

Dear Friends,

Lying in the depths of winter, the month of February often seems to be a time for hunkering down, staying in and lighting the fire (or booking a holiday to warmer climes!) to combat the cold and scarcity of sunlight. I have been trying to find time to enjoy my Christmas presents, one of them being a book entitled *The Little Book of Hygge*, which explores one of the latest trends from northern shores. Imported from Scandinavia, whose inhabitants have spent millennia honing the art of living through harsh winters, *hygge* is the idea of cosiness and comfort that leads to quiet, simple contentment, often involving blankets, candles, open fires and heavy-knit jumpers. Although I have spoken to Scandinavian friends who have been bemused that such a simple word, which is part of the way of life for many, has become a 'trend'!

Whilst I'm enjoying this little book and the reminder to enjoy simple pleasures – I wonder if *our* interpretation of this wonderful little word could lead us to being a little less social and even more individualistic, something that as a nation I don't think we can afford to do. What I love about the villages that I have the privilege to serve is that they are communities in which I see people working together, caring for one another and getting stuck in (which in its truest sense I suspect is *hygge* too). Rather than churches being cosy places for the few, we desire our churches to be those places that offer love and support community within the places they are rooted, sharing a peace and comfort that will last into all eternity through Jesus Christ. I believe we already do this, but am always open to new ideas and ways in which we can serve you more.

So, enjoy some *hygge* time this month!

Much love Becca

*Revd Becca Gilbert
Vicar to Lordsbridge Team*

Church News

9th January Cremation followed by a Thanksgiving service for Fred Thompson aged 103.

Our Christmas service collections raised £545 for the Children's Society; this includes Gift Aid. Thank you to everyone for your generosity.

A future date for your diaries: **Saturday 4th March** will be the date for our Soup Lunch in the Village Hall to raise money for WaterAid, the charity providing safe water and sanitation around poor communities around the world

Anne Coulson

Barton Baptist Church News

Our fortnightly bible studies are on the 1st and 15th of the month. We are working our way through the book of Romans, both mid-week and on Sundays. Everyone is welcome, with the meetings starting at 7.30pm at the church. The foodbank collection point will be open at this time.

The other Wednesdays are prayer meetings held in homes around the village. Please phone for details. The tea and chats are on the 14th and 28th starting at 2.30pm. We have a great time of sharing views, laughter and friendship. Give us a try, we don't bite! Again the foodbank collection point will be open.

The men's breakfast is on Saturday 18th, starting at 8am, in the pavilion. We have a full cooked breakfast followed by a talk by Nicky Redsell. We finish by 9.30am.

The men's meeting on Friday 24th should prove to be really interesting. Our speaker is Ian Lowe, from Harston. He is a respected expert on butterflies and has travelled the world photographing and painting them. We begin at 7pm and have a bring and share supper after the talk. No need to book, just come along.

Many of you will know by now that Brian West retired as elder-in-charge of the church at the end of December. We are very grateful for his 16 years of service to the church and, along with Mary, they have done so much, both in the church and in the wider community. We wish them well for the future and as they are continuing to live in the village, we will, no doubt, still be seeing plenty of them.

Ken Jones (262583)

Parish Jottings

District Councillor Report

Francis Burkitt sent congratulations to Barton on a storming Barrel Race victory. He also told us that the City Deal agenda pack published on 6th January would have nothing about the A428 busway or the Western Orbital (that would be for later in the year). Francis was invited to write for the *Cambridge Independent*.

The following article was published on 4th January:

There's an exciting work-programme for the City Deal in 2017. My main New Year Resolution is to continue to share our overall vision with residents, employees and employers, and explain how the individual schemes fit together. I want to consult widely, listen to responses, and reflect those views in our plans. Everyone agrees that Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire are very special places, but our clogged roads and insufficient housing cause social problems for many people. The City Deal – with 2017 improvements – is a force for good, and will make this a better place for people to live, work and study in.

The City Deal is a 15-year project, so 2017 will be only a small part of it. In the coming year, as well as affordable housing and apprenticeship projects, I want to focus on seven transport aspects: some are well-advanced, others are just getting going.

1. Major routes: to support the Councils' Local Plans for housing, I want to take decisions on a fast and reliable Cambourne-to-Cambridge bus route, and to continue seeking Government approval to dual-carriageway the A10 between Waterbeach to the A14. To increase capacity on the M11, we want the Highways Agency to turn the hard shoulder into a third lane; we also want it to investigate remodelling the Girton Interchange (that's not going to be cheap or quick). To improve connections south-east from Cambridge, we want to expand the Park & Rides and bus connections in that direction (personally, I'd love to re-open the railway line to Haverhill as a busway). Finally, I want to address Foxton level crossing.

