



BARTON PARISH COUNCIL

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BARTON PARISH COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT 2014

based on **The Annual Parish Meeting**

which was held on **Tuesday 22nd April 2014**

at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, Barton CB23 7BD.

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www.barton-cambs.org.uk

• Chairman of Barton Parish Council – Margaret Penston

Councillors: Barton has the full complement of nine Parish Councillors. These are John Bailey (JB) (from Dec 2013), Bev Edwards, (BE), Hugh Greenfield (HG), Mary MacDonald (MM), Robin Page (RP) (until Sept 2013), Margaret Penston (MP), Mike Radford (MR), Tim Scott (TS), Nigel Siddall (NS) and Karen Wilkins (KW). During the year RP resigned due to other commitments and JB was co-opted. The next election for Barton Parish Councillors will be in May 2015.

The Parish Clerk is Patrick DeBacker (PDB).

Our County Councillor (Hardwick Division) is Stephen Frost (SF), and our District Councillor (Barton Ward) is Francis Burkitt (FB).

Meetings: Meetings continue to be held on the first Tuesday of every month except August. At the May meeting (the Parish Council Annual Meeting) the committee and working group members are decided. In 2013 the following were agreed (Chairs underlined)

Council Chair – MP, Vice-Chair – TS

Planning – MP, MM, MR, TS, BE

Recreation Ground – HG, MP, BE, TS, NS and KW

Leys Project – MP, HG, MM, TS, PDB and John Boocock

Highways – NS, HG, MM, MR

School Parking – MR, MM and John Boocock

Representatives: BRIG – NS; Village Hall representative – KW; Neighbourhood Watch liaison – BE; Barton Energy Group – BE, MM, MR.

Councillor attendance of the 11 full meetings in 2013-14 was JB (4), BE (8), HG (10), MM (8), RP (1), MP (11), MR (6), TS (9), NS (11), KW (6).

The Clerk, PDB, attended all 11 meetings. SF attended 6 and FB attended 5 meetings and both sometimes sent reports when unable to attend.



In August we (normally) do a walkabout around the village as a group. This is useful for highlighting any problems, such as potholes, overhanging trees, problems with notice boards or street signs. In August 2013 our walkabout looked at:

Trees – following concern after a recent court ruling, we noted the number of diseased and dead wood on trees and branches overhanging paths and roads,
Builders rubbish (including old double glazed windows, an abandoned skip with an old TV etc) along the Drift between Wallis's and Rayners,
Untidy vegetation beside cycleway along A603,
Pot holes,

Overgrown hedges,
Notice boards needing attention,
Parking outside school, some yellow lines needed
Some road signs needing attention

Issues from the APM 2013:

The following issues were raised at the APM in 2013. Neither has been resolved.

The difficulty of crossing at Conker's was highlighted. The red strip is to be reinstated; we should be exploring a zebra crossing and/or 20mph limit.

Confusion at the A603/ New Road junction was noted. (An example was spotted about 2 mins after arriving to take a photograph of the junction)

Keeping you informed

Come to a meeting: raise issues, listen to debate

Minutes of meetings: read these on the Conkers Notice Board

Parish Jottings: The Clerk writes a regular summary of issues in the Parish Magazine

The Barton website: There is an archive of minutes since 2005

Speak to Parish Councillors: Our names and phone numbers are in every issue of the Parish Magazine. Speak to us at any time around the village

‘Stumpy’ – What should be done with the stump left when the dead horse chestnut tree was cut down in August 2013? While the contractor was on site a villager suggested that the stump could be carved into something interesting. It was decided to stop the work and allow time for discussion about this. Adrian Koe will lead a discussion on the options later in the meeting.

Planning applications:

Between January and December 2013, 24 applications from South Cambs planning department were considered. These included 5 for extensions or alterations to existing properties and 3 for tree work. Various other applications involved wind turbines, business change of use, location of a mobile home, change to a dropped kerb, an air-source heat pump, relocation of a gas tank and fire safety wall, fire detection in a listed building and various work at Wallis’s garage including erection of security fence.



The Recreation Ground:

A rota of Councillors empties the bins and clear litter. The new slide installed in Aug 2013 (from Burwash grant) and the rest of the play equipment is increasingly popular with young people.

