

Bartons and Sandford Bulletin January 2025

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

1st Bartons Scout Group: Beavers and Cubs Christmas Post. The Beavers and the Cubs had a lovely time delivering over 550 cards on our annual "For One Night Only Christmas Post". It is always a very exciting evening for them posting the cards but also looking at the lights so we hope we didn't disturb your evening and that you all got your cards. We wish you all a very Happy New Year.

Good Neighbour Scheme: The majority of requests we get are for help with transport to get to GP or hospital appointments. We have a small group of volunteer drivers who are able to help with the majority of requests but it would be wonderful if we could recruit a few more people. To become a volunteer driver you need to have a clean driving licence, a roadworthy and fully insured vehicle and be able to occasionally spare some time during the week. We carry out a free DBS check for all our volunteers. To find out more contact Louise & Judith on [07486886971](tel:07486886971) or bartonsgns@gmail.com.

Busy Bees: Busy Bees is back on 10th Jan! We can't wait to welcome you back to Middle Barton's fun and friendly term-time playgroup. Join us at Alice Marshall Hall every Friday 9.15am to 11am for just £3 per family. Hot drinks and a natter for the grownups, playtime and a snack for the little ones. To join the WhatsApp group or find out more, contact Michelle [07947 781 003](tel:07947781003).

Pre-School: Yuletide solstice has passed, and the long dark nights are finally ebbing away. Yet, there is still time to demolish one last tin of choccies before the new years resolutions kick in! Here at Pre-School, we had our Christmas Party with lots of singing and mince pies, Christmas baking, and buzzing around the running track in Santa Hats! We hope that you all had plenty of festive joy, and are well rested - Yule need it, for we have heaps of action planned for the new year's term starting on Monday Jan the 6th. We shall be getting out in the garden and preparing it for the forthcoming spring, as well as clocking up some laps round the track (weather permitting). We look forward to hearing from the children all about how you celebrated the festive period, especially as part of our new term's topic, where we shall be admiring what makes us wonderfully different, and what similarities we share together. An enormous thank-you to all who came out to see Santa on the 15th, and donated. We are, as always, incredibly grateful for every penny we receive. This year we raised a whopping a £1,104.31 to go towards resources and activities for the children. If you'd like to keep up with how we're doing towards our '24/'25 fundraising goal, we now have a tracker on

our website! Save the date! On the 31st of Jan, we have an extra special event running for the preschool and reception aged children. From 4:30pm to 6:00pm we invite your little ones to join us for a magical sleepover drama party! Don your cosiest pyjamas, bring your favourite cuddly toy, and get ready for an evening of games, storytelling, and imaginative play. We are extremely lucky to be able to bring you this special event, being run by Emma Bradbury who produces and leads the popular Little Limelights at The Theatre Chipping Norton. Tickets are limited, and can be ordered via our website. Popcorn, cupcakes and hot chocolate will be available for the children, whilst hot drinks, prosecco, and beer will be available to the adults (please make us aware of any dietary requirements via your order form). We can't wait to see you! We also have an event planned for just the grown-ups on Thursday the 13th of Feb. Fancy an evening of Wine Tasting? Then watch this space ;-). 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) 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 info or details, please visit www.middlebartonpreschool.co.uk.

Middle Barton Primary School: What a busy time we have had at Middle Barton School! The term began with a visit from Sean Woodcock who spoke to Oaks class about his role as MP and how that linked to their history topic on Ancient Greece and democracy. Our Year 5 then had the most amazing opportunity to visit the Alpine Formula 1 centre in Enstone. They made the local news! The children took part in a range of STEM activities with a focus on encouraging more females into the industry. They also had the opportunity to be the first ever children to play a new Formula One Minecraft game. The children came away with a goodie bag and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. On a sporting note, a group of children from Key Stage 2 took part in a netball festival at Chipping Norton School. They learnt lots of new skills and showed great determination. Four children from Year 5/6 also took part in a sports hall athletics event where they had to compete in a range of obstacle races. Our Year 5 children were invited to watch Bloxham school's alternation version of Robin Hood, which was performed by their students. The children really enjoyed the performance and were hopefully inspired by some of the fantastic acting! Two of our Year 6 girls have a real passion for wildlife and decided to hold a cake sale to raise money for TiggyWinkles. They raised £125.73

- well done Mollie and Katherine. As a school, we all took part in Children in Need and raised £177.83 for a very worthy cause. Following on from our Sustainability and Eco award, our Eco-committee went to visit Ardley Recycling centre to learn about how the process works and how we can recycle more efficiently at school. We took a team of 4 pupils to part in the annual Literary Quiz at Chipping Norton School. It all came down to a nail biting tie break question between us and Kingham. We came second overall which was a fantastic achievement by the team- well done Roxy, Asher, Billy and Katherine! Then the Christmas festivities began! The whole school took a trip to Chipping Norton Theatre to watch Jack and the Beanstalk- it was thoroughly enjoyed by all! Acorn class performed the most amazing nativity for their parents. Maples, Willows and Oaks sang their hearts out in a performance to parents at Steeple Barton Church. Well done to Isla-Grace who performed two pieces on the keyboards and to all of those that read as part of the performance. The last Wednesday of term was 'Christmas Day' at Middle Barton School where the children took part in a 'Santa run' to raise money for Katherine House Hospice and raised over £130.00 The children ate their delicious Christmas dinner and wore their Christmas outfits! We also had a Christmas song quiz and a brussel sprout challenge! The day was filled with festive fun for all!

