

Bartons and Sandford Bulletin

September 2020

Bulletin Production: Welcome back to the Bulletin after an absence of a few months! Firstly, can I apologise for its sudden unexplained disappearance – for reasons which are now of course obvious! The April Bulletin was printed and ready to be distributed but on 23rd March, total lockdown was announced with immediate effect. Clearly, in these circumstances we could not distribute. Extra copies of the April issue were placed in the shop in the hope that some residents might look there. I also sent electronic copies to all our regular contributors (for whom I have email addresses) and invited them if possible to pass copies on to friends in the village (perhaps with an explanation for the disappearance but have no idea whether this had any success. So, again my apologies but hopefully, normal production and distribution can now be resumed. I look forward to receiving your contributions for future issues. Finally, however, can I also apologise if you sent a contribution for inclusion in this issue just before the deadline date of 15th August but your entry does not appear. On 14th August, my computer router failed and I lost all internet access. Entries sent to me just before the deadline will not have been received I am afraid. I expect my internet connection to be resumed on 1st September so hopefully, things are back to normal by the time you read this.

1st Bartons Scout Group: Our AGM will be on Monday 28th September at 7pm. This will use Zoom and we will contact all beaver, cub and scout parents and other adults associated with the group nearer the time with a link to the meeting. If anyone would like to know more, please contact the group scout leader, Anne at anne.scouts2020@gmail.com.

Alice Marshall Hall: The Committee of the Alice Marshall Hall would like to express their deep sadness at the passing of Robin Fleming. The Fleming family, past and present, have been great supporters of 'Alice' and this support has continued during our current refurbishment project. Robin is a

sad loss to our village but will be fondly remembered for his unstinting kindness. Our refurbishment plans are progressing. We had a slight hiccup at the beginning when asbestos was discovered in the ceilings but this problem has now been addressed and we are looking forward to welcoming you back through our doors (when life permits) to enjoy the makeover this well-loved and historic hall deserves.

Bartons Good Neighbour Scheme (GNS): We are a small group of volunteers here to help the elderly and isolated in our community. Coronavirus has meant we are unable to offer help with transport at present but we can help with small outdoor tasks, have a friendly chat over the telephone, collect prescriptions or pick up essential shopping items. We may even be able to help with the odd technical problem! Please contact Mary and Louise if you would like any help or if you are interested to join us as a volunteer on 07486 886971 or email bartonsgns@gmail.com.

District Councillor's Report: In September, there is expected to be a significant government report outlining proposals to change the structure of local government. It is widely anticipated that the plan is to abolish both county and district councils and form a single 'Unitary Authority'. By definition it means all decisions will be taken by a single authority. The downside would be that the Bartons Ward would disappear and the new wards would be larger. I will keep residents informed if I hear more.

Drama Group: Thank you to everyone who supported our production of The Naked Truth which we managed to get on to stage the week before lockdown! We raised a brilliant £500 which was sent to Breast Cancer Research. We look forward to seeing you again in the newly refurbished Alice Marshall Hall as soon as possible.

Duns Tew WI: Whilst the Oxford Federation has been working hard providing

news and on-line courses for members, individual groups like us have been unable to hold meetings due to the Covid19 pandemic. However, on a brighter note and with the situation easing, we are now trying to organise a meeting for 8th September, 7.30pm in the Duns Tew Village Hall. The Committee and the Village Hall are currently working through all the rules and regulations to ensure we abide by social distancing and cleanliness requirements. It will be a challenge and a somewhat different meeting but hopefully give us the opportunity to get together once more which we are keen to do. We pride ourselves on being a friendly and welcoming group so if you are thinking of joining us and have any queries or are a little hesitant, please give me a call; Mary (01869 347021) or email mary.gregory@btinternet.com.

Family Notice: *Robin Fleming;* I would like to thank you all for your many wonderful caring letters and cards which I have received about Robin since his death. I am so touched and grateful for all your infinite kindness and so sorry that I cannot thank you all individually. Your thoughtfulness means so much to me and has helped enormously. Vicky Fleming.

John Barrows Memorial Cricket Match: in aid of the Lawrence Home Nursing Team. Sadly, due to Covid, this has had to be cancelled this year. Watch this space for next year's details.

Local Planning Applications: *Did You Know?* As a local resident, you can register with West Oxfordshire District Council (WODC) to automatically receive e-mailed details of all Planning Applications in your locality. This is part of WODC's Planning Alert Procedure which generates a link to their website and includes the Application Reference Number and details including drawings, Planning Officer's name etc that may be downloaded as well as giving an early opportunity to comment. Contact; <https://www.westoxon.gov.uk/planning-and-building/>. Email; planning@westoxon.gov.uk. Tel; 01993 861000. There is only a 3 week period allowed for comment on Planning

Applications and the present system of stapling a yellow A4 notice at the applicant's address may not even be seen by nearby residents let alone in sufficient time for comment. Registration for this valuable service is therefore very worthwhile and can be made by calling WODC (01993 861000). On line registration is not currently available.

