



**WISHING ALL OF OUR READERS
A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS**

FROM THE BN TEAM
LUCY, CAROLINE, MARIANN AND CATHY (PROOF-READERS)
AND 'THE DELIVERERS', LYNN, CAROLINE, MAGGIE, JAMES,
MARIANN, CATHY, HELEN, JAN, KATHRYN, GUNILLA,
LORRAINE & CHRIS

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
JOHN O'BRIEN 07711 032137
DAWN TUCKER 07808 890495

CLERK: HANNAH SNELL
2 SUMMER LEY
BARFORD ST MICHAEL OX15 0RG
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.

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

A meeting of the Parish Council took place at 7:30pm on Wednesday 5th November in the Village Hall and was attended by Councillors Sandi Turner (Chairman), Rodney Hobbs, Dawn Tucker, John O'Brien, County Councillor Gareth Epps, District Councillor David Rogers, David Best (outgoing Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer), Hannah Snell (incoming Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer). Two members of the public attended this meeting.

Co-option of John O'Brien as New Councillor: The Parish Council were pleased to welcome John O'Brien as a new Parish Councillor.

Minutes of the Last Meeting: It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd July 2025 were a true and accurate record (unanimous).

Public Participation: None

Allotments: There is a new landowner for the allotments and rent letters will be sent out once an agreement has been reached with them. There is currently a water leak, and the tap has been turned off over winter.

Parish Matters:

Defibrillator – There is one defibrillator for the village in a box next to the Village Hall. To use this, a phone call would be made to the number on the box, and the ambulance service provide a universal code to unlock the box. Councillor Tucker recently attended a course with the WI that noted that it is usual for defibrillator boxes to remain unlocked for emergencies. In particular, there is poor mobile reception in the village, and many residents do not

carry mobile devices. Councillor Tucker brought a report to the Parish Council's notice.

Councillor Hobbs noted that the defibrillator code had already been shared with the Parish Council and some members of the Village Hall Management Committee, and that there were concerns about insurance or the risk of vandalism if the box remained open. The full Parish Council will reach a decision in the next meeting about whether to leave the access code visible on the box. Insurance will be checked by Councillor Turner and the code will be publicised in the Barford News in the meantime.

Remembrance Day Wreath – the Parish Council made a £100 donation to the Royal British Legion for the Remembrance Day Wreath.

Christmas Lights – these are scheduled to be up on The Green by 1st December.

Pruning Trees on The Green – There are 3 trees on The Green that require pruning, as well as the pyracantha, before Christmas lights can be added. If any parishioners can support with this, the PC would be very grateful. Please get in contact!

New Clerk: Please note that Hannah Snell will be taking over from David Best as Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer for the Parish Council. David will be finishing the role on 17th November and a handover is currently in place.

HM Land Registry registration of Stonepit Field and the Village Hall - The solicitors acting for the Parish Council and the Diocese of Oxford have not made progress in rectifying the mistake of the field being registered by the Oxford Diocese in their

name. This matter is being followed up by the Clerk. The Village Hall will be registered next.

District Councillors Report from David Rogers:

Planning – a motion has been submitted to CDC to support town and parish councils with specialist planning expertise and resources to respond to major development proposals.

Local Impact Report – CDC preparing this regarding the proposed Oxfordshire Strategic Rail Freight Interchange

County Councillors Report from Gareth Epps:

Heyford Park – impacts set out for new development (9,000 homes plus commercial).

Temporary Oxford Congestion Zone – Oxfordshire residents can register for free passage 25 times a year and Park & Ride travel will be free until Christmas.

North Oxfordshire Topsoil planning application – withdrawn by the applicant and enforcement action is taking place.

Flooding – a resident had contacted County Councillor Epps with concerns about flooding around the bridge and a meeting was arranged for 6th November. Councillor Tucker noted that the Parish Council had met with Lewis Purbrick, Flood Mitigation Officer, on 16th January 2025. Councillor Lovell had agreed to be a Flood Warden but had not yet requested signs. These have now been ordered. Drains in the village have been cleared to reduce surface water, and should help with concerns about depth of flooding on the Barford St Michael side. The Parish Council raised concerns that an open walkway on the Barford St John side has been preferred, rather than a like for like rebuild of the path. The outgoing Clerk had been in contact about the ditch being silted up where it runs from the pipes to the river. Councillor Lovell has also applied to the Environment Agency to dredge the river but the response for this is expected to be slow.

Council Priority Fund – this fund can provide £10,000 over 2 years for specific projects.

Planning:

25/02059/F – 3 Broad Close – floor extension to side – CDC permitted 09/10/2025

25/02261/F – Barleycorn – single storey front extension – PC has no objections.

Finance: The Clerk gained approval for payments totalling £2,803.13 for Thomas Fox, HMRC payments, OALC training and the Clerk's pay.

Next Parish Council Meeting: Wednesday 7th January 2026 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Please note that this is a summary of the minutes from the meeting. The full minutes (in draft until approved at the next Parish Council meeting) can be viewed in the Parish Council noticeboard and on the Minutes Section of the Barford Villages website: <https://thebarfordvillages.co.uk/>



**(John) Rupert Moulton of
Rock Close passed away peacefully
at home on
3rd November.**

**There will be an informal
remembrance gathering at
The George from 12 noon on
SATURDAY 6TH DECEMBER for
anyone who would like to share
their memories of Rupert with his
family**

All welcome.