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 membership enjoyed a delicious Christmas dinner along with some entertainment from the committee which was received with much laughter. We head into 2025 with renewed vigour - hopefully - and a go at line dancing! Contact for membership is Jenny Jackson (President) skellgilljenny@yahoo.co.uk [01869 340759](tel:01869340759)

Bartons War Memorial Playing Fields: Thank you to everyone that came to our tree lighting ceremony despite the weather. it was sad that the original plans had to be abandoned but the reduced plan B still resulted in a significant turn out, Santa arrived, everyone seemed to be enjoying it and the lights did not blow off the tree. A big thank you is due to Chris Raworth who organised everything. *Playground:* this will be shut for approximately two months from early in Jan to enable site clearance and installation of phase one. Please respect any notices that we put up. Some areas may need to be closed for longer to enable re-seeding.

The zip wire will still be accessible. Donations are still needed and the first £2000 of personal donations in 2025 will be match funded by a local company. If you think that the company you work for might donate to the replacement of the playground, please ask them or send me details of who to contact. I will be very happy to supply details to anyone who is interested in either donating a sum or sponsoring a particular item. AGM of the Bartons Victory Memorial Hall Fund: this will take place at 8pm on Wednesday 29th Jan in the Club. The Officers, Trustees and Management Committee Members of the BVMHF wish everyone a Happy New Year. Trevor Payne, Charity Secretary: bvmhfsec@gmail.com

Steeple Barton PC: Notes from the meeting held in the Alice Marshall Hall on Monday 9th December. There were 12 members of the public in attendance. The minutes from the November meeting were approved and signed. *Donations:* requests were received from the Sports and Social Club for a donation towards the Senior members Christmas party; a donation of £250.00 was approved. The Bartons History group for a donation towards the cost of purchasing acid free storage boxes for archive documents; a donation of £500.00 was approved. Drainage and Flood protection: Following the recent serious floods the PC are arranging a meeting in Jan with OCC and WODC to investigate the issues. The PC are also putting together a file of photographs of the floods, please email any photographs to the Clerk, clerk@steeplebartonpc.co.uk. *Traffic Calming:* The SIDS information had been downloaded showing that the average speed through the village has decreased, but we feel this is more because of the weather conditions rather than drivers taking notice of the 20mph signs. *Planning application:* 24/02901/OUT - Land North off Holliers Crescent – outline planning for up to 80 dwellings – The PC will upload a comment directly on to the planning portal. All residents are reminded to post their own comments by the closing date of 2nd Jan 2025. Residents can ask for any comments posted for the previous application

to be re-uploaded by emailing the office, planning@westoxon.gov.uk. For more information and to view the comments uploaded so far, visit the planning portal publicaccess.westoxon.gov.uk/online-applications/, select 'Current' from the status drop down menu and then 24/02901/OUT in the search box. *Finances:* The PC approved the budget for 2025/26 keeping the precept at the same level as the last four years, £21,560. Agendas, Minutes and Reports from the County and District Councillors can be found on steeplebartonparishcouncil.org/. *DONM:* Monday 20th Jan, Alice Marshall Hall, 8pm.

District Councillor: Nothing in particular to report but I would like to remind residents that the Tuesday bin collection that would normally fall on December 31st will be on Thursday Jan 2nd. This will be the recycling and food waste.

Church News: *Christmas Thanks* As we begin another new year, we're thankful for our communities who come together so wonderfully throughout the festive season. Thanks to all who worked hard preparing the churches -cleaning and decorating, organising refreshments and welcoming those who came to enjoy and take part. Thanks also to all who gave and supported the various charity collections. *Support your local foodbank* A reminder that we continue to support the local foodbank which sees a steady increase in the number of individuals and families (locally) who rely on the food bank week by week. Please continue to help if you can, by leaving a donation of tins/jars/packets of food for the whole family, including pets, in the porch of WB or SB. Thank you. *Search for a Christmas card image for 2025!* If you took any photos at any of the carol services or events over Christmas that might be suitable for our next Christmas card, do please email your images to: enquiries.bartonbenefice@outlook.com by the end of Jan. *Considering Baptism or Confirmation?* If the start of a new year finds you making plans for having your child christened, or, if you have an older child who might be interested in exploring confirmation, please get in touch with Jane.

Classes are beginning in Jan for those wishing to be confirmed in March. The next Family@Church is on 26th Jan in Duns Tew. Come for breakfast and an activity from 9. A family service will follow at 9.30am. The fortnightly Bible Study Group resumes on Thursday 9th Jan at 5pm at the Rectory. Weekly prayers at 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 link to find the Friday service for the Epiphany Season.) You are invited to join them, or to follow the service at home, knowing you are praying together in that way. Everyone is invited to a Deanery Epiphany Carol Service on 12th Jan, 6pm at St Mary Magdalene, Woodstock. Drinks and nibbles will be offered after the service. We celebrate Candlemas on Sunday 2nd Feb with a service in Westcote Barton at 9.30am with the choir. This will be followed by refreshments. *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 email 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 Rev'd Jane Wright, clergy.bartonbenefice@gmail.com or 01869 340510/07840 319850 Stephanie Lacey: tel 01869 347350 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 Martin	St Nether Worton	Over Worton
5 th Jan	9.30am Eucharist			5pm Evening Prayer		11am Eucharist
12 th Jan		9.30am Eucharist	11am Eucharist			
12 th Jan	Extra Service: Epiphany Carols St Mary Magdalene Woodstock 6pm					
19 th Jan		5pm Evening Service Alice Marshall Hall		11am Eucharist	9.30am Eucharist	
26 th Jan	5pm Evening Prayer	11am Eucharist	9 for 9.30am family@church			

I would be grateful if contributions for the February Bulletin could be sent no later than 20th Jan. Thank you. Chris Puttick, cputtick@gmail.com