

Bartons and Sandford Bulletin

October 2020

1st Barton Scout Group; Needs You! Many people have said they would like to do more volunteering – now is your chance. For many years, we have been a flourishing group providing excellent scouting opportunities for boys and girls. However, we have had a few leaders and adult volunteers leave and we really do need people to help so that we can continue. We need adults to join as regular helpers or even leaders (try as a regular volunteer first if you are not sure) especially with the Beavers sections (ages 6-8) and Cubs (8-10½). You do not need any experience and any training you need will be available as will the full support of the Group. It is great fun and provides our youngsters with experiences they will appreciate for a long time. It has been noticeable how much the children have missed scouting during lockdown so it would be a terrible shame if we could not continue for many years to come. Please contact Anne, Group Scout Leader on anne.scouts2020@gmail.com

Bartons Good Neighbour Scheme: 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 phone, 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.

Financial Help: A fund has been set up with grants from WODC and OCC (administered by the Citizens Advice Bureau) to give assistance to anyone over 18 who is in financial difficulties due to Covid19. Help could be offered to buy food and essential supplies like toiletries as well as topping up meters and phones or help pay for essential travel costs. Citizens Advice will check on individuals eligibility for help. Contact them on 01993 892057; email info@citizensadvicewestoxon.org.uk

If you need more information, please contact Councillor Dave Jackson; 07407 443944; email skellgilldave@yahoo.co.uk

Food Parcels: We can provide a food parcel from the Salvation Army to anyone in the community who has insufficient funds to buy food in these unprecedented times. It will be completely confidential and there is absolutely no shame in requesting one – this situation can affect anyone. If we can help, please telephone Marj or Edward (01869 347293).

Friends of the Oxfordshire Museum: Join the Friends Open Zoom talk on Wednesday October 7th at 7.30pm and hear about Treasure Hunting in Oxfordshire and beyond. Dr Edward Caswell of the Portable Antiquities Scheme will talk about the scheme and its finds collected from metal detectorists and others. This is an open zoom talk available to anyone. Please email David Wharton at contact@FriendsOfTom.org.uk for a free visitor invitation to the talk or more information. As a former History Group committee member, David thinks the talk should be of local interest to the villages.

Katherine House Hospice: Carol and Kay Stewart are collecting used postage stamps to raise funds for the Hospice in Adderbury. Your donations can be left at Middle Barton shop please.

Our Bus Bartons: has resumed a limited service – subject to Government restrictions. OurBus is operating within the Covid19 guidelines with all passengers and drivers required to wear masks at all times. Masks are available for those who may have forgotten their own! Hand sanitiser is available for the use of all passengers and the capacity of the bus has been reduced to ensure social distancing rules are being adhered to. Not all services are running at this stage; for example, routes 1,2 & 5A will not run at all and other services have time alterations so please check with the new timetable, now widely available and on our website. To make certain of a place on the bus, we are asking people to reserve in advance if possible by calling either 01869 340635 or 3471988.

For general enquiries please contact 01869 699699 or visit www.ourbusbartons.org.uk We look forward to welcoming you on the bus again.

Our Library: is still operating with 'self service'. There are sheets to record details of books borrowed and we have provided hand sanitiser for your use. We are continuing to add and replace books. Please leave returned books on the table and we will deal with them. Diane has very kindly said that books may be borrowed at anytime during shop opening hours and we are very grateful to her for this flexibility and her ongoing support. If the door is locked, just ask at the till. Happy reading!

Pre-school: The children are all settling into the 'new normal' and we welcome all our new families. The main topic this term is 'All About Me'. During the holidays, we had the exterior of the building and fences painted so all now looks very smart. In September, we held our AGM and a new committee was formed. We welcome our new committee and would like to say a big thank you to the outgoing one for everything they have done for us. At pre-school, we are very aware of the need to care for our environment and work hard to minimise our use of plastic packaging – including in the children's lunchboxes! We have finished the display the children started last year; thanks to all those who collected them for the display but the staff never want to see another plastic bottle top!! We still have places available for children from the age of 2. Please email us on middlebartonpreschool@hotmail.co.uk for more details.

Speedwatch: The Bartons and Sandford St Martin are fortunate to have been gifted our own radar equipment giving us the capability to effect speed reduction within the 30mph limits of our villages. During lockdown, we were unable to use our Speedwatch equipment but we now have the opportunity to deploy it so we are again appealing for additional volunteers to be added to our list of trained volunteers. Using the equipment is simple

but requires three people in attendance at each outing if we are to report observations to Thames Valley Police. You will see the equipment out and about in the coming weeks and we would be delighted if you would speak to us or contact Brian McKeown (07766 004577), email brian.j.mckeown@gmail.com Please do consider contributing to making the villages safer for everyone, particularly our children, when crossing the busy roads that bisect the villages. The more volunteers we have, the more visible we become and the greater the impact we will have on traffic calming.