CODE FOR DEFIBRILLATOR BOX AT VILLAGE HALL

The yellow box is currently locked, but the Parish Council is investigating whether it is possible to leave it unlocked in the future. The Code is

C159X

If you need access to the Defibrillator, please use this code. You **must** also call **999** for the Ambulance Service. This code is universal to all defibrillators.

The Village Hall has Wi-fi **BTBHub6-82JR**

and the access code is **46ifieNTQhKe**

You may wish to enter this in your Settings (Connections) when you next visit the Hall so that you have instant access in the future in case of an emergency there. The What3words for the village hall is **duke.cornering.adjusted**

Attention all Under 10's...

Look and find **ALL 6** (not including the one below) 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 ELF HUNTING

Pages



BARFORD CHURCHES FIRST ANNUAL

CHRISTMAS MARKET



**Saturday December 6th
10-4 pm**

**BARFORD
ST MICHAEL
CHURCH**

JOIN US IN OUR FIRST
CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAYRE .
FIND A SELECTION OF CRAFTS
AND GIFTS. STOP IN FOR A
SLICE OF CAKE AND A CUP OF
SOMETHING HOT.
FEELING LUCKY?
BUY A RAFFLE TICKET FOR
OUR FABULOUS CHRISTMAS
HAMPER.

Our Monthly Lunch Clubs are built on a foundation of community engagement, bringing people of all ages together to share great food, great conversation, and even better company. Each month we create a warm and welcoming space where friendships flourish over home-cooked meals. So whether you're working from home, reconnecting with familiar faces or meeting new friends, why not come along to share time together this Christmas in Barford Village Hall.

<https://buytickets.at/cookschool/1947304>

Please choose your main and dessert when booking, and let us know any allergies or special dietary needs.

Payment is taken online to confirm your place (s)

CookSchool is proud to champion local suppliers and low-waste, climate-friendly menus.

We look forward to welcoming you on Tuesday 16th December



The menu is presented on a festive card with a green and white checkered border. At the top, the CookSchool logo is displayed with 'EST. 2018' and 'GREGG BROWN' below it. The title 'A Christmas Community Celebration Lunch' is in a bold, red font. The text describes the purpose of the lunch clubs and encourages community engagement. A central box lists the menu options for mains, puddings, and coffee/tea, along with a price of £16.50. The bottom of the card lists the locations and dates for the lunch clubs and includes a note about supporting local ingredients.

COOKSCHOOL
EST. 2018
GREGG BROWN

A Christmas Community Celebration Lunch

Our Monthly Lunch Clubs are built on a foundation of community engagement, bringing people of all ages together to share great food, great conversation, and even better company.

Each month, we create a warm and welcoming space, where friendships flourish over home-cooked meals.

So, whether you're working from home, reconnecting with familiar faces or meeting new friends, why not come along to share time together this Christmas

Use our online booking site to secure your place choose from:

Mains	Puddings
Roast Norfolk Bronze Turkey with chestnut stuffing	Chocolate Yule Log A light chocolate sponge rolled with cream, coated in chocolate ganache
or	
Roast Beef Topside	Christmas Pudding rich, steamed fruit pudding with brandy, and spices served with brandy butter and custard
or	
Roasted Moroccan cauliflower with chickpeas, preserved lemon & harissa yogurt (v)	Coffee and Teas
all served with roast potatoes, braised red cabbage, honey parsnips, carrots, cauliflower cheese, sprouts and tenderstem broccoli	Mulled wine on arrival. Please bring your own festive alcoholic beverages to enjoy with your lunch.
	£16.50

Shutford 09.12
Barford 16.12
Deddington 18.12

Supporting fresh, local and ethically sourced ingredients.
Contact Gregg for cooking classes, private catering and events



David Hamer of Broad Close passed away peacefully in Katharine House Hospice on the 9th October after a short illness. He was born in Liverpool on the 14th March 1950. His family moved around in the northeast also spending some time in North Wales. He attended Stockport Grammar School where he developed a passion for engineering, with particular interest in engines and cars.

Shortly after leaving school, he started a garage with a friend. They specialised in maintaining

high performance cars much of the work being provided by bands such as 10CC who had a recording studio nearby. Unfortunately, as David remarked, he was better at maintaining cars than doing paper work and collecting payments, which eventually, over a number of years, caused the business to fail. By this time he had met and married Margaret. However, cars were still in his life. He started getting involved in saloon car racing but eventually gave that up when he found he was more suited to engineering than to driving.

Many years later he teamed up with Ray Bryant who owned and raced speedboats. They were involved with the Italian water skiing team and won the national championships twice as well as a number of races in the UK. When water skiing, Dave, as the engineer, rode in the boat facing backwards to give the driver information on when to speed up or slow down as indicated by the skier. Dave found this quite unnerving. They also took part in international speedboat racing where Dave, now facing forward, acted as throttle man controlling the revs. Again they were quite successful.

