

Dear All,

Have you done your Christmas shopping yet!? I haven't, if it makes you feel any better. However that is often the question we are asking of one another and ourselves throughout December. More pressing can be however, how can we afford Christmas this year? Having two small children, I have been reflecting on the pressure to ensure they have a wonderful Christmas.

However what does that actually mean? With many across Europe stranded and fleeing their homes desperate to leave war behind, I cannot help but reflect on the very first Christmas which might have been more similar to their experience, than of what I attempt to create each year. Jesus was born in a stable, to parents who were far from home and forced to find refuge also. Jesus however was still given gifts despite his circumstances. However, each person that gave him a gift that very first Christmas gave of themselves.

The wise men left their homes and journeyed far, the shepherds' gift was in their worship of the Christ child.

The church celebrates the birth of Christ at Christmas as we are reminded that he is God's greatest gift to us. In Jesus we are shown the best of humanity, the love, the sacrifice, the peace and the welcome embrace which comes with knowing God. I pray that we might know something of that gift this Christmas through how we choose to celebrate the season.

May you have a peace- and joy-filled Christmas and New Year,

Much love, Becca

*Serving the parishes of Barton,
Coton, Harlton and Haslingfield in the Lordsbridge Team of Churches*

Church News

From the registers

Baptism: 11th October Emily Rose Nicklin

Gift Day. We are very grateful to all who donated to our church funds at our Gift Day. The total collected was £2775. £278 of this will go to the charity Farm Africa, and the rest is placed in the General Fund (£1110) and Fabric Fund (£1387). Some minor repairs advised by our architect have now been carried out and the church fabric is hopefully in good repair for the next few years!

On **Sunday 10th January** we will share in a service of praise with our Baptist friends at 4pm at St. Peter's followed by tea and refreshments in the Village Hall. Please do join us.

Anne Coulson

Discussion Group for Advent on Wednesdays beginning November 25th, then December 2nd, 9th and 16th at the Baptist Church at 7.30pm

Barton Baptist Church

We continue with the Joint Advent Bible Studies in December. It is good for us to gather with our friends from St Peter's and we look forward to their leading these studies. We hold our Carol Service on the 20th December in the morning and will be joining with St Peter's in the evening for their Carol Service.

Tea and chat continues in December and January and anyone over 50 is welcome to join us. Also in January we will continue our Bible studies in John's Gospel. On the 10th of January we will again be joining with St Peter's for the Epiphany Carol Service at 4pm followed by tea in the Village Hall at 5pm. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Ken Jones C. 262583

Parish Jottings

We were sad to hear that **Davina Lane**, our Chairman 1992-6, had passed away.

District Councillor Francis Burkitt reported that, as part of a government review, South Cambs District Councillors had decided to reduce their number from 57 to 45 in order to make the size of wards more equal. This may mean that Barton joins a different village for electoral purposes.

The government Planning Inspector is also checking on some inconsistencies in the Green Belt, but not locally.

The first consultation papers are coming out about a so-called **Western Orbital** route, specifically for buses between J11 and J13 of the M11. These options will need to be looked at carefully because they suggest possible P&R and Park and Cycle sites, including in Barton among several others.

<http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/citydeal/info/2/transport/1/transport/11>

Consultation is ongoing about optimum Cambourne-Cambridge bus routes; strong feelings have been expressed in local villages and Newnham; Cambridge BOLD is suggesting a P&R site further west at Scotland Road, Dry Drayton, not at Madingley Mulch, and favours a busway north of Madingley village.

N.B. Barton Parish Council will consult with parishioners on these issues, but it is also prudent to watch the Cambridge News website for updates. Please do not hesitate to express your views to Councillors and directly on online consultations.

Autumn edition of South Cambs Magazine

Sadly some villagers were missed out again. SCDC have been told. The edition can be read on their website by typing in “magazine”.

Bin collections in December and January

| | | | |
|------------------------------|-------|-------------|-------|
| Friday, 4 December | black | | |
| Friday, 11 December | blue | paper caddy | green |
| Friday, 18 December | black | | |
| Thursday, 24 December | blue | paper caddy | |
| Monday, 4 January | black | | |
| Saturday, 9 January | blue | paper caddy | green |
| Friday, 15 January | black | | |

No more electrical recycling collections for the moment!

Unfortunately Wisser Recycling has told us that it is no longer able to offer this service owing to market conditions.

Cambridgeshire’s Adult Safeguarding Board’s latest newsletter, *Safeguarding Adults and Mental Capacity Act* can be found on the County Council website. To download a copy, go to www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/safeguardingmca and follow the link to ‘Newsletters, fact sheets and resources’.