2. Biomedical Campus: we desperately need to address access to it. In particular, I'd love to see a new Cambridge South train station, more Park & Ride spaces and a de-clogged M11 Junction 11.

3. The City's radial routes: it's silly if buses crawl slowly from the edge to the centre of the City: people will only use them more if they flow freely and reliably. Our current focus is on Milton and Histon Roads, but I also want us to look at helping buses move faster between each Park & Ride, Cambridge North station, and the City centre.

4. The City Centre: many residents are concerned by congestion and air pollution; others want more residents' parking areas near their homes to stop their streets being filled by commuters. We need to sort out both. I want to start a consultation on a workplace parking levy at large sites, like Nottingham's successful scheme, to raise much-needed funds for other transport schemes, such as the bus network – and I'd like to see it pay for free Park & Rides.

5. Transport Hubs: Rural areas need better bus services, and better facilities to switch from car/bike to bus/train. Parish Councils have suggested hubs at

Whittlesford, Shepreth, Meldreth and Foxton stations, and at Oakington and Swavesey guided bus stops. I'd like to investigate the land and planning aspects of these in 2017.

6. Cycling: the Chisholm Trail and five city cycling schemes are under way, and I'm excited by the Greenways project to add a network of cycle routes to the neighbouring villages.

7. SmartCity: we'll soon launch a 'Travel App', and next I want to think of other ways of using the data we're now collecting, and how that informs travel choices – and I like the idea of more traffic lights that turn green when a bus approaches.

As I've said, we have a busy programme, with a clear vision and objective: to address transport challenges to make this a better place for people to live in.

Francis Burkitt

City Deal consultations

Bev Edwards has attended the Local Liaison Forum on your behalf. Barton joins other campaigners in wanting a more modest scheme for a busway between Cambourne and Cambridge, not one at great expense or ploughing through the Coton orchard. There was a protest march against the City Deal plans on 17th December in Cambridge attended by about 300 people. There is also pressure to support a Scotland Road, Dry Drayton, P&R site rather than one at Madingley Mulch. Our District Councillor has advised us to pursue this option. Many feel that a revised A428/A14 interchange at Girton with P&R would be an obvious solution and more impetus for this may be generated during and after the elections for a Mayor this coming May.

Please keep your eyes open for any developing news either through the *Cambridge News* or the *Cambridge Independent* or the City Deal website <http://www.gccitydeal.co.uk>

Bin collection day changes are afoot SCDC informs us that there will be changes to most residents' bin collection days, or the sequence in which they put their blue/green and black bins out, from 27th February. More information on these changes will be shown on www.southcambs.gov.uk. Apologies, if a small number of residents did not receive the winter South Cambs Magazine in December. GPO assured the Clerk that all magazines had been delivered!

Pepper Family thatch Barton Bus Shelter

In the first week of the New Year, despite cold conditions, father and son Bill and Chris Pepper, with assistant Mark Blundall, have thatched the new Foxcotte bus shelter on Comberton Road. They used Norfolk reed and a decorative ridge of straw and sedge. It looks very smart.

Although the project has paid for the materials, all workmanship was given free. We are grateful. Thank you, Pepper family of Wimpole Road.

Dog fouling

The mess is there. The Play Area on the Rec and School Lane are two particularly bad spots. This so distasteful and harmful for other residents. Please ensure that you clear up after your dog.

Affordable housing

A report is awaited on possible sites from Hastoe Housing Association which is working in collaboration with Cambridgeshire ACRE and South Cambs. If anyone in the village has expertise in this field or is especially interested in housing provision, they are invited to join a working group to give advice to the Parish Council. Please contact the Clerk.

Next Parish Council meeting: Tuesday 7th February 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Patrick De Backer 07771-923710 bartonpcclerk@btinternet.com

Official notices and agendas and minutes of meetings can be seen on the notice board by the pond or on the Website <http://www.barton-cambs.org.uk>

Village News

Peal Attempt at St Peter's

There is to be a peal attempt by the Cambridgeshire District Bell Ringers on 5th February starting at 1pm. The peal is in memory of Felicity Webster who died aged 43 on 5th December. Felicity was always willing to help the Barton band at practices, in quarter peals and, if she was not ringing at her home tower, service ringing. It should take just under 3 hours to ring the 5040 changes required for a peal.