The Leys Project:

Increased use of the sports facilities on the Rec (football, bowls, tennis and the playground) and the new pavilion have highlighted the need to improve the car parking area and the footpath across the Leys. This was a major project for a group of Councillors and John Boocock during the year. Thanks to John who has worked tirelessly on the project, obtaining estimates and liaising with contractors. Thanks To Mary MacDonald who expertly and successfully led the grant application process.

Amey Cespa. Grant of £15,400 received for work on car park

WREN. Grant of £30,800 for work on the path. This will include solar lights, as on parts of the guided busway, where light shines out sideways.

Donations from BRIG and other users, Agricole, South Cambs Community Chest and Cambridgeshire Highways Dept and underwriting up to £3500 from Barton Parish Council.

Work started in March 2014 and the heavy work was finished by late April. Grass seed has been planted and areas are roped off to allow this to grow. The aim is for the car parking area to eventually be as green as it has traditionally been.

The Barton-Grantchester cycleway/bridleway:

Barton’s responsibility ends at the pair of black posts but we have been working with Grantchester to improve the surface of the full length of the bridleway. It is well used by commuting cyclists, walkers and some horses. The path has become overgrown and rutted. Barton’s plans are complete and work on our section will start soon.

Users’ views were sought. (~30 received)

Grantchester wanted a more permanent wide surface than Barton did. We wanted an improved cycleway without losing the rural nature of the path.

Councillors eventually persuaded Peter Gaskin (County Paths Officer) of this and he agreed to provide manpower to cut back vegetation while retaining the central bushes. He has also provided road planings which will be put down along the path (soon).

Barton Energy Group:

BEG was formed in 2010 and is a member of SPEP (Sustainable Parish Energy Partnership). Activities have included an Energy Survey, Loan of Energy Monitors, Thermal Imaging, Solar Panel promotion, Green Deal Promotion (18 assessments in Barton), Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) Analysis (122 domestic properties) Recent meeting (3 April) to promote low energy light bulbs (bulk order, end April). Bev Edwards will give a full report later in the meeting.

Neighbourhood Watch:

Bev Edwards is the local co-ordinator.
Barton is generally a low-crime area but every incident can be distressing.
Circulates regular reports and advice.
Recent issue of RSPCA collectors in village. Bev contacted RSPCA and discovered they were genuine but were not behaving appropriately. They would be contacted.

**BeaVers (The Barton Volunteers):**

Thanks to John Boocock and his team who keep our village clean and tidy, identifying jobs along footpaths, in Church Close, on the Rec and the Leys, gutter painting on bus shelters, installing and maintaining benches and much more.
Thanks also to Richard Newstead for his regular litter patrol.

QTSQ. The Quarter-To-Six Quadrant:

The QTSQ (villages Barton, Coton, Grantchester and Madingley) is now a MGITA (Major Green Infrastructure Area) *“the [local] network of protected sites, nature reserves, greenspaces and greenway linkages. Green Infrastructure should provide (where possible) multi-functional uses, i.e, wildlife, recreational and cultural experience, as well as delivering ecological services, such as flood protection and microclimate control.”*

New finger-posts have been installed in Grantchester. Over time these finger posts will be copied in other QTSQ villages.

New Road parking outside School:

This continues to be a problem at the start and end of the school day. School introduced a ‘Kiss and Drop’ system with mixed success. Some parents missed the meetings with other parents in the playground. Parking has been encouraged at Burwash or the Rec but this has been poorly taken up.

Facebook:

‘Barton Village Cambs’ now has a Community page on Facebook. We have 46 ‘likes’ so far but would like to encourage more villagers to use the page for discussion or for publicity of village events.

Street Lights:

Most of the street lamps in Barton were replaced with fewer and more efficient lamps in January 2013 but the High Street is only now being done. There is currently a dispute with Balfour Beatty over the proximity of a column very close to one house.

Broadband:

BT are working in the village.
A BT engineer told me last week that we should be getting 40Mb/s in Barton within 6 weeks!
Current best speeds ~5Mb/s
(Fingers crossed)

The Telephone Box:

What should we do with it? Some villages, including Wimpole have converted it into a 'Red Box Library' managed by volunteers and run on a trust system where borrowers are asked to return borrowed books or to replace them with books of their own.

