December 2012

Hands on News

The **FREE** newspaper for Barton produced by Barton residents and community workers

BARTON BASH 2012 – Oh what a Day!

THIS year's Barton Bash was a huge success and gave local people the chance to try therapies and treatments as well as enjoy performances from local groups.

Sue Holden said: "We had a fantastic day. Our Grand Opening was carried out by Chris Gerkin, President of Barton Community Association and Dorothy Pearce who, at 96, is our oldest member. We were lucky enough to have our very own Town Crier for the day who did a fabulous job letting everyone know what was going on."

Among the highlights of the day were performances from The Bayards Hill Children's Choir and Messy Jam Street Dance. There were also therapies, and children's activities as well as a raffle.

Sue added: "The day was filled with fun, information, food and feel good therapies and treatments with plenty on offer for everyone. We would like to offer special thanks to our sponsors Barton Oxford LL P, Oxford City Council, Greensquare and SOHA Housing as well as significant donations received from Oxford Bus Company, Oxford United Football Club, Oxford Playhouse, BMW, McDonalds and our very own Ali from Barton Chippy. Just as important is the support and help received from a small core group of dedicated volunteers and staff who give their time freely"

"We would like to encourage local people to use the event to showcase and promote their skills as well as those who would like to offer the time needed for the preparation and delivery on the day."





BELOW: Dorothy Pearce and Chris Gerkin open the Bash.





VOLUNTEER CRÈCHE WORKERS WANTED

Do you want to help your local community and learn new skills? Barton Community Association is working in partnership with the Cooperative to develop crèche provision for residents who are doing courses. We need volunteers to help this happen.

Interested? Please contact Alan Foulkes on 07772466041 or email alan@bartoncommunityassociation.com

Bayards Hill Art Competition

"What do you like about living in Barton"

BUDDING Barton artists were invited to take part in the annual art competition and create works of art that illustrate what they like about living in Barton.

Sue Holden said: "Again this year we asked the children of Bayards Hill to enter our annual art competition that coincides with the Barton Bash. We asked them to illustrate what they liked about living in Barton and the subject really allowed their imaginations to run freely."

Entries included pictures of weddings, football matches, childrens` homes and gardens, family and friends, the youth club and everything in between.

Sue added: "The standards were so very high this year and the judges struggled to make choices. Prizes were awarded to each year group at the school assembly after the Bash."

For anyone whose child enjoys art, there is a free art and crafts club that meets each week, term time only, at the Neighbourhood Centre between 3.45 and 5.00pm for children aged 6 – 13 years of age.

A group of children who currently attend the club were successful in applying for funding to buy IPads so that they can explore the world of graphic design.

For further information please contact Sue Holden on 07866460446

Saturday Morning Cake Baking Workshop

A CAKE baking workshop will be held in February, organised by Free Cakes for Kids. If you and your children want to be involved please give Sue Holden a ring on 07866460446. All ingredients and equipment are provided – you just need to turn up, and what you cook you get to eat!

BARTON DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Your concerns put to the developers

HANDS ON NEWS has interviewed Paul Comerford, planning consultant and acting spokesman to the partnership of Oxford City Council and their chosen development partner Grosvenor, to find out more about the details of the plans for the new housing development.

Paul gives an update of the plans and responds to some questions and concerns from local residents. ***See Page 4 for details.***

News from St Mary's

St Mary's Church Hall nears the end of its days

BY REV'D MAGGIE THORNE

SADLY, our church hall is in a very poor state. Over the summer we have taken advice from a number of diocesan experts and have had condition surveys resulting in our undertaking essential repair work.

This is very temporary and not a solution to the problem, rather a necessity in order to keep the hall safe for those community groups who currently use it as well as the church members themselves.

The hall has been given a terminal prognosis of two – four years and it is with great sadness that the Parochial Church Council has agreed to close it, although the timing of this is uncertain and dependant on balancing the cost of repairs with potential income.

We sincerely hope that the closing date will be June 2014, giving us time to make the church itself into a community hub until the parish can afford a new hall. With inevitable changes in mind, we have compiled a statement of needs that we feel are necessary in order to fulfil the emerging vision of our church building for the future.

For community use, these include a flexible church interior and folding/stacking chairs, as well as building a defined entrance, toilets (including an 'accessible' toilet), and a kitchen and storage space. None of this will come cheaply, and we realise that the whole project may take many years to complete.However, we all hope that change will be gradual and affordable and that a sense of excitement and ownership will prevail.

It may be that the next generation will be the ones to raise a new hall, but it is up to us, with God's help, to create a platform for them from which to do so.

We will be doing all that we can in order to raise funds and ask that the community, which we serve, help us in any way that it's able to. Fifty-four years ago, the residents of Barton sponsored the church a shilling a brick and look what was achieved, but unfortunately, bricks cost a lot more these days! Do watch out for our fund raising events, and come along and give us a helping hand.

Our next event, the Christmas Fayre, is on Saturday 1 December, 10.00am–1.00pm,and is set to be a memorable occasion with Christmas crafts, games, tombola, raffle, mulled wine and mince pies.

