



Wishing all of our readers
a very

**HAPPY, HEALTHY &
PEACEFUL 2026**

From Lucy, Mariann &
Caroline

A cluster of stylized firework bursts is positioned to the left of the names 'Lucy, Mariann & Caroline', adding a festive touch to the message.

Thank you for your support

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2 SUMMER LEY
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07887 767648
CLERK.BARFORDSPC@GMAIL.COM

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.

From 14 January 2026 you will need to **book a time slot** before every visit to our Household Waste Recycling Centres.

You can book up to **two weeks** in advance or **30 minutes*** before you visit.

*Subject to availability



The booking system will help manage demand and make your visit quicker and easier.



Scan me



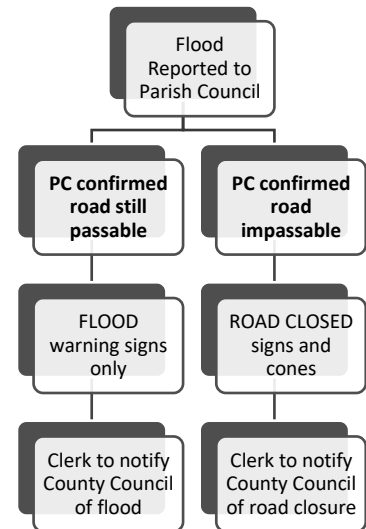
oxfordshire.gov.uk/hwrcbooking

FLOOD PROCEDURE

The Parish Council now has flood signage! And they may choose to erect temporary signage to cover affected sections of the road either side of the bridge. Please let the Parish Council know if you are concerned about water levels on the bridge:

The Parish Clerk (clerk.barfordspc@gmail.com / 07887767648) must be notified in order to contact the County Council team of any signage or road closures, after a decision has been made.

When the water subsides, the County Council must be notified again that signage is no longer in place and the roads passable again.



BARFORD MARKET

NO JANUARY MARKET

A reminder that we give our producers a well-earned break and do not hold a market in January.

The next market will be on

21st FEBRUARY 2026

The total raised from markets held in 2025 was £1,421, which was made up from table rents, teas and bacon butties, all of which goes to Village Hall Funds.

Market profits provide a valuable contribution towards the maintenance and every day running of the hall.

Thank you for your support throughout 2025, we look forward to seeing our faithful customers, and one or two new ones in 2026

Happy New Year to All!!



**The Role of a Celebrant
With
Anne O'Brien
Of Bluebell Ceremonies**



Anne creates thoughtful, beautifully
crafted ceremonies to mark the
important milestones in your life

**Wednesday, 14th January
7.30pm in the Village Hall**

All visitors very welcome (£7)

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

**Rural Community Forum with Thames
Valley Police
Tuesday 13 January
18:00-20:00**

We are encouraging the public to have their
say at an event at Broughton Village Hall on
Tuesday 13th January 2026 between 6pm
and 8pm.

This community meeting gives you the
opportunity to raise any concerns and to
find out what we are doing to tackle the
issues that matter to you as well as to help
us set our local policing priorities for the
rural areas around Banbury.

Everyone is welcome and it would be great
to see you there



THE 2025 POPPY APPEAL As
always, the Barfords have
excelled themselves. We have an
incredible total of £1,330.43 for
this year's poppy appeal. Included in this total are
the donations from the Parish council, £100, and
the Remembrance Sunday church service collection
of £230.00. This beats last year's total and we
think it's the highest donations the village have
given. Please may we take this opportunity to
sincerely thank you all for donating and helping to
achieve this amazing total. And, of course, this
could not have been achieved without the efforts of
the Barford Poppy Sellers who knocked on every
door in the Barfords, come rain or shine. Great job !

Angus Norman, Barford's Poppy Co-ordinator

*The Royal British Legion is here to help members of
the Royal Navy, British Army, Royal Air Force,
veterans and their families. And we're not going
anywhere. We support serving and ex-serving
personnel all year round, every day of the week.*

*Our support starts after one day of service and
continues through life, long after service is over.*



