Hands on News

March 2012

Newsletter for Barton produced by Barton residents and community workers

Oxford City Council Plans for Barton West approved Barton Nature Park to go?



Local residents enjoying the Nature Park in February, but for how much longer?

OXFORD City Councillors approved the proposed plan to build around 900 houses west of Barton in December. The plans include the provision of a new road junction onto the ring road, footpaths over the ring road to Headington, and a bus link with Northway.

The playing pitches off Barton Village Road are likely to be turned round, and some housing built alongside. Other recreational green space under the proposal will be lost as will unused allotments and the Barton Nature Park. New shops, a school and some community facilities will be provided in the new development.

Green space in the new development will mainly be restricted to a linear park alongside Bayswater Brook. The plans also include introducing a 40 miles an hour speed limit to the ring road which will allow the Council to build closer to the road. Trees alongside the ring road will also be removed as the Council believes the trees will cut off the new estate from the rest of Oxford.

There is a one more chance for the public to comment on these plans.
See Page 2 for details.

St Mary's Book Group

WANT to try something different? Want to read fascinating and astonishing works of literature? Then why not join St Mary's Book Group. It's open to everyone and free to join.

Our next meeting is at 7.30pm on Thursday 29 March. The book chosen by the group is Anne Bronte's The Tenant of Wildfell Hall - which was a phenomenal, but controversial success at the time, and a book which Charlotte Bronte prevented from being republished. As well as discussing the book we usually enjoy some light refreshment and discusswhich book to read next. Meetings are approximately every six weeks. If you're interested please give Dan Gee a ring on 07540 780290.

Barton Post Office

THE situation with the Post Office has not yet been resolved. The sudden closure of the facility was a shock to the community, and it's much missed in Barton. The Post Office website is advertising for a suitable person to undertake the venture in new premises, once they can be agreed on.

If you think this might be the career for you, or just want to find out what's involved, please call the Post Office spokesman Alan Ridoutt on 07850 246979 and have a chat. You can also find details at http://tinyurl.com/6vgo7f9

The Hands on News Team

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THIRD ROUND OF CONSULTATION FOR NEW BARTON NEIGHBOURHOOD:

Putting across your views

OXFORD City Council is beginning the third stage of consultation on a planning document that will shape the future of the new neighbourhood west of Barton.

The document, known as the Barton Area Action Plan (AAP), outlines the draft planning policies for the development of new homes and community infrastructure on the 90-acre site.

The public is invited to comment on these policies for a six-week period, from 10 February until 23 March.

The policies are based on detailed financial and technical studies, including traffic and drainage modelling reports, which are available for the public to view along with the AAP itself at www.oxford.gov.uk/Barton .

Comments and feedback are to be sent direct to the City Council and will be submitted to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in spring 2012.

The Secretary of State will then appoint an independent Planning Inspector who will hold a formal examination of the AAP in summer 2012. Members of the public who have commented can attend the examination and will have the opportunity to ask the Inspector to hear their representation.

At the end of the examination the Planning Inspector will prepare a report for the Council which may propose amendments to the AAP before it is finalised (or adopted) in late 2012.

The Barton development is the largest residential opportunity in Oxford for many years, with around 900 homes planned – many of them family-sized and at least 40% affordable.

To participate in this stage of the AAP consultation, download a response form at www.oxford.gov.uk/Barton or complete an online version at www.oxford.gov.uk/consultation .

Paper copies of the document are available at Barton Neighbourhood Centre from the Barton Community Association Office which is upstairs and from the City Council's Customer Service Centre in St. Aldate's Chambers.

BARTON NATURE PARK AT RISK

Local residents campaign to keep the park

THE Area Action Plan for the new development west of Barton shows that the City Council intends to build on the Nature Park that runs behind Harolde Close, near Barton Village road.

Local residents have consistently opposed these plans with 300 people signing a petition to keep the park.

Sandra Lygo, who lives at Harolde Close and organised the petition said: "Many residents want to keep the nature park and feel the council are being very sly about the new build, they know we all want to keep it yet they still want to build. How do we know our points and views are put across properly, or even being noted?

"We had a lot of people of our community playing at the nature park, or 'narnia' as we all call it when it snows, as soon as the children see the snow the first thing they said was can we play in narnia please?

"We all played in there all day, and although it was a very happy day it was also sad as we know the council want to build on it!"

