

Bartons and Sandford Bulletin May 2025

Playground: The grass has grown enough (finally!), the installation has been completed and RoSPA have been. The playground is open again! *Next phase* We are about 30% toward the 2nd phase fundraising target, with the next fundraising event a Kids Skittle Evening complete with prizes, 5pm 24th May. £5 entry including a drink and bag of sweets, hot dogs will be available. *Outdoor Gym* we've started work on the application for a grant to fund outdoor gym equipment for older users (11+) – if you have any suggestions what should be installed/where or would like to help with the application please contact cputtick@gmail.com.

Andrew Henderson: Andrew passed away on the 19th March 2025 after suffering from Parkinsons for twelve and a half years. Ruth, Mark and Kate would like to say thank you for all the messages of sympathy and support received over the last few weeks, this has been really appreciated.

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

Church Survey: It is not too late to send in your opinion of a proposal to install a kitchen area and toilet in Steeple Barton Church. Under the church protocol, the views of the parishioners have to be sought. Please put your reply slip in the box at the shop, or pop in to 8 South Street. The church needs to get as many opinions as possible.

Duns Tew: Duns Tew Church is excited to be hosting their "Blooms and Tunes" flower and music festival on the 17th and 18th May, to raise money for the church and Katharine House Hospice. Beautiful floral arrangements will sit alongside a programme of informal music performances. There will be a different programme of music each day ranging from choirs to wonderful instrumental and vocal soloists, duets and trios. The festival also offers children's activities to enjoy plus a fabulous range of cakes and savoury snacks on the refreshments stall. Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th May - Open from 10:30am -4:30pm Duns Tew Church, OX25 6JP - Adults £5, under 16s free.

Used Postage Stamps: Once again Carol and Kay want to thank all those who have donated their used postage stamps in aid of Katherine House Hospice in Adderbury. Especially C & K would like to thank the persons who handed in very large bags of stamps. Needless to say any amount of stamps however old are desperately need for Katherine House Funds. If you are new

to the village perhaps you might consider saving your used stamps and you can hand them into Diane at Middle Barton Shop in Worton Road. Thanks everyone and keep collecting.

Middle Barton Bowls Club: If you got your Bulletin after 3rd May, we hope you had a great time at our Open Day. If you got your Bulletin before 3rd May - good news! There's still time to come along and have a fantastic time from 2pm-5pm! Our outdoor season is now well under way, our next home matches are on Saturday 10th May, 6.30pm start, and Tuesday 23rd May, 2.30pm start. Do come and watch, there's more to a game than you might think! We also have practice sessions on Wednesday afternoons when you can come along and have go. If you can't make an afternoon but want to have a go, just get in touch! If you have any questions please pop along and speak to one of our members or email secretarymiddlebartonbc@hotmail.com.

Indoor Air Rifle Shooting: Tuesday evenings 7-9pm at the Sports and Social Club. Beginners welcome (14 to 18 years old bring a guardian). Equipment available or bring your own. Admission: £3 donation on arrival. Contact: oxonbelltarget@gmail.com 07776911385

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. To find out more or to request help, call or text us on [07486886971](tel:07486886971) or email us at bartonsgns@gmail.com.

Sandford St Martin: All welcome for a traditional Choral Evensong with visiting choir, Sunday 4th May, 5pm, free, and Open Garden with harp recital, teas and plant sale, at Sandford Park, Saturday 10th May, 2-5pm, entry £5 (under 16s free), proceeds for St Martin's church. Inquiries ssmchurchevents@gmail.com

Pre-School: At Middle Barton Pre-School each day, The little ones laugh as they play, With paint on their nose, And mud in their toes, They learn in a magical way! It's May, and that means that National Limerick Day is upon us (the 12th) and I just couldn't help myself! May, where the countryside surrounding our lovely pre-school is at its most beautiful. The bluebells are out in full glory, and so are our baby chicks! We've had several hatch now in our little incubator, and the children have been rapturously delighted to see them crack their way out of their shells. We've so much to look forward to this month, with Cycle

Tots officially starting with us on Tuesdays, learning all about World Earth Day (22nd), which lands in Walk to School Week (19th-23rd), and perhaps a jingle to a spot of May Dancing. All that, and some minibeast exploration with caterpillars to incubate! Many thanks to all who attended our Easter Disney Disco and Sing-Along! We raised a superb £235, with all of these proceeds going towards helping us to provide high quality early years education for our youngsters. Extra special thanks to the Alice Marshall Hall who generously sponsored the space, and last but not least, to Jonty Hedges, who provided the incredible, superlative live entertainment. It was a truly magical afternoon, and we hope to have him back again in the future. We are sniffing about for new members for our Committee, as we have a few members leaving us at the end of the scholastic year. Having a child at the pre-school is not a prerequisite, you could be a grandparent, or just someone who fancies lending a hand keeping us running. As a registered charity (290217), numbers are vital to keep the committee running, and the pre-school open. If you are interested in joining, then do please come along, and we'll tell you all about it! Save the date! Friday May 16th, we have our Wine Tasting event. A truly decadent way to spend the afternoon fund raising for our exceptional pre-school. All adults welcome, keep an eye out for details. We break up for Half Term on Friday 23rd May at 12:00 noon, and return on Monday the 2nd June. If your child is aged 2 and over, and you would like to register them for Pre-School, do please contact us [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 middlebartonpreschool.co.uk.