*"the axe forgets; the
tree never does."*

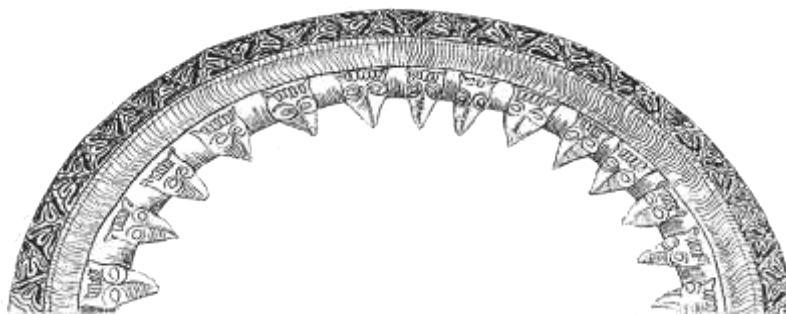
*African Proverb
Quoted in The Times*

*Thank
You!*

I just want to say a very big thanks to all
the wonderful people of Barford, your gifts, cards
and messages have helped me a great deal since I
fractured my pelvis.

I do hope to be out and about before very long so
just a thanks to all, I do appreciate it.

Barbara Greenwood
Robins Close



Hidden Masterpieces found in church!!

Having completed Stage I, and with the scaffolding down and the church watertight again, we turned our attention to Stage II, the inside of the church and we were stunned to discover that it holds not one, but two treasures!

An early 17th century **Clock** and a rare and valuable church **Organ**. Both need money spent on them to bring them back to their former glory.

Of particular urgency is the organ – for not only is it crucial for church services but it will also play a significant role in our ability to continue our series of highly successful fund-raising concerts in the church. Once restored it will attract quality performers anxious to play such an important instrument.

It is a 19th century village church organ manufactured by Hill & Son, the leading organ maker of the period and is described by the UK's leading organ expert as "a significant survival, charming and certainly worth cherishing". It is valued (in situ) at £140,000; far, far less if removed. We will need around £45,000 to fully restore it and whilst grants may be available, a large proportion of this will need to be raised by donations.

Without adequate **heating** and **lighting** regular church-goers and visitors will continue to suffer. These amenities both need urgent and significant upgrading and we intend to bring them up to modern standards of comfort and efficiency to care for our current congregants and to attract more visitors to the church.

Two years ago we held an **Auction of Promises** to kick off our Fundraising Campaign for the major church repairs in Stage 1, which have now been completed. Many of you will remember what a thoroughly enjoyable evening it was – most of the village was there – and we raised over £21,000! So, in launching Stage II and by popular demand, we are going to hold another – on 25th April. Our star auctioneer, **Tom Best** (formerly of Christies and now running The Auction Collective) has already agreed to donate his services and conduct the auction again. The main objective will be to raise a hefty sum towards the organ and the church's heating and lighting. So, we need your promises!! We will keep you updated in future editions of BN, but in the meantime can you give some thought to donating a promise?

What did you promise last time? Here is the BN post-auction review from 2024 "Weeks away in Scotland or France were interspersed with bags of well-rotted manure and magnums of Bolly; college tours with compost; RHS tickets with logs or wonderful paintings and prints; visits to Parliament, Hooky Brewery, Cheltenham Races, London law courts; feasts prepared for you and your friends, hampers of beef, fish, lessons in French, creative writing, bird watching, fishing – and the PRIZE LOT_ £200 for a chess lesson from our youngest donor!!!"

So please SAVE THE DATE and enter **25th April 2026** in your new diaries!!

Joanna and the Fundraising Committee



1ST DEDDINGTON GUIDES

We packed in lots of activities this half term. One great favourite was Film Night, a great way to relax. The Guides wore their onesies or pjs and with the inevitable snacks, settled down for a cosy evening !!

We've tended to get 'crafty' since then starting scrap books, and learning how to make friendship bracelets, by Daisy, following her recent trip to Cambodia!

We've also been working hard at our Food Critic badge and 4 girls had reached their goal by the end of term. Well done.

Christmas then took over and we made various decorations and then ended the term with our party.

Lots of things being planned for next term already.

Happy New year to everyone.

All girls over 10 welcome .. come along and give us a try.

Maggie Rampley 07957 600755



There's still time to buy tickets to support our Village 200 Plus Club, raising Funds for our

Village Hall - TICKETS FOR 2026 ON SALE

NOW!! New members always very welcome, (members must be 18 years or over).

£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 us.

For just under 90p a month you can really make a difference.

Thank you from the 200+ Club Team

If you would like to join please contact Les on ☎ 338659 for your tickets.



to a lovely lady in Townsend and another lovely lady, an ex-resident, who made very generous donations to Barford News.