In October, we launched our 200 Club. For just £12 as an annual subscription, there is a chance to win up to £50 every month. There is still plenty of space for more people to join the club. The more that join, the more the winnings and the odds are much better than the National Lottery! The winner is drawn on our Bingo night, always the 2nd Saturday of the month (not August) and always looking to attract new friends along.

If none of these appeal to you, then please consider even a one-off gift to us, so that you can be part of making the links between St Mary's and the community even stronger. How about £10 a brick? If you are a tax payer, then you could gift aid your donation to us, making it go even further.

Dates for your diaries

- Eucharist each Sunday at 10.00pm
- Sunday 2 December: 10am Christingle Service 4p.m. Advent Carol Service, featuring the Sine Nomine Singers
- Sunday 16 December: the Bishop of Oxford will be preaching and leading our worship at 10.00 a.m.
- Saturday 22 December: Messy Church (Christmas activities and short crib service). Time to be announced.
- Sunday 23 December: 6p.m. Christmas Carol Service
- Christmas Eve: 11.00p.m Midnight Mass
- Christmas Day: 10.00 a.m. Family Service

For further details of all spiritual and social activities at St. Mary's, contact 761886. We look forward to welcoming you into your church community.



Confused over benefit changes?

Barton Advice Centre can help you through

THE Government is introducing a major change to the whole benefit system that will affect millions of people, including many people locally.

Hands on News talked to Suzy Drohan, Joint Manager of Barton Advice Centre and Oxfordshire Welfare Rights which are based in Barton Neighbourhood Centre. Barton Advice Centre offers advice to people in Barton, including benefits advice, debt advice and can sign-post people onto other specialist agencies that can help. Oxfordshire Welfare Rights provides specialist benefits advice, including supporting appeals against benefit decisions. They are an independent organisation. There will be major welfare reforms including:

- The abolition of disability living allowance (DLA) which will be replaced by Personal Independence Payment (PIP).
- Universal Credit replacing most working age benefits including Job Seekers' Allowance (JSA) and Employment Support Allowance (ESA), and willalso include Working Tax Credit (WTC) and Child Tax Credit (CTC). Housing benefit to pay rent will also be paid within the Universal Credit payment.
- A change in the amount of housing benefit that will be paid to some households. All the above will begin in 2013.

Suzy said: "Some of these changes are quite complicated and will affect each household differently. The details of all these changes are not available yet. Barton Advice Centre is committed to give the best possible advice to the community."

If you are worried about how these changes may affect you and your family please get in touch with Barton Advice Centre on 744152, or come to the Drop In which is on Mondays and Thursdays 10am to 1pm.

Oxford City Council and the Low Carbon Hub launch Warming Barton

OXFORD City Council and the Low Carbon Hub launched a new Community Green Deal pilot scheme, Warming Barton, to improve the energy efficiency of local homes at the Barton Bash.

The Low Carbon Hub is working in partnership with local community groups, Low Carbon Barton and the Barton Community Association, to offer local residents energy surveys on their homes. The Hub is championing a community-based, bottom-up approach to energy efficiency in households. They want the Community Green Deal to be led by community groups with the local knowledge and networks to make the project succeed.

For those who sign up to the scheme, the Low Carbon Hub will give householders a free energy survey and report, including an Energy Performance Certificate, worth £100, to pinpoint energy- and money-saving improvements for their homes. This could be straightforward advice on using heating systems and thermostats to save energy or bigger whole-house improvements, like roof and wall insulation, to warm homes and reduce bills. Householders will then have a detailed report of how to improve the energy-efficiency of their home and what measures will be available under the Green Deal and other incentives.

Households can sign up to install energy-saving home improvements, like roof and wall insulation, energy-efficient boilers and solar water heating, through the Energy Saving Co-operative. If there is a good response to the scheme, the Energy Saving Co-operative will be able to get these improvements funded, or part-funded, by new Government initiatives.

The Community Green Deal pilot scheme will help Barton householders warm their homes cheaply and easily.

Local councillor Van Coulter said: "This scheme is a fantastic opportunity for residents in Barton to understand how to improve the energy efficiency of their homes and take advantage of the Green Deal when it is launched."

Barbara Hammond, Director of the Low Carbon Hub added: "The Green Deal is billed to be the largest scheme of its kind which looks at tackling energy-efficiency and fuel poverty. The Low Carbon Hub is delighted to be running a pilot Green Deal scheme in Barton with local groups. The aim is to make local homes warmer, more comfortable to live in, cheaper to run, and more environmentally friendly at the least cost to householders. If successful, we hope to roll out this scheme to householders all over Oxford."

Ewan Jones, Chief Executive of the Energy Saving Co-operative said: "We are delighted to be partnering with Oxford City Council and the Low Carbon Hub to bring the Community Green Deal to Barton residents. Local organisations are best placed by far to understand and act on energy saving needs of local residents. "

Residents can contact the Low Carbon Hub on 01865 246099 or go to the website http://www.lowcarbonhub.org and fill in a form

ZOOLAB

What an experience!

