

Bartons and Sandford Bulletin

September 2023

John Barrows Memorial Cricket Match: Unfortunately this event, scheduled for the 3rd September, has had to be cancelled.

Fox Inn: What is currently happening with the Fox? As you probably know, the Fox is now closed as its owners Stonegate Group have put the freehold up for sale. As the Fox is classed as an 'asset of community value', we have been able to trigger a 6-month moratorium period with West Oxfordshire District Council, during which the Fox can only be sold to eligible local community groups. This runs until 27 December 2023. After the initial public meeting a steering group was formed to set up 'The Bartons Community Benefit Society Limited' that is able to buy the Fox during the moratorium. This company is a form of co-operative society and will enable the Fox to be owned by and for the benefit of the community, rather than a private company or individual. To all the fantastic folk who've already got in touch - thanks so much - and we'll try to contact you about your specific areas of interest as soon as we can. There's plenty happening in the next few weeks: We have commissioned two surveys - they will help inform the business plan we are developing, which will then allow for a share prospectus to be put together. Alongside this are grant applications, spreading the word, community consultations, preparations for public meetings etc.. Find out more at the Public Meeting and pop up Fox @Middle Barton School: Local Ales, Barbecue, Pub Games, Children welcome Friday 8th September 7pm or see our website ourfox.org.

Good Neighbour Scheme: Bartons Good Neighbour Scheme is a friendly group of local volunteers who give their time and services free of charge to help neighbours in our community, especially where friends, family or professional services are unable to help. The voluntary work our volunteers do involves befriending the elderly, shopping, collecting prescriptions, providing transport to GP or hospital appointments and undertaking small tasks such as help with gardening or changing light bulbs. Please call Louise & Judith on 07486886971 or email us at bartonsgns@gmail.com to

request help, find out more or to join us as a volunteer.

Neighbourhood Watch: Following a good turnout at the Middle Barton Sports and Social Club in support of a local Neighbourhood Watch group in the Bartons, we are now busy setting up the scheme. If you registered on the night, you will shortly receive a communication with details on next steps. For those who could not make it, please drop me an email with your name, mobile number, house name/number and postcode to be added. We are also looking for fellow Co-ordinator's! Craig Moss craigmoss06@hotmail.com

Busy Bees: We hope that all Busy Bees have had a lovely summer - was great to see so many children at the playground over the summer holidays. We look forward to welcoming children back to the playgroup on Tuesday 12th September at the Alice Marshall Hall from 9-11am.

Pre-School: Firstly, a huge thank you to all who attended and helped out at the leavers ball! The children dressed in their best and got the red carpet treatment. Sadly the weather was truly awful, so we were unable to let them run wild in the garden, but the children had a disco, hotdogs, bubbles, and a photo booth to keep them busy inside. We also closed out the year with a highly anticipated visit from OFSTED. We are pleased to announce that we have been given a grading of "Good", of which we are very proud. We are raring to go this new academic year, and are excited to welcome back our little ones, and also to extend a warm welcome to our newcomers! We very much look forward to having you with us. Plenty of fun things planned this term both inside and outside, so make sure you have your wellies and also your sunscreen - who knows what the weather will be like?! The lending library has been restocked, and we are excited to give you all a smart new book bag in which to collate your artwork, and to take home any books you're borrowing. If your child is over the age of 2 and you would like to register them for Pre-School, do please call or email on [01869 347968](tel:01869347968) or middlebartonpreschool@gmail.com, so that we can send you a registration form. Registering your child in advance helps

us arrange staffing requirements. We accept government funding for 15-30 hours if eligible. For further information or details, please visit www.middlebartonpreschool.co.uk.

WI News: News from Tew's and Barton's WI (incorporating neighbouring villages) NFWI campaigns tackle issues that matter to women in their communities. From equal pay to climate change, mental health, and violence against women, over the past 100 years we have embraced a diverse set of challenges. The WI has brought about real change - and we are just getting started. We go forward with our programme for 23/24, dates below. The WI has been inspiring women for over 100 years. Discover more about our history, from our origins through to the present day www.thewi.org.uk Contact for membership is Jenny Jackson (President) Email skellgill_jenny@yahoo.co.uk or telephone [01869 340759](tel:01869340759) Dates for the diary 12/9/23 - Yoga for all with Sarah Hadland.

District Councillor: If you are aware of any elderly residents who may need some extra support, there is a very handy free Oxfordshire Age UK "Little Handbook of our Services" available at the shop. It includes useful information of a wide range of topics, such as telephone befriending, bereavement and dementia support, support at home, and exercise and wellbeing. There are relevant phone numbers to contact. I enquired with WODC about getting the faded street signs in Middle Barton repainted. I was "disappointed" that there is no provision for that, and signs are replaced like-for-like. I replied that I thought that was an utter waste of money, as there is nothing wrong with the signs. I asked if we could repaint them ourselves under the auspices of the parish council, to which they agreed. A member of the P.C. has kindly agreed to undertake this task, starting with the Woodway Road sign which has fallen off the decayed back board. Councillor Dave Jackson skellgilldave@yahoo.co.uk.