Much appreciated. The BN Team



200 CLUB DRAW

DECEMBER

£100	070	Heather Johnston
£50	114	Jackson Family
£25	112	Danielle Semple
£15	103	Amy Belson-Rad
£10	013	Cathy Peacock
£5	032	Les Hall

The draw took place at the Christmas Coffee Morning in the Hall

CHURCH MATTERS



Looking back to Church events in December 2025



We held our first Christmas Fair in St Michael's at the beginning of December. We were very pleased with proceeds of £341.50,

which will go into Church Funds. Many thanks to all who supported the event.

Some of the stall holders commented that they would come again, if we did another one. The plan is to have another craft market at Easter next year. Watch this space for further information...!



The meaning of Christingle was explained by Sally, who dressed up as a Christingle orange, with props to explain what each item on the orange meant.

Thanks to the generosity of the congregation, we were able to send £129.63 to The Children's Society to help with their work.

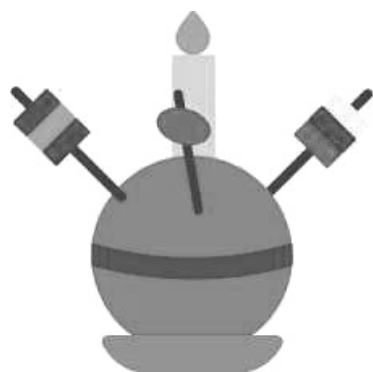


Magical moment when all the lights went out.



Looking forward to 2026

Benefice Christingle Service was held in St Michael's in mid - December. This is always a very popular and moving service.



The church was full, with both children and adults looking forward to taking part in lighting the Christingles and eating the fruits of the earth (sweets) on the orange.

If there's one tradition that epitomizes hope and change, it's setting resolutions at the new year. A fresh start, the opportunity to become a better version of ourselves.



Sue & Sally
barfordchurches234@gmail.com

BARFORD GREEN GARDEN CLUB

Notes from our Potting Shed – January 2026

A Happy New Year to our members, their families and all those in the Barfords'. We hope you thoroughly enjoyed the Christmas break with your friends and families.

Club News

It's lovely and very comforting to know that our little 'flowery friends' are happily sleeping in our gardens - out of sight underground, with their shoots popping up from January onwards. They will be a very welcome sight over the coming months!

Meanwhile, members enjoyed a wonderful finale to the Club year. Thirty people descended on the Village Hall in December to take part in a gardening themed quiz. This took the form of flower anagrams, good and bad insects for the garden (a bit controversial in parts!), a festive puzzle to answer and various other sections.



Rebecca, our Chair, did a marvellous job by preparing overhead presentations and the evening was enjoyed by all including some extra villagers who were warmly invited by members.



The cheese and pate supper went down a treat, topped off with mince pies and mulled wine. Gunilla kindly made a wonderful non-alcoholic punch which was very popular.

There was a lovely Christmassy atmosphere throughout the evening.

Here's a short sample of some of the flower anagrams for those who couldn't attend. (Answers at the end of this page).

1. PANDAS GORN
2. ROMP SIRE
3. I BLOCK MENU
4. SALT MICE
5. A GREY HAND

'Deadly Nightshade' was the winning team and each member took home a packet of flower or vegetable seeds. The Committee were thanked for their efforts and in true Barfordian spirit, lots of members stayed to help clear up which was very much appreciated.

Annual General Meeting in February/March

A date for the AGM will be announced shortly and we hope lots of members will come along. If you're interested in joining us, you are very welcome to come along too. Further details in next month's Barford News.

Annual Seed Order

The deadline of 8th January is fast approaching. All details are in the December issue of the BN.

Some jobs for January:

Often the coldest month but as the days lengthen, the garden starts to grow. Now is a great time to plan for the coming gardening year and to order seeds and plants. Enjoy the fresh air on dry sunny days and check winter protection, stakes, ties and supports are still working after any severe weather.

Put out food for birds and leave some garden areas uncut, a little longer, to provide shelter for wildlife in your garden. Plant lily bulbs in pots and in borders during mild spells. Summer bulbs, seed potatoes and onion sets will be available to buy from the middle of the month. Cut off old leaves of hellebores that produce flowers from ground level to expose the flowers.

Happy January gardening - maybe from your armchair to keep warm! If you would like to join our Club, please email the Secretary, Sue Lane at: sueandles45@hotmail.com

It costs just £10 per year to join the Club and there are discounts, plus talks and visits to enjoy. For a keen (or not so keen) gardener, what's not to like?!
Happy 2026.