BARTON'S Neighbourhood Centre held its first ever Zoolab in November for three to six-year-olds. The theme was Halloween and the children were encouraged to interact with the animals and insects, except the Tarantula! by touching and feeling them. There was the opportunity to learn some amazing facts about the various animals and even the adults who stayed with their children were intrigued.

The next Zoo Lab experience will take place on Wednesday 19 December at 4pm at the Neighbourhood Centre. This time the theme will be the nativity story with more new animals and insects to learn about.

This is a free event and there are still a few spare places. If you would like your child to attend then please call 07866460446 to book a place. Younger children are allowed to come along providing they are with an adult.

YOUR LOCAL COUNCILLORS

Your local councillors are here to represent your concerns. Contact details for Barton councillors are:

Roz Smith: 01865 750731 / 07584 257156
Mike Rowley: 07510 099028
Van Coulter: 07910 817313
Liz Brighouse: 01865 766995

The Hands on News Team

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Hands on News is funded by The Doris Field Trust, OCHA and BCA

iPads for Art!

Barton After School Art Club win funding for I Pads

BY PIPPA GWILLIAM



LEFT TO RIGHT: Patricia Goncalves, Ashley Bourton and Sophie Gee

CLOSE your eyes and make a wish. That's what the members of the Barton Neighbourhood Centre Art Club did, and look what they got!Actually it took a lot more than just wishing. Hard work, inspiration, cooperation and good presentation went into the realisation of this particular dream.

The enterprising youngsters applied to Oxford County Council's Positive Activities Fund when they came up with the idea that iPads could enhance their art club activities. Though they use lots of other materials, such as foam, cardboard and tissue paper to create their art, they wanted to add the apps and programmes that come with the Apple device to the mix.

Team presenter Sophie Gee said: "I wanted to explore the world of unicorns and fairies and myths and legends" and she was positive that the iPad would help her to do this better. But iPad apps are not just an easy ride. Ashley Bourton, leader of the team that pitched for them, said: "It's about learning new things and skills you didn't know before." Fellow team member Patricia Goncalves added: "You can get this app that tells you how to draw a proper face and a proper butterfly and a proper cup and it also tells you how to do 3D shapes. I got on to the face apps and now I know how to draw a face properly on paper." The children have an eye to the future too, intending to use the iPads to practise their skills and perhaps become artists when they are older.

To get theiPads the club had to come up with some persuasive arguments and then learn them by heart. Then the presentation team took turns to speak in front of the panel.

They thought hard about everything to do with the bid, so they also asked for screen protectors and cases to protect their new technology, and ink cartridges so they can print out their drawings, make professional-looking cards and lots of other things.

The Positive Activities Fund exists to make grants to young people from Oxfordshire. Presentations are made to a specially-trained panel of their peers, who carefully discuss the proposition before making up their minds.

It teaches responsibility to both groups, whether on how to make a good case or how to weigh up the pros and cons. It is open to any group or individual who has a burning need for funding to help with projects, ideas and equipment.

For details go to www.oxme.info/funding

Meanwhile thanks to Ashley, Sophie and Patricia, and the other members of the presentation team, the club has two fantastic devices on which to have fun, create new art, learn and hone new skills and look to the future. A fantastic achievement!

YOUTH PROVISION TIMETABLE
FROM SEPTEMBER 2012

Sunday		
Baptist Church	Sunday @ 5	St.Mary's
Monday		
Early Intervention	Desk work	Noon – 3.00
Yoga	Main hall	6.00 – 7.00
Thrive/BCP	Junior session (8 – 13 yrs)	4.00 – 6.00
Tuesday		
Early Intervention/BCA	HipHop/Gymnastics	4.00 – 6.00
Early Intervention	Juniors (8 – 13 yrs)	6.00 – 8.00
Wednesday		
Early Intervention	Girls Group	6.00 – 8.00
Phil Patrick	Karate (Sports Hall)	6.00 – 8.30
Thursday		
Messy Jam	Sports Hall	4.00 – 6.00
Early Intervention	Senior session (13yrs +)	6.3 0 – 9.00
Friday		
Early Intervention/BCA	Hip Hop/Gymnastics	5.00 – 7.00
Saturday		
Phil Patrick	Karate	9.30 – 1.00
Oxford Bible Church	Sports Crew (alt Sats)	12.00 – 2.30

The Tooth Bus pulls into Barton

7 to 12 January 2013

'It's been too long since I seen a dentist. I wouldn't know what to expect!'

'I really must get round to having a check up!'

IT'S A BIT of a hassle getting the whole family to the dentist in one go!

If some or all of these thoughts apply and you have not seen a dentist in the past two years then make a date in your new year's diary to visit the Tooth Bus.

The Tooth Bus is a mobile dental clinic, offering free and friendly dental health check ups, advice and details of where to register locally.

It will be parked in Barton the week beginning 7 January 2013, Mon–Wed, near Barton's Neighhourhood Centre, and from Thursday to Saturday at the Roundabout Childrens Centre.

