open as normal
New Year's Eve: 08:00 – 22:00
New Year's Day: 09:00 – 17:00



live



Village Night

Monday 3rd November - 18:30pm

PIE NIGHT

Beef And Guinness Pie
Chicken, Mushroom And Tarragon Pie
Potato, Leek, Spinach And Cheese Pie
All Served with Seasonal Veg

Drink of choice
125ml Nativo Red
125ml Nativo White
125ml California Rose
✓ Pint of Off The Hook
Pomegranate Fizz
Ginger Beer Tonic

£15 Per Person
Pre Booking Required
Pre order




***FESTIVE MENU IS AVAILABLE FROM THE 21ST NOVEMBER - 22ND DECEMBER AND ITS A PRE BOOKING AND ORDER REQUIRED**

For more information on any of the events or to book a table, please get in touch with Bianca at gm@thegeorgebarford.co.uk or 01869 338160



GOOD SAMARITAN LAW

Every year the WI runs a national campaign and this year our subject is 'Bystanders can be lifesavers'. The idea is that if more people have basic training fewer people will die while bystanders stand around feeling helpless.

Barford WI arranged a session run by Aileen from Fat Panda and 20 members now have a much better idea of what to do.

The first thing is to think **DRS**

- Is there any **D**anger?
- Can you get a **R**esponse?
- **S**hout for help!

Stage 2 is **ABC**

- Has the patient got a clear **A**irway?
- Are they **B**reathing? (if not call 999)
- Start **C**PR (Chest compressions)

Many of us were unaware of the Good Samaritan Law. This ensures that anyone doing their best to help someone in cardiac arrest can be certain that they cannot be sued or prosecuted. It is far better to cut off someone's bra and crack their ribs rather than standing around watching them die. (Naturally, you shouldn't attempt surgery or give them random tablets from your cupboard!)

Aileen explained that the group most at risk from a sudden cardiac arrest are young people. Some of us remember that a 13 year old Bloxham boy called Mattie was found dead in his bed a couple of years ago having had no previous awareness that he had a heart condition.



At the end of the session we had a collection for the Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood charity.



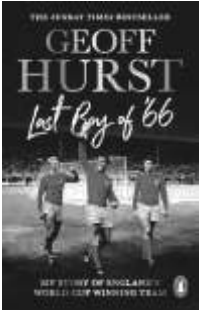
**KATHARINE
HOUSE
HOSPICE**

**Will be the subject of Our Speaker on
Wednesday, 12th NOVEMBER in the Village Hall at 7.30pm
After 6 years of local fund-raising, the Hospice opened in 1991 and is
now an established and essential part of our community.**

All visitors very welcome (£7)

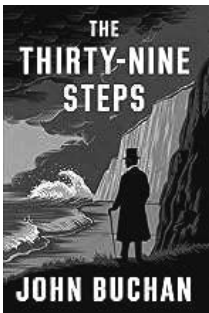
For more information please contact Christine 338659 barfordwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk

READING RECOMMENDATIONS AND LIBRARY EVENT



Last Boy of 66: My Story of England's World Cup Winning Team by Geoff Hurst: hat-trick hero Sir Geoff Hurst is the last surviving member of England's 1966 World Cup winning football team and this book delves into his background and the key characters of the final. Hurst had a bittersweet life with some unbelievable highs and distressing lows. The deaths of his younger brother Robert and his eldest daughter Claire are darkneses that he has taken decades to process. There are also plenty of insights into his World Cup winning colleagues and manager Sir Alf Ramsay, who wanted footballers who would literally embody the concept of being a 'teammate' and didn't always pick the best players. Hurst notes that it was important to fit in with Ramsay's plan, trusting only hard-nosed pros that he knew could do a job for him. A team with no weak link and no player we weren't sure about.