Spade & Fork

Anagram answers:

1. Snapdragon
2. Primrose
3. Columbine
4. Clematis
5. Hydrangea

ELSIE BLEE is a Winner..!!!



Elsie from Lower Street, entered our 'Find the Elf' competition, (*December Edition*). She found all 6 and for her efforts, won a selection box and some chocolate coins.

Elsie was very happy with her prize.

Well done.

above (Elsie & her mum)



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-up is at the **Elephant and Castle in Bloxham** on Thursday 8th January, 7 – 9 pm. The first ten to sign up get their first drink free. Come along to find out about local sustainability initiatives.

If you're making New Year resolutions, have you thought of changing your computer's or laptop's search engine to **Ecosia**? All its profits are donated to climate action, mainly tree-planting: so far the organisation has planted **244,929,333** trees around the world. Contribute to tree-planting every time you browse the internet! It's a simple switch that can make a difference. Find out more at www.ecosia.org.



Another simple switch that can considerably reduce our own environmental footprint is to eat less meat and dairy and more plant-based foods. This month is **Veganuary**, now in its twelfth year. It asks you to pledge to eat only plant foods during January – but even if you're unwilling to do that, you can find recipes,

advice and encouragement on the website that could help you to reduce meat and dairy consumption for and beyond January. Find out more at www.veganuary.com.

On the fifth Saturday of the months where there is one – so in January, May, August and October 2026 - **Biodiversity Bloxham** will hold a **Farmers' Market** at the Ex-Servicemen's Hall. The first will be on Saturday January 31st, from 9.30 – 12.30. This means that in those four months there will be three local markets: ours in Barford and then the two Farmer's Markets, all offering excellent produce and helping us to support local growers and makers.

*To sign up for our occasional newsletter and/or the **Four Villages WhatsApp group**, please email L.newbery@btinternet.com.*



Volunteer complementary therapist needed on Monday mornings - Living Well are looking for a friendly volunteer complementary therapist to join us on Monday mornings from 10am–12 noon, offering hand or foot massage to patients who attend our Living Well service. The aim is to promote relaxation and a sense of wellbeing, while always being mindful of individual needs. If you're able to offer just two hours a week, you'd be making a real difference to the lives of our patients. Read the volunteer role profile and apply here: khh.org.uk/complementary-therapist-volunteer

Meet our new Chaplain, Alice - Alice is one of our newest members of staff and our hospice chaplain, offering support and a friendly listening ear to patients, families and staff across Katharine House. Her role takes her all around the hospice, including the Sanctuary, a quiet and welcoming place open to all faiths and none. We spoke to Alice to find out what a typical day looks like and what she enjoys most about her role. khh.org.uk/alice-chaplain

Book your Christmas tree ready for collection in January - Our brilliant tree-cycle scheme is back, giving people the opportunity to get rid of their Christmas tree in a hassle-free, more sustainable way once all the festivities are over. Make a donation to Katharine House Hospice and, in return, one of our elves will collect and recycle your tree. Find out more and check if your postcode is included in the scheme: khh.org.uk/christmastree

From your Editor, Lucy Norman

Firstly, a big thank you to all of our Advertisers. Whether you are a regular, occasional or a one-off advertiser, we are so grateful and rely on you for our existence.

Secondly, DO NOT FORGET, if you are doing something for charity. A sponsored walk or run, maybe a skydive, let me know and we can get you in Barford News, free of charge.*

Thirdly, any interesting articles about the Barfords, or its inhabitants, in days gone by or up to date, maybe farming, wildlife etc.

Celebrating a special event? wedding anniversary, births, graduations and of course, obituaries, would be welcomed.

Would you like to have local numbers to hand:- Police, hospitals, Council?

If you have any questions, ideas, please jot them down in the box below and pop in my letterbox at The Old Chapel, High Street. Barford St Michael or email me at barfordnews@gmail.com

BARFORD NEWS COMMENTS, IDEAS OR SUGGESTIONS

FROM:

**please note that adverts for a charity promoting an event with an entry charge, will be charged.*



My London Marathon challenge for Asthma + Lung UK

Hi, my name is Ella, I live at Mead Farm, Barford St John.

I am going to be running the London Marathon in April 2026 for the Asthma + Lung UK charity.

I've chosen to run for this charity as my boyfriend has suffered with severe asthma since childhood and I am now more aware of this condition and the struggles and limitations that asthma causes for him. He is such an inspiration to me and running this marathon would be an honour to show my support towards him.

