Hands on News

September 2011

Newsletter for Barton produced by Barton residents and community workers

New Barton Sports Pavilion Opens

THE new Barton Sports Pavilion was opened at the end of August by Oxford United Chairman Kelvin Thomas.

The purpose built modular designed building is on the same site as the old pavilion which was demolished earlier this year.

The new facility will provide changing rooms, toilets, bar area and a large community room.

Councillor Mark Lygo, Board Member for Sports and Parks, says: "The community have waited a long time for this and I hope that it will be an excellent building for them to use for both sport and community use."

The new pavilion bar is now open for business and will be open on Saturdays and Sundays from 12 noon to 11.00pm and Wednesday evenings from 6.30pm to 11.00pm. There will be room hire for functions and meetings at competitive prices. For further details please contact Jan Rose on 01865 452616

The sports pavilion is at Barton Recreation Ground in Barton Village Road. The project has been funded by Oxford City Council and developer contributions and has cost approximately £350,000.



The pavilion drops into place

Barton Therapy Bash

A DATE for your diary – the rescheduled Barton Bash and Therapy Day is now scheduled to take place on Saturday 19 November between 12 Noon and 5.00pm. This will be a fun filled day for the whole family to come along and enjoy that won`t break the bank! Eatwells will be open for refreshments, and there may even be a surprise visitor especially for the younger children. Come along and find out, see you all on the 19th.

Sue Holden

The Hands on News Team

Contact: Alan Foulkes

Email: alanbartonnhc@aol.com

Tel: 01865 761987

Contributors: Helen Chama, Patricia Dowdall, Alan Foulkes, Susan Holden, Pauline James, Emmanuel Odwar, Nicci Sawhney, Anna Traff

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ROLL UP TO BARTON LEARNING FAYRE

THERE will be an exciting Learning Fayre at Barton Neighbourhood Centre on Saturday 17 September from 10am to 2pm. It will be a chance to find out about courses, most of them free, that will be on offer in Barton and elsewhere. You will be able to sign up to courses such as computer training, helping in schools, DIY and health and beauty. Free taster sessions such as health and beauty and DIY are being planned for the day. There will be chance to discuss with the new Community Champion Team, residents who are taking a lead in developing local learning opportunities, what learning you want to be provided locally. You will also be able to find out more about the newBarton Job Club.



Lisa Burch

Local resident, and Community Champion, Lisa Burch commented, "The Learning Fayre is great. Taking up learning can be a huge confidence booster and open up opportunities you never thought possible"

Lisa has gone from taking up basic learning courses two years ago to becoming a community champion, and is taking up a certificate in higher education course at Ruskin College in September.

Portsmouth coach day trip

Report by Helen Chama

ON A LOVELY sunny morning in August I left with my family to Portsmouth on a coach organised by the Barton Community Association. BCA have summer holiday coach trips to different seaside destinations such as Brighton, Weymouth and Portsmouth to suit people of all ages at a reasonable day trip price.

We left Barton Neighbourhood Centre at 8.15am, arrived in Portsmouth at 10.00am and were expected to leave Portsmouth at 5.00pm.

On board drinks and snacks were served to kids as we enjoyed the beautiful scenery landscapes and views on the way to our dream destination .

We chose Portsmouth in particular because it is a well known city with a wide range of different family activities and is fast becoming Britain's most favourite waterside front.

Whether you are visiting Portsmouth for an hour, a day or a week, you would like to visit it again as it has so much to offer from varied activities and attractions to family fun fares.

The beautiful city walks are surrounded by well tendered beautiful gardens suitable for lazy walks, picnics and play parks.

You can also visit the famous massive Spinaker tower or shop at the Gun Wharf Quays with over 20 cosmopolitan bars, designer outlet shops, nightclubs, cinema, bowling and various entertainment activities.

You can enjoy some family time designed especially for small children at the Golden Horse Shoe theme park at Southsea or enjoy the ride on the Hovercraft for a ten minute cruise to the Isle of Wight. All these and much more are possible on a day trip.

Compliments to BCA. Portsmouth is a great idea for summer fun!

For further details on these memorable coach trips please contact Sue or Sharon at Barton Neighbourhood Centre who will gladly assist you with all the necessary information.

The Hands on News team grows



RESIDENT JOURNALISTS: Helen, Emmanuel and Pauline plan the September issue.

The Hands on News team of local resident journalists has grown, following a successful free community journalism course funded by Brookes University. Our expanded team, which includes six Barton resident journalists, will be busy planning and producing a bumper edition for Christmas.

Gardening is good for you!