Winchester based Iosis Dental Clinics Ltd has been commissioned by Oxfordshire PCT to provide this service. Nicky Wadely, NHS Oxfordshire's lead on dentistry, said: "We're really excited about this initiative and hope that people across the county take up the opportunity of a free dental check if they've not seen a dentist for two years or more. Dental health is incredibly important; every year millions of people experience unnecessary discomfort, distress and even depression because of health problems with their teeth, gums and mouth."

People wanting to use the service should visit www.toothbus.co.uk to find a full list of locations for where the bus is visiting, or call 0844 880 5331

Flavour of the month!



Dinner is served by Jade

OVER 100 diners enjoyed a four course meal created, prepared and served by a dedicated team of young people from Barton.

Innovista's Thrive Team in Barton worked with around 25 young people from the estate over the months leading up to the dinner on their Allotment Project, growing vegetables, creating different types of burgers, and making their own flavour of ice cream. The project finished with the dinner which was a great opportunity to publicly celebrate their achievements.

Judy Elliott, Thrive: Barton Team Leader said, "Well done to all the young people involved who were absolutely brilliant in making sure a great night was had. They put so much work in as a team to raise just over £5,000 which will be used for the benefit of the young people of Barton. Well done especially to Mark, Lauren and Jess for winning their awards for Community Leadership, Generous Giving and Goal Achievement respectively."

You can see photos from the Allotment Dinner on the Thrive Facebook page at www.facebook.com/thriveteams

THE NEW BARTON DEVELOPMENT
Your questions put to the developers

Barton Leisure Centre member wins £1,000

SEVERINE Gregory-Smith a member of Barton Leisure Centre has won £1,000 in a national Get Active competition run by Fusion Lifestyle, operators of Oxford City Leisure Centres.

The competition was run through the summer to encourage people to keep active. Users of all Fusion Lifestyles 68 leisure facilities could register to take part in the campaign.

After swimming through the summer and completing her Get Active card Severine was drawn as the winner in September.

An excited Severine said: "When I received the call I thought it would be something to do with my membership. I was shocked when I found out I won £1000, I had to ask if they had the right person.



David Hunt with prize winner Severine Gregory-Smith

I really wasn't expecting it. I have never won anything before."

David Hunt, General Manager of Barton Leisure Centre who presented Severine with the cheque, said: " It was great that one of our members won this national prize, Severine swims a lot here in the pool and she tells me her husband will now be joining the gym."

Severine is going to donate ten percent of her winnings to her local church and use the rest towards a deposit for a new flat.

BY PIPPA GWILLIAM

AS MANY residents will know there are advanced plans to build a new estate next to Barton down towards Northway. Many residents have questions and concerns about the development and how it will affect existing Barton. Recent research carried out by Barton Community Association highlighted specific concerns.

Hands on News met with Paul Comerford, planning consultant and acting spokesman to the partnership of Oxford City Council and their chosen development partner Grosvenor, to put these concerns to him.



The Illustrative master plan

HON: *Thank you Paul for meeting us. First of all it would be good to clarify what decisions have been taken so far about the details of the development.*

How many homes are planned to be built and what kind of mix of different housing will there be?

P.C: Our initial plans have had to be modified due to changing circumstances, such as less support for the 40 mile an hour speed limit on the ring road. The plans that we presented to the community most recently envisage between 800 and 900 homes built, 25 percent of which will be one or two bedroom apartments, and 75 percent which will be family houses. The lower density family housing will be closer to Barton, and the higher density housing will be towards the A40 junction on the opposite side of the road from Northway.

HON: *There has been talk of a hotel being built. Is this true and how would this impact on the number of homes being built?*

P.C: Yes a hotel is a possibility, but we have not signed up a hotel operator yet. A hotel could be built above the proposed supermarket which will be situated near the A40 junction. Another option is to build between 40 and 50 flats instead, but a hotel could provide work and training opportunities and maybe other facilities.

HON: *What size would the supermarket be?*

P.C: It would be a mid-size supermarket approximately the size of the Tesco on Cowley Road.

HON: *Have you any details about the nature of the school which will be provided.*

P.C: It will be a normal primary school.

HON: *A significant number of residents have expressed concern about increased traffic, especially on Stowford and Fettiplace roads. How would you answer these concerns?*

P.C: We have proposed a new junction onto the A40, so Barton residents will have another option to access the ring road. We are also working in partnership with the County Council and looking at how the Green Road roundabout can be improved for those using the Barton exit.

Buses will serve the new estate, and we are in discussion with the bus operators. The number 8 bus could service the homes so people will be able to get the bus to the new supermarket and will not have to drive. With between 800 and 900 new homes it is estimated that there will be two or three cars per minute on Fettiplace Road at peak times. A new road will go through the middle of the site to the A40 junction from Fettiplace Road. There will be a 20 mile an hour speed limit and the road will be designed to discourage driving at a higher speed.

HON: *Another major concern of residents is the potential loss of green space. Many people are against the development of Barton Nature Park. The City Council suggested that it needed to be built on to help join the new and old estates, but this is clearly not the case. Are there still plans to build on it?*

P.C: Yes, the masterplan proposes that around 25 homes are built on the site.