Barton is a great place to learn!

There are a number of FREE courses running in Barton, or will be running soon. These are:

Improve your reading/writing and maths
Fridays, 9.30am to 11.30am, at the Roundabout Centre. This is free to all and has a crèche. It is run by Ruskin College.

For more details or to book a place contact Alan Foulkes on 0772466041

Conflict management
One day course on how to stay calm and manage confrontations. Friday 16 March at Barton Neighbourhood Centre, 9.30am to 4.30pm. Free to those unemployed and on a benefit. It is run by Oxford and Cherwell Valley College.

For more details or to book a place contact Alan Foulkes on 07772466041 or at alanbartonnhc@aol.com

Gardening course
Course lasts three weeks, starting on Thursday 10 May, 10am to 2pm. Meeting at Barton Neighbourhood Centre. Free to those unemployed and on a benefit. It is run by Oxford and Cherwell Valley College.

For more details or to book a place contact Alan Foulkes on 07772466041 or email alanbartonnhc@aol.com

A DIY course
This be running in May at Barton Neighbourhood Centre. Free to those who are unemployed and on a benefit. It is run by Oxford and Cherwell Valley College.

For more details or to book a place contact Alan Foulkes on 07772466041 or at alanbartonnhc@aol.com

A confidence building course
Starts in June. This will look at how to build more self confidence and to be more assertive. This course will be provided by Oxfordshire Mind. It will hopefully have a crèche. It will be free to all.

For more details or to book a place contact Alan Foulkes at alanbartonnhc@aol.com or on 07772466041

Community mosaic course
Two panels will be made for the Mosaic to be installed at the new building in Ruskin Hall. Course starts Friday 23 March, 9.30–11.30am, at the Roundabout Centre.

It is a free course with crèche provided and no experience of mosaic making is necessary.

For more details or to sign up contact Emma Carney, WEA Development Worker, on: 07770 641359

New Barton Community is on the road
VOLUNTEER MINIBUS DRIVERS WANTED

WE RECENTLY took delivery of our new minibus, and are now trying to build up a data base of core volunteer drivers to help local groups take advantage of the bus. These trips are generally fairly local so sat nav experience not essential! This could involve taking children from the art club on trips out, shopping trips to surrounding areas and possibly other locally-based groups who want to get out and about.

We are not expecting any one person to take on this role, but if you think you could help us in any way get in touch and register with us. Please call Sharon on 01865 761987 or Sue on 07866460446 susanholden@hotmail.com



Sharon Keene from Barton Community Association

Many thanks to The Oxfordshire Stronger Communities Alliance for funding for the minibus.

Barton Gardening Competition

FOR those keen gardeners we are running a gardening competition. If you wish to enter please send us your contact details and a picture of your garden.

We will arrange to visit to judge. There is an opportunity to win yourself a family (up to five people) meal at Eatwells Café at the Neighbourhood Centre as well as the personal glory!

If the winner wishes we will print pictures of the winning garden in the next issue.

Please email Alan Foulkes at alanbartonnhc@aol.com or call him on 07772466041.

Again for keen gardeners there will be a free (to those who are unemployed and on a benefit) gardening course starting in May.

Please email Alan Foulkes at alanbartonnhc@aol.com or call him on 07772466041.

Cakes, Cakes and more Cakes!
We had one of our most successful cake baking workshops in February with sixteen families coming along and having fun showing what they could do for Valentine`s Day. Just so much pink and red icing!

The Free Cakes for Kids organisation, who very kindly host the workshops, were simply amazed at the sheer number of cakes and cookies that were baked on the day. What is so fantastic about these events is that all you have to do is turn up – all equipment and ingredients are provided, and the only criteria is that you enjoy the session.

This time we saw many more dads than before, and they all proved to be good with the wooden spoons, weighing scales and mixing bowls.

If you are interested in taking part in the next workshop (*details to be confirmed*) call Sue Holden on 07866460446 and she will add you to the mailing list. And don`t forget to let Sue know if you would like a cake made for your child`s birthday.



Hands on cake making!