Cambs CC Streetlight consultation – Have your say by 11th December

The County is urging residents to have their say on proposals to further dim or turn off some streetlights at certain times to meet tough saving targets. They are looking to follow the lead of more than 60 councils across the country, which have already turned off or dimmed street lights, which should save around £272,000 from an annual cost of over £1.4m a year. The savings made would help reduce the impact of £41 million of cuts on other frontline services. For more details please visit www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/CambridgeshireStreetlightConsultation / or contact research.performance@cambridgeshire.gov.uk. Paper copies are available.

A recent report shows that where this approach of dimming or turning off streetlights has been taken elsewhere, there is no evidence to suggest a link with increases in crime or detrimental impact on safety.

Scams in the name of Cambridgeshire County Council

Two telephone scams have been reported by residents – one claiming to be

investigating personal injury in order to obtain details about identity, the other claiming to be from the County's Highways or Streetworks Team. The caller offers to refresh road markings with some surplus thermoplastic paint – for a fee. Officers of the County Council will never approach residents in such a way. If you receive a call like this, ask for the person's name and tell them you will ring back. Then phone our General Enquiries line 0345 045 5200 and ask to be put through to that named officer. For further advice and guidance on scams and rogue traders please see our website www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/scams

Stay well this winter – please avoid unnecessary visits to A&E

NHS statistics for the past year suggest that a quarter of Cambridge residents made unwarranted visits to A&E. As each visit costs £87, even before treatment, this equates to £4million a year. Please help to keep yourself healthy:– get a flu vaccination if you are eligible; look after others; check on elderly friends, relatives and neighbours, especially in spells of cold weather; help them to keep warm; check they have the medication they might need; be prepared – get your prescriptions in early before the holidays and see your pharmacist or GP about any health concerns you may be putting off

Choose the right service – your local pharmacy can provide confidential, expert advice and treatment for a range of common illnesses and complaints, without having to wait for a GP appointment. For help with finding local NHS services visit <http://www.cambsandpeterboroughchoosewell.co.uk/>

Village website <http://www.barton-cambs.org.uk/> is now fully operational again and has lots of useful and up-to-date information. Please contact Bev Edwards or Margaret Penston to make further suggestions¹.

**Official notices and full minutes of meetings can be seen on the notice board by the pond.
Next Parish Council meeting: Tuesday 1st December, 7.30pm, Village Hall**

Patrick De Backer 07771-923710 bartonpcclerk@btinternet.com

Village News

BEM Presentation 6 November 2015 Barton

Response Speech (John Boocock)

Lord Lieutenant, Madame Deputy, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I feel over-dressed – and, somewhat dated in style – and suspect that both Barton village and I might be happier to see me in more normal winter plumage....

[produces worn hi-viz jacket from laundry basket].

¹ For Bulletins from our MP, Heidi Allen and our Police and Crime Commissioner, Sir Graham Bright, please see the Village website.

Seriously though, may I say briefly, three things. Some who know me, are aware that I am not unused to 3-point sermons.

First to acknowledge background influences which lie behind the practical works which have resulted in this award.

- I was privileged to go to the Perse School. Its motto (in Latin of course) is “*Facit per alium, facit per se*”... He who does (things) for others ‘does’ for himself. I have found this to be true.
- Then there is the constant element of church – or rather a Christian faith – which encourages ongoing service.
- There are other factors: parents; Scouts; Caius College; working life mainly in Africa.

Second, a sincere word of gratitude to the many involved in engineering this award:

- To Francis Burkitt (our District Councillor) who, I suspect, sowed the seed of an idea;
 - to our Parish Council who, in secrecy, must have nurtured that plan;
 - to officialdom, responsible to the Queen, for the processing involved;
 - culminating in the visit of Sir Hugh to-day;
- ... may I say a humble thank-you.

Third, and last, I would like to make it very clear that in accepting this award I want it to be considered as on behalf of all in the village who have played their parts in our many joint-ventures:

- those who have helped in practical tasks as BeaVers (Barton Volunteers);
- and those who have been consistently encouraging, including you here today;
- in particular, Patrick DeBacker, my efficient successor, in 2008, as Parish Clerk;
- and several supportive ladies – Margaret Penston, Anne Coulson, Meta Greenfield – who do so much in the village themselves;
- and finally, to my wife Sheila, who has managed to bring herself to accept the need for her husband to escape into the village to play – for that is what it is, even at his age!

Thank you all.

Parish Magazine

If any ex-resident of Barton would like to receive a copy of the magazine by post please send their name, address and 10 postage stamps to Mrs Margaret Flook
3 Roman Hill Barton Cambridge CB23 7AX

Barton Lunch Club – Friday, 4th December and Friday 8th January , 12.30 for 1pm, Village Hall

Please note: the January date is the **second Friday** of the month as 1st January is a bank holiday

The Lunch Club on the first Friday of each month for Barton residents, currently costs £3 for a two course meal with tea or coffee, and is an ideal way of meeting friends – old and new – over a tasty meal – booking essential.