HON: *Many people will be disappointed to hear that. What measures will be taken to preserve other green space? Also what plans are there to conserve habitat for wild life?*

P.C: We are taking a number of measures to ensure that green spaces are not lost. This includes the creation of a new park along the brook. The unused allotments will be brought back into community use. There are plans to keep some of the best existing hedgerows, trees and drainage channels; housing near Barton will be lower density and as many trees as possible will be kept. Natural England and ecologists are consulted to help maintain wildlife habitats.

HON: *How will the new estate be integrated with Barton? There are concerns that there will be two different communities? Might Barton residents have some priority in being rehoused on the new estate?*

P.C: We are having a dialogue with the City Council to explore the possibility that Barton residents could have priority regarding rehousing. There will be a community hub at the school and that along with the current Neighbourhood Centre will service the whole community. The Pavilion will be replaced by a permanent building for the whole community.

HON: *There have been questions asked about who will own the landat the Pavilion and school once the development has been built? Also how long may the building take?*

P.C: The site is now owned by the Partnership of Oxford City Council and Grosvenor. Land ownership after the development has been completed, aside from land for homes, has not been finalised. The land at the Pavilion could be a Community Development Trust. The building of the whole community will probably take between five and eight years.

HON: *Crossing the A40 is a big issue. How do you see this being resolved?*

P.C: We have proposed a land crossing at the Northway junction where the buses could go over to Northway. We are exploring a bridge or subway crossing at Stoke Place, but these may not be possible (a subway is likely to be very expensive, and a bridge technically difficult). We still prefer a land crossing at Stoke Place but realise that this might not be approved by the Inspector. We also want to improve existing subways.



Paul Comerford with Hands on News' Pippa Gwilliam

If you have any questions about or concerns about the development please contact us at Hands on News and we will put these on to the developers.

Further information about the proposed new development at Barton can be found at: www.Bartonoxford.org.uk

Pippa Gwilliam and Alan Foulkes



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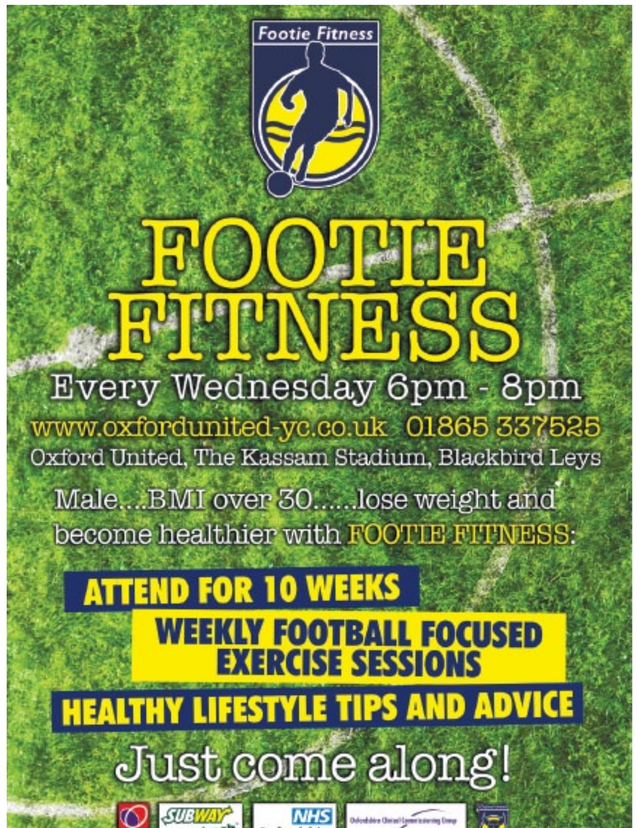
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Book with confidence – Barton residents` testimonials available upon request

Barton Leisure Centre

The perfect place to relax, have fun and to work out

- *State of the art Gym*
- *Swimming Pool*
- *Adult & Children's Swimming Lessons*
- *Group Exercise Classes*
- *Children's Parties*
- *Able Tennis*

We have varied memberships tailored to suit all your needs. Have you used Barton Leisure Centre before, why not call us on 0844 8933 222 or pop in and we can show you around.

Christmas Opening Hours:
24 December, 8am to 3.30pm
25 & 26 December, CLOSED
27– 30 December, 10am to 5pm
31 December, 9am to 3pm
01 January, CLOSED
02 January, Normal opening hours

Hip Hop and Gymnastics

Classes twice weekly at Barton Neighbourhood Centre (Sports Hall)

Tuesdays
4.00 – 5.00 pm Gymnastics and 5.00 – 6.00 pm Hip Hop

Fridays
5.00 – 6.00 pm Gymnastics and 6.00 – 7.00 pm Hip Hop

Suitable for ages 6 – 12 years old
Cost is just £1 per day – not per session
so all four sessions for just £2 per week

Why not come along and give it a try –
good way to exercise without even realising it!

For further details please call Sue Holden on 07866460446

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Thinking of New Year Resolutions?