I will be running to raise awareness for him as well as others to enable further research and new treatments.

Throughout my marathon journey, I hope to inspire others, fundraise and contribute to such an important charity.



READING RECOMMENDATIONS



Cold Mountain by Charles Frazier is a sweeping and tumultuous story set in 1864 near the end of the American Civil War. Inman has been traumatised by his experiences in battle. After being wounded, he deserts his hospital bed to travel home to North Carolina's Cold Mountain, to reconnect with a woman he met before leaving to join the Confederacy. The woman, Ada, has led a privileged life, but the war takes its toll, and she is left to fend for herself on her father's farm.

Inman journeys hundreds of miles by foot, encountering an assortment of people and trying to avoid the Confederate Home Guard. Ada transforms her life with the help of Ruby, a woman who knows how to work the land. Most of the novel alternates between Ada's and Inman's separate struggles to survive, with backstory gradually provided by their reminiscences. I found it a well written and compelling book. **Ishbel Freeman**



The Land in Winter by Andrew Miller, shortlisted for the 2025 Booker Prize, is a story of two couples who live in the country outside Bristol. They can see their neighbours' cottages through the persistent snow of the 1963 winter, or, as it became, the big freeze.

It is a story of infidelity amid pregnancy, but the ever-present character is the freezing weather, the unrelenting cold, made bearable only by an irrational optimism that warmer weather is just around the corner. The local doctor's wife, Irene is expecting and neighbour Rita is also pregnant by her neurotic, impoverished farmer husband. The end is a kind of thaw. Beautifully written, accessible prose frequently verges on the poetic from inclusion of apposite striking vocabulary. **Trevor Arrowsmith**

Reviews are compiled by Linda Newbery. For a book recommendation on alternate Mondays, all by writers or independent booksellers, follow **Writers Review**: www.reviewsbywriters.blogspot.com

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charge**

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29 October 2025**



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If you don't have a permit you will need to pay £5 per day
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Permits are available for residents, blue badge holders,
community health and care workers, mobile traders
and many other groups.

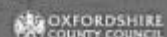
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Jess Romain on 01869 338 772

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Where to find us:

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**Sean Woodcock
MP for Banbury**

I am holding regular surgeries across the constituency for residents to seek my support.

If you have any issues or casework matters to raise with me, please contact my office on sean.woodcock.casework@parliament.uk or call 01295981131 to set up an appointment.

Please be prepared to give your full name, address, phone number and details of your case.

Once I have received the request you will be contacted regarding a potential date within 5 working days.

The exact time and location of your appointment will be given once it is confirmed.



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



VILLAGE HALL POST OFFICE

Thursdays, 10.30 till 11.30
Offering Full Postal and Banking
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RUBBISH & RECYCLING COLLECTION – JANUARY

1st / 3rd green & silver
Collections due on Thursday 1 January will take
place on Saturday 3 January

8th blue, brown & silver
15th green & silver
22nd blue, brown & silver
29th green & silver



BANBURY FOODBANK

to help local people in crisis.
Hunger remains a reality for many.
Please help by buying items from the list
below and putting them in the box inside the
porch of St Michael's church.

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

NON-PERISHABLE ITEMS ONLY, PLEASE
Many thanks

Volunteer Connect Community Transport Scheme

Taking passengers of all ages, to medical
appointments, social events, shopping trips and
visits to day centres, clubs, relatives etc.
The price is 45p per mile to cover the cost of petrol.
Call us on 0300 3030 125 or email
transport@volunteerconnect.org.uk

DEDDINGTON LIBRARY ☎ 338391

OPENING HOURS
Monday 2.00–7.00pm
Wednesday 9.30am–1.00pm
Thursday 1.00–5.00pm
Saturday 9.30am–1.00pm

VILLAGE AND LOCAL EVENTS DIARY

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

Church of England

Church services for JANUARY

4th
11th
18th
25th

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

Deddington Both Situations Vacant
wardens@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, OX7 5AX
Phone: 07484 158642

Parish Priest: Father Clive Dytor

Fr.clive.dytor@rcaob.org.uk

Email: holytrinity.chippingnorton@raob.org

Website: <http://holytrinityrc-chippingnorton.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, subject to change

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>)

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

JANUARY

NO MARKET

8th **Seed Order deadline**

8th People, Planet, Pint @ The Elephant & Castle,
Bloxham

14th WI, The Role of a Celebrant