

Bartons and Sandford Bulletin

March 2025

Playground: At the time of writing this item the installation of the playground was nearly complete and the next step will be the safety surfacing. We then need to loosen the top layer of the surrounding ground and plant grass seed. If the seed takes well then it is hoped to open the playground in time for Easter but this will obviously be to an extent dependant on the weather! I would like to thank the following people who all contributed to the dismantling of the old equipment and landscaping the site: Mark Johnson, Brian Crowdy, Albert Beale, Richard Long & Colleagues. I would also like to thank David Morrell for the loan of the excavator. These contributions have saved the BVMHF a significant sum which has enabled the project to go ahead earlier. The next step is phase two which will add four more items if we can raise the necessary funding. Trevor Payne, Charity Secretary.

Good Neighbour Scheme: Do you need help? We have local volunteers that can help you get to medical appointments, collect prescriptions, befriending and assist with small tasks in the home or garden. 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 [07486886971](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: It's March already, and along with it comes the first day of Spring (March 20th). The children did a fantastic job with their bird hunting for Birdwatch week, and now with warmer temperatures being drip fed across the weeks we shall have the children out in the garden even more. They will also be looking out for signs of spring on our outdoor walks - have you spotted snowdrops and crocuses yet? With more of us out and about in the coming weeks, we thought it prudent to learn about road safety, road crossing, and cycling. They can

practice their skills with the lovely Jackie, our local Lollipop lady! We have been delighted to receive some parents as they pop in to host our afternoon story time. The children are really enjoying having a guest doing the reading (especially if it's their Mummy or Daddy!), and the variation adds some extra excitement to the end of the day. Speaking of reading - World Book Day is on the 6th March so we will be celebrating all of the week commencing the 3rd. If your little one has a favourite book, we should love to see them dressed up as their favourite literary heroes and heroines and hear all about it! If you'd like some ideas on how to engage your littles in books, even before they can read, then you could check out the parent resources of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library which is full of tips, activity and colouring sheets, and also a link to a Google drive of additional resources [imaginationlibrary.com/news-resources/parent-resources/](https://www.imaginationlibrary.com/news-resources/parent-resources/). Many thanks to all who attended the Slumber Party run by Emma Bradbury of the Little Limelights Theatre Workshop. It was a brilliantly fun and bouncy evening enjoyed by all. We raised a lovely £262.82, many thanks again. Do let us know if this is something you'd like to see more of! Don't forget Shrove Tuesday - or more fondly known as Pancake Day, on Tuesday 4th March. 40 days of Shrovetide before Easter! This year our Easter event will be held on Sunday 6th April. Keep an eye out for more information coming your way, but you can be sure that our very good friend the Easter Bunny will be hopping by with some treats. Fingers crossed for good weather, we wouldn't want a soggy bunny when he visits! We break up for Easter 4th April at 13:30, and return on Tuesday 22nd April. If your child is aged 2 and over, 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 please visit [middlebartonpreschool.co.uk](https://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. Our programme is being planned ready for our AGM on 11/3/25. Contact for membership is Jenny Jackson (President) skellgilljenny@yahoo.co.uk 01869 340759. Dates for the diary 11/3/25 AGM and Committee selection.

Steeple Barton PC: Notes from the meetings held in January and February. The minutes from the November and December meetings were approved and signed. Donations: The PC received a request from the Playing Fields Committee for funds to assist in the purchase of new equipment for the play area. A donation of £3,440 was approved together with £1,000 from the Destiny Foundation to purchase a Twin Toddler Swing. Drainage and Flood protection: Cllr Tyers recently attended a site meeting with OCC & WODC to look at the hole being eroded on the corner of the footbridge, Mill Lane and the collapsed footpath edge on the Dock. Repairs to the Dock were scheduled for mid- February; we can confirm that all repairs have been completed. The flooding issues in Mill Lane Ford will unfortunately take much longer to solve. The work to the School drain has been delayed until April. Traffic Calming: The SIDS information had been downloaded showing that the average speed through the village was 23.4mph in January and 24.2mph in February. The PC have requested a "Children Playing" sign to put up outside the Social Club. The "School" sign to the East of the School will be repositioned to outside the School grounds. Planning application: 25/00020/HHD - 33 North Street - Erection of a single storey extension. 25/00109/HHD and 25/00110/LBC - Home Farmhouse Steeple Barton, loft conversion, new driveway and parking area. 25/00226/HHD - 74 Holliers Crescent - Erection of two storey and first floor rear extensions. Agendas, Minutes and Reports from the County and District Councillors can be found on the Parish website [steeplebartonparishcouncil.org/](https://www.steeplebartonparishcouncil.org/). DONM: Monday 17th March in the Alice Marshall Hall, 8pm.