While working for Ray he was once sent to repair a boat moored at Puerto Banus. On arrival, asking where the boat was, he was taken by the harbourmaster to see it. It was certainly in the harbour, unfortunately lying on the bottom! So the anticipated three day job he told Margaret he was going to do lasted more than a month.

Dave got involved in F1 which brought him to Oxfordshire. He worked with a number of teams eventually ending up at Enstone until his retirement. This did not slow him down. He bought an E-type Jag, the second one he had owned, and an old Norton motorbike which he did many modifications on. Whenever the weather allowed, the door of his garage would be up and Dave would be working away manufacturing something or other – a hard top for the E-type or a larger petrol tank or panniers for the Norton.

Dave had a number of other interests. He would attend local music concerts and particularly enjoyed Wagner. He also was a member of the Barford St Michael choir, secretary and treasurer of the Oxfordshire Horological Society and treasurer of the Norton Owners' Club. Most recently he joined the Adderbury Ukelele Club. David was a very private man but he will be sorely missed by his many friends. He leaves his wife Margaret, sister Pauline and brother-in-law Brian, and their daughters.



OXFORD TEMPORARY CONGESTION CHARGE PERMIT

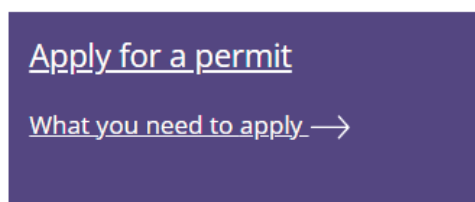
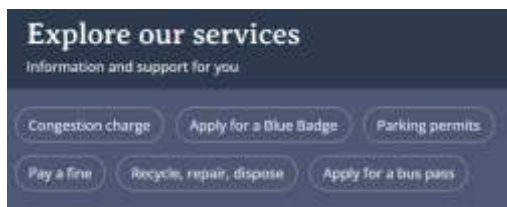
Oxford has implemented a temporary congestion charge of £5 per day for cars entering designated areas to reduce traffic and improve air quality. This came into effect on 29th October 2025.

Now, if you live in Oxfordshire or fall into certain groups (such as Blue Badge holders, health and care workers, or unpaid carers), you may be eligible for free permits or day passes.

To apply for a temporary congestion charge permit follow the instructions below:

GO TO www.oxfordshire.gov.uk

THEN UNDER Explore Our Services **CLICK ON** Congestion Charge, **THEN** Apply for a Permit



And, just for information:

The John Radcliffe Hospital is not directly in the congestion zone, but it is close to roads affected by the upcoming temporary congestion charge starting from 29 October 2025. If your route to the hospital passes a congestion charge point, it will cost you £5. Therefore, while the hospital itself is not in the congestion zone, accessing it may involve passing through a charge point depending on your route.

I applied under the Blue Badge Exemption. It took a few minutes to complete the form and, pending approval, my virtual permits should be with me within 10 days. All things considered, a pretty painless process. UPDATE: they arrived 2 days later.

Lucy, Editor



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 income is retained for hall maintenance; the remaining 50% is paid out in monthly prizes.

New members always very welcome.

For just under 90p a month you can make a difference. **If you would like to join please contact**

Les on ☎338659 to reserve your tickets.

Thank you from the 200+ Club Team



WELCOME
to

**Allyson Jones and her dog Betsy
who has moved or will be moving
very soon into Church Street.
Wishing you lots of happiness in
our beautiful villages.**

On Saturday 1st November we held our first “Come and Sing” at St Michael’s. We were overcome with the huge demand for tickets, which far outstripped the 91 singers we were able to accommodate. The singers all sat in the Nave and the audience were in the Chancel. The church was bursting at the seams, which was wonderful to see.



Tim Johnson, Precentor and Director of Music at Eton College, kindly gave his time to conduct an informal performance of Faure’s Requiem Op48 and Cantique de Jean Racine. The singers spent the afternoon rehearsing with a much-needed tea break in the Village Hall with Caroline Bird’s famous “fatless sponge” which was appreciated by all. Tim’s infectious enthusiasm and energetic conducting inspired the singers, most of whom had never sung together before, to come together as a polished choir, rising to the occasion without a single wrong note in the whole performance. Our two soloists, Simon Angel and Jean Parker, were also superb.

The singing was beautiful and spine-tingling and a number of the audience said they had never expected to hear music of that quality in our church. We have been snowed under with requests for another “Come and Sing” next year; Tim, are you up for it?!

After expenses we raised £2,030 which is our first contribution towards Stage II of the church restoration project. Please continue to support us.

Joanna and the Fund Raising Committee

Joanna Cooke-Yarborough

joannacy@btinternet.com | +447748967998



Published: Wednesday, 5th November 2025 - Recycling bottles and jars is set to get simpler and easier for all households in Cherwell as changes to the district’s kerbside collections are set to come into effect.

On Tuesday, 4 November a meeting of Cherwell District Council’s executive gave the green light to plans to collect glass at the kerbside. From Thursday, 1 January 2026 residents will be able to dispose of their glass in the blue recycling bin. It ends over 30 years of residents taking their glass to bring banks and brings the council service in line with the government’s new Simpler Recycling legislation.