JANUARY 2013-Henry is back at the Roundabout Centre! Children's Centre Worker Hayley Langford and Health Visitor Liz Marshall are running a HENRY course at the Roundabout Children's Centre on Friday afternoons, starting on 18th January. HENRY is an eight week course for parents and carers of children under five.

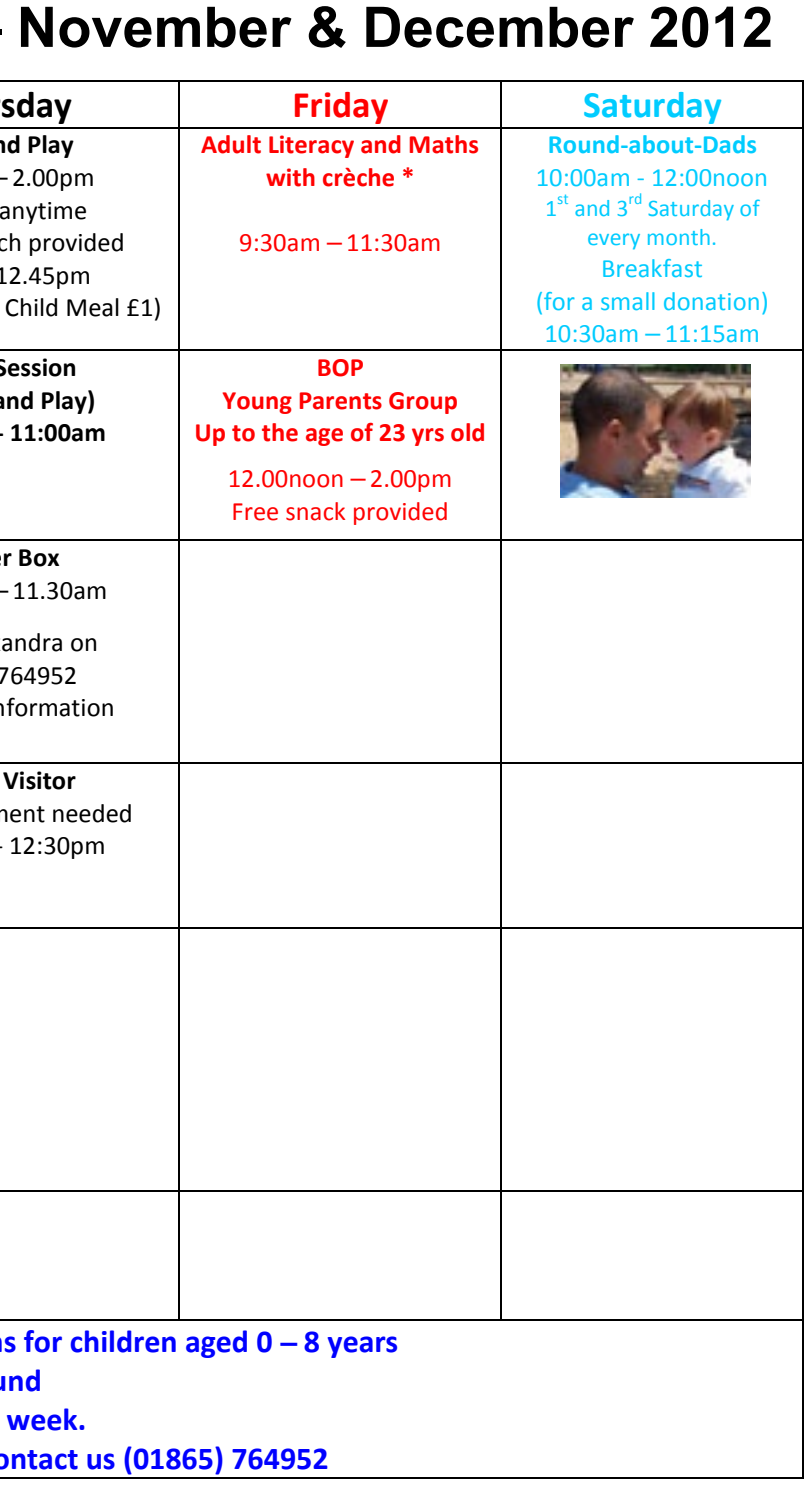
The course is fun and informal, exploring together what makes a healthy family lifestyle, and getting support to deal with some of the challenges along the way.

HENRY helps by bringing together three important elements: Firstly, information about food and activity, helping the whole family to have a healthier lifestyle
Secondly, there is support for parents and carers, with help to develop confidence and skills to give your children a good start in life.

Lastly, changing old habits-practical tips to help you make the changes YOU think will help YOUR family.

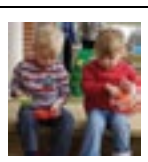
Free lunch and crèche provided.

