September 2012

Hands on News

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

No go to slower ring road



CALL FOR CITY COUNCIL TO CHANGE PLANS

OXFORD City Council's plans to build around 850 homes west of Barton need to be revised, following a public enquiry. The enquiry, held in July, found the Council's plan to turn the ring road into an urban boulevard to be unsound.

The Council had wanted the ring road's speed limit to be reduced to 40 miles an hour and a series of pedestrian crossings across the ring road established.

They also wanted greenery in the central reservation of the ring road to be cut back so there was no visible barrier between the new estate and Headington and Northway.

The government inspector, Shelagh Bussey, found the plans to be unsafe as there would be a risk to pedestrians crossing the road. She said that she did not want Barton's residents used as a traffic calming measure when crossing the A40. The Council has also had to drop its insistence on building new homes facing onto the ring road, and the decision not to build on Ruskin Fields has also been called into question.

Local resident David Mellings, who attended the enquiry, said: "The voice of residents was not listened to as the Council and developers were too busy talking among themselves." Revised plans (*see the Oxford City Council website for details*) have been published and the public can comment on these until 7 September.

A second Public Enquiry on these amendments will be held later in September.

See page 2 for Barton Community Association's response to these plans.

The sun shines at Bayards Hill School fete

ABOVE: Ben on duty!
BELOW: Rebecca Emberton with the Oxford United shirt she won in the raffle.

PARENTS PRAISED AND THE SUN CAME OUT

PARENTS VOICE, a group of parents who have formed a Parents/Teachers Association at Bayards School, organised an end of term school fete which was, in the words of Head teacher Keith Ponsford, "the most successful PTA event ever."

The event which, took place on Friday 13 July, was in fact blessed with good luck! It had been planned to be partially indoors as the weather had been so bad but the sun shone and activities took place both in and out doors.

Around 300 parents attended. Sandra Lygo of Parents Voice said, "I would like to say a big thank you to all volunteers that helped me with the school fete and we raised just over £300. We look forward to the Christmas fete next. I totally enjoyed the day and the weather was on our side!"

Mr Ponsford went on to say, "A big thank you to all parents who have supported today, and a special thanks to members of Parents Voice who spent a great deal of time and energy to make this so successful."



Welcome to the new Hands on News

This is the first issue of the Hands on News in a full size newspaper format. It allows us to bring in more income through advertising to help pay for the printing yet still include as many news stories and features as before. We hope you enjoy it, and please send us your thoughts on the new issue.

What's in this issue?

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Developers show their plans for the new housing development

A PLAN for the development of 850 homes for 2,000 people on land to the west of Barton went on display at Barton Neighbourhood Centre in early July, just before the Public Enquiry on the scheme (*see page 1*). With a large number of Barton residents attending, people were asked to express their views on the plans, which they did in writing and by talking to the developers.

The plans suggest that the new Barton development would be made up of three neighbourhoods. One would border on to the present Barton and be made up of detached houses for families, with a second in the middle of blocks of flats.

A third section opposite Northway would include a mix of flats, townhouses and detached homes. A food shop, the size of the Coop or Waitrose in Headington, as well as a hotel, restaurant or gym, is planned for the third neighbourhood, while a new primary school would also be built.

The two estates would be joined together by an east-west route, through an extension of Fettiplace Road, as well as by a Linear Park running the entire length of new and old Barton beside the Bayswater Brook.

Paul Comerford, of planning consultancy Aecom, has said the current masterplan was not final and could be influenced by local views.

Hands on News has asked Mr Comerford to provide feedback from the consultation, but he has not been available to comment.

Barton Community Association responds to the plans for the new development

THE BCA attended the Public Enquiry in July and is responding to changes to the original plan which the Inspector has put out for consultation.

Pedestrian crossing across the ring road: The BCA is unanimously opposed to the proposed building of pedestrian crossings across the A40 because of the potential for road accidents, injuries and fatalities which would fall heaviest on those people crossing that main road: the residents of Barton. The BCA strongly argue that two new subways would be the best solution to cover pedestrians and cyclists crossing the A40.They must be world-class subways: well-maintained, well-lit and CCTV installed to provide the highest possible level of security for users.

Cutting down of trees on the A40: In terms of the Plan's use of the A40 as a way to integrate Barton with the rest of Headington, the BCA finds this argument unconvincing.

Cutting down the greenery on the edge of A40 as well as the central reservation has nothing to do with integration.
This acts as a natural barrier to both noise and pollution.

It is contradictory for the Plan to maintain it wants to reduce the speed limit to reduce noise, but then decide that all the trees and bushes need to come down which would have the same effect as a natural noise reducer.

Ruskin Fields: Though Ruskin Fields lies outside the BCA's core area of work and representation, the BCA in principal supports the building of 75 houses (half private and half social housing) at Ruskin Fields. This could be a good case of integration between Headington and Barton. The BCA accepts the need for more homes to be built in Oxford.

The second Public Enquiry on the development will be held at the end of September. Hands on News will keep the community informed of the results of this and any other news about the new development.

