

Early Days on Barton

The original Fox Public House was a small thatched building which only had one room for drinking with the beer being brought up from the cellar. The old Fox was closed and demolished during the 1930s with a new Fox being built beside the Northern Bypass. After about 30 years, this in turn was closed and rebuilt to make way for the upgrading of the Northern Bypass to a dual carriageway and a new Fox was built on Northway and opened in 1967. This was again closed and demolished to make way for a housing development.

In the 1980's The Fox was a favorite of pigeon-fanciers who had a club house there together with rows of cages for use during pigeon shows that were frequently held there.

Princes Castle had an unusual start in that it was formally a blacksmith and stable block for the Manor House. Unfortunately the pub closed in the mid 1980s. Lottie and Ada Collins kept the pub from 1914-1935. The Princes Castle together with the Fox Public House became the focal points where residents used to meet to make plans on how to improve their way of life as there were no shops, buses, schools or even footpaths in the area. They worked together to form football teams and youth clubs. The two pubs remained the focal points for the football teams, The first football team was known as Barton Midgets and Alden's the Butcher provided the first football shirts. Barton also had a cricket team together with a ladies rounders team.

The local residents arranged for a Community Centre to be built in Underhill Circus. The Community Centre, a second-hand prefabricated building, built by Barton volunteers was opened in March 1950. In the early days of the community centre there was a young wives club, where ladies discussed such topics as housework, bringing up and the health of children, dress and domestic economics. Unmarried ladies also assisted by minding the children in another room whilst meetings were held. The Womans Volunteer Service also ran a Darby and Joan Club. Barton Community Centre was rebuilt in 1992. The opening ceremony was performed by The Rt. Hon, Andrew Smith MP and The Lord Mayor of Oxford Barbara May Gatehouse. It became known as The Barton Neighbourhood Centre and is the focal point for community activities including Eatwells Cafe. The Barton Community Association which was formed over 60 years ago, is the main body representing the residents of Barton.

In the early 1950's there were no shops on Barton, the nearest being Finlays, London Road adjacent to Green Road Roundabout together with Charlotte's a small shop selling confectionary etc, now Colemans Hill Flats. In 1954 a parade of shops were opened on Underhill Circus, these being No 2, J. Reeves, Hardware selling paint etc., now Barton Chippy, No 4, Well-Shod Boot and Shoe repairs and Post Office, No 6, Jefferies Fruit and Veg, now Barton Pharmacy, No 8, G. Owen, Ladies outfitters and Haberdashery, now hairdressers, No 10, Oxford & District Co-op Butchers, No 12, Oxford & District Co-op grocery store and No 14 Michaels, Newsagents, now Spar Supermarket.

Also in the 1950's, Barton had a thriving Cycle Speedway team. This was a pedal cycle version of Speedway and was a very popular sport mainly for the 15-21 year olds. The sport was held on oval dirt tracks around the country. Barton's team held all their meetings on spare ground off North Way near Green Road Roundabout. This was a serious sport for the Barton youths as they were part of the Oxford League with teams from Rose Hill and Wood Farm making up a total of ten teams from the Oxford area.

1927

Headington Urban District Council was formed at the request of the parish council. It only lasted one year, but in that time purchased land on the Barton estate for 60 homes, acquired land for a public open space in Windmill Road (now St Leonard's Road car park), passed more than 200 plans to erect homes, and granted nearly 40 private enterprise subsidies

1929

The whole of Headington to the east of Gipsy Lane (1,529 acres) was **incorporated into the City of Oxford**. Headington Urban District Council was dissolved in August 1929, and the City Council took over the new suburb. Headington was quickly brought up to city standards, getting electricity and telephone for the first time, and better pavements

1939

The **Slade Hospital** opened on 3 February to replace the Cold Arbour Isolation Hospital
[Oxford Crematorium](#) opened in Bayswater Road

1938–8

Barton council estate was started to be built in 1938 but stopped during WW2 but building recommenced in 1946. In 1948 the hut used by foreman of works was purchased by the Society of King Charles the Martyr as a place of worship and presented to St Andrew's Church

1956

Oxford City Council adopted the first **green belt** outside London. This offered some protection to Headington, although building continued in the green-belt at Barton

The **Conventional District of Bayswater** was formed by the Church of England to serve both the Barton and Sandhills estates

1977

The number of houses built at Barton reached 1600

1983

St Mary's Church in Bayswater was granted full parish status

2003

The return to a two-tier system of education was completed. Headington Middle School, Bayswater Middle School, and [Headington Quarry First School](#) closed down. [Windmill Primary School](#) moved into the Headington Middle School buildings, Bayards Hill Primary School (the new name for Barton First School) into the former Bayswater School buildings, and Headington Nursery School into the Headington Quarry School buildings