

Bartons and Sandford Bulletin

December 2020

Bartons Good Neighbour Scheme

(GNS): We are a small group of volunteers here to help people in need in our community, especially the elderly and isolated. Covid-19 has meant we are unable to offer help with transport at present but we can help with collecting prescriptions, picking up essential shopping items or simply a friendly chat over the phone. We can also help with dog walking if you are self isolating. Please contact the GNS coordinators, Mary Thompson and Louise Caldwell on our dedicated number 07486 886971 or email us at bartonsgns@gmail.com.

District Councillor Report: I have volunteered to assist WODC officials by offering to phone local residents who are classified as "Clinically Extremely Vulnerable". This is to check that they have the services needed to cope with the lockdown situation. From November 16th, businesses have been able to apply for a 'Support Grant' if they have been affected by the lockdown measures. Phone 01993 861616 for more details. WODC are responsible for distributing funds and helpful advice for residents struggling with the coronavirus pandemic. This includes financial support if you have to self isolate, food shortages through unemployment, fuel poverty and welfare concerns through loneliness and isolation. If you need help, please get in touch with me in confidence; 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 village who has insufficient funds to buy food in these unprecedented times. It will be completely confidential and there is no shame in requesting one – this situation can affect anyone. If we can help, please telephone Marj or Edward (01869 347293) or text 07849375166.

John Barrows Memorial Cricket Match: in aid of the Lawrence Home Nursing Team. Sunday 5th September 2021 – Covid permitting!

Pre-school: The children have been making the most of the dry weather with lots of outside play. The main topics this term will be Remembrance Day, Fairy Stories and Christmas. Thank you to everyone who took part in our Jacket Potato Night on 7th November in support of pre-school. We raised over £750 and hope you enjoyed the tasty food. *Date for the Diary;* Santa's Sleigh on 13th December between 5-7pm. Keep your eyes peeled for more information on the Advent Adventure Trail; 24 houses will be decorated throughout the village with prizes to be won. *100 Club;* if you would like to join, please contact pre-school for a form – only £1 per month and each number gives you a chance to win £10 in the monthly draw and a Christmas treat of £50 in December. If you have a 2 year old child and would like to register them for pre-school, email middlebartonpreschool@hotmail.co.uk for more details.

Speedwatch: Sessions were suspended at the beginning of November after we managed a few prior to lockdown. During November, we have tried to enlist more volunteers to help when things get back to normal. The aim is to try and establish a Speedwatch session each day of the week at different times and locations. Therefore residents who have free time during the day will be particularly welcome. Each session requires three people and the training is quite straightforward. Contact me, Dave Jackson, if you are interested – details above.

Steeple Barton PC: *PC meeting held on 16th November, virtually due to Covid restrictions;* A planning issue was raised by a member of the public regarding a reapplication of building plans. Cllr Rosemont (Planning) confirmed that it is up to the planning representative to make sure that any contentious applications are brought to committee at WODC Planning. The PC is only a consultee and does not have any decision making power. Anyone having concerns over a planning issue should

forward their comments to WODC Planning website. Please watch your speed not only through the village but all the way to the Holt; the speed signs and limits are there for your safety. Teenagers waiting for the school bus are asked to observe the rules on social distancing; this is for your safety and the safety of your family. District Councillor Jackson said that from 16th November, any business can apply for a grant during the second wave of Covid. Also people having difficulties at this time should go to Middle Barton's Facebook page; please District Councillors report earlier in this Bulletin for more details. Our wonderful volunteers are still here for you too; please see Bartons GNS entry above. *Bowls Club;* it was mentioned that the Club needs more members so budding bowlers, sign up now. *Remembrance Day;* although not what we are used to, the service was a splendid success with lots of you watching the live streaming. A big thank you from the organisers of the Barton's Memorial Committee. *Christmas in the Bartons;* the Christmas tree will be lit on Saturday 28th November with a solo performance by Lynda Webb and the tree being blessed by Jane Wright. The event will be streamed live on Middle Barton's Locals site at 6pm. There will be lots going on through December to make this Christmas in a very special way, the very best. Pre-school will hold a window decoration walkabout with the children; watch out for more information. Father Christmas will still be coming round and the Sports and Social Club will also join in the festivities. Westcote Barton church will have an outdoor first – a Pantanivity – which will bring not only the meaning of Christmas to you all but with a twist and the opportunity to give to Polly who at this time of year (and indeed all year) helps the homeless and needy in Banbury. Christmas is a time of giving so if you can on Sunday 20th December at 3pm, come and see us and bring your Polly Box. Children can come dressed up – shepherd or fairy – all are welcome! Watch out for posters. Westcote Barton Church will also be

selling Memory Stars. More information on the local and the Barton Benefice sites. Steeple Barton PC wishes you all a very Merry Christmas. Let's light up the Bartons for Christmas but remember, face, hands, space, stay safe. Our next meeting will be on Monday 21st December at 8pm, held virtually.