Do you have a service to offer and want some free publicity?

Are you a plumber, a baker or a candlestick maker?

If you would like free space
In the forthcoming
"Barton a–z" Information Booklet
include a title and brief description
of the service you provide,
as well as your telephone number, mobile number, Email address and postal address.

Send it to
barton.Info2@gmail.Com
or drop it into
Barton Community Association office
For Sue Holden or Jacinta Sands

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If you are concerned about someone sleeping rough or begging you can contact Oxford City Outreach on 01865 304611 or email info@nsno-oxford.org

THAMES VALLEY POLICE · Oxford Homeless Pathways www.oxhop.org.uk · Two Saints · STEPPIN' STONE CENTRE · BROADWAY · THE BIG ISSUE FOUNDATION

Image courtesy of ThamesReach www.thamesreach.org.uk

Young People thriving at Youth Club

Up to 50 young people are developing their skills and having fun at Barton's Thrive Youth Club.

YOUNG people involved enjoy cooking and baking, sports, art and crafts, teambuilding activities as well as learning new skills like photography and filming. The activities are designed to build confidence, communication skills and team working.

The Youth Club is run by Thrive:Barton and is funded by the Barton Children's Project.

Jem Todd is the Senior Youth Worker for Thrive:Barton. He said "90% of the young people said they would be either playing computer games or talking with friends on Facebook if they weren't at Youth Club. This offers a much better alternative—positive activities that develop the character and skills of these young people in an environment where they are building community."

Yet Thrive is not content to just keep young people off the streets so to speak. Jem said "Although we are glad to be providing a safe place for young people to have activities to stop them getting bored or into trouble, that is too low an expectation for us. We are intent on creating a positive culture amongst these young people that they can all be a part of. "We want to empower them to dream up and create their own games.

"This is sustainable for the long term, so that outside of the hours of Youth Club, they are still able to enjoy themselves, and create activities for their friends. We are creating a sustainable model for them to be able to not just be led, but learn how to show initiative and lead themselves."

Recently the young people led their own cooking project. This was filmed, and then they were able to watch it back to discover and learn from the mistakes made.

Isn't behaviour a problem in this setting? Not really according to the Thrive Team, who created a list of boundaries with the young people who then signed it, signifying expected levels of behaviour. Jem said: "By helping them create and enforce their own boundaries, we want to see this transferred to relationships outside of the youth club, where they will be good sons, daughters, siblings and friends."

Young People as well as parents and local services have remarked on how beneficial the Youth Club is. "Young people knock on my door on their way home from school on Mondays, asking what they'll be cooking or what games they'll be playing later. There is a really good community group dynamic now, a positive culture that welcomes new people and looks out for each others' needs."



Cooking is fun with Thrive:Barton!

Do you know a young person between the ages of 8–13 who would benefit from the Monday Youth Club? It runs every Monday from 4pm to 6pm in the Neighbourhood Centre (except over the summer holidays. Jem Todd can be contacted via email at jem.todd@innovista.org or by calling in at the Youth Club.

For more information about Thrive, go to www.thriveteams.org

PHIL PATRICK LEADS THE WAY

Barton karate teacher wins national and international medals.

BY PIPPA GWILLIAM



PHIL PATRICK (*right*) teaches karate two days a week at Barton Community Centre to an enthusiastic bunch of children of different ages and levels of skill. He got into the sport as a kid thanks to his mum, and he says it encouraged him to stop getting into trouble, and start getting praised at school assembly for his fighting skills—but in the right place and the right context. It's a sense of achievement he's keen to pass on to his students. He said "It increases their confidence, shows them discipline and a healthy way of life, and above all, it's fun. It also teaches them common sense, to walk away from a situation instead of making it worse. Fighting should only ever be a last resort."

His enthusiasm and good humour are contagious. He loves getting children fit, and helping them to achieve their potential, even taking some abroad to compete in international competitions in countries such as Cyprus, Portugal and Serbia. Some really lucky ones have been to New York. Phil said: "Competing gives my students a sense of prestige, and just getting on a plane to a different country can be exciting in itself. I've taken my 5-year-old son and a girl of 9 to compete in Hungary, and others aged between 10 and 17, girls as well as boys, to other competitions abroad, including the Under-21 World Championships."

Phil himself has won a series of medals in the last year. This includes winning gold in the Hungarian Open last October, gold at the British Championship this January, bronze at the English Championship and most recently this June a bronze at the full European Championship.

There's always room for more recruits, and to make it as easy as possible for parents with lower incomes Phil offers a month's free training to every child under 16, with parents attending if they wish so they can see all aspects of what goes on. "I don't want to show them one easy fun session and then demand fees," he emphasises. "I want them to see the good, the bad and the ugly first!" If parents are interested after that but can't afford the whole fee, then "that's a private conversation between me and them".

Barton Community Centre gives him storage space for equipment, and charges the minimum it reasonably can for the room, and this lets him extend the opportunity for training to more kids. There are also fundraising events, and charities which can help in the short term.