Hurst re-watches the final again looking for new perspectives, observing that West Germany's equalising goal to make the game 2-2 in the 90th minute should've been disallowed for a Schnellinger hand ball, meaning that extra-time wouldn't have been required (or that controversial England goal!). **Paul Freeman**



The Thirty-Nine Steps by John Buchan: for those wanting to escape from the anxieties of the present day, look no further than this iconic spy-thriller, which has never been out of print. I can't better Buchan's own description of it as "a romance where the incidents defy the probabilities, and march just inside the borders of the possible." It has it all: a brave, resourceful, patriotic hero; the thrill of jeopardy and conspiracy; the hunted man; the twists and turns of plot - all leading to a satisfying conclusion.

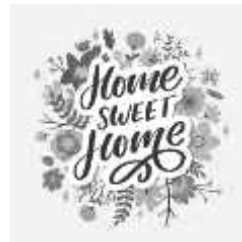
As vivid as a human character is the Scottish landscape, the backdrop to this glorious adventure. Here, as in his other writings, Buchan evokes its essence in language of pure poetry. **Jenny Greeves**
20th November at Deddington Library, 10.30 – 12.30: discussion with local authors Jo Eames and Linda Newbery



Have you heard of **Hostages to Fortune** by Elizabeth Cambridge, set in Deddington? Jo hadn't, in the twenty years she'd lived here, and Linda hadn't either until Jo told her about it. Published now by Persephone Books and praised for its portrayal of parenthood and the realities of village life, it first appeared in 1933 and is, Jo says, 'a poignant account of a lost world', yet we'll find much to recognise in it. This isn't a book group meeting – ie you don't need to have read the book in advance, but of course if you *have* read it, we'd love to hear your response. Jo and Linda will also talk briefly about their own writing and current projects, and copies of their books will be available to buy. Come along and have an enjoyable chat over coffee.

*Reviews are compiled by Linda Newbery, whose novel **The One True Thing** is out now. For a book recommendation on alternate Mondays, all by writers or independent booksellers, follow **Writers***

Review: www.reviewsbywriters.blogspot.com



Welcome to Pip
who has moved into the High Street.
Wishing you lots of happiness in our
beautiful villages



THE BANBURY CHRISTMAS TRACTOR RUN PROVISIONAL ROUTE FOR 2025

Saturday 13th December

The festive fleet of fairy-lit tractors will be taking a tour around local villages, spreading Christmas cheer and raising money for Katharine House Hospice.

Provisional Route - Timings very much depend on traffic

Depart from Spring Hill Farm, Barford St. Michael at **5pm**. Travel through South Newington, Milcombe and Bloxham, then A361 to Banbury, around Banbury Cross at approx. **6.15pm**, then retracing their steps up South Bar on the A4260 to Adderbury. Turn left at traffic lights onto the B4100 (Aynho Road): reaches Adderbury and Katharine House Hospice **7.00pm** and on into Aynho, from here turning right to Clifton and reaches Deddington **8.00pm**: passing through the marketplace, then on to Hempton and back through Barford St. Michael, **8.25pm**, down High Street and along Lower Street, returning to Spring Hill Farm. More details of timings are shown on our website.

BARFORD MARKET

**SATURDAY, 15TH NOVEMBER
10.00 – 12.00 IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

~ ~ ~

**Artisan breads from Cotswold Bakery
Meat and dairy items from butcher Gordon Wrighton
North Aston Farm with Charcuterie, cheeses, meats, ice cream etc.**

**Plus an excellent range of local producers selling,
cakes, crafts, hand knitted woollies and made-to-measure items.**

Locally grown plants, Berry's Orchard juices.

bacon /bacon & egg/breakfast butties at bargain prices!!

TEA AND COFFEE SERVED ALL MORNING

PROTECTING YOURSELF FROM FRAUD

Thames Valley Police received 135 reports of courier fraud in the last financial year, the second highest number of reports in the UK after the Metropolitan Police.

Courier fraud occurs when a fraudster contacts victims by telephone purporting to be a police officer or a bank employee. To substantiate this claim, the caller might be able to confirm some easily obtainable basic details about the victim such as their full name and address.

Victims are then asked to co-operate in an investigation by attending their bank and withdrawing money, withdrawing foreign currency from an exchange or purchasing an expensive item to hand over to a courier for examination who will also be a fraudster.

STOP THINK FRAUD | **ActionFraud** | **THAMES VALLEY POLICE**

FRAUD!