To book or cancel (or volunteer to cook) contact Anne Coulson 262666

Anne Coulson

Barton Guides, incorporating Comberton, would like to amalgamate their joint camping equipment into one place and store it in either Barton or Comberton.

Do you have some land or an empty, dry garage or shed which we could use for a 5 year let? Please get in touch with our Unit Leader, Valerie Ridgman, to discuss what you might have to offer. We have been lucky enough to have been offered storage for free in the past, but are looking for a new solution for the near future.

Please phone Valerie on 01223 207335 or email her on vriddgman@msn.com.

Community Speed Watch in Barton – More volunteers needed!

Speed Watch will be starting in our village soon. To date we have 12 volunteers but would like to have more so that a regular rota can be set up. If you feel able to spare a bit of time to help improve road safety and quality of life for everyone in our community, please email Sarah Thomas on csw.barton@gmail.com

Barton School

This half term we started by receiving training on how we could enhance our learning opportunities by using the beautiful grounds surrounding our school. Jill and Jo, from Forest Schools came to enthuse us and teach staff and children how to build camps, study nature, make wooden crafts and design hammocks. We had a great day and are developing these opportunities. Warm coats are a must for this time of year!

Our Wind Band project in our Year 5/6 class is taking off and all pupils are now playing together, learning *Jingle Bells*. They should be ready to perform together by the time Christmas comes! The Year 3 /4 class are preparing for Young Voices at the O2 Arena in January. The Christmas nativity show is always a heart-rending performance and our younger children are learning all the songs and script for a wonderful version of Baboushka.

We wish you all a marvellous Christmas and look forward to seeing many of at our events over this festive period.

Claire Coulson

Barton Playgroup

During November we've been learning about fireworks, the celebrations of Diwali and Thanksgiving (including the symmetry of Rangoli patterns for the former and number counting on Thanksgiving 'hands' for the latter) and having fun - and baking cakes! - for Children in Need. Looking ahead to September 2016 and we have a few spaces left - if you are interested in finding out more please see our website www.bartonplaygroup.wordpress.com or call 07762 487650 term time mornings. We are an Ofsted 'Outstanding' playgroup with strong links to Barton Primary School and we'd love to hear from you!



Elise Fielder

Barton WI

We welcomed Tracy Clayton who spoke on Photo Organising. She explained her method of organising printed photographs and how to get started on making a 'life story book'. She displayed albums she had made and recommended the best type of storage for printed photographs. The December meeting will be our Christmas party.

Kathryn Wake

Neighbourhood Watch

According to police figures, crime levels in Barton remain low. Please let's keep it that way, as all crime causes distress.

People are still stealing items from cars and vans, so keep as little as possible in them, and nothing valuable on view. Opportunist thieves are always around, so protect all your property so you don't become a victim. Let's hope everyone and their property in Barton are safe over the Christmas and New Year period.

Please report any suspicious activity to the police on the 101 number, or 999 if you suspect a crime is in progress.

Keep safe, Bev Edwards

Barton Friendship Club

On 3rd November we all enjoyed a fascinating talk about Ethiopia from Jennifer Donkin. Jennifer brought along a splendid collection of visual aids.

We have our Christmas lunch on 1st December, starting at 12.30pm. José Hopkins is going to entertain us with Christmas music. We may even be invited to sing along.

There will be no meeting in January. At our February meeting, John Page will be informing us about his travelling in Turkey.

All meetings in the Village Hall at 2.30pm unless otherwise notified.

Members £2; Non-members £2.50 for tea and biscuits and a raffle.

Richard Parker

Barton WWWI

For our December meeting we will be enjoying a cooking demonstration and tasting! We look forward to seeing members and guests at 6.30pm on Wednesday 16th December. Our January meeting will take place on Wednesday 20th. For further information contact Sarah Massie on wednesdaywomenwi@live.com or 07791 668134.

Sarah Massie



Christmas Mince Pie & Coffee Morning
Saturday, 5th December – 10am to Noon –

Barton Village Hall



Come and enjoy a festive get-together and browse the exciting assortment of stalls, plus a Great Raffle heaving with prizes.

Everyone is welcome to join us. Free entry.