Ann Summers Party
We are hosting an Ann Summers Party at the Neighbourhood Centre on Friday 13 April at 7.30 – 10.00 pm. Sorry guys, this is strictly ladies only. If you would like to be added to the guest list, please call Sue Holden on 07866460446

Trip to Southall
We are planning a trip to Southall, leaving the Neighbourhood Centre on a Saturday at 11.00am and returning by 6.00pm, date to be confirmed. There will be a charge of £5 per person (£4 if you are a BCA member) towards the fuel cost, and places will be limited so you are interested please call Sue Holden on 07866 460446.

Trip to Morrisons at Banbury
We will be taking the bus to Morrisons, date to be confirmed and there will be a small charge of £3 per person (£2 if you are a BCA member) to cover fuel costs. We will leave at 10.00am and be back by 2.30pm. This will give everyone a chance to have a meal or snack in the very reasonably priced on site restaurant. Please ring to book a place. Call Sue Holden on 07866 460446. *(Fancy a trip to Wellesbourne Market? If so give Sue a ring.)*

Lunch clubs for the Elderly
We host lunch clubs twice a week at the Neighbourhood Centre on Mondays and Wednesdays where we serve nourishing low cost hot meals and puddings. Please come along and join us from 11.00am onwards and enjoy the company as well as the food. We even have a raffle and bingo session following our dinner on Wednesdays.

For further information please contact Sharon on 01865 761987.

Children's Corner at Eatwells cafe
We are hoping to re-establish our children`s corner within Eatwells Community Cafe. This will make it more child-friendly, and hopefully encourage parents to pop in with their children for a drink, a snack or our ever changing "Dish of the Day" all at very affordable prices. This will help establish the cafe as a social venue for everyone to visit, including people with young children.

If you have any good quality children`s toys and books that you want to get rid of please give us a call and we can arrange to collect, or please feel free to bring them in to the cafe during opening hours. Please call Sue on 07866460446.

Free Gardening Course

Barton Community Association who's who

Trustees: Dr Simon Heap, Anne Marie Browne, Jennie Surman, June Kuffour, Christine Gerkin, Anthony Gichini, Pippa Gwilliam, Debbie Santos

Company Secretary: Sue Holden

Book Keeper; Richard Holden

Senior Administrator: Sharon Keene

Community Development Co-ordinator: Alan Foulkes

H.R. Administrator: Jacinta Sands

Cleaner Caretaker: Maura Emberton

Cleaner Caretaker; Colin Emberton

Cleaner Caretaker: Dave Bangs

Cafe Manageress: Donna Harvey

Art Club Supervisor: Ryan Tirda

Art Club Assistant: Michelle O`Donohue

Cafe Assistant: Danielle English:

Café Asssistant: Kelly Beer

Low Carbon Co-ordinator: Rachael Peace:

Welcoming our new Vicar: The Revd Maggie Thorne

By Helen Chama



THE special service was held on 23 January at the Parish of St Mary, Headington which is situated by the ring road roundabout and serves the communities of Barton and Sand hills.

The service started at 7.30pm and was attended by hundreds of people from all walks of life to welcome our new Vicar, Reverend Maggie Thorne. Food and refreshments were served after the wonderful mass and celebrations.

The "Collation, Induction and Installation" was officially done by the RtRevd John Pritchard, the Lord Bishop of Oxford. The service was to celebrate the admission of the new Vicar into the Bishop's spiritual care of the Parish of which the Bishop is the Patron.

Revd Maggie has replaced Jonathan who left St Mary's in April 2011. And quoting Rev Maggie's words a few days before her licensing as the new Vicar of St Mary's: "The First and traditional task of the church is to tell people about God and to enable them to worship him in fellowship with other Christians . . . . The people of Barton and Sand hills have worked hard for their church."

Women football players wanted

BARTON United ladies players wanted aged 16 years and up. We train on Monday nights at the Barton Pavilion from 6pm to 730pm. If interested contact Laura Jackson on 07530771208

Diamond Jubilee Field Party

4 June

Barton United FC, in conjunction with the Phoenix Sports Association, are organising a Field party at the Barton Village Recreation Ground and the new Barton Community Pavilion, to commemorate the Queens Diamond Jubilee. We are hoping that ALL residents of Barton will come along and join in the fun.

We are organising lots of activities including fancy dress competition,karate demonstration, strawberry fayre majorettes, face painting and five-a-side football, and hope that residents would like to celebrate the occasion with us.