SPOT IT AND STOP IT!

-  Calls claiming to be the bank or the police
-  Sudden claims of suspicious banking activity
-  Being asked for PIN number or passwords
-  Requests for bank card or cash as 'evidence'
-  Asked to purchase high-end jewellery and goods
-  'Couriers' sent to collect card, cash, or bank details

To stay safe and protect yourself:

- **Your bank or the police will never call you to ask you to verify your personal details or PIN by phone, or offer to pick up your card by courier. Hang up, wait a few minutes and call your bank on a number you know to be genuine, such as the one on the back of your card, or by calling 159**
- **The police or your bank will not contact you out of the blue to participate in an investigation, or send a courier to your home to collect bank cards, cash, or other valuable items. Any requests to do so are a scam**
- **Don't trust Caller ID display on your phone – it's not proof of ID**

If you think you've been a victim of fraud, contact your bank immediately and report it to Action Fraud online at actionfraud.police.uk or by calling 0300 123 2040.

Emotional and further practical support is available from [Victims First](#) who may be contacted on 0300 1234 148, or via Victims First Online Referral Form or Live Chat

The Central Fraud Unit and Economic Crime Unit at Thames Valley Police

BARFORD GREEN GARDEN CLUB Notes from our Potting Shed – November 2025

Well, the drought is long behind us now, our green and luscious gardens need preparing for winter and we should enjoy the magnificent colours of autumn. Many of us have bumper crops of fruit so here's an interesting article by committee member Kathryn Wheeler on how to deal with gluts, followed by a great recipe for ratatouille chutney.

Garden gluts – what a fantastic problem to have. When you grow vegetables and fruits there is usually too much produce to use quickly. There are many ways of preserving home produce. It's very rewarding to gift excess vegetables and also satisfying to make Christmas hampers to give away. By extending the shelf life you can have a constant supply of gifts by pickling, jamming, drying, chutney making...

Top tips:

- Allow some beans, peas...for seed to plant next year
- Make delicious soups and sauces - you can invent the recipe
- Dry herbs simply by hanging up in the kitchen
- Infuse fruits, herbs to infuse in oils, vodka, gin...
- Make scrumpy from apples, pears make into perry
- Oven roast tomatoes and freeze
- Bake cakes with beetroot, courgettes
- Make tomato puree and freeze in ice cube tray

Ratatouille Chutney



1.5 kg chopped aubergines, peppers and courgettes
500g chopped onions
500g chopped apples
500mls white wine vinegar
2 tsp black mustard seed
2 tsp crushed coriander
1 tbs paprika
1 red chilli deseeded
300g muscovado sugar

Boil ingredients until thick and pulpy. Pot in warm sterilised jars.



Chevil Garden return visit -

At the end of September, 14 of us had the privilege of re-visiting this magnificent garden on the outskirts of Heythrop. Here's a report, kindly written by member Janet Payne:

The charm of Chevil gardens lies in the fact that Mr and Mrs Sword have developed the garden bit by bit, following the lie of the land rather than a more modern geometric layout. This makes for hidden areas to explore and enjoy while feeling curious about what is round the next corner. Eventually you emerge at the undefined edge of the garden onto open farmland, as if in the eighteenth century. Mrs Sword has a compendious knowledge of plants and their needs so hers flourish even on dry (although much manured) sandy soil. The result is that even after the driest summer for years there was a lot to appreciate on our visit. The giant Wellingtonia at the front of the house was densely surrounded by recently established cyclamen. Asters and sedum were everywhere as were salvia and dahlias. These looked particularly good in a border of pinks, purples and blues. Unusual wild(ish) plants lurked in the shade including an honesty with an unusual teardrop seed head and a greenish yellow tall lysimachia. The roses in the more formal white garden were on their fourth flowering. Beyond this we saw raised vegetable beds made by skilled craftsmen. Tea was taken in the conservatory, then we came home inspired to take a fresh look at our own gardens. This must be one of the most delightful and interesting gardens in the area.