Barton Lunch Club – Friday, 3rd February, 12.30 for 1pm, Village Hall

The Lunch Club on the first Friday of each month is for Barton residents, booking essential. The cost is £3. To book or cancel (or volunteer to cook) contact Anne Coulson, 262666. The collection at our Christmas Lunch raised £285 for the Arthur Rank Hospice.

Church Jumble Sale – Saturday 18th February, 2.30pm in new venue, Barton Village Hall with Teas and Books in the Church.

Here is an opportunity to have a good post-Christmas sort out of clothes and other unneeded items to give us for recycling by selling for church funds. We will be grateful for all donations.

The stalls are Bric-à-brac (including kitchen items and china but no electrical appliances); children's toys; books; bedding and soft furnishings; clean clothing – men's, women's and children's; and jewellery. Nearly new items are very welcome.

Setting up will be on Saturday morning between 10am and 12noon. It will be helpful if items are brought to the Village Hall then. Jumble can be collected or dropped off before the day to the following people:

Hugh Greenfield 114 High Street 01223 262005
Anne Coulson 2 Mailes Close 01223 262666
Ruth Barnes 33 King's Grove 01223 262114
Unsold items are gifted to Emmaus, Salvation Army and EACH.

Meta Greenfield

Forget-Me-Not Friends

The gathering in January 2017 of Forget-me-not Friends was expected to be the final one. But we have been led to believe there is a need for it to continue. Since May 2015 this drop-in group has met on the third Tuesday of each month, 10.30am – 12 noon, in the White Horse Inn, specifically for carers and their charges who have memory problems – a comfortable space to chat and drink coffee, hosted each time by members from Barton WI.

In an attempt to make Barton a Dementia Friendly Community the group was set up by the WI following a series of talks organised by the Campaigns Group of the WI.

Attendance has not been high, and in view of there occasionally being no attendees it was thought to cease Forget-me-not Friends. However, if you feel it would be beneficial to continue with this group please do let us know. We should be very pleased to hear your views either in person on 21st February or before that date by contacting Ruth Bond on

01223 262985 or 07787 538 983 or ruth.bond52@gmail.com

Barton Gardeners

Potatoes for the Show

If your children do **not** attend Barton Primary School or Playgroup and they would like to grow Potatoes for the Junior Classes in the Show in July, please get in touch with Sue Clemo **now** to order your free seed potato which will be ready for collection on 20th April.



Many Thanks, BG Committee 264765 or bartongardeners@hotmail.co.uk

Barton School

Happy New Year to you all in the Parish!

As we look back over the last term, we have been so pleased to welcome people from other schools to Barton, so that we can share our good practice. We even had Heidi Allen, MP, visit us just before Christmas and she shared a glass of 'mud gloop' with our youngest children. She was very excited by what she saw in our outdoor area and the engaged learning that was taking place.

Barton School pupils have started back with great enthusiasm and our Stunning Start this term involved each House Team producing a model island in connection with their Geography topic on a 'Wonderful World'. We had pearl-

lined bridges, treehouses, golden sandy beaches and lighthouses, just to name a few features. Working together across the school, from the 4-year-olds to the 11-year-olds, is one of the joys of our school. Our House Teams are busy deciding on a charity to support this year and we have been so pleased to find out that many of our parents have connections with local and not-so-local charities that have an impact on our society.

This term, we are delighted to start work on heating our swimming pool, a project that has been thought about for over 10 years. We are hoping to open the pool after Easter, instead of May half-term, which will be advantageous for the children. Our next fundraising project is to replace our very old netbook computers with new laptops for the pupils: 20 laptops would mean that a class can work together in pairs, with some for small groups as well. If anyone in the Parish knows of a company that would help sponsor us in this new project, then we would love to hear from you.

All the best from Barton Church of England School!

Mrs Claire Coulson (Headteacher)

Barton Playgroup

The start of term saw us welcome a number of new children into playgroup, so we've been sending home the 'All about Me' box which the children fill with personal treasures and favourite books to share with everyone. Story sacks have been used which contain activities and resources based around specific books. Using *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* we learnt about symmetry through painting butterflies and also looked at the moon and healthy eating. A sports themed fundraising event helped us to raise money towards the provision of a garden at the Paediatric Critical Care Unit at the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford - a cause close to the heart of one of our children. When the weather allows, we have spent time in our own garden, climbing, playing and digging.