More details are to follow nearer the day, but if any residents would like to get involved please email Ray at budgie70@sky.com

So who is Revd Maggie Thorne? Helen Chama had an Interview with her to get to know her better.

HC: ***What did you want to be when you were a child?***
Rev Maggie: Music (Classical) was my passion and I thought I would pursue it further. However, I ended up teaching it. At a tender age of ten I used to accompany my Father, who was a chaplain, for some pastoral duties. It gave me a certain sense of caring and I loved interacting with people.

HC:***Any challenges as a woman Vicar?***
Rev M: The call to be ordained in the Ministry came so naturally but had its own challenges having married my husband who was Catholic. The encouragement I got from him was overwhelming, and hence I pursued my dream by studying theology and psychotherapy in a Catholic University. The inner voice inside kept on getting clearer and clearer, which helped me make the decision to leave the Catholic Church for the Church of England where they accept women vicars

HC:***Your Family life?***
Rev M: Married to Richard and have two grown up Children; Jessis training at Oxford University as a nurse and Aidan our son is studying music in Cardiff University and is into jazz. Richard is a classical musician and still teaches in several schools. Rev Maggie worked voluntarily for several organisations such as Sir Michael Sobell House, and as a counsellor at the Listening Centre in Blackbird Leys.

HC: ***Favourite TV Programme?***
Rev M: Doctor Who (Sci-fi).

HC: ***Any favourite verse in the bible?***
Rev M: Love the lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength. *Mark 12vs30 (GNB)*

HC: ***Hymns you really love?***
Rev M: "Christ Triumphant" and 'How Great Thou Art'.

HC: ***Favourite food?***
Rev M: Italian Food with a nice bottle of white/red wine.

HC: ***Your favouriteplace for an ideal holiday?***
Rev M: Sea beaches, country walking,and Cardiff is a favourite place for me .
HC: ***Favourite subject at School?***
English Literature.

HC: ***And finally any Likes/ Dislikes?***
Rev M: I love people and dislike all forms of injustices.

HC: ***Where do you want to see St Mary's a year from now?***
Rev M: St Mary's is a small congregation and has a good location. A lot of people can come and know where the church is. I want to encourage both the youth and the old to come together in fellowship, and hopefully our congregation will grow further.

Revd Maggie is requesting everybody to come up with ideas and suggestions on how to address the challenges that face the church and the wellbeing of our community today.

Feel free to come and worship at St Mary's every Sunday, at 10.00–11.00am, with coffees and teas served after mass. Church Tel: 761886.

Work with a "Wonderland" difference!



IN SEPTEMBER Job Club:Barton started with a group of local people to talk about their experiences about work and their personal aspirations for the future. Barton has one of the highest unemployment rates in the country with a high percentage on long-term unemployment benefits. This is why Job Club:Barton can make such a valuable contribution to the health and well-being of the community. It encourages us to think differently about work and its potential for enabling a self-sustaining life-style and freedom to make our own choices for the future.

Regardless of background, age or education you will experience a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. You will meet others who are also seeking work and would like to become financially independent and in control of their future success.

The Job Club helps us to understand work as an essential aspect of enjoying a healthy lifestyle and how to develop our personal skills and aspirations for achieving our goals and dreams. The programme includes development of personal skills; CV writing and personal profiling; interview & communication training; how to find the right kind of work and benefits advice.

We also learn about working as a team on projects in partnerships with other supporting organisations to provide work opportunities and bringing benefits to the local community.

CHRISTMAS WONDERLAND

Barton Christmas Wonderland was one example of what can be achieved when a group of people get together with a dream of what could happen if we commit to the task in hand. This was initiated by members of Job Club:Barton and by working together with others in the community, the dream became far bigger than expected as more and more people became involved in supporting this event.

These included: Oxford City Council donating 8 Underhill vacant shop for Santa's Grotto; Bayard School with painting and decorations competition; Mayfields Residential Home present contribution; Thames Valley Police for providing a Santa; Barton Neighbourhood Centre/ Eatwells café; Barton Karate Club for displays; Play Barton for Santa's Workshop; OCHA for sponsorship; Job Club:Barton members and many others in the community who gave of their time making hundreds of presents, decorations and supplying all kinds of special Christmas effects.

BENEFIT THE WHOLE COMMUNITY

More than 300 adults and children visited Santa's Grotto and joined in the fun at Santa's workshop. This is the kind of initiative which captured people's imagination of all ages and demonstrated what can be achieved when people work together for the benefit of each other and the wider community.