For further information or to book your place, please contact Liz Marshall or Hayley Langford at the Roundabout Centre on 01865764952 or 07818402719



THE ROUNDABOUT CENTRE TIMETABLE – November & December 2012

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Parenting Group With Crèche Start Date: 1/10/2012 9.30am - 11.30am	**Stay and Play** ** At Barton Neighbourhood Centre Health Visitor present 1st Tuesday of every month 09.30am – 11.30am)	**All About Babies** (For parents & babies under 1 year & for expectant parents too) 10.30am – 12.00 noon Drop in anytime	**Stay and Play** 9.15am – 2.00pm Drop in anytime Cooked lunch provided 12.00 – 12.45pm (Adult Meal £2 Child Meal £1)	**Adult Literacy and Maths with crèche *** 9:30am – 11:30am	**Round-about-Dads** 10:00am - 12:00noon 1st and 3rd Saturday of every month. Breakfast (for a small donation) 10:30am – 11:15am
Stay and Play 12.00noon – 2.45pm Drop in anytime Lunch available 12.00 – 12.45pm (Adult Meal £2 Child Meal £1)	**Level 1 Childcare with Crèche** 09.30am – 11.30am For more information ring Hayley 01865 764952	**Ante Natal Breastfeeding Session** 10:00am - 11:15am 1st Wednesday of each month	**Music Session (in Stay and Play) 10:30am - 11:00am**	**BOP Young Parents Group Up to the age of 23 yrs old** 12.00noon – 2.00pm Free snack provided	
Mobile Library 9.25am-10.05am Every other Monday	**First Aid Course with Crèche** 12.30pm – 2.30pm BOOKING ESSENTIAL For more information ring Hayley 01865 764952	**Midwife (by appointment)** 11:00am - 12:00noon	**Glitter Box** 10.00am – 11.30am Ring Alexandra on 01865 764952 for more information		
	Stay and Play **At Bayards Hill Primary School** 3.00pm – 4.15pm Term Time Only	**Baby Café** 11:30am - 1:30pm Supporting breast feeding mothers	**Health Visitor** No appointment needed 11:30am - 12:30pm		
		**Cooked lunch Provided 12.00noon – 12.45pm** (Adult meal £2, Child Meal £1) **Baby Massage** 12.30pm – 1.30pm Babies & parents together For more information talk to a member of staff			
		Now We're 1 1.00pm – 2.30pm One year olds and families			



The Roundabout Centre Day Nursery – offers a wide range of sessions for children aged 0 – 8 years
Monday to Friday 8am to 6pm all year round
Free Sessions for 3 & 4 year olds – 15 hours a week.
For more information and a guide to fees and sessions please contact us (01865) 764952

Ruskin rises in Headington

New Ruskin College buildings officially opened: Barton singers star!

STUDENTS and staff at Ruskin College were excited about unveiling their new and superbly redeveloped premises to the public at Ruskin Hall, Old Headington, in an all-day grand opening.

There was a creative full programme of events throughout the day followed by a gala evening of celebration which included an excellent performance from Barton Sings, a choir from Barton.

The open day gave the opportunity to see and hear something about the subjects taught at Ruskin as well as enjoying the atmosphere surrounding the restored walled garden, and a brand new three-storey mosaic, made at Workers' Educational Association (WEA) classes which took place in Barton and other locations.

Principal of Ruskin, Professor Audrey Mullender, said: 'We were so proud to be able to invite everyone to our re-launched college. People came to see what we are able to offer learners and maybe will return as learners themselves."

The physical move from Walton Street to Old Headington took place at the end of September before the students returned for the new academic year, and is part of a £17m redevelopment programme to make the Ruskin's facilities fit for the 21st century.

The college now enjoys a new academic building incorporating an expanded library, named after former Prime Minister James Callaghan, as well as new classrooms, seminar rooms, offices and a cafeteria that will be open to the public.

Cliff Thomas, Regional Director of Leadbitter's Central Construction division, who built the new college premises said: "We're delighted to have completed this first-class education facility for Ruskin College and to see it in use by the College's students and educators.

"This stunning new academic building blends well with its surroundings, and we hope it will be an attractive and versatile addition to the college for years to come."

Ruskin's notable alumni include former Labour Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott, Rodney Bickerstaffe, Norman Willis and Labour MP Dennis Skinner.

Ruskin College is known as a second chance adult education college that specialises in providing return to learn opportunities for adults with few or no qualifications. Ruskin welcomes students who not only want to develop themselves but also want to put something back into society. Ruskin has deep-rooted historical links, nationally and internationally, with the Labour and trade union movement.

The College is also now almost on Barton's doorstep and offers great opportunities for local people to take up learning and follow their aspirations.



Photo by Stuart Maidment

For full details about Ruskin College please visit: www.ruskin.ac.uk or call 01865 759600. Ruskin Hall is at Dunstan Road, Old Headington, Oxford OX3 9BZ.

Courses in Barton

Barton is a great place for learning

Courses confirmed for December/January

THERE will be a range of courses, which will be mostly free, taking place in Barton from January. Those courses that are already confirmed are:

- **Free first aid course.**

The Red Cross are offering a free half day course at Barton Neighbourhood Centre from 10am to 1.30pm on Wednesday 5 December. This course will cover emergency life support.