Some jobs for November:

- Tender plants will need protecting from frost, gales and freezing rains. Move plants into the greenhouse or into a sheltered spot but if you can't, it's worth wrapping plants or pots.
- Remember winter can be a tough time for birds in terms of water and food, so keep supplies well topped up.
- Plant out winter bedding.
- Insulate outdoor containers from frost - bubble wrap works well.
- Put out bird food to encourage winter birds into the garden.

If you would like to join our Club, please contact Rebecca Moule, Chair by email at: rockcottagebarford@gmail.com, or the Secretary, Sue Lane: sueandles45@hotmail.com

We hope you can get out and enjoy doing some jobs in the garden during November.



Spade & Fork

CHURCH MATTERS



NOVEMBER 2025

The scaffolding has now come down!

We must first take the time to appreciate the beauty of our village church, as it was unwrapped at the end of the month, revealing

the grandeur of the building, which has been painstakingly repointed, and the roof complete.

Inside, a sight of equal measure as the scaffolding has come down there as well. All ready for our village Harvest and in time for the funeral of our dear friend Bernard Lane at the start of October. After the scaffolding came down, the whole church was covered in dust and a plea went out for volunteers to come and help us polish, dust, wash, sweep and Hoover, to make it shine inside as well as out. We would like to say a massive thank you to Sally, Anne, Lilian, Joanna, Janet, Sue, Cubby, Caroline, Peter, Jan, Tony, for giving up their time to bring it back to life, create beautiful floral works of art and display the donations for the service the next day. It was gleaming!

On Saturday September 27th, the doors were open for people to donate goods for our Harvest collection. Thank you very much for your generous donations, which have been delivered to the Banbury Foodbank.

On Sunday 2nd November, there will be a quiet time of reflection to light candles and spend time quietly remembering those who are no longer with us. Come any time between 4:00 - 5:00pm to St Michael's. All Souls Service – Deddington 6:00pm. Including reading the names of the departed.

We hold our Remembrance Service at St. Michael's church on November 9th @ 9am. The only service in Barford St John in November will be on the 5th Sunday- 30th November @ 9am.

We celebrated the Baptism of Etta May Cooke-Yarborough in October and the wedding of Natalie Brady and Liam Garrett. What wonderful occasions to host in our beautiful church.

On December 6th, we are trying something new in the church. We are organising a Christmas Craft Fayre and are currently taking bookings for tables. Please contact Anne Perry whitticka@hotmail.com to book a table and ask any questions.

We shall also be serving tea, coffee, cake and holding a special Christmas raffle. Come along and join us in our new venture. The proceeds from this event will go towards the daily running costs of the church.

Look out in the December issue for information of the Christmas Services. We look forward to welcoming you at the many festive services.

Sue & Sally | barfordchurches234@gmail.com



to a lovely man, an absolute gent, in Rock Close who donated £50 to Barford News.

The Team

Recently I was asking for support for my 56 mile bike ride in the Scottish fells around Glasgow and Lock Lomond in aid of Stage 4 Cancers and especially Prostate Cancer. Well as you can see I did it despite the weather conditions - non stop rain!!

The event and journey getting there were truly memorable for many reasons. I met some amazing individuals who were awaiting a diagnosis, undergoing or recovering from treatment and more sadly some who had lost a family member or a friend from the disease. These fuelled my determination to do this event and try and make a small difference!

I received great advice for my training, so I'd like to thank our daughter Danielle and my brother Ed, for their input and Simon Hamner who recommended the prerequisite long hills I needed to get me 'hill fit' making a huge difference on the day. So a huge thank you.

To date I've raised £3,245 which is totally amazing, and I would like to thank everyone who so kindly donated to the charity. I've got a couple more weeks before I have to sign over my funds, so if anyone would like to make a donation the link is a GoFundMe page see below

<https://gofund.me/c5b3e0f75>

Once again a huge thanks to you all.
Veronique - Thimble Hall, Lower St.