Emergency Planning:

A list has been compiled of contacts for emergency situations – not only Fire, Police, Ambulance, but also Cambridgeshire CC, South Cambs DC, Electricity, Water, Floodline, Doctor, Environmental Health, NHS Direct and Parish Council contacts. Also, Village contacts: Church contacts, Rec Ground, Neighbourhood Watch, local farmers, practical help, car drivers, Village Hall, Playgroup, School, Post Office, Pubs, Conkers

The Parish Plan:

Of the actions identified, some have been completed, some ongoing, some projected and some abandoned. The plan was updated in July 2013 – see the village website (www.barton-cambs.org.uk). The section headings are:

- To improve traffic safety within Barton
- To improve safety and accessibility for cyclists in and around Barton
- To improve the safety of pedestrians in Barton
- To improve the amenities in Barton
- To ensure the needs of the young people in the village are addressed
- To maintain and improve the environment of Barton
- To ensure appropriate housing in Barton
- To ensure there are adequate sporting facilities and activities in Barton
- To improve information and communication within Barton



Conclusion:

This has been a summary of the major activities involving the Parish Council over the past year. Here are some of the rest!

- Bus shelter cleaning – volunteers needed
- Fly tipping on the Whitwell Drift
- Future of a village pump in a garden on Wimpole Road
- Road signs in Mailes Close
- Flooding
- Dog bins
- Boxing Day Barrel Race (Barton winners again!)
- Housing (concern that no houses reserved for families with Barton connections)

And finally!

Who has lost a pair of trainers? A pair of trainers has been hanging on a high cable across the High Street for some time. This has caused some amusement!

Thanks!

Particular thanks to Patrick De Backer (Parish Clerk) and the other 8 Councillors for their help and support, patience and good humour. (I will remember to turn off my mobile phone!) Thanks also to Francis Burkitt and Stephen Frost (District and County Councillors) who keep us informed on the bigger picture. Thanks to Karen and Susan for making the tea and coffee this evening.

- **County Councillor –Stephen Frost, Hardwick Division:**

In his first year Stephen has been made welcome in the ten villages he represents; he sits on two important committees and admits that finance and budget are difficult because they require £38 million of cuts. Local issues included potholes, transport infrastructure and street lighting. He joined Councillors on the village walkabout in August. R. Page criticised the installation of ugly, urban street lights in conservation areas.

- **District Councillor – Francis Burkitt, Barton Ward.**



Francis commented that Barton had won the Barrel Race yet again. On more important matters The Local Plan was now being examined for soundness by a government inspector; amendments were to be expected; he felt that Barton Road into Cambridge would remain a vulnerable area, since the Green Belt would be reviewed in 2019. The recent City Deal should help infrastructure. There remained a desperate shortage of council houses; one way forward was for landowners to allocate land purely for homes for those with local connections. The green bin collection would be suspended in winter months. SCDC tries to be efficient with scant resources; it has the 13th lowest council tax of UK districts. It is important in the Quarter to Six Quadrant to remember that "others hear us more, if we shout together to improve our green area close to Cambridge."

- **Clerk to Barton Parish Council – Patrick De Backer**

The accounts for 2012-13 had been audited satisfactorily by both internal and external auditors. The draft accounts for 2013-14 were now available for inspection, showing a breakdown of expenditure £27,571 and income £27,894, and reserves earmarked for specific projects. The Council was back down to more normal levels of spending. The new focus had been the Leys Project, as well as the improvements to the bridle way to Grantchester. Payment had been made for speed reduction. The precept for 2014-15 has been raised to £18,000 or £47.91 per band D household because SCDC will no longer allocate a supplementary grant to compensate for welfare changes. However, Barton remains a prudent council with a low level of precept compared with neighbouring villages.