With it being likely that Karate will be included in the 2020 Olympic Games we may well be seeing an Olympic medal winner from Barton. Members of the Karate Club, including Dani Lester from Barton, are competing at the under 21 World Championships this October.

Phil would love to see more students, whether they come just for the fun of it, or to get to competition level. Everyone is welcome.

Karate classes are held twice a week at the Barton Community Centre:

Wednesdays	*Saturdays*
6–7pm, Beginners	9.30–10.00am, Little Dragons (3–6 years old)
7–8pm, Advanced	10–11am, Beginners
8–9pm, Grappling	11am–12pm, Advanced
	12–1pm, Competitors Squad



Barton Community Association

PRIDE IN BARTON COMMUNITY SPIRIT

Barton A–Z

We are currently compiling our next issue of the Barton A–Z that acts as a directory of all local services available. If you would like a free insertion then please contact me with your details on 07866460446 or email susanholden@hotmail.com

This free publication is delivered to every household within Barton and will have copies available in places such as Thornhill Park and Ride, GPs Surgery waiting rooms, Roundabout Family Centre, Barton Leisure Centre etc.

Do you do dressmaking, alterations, painting and decorating? Are you a qualified electrician, carpenter, plumber? Then why not advertise for free?

Leaflet Deliverers

We are currently updating our contact details for anyone interested in earning some spare money doing leaflet delivery within Barton. This is not a regular commitment, and you can do as much or as little as you want.

If you would like your details added to our database then please contact Sue Holden on 07866460446 or email her at susanholden@hotmail.com

Barton Bash

This year's Barton Bash will take place on Saturday 3 November between 12 noon –5.00pm.

We're keeping our fingers crossed for fine weather again as we had last year, and if you would like to be involved either as a volunteer or running an activity please let us know as soon as possible. Planning the event is ongoing from year to year so we are already well advanced with our plans for this year's event. For the young people we have already booked a graffiti workshop and an apple pressing experience!

Make a note in your diary to keep the date free, and maybe Father Christmas will already have it in his!

20 Garden Project

We are looking to identify 20 households who would benefit from some voluntary gardening work.

In particular, we would like to find residents who face difficulty in doing basic gardening chores, and hopefully we will be able to offer some assistance.

This project also makes available opportunities for volunteers to take part so if you are interested in becoming involved either as someone who would like their garden attended to or as a volunteer gardener please contact Alan Foulkes on alanbartonnhc@aol.com

After School Art and Crafts Club

We currently run a free after school Art and Craft club on Fridays (term time only) between 3.15– 4.45pm for ages 7–14.

The first session of the term is 7 September, and this year we will be having Face Painting Workshops, Graphic Design using IPads, tattooing, knitting and sewing skills, and lots more.

We also plan to have trips out using our own minibus. Each week we have free refreshments for all participants so why not come along on the 7 September and see for yourself.

Coach Trips

This year has been our most successful year for our annual coach trips to the seaside. The first trip went to Bournemouth on 25 July and this was the hottest day of the year.

Crowded beaches, hundreds in the sea, sandcastles as far as the eye could see, and a good time was had by all.

Brighton proved so popular we needed to add an extra coach, and Weymouth never fails to sell out. Advice for next year is —BOOK EARLY!

We are planning a trip to Cirencester Christmas Market (yes, it's closer than you think) combined with Westonbirt Arboretum probably late November. Let us know if you would like to join us.

Hip Hop Workshop

We ran our first Hip Hop workshop lasting a full week for 6–16 year olds. This event was funded by Oxford City Council, Positive Futures, Early Intervention, Barton Community Association and Barton Children's Project thereby spreading the cost across several different organisations.

The whole event was a resounding success with participants learning about street dance, graffiti, DJing and mixing and culminating on the last day in their own showcase performed in front of friends and family.

We are hosting regular weekly Hip Hop and Gymnastics classes from Tuesday 11 September, 5–7pm.

Please get in touch if you would like to join either the Hip Hop or Gymnastics sessions or both! Sue Holden 07866460446 or susanholden@hotmail.com

Top comment in resident survey.

BY SANDRA PALMER

FIRST of all, many, many thanks to all those who gave their time to complete the recent Barton Resident's Survey – 263 in all!

The survey, which was carried out on behalf of Barton Community Association, showed that we are most proud of Barton's community spirit and the People of Barton. We like the Neighbourhood Centre and the allotments, and we love the green spaces around us.

Not surprisingly though, a large percentage of us wish to see the return of a local Post Office and we would like to see an improvement in the general appearance of the area, to see it look more cared for and with less littering.

Issues around crime and anti-social behaviour is a particular concern as is dog fouling and the loss of some of the City Council services such as the Housing Office and Youth Services.

Comments about the West Barton housing development showed that many of us are concerned about the allocation policy for the social housing.

But the largest areas of worry are about the impact that such a large development will have on existing Barton. Specifically: the creation of two separate communities; the detrimental effect of extra traffic through the existing community; the loss of green spaces.