Job Club:Barton is held every Wednesday at the Neighbourhood Centre. Regardless of background, skills and abilities, all are welcomed and considered with respect and potential for achieving better things. You will find a positive, friendly environment with very informal meetings include group participation, personal support and advice; training, job search ideas, career planning, fun and lots more! By encouraging people to create gifts and conjuring up a magical wonderland experience, Job Club:Barton communicates a real message of hope to everyone for even greater things to be achieved in 2012!

We meet every Wednesday so come along and join us: 9.30 to 11.00 am for personal advice (by prior appointment). 6.00 to 8.00 pm with others for support, training and encouragement in a positive and relaxed environment.

"You can't change your life if you don't change your thinking"

Contact or Text JOB CLUB BARTON on 07907045204 or 07747604992
www.bartonjobclub.org.uk | info@bartonjobclub.org.uk

POETS CORNER!

BAYARDS Hill School had a fantastic poetry and art competition for the Barton Bash. They asked the children to write poems and to draw 'What makes you happy?' Here are a couple of the poems.

Happiness is:
Happiness is playing rugby,
It is scoring a goal in football,
Happiness is smelling sizzling bacon,
And the smell of petrol,
Eating burgers with juice coming out,
Being over the moon,
Feeling sleepy.
Happiness is on facebook
And having time on blackberry messenger.

Happiness is at my home
It is with my Mum.
Happiness is with my Dad,
And my sister,
Eating delicious chicken and mushroom pies,
Feeling happiness on my holiday
Feeling free,
And with my Mum.

Mystery Shopping

ARE you an Oxford City Council tenant or leaseholder? If you are, we need your help to improve our services by becoming a Mystery Shopper.

A Mystery Shopper pretends to have a common query, for example requesting rent information. They then record the customer service they received from us by filling out a form.

What's in it for me?

You will receive free training and support. You might be able to get a job as lots of high street shops need mystery shoppers too so it's a great skill to have.

Try it…

We are visiting the Barton Neighbourhood Centre on Wednesday 21 March, from 10–12am, to run a short taster session for anyone who would like to try mystery shopping before getting involved. It will be very informal with tea, coffee and biscuits available.

If you are interested or for more information contact the Communities and Neighbourhoods Team on 01865 252791 or email communities@oxford.gov.uk.

Don't put your foot in it!

HAVE you smelled it? Seen it? Stepped in it? Dog waste, it's frequently present on Barton's pavements and it's starting to cause a stink for non-dog owners and dog owners alike.

What is the solution to this problem? Penalty fines issued for dog fouling don't seem to be deterrent enough, so this plea goes out to those who – for whatever reason- don't pick up their dogs pavement presents: Please, pick it up.

Understandably, picking up your dog's poo is not an enjoyable task. However, not doing it is not just messy and smelly for others; it's also riddled with germs. Anyone treading in dog faeces (be they human or canine) is then placed at risk to the bacteria and disease it carries as they bring it into their home - transferring faecal traces from the soles of shoes; onto the floor.

Bacteria and worms that dog waste can carry include:

- Heart, whip, hook, round and tapeworm
- Parvovirus
- Salmonella



Tove, Lyra (aged 6) and Teacup the dog.

Barton resident Tove Jorgensen -proud owner of eleven months old, Springer Spaniel pup, Teacup – disagrees with dog fouling and takes small bags with her when on walks so that she can clean up after her pet. Tove also has a 'doggy toilet' in her back garden but can see why there may be such an issue on the Barton Estate. She says: "It seems more socially acceptable to walk your dog in a field and let them toilet themselves there." But accessibility to the fields in Barton is often hindered, "The way in is too wet, muddy and slippery; it's difficult to walk through. If there were gravel put down it would make it easier."

Let's pull together to make Barton cleaner and pick up after our dogs.

For further information on what you can do to help, how to clean up after your dog or dig in your own 'doggy toilet', visit www.doodycalls.com.
To contact the Dog Warden, call 01865 252887

CHILDREN'S DANCE CLASSES

Saturday mornings at Barton Leisure Centre, Waynflete Road

10:30am – ages 5-6
11:15am – ages 7-8

First class FREE, £1 thereafter

Classes will follow the ISTD modern dance syllabus and students will have the option of working towards exams.