BARTON PC ACCOUNTS 13-14		2012-13	2013-14
EXPENDITURE			
Salaries	Clerk net salary	3,612.98	3,729.62
	PAYE	897.60	928.80
Training		35.00	50.00
Audit	Internal audit fees	70.00	75.00
	External audit fees	418.00	200.00
Utilities	Water	251.09	199.71
	Phone	30.00	30.00
Premises	Clerk's office	100.00	100.00
	Church Close	50.00	50.00
	New Pavilion	122.75	-
Grants & contributions			
	Village Hall	500.00	500.00
Section 137	magazine	250.00	250.00
	churchyard	150.00	150.00
	Quarter to Six Quadrant	250.00	-
Maintenance, repair & renewal			
	Rec. Ground cut	975.00	935.00
	Rec. Ground general	1,415.00	107.00
	Playground equipment	240.00	5,415.00
	Verges cut	880.00	1,250.00
	Street lighting	738.82	572.28
	Parish paths	60.00	40.00
	Bus shelters	50.00	134.23
	Bus shelter cleaning & gate duty	300.00	60.00
	Notice boards	40.00	20.00
	Litter bins	168.00	20.00
	Seats, benches	100.53	50.00
	Other maintenance, repairs, improvements	405.10	63.50
Diamond Jubilee	events	3,890.46	-
	bus shelter	8,307.87	-
	residue grant 2013	821.08	-
Speed reduction		-	3,417.49
Leys Project		-	5,218.00
Administration	Subscriptions	436.88	463.71
	Postage	36.80	14.00
	Stationery	60.00	30.00
	Other admin.: website, etc.	150.00	61.00
	Computer essentials	150.00	76.60
	Expenses - petrol, copying, etc	150.00	150.00
Insurance	Council cover	687.93	698.14
	Village Hall grant	723.23	-
	BRIG grant	1,000.00	1,000.00
Election expenses		-	-
VAT on payments		2,382.39	1,512.22
TOTAL PAYMENTS		30,906.51	27,571.30

INCOME	2012-13	2013-14
Precept	16,000.00	16,400.00
LCTSS grant		833.00
Bank interest	7.36	7.43
Reimbursements: VAT	2,298.20	1,437.27
water	145.84	157.30
pitch use	595.00	780.00
Agency: village verges	2,290.01	2,404.51
Parish Paths	-	-
lighting credit	749.87	-
Donations: Leys Project donations	-	1,175.00
SCDC grant	-	1,000.00
New Pavilion BRIG	120.77	-
BRIG / Burwash curved slide	-	3,550.00
benches, fencing	735.00	150.00
speed reduction	10.00	-
Diamond Jubilee bus shelter & event	3,499.16	-
TOTAL INCOME	26,451.21	27,894.51

Year end Summary	31st March 2013	31st March 2014
Balance brought forward previous 1st April	21,641.01	17,185.71
add Total Receipts	26,451.21	27,894.51
total	48,092.22	45,080.22
less Total Payments	30,906.51	27,571.30
Balance carried forward on 31st March	17,185.71	17,508.92
Reconciliation		
Bank balances at 31st March Investment Account	14,131.20	13,871.63
Current Account	3,935.59	4,324.03
Balance as shown in Receipts and Payments account	18,066.79	18,195.66
less unpresented cheques	881.08	686.74
Bank Balance	17,185.71	17,508.92
PROJECTS earmarked funds	31st March 2013	31st March 2014
Leys Project	-	3,000.00
Leys fencing	1,000.00	1,000.00
Barton-Grantchester bridleway	-	3,000.00
Play equipment	1,000.00	1,000.00
recycling credit	2,500.00	2,500.00
speed reduction	3,000.00	500.00
TOTAL earmarked	7,500.00	11,000.00
GENERAL RESERVE	9,685.00	6,508.92
TOTAL RESERVES	17,185.00	17,508.92

PCSO Alex Giltinane reported on Police matters:

Alex introduced himself and said he tried to visit the village regularly; this was an opportunity to recognise and meet local people. Ongoing problems included Nottingham knockers, fake readers of solar panel meters and parking on pavements. He encouraged the use of 101 or 999 and asked for volunteers for Speedwatch (2 immediately came forward).

What would you like done with "Stumpy" at Conkers?