Helen Durrant

Barton WI

At our January meeting we discussed the six resolutions put forward for consideration at the National Annual Meeting which will take place later this year. Six committee members, in turn, gave a résumé of the information relating to a particular resolution. There was then an opportunity to ask questions followed by a short time for discussion in small groups. When all six resolutions had been aired, members voted for the individual topic they wished to support. The resulting figures will be forwarded to the County WI office where they will be amalgamated with the results from other institutes and then sent on to the National WI office. The national totals will determine which of the resolutions will be considered at the Annual Meeting. Other matters discussed at our meeting included plans for the supper we are hosting on Saturday 25th February

(tickets available from Helen Newstead 262543) to raise money for Denman College, WI's national education centre. Our February meeting is to be organised by a small team of non-committee members whose plans include a variety of games.

Ann Killen

Barton WI Dinner – Saturday 25th February, 7.30pm, Village Hall

Our original speaker Kate Rhodes is sadly unable to come but we hope to arrange a replacement; watch the village notice boards for details. Tickets are £15 and are available from Helen Newstead, 262543.

Barton Tennis Club AGM, Thursday 16th February, 8pm, The Hoops

Barton Tennis Club will hold its AGM on Thursday, 16th February, at 8pm in the Hoops. The meeting is open to all members, and anyone who is interested in playing tennis.

Please come along as we would like to develop the club, and appeal to as wide an age range as possible. Any new ideas and suggestions would be welcome. For further details please contact David Ireland, 263991 or Alec Tompson, 262683.

Neighbourhood Watch

Barton has a new PCSO, Sam Kennedy. Our previous PCSO, Alex Giltinane, served us well for three years, but has now been redeployed and is now focussed mainly on crime prevention and detection. Sam covers several villages and is reactive. He has visited victims of burglary and thefts in Barton. Also, some of our farmers who have suffered criminal damage from hare coursers.

We are experiencing unusually high crime levels at present. There is more on-line crime nowadays and also a high degree of doorstep crime. Police advise residents to be wary of callers they are not expecting as, sadly, many callers are not reputable.

Encouragingly, Sam reported that the police are having some success in catching burglars and thieves although they are being hampered by the fact that most come from out of area. It is always advisable to report any suspicious behaviour and car/van registration details, if possible.

Sam said that the most vulnerable houses have no alarm, no security lighting and easy access to the back. He recommends installing these deterrents and also planting prickly plants on boundaries and under windows. Not only a deterrent but also useful for gathering DNA when criminals prick themselves!

We need to be on our guard, and it's encouraging that several householders have recently fitted burglar alarms and CCTV systems.

Please report 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

We did not have a meeting in January, but enjoyed a very nice Christmas meal in December with entertainment from Helen Newstead and friends which was excellent.

On 7th February we have John Page who is going to show slides and talk about his travels. This is at Barton Village Hall at 2.30pm: £2 for members, £3 for visitors. This includes tea, coffee, biscuits and raffle. All welcome.

Harry Baines

Telephone Library

The library in the telephone box is being used quite nicely. Feel free to borrow books, swap books, feed books into the system. Anybody who has a quantity of books, we will always take them off your hands – we can collect if needed.

Contact details:

Val Baines 263512

Elizabeth Tompson 262683

Harry Baines

Barton WWWI

Our next meeting is 15th February, 6.30pm at the White Horse. Our Speaker is Richard McNally, Theatre Director.

For further information contact Sarah Massie on wednesdaywomenwi@live.com or 07791 668134.

Sarah Massie

Comberton Library

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

If you are ever in need of information about adult care and support in Cambridgeshire, do pop into the library to pick up a copy of the Cambridgeshire Adult Care and Support Services Guide for 2017. This publication is packed with useful information on a range of topics, covering support at home, specialist care and useful contacts. If you have a specific question do please ask the library staff, who will be able to help point you in the right direction to obtain the information you require.

Tuesday 7th February is designated as Safer Internet Day, the aim of which is to promote safe, responsible and positive use of digital technology for children and young people. Full details can be found online at www.saferinternet.or.uk. A designated day also provides a timely reminder to us all to protect our personal information when using our digital devices. We have two computers available at Comberton Library for public use, together with printing and scanning facilities. These are available during normal library opening hours, and can be reserved in advance, if you need to guarantee that a computer is available when you visit the library.

Forthcoming Rhymetime sessions: 6th and 20th February and 6th and 20th March (10.30 – 11am). Please note that although these sessions are aimed at very young children we welcome older siblings and pre-schoolers who enjoy singing too!