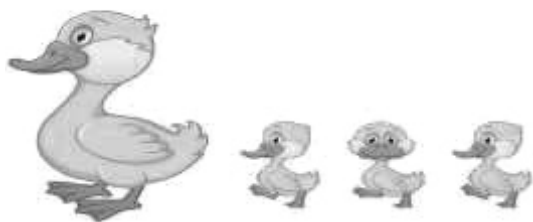


DUCK RACE NEWS

The Ducks have well and truly recovered from their marathon return to the racing circuit and we are encouraging our feathered friends to take some regular activity between now and Sept 2026!! - But for now, we wanted to update There are sufficient funds to continue maintenance of The West Close Playground and we will be making a donation of £350 towards the church restoration fund.

We hope to hold another Playground fund raising event in the Spring of 2026 so keep a look out for info!!

With Thanks the Ducks, Sophie and Jo – email: westcloseplayground@gmail.com



Having the Builders in Part 2. Managing the job

You've found a builder and agreed a formal building contract - the price, duration, payment schedule, and start date are all set. But even with everything in writing, a construction project remains a major challenge. Delays and unexpected problems are almost inevitable. This article looks at ways to help ensure your project is completed as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Before work begins, your builder should prepare a construction program—ideally a project management bar chart. Arrange a meeting to go over this in detail, discussing how the job will be managed, including timelines, potential disruptions, and safety protocols. Clarify who is responsible for what to avoid confusion and ensure accountability. Build extra time into the schedule to account for possible weather delays. You should also confirm which areas of your property will be worked on and when, what tasks will be carried out at each stage, and how long they'll take. Find out if utilities will be disrupted or whether parts of your home will be uninhabitable during the works. Check your home insurance to see whether it covers building work and what types of projects are included.

Good pre-project planning should cover any need for temporary partitions, doors, screens, or barriers to separate construction zones from living areas. These help contain dust and stop children, pets, or guests from accidentally entering potentially dangerous areas. Label off-limits areas clearly and use high-visibility barriers. Make sure builders keep access points to these zones securely closed when not in use.

Take steps to protect your belongings from damage or theft. Move furniture and valuables out of the work area completely—dust sheets alone are not enough. Store small valuables and important documents off-site or in a locked safe. Consider installing security cameras to spot unapproved visitors. Limit access to keys if builders will be working in your home when you're not there. Once the job is finished, change the locks. Once building work begins, expect your home to become chaotic—builders, plumbers, electricians and others coming and going, an unbelievable amount of dust which somehow manages to get everywhere, and constant noise. The project will feel endless. For larger jobs, it can be less stressful to move out, perhaps into a rented static caravan if space allows. Builders can then work more efficiently, and you won't be constantly trying to get out of the way by 8am or spending all evening tidying up. Help the job run smoothly by removing any potential barriers to progress. Set aside a designated area for material storage, make space for delivery vehicles to unload, and allow room for the skip.

You have every right to expect your builder to arrive on time, dress appropriately, and keep the site clean. Tradespeople should show up as scheduled and complete work within the agreed timeframe and budget. A good builder minimises mess and leaves the area clean and tidy at the end of each day. If problems arise—and they will—a good builder identifies and resolves them quickly and professionally, ideally face to face. Hold regular progress meetings—weekly or bi-weekly—to track progress, adjust schedules, and deal with issues early. Your project timeline should be a living document, flexible enough to adapt but clear enough to keep things on track. When milestones are reached, recognise the builder's hard work and efforts—it helps keep morale up and motivation high.

On completion of the building work, take time to inspect the finished project thoroughly. Ensure all work meets the agreed standards and specifications. Address any snags promptly. Once satisfied, make the final payment, update your home insurance, and enjoy your transformed home, ready for you to settle back in.

Jan Liberadzki BA Arch (Hons), MSc

Improving Your Home Part 1. Loft Conversions

A loft conversion is one of the most effective ways to gain extra space and increase the value of your home. Whether you're after a new bedroom, a home office or simply more storage and flexibility, converting your loft can be a good investment. But it's also a major project that requires careful planning, good design and the right expertise to get it right.