Councillor Ian Middleton, Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Services,

said: “The collection of glass from the kerbside is one of the most requested changes to our recycling service, and we have been listening. “This change will make it faster and more convenient for residents to recycle whilst reducing the problems associated with bottle banks. The reality is that these have attracted litter and fly-tipping, with the taxpayer having to pick up the costs of the clear-up. “So not only are we making glass recycling easier for our residents, we’re also planning to remove over 100 bottle banks to keep the district tidy and help prevent fly-tipping. “The added benefit of introducing this service just after the holiday season is that all those bottles of festive cheer will be easier than ever to dispose of, once they’re empty of course!” Introducing a kerbside glass collection is expected to increase the district’s overall recycling rate by 1 to 1.5 per cent, adding 500-700 tonnes of glass per year to the recycling stream.



Glass collected from Cherwell residents’ blue bins will be separated from other dry recycling by machines at a sorting centre. The large pieces will be sorted by colour for further processing, whilst smaller pieces are used for road aggregate or shot blasting material.



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



Village Night
Monday 1st December - 18:30pm
CHRISTMAS NIGHT
Yorkshire Pudding Wrap With All The Trimmings (Veg option available)
&
Christmas Crumble
Drink of choice
125ml Nativo White
Mulled Wine
Pint Of The George
Cranberry Fizz
£15 Per Person
Pre Booking Required
Pre order

It's the festive season and we are excited at The George Inn! What's going on??

1st December we have village night, 13th December we have the tractor run, 16th we have the quiz, 21st December we have carol singing, 25th of December we are open for drinks, 28th of December we have Tom Rogers Live music at 1700pm!!

Moving into 2026 we will be changing up Village Night with themed months, french, spanish, italian...and so much more!!

Thank you to all in the village that has supported us through 2025. With Love, Bianca X

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

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](tel:01869338160)



TRACTOR RUN

STARTERS

- Oriental Chicken Thighs | Chilli (Can be GF)
- Beetroot And Goats Cheese Tart
- Pigs in Blankets

MAIN DISHES

- Fish And Chips | Crushed Peas (can be GF)
- Mushroom And Halloumi Burger
- Venison Ragù (Can be GF)
- The George Burger

DESSERTS

- Lemon Posset (GF)
- Christmas Crumble
- George Trifle (GF)

2 COURSES £28
3 COURSE £32.50

BARFORD GREEN GARDEN CLUB
Notes from our Potting Shed
December 2025

Hoe, hoe, hoe!

'Twas the night before Christmas and all through
the yard

Not a gift was given, not even a card.
The tools were all hung in the carport with care
With hopes that St Nicholas soon would repair

The shovel with blade all rusty and cracked
The pitchfork still shiny, but handle it lacked
When out on my lawn (it's brown and abused)
I could see poor old Santa looking confused.

No list has been left for Santa to see
No gardening gifts were under the tree.
But wait - there's still time, it's not Christmas yet
And gardening gifts are the quickest to get.

You can forget the silk tie, the fluffy new sweater
Give something to make the garden grow better.
If she wants a gift shiny, then don't be a fool
It's not a dumb diamond, but a sparkling new tool.

Give a great gift that digs the dirt
It's better than any designer-brand shirt.
If fragrance is listed, forget French perfume
It's a pile of manure that'll make gardeners
swoon.

So ask the big guy for garden gifts this year
Seeds, plants and tools, Santa holds them all
dear
You see shops crowded, vendors hawking their
ware,
But visit a nursery, stress-free shopping is there

Now Santa's flown off, to the nursery he goes,
And his voice fills the night with loud Hoe, hoe,
hoe, hoes!

By Marion Binetti



Christmas Social/Quiz in the Village Hall 8th
December at 7.00pm

We look forward to seeing members, partners
and friends at this, our final 2025 get-together.

We'll welcome you with a glass of mulled wine
and there will be tasty refreshments,
interspersed with a few quizzes (gardening
themed!) There'll also be various prizes too
and it's all free, for both members and guests.

Annual Seed Order (Deadline Thurs 8 Jan)

The committee has decided to order from Kings
Seeds again this year. As in the past, please
only order packets of seeds - onion sets,
potatoes, fruit etc can usually be purchased
cheaper locally.

We will get a 50% discount as previously,
provided we get a total of £250 (catalogue
price) ordered. (We should do this OK) - less
than that any savings are very small and there
is an individual packing charge of £1.95 per
order. If members have small orders let me
have them anyway and I'll combine them and
split the packing charge. The deadline for
orders is **Thursday 8 January 2026** and non-
members are welcome to join in as well.

Catalogues, order forms and detailed ordering
instructions will be in the blue box in my porch
as usual and also available at the club
Christmas social event.. My address is: Pear
Tree Cottage, The Green. Tel: 01869 338078
Mob: 07931 584184.

I'll notify members when the seeds arrive and
they can be collected from my porch. The
ordering instructions look complicated but
simply add up the cost of your seeds, divide by
2 then add £1.95 p & p. I'll fill in all the various
boxes on the order form for you if you would
like me to.

Happy Gardening! Rodney Hobbs

Our very grateful thanks once again to Rodney.