Sue Edwards, 262479, bartongardeners@hotmail.co.uk



Come in out of the icy blue cold of a January day and enjoy:

Afternoon Tea at Barton's Ritz

Tea at Three

30th January between 3pm – 5pm

Margaret Winterbourne C 262353

Ruth Bond C 262985

Forget-me-not Friends

Making Barton a Dementia-friendly community

at The White Horse Inn

10.30am-12pm every third Tuesday

This is a friendly group which welcomes carers and those for whom they care who have memory difficulties. The next meeting is 15th December and our monthly gathering will end with a shared lunch to celebrate the first 6 months of this growing and fluid group. To book a place at the lunch and for further information, please contact Ruth Bond 262985 or ruth.bond52@gmail.com The group's first gathering of 2016 will be on Tuesday 19th January.

The Grantchester Boxing Day Barrel Race – Call for New Talent!

The Barrel Race dates back to the 1960s, lapsed in the 80s and was revived in 2004, with a single race. It was an instant success, and the next year started the current format of Men's, Ladies and Open Races.

We also held a challenge race against our Quarter-to-Six Quadrant neighbours of Barton, Coton and Madingley. In a subsequent year, we added one more race for other villages, in response to their desire to roll.

This year will be the 12th year of the revived race, and the search is now on for some new rolling talent – both men and women.

There has been a hard core of dedicated rollers since 2004, but a dozen years is a long time and age has crept up on some of them, and we've recently noticed the excuses multiplying: "I've got a bad back", "my toe-nail hurts", "I will have a headache" or "I'm going to stay with my mother-in-law for a month" (the things people will do to get out of barrel rolling?!).

The rules are clear: this is an amateur sport, and anyone who practices is instantly disqualified. So everyone can do it, and no one can tell if they can't.

We need men and women, individually or in teams of up to four. Some teams have a theme (eg neighbours, pub-drinkers, family, After Eights... perhaps we might see the Friendship Club this year?) but it's not necessary for that to be the case, and we can put together teams from single entrants.

We suggest rollers should be over 16 and under 99 years old. All you need is shoes with grip, thick gloves, enthusiasm, a sense of fun, and a desire to join in with a long-standing community activity. It is not overly strenuous; you will hopefully be barely out of breath by the finish line and will be able to recover in the pub afterwards with tales to tell!

Please email francis.burkitt@btinternet.com, text 07921 281555 or call 840128 if you are interested.

Comberton Library

Monday:10am-1pm, **Wednesday:**10am-1pm,2pm-5pm **Friday:**2pm-5pm **Saturday:**10am-1pm

Are you interested in setting up a **Reading Group**? We can provide group sets of books of a wide variety of popular titles (often with Large Print or Audio copies if required) free of charge for extended loan periods, on a dedicated reading group membership card. We are also happy to provide a venue should you need one, within our normal opening hours. If your group might be interested please ask in the library for more details.

Volunteer urgently needed! Could you spare half-an-hour once a fortnight during term-time to sing with some of the lovely little ones who visit our library?

From January we're looking to find a new volunteer to host our **Rhymetime sessions** for local babies (and their grown-ups). We need someone who can sing popular action and nursery rhymes for half an hour on a Monday morning, but who doesn't have a child of their own to look after during the session. Toy props and shakers are provided, as is training in how to run a Rhymetime. It's a lovely little group with a very smiley bunch of babies who would be very grateful for someone to lead the singing! Please ask at the library if you may be able to help. **Next Rhymetime session:** 14th Dec (10.30-11am). Dates from January will be dependent on staffing levels, please look out in the library for details.

As usual Comberton Library will be closed between Christmas and New Year. We will be open Wednesday 23rd December 2015, closed over the festive period, and will be re-opening on Saturday 2nd January 2016. Cambridge Central Library will be open over the break, please ask staff or see our website for their Christmas opening times. All the staff at Comberton Library would like to wish their customers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy 2016!

Hilary Spargo, Comberton Library

Comberton Sports and Arts – Events in December & January

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| 5 th | 1940's Swing Dance | £15 advance / £20 door 07738 631288 enquiries@1940singer.co.uk |
| 6 th | Jill Bridger School of Dance – Christmas Dance Show | http://www.danceschool.biz/ |
| 8 th | Christmas Music Concert | Tickets on door |
| 11 th | Custard Comedy – CHRISTMAS SPECIAL | www.custardcomedy.co.uk/comberton.html £5.50 adv / £10 door |
| 12 th 13 th | Stage Right – Christmas Show | www.stagerightstudio.com |
| 15 th | Winter Dance Showcase | www.combertonvc.org/Winter-Dance-Showcase-2015 |
| 8 th Jan | Custard Comedy | www.custardcomedy.co.uk/comberton.html |
| 14 th to 16 th | Festival Players present Return to the Forbidden Planet | www.festivalplayers.org |
| <p>For more information about any of our shows please contact Richard Brown, Arts Development Manager, Comberton Village College – 01223 264444 / rbrown@combertonvc.org</p> | | |