

Bartons and Sandford Bulletin

February 2024

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](tel:07486886971) or bartonsgns@gmail.com to request help, find out more or to join us as a volunteer.

Middle Barton Drama Group: Rehearsals are now underway for The LadyKillers by Graham Linehan, which will be coming to The Alice Marshall Hall stage in April. Prepare yourselves for a night fun, farce and intrigue. Look out for further details in the next few weeks.

MB Sports and Social Club: Come and join us at the Sports and Social club. The Lounge Bar is for over 18s and the Jubilee Room is available for Families and also bookable for events with the use of the kitchen. We have live sports showing. We also have a pool table in the Jubilee Room. We will be planning events throughout the year. There is bingo the first Wednesday of every month, eyes down at 8pm. Every Friday evening there is a meat draw. We are open Tuesday - Friday evenings and all day Saturdays and Sundays. Do get in touch: middlebartonSSC@outlook.com if you have any suggestions of what you would like to see at your local sports and social club. If you are not already a member it is £10 per year so come and pay us a visit. We look forward to seeing some new faces!

Busy Bees: We have had a lovely start to the year at Busy Bees with lots of fun being had between young friends. We have been busy painting, mashing and exploring the new toys and we have plenty planned for the rest of the term. If you have a baby or preschool aged child join us every Tuesday in term time from 9.15-11am at the Alice Marshall Hall.

Pre-School: Well, I think we clocked up almost every weather type in Jan! But that just meant that the children had a variety of different outdoor activities to look forward to, from making ice ornaments for our tree, to splashing about in the wet on our nature walks, to being blown and blustered about the running track! Thanks to your generosity with fund raising, we

now have a new canopy for our sandpit and some crazy wibbly mirrors in the softplay room, which means that the children can go on a Bear Hunt even if the weather is inclement - past the wibbly wavy mirrors! Through the splashy puddles! Onwards through the sandpit! Ooooh the big dark forest... and back home to make some Valentine treats, Hurray! With Easter fast approaching, we're gearing up to have the elusive Easter Bunny visit us again at the end of March, so watch this space next month for details of their arrival!! Also, not to forget that World Book Day falls on Thursday 7th of March this year, so we shall be having much literary fun that week! We break up for half term on Friday 9th of Feb, and return on Monday 19th Feb. 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, visit www.middlebartonpreschool.co.uk.

Middle Barton Primary School: What a fantastic start to the 2024 we have had at Middle Barton School. We begin each term with a 'Brilliant Beginning' Day and this one began with Viking longships being made, Victorian toys being made and tried out and some amazing art created which was inspired by Picasso and Jacob Lawrence. We are currently working towards the Eco-School Award and Mrs Horner and her committee of children are busy working hard to help us achieve this. We also have a big focus in school at present on sustainability. We will be holding a clothing swap in the school hall on Friday 2nd Feb from 2.30pm and then 'Rags to Riches' will be collecting bags of clothing on Monday 5th Feb. If you would like to drop anything off then please deliver bags of clothing before 10am up by the school hall. All funds raised will go towards the school. *After School Clubs* We have a number of after school clubs running this term- Choir, Sport, Bible stories, Football and our Eco Committee. A group of our Year 6 children also run a storytelling club for our Reception children at lunchtime. If we have any members of the community that would like to run an afterschool club then please let us know as we always welcome the expertise and enthusiasm of others. *Events* Our older children have

represented us in a Swimming Gala and Hockey Tournament at Chipping Norton School recently. It is always such a pleasure to take our children to these events and give them the opportunity to represent the school. So far this school year we have taken part in extra curricular opportunities including: cross country, football, indoor athletics and netball. Our Under 11 girls cross country team have made it through the first round at Chipping Norton and will now be representing the school at the West Oxfordshire Cross Country finals - amazing!! Alongside our amazing curriculum that the staff are delivering on a daily basis we try to offer the children a range of other experiences to help develop the children's own personal interests and experiences. Coming up we have: Bikeability (Year 4 and 5), Ukulele sessions (Year 4/5/6), Ball skills festival (Year 4), Dance festival (Year 1) and Multi Skills festival (Year 2/3).

WI News: from Tews and Barton's WI (also incorporating neighbouring villages) The WI has brought about real change - and we are just getting started. Our WI has voted to support this year's WI resolution for 'clean rivers', highlighted in the media this is crucial for the survival of animal life and for our enjoyment of the waterways and environs, recent floods have again acknowledged the plight of this. NFWI campaigns tackle issues that matter to women in their communities. We are currently being balloted on our campaign topics for 2024, topics critical to our public health, environment and the welfare of individuals facing trauma and confinement - more information to follow. Since the last bulletin we have celebrated Christmas with a delicious meal and entertainment from the WI committee. Our first meeting of 2024 was an opportunity to learn and play some simple tunes on a ukulele, we were inspired and made lovely music together! Our 2024 diary planning is underway, most importantly an evening to join us and explore your local WI - 13th Feb 2024 7:15 for 7:30 at Duns Tew Village Hall, we are a friendly group and promise to welcome you as we understand its not always easy to try out something new, there will be fun as well as cake! We are also anticipating events such as learning about owls - with live examples, the etiquette of 'afternoon tea', hopefully to include sampling! and Bollywood and line dancing skills, watch this space... 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) skellgill_jenny@yahoo.co.uk 01869 340759 Dates for the diary 13/2 Open evening, Duns Tew Village Hall 19:15 12/3 – AGM and supper – members only