Adrian Koe outlined proposals for a carved owl. A survey had brought 80% of responses in favour and pledges of £1050 against a projected cost of around £750. The Parish Council had wanted the Annual Parish Meeting to express its opinion. A lively debate ensued with firm views expressed on both sides. Opponents said a carving would be a discordant impediment in a treasured village, it could rot quickly and be an unfortunate distraction; it would be better to have a new tree (nearby saplings are growing already). Others were keen to promote sensitive and compact public art at no cost to the Council. The meeting voted to ask for a comprehensive survey of the village on this issue.

Matters raised by Parishioners at the Annual Meeting 2014:

- a. A parishioner wanted to ensure that the Parish Council was using ethical employment practices and that it did not have employees on zero contracts. The Clerk responded that all contractors followed appropriate regulations.
- b. It was pointed out that the new street signs at Allens Close and Mailes Close were not especially helpful.
- c. Several residents were interested in creating a small library at the phone box in the High Street which may be redundant. The Clerk is to investigate.
- d. It was noted that the Emergency Plan needs annual revision.



Barton Parish Council

revised June 2013

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Councillors		
Mr Beverley Edwards	262479	edwardsbs@btinternet.com
Mr Hugh Greenfield	262005	meta.greenfield@btinternet.com
Dr Mary MacDonald	262378	mary.macdonald@cantab.net
Mr Robin Page	262181	robin.page@btinternet.com
Mr Mike Radford	263423	info@burwashmanor.co.uk
Mr Tim Scott	263434	mejscott@btinternet.com
Mr Nigel Siddall	263373	nigelsiddall@btinternet.com
Mrs Karen Wilkins	262682	vic.wilkins@btinternet.com
District Councillor		
Mr Francis Burkitt	01223 840128	francis.burkitt@btinternet.com
County Councillor		
Mr Stephen Frost	01954 211444 and 07710 436672	spfrost@tory.org
Village Website:		http://www.barton-cambs.org.uk/



Report from Barton School - Cathy Martin, Chair of Governors

It has been another good year at Barton School. The roll has continued to remain consistently above 100 for the last five years, currently standing at 107. We attract children not only from our own catchment villages of Barton and Grantchester but from many of the surrounding villages and Cambridge city, who choose to come to us because we are a small village church school. At the last count, we had pupils from 12 areas outside our catchment.

After almost 12 years as Head Teacher, Miss Carpenter tendered her resignation just before Christmas and the governors started the process of making a new appointment. We are delighted to be able to announce that Mrs Claire Coulson will take over the headship of the school from September 2014 and look forward to her leading us through the next phase of Barton School's development.

We also saw Mrs Diane Floate leave us after 34 years dedicated service as Cleaner-in-Charge. Mrs Floate has not only looked after the school premises brilliantly for this time, but she has also been a wonderful support to all the staff, governors and pupils who have attended the school during her time there. With her cheery smile and nothing-is-too-much attitude, she has cared for us all in a way that is far beyond any job description and she will be greatly missed.

This year we appointed two new parent governors and we look forward to developing their impact on the school and the children's education.

Barton School was once again honoured by the invitation to participate in the annual City of Cambridge Festival of Remembrance. The children were commended on their behaviour and performance and the attendance of a group of such young people at such a poignant event was recognised and appreciated. Many of the children also represented the school at the Village Day this year, performing a number of their favourite songs under the guidance of Miss Carpenter.



The school community is a team of people: teaching and support staff, governors, parents and many individuals from the local community who all work together to make sure that the children have the best possible opportunities and education that we can provide. As always I must thank all the members of that community who give their time and energy to Barton School in so many different ways to enhance the learning experiences of our children.

Reports from Barton Village Institutions and Groups*:

• Barton Energy Group Bev Edwards

My last report on Barton Energy Group's activities to an Annual Parish Meeting was in April 2012.

Since then, we have held 3 well-attended meetings in Barton, with the aim of helping Barton villagers to make their homes more energy-efficient, and therefore save money.

The first of these was on 28th January 2013. This was the day that the Green Deal was launched. Speakers from the District Council and two suppliers talked about the Green Deal and other government initiatives that provide funding for home energy improvements. There was also a short talk about a proposed Community Wind Turbine for Barton, but this will not be going ahead as it would cause interference to the local radio telescopes.