It is felt that there should be improvements and regeneration to ensure that existing Barton will stand up well in comparison with the new development.

However, it was clear that Barton residents are sympathetic to the housing needs of Oxford people and are very generous about accepting some of the knock-on effects of the development.

Many of the issues raised in the survey are already being discussed by the Barton Community Association and the Barton Regeneration Partnership and those issues which cannot be part of the BCA agenda will be referred to the relevant people and agencies.

The next stage of this community research will be a series of Focus Groups or Workshops for Barton residents to discuss some of the issues that have been highlighted through the survey.

Many of those surveyed expressed an interest in taking part in these sessions and dates and times will be arranged very shortly.

The real value of this research is that it community led. It's the community's own agenda: Barton people doing it for themselves.

YOUTH PROVISION TIMETABLE

Open sessions from September 2012

Sunday
- Baptist Church, Sunday@5, St. Mary's

Monday
- Early Intervention, Desk work, 12.00–3.00pm
- Yoga, Main Hall, 6.00–7.00pm
- Thrive/BCP, Junior session, 8–13 yrs old, 4.00–6.00pm

Tuesday
- Hip Hop/Gymnastics, Sports Hall, 5.00–7.00pm
- Early Intervention, Juniors 8–13 yrs old, 6.00–8.00pm

Wednesday
- Early Intervention, Girls Group, 6.00–8.00pm
- Phil Patrick Karate, Sports Hall, 6.00–8.3pm

Thursday
- Early Intervention, Senior session, 13yrs plus, 7.00–9.30pm

Saturday
- Phil Patrick Karate, 9.30–1.00pm
- Oxford Bible Church, Sports Crew (alt Sats), 12.00–2.30pm

All sessions take place at Barton Neighbourhood Centre (mostly in the Youth Centre) unless specified.

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GARDENERS' CORNER

Would you like to make a garden? Or do you have a garden that you cannot cope with?

BY PATRICIA DOWDALL

I MET with the lovely Janet Woodman over several cups of tea (as apparently that's the best way to solve problems) and we discussed a fabulous idea that is literally growing across the nation but not even at root level here in Oxford.

Janet attended a course about gardening fairly recently and went on to find out about a National Scheme that works between council tenants in dwellings that have gardens they cannot manage for whatever reason and people who adore gardening.

This is a service that relies on someone who cannot cope with their garden linking with someone who knows their dandelions from decadent daisies and simply lives in a flat but would love the prospect of making their own garden.

How Janet and I decided the project would work best here in Barton would be to compile a list of people who would like their garden to be less of an eyesore in exchange for a vision of prettiness, to come forward and get in touch.

On the other side of the fence, we need those people who are keen and enthusiastic gardeners who perhaps no longer have a garden but would relish the opportunity to create a garden for someone who cannot manage a garden themselves.

Are you interested? If so please contact Patricia Dowdall on 07891191416

BARTON ALLOTMENTS

A great place to gain the plot!

BY PATRICIA DOWDALL



Janette from the committee

MEETING Janette, Caroline and young Zoe early one Friday morning to discuss the Barton Fields Allotments was a breath of fresh air if you pardon the pun!

Their enthusiasm and passion for the site, which is located off the Northern Bypass, near the playing fields with access from Barton village, shone through.

Currently, there are 101 plots in cultivation and the process of another half a dozen becoming available is on the horizon at time of going to press.

There is a mixture of plot sizes from starters upwards. The soil is beautiful and perfect for growing fruit and vegetables through to glorious flowers.

One elderly gentleman is renowned for his glorious dahlias. The views of the Oxfordshire countryside are outstanding!

The work can be hard they tell me but the benefits far outweigh this when you reap your rewards and gain all the support and advice from other plot regulars that is both very informative and friendly. In fact it is fair to say the atmosphere is wonderful, surrounded mainly by fellow Barton residents of all ages, teens, elderly but very agile, and families. I am keenly told by young Zoe that recently they all enjoyed a lovely barbecue at the site as well.

Communal areas of the allotments are maintained by all which is yet another lovely way to learn from the mixture of residents and possibly make new friends along the way.

The tenancy agreements run for one year, renewable annually prior to the AGM and a full plot size is a very reasonable price of £25 per year.

On leaving the allotment site the most glorious avenue of apple trees are bordering the allotments and these I am told were planted after the war.

The site seems steeped in undiscovered history and research is taking place at present to uncover what previously happened or was based on this land.

Obviously, if anyone has any knowledge please share it with Janette, Caroline or anyone from the Barton Allotments Committee.

Interested in taking on an allotment? Please Contact Janette for more details on 01865 580131.