AGM This will be held in the Spring - date to
be confirmed and we look forward to seeing as
many of you as possible. If you have ideas for
events in 2026, email Sue:
sueandles45@hotmail.com

Some jobs for December

The autumn colours have been spectacular
with some leaves still on the trees. Flowers
such as cosmos, dahlias and salvias have
flowered well into November.

Tender plants will need protection from frost, gales and freezing rain.

1. Prune open-grown apples and pears (but not those trained against walls).
2. Prune acers, birches and vines before Christmas to avoid bleeding.
3. Harvest leeks, parsnips, winter cabbage, sprouts and remaining root crops.
4. Trees and shrubs can still be planted and transplanted.
5. Take hardwood cuttings.
6. Winter can be a tough time for birds in terms of water and food, so keep supplies well topped up, encouraging winter birds into the garden.

If you wish to join our Club, you will be made most welcome. It costs just £10 subs a year and enables you to various discounts at a number of local garden centres. Email: sueandles45@hotmail.com

We hope you have a fabulous Christmas and wish you all a very happy and peaceful New Year.

Hopefully you can get out and enjoy the garden if there are a few mild days in December!



Spade and Fork



**to a lovely couple in Broad Close who
donated £40 to Barford News.**

Much appreciated.

Cookery Demonstration

**By Gregg Brown
of 'COOK SCHOOL'**

on

**Wednesday, 10th DECEMBER
in the Village Hall at 7.30pm**

All visitors very welcome (£7)

**For more information please contact
Christine 338659**

barfordwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk



If you're looking for something fun to do on dark winter evenings, look no further than your own doorstep, Barford Village Hall, Carpet Bowls is a lovely social evening, lots of banter and camaraderie and refreshments.

All ages are welcome, we would love to have some new members, come and try it out, show us what you're made of.

All are welcome to come and join us for wine and nibbles and have a free trial run.

Please join us on Tuesday 9th December at 7.00pm.

UKRAINE UPDATE

Seeing as so many generous people from The Barford's donated a heap of money to help with filling up with diesel on our 1300 mile journey. It only seems fair to keep you posted as to how our most recent trip to Ukraine went.

Well, this is probably the most uneventful of all the trips since the war began. We had a flat battery in the brewery yard before we even got underway. But that was about it on the mechanical front.

The journey to Dover was the first hurdle. Major accident on the motorway put us back enough to miss the tunnel crossing slot so we were split up. Two vehicles were fitted in a vacant slot, the other three were allocated slots about five hours later. So staying in convoy was a challenge. We met up at a budget hotel that proved to be very worthy it's 1 star rating. Our radios decided not to work, so we all kept in touch via WhatsApp, which was brilliant. Dropping a pin on the map we could all track each other to within 3 metres. The journey from Antwerp to Rzeszow just before the Ukraine border was all pretty straight forward. The fun began at the border crossing. The records showed that one of our drivers (Graham) had entered Ukraine before with the same vehicle, which we tried to explain how we worked and that it couldn't be possible as we always leave the vehicles in Ukraine. After much head scratching, we convinced them that we were not trying to pull a fast one and were allowed in.

The arrival at the hotel is always joyous. Lots of hugs and greetings and gratitude. The obligatory photo shoot of us with the vehicles and lots of flags. They had people from the front line there to thank us and present us with battalion badges and signed flags from the front. People arrive to collect stuff to take off to where it is needed, then the vehicles go off to do their work on the front line. Next day, after what can only be described as a leisurely breakfast. The waiter only has two speeds, slow and stop. We were then taken in to the centre of the Lviv to visit the cemetery. It doesn't matter how many times you see it, it still has the same impact. Each time it is bigger and is just a sea of flags of the fallen.

They are holding burial ceremonies on almost a daily basis. To say it is an emotional visit is an understatement. Especially when you see the ages of the fallen and even more so when you see a freshly dug grave ready for the next soldier. Then on into the city centre to visit the garrison church. One of our group had not been before and was like a rabbit in the headlights as we rounded the corner of the church only to be met with a funeral procession complete with military band just exiting the church and no doubt heading for the freshly dug grave we had just seen.

Our friends then give us a lift to the border and say our goodbyes, walk across the border and catch a bus to the train station. We then board a train and take a three hour journey to Krakow, travelling in a spotlessly clean first class carriage for the grand sum of £17.00. Then it's spend a little time enjoying Krakow before our flight home.

Our group was made up of 10 drivers and 5 vehicles and we already have video footage of some of them being used out at the front. We are regularly updated with stories, photos and videos of what is happening at the front, so we know it is worthwhile.

So, to all who donated we all say a big thank you. It all helps make a difference to the lives of those people living there during these troubled times.



On behalf of NOXAID. THANK YOU.



BARFORD MARKET



SATURDAY, 13TH DECEMBER

10.00 – 12.00 IN THE VILLAGE HALL



Join us for a

Complimentary Glass of Mulled Wine



Artisan breads from Cotswold Bakery including handmade

Sourdough Pannetone – ideal for Christmas

Meat and dairy Items from butcher Gordon Wrighton

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

Lots of Christmas gift ideas!!

