

Bartons and Sandford Bulletin

February 2025

Dementia Oxfordshire: there will be a coffee morning in the Duns Tew Village Hall on Saturday February 1st at 10.30-12.30 in aid of Dementia Oxfordshire. There will be tea, coffee, cakes and a raffle.

Save Our Fox: The pop-up Fox is returning for a pub quiz on Saturday, 1st February at the Alice Marshall Hall. This time, we are looking for a quiz champion team! Come and test your local, general and your knowledge of foxes, in a fun evening in the heart of Middle Barton. Home-made food and local beers and alcoholic and soft drinks available as always. We open for relaxed community social time (with kids quiz) from 4pm, start the quiz from 7pm and call last orders at 10pm. All surplus funds go to our campaign to Save the Fox. The Bartons Community Benefit Society Ltd www.ourfox.org

Bulletin Delivery: The Bartons and Sandford Bulletin is looking for volunteers to deliver the Bulletin to several areas in Middle Barton. Delivery normally takes about 30 minutes and if requested a small payment can be made. Please contact David Small at [07810 255634](tel:07810255634) if you can help.

John Barrows Memorial Cricket Match: Sunday, 7th September 2025

Used Postage Stamps: Carol and Kay would like to thank all those who have so very kindly saved and forwarded used stamps for fund raising for Kathrine House Hospice Adderbury. For anyone new to the village please collect your used postage stamps from any country take them to Diane at the shop who will pass them to C & K. Kathrine House is our local Hospice and needs our support. Thank you.

MB Sports and Social Club: Come and join us at the Sports and Social Club to blow away the January blues. We have our monthly Bingo Night on 5th February, doors open at 7.30pm eyes down at 8pm, everyone welcome. We have the weekly Meat Raffle on a Friday evening in the members bar. Come along for a drink and grab your tickets for your chance to be a winner! Our next Skittles evening is 15th February, bring the family along for an evening of fun and games. All welcome in the Jubilee Room. If you are

not a member then you can join by speaking to a member of staff behind the bar. We are now running a 2 tier pricing tariff, if you are not a member you will pay more for your drinks. Our member prices are about to increase, so if you have not got your membership yet now would be a good time to get it at £10 per adult for a years membership. The cost will increase from 1st March 2025 to £15 for adults (18-67), £10 for seniors (67 and over) for a rolling years membership. We look forward to seeing some new faces. If you have any questions or suggestions of events you would like to see at the club please send an email to: hello@bmssc.org

Good Neighbour Scheme: Would you like to join us as a volunteer? We are looking for people to help with transport requests, especially daytimes during the week. To find out more or to request help call or text us on [07486 886971](tel:07486886971) or email us at bartonsgns@gmail.com.

Busy Bees: Calling all grannies, nannies, and caregivers! Looking for something new to do on those cold, rainy Friday mornings in February? Bring the little ones you look after to Alice Marshall Hall from 9.15am to 11am for some warm, friendly fun at Busy Bees Playgroup. There's plenty to do (and snack on), with hot drinks and other grownups to chat to. Only £3 for you and the child(ren) you care for. Pop in whenever it suits you, or text "Busy Bees" to [07947 781 003](tel:07947781003) for a link to the WhatsApp group.

Pre-School: January has finally passed, and we're now out the gate heading away from the gloom of recent weather. We've taken the older little ones on some lovely walks around the Ford and surrounding fields, and everyone has been cooking (healthy) pizzas - we didn't get to try ours, it got scoffed. Maybe make 2 next time?! We've also been delighted to have some Guinea Pig guests come to visit us "they were so cute, and they were so soft!". We do so enjoy visitors, in fact, I believe we have some more furry friend visitations to come! Burns Night and Chinese Lunar New Year were in January, so not only did we enjoy tasting oat cakes, and looking at Scottish traditional celebrations, but we cast our eyes further overseas to welcome in the year of the Snake - a very prosperous one symbolising reflection, growth, and

personal transformation. This year we shall be taking part in the RSPB Big Schools Birdwatch week commencing February 3rd. Out in the garden the children will get their keen eyes searching for as many birds as they can, and then ticking them off on their checksheets. Our sightings will then be uploaded to the RSPB database. We hope to promote a love of nature, and engagement with its welfare. We've had a little re-think regarding the date of our Wine Tasting night, and we're proposing that instead of February, actually June might be a more preferable month. Sunny days, long balmy evenings, some lovely tipples and munchies, all while raising money for the pre-school - are you in? We'll keep you posted! We break up for half term on Friday the 14th of February, and return on Monday the 24th. If your child is aged 2 and over, and you would like to register them for Pre-School, do please get in touch [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: We are a very friendly WI with members from several neighbouring villages. We are proud to offer a warm welcome and enjoyable gathering each month. At our meetings we offer a diverse range of activities which can include talks, demonstrations, leisure activities and workshops. We head into 2025 with renewed vigour – hopefully – and a go at line dancing! Contact for membership is Jenny Jackson (President) Email skellgilljenny@yahoo.co.uk or telephone [01869 340759](tel:01869340759) Dates for the diary 14/1/25 Speaker from Katherine House Hospice 11/2/25 Line dancing 11/3/25 AGM.