Steeple Barton PC: Report of meeting held on 21st September – a telephone conference due to Covid. We welcomed Stephen Saunders as a new member of the PC. *Parking*; this is becoming an issue in parts of the village and we urge people to be courteous and neighbourly when parking. We would also remind you that there is plenty of parking at the S&SC when visiting the shop or friends in that area. Carrying on from this and thinking of the environment, if your journey is short - **walk!** Taking the children to school, going to the shop – make it part of your daily exercise regime; help to keep roads clear and do your bit to save the planet. *The Bartons Volunteer Group*; is still running during this very uncertain time; if you need help, they are there for you (see Good Neighbour Scheme above for more details). *Disposable Face Masks*; these are being discarded and left for others to pick up. Do not drop them; take them home and dispose of in the appropriate manner. *Dog Poo*; here we are again! Pick up after your dog! *Speedwatch*; this group is continuing to monitor the speed of vehicles through the village (see separate item above for more details) and we are still pushing forward with our traffic calming requirements; sadly, these things take time as the wheels seem to turn very slowly but we are continuing on your behalf and doing our utmost to get this done. *Lollipop Lady*; it has been noted that many children are not using the crossing at Mill Lane which is there for you and primarily, your child's safety. The lollipop lady is there for you; please use the crossing. *Councillor for Youth*; Cllr Bruce Norgrove has been appointed to this post and will be looking

for ways to support the youth and young adults in our Parish. *Next Meeting*; will be on 19th October, 8pm at the AM Hall – Covid permitting. If not, it will be a telephone conference.

Women's Institute: the first piece of good news was that we were able to hold our September meeting. Not all members felt comfortable enough to return but a reasonable number arrived to a very relaxed evening observing all the Covid19 guidelines. After a small amount of business to keep members up to date, we were able to just chat and exchange thoughts, ideas and experiences throughout this very strange period in our lives. But the following day, it was announced that restrictions were returning limiting social gatherings to just 6 individuals. At present the guidelines are somewhat confusing but we are trying to work our way through the paperwork so no news as to when we can hold our next meeting but we will continue working towards this end. For more information or any queries, please call Mary; 01869 347021, email mary.gregory@btinternet.com

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

Church News: *Services and Events*; September has seen a number of our regular events take place among them two harvest festivals - one outside the church in Over Worton and one inside at Steeple Barton. Our thanks to all who contributed gifts to benefit Polly's work and the food banks. We also took part in the annual sponsored Ride and Stride so thanks to all participants and volunteers involved. Steeple Barton churchyard tidy-up was at the end of September. A big thank you to all those who came and helped. Thanks also to everyone who has continued to support our churches while services are less frequent either through regular donations or the giving link on www.bartonbenefice.org/uk. Thankfully, worship inside our buildings continues even since the recent changes to rules on gatherings. We ask that you let us know beforehand if you plan to attend services, either on Sundays or other occasions on; services@bartonbenefice.org.uk or by ringing one of your churchwardens; this is

because social distancing determines the size of the congregation we can have. However, guidelines are changing all the time so please keep an eye out for updates on our website, Facebook page and notice boards. **October Services**; are planned as follows; 4th October 11am Westcote Barton. 11th October 11am Duns Tew – Eucharist. 18th October 11am Over Worton. 25th October 11am Sandford St Martin. Our weekly service on Zoom continues at 9.30 each Sunday. Log in is from 9.20. For the link, please email dunstewpcc@gmail.com. Looking ahead, we have our *Annual All Souls Service* on Monday 2nd November in Steeple Barton Church at 3pm. We will remember loved ones who have died so please contact us now if you wish to add any names to those being read out at this service or to tell us if you plan to attend. For more information, email Clare; enquiries.bartonbenefice@outlook.com or ring Jane. This year's Remembrance Sunday on 8th November will, Covid permitting, be an open air service at the Memorial Garden at the Bartons Victory Memorial Hall. We send out a weekly Notice Sheet by email from our churches. If you would like to receive this, please let us know by contacting the Enquiries address as below. With all best wishes; Rev'd Jane Wright, Rector. Tel; 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 Facebook; facebook.com/bartonbenefice/

November Bulletin: I would be grateful if contributions for inclusion in the November Bulletin could please be sent to me **no later than Saturday 17th October**. Thank you.

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Tel; 01869 347641. email; blmid@freeuk.com