Locally grown plants, Food for the birds, Berry's Orchard juices.
bacon /bacon & egg/breakfast butties at bargain prices!!

TEA AND COFFEE SERVED ALL MORNING



BOO!!

To all my spook-tacular trick or treaters and friends.

A huge thank you to each and every one of you for making my house the go to spot in the village for Halloween treats! It's been a real scream (in a good way of course) having you ALL visit me every year.



As I hang up my witches' hat and fly off into retirement on my trusty broomstick, I want to say thank you for being part of my Halloween magic. I'll miss our spooky chats and seeing your creative costumes, but I'm excited for the next chapter. So, sadly this was my last year. I've passed on the decorations and the broomstick to the next Mrs Halloween.

Keep on trick or treating and remember – I'll always be the one who brought the treats!

Spooky vibes flying your way - Mrs Halloween - The crazy lady at Forge Cottage





grubadvisor

reviewed by
Caroline Belson

Where did you eat?

The Grain Store Cafe at
The Hatchery
Middle Aston
OX25 4QL

RATINGS

Out of 5 stars.....

Food

Service

Value

Atmosphere

COMMENTS:

Dogs welcome and lots of nice walks in the area.

A friend suggested we gave this café a go, she had recommended the toasted sandwiches in particular. And they didn't disappoint!!

Unfortunately, on the day of our visit the chef was absent. It's not a huge menu mainly breakfast and light lunches. Really quality produce all locally sourced. And they do have specials when the chef is in residence? We chose the toasted sandwiches well they did come highly recommended! – Tuna melt with the most glorious tangy cheese and crispy bread and the Mediterranean vegetables. Both came with a side of homemade coleslaw. They have an extensive range of specialty coffees, for any coffee sommeliers. We tried a flat white, a tiny bit strong for me personally but the latte was perfect.

The cake table is a thing of beauty!! A spread of decadent homemade cakes, doughnuts and pastries! Enough to make any cake lovers eyes pop out. We surprisingly managed to restrain ourselves and shared a piece of the amazing granola slice. Full of fruit and seeds wonderfully gooey oats. A huge slice easily enough for two, to fight over.

Lunch for two in total £38 and that was with an additional coffee.

It's definitely worth another visit to try one of their specials or breakfast looks yummy! It's clearly very popular with a loyal customer base. And I always think if it's busy it must be good!



1ST DEDDINGTON GUIDES

It's been a very busy few weeks. We were pleased to welcome Ruby and Harriet as new members.

All the girls can be very proud of their turnout in

Remembrance Day..Not only in terms of smartness but in managing all their responsibilities as members of the colour party or laying Poppy wreaths and crosses, well done to you all.

We made our annual nod to Halloween in dressing up and playing some games which was fun. We have also, amongst many other things, made great progress with our Food Critic badge, that we are working on together and started making Scrap bookssome lovely designs!

Melissa gave a really interesting talk about her voluntary work caring for injured and orphaned hedgehogs and we also learnt about fruits from all over the world and tasted them too!

Girls 10 and over all welcome !

Maggie Rampley 07957 600755



"If you can keep your head when all about you are losing theirs, it's just possible you haven't grasped the situation."

Jean Kerr

Quoted in Daily Mail

CHURCH MATTERS



From the Vicar

November began with a joyful celebration of All Saints, before moving onto two special commemorative services: our All Souls service, remembering loved ones no longer with us, and the Remembrance Sunday services across the benefice. Both were deeply moving occasions, bringing our communities together in tribute and reflection. We are grateful to everyone who helped make them so special and are especially proud of the young people from our school and uniformed organisations who took part with such care and confidence.

We now look ahead to a very special and busy month! December begins with Advent – four weeks of preparation for the gift of Christmas: the birth of Jesus, God's Son. Across our benefice, we have an exciting programme of services and events to help you journey with us through the hope of Advent and into the joy of Christmastide. Not to be missed! Check our Christmas Card insert from the November issue of the Barford News for full details. Peace be with you all!



The Posada is coming to The Barfords!

Make Christmas really special this year by welcoming Mary & Joseph (and lots of sheep) into your house for two nights this Advent. You'll get a set of Nativity figures and a whole flock of sheep! Full instructions and a selection of books will also be included.

We invite everyone in the Barfords to be innkeepers and welcome Mary and Joseph into their homes.

It is an opportunity to bring generations together and share the Christmas story with family and friends, before passing it on to the next 'innkeeper'.

There will be one Posada set travelling around The Barford's, with only 12 places available please sign-up quickly to avoid disappointment.

All you need to do is, sign up to be the innkeepers and invite Mary & Joseph for two nights. For more information, please email **Sue or Sally**
barfordchurches234@gmail.com

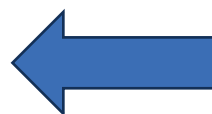


Barford Churches Craft Fair - Saturday 6th December 10-4pm at St Michael's church. Join

us in our first Christmas Craft Fair. Find a selection of crafts; stop in for a slice of cake and a cup of something hot. If you're feeling lucky - buy a raffle ticket for our fabulous Christmas Hamper. **Cash only, please.** Contact Anne Perry
whitticka@hotmail.com to book a table.