See www.bartonfieldsallotments.co.uk

Hands on Cookery with Patricia Dowdall

Healthy Cumberland Pie

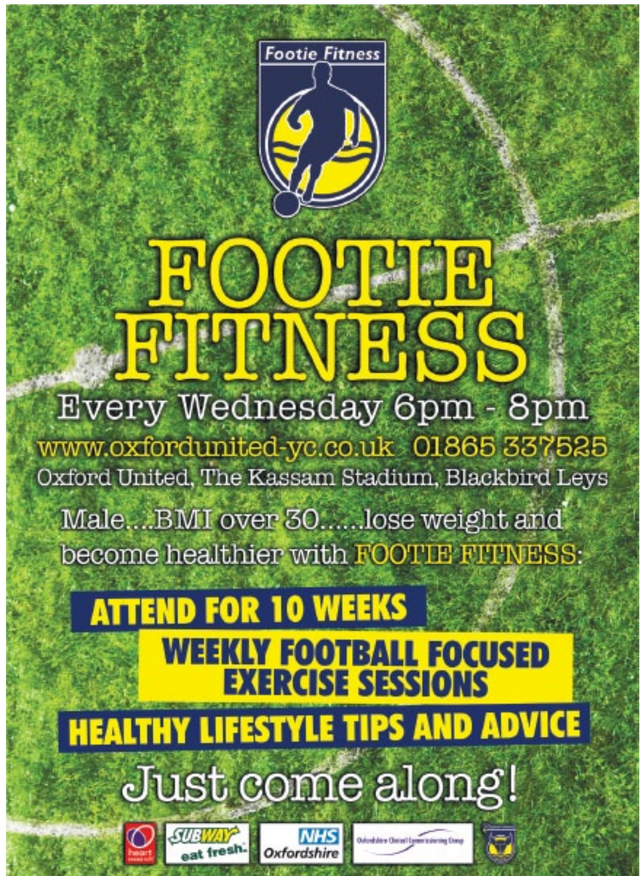
Here you go . . . Trisha's super-economy, healthy Cumberland Pie with stealthily hidden healthy veg that you could run a mile on and even Her Majesty wouldn't turn her nose up at!

Ingredients:

Lean Beef mince
1 big onion
2 carrots
Sliced mushrooms (optional)
Handful frozen sweetcorn
Handful frozen peas
Red lentil (optional)
2 Beef stock cubes
1 can tomatoes
4oz grated cheese
4 slices white bread
1lb potatoes

Method:

1. Salt, pepper, garlic,herbes de provence (if you want to go French) or Italian herbs if you don't!
2. Peel and slice onion and fry in olive oil until lightly browned.
3. Add in the beef mince and fry till browned through. Crumble in stock cubes and stir through.
4. Next chuck the grated carrot, mushrooms, peas, sweetcorn, lentils (plus any left over veg that your kids will never know is in there!), not forgetting the tomatoes and stir it all through.
5. Cook on the hob until the juices have been absorbed (i.e. you don't want a sloppy sauce cos you're going to top it with mash).
6. Put the meat mixture in an ovenproof dish.
7. Once you have boiled and mashed your spuds to a lovely creamy consistency arrange said creamy mash artfully over the mince mix and press down gently with a fork. (The way my mum always did it in neat little furrows but mine never quite turned out like that! Looked more like a line of mole hills.)
8. And now, the icing on the cake, so to speak, the crumble topping par excellence.....toast your bread slices and crumble (helpful tip...this is easier when the toast is cold!) into fairly small pieces. Mix the crumbled toast with the grated cheese and sprinkle liberally over your meat and mash concoction.
9. Place in a medium oven and bake for about 30 mins or until you have a delectable crunchy cheesy topping.
10. Serve with a salad or side veggies if you live south of Watford or with large chunky chips if you don't!



Cleaner Greener Barton

www.oxford.gov.uk
OXFORD CITY COUNCIL

Thank you for Recycling

THE Cleaner Greener Barton campaign has been encouraging residents to recycle more and reduce waste going to landfill by providing larger recycling bins and food waste caddies.



As a thank you to Barton residents for recycling, six lucky households have been picked at random to receive a prize of £50. To be in with a chance of winning all residents needed to do was place out the blue recycling bin each fortnight and the food caddy each week.

Week one's winner from Bassett Road (*pictured right*) said "It is lovely to win. The recycling service is so easy to use and it's much better than before. We can now compost all our food waste from our front door rather than taking it to the allotment."

A household in Stowford Road won in week two and said "I am pleased to win as I've never won anything before. I find the recycling food waste easy and everyone should use it."

Sherwood Place had a winner in week three and said "I'm all for recycling, it's a great ideal. I recycle as much as I can and even encourage my friends who haven't previously recycled."

The winning resident from North Way in week four said "I find it easy to recycle, once you get into the habit. It is surprising how much food waste you have and it's a really good idea it is going for composting."

UP TO 80% of the waste thrown away can be recycled in the blue bin or composted in the food waste caddies and brown bins. Are you doing everything you can to help increase the recycling rate in Barton?

What goes in your recycling bin?