Pre-school: Thanks to all our pre-school families for their understanding during the unsettled times over the past few months. We were glad to welcome back many of the children during the summer term and even managed to produce an end-of-term leavers' assembly with the older children. This was videoed and sent to parents. September will see Pre-school open as usual (following all the guidelines issued by Government and Early Years). We look forward to welcoming several new children and their families. If you have a 2 year old child and would like to register them for pre-school, please email middlebartonpreschool@hotmail.co.uk for a registration form. We are still looking for parents and community members to join the pre-school committee. We cannot continue without a committee so it is imperative we find new members. Please email pre-school if you would like to assist. Finally, we wish all our leavers the very best as they settle in to primary school in September. We will miss them all and would like to thank all their families for their support over the years. **Steeple Barton PC:** *Telephone meeting held 20th July.* Cllrs Hudspeth, Jackson and Henderson did not attend. *Matters arising:* Cllr Rosemont will chase up the date for the traffic survey to begin to tell us the amount of traffic through the village with reference to the traffic calming strategies. The Mullin Museum has now received full approval. Donations to Steeple Barton and Westcote Churches have been made to assist during the Covid crisis. It was suggested that the defibrillator should be moved from outside the Am Hall to a new location during the hall refurbishment. A new mirror and post are to be erected at the bottom of South Street. The school Governors were pleased to report that the headmistress was delighted and proud to be working in our community and how many comments she had received on the way the staff had gone above and beyond in their efforts to ensure the education and

wellbeing of the children. This was upheld. A tea time club has now started as well as the extremely successful breakfast club. *Bartons Memorial Playing Fields Committee;* announced that the playing fields have been inspected and the zip wire is undergoing repair. To raise funds for the Playing Fields Charity, they will be running the Cherwell lottery in the village. For every £1 paid in, the playing Fields will receive 50p; prizes are from £100 to £25,000. Information on how to play will be posted through every door. *Next Meeting;* will be held on 21st September at 8pm; either by phone or in the newly refurbished AM Hall.

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

Church News: Over the past few months, we have held a weekly Sunday service on Zoom which has proved popular and will continue at 9.30 every Sunday. Login is from 9.20; for the link, please email dunstewpcc@gmail.com. It is now permitted to hold services in our churches again. We follow all guidelines including social distancing, wearing face coverings, giving 'track and trace' details and no singing. It is difficult to plan too far ahead but regular updates about services are on our website, Facebook page and church notice boards. We also send out a weekly Notice Sheet; if you would like to receive this, please email enquiries.bartonbenefice@outlook.com. All our churches can be used for private prayer. Some are open frequently, others can be visited by arrangement as follows. Steeple Barton - open Mondays and Fridays 10am-5pm. Westcote Barton - locked; for access, contact Kate Carter-Windle (07775 750903). Sandford St Martin - locked; for access, contact Luke Ponsonby (07739 462075). Over Worton - not locked. Nether Worton - not locked (recent building work completed). Duns Tew - locked; for access, contact Clare Burgess (01869 347382). *Ride and Stride:* an annual sponsored cycle ride or walk organised by the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust, Saturday 12th September 10am to 6pm. If you would like to join a group cycling between local churches (max 10-18km), or if you would like to sponsor the cyclists and walkers, please ring Carol (01869 340319). All churches taking part

will be following Covid19 guidelines. Further information at <https://ohct.org.uk/ride-and-stride/>. Half the proceeds raised will go to OCHT and the other half to local churches. *Steeple Barton Chuchyard;* end of season tidy up, Saturday 26th September, 10am-12.30. Many people appreciate this beautiful place when walking through or sitting in its peaceful surroundings. If you would like to lend a hand with the tidy up, we will be delighted to see you; bringing your own secateurs, rake, shears etc will be a big help! For more information call David or Ann (01869 347547). *Weekly Bible Study;* every Tuesday 8pm on Zoom. If you would like to join these informal meetings, open to all, please contact Maria on m.coonick@btinternet.com. *Foodbank Boxes:* All our villages have been wonderfully caring during the pandemic showing a community spirit which is second to none and have also become increasingly aware of difficulties being experienced by individuals and families across the Chipping Norton area. Foodbank boxes are in the porches of Westcote and Steeple Barton churches and we would welcome donations of non-perishable food. If you would like to support this work financially, please contact Susan Small (01869 340455) for more information. Rev'd Jane Wright. For general enquiries, please email Clare Harper, Benefice Administrator on enquiries.bartonbenefice@outlook.com Website; www.bartonbenefice.org/uk. Facebook; facebook.com/bartonbenefice/.

October Bulletin: I would be grateful if contributions for inclusion (I hope!) in the October issue could please be sent to me **no later than Saturday 19th September**. Thank you.

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