The starting point is assessing whether your loft is suitable. The key measurement is head height—ideally 2.3 metres from the top of the ceiling joists to the underside of the ridge beam. That allows for insulation, a new floor and comfortable movement. The type of roof is also important. Older properties with traditional cut timber roofs are usually more straightforward to convert, while modern trussed roofs will need structural alteration. You'll also need to carefully consider the staircase location—it must comply with Building Regulations and must not compromise the means of escape from fire for the existing rooms below, and that its wide enough for getting furniture in. Ideally, the loft should feel like a natural continuation of the house, with enough usable space for furniture and good daylight. Rooflights are simple and effective, while dormers make the room feel bigger and offer more layout options.

Many lofts can be converted under Permitted Development, which avoids the need for Planning Permission. However, this can't be assumed. If your home is in a conservation area, is listed, or if the design includes large dormers, balconies, or significant changes to the roofline, planning permission may be required.

Structurally, a loft conversion is demanding. The existing ceiling joists in the rooms below are designed to hold up plasterboard, not support the load of people, furniture and new finishes. New floor joists must be installed, typically supported by steel beams that transfer loads to structural walls. Trussed roofs may require new bespoke supports. A structural engineer must design the changes, and Building Control must approve them.

Building Regulations also cover fire safety. The loft room must have a safe escape route, usually through a protected stairwell leading to a final exit. You'll need interlinked, mains-wired smoke alarms on every floor, and in most cases, new or upgraded fire-resistant doors. The new space must be well insulated for both energy efficiency and sound separation, and you'll need proper ventilation to prevent condensation—particularly in bathrooms.

As I've noted previously, choosing the right builder is crucial. With loft conversions, experience matters. General building skills are not enough. Ask to see past projects, check references and ensure they carry insurance. Use a clear written contract detailing the scope of work, timescales, cost and what happens if things change. If you live in a terraced or semi-detached property, you may need to serve a Party Wall notice to your neighbours.

According to Nationwide (2023), converting a loft into a bedroom can add up to 20% to your home's value, depending on the location and layout. That can mean an uplift of £35,000 to £60,000 in areas of high demand, particularly across southern and central England. These estimates are based on 2024–2025 build costs and include VAT. Semi-detached and terraced homes are especially suitable, provided there is enough roof height. With typical costs ranging from £25,000 to £45,000, the return on investment can be strong—often 1.3 to 1.7 times the spend. The greatest value is gained when the conversion creates a third or fourth bedroom, and since loft upgrades can also improve insulation and help raise your home's EPC rating.

Jan Liberadzki BA Arch (Hons), MSc

SEE ADVERT ON PAGE 21 FOR FULL DETAILS



1st DEDDINGTON SCOUT GROUP

Cubs - Cubs have had an exciting few weeks as we have welcomed new members into our pack! They have been setting themselves new goals; to learn and improve skills, as well as taking part in team building games and activities.

A few weeks ago, the children enthusiastically took part in a community litter pick around the Windmill Centre, they were surprised at how much they collected and showed fantastic understanding and care for the environment and planet thinking of future ways in which they can help.

Last week the children were identifying flora and fauna in the woods then collected Autumnal treasures to create different creatures using clay! We had some very imaginative creations! This week the cubs went on a night hike walking from Deddington to Barford down Snake Hill. The cubs had great fun navigating using torches, exploring and demonstrated the cubs' values excellently. [Tina Deacon deddingtoncubs@gmail.com](mailto:TinaDeacondeddingtoncubs@gmail.com)

Scouts - Now we are all settled into the new term the Scouts spent a couple of sessions building some models that we made into a model village. It went from the sublime – Hamish's church complete with stained glass, belltower, candles & parishioners to James's Lego man weeing in a bush! Then using blackout & distorted specs & a pair of crutches we made our way round the Windmill Centre to see how accessible it is to certain disabilities. We are now putting plans in place to erect the Memorial Poppies for the Royal British Legion. [Pete Churchyard deddingtonscouts@gmail.com](mailto:PeteChurchyarddeddingtonscouts@gmail.com)



BARFORD ENVIRONMENT NETWORK

*We are part of the **Four Villages Sustainability Network**, which links Deddington, Duns Tew, Bloxham and the Barfords (and now other villages too) to promote ways of greener living.*

The next **People, Planet, Pint** meet-ups are at the Unicorn in Deddington on 13th November and in The George at Barford on 11th December. The first 10 to sign up can claim their first drink free.