Food waste recycling



Garden Waste Recycling Service



If you need a larger recycling bin, a food waste caddy or more information on recycling
log onto **www.oxford.gov.uk/recycling**
email **recycling@oxford.gov.uk**
or call **01865 249811**

recycle for Oxford

Roll up to Barton Learning Fayre



Resident Ann Marie Brown at the successful 2011 Learning Fayre

THERE will be an exciting Learning Fayre at Barton Neighbourhood Centre on Saturday 15 September from 10am to 1pm.

It will be a chance to find out about courses, most of them free, that will be on offer in Barton and elsewhere. Residents will be able to sign up to courses such as computer training, child care and helping in schools, and improving maths. Free taster sessions such as hairdressing and computer training are being planned for the day.

There will be chance to have your say about what learning you want to be provided locally. You will also be able to find out more about the Barton Job Club. Local resident, and Community Champion, Lisa Birch commented, "The Learning Fayre is great. Taking up learning can be a huge confidence booster and open up opportunities you never thought possible."

Courses in Barton

Barton is a great place for learning!

There will be a range of courses, which will be mostly free, taking place in Barton from September. Listed below are the courses already confirmed.

● The WEA are providing a free singing course Barton Sings, at Meadowbrook, 59 Stowford Road Barton. The course starts Thursday 13 September, 10–12noon, and runs for five weeks every Thursday.

Thanks to the Workers' Educational Association and the Adler Legacy, Barton Sings is able to sing again!

This singing group was set up in Barton a few years ago. Due to funding difficulties, the group had to disband. The WEA are running a five week course, with a wonderful singing tutor, so that all in Barton have the opportunity to be part of this exciting singing group. New members welcome.

On 27 October, the singers will take part in the exciting gala evening at the Ruskin Hall launch event! Join this course and enjoy taking part in a community singing group and having the opportunity to perform. Beginners and experienced singers are welcome. All must be over 19 years of age.

For further details and to enrol please contact Emma Carney on 07770 641359 or email ecarney@wea.org.uk

● Preparing for Helping in Schools Course, at Barton Neighbourhood Centre starting on Tuesday 25 September, 9.30–11.30am and will continue on the next four Tuesdays. This course is for anyone wanting to find out how to support your child in primary school, and how you can get involved in the school day. You can then also go onto the Helping in Schools course after completing this course. It is free to anyone on income related benefits and will cost £25 if you are not on a benefit.

For further details and to enrol please contact Emma Carney on 07770 641359, or email ecarney@wea.org.uk

● Child care course at the Roundabout Centre will be starting in October. It will be free to all and have a crèche available.

For more details contact the Roundabout Centre on 01865 764952

● Improve your reading, writing and/or maths course. The course will be at the Roundabout Centre. It will be run by Ruskin College and will start on Friday 12 October. It will continue on each Friday, 9.30–11.30am. This will be free to all and have a crèche provided.

For more details and to book your place please contact Alan Foulkes at Barton Community Association on 077724 660341 or email: alanbartonnhc@aol.com

● English course for those who English is not their first language (ESOL). This course will be starting in September. It will be free to all and have crèche facilities. The course is provided by EMBS.

For more details and to book your place please contact Alan Foulkes at Barton Community Association on contact details above.

● Computer Course for beginners. This course will start towards the end of September. We hope that the course will have crèche facilities.

For more details and to book your place please contact Alan Foulkes at Barton Community Association see contact details above.

There will be other courses starting in September/October which may include gardening, first aid, hairdressing/health and beauty and community journalism.

For more details contact Alan Foulkes at Barton Community Association (contact details above). Or/and come along to the Learning Fayre on Saturday 15 September, 10am–1pm at Barton Neighbourhood Centre.

Reaching out for a rewarding Ruskin future

Learning leads to new horizon for Barton resident Lisa Birch. Interview by Patricia Dowdall.



AN INSPIRATION to us all is Lisa Birch from Barton. She has an enthusiastic personality, infectious smile, and a positive attitude to improve her and her family's lives.

Lisa spent time telling me about what can be quite a daunting thing for us adults out there, to commit to and achieve adult further education.

Lisa is a 42 year old mother of three, nanny of two and her story is told to me in her own words about the real difference learning can make to our everyday lives.

She said: "Being a young mum at 16 I didn't really have the opportunity to study in higher education. Being a full time mum for many years had left me feeling a little brain dead to say the least.

"My learning journey started in 2009 when I began a WEA return to work course including a basic social care element.

"I enjoyed returning to learning so much that I continued on to do a level 2 helping in schools course which gave me the skills to be a volunteer or work in a school. This included a placement.

"Following on from this I did a Take-part course which was aimed at equipping you with the skills to run a group or learning circle. This inspired a few of us to help set up a PTA at Bayard's Hill School and from there I became a Parent Governor. I have since done a Community Champions Course and have been part of Barton's learning partnership. We aim to encourage new learners to strive to reach their goals.

"The courses I did were really helpful and informative.They helped me to gain confidence and boost my self-esteem as it had been quite low prior to this. It also helped me to realise what my goals were; as before this all I knew was I wanted to do something to help people but not really in which way.