Boys and girls welcome



Class sizes are limited so please contact Sarah Hayterat Springboard Dance on 07912 891268 for more information and to book your child's place.

Farewell to Mags

MARGARET Smith, the Family and Community Support Manager at the Roundabout Children's Centre, is retiring. "Mags" is a well-known figure to many families in Barton. She first started working in Barton in 1996 when the Family Centre, as it was then, was in a pre-fab building at Bernwood School. The present building became the Children's Centre in 2004. It was named the "Roundabout" after a community competition to name the new centre.

Mags has seen many changes over the years, mostly positive, "Things have gone from strength to strength. We now can offer a lot more services at the Centre and out in the community. We now have 52 places in the day nursery; families can use both the day nursery and the children's centre. The two services balance each other really well. Because of funding changes more people from the local community can access free childcare. "

Mags has been helping to drive forward services that have been developed in response to what local families need and have asking for.

For Mags it is the people who have made her job special, "I have met some amazing people who have taught me a huge amount; local families that have helped me in my role, and professionals who want to work with the community and do a great job."

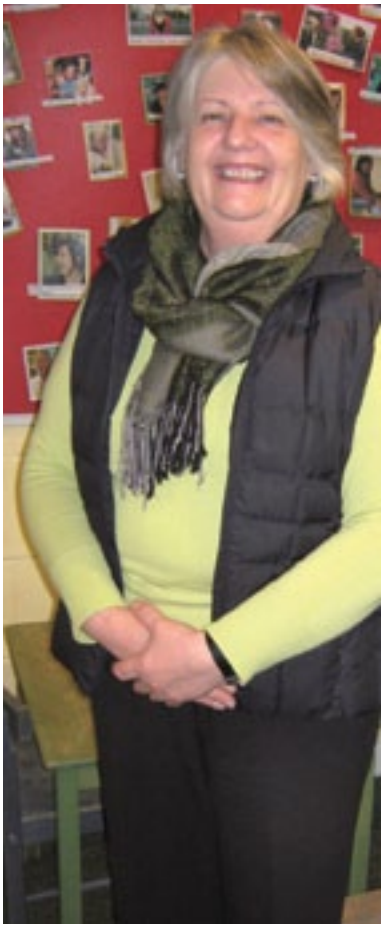
She feels Barton has also changed over the years, " I feel there has been a shift, and people have a greater sense of pride in their community."

Mags will be having some time off travelling, getting the garden straight, and spending quality time with her grandson. "I am leaving in the knowledge that things for Barton and the community will go from strength to strength. Things will evolve and change and that is a part of life".

Mags will be sorely missed. Helen, a parent from the early days of the Family Centre said, "She has been a wonderful person to know. In the early 90s right through to today."

Another parent Sandra commented: "She is just lovely. It's like one big family. She knew all five of mine."

Everyone wishes Mags the very best in her retirement.



Margaret Smith

If you go down to the woods today, you're sure of a big surprise . . . . It's Dads Outdoors!

A JOGGER, on his weekly run through the woods at the CS Lewis Nature Reserve, was stopped in his tracks on a mild December morning. Had he stumbled across a Teddy Bear's Picnic? Spotted the notorious Gruffalo? Or worse still, the Big Bad Mouse? In actual fact, the jogger had come across a band of little explorers and their fathers from the Roundabout Children's Centre in Barton. 13 fathers and 23 children had ventured down to the CS Lewis Nature Reserve in Risinghurst to take part in the Centre's first Dads Outdoors session.

Dads Outdoors is a project involving 9 Children's Centre's across Oxfordshire. The project aims to enable fathers and their children to make better use of their local environment on a regular basis and to build local networks of support and collaboration. The Roundabout Centre's first Dads Outdoors event made the usually tranquil forest come alive with activity as the children and fathers explored their surroundings, looking for creatures, and made Christmas decorations. It was a big surprise to the jogger who runs that route every weekend and rarely encounters another person.

Despite living within minutes of the Nature Reserve, many of the group had never been there before. However, after spending the morning in the woods, all the dads vowed to come back again with the whole family. One father commented,

'I experienced a different aspect of play with my child…the forest side."