This month is **Keep Britain Tidy's Buy Nothing New Month**. Can you take the challenge of not buying anything new – excluding food and medicines – during November? As part of the circular economy we're encouraged to mend, upcycle, buy second-hand, borrow or do without. If a whole month is too difficult but you'd still like to take part, you could observe **Buy Nothing Day** on November 29th – the green alternative to Black Friday.

National Tree Week is from Saturday 22nd to Sunday 30th November. It's the UK's largest annual tree celebration, in which people are encouraged to plant trees to mark the start of the winter tree planting season. Find out more, including guides to planting trees and hedgerows, at treecouncil.org.uk/seasonal-campaigns/national-tree-week/

Deddington Farmers' Market is on November 22nd, 9am – 12.20 pm. The Four Villages group has a stall at the Town Hall where we share news of our campaigns and forthcoming events.

*To sign up for our monthly newsletter and/or the **Four Villages WhatsApp group**,*

please email L.newbery@btinternet.com.



DEDDINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

The successful start to the new academic year has continued. Pupils have now settled confidently into their new classrooms, become familiar with new staff, and adapted well to new routines. Our school vision, outlined below, continues to guide and inspire the Deddington community as we encourage every child to *let their light shine* throughout the year ahead.

At Deddington we create an inclusive, nurturing, caring community empowering each other to let our lights shine through **INSPIRING** and supporting each other, **BELIEVING** in ourselves and others and **ACHIEVING** together.

In recent weeks, pupils have demonstrated this vision through their participation in Fairtrade Fortnight, the Harvest Communion service with the Church community, and activities marking World Mental Health Day. Our extensive range of extra-curricular opportunities, inclusive sporting events, and weekly outdoor learning sessions in our forest school area further enable pupils to explore, develop, and celebrate their individual gifts and talents.

Looking ahead, I am delighted to invite prospective parents to our Open Morning sessions in November, as families begin to consider school places for September 2026. These sessions will take place on Monday, 18th November, and Wednesday, 20th November. Parents wishing to attend are invited to contact the school office to arrange a visit and join a guided tour.

✉ office.3452@deddington.oxon.sch.uk

☎ 01869 338430

As Headteacher of Deddington Primary School, I remain immensely proud of our pupils and their many achievements. I look forward to sharing further highlights next month as we approach the end of the autumn term and the Christmas season. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Warm regards
Clive Evans, Headteacher



Play our autumn raffle and be in with a chance of winning cash prizes!

Each year we run a raffle in the spring and autumn with fabulous prizes. Every ticket sold helps us care for people living locally with an incurable illness. The closing date is the 19 November 2025 at 2pm. Play online at khh.org.uk/raffle

Upcoming events

Support your local hospice this December with our line-up of events:

Lights of Love – 4 December

We will be holding our annual Lights of Love event on Thursday 4 December at St Mary's Church, Banbury. We'd love you to join us for a special gathering where we come together to remember and celebrate the lives of those we have loved and lost. Find out more khh.org.uk/lights

Banbury Christmas Tractor Run – 13 December

The much-loved Banbury Christmas Tractor Run will be back on 13 December and, as it's the 10th year of this mega event, make sure you get it in your diaries as it's not to be missed. The festive fleet of fairy-lit tractors will tour around local villages, spreading festive cheer and raising money for Katharine House Hospice. For more details and timings, visit khh.org.uk/tractor

The run up to Christmas is a busy time for our team, with a frenzy of festive events taking place to help raise vital funds to support the incredible work of our hospice. Could you spare some time to help us to make a success of our fabulous events by signing up to be a special Santa's Helper? Find out more at khh.org.uk/santas-helpers



1ST DEDDINGTON GUIDES

We now have our new patrols formed and the Guides have elected their own patrol leaders.

We have done a variety of activities including trying out various unusual fruits from different countries and thinking about sustainability etc. It was good to accept the challenge of trying something new.

The guides made some lovely paintings of wedding outfits that they had designed.