Rosemary Pryke, Comberton Library

Comberton Ramblers – founded June 1974

If you like walking and enjoy the countryside we are the walking group for you. Comberton Ramblers walk an average of 5-6 miles every fortnight on a Sunday – 5th and 19th February.

So why not give us a try, you'll have the benefit of an exhilarating walk plus the companionship of a group of like-minded people.

For further information please contact Stella the Secretary:

stella.ramblers@hotmail.com / 01954 210049 / www.combertonramblers.org.uk

**Cambridge Past, Present and Future (Cambridge PPF) – February Events
Healthy Walking – Thursday 2,9,16,23 February: 10am, 10.30am or 11 am start**

Keep fit and greet the changing of the season by joining our healthy walkers this February for one of our Walking for Health accredited sociable walks around the park. Meet at the Stable Rooms at 10am for a longer walk or 10.30am for a shorter stroll. The walks end at around 11am with tea and coffee in the Stable Rooms. All are welcome, suitable for all different abilities.

NB: Free of charge and no need to book, but please arrive 10 minutes early to register if it's your first time.

Advanced Basket Making – Saturday 4 February: 10am to 4pm

This relaxed day for adults only at Wandlebury Country Park provides a special opportunity for those with previous simple basket making experience to refresh and extend their skills. Try out new weave patterns, learn how to add a handle or try making an oval basket! All materials, tea, coffee and biscuits will be supplied, but bring along your own packed lunch.

NB: £45 per adult (members £40). Meet at the Stable Rooms. Wear warm clothes – the Stable Rooms will be kept cool to prevent the willow from drying out. Please bring an old towel to wrap the willow in. Places are limited so book early to avoid disappointment. Bookings must be made and paid in full 48 hours prior to the event.

Conservation Volunteer Activity: Coppicing and Coppice Products – Saturday 4 February: 11am to 3.30pm

Join the CambridgePPF team carrying out essential woodland management and conservation at Wandlebury, re-coppicing some of the park's hazel stools. This helps to increase biodiversity in the woodlands and produces a sustainable, useful supply of wood. If you can spare a few hours it's a great way of getting some fresh air and exercise too.

NB: Booking essential. For adults only. Tools provided. Please wear warm, waterproof clothing, sturdy footwear, and bring a packed lunch. This is a free event, however donations towards the upkeep of the park are always appreciated.

For more information on all events, visit www.cambridgeppf.org/whats-on, email bookings@cambridgeppf.org, or call 01223 243830 ext 207

Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service – Become an On-Call Firefighter!

On-call firefighters are men and women who may have other jobs and are able to provide evening, daytime or weekend cover. In Cambridge they make up 56 per cent of the workforce and are vital to emergency cover. When they are on-call they may be at home, working for themselves or for a nearby company or out in their local community (keeping in touch by pager and staying within a five-minute travel time of the fire station) and are generally located in rural communities, small towns and villages.

They receive an annual wage to reflect the time they commit to being available plus additional payments for attending incidents and drill nights (one evening a week for two hours).

If you would like to become an on-call firefighter, or find out more, then please go to our website at www.cambsfire.gov.uk and search for on-call firefighter under the careers section.

For the latest news, incidents and safety advice, or to contact us, log on to www.cambsfire.gov.uk. Sign up to email alerts and find us on Twitter, Instagram, YouTube and Facebook.

HomeStart – ‘About Love’ Concert, 7pm, Saturday 11th February

Local choirs, including Foxton Singers, Guysing, Ad Hoc and Reed Church Choir will be singing some old favourites and beautiful, lesser-known songs, all on the theme of ‘love’, in Royston Parish Church.

There will be a raffle and a licensed bar – and opportunities for you to sing along!

Tickets are 13+ and adult: £10, under-13: £5 and are available online from ticketsource www.ticketsource.co.uk/hrsdc or by emailing admin@hrsdc.org.uk or call us on 01763 262262.

TESCO Bags of Help

**Your chance to bag up to
£5,000 for local community
projects**

TESCO has teamed up with the charity Groundwork on its Bags of Help initiative to invite local community groups, green space projects and other organisations to apply for their share of a £12 MILLION carrier bag charge fund.

Every month, Tesco customers choose which of more than 100 projects across Cambridgeshire get grants of up to £5,000, £2,000 and £1,000 to develop outdoor spaces to benefit local communities.

We’ve already seen local groups, schools and charities benefit and look forward to seeing many more exciting projects come out of this initiative.

Find out more about how to bag your share or nominate a good cause at www.groundwork.org.uk/tesco