Women's Institute: Here we are fast approaching Christmas with still no immediate end in sight to this pandemic which would allow our little group to meet once again face to face. However, that's the gloomy news but now a little glimmer of light at the end of this long tunnel with the recent announcements that a vaccine is definitely on the horizon. This positive news raised my spirits considerably and I am pleased to say that we as a group are still very much alive. The Committee is busy making plans for next year and our Programme Planner is working hard to finalise speakers interspersed with other activities to provide an interesting and varied calendar. In the meantime, if you would like more information or have any queries, please contact me, Mary, 01869 347021 or 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: Advent and Christmas are going to look a little different this year. While we're definitely going to celebrate 'this most wonderful time of the year', we're also aware things may need to change nearer the time. So here are our plans but please keep checking our website and Facebook page for the updated details as well as local notice boards. *Christmas Events and Services;* Our usual 9.30am Zoom services will continue every Sunday with the exception of 20th December. For login details, please email dunstewpcc@gmail.com. 28th November; livestream of Middle Barton Christmas Tree switch on and blessing (watch on MB Locals Facebook rather than attending in person). 6th December; 3.30pm outdoor Christingle, Sandford St Martin. Please bring a torch and an unwrapped Christmas present to go under the Christmas Tree. These will be given children at The Sunshine Centre in Banbury and our collection shared between The Sunshine

Centre and The Children's Society. *Duns Tew Christmas Lights;* from 7th December, when you are passing through Duns Tew, please stop to admire our church lighting courtesy of Tony Simpson, Lighting Designer and White Light Ltd. *Westcote Barton Outdoor Nativity;* 20th December 3-5pm. For all ages, Covid safe. This is instead of the Christmas Eve Crib Service this year. Look out for the posters with details or contact Kate Carter-Windle (01869 349854). 20th December; Benefice Lessons and Carols, 6pm on Zoom. We're not permitted to sing in church at the moment but we'd love you to join in from home. Members of our Benefice Choir will lead the singing. Contact dunstewpcc@gmail.com for the link or ring 01869 347350. *Christmas Eve Services;* Sandford St Martin 6.30pm, Westcote Barton and Duns Tew 11.30pm. *Christmas Day Services;* Steeple Barton 9.30am, Over Worton 11.00am. 27th December; 11am, Duns Tew informal service. 31st December; 5pm New Year's Eve Service on Zoom and in Westcote Barton Church. *Important information about attending services in church;* Due to the limited capacity of buildings while distancing rules are in place, please let us know if you would like to attend services by the afternoon before, preferably by email to services@bartonbenefice.org.uk or you can phone 01869 347350. We will only get back to you if the church has already reached full capacity and cannot accommodate any more safely. Thank you for wearing a face covering and maintaining social distancing at all services. *Choirs;* if you enjoy singing, why not join one or both of our benefice choirs? One more informal in style, the other more traditional church music. For further information, contact choir@bartonbenefice.org.uk or ring Frances on 07880 518744 or Clare on 01869 347382. *Foodbank Collections;* at Steeple Barton and Westcote Barton Churches. We continue to help people in the Chipping Norton area by collecting non-perishable food items. For anyone wishing to donate money, details are on the website or from Susan on 01869 340455. Recently, we received a letter which said "Please can you pass on our thanks – we currently have a greatly increased need for supplies. On behalf of the Foodbank team,

thank you all so much for what you have given." *Christmas cards/calendars:* We have a selection of cards on sale again this year. For Duns Tew, contact dunstewpcc@gmail.com or see <https://dunstew.com/church/> or phone Carol on 01869 340632. For Westcote Barton, contact Carol Lister 01869 340319 or buy from Middle Barton Stores. *Reverse Advent Calendar Boxes:* We are once again gathering supplies for homeless and vulnerable people in Banbury who are helped by Polly. Throughout December, please consider collecting suitable items for people living in one council room or sleeping rough. From sweets/chocolates, tins of soup to toiletries, gloves etc. Please take your bags/boxes to Clare Burgess, 5 Hill Farm Lane, Duns Tew, OX25 6JH by 22 December or drop in at the Rectory, Westcote Barton. Ring 01869 347382 for more information. *Thank You;* Finally, a huge thank you to everyone who helps plan, run and attend all the events and services held throughout the year and particularly over this busy festive season. With all good wishes and every blessing for Christmas and the New Year. 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/.

I would be grateful if contributions for inclusion in the January 2021 Bulletin could please be sent to me **no later than Saturday 19th December**. Thank you.

Bill Lawrie; New Grove, 83 North Street, Middle Barton. Tel; 01869 347641. email; blmid@freeuk.com.

And finally, despite the very difficult times we are all going through at present, the Bulletin team would like to wish everyone a Very Happy Christmas.