Sandford PC: OCC Highways have produced details of a proposed new 20mph speed limit through the village. It will simply be changing the existing 30 signs to 20, with small 20 repeater signs at the required intervals. There has to be

a public consultation which will take the form of a meeting in the Parish Hall where the plans will be displayed. The date for this meeting has not been fixed yet. It is important to get feedback from residents, including any suggestions of how the proposal might be improved. For example, residents north of the main village by Pitts Lane have expressed a wish for an intermediary speed limit (say 40mph) to slow traffic down passing their cluster of houses. This would be similar to the limit from the allotments to Middle Barton.

Other Groups: If you know of other groups in the Bartons that would benefit from sharing their news, please get in touch on the email address at the bottom of the page. While the tech-centric editor has been on the Internet since the WWW was born, the bulletin has an advantage over online groups in being “push” by household with strict geographic focus – it has serendipity on its side, reaching people new to the area or people who hadn’t thought there were like-minded people in “around here”.

New Groups: If you think there might be a new group or two worth forming, all the advantages listed above count double. The editor is aware, for example, that there are a number of people who work from home, whether running a business or working for others, who might benefit from a monthly meet-up; and also that there are number of other bikers who might enjoy a ride-out or joint restoration project. Email address is at the bottom of the page.

Church News: September: A season of plenty. We really have lots going on in September. Sunday 10th September sees the first Harvest Festival take place in the seasonally adorned Over Worton Church at 11.00am. This coincides with the

weekend of the Annual Ride & Stride event organised by Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust which sees walkers, cyclists, riders and more take part in a sponsored “ride”. Participants clock up as many churches in the area as possible along their chosen route. It is on Saturday 9th September. Details on how to get involved and raise money for your local church can be found online: ohct.org.uk/ride-and-stride. Sunday 10th September also sees the return of the Steeple Barton Chase Annual Fun Run. The main event is a 10K run, with a 5K run for the keen but slightly less energetic. There is also a Family Fun Run for anyone who does not want (or is unable) to race. Full details on the website including a link to sign up for the race www.steeplebartonchase.co.uk. Celebrating 750 years at St Martin’s Church Tea and Cake will be available on Sunday 10th September, 3-4.30pm in Sandford church. This will be the final event of the 750 celebrations this summer. Thanks to everyone who has helped to organise the events and to all who have supported and enjoyed them. Harvest Festival: There is a Harvest Supper in the Alice Marshall Hall on Sunday 17 September at 6.30pm. Tickets are £10 and are available from Jenny Jackson: skellgill_jenny@yahoo.co.uk. You can also sign up in church. This is preceded at 6pm by a short, informal harvest service for everyone who would like to come a little earlier for that. Family@Church has a Harvest theme in September. This takes place on Sunday 24th September in Duns Tew with an activity and breakfast from 9am and a service at 9.30am. There will be a Eucharist with Harvest Hymns in Sandford Church on 17th September at 11am. The final Harvest Festival in the Benefice is on Sunday 8th October 9.30am in Steeple Barton Church. This will be a Harvest service with Eucharist. Bible

Study: The Fortnightly Bible Study group resumes in September but switches to a Wednesday at 8pm. The first date will be 13th September 8pm at 34 Main Street, Duns Tew. And finally a big thank you to everyone who worked hard to run events in August – including the Duns Tew ‘Blooms and Tunes’ flower festival and Westcote Barton Jazz night over the bank holiday weekend. More details of events and services are on the website and church notice boards. *Warm Hub:* The weekly lunch club and breakfast continues: Every Wednesday: The Wednesday Lunch Club, 11am-4pm, Alice Marshall Hall. A two-course meal for £6, open to all. Every Saturday: The Destiny Breakfast Café 9.30am-12, Alice Marshall Hall. Drop in for food and chat at this breakfast cafe offering a warm, friendly space for all. Get in touch: Revd Jane Wright, Rector of the Barton Benefice, Tel: 01869 340510 clergy@bartonbenefice.org.uk For general enquiries, please e-mail Clare Harper, Benefice Administrator (Thursdays only) enquiries@bartonbenefice.org.uk www.bartonbenefice.org.uk follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/bartonbenefice/

Church services September	Westcote Barton	Steeple Barton	Duns Tew	Sandford St Martin	Nether Worton	Over Worton
3 September	9.30am Eucharist			5.00pm Evening Prayer	11.00am Eucharist	
10 September			9.30am Eucharist + zoom			11.00am Harvest Festival
17 September		5.00pm Informal Evening Service Alice Marshall Hall		11.00am Eucharist		
24 September	5pm Evening Prayer	11.00am Eucharist	9.30am family@church			

I would be grateful if contributions for inclusion in the October Bulletin could please be sent to me no later than September 20th. Thank you. Chris Puttick, cputtick@gmail.com