THE SUN is shining, a gentle breeze is blowing, the birds are singing and you just want to get out there and garden! But you can't for a variety of reasons, maybe ill health, age, or recovering from an operation. Just to be in your garden lifts your spirits, whether you are physically working or relaxing with a book, a cup of tea or wine or whatever takes your fancy!

We are not all gardeners or green fingered as the saying goes, but just to see a well kept garden, albeit a few strategically placed pots filled with colourful flowers or shrubs, surely will lift anyone's spirits.

Take a walk along Burchester Avenue in the spring; what a glorious sight to see, the cherry trees in blossom:

Loveliest of trees, the cherry now,
Is hung with bloom along the bough
And stands about the woodland ride
Wearing white for Eastertide.

At any time of the year, yes even in the depths of winter when trees and flora are festooned with snow, walk around Barton to see gardens of all designs and colours, does it not raise your spirits when they are cared for? Even gardens where the grass is overgrown intermingled with wild flowers are beautiful in their own right.

Everyone has heard of comfort eating: when one is stressed worried depressed or just feeling blue, but how about 'comfort gardening'! And you won't even put on weight! You might even lose a few pounds instead and into the bargain tone up all those loose muscles and stretch those limbs, cheaper than the gym!



And if you happen to be 'out front' maybe trimming your hedge, mowing your lawn, or tending your flowerbed; what a lovely way to chat to the neighbours and passers by, a real feel good factor !

There's not a pair of legs so thin,
there's not a head so thick
There's not a hand so weak and
white, nor yet a heart so sick,
But it can find some needful job
that's crying to be done
For the glory of the garden glorifies
everyone.

So in a nutshell so to speak gardening is not only good for you it is good for your health!

Pauline James

BARTON'S FINEST

There are four Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) in our area. They also cover Risinghurst and Sandhills as well as Barton. A pretty big patch, to manage.



LEFT TO RIGHT: PCSOs Samantha Carter, Nigel Pearce, Carol Henry, Luke Harris

THE role of a PCSO is a very high profile community one. Rather than law enforcers, this team are the focal point to maintain peace and harmony and prevent problems escalating.

They deal with anti-social behaviour, nuisance activity, domestic violence, neighbourhood disputes and other problematic issues.

They have a high visual appearance in the areas whether it be on foot or bicycle. Their regular patrols mean they have a positive presence in our neighbourhood instilling confidence and reassurance that we are safe in our streets, homes and shops.

PCSO's take the pressure and ease the workload of Police Officers, addressing issues of dog fouling, football being played in streets, mini motorcycles being driven recklesslyand other antisocial behaviour.

The atmosphere in the office is fabulous; they are all very enthusiastic and passionate about making Barton the best community they can.

Once a year they knock on all doors in the community and find out what concerns people have and what improvements they would like to see in the area. PCSOs work with the community addressing issues.

Nigel has been supervising children wanting to play sport, especially football, in a safe environment.

If you want to ride a motorbike safely, efficiently and professionally in a fun way PC Chloe Sutton is the contact you need.The team has been awarded the prestigious Shrievalty Merit Award forits community efforts.

These guys are amazing and so approachable; they are around in the office generally from 2pm to 3pm or can be contacted on 0845 8505 505.

Ask for any team member and if they are on shift you will be connected to them on their blackberry phones.

Patricia Dowdall

Barton United Grant Success

IN MAY this year Barton United FC received a grant of £1,000 to help with the ever increasing costs of helping the children on the estate keep active through sport. The money was gratefully received as it enables the club to buy new training equipment and footballs. This money has also helped towards the cost of managers and trainers completing their level 1 or 2 in football coaching which is a very costly course run by the Oxfordshire FA.

With the new pavilionbeing built this summer at Barton Recreation Ground the new season heralds the start of a new era for the club, and will bring huge satisfaction to all those involved. Why not come along and join us, we are constantly on the lookout for new players, and you will be made very welcome.

Ray May, *Treasurer, Barton United FC*

BARTON WEST CONSULTATION:

Residents say the questionnaire was hard to understand and misleading

OXFORDSHIRE City Council sent questionnaires in June to each household in Barton to ask residents their views on details of the plan to build around 1000 houses west of Barton. The questionnaires were not well received.

Resident Pauline James expressed the views of many local people when she said: "I opened it up and did not understand it fully. The plan was not clear and I did not know how to answer the questions. They had not put it in simple terms".

Many residents were particularly unhappy with the question that seemed to encourage them to agree with Oxford City Councils plans to build on the Nature Park.

The question described the Nature Park as scrub land and suggested a better park could be built by Bayswater Brook.

Sandra Lygo a local resident commented: "They should keep the Nature Park. It is not scrub land. There are many mature trees planted by local children 25 years ago. It is a valuable green space and much used by the local community especially families"

Oxford City Council will be consulting the community further on their plans for the development later in the year.

