

Bartons and Sandford Bulletin

April 2020

Bartons Good Neighbour Scheme: was set up to provide support and friendship for those feeling lonely or isolated in the community and for those struggling to get somewhere or complete a task at home. Please get in touch with Mary or Louise on 07486886971 or bartonsgns@gmail.com with any requests, including help with small tasks or perhaps a weekly chat over a cup of tea with one of our friendly volunteers. We can also assist with transport to GP and hospital appointments or a trip to the local shops if no friends or family are able to help. Please note, there is a 45p per mile charge for assistance with transport.

Coronavirus: *Steeple Barton PC and Westcote Barton Parish Meeting;* held an emergency meeting on Sunday 15th March to discuss the coronavirus situation. This was followed with a telephone meeting on Monday 16th March with villagers invited to attend. Steeple Barton PC has provided the following note arising from these meetings for general circulation. The PC has set up a WhatsApp group invitation via a posting on Facebook asking people to join as community volunteers who will be on hand to help with day to day requirements. Cards that householders can place in their windows will be available to assist the volunteers in identifying needs. A white card would be used for things like shopping, dog walking and prescription collection. A red card would identify that the household requires assistance. If a card hasn't been seen after 3 visits, the volunteer would knock on the door and standing 2 metres away, would check that all is ok. For shopping, the list and money are given to the volunteer and everything is left on the doorstep. Prescriptions; can be collected and delivered by the volunteers. Deddington Surgery already offer a delivery service.

The PC needs a list of vulnerable people and Cllr Jackson will help with this. 31 volunteers have responded so far which is brilliant. A member of the public who joined the call mentioned that there is a slight concern that people will feel even more vulnerable without personal contact. Kate Carter-Windle confirmed that the volunteers will make contact and times would be agreed beforehand. Telephone numbers and email addresses will be collected. The PC will give out information cards. Kate also confirmed that the local churches are willing to get involved in this too. Another caller suggested that we could all help in the community by being available for chats and the WhatsApp group is a good place to start. We could also investigate online book clubs. The latest Government release confirms that anyone over 70, anyone with chronic illness, respiratory issues and pregnant women need to take extra care and would constitute as a vulnerable person. Information will be published in the Bulletin and posters around the village with contact names and numbers for SBPC and Westcote Barton. Jane Wright, the Rector, will give out Pastoral team numbers.

FOMBS: Please note that because of the coronavirus situation, all Fombs events are postponed until the social distancing advice has been lifted and schools re-open.

Open Garden: Ivor and Barbara Hill will again be opening their garden at The Grove, 81 North Street for charity on 17th May from 1.30 to 5pm; entrance fee £4; children free. Tea, home made cakes and preserves as well as the usual plant stall. Proceeds will go to the National Garden Scheme (Yellow Book) which distributes funds to numerous charities including nursing and cancer organisations. Everyone is welcome but no dogs please. Please note, this is subject to coronavirus restrictions.

Our Library: Our books for young children are now with Busy Bees so the

children can borrow them from Kate Carter-Windle twice a month at the sessions. We are sometimes offered hardback novels and whilst our readers prefer paperbacks, we are now able to take hardbacks for the Oxford Hospitals Charity bookshop at the John Radcliffe. The proceeds are used to buy a vast range of equipment and resources to support patients in hospital. Books may be left at the library and I will pass them on. Many thanks, Alison Umney.

Pre-school: Thanks to everyone who took part in Fitness February to support pre-school. We raised nearly £400 and hope you feel fitter as a result! Well done to Isla-Grace and Gemma who won the competition. Our Easter party for pre-school children and their siblings is cancelled. We are preparing for the May Day Fete on VE weekend in May but obviously await a decision on the VE weekend itself. Pre-school is now closed for the time being although all emails will be monitored if anyone wishes to get in touch. We also need new parent and community committee members from September. Please email middlebartonpreschool@hotmail.co.uk for more information on any of these updates.

Steeple Barton PC: Report of March meeting; in these difficult times, the PC is still working and available through the clerk and Kate Carter-Windle (01869 349854) to keep everyday parish matters running smoothly. *Renault Speed Campaign;* we still await confirmation from Renault on re-running their speed awareness campaign and if it will be ongoing. *Mill Lane Ford;* we will be consulting Highways Dept regarding the state of the road and signs which are littering this area. *Notice Board;* a new Parish notice board is under construction and will replace the old one shortly. *Village Appraisal;* Cllr Rosemont will put another section of the results in the Dorn Free Press and eventually, the articles will be collated into a booklet. *Donations;* to Busy Bees and the refurbishment of the AM Hall were agreed.

Meetings; during these testing times, the council will be having weekly closed meetings and the monthly full Council meeting. Please get in touch with the clerk (clerk@steeplebarton.org.uk) if there is anything you wish us to discuss on your behalf. *Next Meeting;* 20th April, 8pm in the AM Hall - situation permitting.

Tackley Horse Show and Fun Dog Show: Sunday 26th April. This has been cancelled.

Victory Scarecrows: As part of our forthcoming VE Day 75 celebrations, we want to showcase our local talent with a display of scarecrows in the community. A suggested theme is the 1940's or a victory celebration; the more imaginative the better! Please have your scarecrows outside and ready to be seen on the weekend of 2nd /3rd May prior to the 75th Anniversary day on 8th May. Whatever the outcome of the virus situation over the next few weeks, here is the perfect project to keep everyone occupied at home and have something to show at the end.

Women's Institute News: It is with great regret that due to the present virus epidemic, the Committee has decided to cancel all meetings and activities throughout April and May – including the coffee morning scheduled for 4th April. Watch this space for more information.

Roman Catholic Church: *Services:* St Teresa's, Charlbury. Sundays; Mass at 9.15am. Holy Days; Mass at 7.00pm.

Church News: In the second half of March, the situation around coronavirus saw us adjusting our normal routines in ways which would have been unimaginable even a couple of weeks previously. I doubt if any of us have encountered anything quite like it before. Right now, in the church calendar, we should be at the end of of this year's Lent Lunches and study groups. Next on the horizon should be the services and events for Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter – the most important week in our calendar. However, the churches like so many other organisations, will now be cancelling all gatherings planned for the

coming weeks. None of our regular services, midweek events or Easter programme can go ahead. I'm sure some of you will join with services on radio and TV but also, we are planning to produce some of our own materials for people to use at home. So do get in touch if you would like to know more about that. With the exception of Westcote Barton Church, all other church buildings in the benefice will remain open during the day to be used for your own personal space. If there are any practical ways in which the church can be there for you, then please get in touch. Even if it is something as simple as fancying a chat on the phone, then just let us know. Contact details as well as updates are on our website www.bartonbenefice.org.uk or on church notice boards and outside Middle Barton Stores. With all best wishes.

The Revd Jane Wright, Rector.

Telephone; 01869 340510.

email; clergy.bartonbenefice@outlook.com

For general enquiries, please email Clare Harper, Benefice Administrator on enquiries.bartonbenefice@outlook.com.

Website; www.bartonbenefice.org.uk.

May Bulletin: Contact Details: I would be grateful if contributions for inclusion in the May issue of the Bulletin could please be sent to me no later than **Saturday 18th April**. Thank you.

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