"After becoming a volunteer for Home-Start and extending my involvement in the school I then decided to apply to Ruskin College to study Social Work. As I had left it late to apply and all places were full, I also applied to do a three year degree in Social Sciences – Sociology, Politics and Economics. I have just completed my first year and about to start my second.

"On a personal level it has given me a massive confidence boost, a belief in myself, and a real sense of achievement. It has at times been tough, sometimes stressful and does need time commitment but I have enjoyed it. I have proven to myself that I am capable of way more than I ever thought and that it's never too late to follow your dreams or aspirations.

"I would like to say to anyone that thinks they have nothing to offer or are not capable of following their aspirations that no matter how much you may feel stuck in a rut and don't know how to return to learning then please try it. It has inspired me to follow my passion to help others and gain the knowledge and experience to be where I am today."

NEWS FROM RUSKIN COLLEGE

Places for course available

RUSKIN COLLEGE (based at Ruskin Hall in Old Headington) still has a few degree places remaining for this October. If you, or anyone you know did not complete their education, do think about, or tell them about Ruskin.

We can squeeze an extra few into most subjects, particularly History, but also English, Social and Political Studies, Youth Work and a two-year Foundation Degree in Writing for Performance.

Student fees will not hit until next year at Ruskin because the first year of degree-level study in most subjects is free here, supported by the Skills Funding Agency through the Adult Education Bursary. We have kept our fees down as much as possible, to £7,500, so most degrees will cost only £15,000 at Ruskin, as opposed to £27,000 in many other places.

Repayments of the student loan are tied to earnings and do not commence until the individual is earning at least £21,000. The vocational subjects (Social Work, Youth Work) do cost more but, for most people, they lead directly into professional jobs and Social Work still retains bursary funding on a national basis for at least one more year.

Short courses, an excellent pathway to a longer course of study, remain free to many of those on benefits. The BA and MA in International Labour and Trade Union Studies, taught through weekend workshops and some e-learning are both currently recruiting and may attract trade union or other financial support.

Do pass on the word. Recent national research shows that ordinary working people know about education but do not believe it is intended for them. At Ruskin, it most certainly is!

Further information is at www.ruskin.ac.uk or ring Hannah on 01865 759604, or email her at hjones@ruskikn.ac.uk.

Age UK Oxfordshire launches dignity in care awards 2012

AGE UK Oxfordshire is launching its Dignity Always award scheme to celebrate and publicise the good practice of carers of older people, and to encourage everyone working in care. The awards are set to take place at Age UK Oxfordshire's AGM on Friday 9 November.

Paul Cann, Chief Executive at Age UK Oxfordshire said: "In Oxfordshire we want to build on the positive. Many care workers do outstanding, selfless caring day in day out with paltry wages and poor recognition."

The Dignity Always awards intend to celebrate carers of older people, paid and unpaid, who have displayed exceptional qualities and given excellent service.

Age UK Oxfordshire is asking service users and their family or other informal carers to nominate personnel from any of the caring professions for an award to be presented at the Age UK Oxfordshire AGM on 9 November.

The Award categories will be:

- Individuals giving care to older people either in their own homes, in a care home, or in hospital
- A care home, ward or acute unit that has exemplified good practice across its whole service
- A senior manager who has shown leadership in taking forward the cared-for person's dignity as a strategic issue

To make your nominations or for further information, please contact Rachelle Kennedy on 01235 849409 or email rachellekennedy@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk

NEWS FROM THE PAVILION

Fun for all at the Pavilion Jubilee

OUR Diamond Jubilee Event was a great success. The weather stayed fine and we had lots of people come down to the pavilion to see what was going on. We had a visit from the Fire Brigade and also a performance by the Strawberry Fayre Majorettes. Various football events took place for the children and the men also played some football matches. We also had a BBQ which proved very popular with everyone.

Our yearly Fun Day was scheduled for Sunday 26 August from 12 noon.

Some of the activities on offer were: Beat the Keeper, Bouncy Castle, Pinatta, Lucky Dip, Face Painting, Oxford Sport and Traditional Martial and the Arts Stall.



Majorettes at the Jubilee event

MORE PLAYERS NEEDED FOR BARTON UNITED

We are also looking for some additional players for our teams, training details as follows:

***Under 8s*: Friday, 5.00pm**
***Under 10s*: Friday, 5.30pm**
***Under 12 (Girls)*: Thursday, 5.30pm**
***Under 14s*: Friday, 5.30pm**
***Under 9s*: Friday, 5.00pm**
***Under 11s*: Friday, 6.00pm**
***Under 13s*: Thursday, 5.30pm**

For more information please contact Jan Rose on 01865 452616 or just turn up at the Pavilion playing field.

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

News from St Mary's Church

Church Sunday and Harvest Festival
Sunday 30 September, 10am.
If you've never been to church and are curious to know what happens at a service or if you haven't been for some time and want to re-visit, this is for you. You will be very welcome!