WI News: WI Duns Tew & Bartons meet every 2nd Tuesday of the month at Duns Tew Village Hall 7.30pm. New members are needed. Visitors are also welcome. Transport from the Bartons can be arranged. Call 07483892527 for more information.

Steeple Barton PC: Steeple Barton PC: Notes from the meeting held in the Alice Marshall Hall on Monday 14th April. The minutes from the March meeting were approved and signed. *Drainage and Flood protection:* The drain works at the school have commenced with about 85% of the drain being completed so far. There is also an opportunity to obtain more funds for

flood work in the village. *Traffic Calming:* The cost of the Automatic Speed Watch Camera (ASWC) will be shared between OCC, SBPC and the Westcote Parish meeting. Cllr Tyers and Cllr Barry recently met with James Wright, OCC to discuss traffic/driving issues on North Street. The suggestion is to reinstate the centre line, this should give drivers a guide. The SID at Hollier's is showing no increase in speed through the village, this being around 24 mph. Andrew Henderson: The PC would like to offer their sincere condolences to the family of Andrew Henderson who recently passed away. Andrew was a much valued member of the Council and also a School Governor for many years. His knowledge of the village was invaluable and the time he gave to the community was very much appreciated. He will be missed by all. Agendas, Minutes and Reports from the County and District Councillors can be found on the Parish website steeplebartonparishcouncil.org. DONM: Monday 12th May in the Alice Marshall Hall, commencing 7.30pm with the annual Parish meeting followed by the monthly meeting.

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: May is going to be a busy month in the benefice, including special services marking occasions such as V.E. Day and Ascension Day; Choral Evensong with a visiting choir; our Blooms & Tunes

Festival returns to Duns Tew plus open gardens, coffee mornings, cake and plant sales, weddings and baptisms! On Sunday 4th May at 11am there will be a special service in Over Worton church to mark the 80th Anniversary of V.E. Day. At 5pm on the same day, a visiting choir from St Mary's Kidlington & Friends will sing a Choral Evensong in Sandford church at 5pm. Also that afternoon at 3pm, our annual Nones service of Nones takes place in Duns Tew church. Duns Tew's regular Coffee Morning is in the village hall on Saturday 3rd May 10.30-12.30. This will be raising money for Christian Aid. There will also be a speaker from Christian Aid at the 11am Eucharist in Duns Tew on 11th May, and a display of Christian Aid information in Sandford church that weekend too. On Saturday 10th May, Open Gardens in Sandford 2-5pm will be at Sandford Park, raising funds for the church. Please do come along if you can. The entry will be £5 (free for under 16s) and there will be teas and a plant sale plus a harp recital. The following weekend the 17th & 18th May sees the return of the Blooms & Tunes festival in Duns Tew church. There will be flower displays and live music in the church from 10.30-4.30pm on both days. There will also be children's activities and refreshments. The £5 entry fee goes towards funds for the church and Katharine House Hospice. The theme for our Family@Church on 25th May is 'purple.' Come along with children for breakfast and an activity from 9am in Duns Tew church with a service at 9.30am. The annual Barton Abbey Open Garden, Tea and Plant Sale is on Sunday 25th May 2-5pm. The £5 entrance fee goes to the National Garden Scheme and money for teas and plant sales to Steeple Barton church funds. To celebrate Ascension Day on Thursday 29 May there will be a service for the whole of Woodstock Deanery, hosted by St Mary's Steeple Barton. This begins at 11am and

will be followed by a short walk and refreshments. For anyone wishing to do a further walk, a 3 ½ mile circular route has been planned, from church. Weekly prayers at 12.15 on Fridays will resume in Westcote Barton church this month. *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. 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: achurchnearyou.com/benefice/27-556CJ/ or visit achurchnearyou.com and search for Barton Benefice. 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 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	Westcote Barton	Steeple Barton	Duns Tew	Sandford St Martin	Nether Worton	Over Worton
4 th May	9.30am Eucharist		3pm Nones	5pm Choral Evensong with visiting choir		11.00am Service to mark VE Day
11 th May		9.30am Eucharist (said)	11.00am Eucharist (with Christian Aid speaker)			
18 th May		5pm Informal Evening Service Alice Marshall Hall		11.00am Eucharist with baptism	9.30am Eucharist	
25 th May	5pm Evening Prayer	11am Eucharist with baptism	8.20am Said Communion 9 for 9.30am family@church			
Thurs 29 th May Ascension Day		11.00 Eucharist, walk and refreshments				

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