Alan Foulkes

Please send us any views you have on the development in west of Barton and Hands on News we will be happy to print them.

YOUR LOCAL COUNCILLORS

YOUR local councillors are there 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

SMALL GRANTS FOR GOING GREEN

THERE is still time to join the Low Carbon Living Programme in Barton. This is designed to help Barton residents make small lifestyle changes to reduce their carbon footprint to combat climate change. The programme is free to join and provides participants with:

- An individual carbon footprint for their household at the start and end of the programme.
- Six group workshops on carbon-busting topics such as green energy for the home, reduce, reuse, recycle and the local effects of global climate change, plus goal setting and end sessions
- One-to-one and group support to help participants achieve their personal carbon cutting goals
- An opportunity to learn and take action on green issues in a no-guilt, no-pressure programme.
- And a grant of between £50-£100 awarded to those who successfully achieved their goals at the end of the programme.

The LCLP will run from mid September 2011 to mid February 2012. There are 30 places available and workshops will take place at Barton Community Centre, (dates to be arranged).

To join or find out more please ring Rachael Peace, Project Co-ordinator, Low Carbon Barton: Mobile: 07969033543 Email: rayrayfive@yahoo.co.uk

THE BARTON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Tuesday Night Bingo

WHY not come along and join us on a Tuesday evening for an affordable evening of bingo. Doors open at 6.30pm. with eyes down at 7.30pm. We are a group of volunteers who have been involved with the Association for many years, and look forward to welcoming new players.

Chris Gerkin

Honouring Jean Stevenson and Cliff Harris

BCA have recently acknowledged two of their longest serving volunteers by erecting plaques in their memory.

The Jean Stevenson Community Hall was "home" to Jean during the many hours she spent in the Centre acting as unofficial receptionist over a period of many years, and the Cliff Harris Suite is dedicated to our treasurer who was still carrying out his duties well in to his 80s.

Between them they clocked up almost 85 years of dedicated volunteering for the Association. Our thanks to both of them.

Your local NHS doctors practice: Barton Surgery

YOU will have noticed that the Barton Surgery has undergone refurbishment. This is an exciting time of change and improvement for both patients and staff. The refurbishment included redecoration, new seating, new carpets throughout, and upgrading of fixtures and equipment in the consulting rooms.

Opening times have been extended, and the surgery is now open Monday to Thursday 8.30am–6.00pm and Fridays 8.30am –5.00pm, closing for lunch between 1.00–2.00pm. On a Wednesday the surgery is closed between 12.30–2.00pm. The doctor sessions have also increased from four to five sessions per week, and nurses are available on Mondays and Wednesdays.

The Barton clinical team consists of Dr Melissa Holden, Dr Enas Al-Dalagh, Dr Andrew Collins, Sister Gina Williams, and Health Care Assistant Hannah Warland - all supported as ever by receptionist Gilly Cox.

If you usually attend the Barton Surgery, you are naturally also entitled to use all the services at the main surgery at Bury Knowle Health Centre, 207 London Road – those include some more specialist services such as minor surgery, coil fitting, ECGs, and counselling. In future we will look to expand the services offered at the Barton Surgery. For example, we are holding some teenage health drop in clinics during the summer. If these prove to be popular we will extend them to the rest of the year.

To help us provide the additional services that you want, please let Gilly know if you would like to join our Barton Patient Participation Group. Alternatively please feel free to make suggestions to Gilly. Or you can email us via our website www.buryknowle.org

Barton Surgery, Neighbourhood Centre, Underhill Circus, Tel: 01865 744221

CUTS IN YOUTH SERVICES

IT SEEMS almost certain that there will be significant cuts to youth services provided by Oxfordshire County Council in Barton, but details are still not available. Hands on News will report on the cuts in the December issue.

Alan Foulkes

Dylan – Remember the cat that lived at the paper shop?

MANY of you will remember Dylan who spent much of his life curled up on the magazines and newspapers in the shop at Underhill Circus.

Sadly, Dylan died in July aged 20 after he had been very poorly for a short while.

His placid nature meant that children could come along and stroke him (not always gently!) pull his tail or generally try to wake him up from his hours of slumber with a somewhat heavy handed poke to the ribs!

He loved all the attention he drew from both children and adults alike, and customers even wrote poems about him and his laid back take on life.

On occasions people would call in not as a customer but as a member of the Dylan Holden fan club!

One of our customers named him Judge Pickles because of the stance he took whilst sitting on the counter surveying all around him.

Dylan was known and loved by many for lots of different reasons, but mainly for his calming and therapeutic influence, and our hope is that he is now resting, somewhere over the rainbow.

Sue Holden

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