District Councillor: I was relieved when finally OCC Highways managed to clear the mud and debris from Kiddington Road, to reveal the kerbs and hidden drains. It is now much easier and safer for pedestrians, parents with children and dog walkers, to move aside for on-coming traffic. I am going to schedule the drains to be cleared again in my capacity as a volunteer "Super User". I am also going to survey other drains in the village

which appear to be in need of cleaning out. Please let me know of any you know where the water is slow to drain, and I will put them on the list. Hopefully the drainage team might do them all at the same time. I have asked again for an update about the collapsed drainpipe down towards Westcot Barton bridge which is causing water to gush out the gully. Once we have a prolonged dry spell, I am going to do more pothole marking following the recent hard frosts.

Councillor Dave Jackson
skellgilldave@yahoo.co.uk 07407 443944.

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 “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: Services and Special Events
 We celebrate Candlemas on Sunday 2nd February with a service in Westcote Barton at 9.30am with the benefice choir. This will be followed by refreshments. There is also an 11am Eucharist in Over

Worton and Evening Prayer at 5pm in Sandford. On Sunday 9th February, we will welcome a speaker from Dementia Oxfordshire (Duns Tew’s Charity of the Quarter) to the 11am service in Duns Tew. There is also a Coffee Morning on Saturday 1st February 10.30-12.30 in Duns Tew Village Hall supporting the charity. *Readers’ Course* – open to all We’re delighted that on Sunday 16th February, Tish Nicoll will be leading a practical session for those who read, or would like to read, in the churches of this benefice. This will offer helpful hints and tips on voice projection, preparation of a reading, and reading from the lectern (with or without a microphone.) The session will be light-hearted and give constructive feedback. Tish has more than 25 years’ experience of working with people in training for ministry, and well as leading courses for readers in local churches. If you would like to attend, the session will run from 2.15 until 4.30 in St Martin’s church, Sandford St Martin. Please book your place by emailing Jane on clergy.bartonbenefice@gmail.com. *Family@Church* We continue our monthly Family@Church Services with the next one taking place on 23rd February in Duns Tew. The service starts at 9.30am preceded by refreshments and an activity from 9am. The theme for February is stormy weather. 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 5th March. There will be a Eucharist with imposition of ashes in Duns Tew at 12.00pm. We are also 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. All will be on Fridays, beginning on 14th March. Details will be in the March Bulletin and on our website. *Weekly prayers* 12.15 on a Friday Jane or a

member of the Ministry Team will be in one of our churches saying the ‘Prayer During the Day’ service from Common Worship. churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/common-worship/daily-prayer/prayer-during-day (scroll this page to find the Friday service for the Ordinary Time.) You are invited to join them, or forward your prayer requests to them, or to follow the service at home, knowing you are praying together in that way. *Warm hub* The weekly lunches and breakfasts continue: The Wednesday Lunch Club, 12-2pm, Alice Marshall Hall. A two-course meal for £6, open to all. Breakfasts continue Every Saturday: The Destiny Breakfast Café 9.30am-12, Alice Marshall Hall. Stay up to date with news of services and events If you would like to be added to our weekly Notice Sheet email list please send an email to: enquiries.bartonbenefice@outlook.com Details of all services are also on the website, weekly notice sheet and notice boards. Get in touch: If you know of someone who would like a home visit please speak to Jane or your churchwardens. Please note the email addresses ending .org are no longer in use and Jane’s address is as below (her previous outlook address is no longer active.) Rev’d Jane Wright, clergy.bartonbenefice@gmail.com or 01869 340510/07840 319850 Stephanie Lacey: tel 01869 347350 or stephanielacey34@icloud.com For admin enquiries, please email Clare Harper, Benefice Administrator (Thursdays only) enquiries.bartonbenefice@outlook.com facebook.com/bartonbenefice/ www.achurchnearyou.com/benefice/27-556CJ/

Church services February	Westcote Barton	Steeple Barton	Duns Tew	Sandford St Martin	Nether Worton	Over Worton
2 nd	9.30am Eucharist			5pm Evening Prayer		11am Eucharist
9 th		9.30am Eucharist with speaker from Dementia Oxfordshire	11.00am Eucharist			
16 th		5.00pm Evening Service Alice Marshall Hall		11.00am Eucharist	9.30am BCP Holy Communion	
23 rd	5.00pm Evening Prayer	11.00am Eucharist	9.00 for 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