To book a place please contact Alan Foulkes at Barton Community Association on 07772466041 or email: alan@bartoncommunityassociation.com

- **Improve your reading, writing course/improve your maths.**

These courses are for all those who want to improve their reading or writing or maths. The courses are at the Roundabout Centre. They are run by Ruskin College and run each Friday in term time, from 9.30am to 11.30am.

They are free to all and a crèche is provided. For more details and to book your place please contact Hayley. langford@oxfordshire.gov.uk at the Roundabout Centre or Alan Foulkes at Barton Community Association on mobile :077724660341, email:alan@ bartoncommunity association.com

- **An English course for those who English is not their first language (ESOL).**

There is a free weekly class at Barton Neighbourhood Centre provided by EMBS.

The class is on Wednesdays from 10am to 12pm. For more details and to book your place please contact Alan Foulkes at Barton Community Association on (*contact details above*).

There will be other courses starting in February which may include IT/ Computer training, gardening, hairdressing/health and beauty and community journalism.

For more details contact Alan Foulkes at Barton Community Association (contact details above).

Summer Activities for the under 8s

PLANNING has already started for next year`s summer holiday activities.

The events that were intended for the under 8s this year were not particularly well attended.

So to make sure appropriate play is provided next year get in touch and let the Community Association know what your young children enjoy doing, and what you would like to see provided during next year`s summer school holidays.

Sue Holden, Barton Community Association.
Tel: 761987

Activities at Barton Pavilion

COME along to the Pavilion on the above day. Events planned so far include:

- **Sunday 2 December 2012**
  Barton United Xmas Bazaar 2–4.30pm
  Cake Sale, Tombola, Used Clothes Stall, Book Stall, Face Painting and more.

- **Monday 31 December**
  New Years Eve Party at the Pavilion
  Please note that this event is only open to Phoenix Sports Association (PSA) members. If you wish to become a member of the Phoenix Sports Association, please see Ray May at the Pavilion on a Friday evening to complete membership paperwork. Entry will also be by ticket (£5 for a family ticket (2 adults+2 children), £2 adult ticket/£1 child ticket).
  Any queries please see Ray May



BARTON CHRISTMAS WONDERLAND IS BACK

After a successful event last Christmas attended by hundreds of residents Santa and co are coming back!

THE CHRISTMAS Wonderland and Santa is back again in Barton this year by popular demand with lots of fun and activities but this year very different and even better than before! On Sunday 16 December Barton Neighbourhood Centre will open at 5 pm as a Victorian Christmas Market in the era of Charles Dickens! What was it like in Victorian times with characters like David Copperfield, Oliver Twist, Ebenezer Scrooge and villains such as Fagan with his young workers picking a pocket or two and how might they have been dressed?

Dan Farly said: "Can you imagine a busy Christmas market in Victorian days with street traders selling home made goods; all the fun of the fair, games and jugglers, the noise, smells, hustle and bustle, flower sellers, animals, raffles and prizes, street entertainers, the side shows, dance and songs, Christmas carols?"

Charles Dickens is a rags to riches story of a life growing up in such a society and with orphaned and starving children, abusive schoolmasters, murderers, crooks and those who exploited others. He survived the dangerous streets as a child born in poverty through his determination to feed and educate himself and became one of the greatest writers of his generation. Dan added: "He died in 1870 and was laid to rest in Poet's Corner at Westminster Abbey. Charles Dickens was a real person with a true story for Christmas. At this time of the year we also remember another special person Jesus who was born poor in a dirty old stable but grew up helping others to have a better life and a hope for the future. Everyone regardless of their background is born with the potential to become successful in their life and to bring hope and a secure future to the lives of others.

"We need volunteers urgently to help in re-creating this Victorian Christmas market scene as it might have been in the life time of Charles Dickens. Do you have artistic talents, creative skills or some time, tools and energy for DIY jobs? Could you be a Street Trader, flower seller or sell hot chestnuts and make some honest cash for Christmas (no picking a pocket or two allowed!)? Could you help in promoting this event in your schools and the homes in Barton? Can you encourage your family and friends to dress up in Victorian clothes or as Charles Dickens characters?"

This is Barton Community at its best working together to make this event successful and celebrating Christmas with lots of fun for family and friends, with prizes to win, Christmas presents to buy and…you might even be a winner for the Victorian dressing up competition regardless of your age!

Barton Christmas Wonderland Needs You Now!

Volunteer group: Call Dan Farley on 07876 543431 or email: info@bartonjobclub.org.uk
Street Traders: £5 a stall and keep the profits! Call Safia Baker on 07967 967081

Big coffee morning BIG SUCCESS!



Safia Baker and other residents celebrate the coffee morning's success.

RESIDENTS organised a fundraising coffee morning which took place at St Mary's Church Hall. Over 150 people came to the event which included a raffle, tombola and cake sale. Over £400 was raised for the Macmillan Trust. The main event organiser Safia Baker commented that it was a fantastic success. Zoe Morton, a local resident who attended the event said, "It brought everybody together. It was good to see that support. All different generations came as well."