Some senior guides looked around the building learning about fire safety and organised an impromptu fire drill during the meeting.

We had a fascinating talk by Young Leader Daisy about her amazing school trip to Cambodia. What an experience. Well done Daisy.

Lastly, amongst other things, we have got very excited about the new Guide badges that can be gained. So, we have some new challenges.

A warm welcome to any girls 10 or over, just come along and see what we get up to.

Maggie Rampley | ☎07957 600755



“When a man tells a woman he will do something, he will do it. There is no need to keep reminding him every six months.”

Quoted on Medium

“in ancient times, cats were worshipped as gods; they have not forgotten this.”

Terry Pratchett, quoted on VegOut

TWO MONTHS ON....

We moved into the village exactly two months ago having lived in a fairly isolated farmhouse for forty five years, So living in a village with neighbours was a new experience for us and we could not be happier. We are gradually making new friends and acquaintances and will do our best to integrate fully into village life. The George and the Village Hall are clearly great hubs. We think Barford News is fantastic and now have joined the apps for Broad Close and Barford United.

We have had a succession of professionals working on the house and everything is nearly finished. We have named it "Settle Down" which we intend to do, hopeful for many years to come in this lovely village.

We look forward to seeing enterprising young Arthur with his loaves over the weekend. What next we wonder?

Iain and Judy Stirling



200 CLUB DRAW

OCTOBER

- £25 068 Paul Freeman
- £15 061 Natalie Heath
- £10 139 Laura Holtzhousen
- £5 153 Sam Read

The draw took place at A Carpet Bowls Evening in the Hall



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VILLAGE AND LOCAL EVENTS DIARY
Diary dates to the editor by 15th of each month please

Church services for NOVEMBER

2nd 10:30 am Coffee and Chat BSM
9th 9am Remembrance Service BSM
16th 10:30am Family Service BSM
23rd 10:30am Holy Communion BSM
30th 9am Holy Communion BSJ

Weekly Prayers at St Michael's:-

Wednesdays 17:15 Evening Prayer, Barford St M
Thursday 08:15 Morning Prayer at Barford St M

VICAR: Nick Fielden 01869 934794

Email: vicar@deddingtonchurch.org
www.facebook.com/deddingtonChurch

**Churchwardens contact details :-
The Barfords**

Sue Addison or Sally Barber both
at barfordchurches234@gmail.com
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Methodist Chapel

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

Roman Catholic

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Phone: 07484 158642
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Fr.clive.dytor@rcaob.org.uk
Email: holytrinity.chippingnorton@raob.org
Website: <http://holytrinityrc-chippingnorton.com>
On Call: Rev. Deacon Robert Hughes
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Masses:

Saturday - 6pm Vigil Mass, Sunday – 11.00am Mass
Weekdays Normally 9.15am, subject to change

BARFORD NEWS

Copy deadline 15th of each month

Editor: Lucy Norman

barfordnews@gmail.com

☎ 01869 337678

Treasurer and adverts: Caroline Bird

caroline.bird120@gmail.com

☎ 07500 672144

Regular Weekly/Monthly Events

Mondays	Deddington Brass Band Practice
Tuesdays	Guides (Deddington) Carpet Bowls (September-March)
Wednesdays	Parish Council, 1 st Wednesday, Bi-Mthly WI, 2 nd Wednesday Boys' Brigade (Deddington) Beavers, Bloxham Primary School
Thursdays	Village Hall Post Office Open Cuppa Mornings Cubs (Deddington) Scouts (Deddington)
Fridays	
Saturdays	Village Market, 3 rd Saturday <i>(except January and August)</i>

NOVEMBER

3rd Village Night at The George
8th Pre-Loved Clothes Sale – Adderbury, CHARITY
9th Remembrance Service at St Michael's
12th WI Talk – Katharine House
15th Village Market in the hall
15th Garage Sale, Horn Hill
18th Quiz Night at The George
18th & 20th Open Mornings at Deddington Primary
21st Festive Menu at The George begins....

DECEMBER

6th Christmas Craft Fayre at St Michael's Church
7th Elf Hunt Cut-Off
13th Tractor Run