

Bartons and Sandford Bulletin October 2025

Our Fox: News from our spokesfox: "The Bartons Community Benefit Society Ltd is bidding to reopen the Fox as a community pub early next year. They are running a pop-up Fox event on the Saturday, 25th October 5-10pm in the Alice Marshall Hall. Enjoy a friendly atmosphere, local beer and cider and spooky bingo. Come along to show your support, hear how they are doing this, ask questions and find out how you can help" - Mr Fox.

Used Stamps: A kind reminder from Carol and Kay to save your used postage stamps in aid of Katharine House a Hospice located in Adderbury near Banbury. When you have saved your stamps they can be handed into Diane in our Village shop who will pass them on to C & K who will in turn deposit with K/House for fund raising income. Many thanks to all who do this now and if you have a new neighbour tell them about because the more stamps the more money will go to the Hospice to help in their invaluable work.

Playground: We have exhausted all the currently available sources of grant funding and have only managed to achieve 50% of the target for phase two. The good news is that is nearly enough to fund two big items: the large slide and the toddlers multiplay. The even better news is that the supplier has agreed to increase the discount for these two items so the Committee have placed the order for them. Installation is likely to be at the end of November. We would like to thank Narda Shirley for the donation from the recent Chasleton House bake sale and everyone else that has contributed. The aim is still to expand the playground in the future when funding can be raised.

Playing Fields: the committee's thanks to Richard Johnson and Brian Crowdy for the maintenance work they are doing on the field including repairs to the zip wire and the fence, saving the Fund a significant sum. This year's Christmas Tree Lights Ceremony is Friday 5th December.

Rugby: The Bartons Victory Memorial Hall Fund, aka the playing fields committee, are seeking to install a regulation size set of rugby posts to help local rugby players of all ages to practice their skills. There's still time to donate towards the estimated cost of £2,500, with a local company match funding all donations – double your money! Contact Chris Puttick, cputtick@gmail.com for more information.

Good Neighbour Scheme: 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.

Bowls Club: As you read this, Middle Barton Bowls Club outdoor season has come to an end. We have had a very good year with a number of good wins and just a couple of games cancelled due to heat or rain. We only play friendly matches, nothing too serious, and other clubs always say they like visiting us as we are such a friendly club. We love to visit other clubs too to see their setup and bowl on different greens, it is a brilliant game for making friends and enjoying friendly rivalry. We may have had our AGM by the time you read this, 7.30pm Monday 6th October in the clubhouse (do come along if it's not too late!). We are now going into our winter season where our tables and chairs get stacked up and the Short Mat is rolled out! This is a fun, almost 'miniature' game of bowls, played just amongst members of the club. A fun competition with a winning team awarded certificates at our presentation evening next year. Although a more gentle version of bowls, all the fun is still there – and you can't get wet indoors! If you are interested in joining one of the competition teams please let us know asap as the games start at the end of October. Thursday afternoons, or possibly a Thursday evening if numbers are enough. If you would like to try it just for fun and not to compete, you can do that too of course. Our green might have been 'put to bed' for the winter, but the club certainly hasn't! for more information contact: secretarymiddlebartonbc@hotmail.com.

1st Bartons Scouts: As the summer comes to an end, the Cubs have recently returned from District Camp at Horley. They very much enjoyed a Monopoly weekend, with lots of themed activities, joining in with other Cubs from all over North Oxfordshire. The Beavers have been concentrating on health and fitness and will be getting outside for night hikes during the autumn evenings. Scouts have been doing activities for their World badge and exploring even further afield, finding out about space for their Astronautics badge. Looking ahead to Christmas, Cubs and Beavers will once again be offering to deliver your cards in Middle Barton and Westcote Barton. Post boxes will be going up early in December and emptied out ready for delivery on 15th December. Further details to follow. Group Lead Volunteer: Rachel Lawmon rachel.bartonsscouts@gmail.com

Pre-School: October has tiptoed in with a rustle of leaves, a crunch of conkers, and the

scent of apples in the air. Our little ones have been busy soaking up all that autumn has to offer—whether that's collecting treasures on our Thursday walks, marvelling at shiny conkers, or chatting about the colours of the season while painting and junk-modelling their own autumnal creations. We've also had some unexpected visitors! A curious caterpillar was discovered and swiftly rehoused into our butterfly habitat. The children are eagerly watching to see what transformations might unfold—nature's very own magic show. Inside, the theme of "All About Me" has sparked wonderful conversations about families, birthdays, and the special occasions that make each of us unique. With measuring tapes in hand, the children have also been comparing heights, using their budding mathematical language to spot who's "tall as a scarecrow" and who's "little as a pumpkin." Cycle Tots continues to be a wheelie good adventure—confidence is growing with every push and glide! And in the kitchen, our young chefs are cooking up healthy delights, learning that good food can be both tasty and fuel for all that running, jumping, and giggling. Of course, everything we do is underpinned by our Golden Rules: kind hands, kind feet, good sharing, and good listening. Simple, sparkly truths to help us all get along. And finally... the spookiest, kookiest date for your diaries: our Monster's Ball is Friday 24th October. Expect devilish disco, frightful fun, and just the right amount of Halloween mischief. BUT—here comes the serious bit—we do need more helping hands. Our Committee is very light on numbers this year, and without enough volunteers, events like the Ball simply cannot go ahead. So if you can spare a little time, please do step forward. We'd be monstrously grateful! We break up for half term on Thursday 23rd October, and resume again on Tuesday 4th November *Save the dates* October 24th Monster's Ball, December 14th Santa's Sleigh. If your child is aged 2 or over, and you would like to register them for Pre-School, do please call/email [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 information or details, please visit 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. In July we learnt about some of the history of Middle Barton, there was a lot of