Sandbags: Two big bags of sand have been delivered at the far end of the Sports and Social Club car park. Beside them is a plastic bag with hessian sand bags, so you can fill your own. The bags are purpose made with a tie string at the top. If you think sandbags might be useful to protect your drive or property take a shovel and help yourself. If you notice there are only a few bags left, please contact Councillor Dave Jackson, who has a stock of dry ones in his garage. 07407 443944 skellgilldave@yahoo.co.uk

Steeple Barton PC: Notes from the meeting held in the Alice Marshall Hall on Monday 15th Jan. There were 5 members of the public and apologies from Councillor Barry and Alison Umney. The minutes from the December meeting were approved and signed. Reports from the County and District Councillors can be found on the Parish website steeplebartonparishcouncil.org/. Items discussed: *Flooding:* There was a discussion about the recent flooding issues in Mill Lane, Councillor Tyers confirmed that he had a call scheduled with the OCC flood team on Jan 16th to discuss the issues. *Traffic Calming:* The two traffic SIDS have been in place since October and have been relocated 4 times. The data shows that the peak times into the village from the east are between 8-10:30am with a lesser rise between 5-7pm. From the west there is a peak flow from 3-6.30pm with no rise in the morning. On average there are approximately 3,000 vehicles travelling through and around the village daily with 70-80% travelling below 25mph although

this does increase between 22:00 and 06:30 when the speed has peaked to 50mph. *Potholes:* 30 potholes have been marked, reported and logged as requiring permanent repairs. *Recycling:* residents can now dispose of limited amounts of DIY waste for free at the county's household waste recycling centres (HWRCs) by using an online booking system. More details can be found on the parish website. *Donation:* A donation of £250 was approved for Oxfordshire Mind. *Planning application:* 23/03287/FUL - Sycamore Farm Duns Tew Road - Erection of a dwelling to be used as a groom's cottage. *Parking:* polite reminder that it is illegal to park and block pavements. *DONM:* Monday 19th Feb in the Alice Marshall Hall, 8pm.

Church News: Services and Special Events
The Benefice Candlemas Service is being celebrated on Sunday 4th Feb 9.30am in Westcote Barton, not in Jan as previously advertised. Everyone is very welcome to attend this special service. We continue our monthly Family@Church Services with Feb's taking place on Sunday 25th in Duns Tew. The service starts at 9.30am preceded by refreshments and an activity from 9am. The theme for Feb is "Lent – what's it all about?" All are welcome whether you have been before or would like to come along to find out more. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent on 14 Feb this year. There will be a service in Duns Tew at 5pm. We are planning to run our popular Lent Lunches again in all the parishes. These will take the format of a simple lunch at 12.30 followed by a short talk. Details of the themes and speakers and how to book will be on our website. Here are the dates and who is hosting – for full details of venue and how to book, please see our website. Thurs 22nd Feb – Westcote Barton Fri 1st Mar – Sandford St Martin Thurs 7th Mar Steeple Barton Fri 15th Mar – Duns Tew Thurs 21st Mar Wortons. *Study Group* The fortnightly

Bible Study Group is now on Thursdays. In Feb this will be on Thursday 4th at Susan and David Small's home, 11 Mill Close, Middle Barton. During Lent this becomes a weekly study group using the "Come and See" course produced by the Diocese of Oxford. Dates are as follows: Monday 19th and 26th Feb, continuing on 6th, 14th and 20th March. Details will be on the website. Stay up to date with news of services and events. Details of up-and-coming services are on the website, weekly notice sheet and notice boards. With that in mind, when there is no service in your own parish, we hope you will join us in worshipping elsewhere in the benefice. If you would like to be added to our weekly Notice Sheet email list please send an email to: enquiries@bartonbenefice.org.uk
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. *Foodbank donations* There are boxes in the porch of both churches in the Bartons where food can be left. This is collected regularly and given to the local foodbank. Thank you to everyone who has been donating to this. *Get in touch:* If you know of someone who would like a home visit or to request prayer, please speak to Jane, Steph or your churchwardens. Please note Jane's email address has changed to: clergy.bartonbenefice@gmail.com so please use this address from now on. Stephanie Lacey: 01869 347350 or stephanielacey34@icloud.com For admin enquiries, please email Clare Harper, Benefice Administrator (Thursdays only) enquiries@bartonbenefice.org.uk bartonbenefice.org.uk/ www.bartonbenefice.org.uk/ follow on Facebook: facebook.com/bartonbenefice

Church services February	Westcote Barton	Steeple Barton	Duns Tew	Sandford St Martin	Nether Worton	Over Worton
4 Feb	9.30am Benefice Candlemas Eucharist			5pm Evening Prayer		11am Eucharist
11 Feb		9.30am Eucharist	11am Eucharist			
14 Feb (Ash Wednesday)			5pm			
18 Feb		5pm Evening Service Alice Marshall Hall		11am Eucharist	9.30am Eucharist	
25 Feb	5pm Evening Prayer	11am Eucharist	9/9.30am Family@Church			

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