District Councillor: On February 6th I organised an in-person meeting for the chairs of our local councils to discuss issues arising from the devastating floods before Christmas. Also present was our county councillor, Andy Graham, who managed to persuade four relevant officers from OCC and one from WODC to attend. I had also invited a representative from Little Tew,

who gave an insight into the flooding issues at the head of the Dorn. The flooding problems were outlined in each parish, and possible measures to alleviate future deluges were discussed. The parish chairs and one of the OCC officers are going to contact all the landowners/householders whose properties are fronting the Dorn, to discuss measures that could be undertaken to try to prevent the catastrophic flooding which happened last year. I have taken advantage of the recent dry spell to mark potholes in Middle Barton, and to schedule the action. There were quite a lot of clusters of smaller ones, which came to a grand total of 110! A couple of residents also mentioned loose kerbstones, so I have done a tour and found 40, which have been marked with a white spot. Let me know of any glaring omissions! I hope to mark the blocked drains in the near future. Councillor Dave Jackson 07407443944skellgilldave@yahoo.co.uk

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”.

Church News: Ash Wednesday is on 5th March this year. Our Benefice Eucharist with imposition of ashes will be in Over Worton at 5pm. We are also running our weekly Lent Lunches followed by a short talk. This year the theme of the talks is famous prayers, their authors and context. The dates for lunches, all on Fridays at 12.30 are: 14th March in Sandford St Martin

Parish Hall; 21st March at Holliers House, Worton Road Middle Barton OX7 7DU; 28th March in Duns Tew Parish Hall; 4th April & 11th April in the Alice Marshall Hall. To help with catering, please book your lunch, at least a few days in advance. Email: stephanielacey34@icloud.com or ring on 01869 347350. Please indicate if you have any special dietary requirements & arrive in time for lunch to be served at 12.30. You are welcome to attend any or all of the lunches. Lent Groups will meet on: 13th March, 27th March and 10th April, all at 6pm. Venues will be on the website, or contact Jane for further information. On Tuesday 18th March there is a Deanery Confirmation Service in Wootton at 6.30pm with Bishop Gavin, at which a candidate from the Bartons is being confirmed. Everyone welcome. A reminder for all those who have signed up, that there is a Benefice outing to Coventry Cathedral on Thursday 20th March, including a guided tour of the cathedral and choral evensong. Contact Chris Drake for any final details goto.christopherdrake@gmail.com Mothering Sunday is 30th March. We celebrate it with a Benefice Service for everyone in Duns Tew at 11am. In March, our family@church service is on 23rd March in Duns Tew. The service starts at 9.30am preceded by refreshments and an activity from 9am. The theme is Planting and pruning. All are welcome whether you have been before or would like to come along to find out more. The Barton Benefice Website has moved! Please note that our website has moved to A Church Near You, the national Church of England’s platform for CofE parishes and benefices. Find us at: achurchnearyou.com/benefice/27-556CJ/ or visit achurchnearyou.com and search for Barton Benefice. There is a Coffee Morning in Duns Tew Village Hall on Saturday 1st

March 10.30-12.30. This is fundraising for the Blooms & Tunes event which returns in May. Weekly prayers at 12.15 on a Friday takes a break from 7th March until Easter as we run our Lent Lunches. *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. *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 please speak to Jane or your churchwardens. Rev’d Jane Wright, clergy.bartonbenefice@gmail.com 01869 340510/07840 319850 Stephanie Lacey: 01869347350 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	Westcote Barton	Steeple Barton	Duns Tew	Sandford St Martin	Nether Worton	Over Worton
2 nd March	9.30am Eucharist			5pm Evening Prayer		11am Eucharist
5 th March Ash Wednesday						5pm with Imposition of Ashes
9 th March		9.30am Eucharist	11am Eucharist			
16 th March		5pm Evening Service Alice Marshall Hall		11.00am Eucharist	9.30am BCP Holy Communion	
23 rd March	5pm Evening Prayer	11am Eucharist	9 for 9.30am family@church			
30 th March Mothering Sunday			10am Said Eucharist 11am Benefice Mothering Sunday Service for all the family			