reminiscing! Our thanks go to John, a local resident and member of the MB history group. In August several members visited Cogges farm, our WI summer event, and enjoyed a walkabout and refreshments! We are already planning our very popular Christmas Craft evening, more info to come! Contact for membership is President Ruth Henderson Email dunstewwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk *Dates for the diary* 14/10/25 – Being an Extra on Television – speaker event 11/11/25 – Making sweets for Christmas – craft event Extraordinary events we are planning include theatre trips, skittles and crafting, why not pop along and to one of our monthly meetings – it's a great way of meeting new people, learning new things and making new friends. If you would like to join us and need transport please contact Lynne on 07483892527.

Steeple Barton PC: notes from the meeting held in the Alice Marshall Hall on Monday 15th September. The minutes from the July meeting were approved and signed. *Items discussed:* *Village Matters* ASWC -The Automatic Speed Watch Camera has been purchased. A training session with Westcote Parish meeting will be organised as soon as possible. *Holliers Field planning application* The application is delayed further as the WODC Ecologist has made a further objection. Hallam Land are meeting with the Ecologists to work through all the outstanding issues which would then lead to some additional information, possibly including a revised masterplan. The PC await further information. *Village appraisal* The last village appraisal was in 2019. The PC are considering another appraisal, to consider matters such as housing, traffic issues, flooding and public transport. *Donation request* The PC received a request for a donation of £200.00 from Cotswolds Arts Through Schools who provide arts services to the School. The PC agreed to a donation of £100 and the Destiny Foundation also agreed to donate £100. *Drainage and Flood protection* In July the PC

and the OCC Flood Officer carried out a flood mitigation site visit through Soho Farmhouse down to Sandford St Martin. There was also a representative from the Northeast Cotswold Farmer Cluster, NECFC who provided interesting insights into their work on flood prevention and conservation. More information to follow. *Planning Application* Demolition of existing garages and workshops, erection of a dwelling with associated parking, gardens/cycle and bin storage. No objections from 25/02011/FUL - Land Between 46 And 48 South Street Middle Barton the PC. *Traffic Calming* The SID from outside the old hairdressers has been moved back to Westcote Barton. The SID at the other end of the village had the solar panel disconnected again! *DONM* Monday 20th October in the Alice Marshall Hall, commencing 8.30pm.

Church News: Thank you to everyone who came to our Harvest celebration services and events which took place across our villages and to all those who helped with the services in any way – from decorating the churches to bringing items to donate to our chosen charities. The Steeple Barton Chase is on 5th October this year from 10am. With a choice of a Family Fun Run, a 5K or the main 10k Run. Details and booking: sbchase.uk A challenging and enjoyable course across fields and through woodland in the lovely grounds of Barton Abbey (for walkers or runners!). Enjoy hot and cold refreshments before and after the race. All profits go towards the upkeep of Steeple Barton church. More info: Study Groups continue in October as follows (all at 5.30pm). 8th October (Susan's); 15th (Steph's) and 29th (Rectory). Area Dean, Andrew Bunch will continue his course on Biblical names. All welcome to all sessions or to dip in and out when able to join us. Family@Church is on Sunday 26th October 9.30am in Duns Tew church with breakfast and an activity from 9am. It's Bible Sunday and the theme is God's word. Don't forget the clocks go back today! This year we are

holding our All Souls Service on Sunday 2nd November 3.30pm in Westcote Barton church followed by Afternoon Tea in the Alice Marshall Hall. This is an annual event, to remember loved ones who we have lost, whether recently or a while ago. The service includes music, readings, prayers, and reading the names of those who have died, as we light candles in their memory. Everyone is welcome to attend and please do invite other friends and family members. R.S.V.P. (if possible) by 31st October letting us know how many people will be coming and the name(s) of those you would like to be remembered in the service. Please email Jane: clergy.bartonbenefice@gmail.com or post your reply through the Rectory letterbox. We also look ahead to the Benefice Remembrance Sunday service on 9th November 10.50am in Sandford St Martin church. There is also a Remembrance Service in Duns Tew at 10.50am. Weekly prayers at 12.15pm on Friday continues at Westcote Barton church. *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-12pm, Alice Marshall Hall. *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. To receive the weekly notice sheet, please email Clare Harper or visit the website. Rev'd Jane Wright, clergy.bartonbenefice@gmail.com or 01869 340510/07840 319850 Stephanie Lacey: 01869 347350 or stephanielacey34@icloud.com For admin enquiries, please email Clare Harper, Benefice Administrator (Thursdays only) enquiries.bartonbenefice@outlook.com facebook.com/bartonbenefice/ achurchnearyou.com/barton-benefice

Church services October	Westcote Barton	Steeple Barton	Duns Tew	Sandford St Martin	Nether Worton	Over Worton
5 th	9.30am Eucharist			5pm Evening Prayer		11am Eucharist
12 th		9.30am Eucharist (said with hymns)	11.00am Eucharist			
19 th		5pm Informal Evening Service Alice Marshall Hall		11.00am Eucharist	9.30am Eucharist	
26 th	5pm Evening Prayer	11am Eucharist	8.20am Said Communion 9/9.30am Family@church with breakfast and an activity at 9am			

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