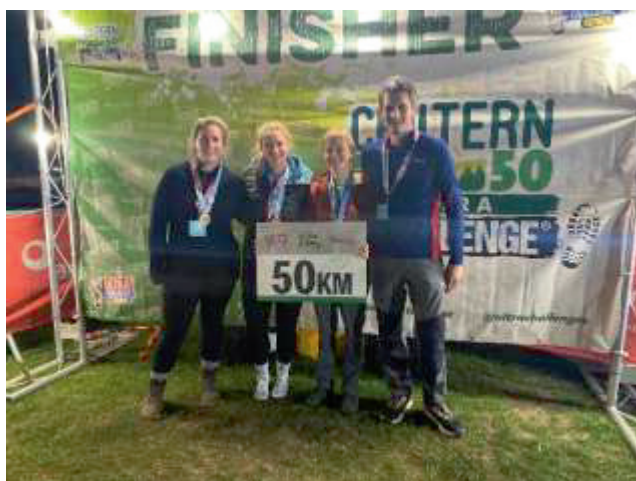


Thanks to the generosity of those who attended the Remembrance Day service in Barford in November, we have been able to donate £202 to the RBL Poppy Appeal.



Hurry - there are still a few dates left!!

Sue & Sally
barfordchurches234@gmail.com



THANK YOU!

A huge thank you to all those kind and generous Barfordians who sponsored me for my walk in aid of Bowel Cancer in memory of my friend who passed away last year. I completed the 50km (31.5 miles) in 11.5 hours which included 3 food/rest stops which surpassed my 12 hour aim which I was very pleased with, the added bonus is we finished just within daylight hours too! The last 10km from the last stop to the finish were definitely the longest and hardest of my life but we practically sprinted the last 1km to the finish line. It is a huge sense of achievement but the most important thing is that I (with

your help) managed to raise £1,540 for **Bowel cancer UK**, so thank you!

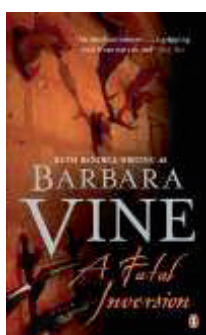
I certainly won't be doing it again but it was a brilliant well organised event which I would recommend if anyone has the urge to take on a challenge!

Sarah Charman

READING RECOMMENDATIONS



Hostages to Fortune by Elizabeth Cambridge, set in Deddington, is a semi-autobiographical novel published in 1933 and now reissued by Persephone Books. Young mother Catherine comes to live in the village with her doctor husband, William, in 1917; although she has ambitions to be a writer, these are lost amid the daily busy-ness of bringing up children, supporting her husband and running the home. There's very little plot; Catherine is often dissatisfied with her role as provincial wife and mother, yet when she visits her more emancipated niece Jane in a London flat, she sees nothing there to appeal. For local readers, the charm of the book is in the details of village life at a time when Deddington was self-sufficient in terms of shops and services, the changes brought by the coming of the motor-car, and the seasons and rural traditions. If it's disappointing that Catherine gives up her dream of being a writer, we know that the 'real' Catherine did not: she went on to publish five more novels after this one. **Linda Newbery**



A Fatal Inversion by Barbara Vine: In a manner reminiscent of Patricia Highsmith, Vine (aka Ruth Rendell), skilfully examines the intricate, changeable relations within families, friends and small communities, drawing the reader into tortuous webs of desire, shame and regret. Past secrets are gradually revealed and the truth emerges about the victim, the antagonist/s and the lies and deception that cloak them.

Together with a group of waifs and strays, undergraduates Adam and Rufus spend a long hot summer of love, drink and indolence in the country house recently inherited by Adam. 10 years later, when both are at the height of their successful careers, the bodies of a young woman and baby are discovered in the garden by the house's new owners. As readers, we know that tragedy obviously took place but only slowly and teasingly does the incredible and unforeseeable truth start to emerge, finally exploding only in the closing paragraphs of the book. **Christopher Murray**

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



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 in The George on 11th December, 7 – 9pm. The first 10 to sign up at <https://small99.co.uk/people-planet-pint-meetup/> can claim their first drink free.

Last month, **North Aston Farm Shop** relaunched itself, continuing to offer local organic produce while also providing an event space and community library. Christmas trees will be on sale throughout the month, and on Saturday December 13th there's a **Christmas Market**: local crafts, festive food, mulled drinks and music in the barn.

Our own Village Market in the village hall, is also on the 13th offering local produce of excellent quality.

Deddington Farmers' Market is on December 20th, 9.am – 12.20 pm. The Four Villages group has a stall at the Town Hall where we share news of our campaigns and forthcoming events.



If you'd like to support a good cause over the festive season (or at any other time), **Lendwithcare** (organised by **Care International**) is a way of supporting small-scale projects in low-income countries. You lend, their business grows, your money is repaid ... you then keep the money or support another project. Find out more at www.lendwithcare.org.

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

11 November Belgium - Since 1993 our dad has remembered 31 men from the armed forces who died after the end of World War 1 and are buried in a cemetery - Theux, in the Ardennes Belgium. After Dad's passing in 2009 my sister and I have taken on this important remembrance and maintain his legacy.