The centre had planned to use the pond at the Nature Reserve to go pond dipping, but had to make some last minute rearrangements after discovering that pond dipping in winter can damage the pond life's habitat. Instead, with a little bit of wire, the dads got creative and made Christmas stars, wreaths and even a forest crown in the woodland next to the pond. The children used magnifying glasses and small pots to search and collect minibeasts that ranged from earthworms to millipedes.

Over the coming months, the Roundabout centre will be organising monthly outdoor events. They will be coming back to the CS Lewis in the warmer months to carry out their pond dipping event as well as exploring other local locations with a different focus for each event. Oxfordshire has some fantastic outdoor spaces and through the Dads Outdoors project, local families will be finding out about places to go and things to do in their area.

Some comments from the dads:

"I will take my children (to the CS Lewis Nature Reserve) more regularly"

"We enjoyed collecting worms and making a star out of twigs"

"I shall visit the pond with my wife and family"

"We loved the fresh air and adventure: feeding ducks, finding bugs and playing in an adventurous environment"

"I shall go out next weekend with the children, just like today"

"Fresh air, good mix of dads, friendly, fun in the woods…it was great!"

To find out more, please contact the Roundabout Centre on 01865 764952

Hands On News' Emmanuel Odwar met up with Thrive's Jem Todd to find out more about Jem and the youth work he is leading on Barton.



Jem Todd

MY NAME is Jem Todd. I originate from Bath and lived there for 19 years. I now live in Barton.

My job is being a senior youth worker. I applied for this job because I love getting to know new people. I love being able to help people reach their full potential.

I worked previously for the County Council as part of the Pre-Court Prevention Team, but now I have a job at Thrive where money is going into the project with clear positive results. The Thrive team lives in Barton and aim to help with the needs of the young people.

The job has been hard, good and emotional. My expectation of the estate is that young people are here and want to do things. Barton is really friendly and the people look out for each other.

I've met more people in Barton than I have met ever before and I've got a great sense of community. There is always someone around to talk to.

Thrive wants to see lasting change brought to Barton through supporting people through education, employment, problem solving and personal need. I see myself in Barton for the long term doing this job.

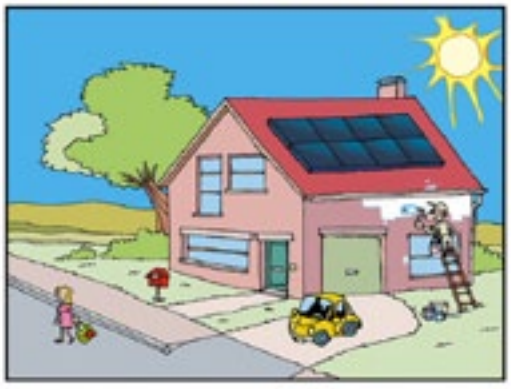
The Barton Children Project wants to meet the needs of children from eight to 13 year olds positively.

Thrive decided to partner with them and ran seven weekly sessions which included: Baking, Sports, Arts and Crafts. The response from the young peoplewas that they enjoyed the sessions and are looking forward to starting the next phase of it.

The Pilot project will be held at the Barton Youth Centre on Monday 20 February from 4pm. I will be managing the project and there will be five members of staff for each session.

If it is successful we are hopeful that it will run till this summer.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS
HAVE YOUR SAY



Development Plans and your community
Saturday 24th March 2012, 10-3pm

Barton Neighbourhood Centre
Underhill Circus, Barton, Oxford

This workshop is for communities across Oxfordshire who want to know their rights and have their say throughout the development process. The workshop will include:

- Speakers from Planning Aid and Oxford Brookes Faculty of Technology, Design and Environment
- Help with understanding relevant legislation including the incoming Localism Act
- Time to explore how your community can participate in planned developments in your area

Booking and details: To book, please RSVP by contacting Catrina Pickering, catrina.pickering@ocva.org.uk, 01865 251946/ 07540 703366. Event is free but booking essential. Lunch provided.

OCVA

Active women in Barton

The Active Women project has recently started women badminton sessions in Barton Neighbourhood Centre and will soon be starting indoor football sessions.

Also Oxford will be hosting a Sport Relief Mile in Cutteslowe Park on Sunday 25th March 2012.

For more information contact Courtney Warden, Development Officer, Oxford City Leisure on 01865 252729

YOUR LOCAL COUNCILLORS

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

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

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