All our Sunday services are at 10am and on the first Sunday of every month, we have an informal Communion Service, Tea 'n' Toast/ Bread 'n' Wine which is preceded by breakfast in the church hall at 9.20am. Children from 7 upwards are encouraged to join our new Junior Choir to help lead these new services.

For further details about this, baptisms, weddings, funerals and any other pastoral concern, please call the Rev'd Maggie Thorne on 761886

FREE FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

WOULD you like to announce a celebration of a birth, marriage or passing of a loved one within your family?

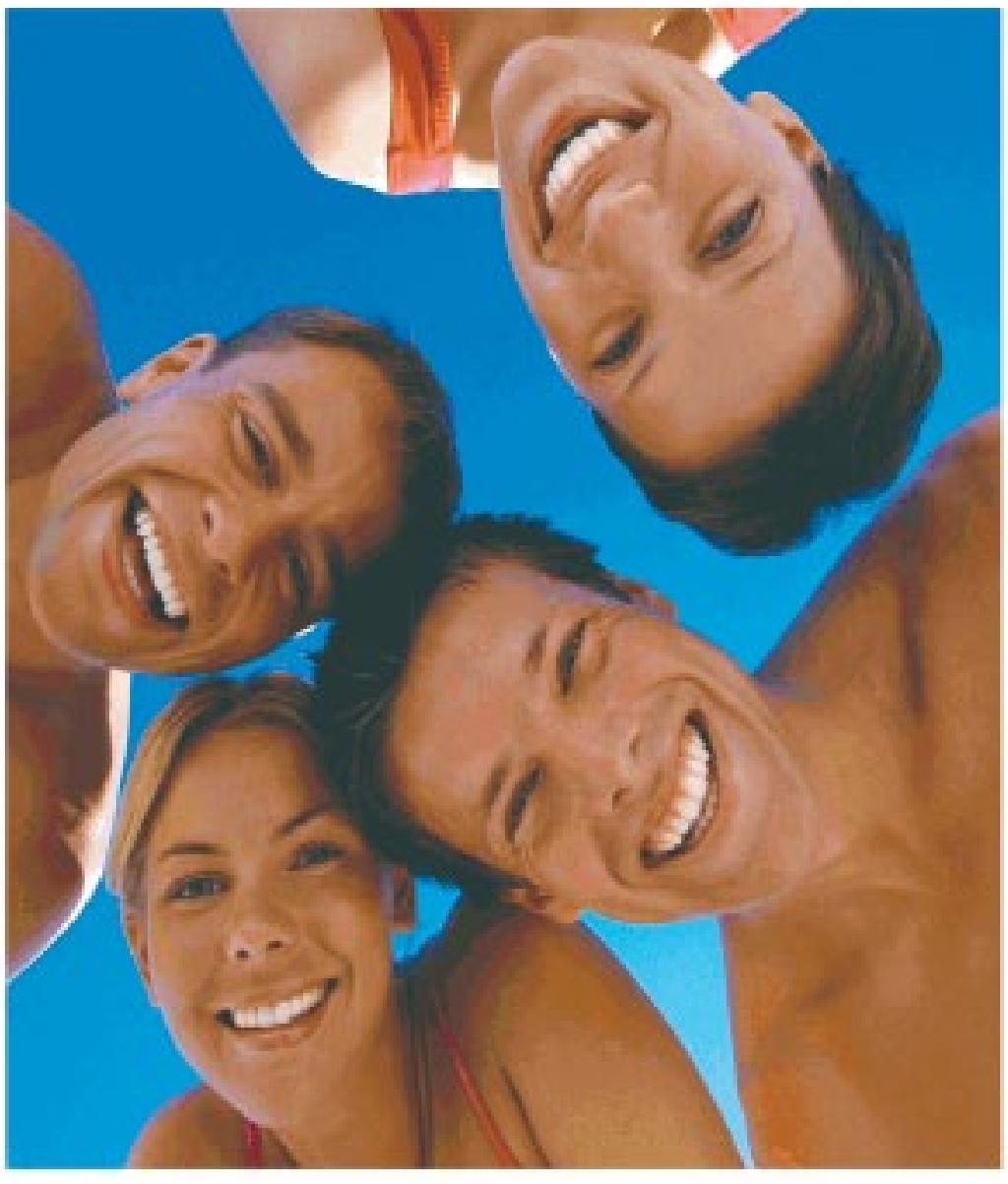
Share your marriage with the local community by placing your Family Announcement in the Hands on News for free. To place your message in our next issue please call: Alan Foulkes on 07772466041 or email your insert to alanbartonnhc@aol.com

VOLUNTEERS WANTED FOR SATURDADS

MALE volunteers are needed to help with the Saturday session for Dads run at the Roundabout Children's Centre.

The sessions are from 9.00am to 1.00pm on the first and third Saturdays of the month.

If you think you might like to volunteer please contact Kathy Shepherd at the Roundabout Centre on 764952 or email Kathy.shepherd@oxfordshire.gov.uk. CRB checks apply



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