The community in Theux have a very vibrant Old Combatants association and have asked me to try and locate surviving family members of the 31 men, to let them know how important remembering these brave men is. So last year was the start of a separate commemoration that takes place at the cemetery. There is a formal march led by 3 pipers starting at the village monument followed by local regiment standards, the Union Jack, the mayor and other dignitaries and a team of scouts.

Once at the cemetery accompanied by the bagpipes playing Amazing Grace, a formal posing of the poppy crosses was carried out by the scouts with 4 of them having a personal message from their family and community. Then each man's name was read out with the ceremony closing with the last post.

Last year whilst doing my research to find families of these men, I found there were 3 further local cemeteries with another 9 combatants - Spa with 2 British and Canadian men; Verviers - 4 and Pepinster - 1. I now place poppies on their headstones as well and spend a few moments in thanks for their bravery and courage in times of battle and hardship.

And I feel these words are so important 'For your tomorrow, we gave our today' – a poignant tribute to soldiers who lost their lives during World War 2.

Veronique Semple – Thimble Hall





1st DEDDINGTON SCOUT GROUP

Cubs

Cubs finished last term off with a spooktacular Halloween party playing games and apple bobbing! Last week we made Remembrance wreaths and some of the children took part in the Remembrance Day Parade demonstrating excellent Cub values. This week we did activities thinking about recycling, renewable energy and how to save energy. The children also made catapults using lolly sticks, elastic bands and spoons. Tina Deacon deddingtoncubs@gmail.com

Scouts

In the run up to Remembrance Day we restaged our popular Royal Army Medical Corps evening in memory of our founder Henry Tyrrell Green who started Deddington Scouts in 1912 & joined the Corps during WW1. It's a fun way to learn about triaging casualties (lead by Matt Winsor) & involves half the troop acting as the injured – with gusto & the others recovering them by stretcher. This is performed in the dark with smoke bombs, land mines & gas attacks!

As a complete contrast we then moved on to all things Mexico, Day of the Dead, a quiz, Mexican bingo, spicy snacks & a pinata. They made all the decorations & helped with the food preparation. All that & sombreros too.

An evening was spent climbing at Adventure Climb, the sight of them launching themselves at & off walls was quite inspiring & a little terrifying. Pete Churchyard deddingtonscouts@gmail.com

Remembrance Day Parade was well attended, both the Cubs & Scouts looked so smart & carried off their duties perfectly.



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.



DEDDINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL As we approach the festive season, there's a wonderful buzz of excitement at Deddington Primary School. Children have begun practicing for their Christmas Nativities and the much-anticipated Carol Concert. The performances are sure to bring joy and a sense of festive spirit to all who attend, as our pupils work hard to perfect their songs, lines, and performances in preparation for these special events.

In addition to the excitement of Christmas celebrations, our school has been actively engaged in marking Anti-Bullying Week. Throughout the week, pupils took part in various activities designed to promote kindness and understanding. We ended the week with a colourful Odd Socks Day, where students and staff wore mismatched socks to celebrate our differences. This fun day finished a week marked by assemblies and class discussions focused on the importance of kindness, respect, and looking out for one another. These conversations are vital in shaping a caring and supportive school community, where every child feels valued. In line with our school vision, which is rooted in Matthew 5v14 and 16, we've seen some incredible acts of kindness and advocacy from our pupils. Our vision encourages children to think about how they can let their light shine and make a positive difference in the world around them. It's heartening to see this spirit come to life as several pupils have recently taken it upon themselves to raise money for causes they feel strongly about.

Two enterprising Year 2 boys organized a toy sale to raise funds for an animal charity. Their initiative was a wonderful example of young students showing compassion and taking action to support animals in need. Similarly, a group of girls in another year group arranged their own sale to support a cause they hold dear. Their efforts highlight the courage and passion that we aim to nurture in our pupils, as they learn the importance of giving back and standing up for the issues that matter to them.

As the year draws to a close, everyone at Deddington Primary School would like to wish our families and the wider community a very special and peaceful Christmas. We look forward to the new year and the many more opportunities to learn, grow, and shine together.

Clive Evans, Headteacher

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11th blue, brown & silver
18th green & silver
25th blue, brown & silver

25th – at time of going to print, no update
was available on the Cherwell website



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

Church services for DECEMBER

7th Coffee & Chat 10:30am BSM
14th Christingle Service BSM
21st Carol Service with Brass Band 16:00 BSM
24th Christmas Night Holy Communion 22:00 BSM
25th Family Service 09:00am BSM
28th Family Communion 10:30am BSM

4th JANUARY Coffee & Chat 10:30am BSM

Weekly Prayers at St Michael's:-

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

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Masses:

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

BARFORD NEWS

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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>)

DECEMBER

1st Village Night at The George
6th Christmas Craft Fayre at St Michael's Church
7th Elf Hunt Cut-Off – drop off at The Old Chapel
10th W, Cookery Demonstration with Gregg Brown
13th Village Market
13th Tractor Run
16th Village Christmas Lunch
16th Quiz Night at The George
28th Tom Rogers at The George