The second was held on 4th December 2013. This was under the auspices of the Sustainable Parishes Energy Partnership, run by the District Council. This introduced the Cambridgeshire Action On Energy initiative, which is still under development and should be publicly announced shortly. We also presented an analysis that BEG has done of all the Energy Performance Certificates that have been produced for Barton houses, about a third of all Barton's housing stock. As may be expected in a village that has very few new houses, Barton's houses are on average less energy efficient than the

country average. This is why BEG will continue to keep up to date with various government schemes that are aimed at improving energy efficiency at a reasonable cost, and to publicise these.

A third meeting was held on 3rd April 2014 and was mainly aimed at launching a scheme to provide high-quality low-energy light bulbs at a discount. The local company - My Green Lighting - chosen by the District Council, will be supplying the light bulbs and is very knowledgeable. It is also willing to provide advice to reduce the complexity of choosing from a very wide range of available bulbs that use different technologies and have different shapes, sizes, colours and fittings. Orders are now being taken and the first ones will be delivered in mid May.

• **Bowls Club** Hugh Greenfield

In 2012 I reported that we had just had our first season using the New Pavilion completed in the summer of 2011. The Bowls Club has benefited from the better facilities by holding social activities such as lunches and teas during the Autumn and Winter Seasons.

We are also pleased that the new Car Park has been achieved. The wet weather during the last 6 months has meant that no one could park on the Recreation Ground during that period.

The Bowls Club has approximately 25 Members with Membership costing £40 per year. It is a well managed club with an active Committee which meets regularly. We are self supporting. Our main expenses are Insurance, Maintenance of the Green and our equipment. We play leagues both afternoon and evenings.

It was hoped that we would share Club Nights with our friends of the Tennis Club, but in the event that did not happen

We hope that the Car Park and the environs of the Pavilion will have sufficient lighting, so that when Events finish people can get to their cars safely.

• **Burwash Manor** Mike Radford

This is an organic farm growing wheat with stocks of cattle, pigs and alpaca; it is committed to conservation and wildlife work, for instance great crested newts, dragonflies and barn owls have been in evidence. There is a network of interconnecting paths available to walkers. Varied events, including the Summer Ball and Apple Day, have contributed £13, 500 to charity. The curved slide on the Recreation Ground was bought this way. The new Food Hall has been a success, while a third courtyard has been approved and will be built next year.



• **Christian Fellowship** Sheila Boocock

The Christian Fellowship meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month usually in the Village Hall. In two of the 'summer' months we meet for afternoon tea in members gardens. This acts as an incentive to having a good tidy up of the garden if you are the host! We try to have a varied programme with speakers telling us of charities working in this country and overseas such as The Leprosy Mission, Mercy Ships and the Cambridge Food Bank and the St Peters Organ Repair Fund. We have been able to give away a total of £392.70.

Members are encouraged to collect in a jar or small bag their small change i.e. 1p, 2p and 5p coins which are weighing down their pockets or purses and bring them along as well to give to the Overseas Disability Charity. Non members also contribute in this way and hand in their collection once their bag is filled. We are looking for more people to do this. 'Every little helps'.

It is an informal meeting of about 15 - 18 people from very different Church backgrounds but there is no need to have any church background. We all drink the same type of tea!

• **Countryside Restoration Trust** Robin Page

This has been a busy 20th anniversary year – CRT has increased from the original 10 to 450 acres and gained in members. At the celebration at the Royal Geographical Society in London Prince Charles spoke on video. Tim Scott has proved an invaluable tenant farmer at Lark Rise Farm where there is an improving population of harvest mice and water voles. The menaces of Himalayan balsam and mink have been attacked. However, some hooligan dog walkers create problems for grey partridge. Efforts have been made to bring back hedgehogs to the centre of the village, as well as to introduce red squirrels on to Tresco. Numerous schools, groups and individuals have visited; indeed the organisation has received lots of encouragement from everywhere.

• **Cub/Scout Group** Norman Bradshaw

The Group has had a busy 2 years yet again. Our Cubs and Scouts taking part in many events, Hikes, Sausage Sizzles, Canoeing, Weekend Camps (Cubs to Bromham C/w trip to Bromham working water mill, and to Phaseles Wood, Kings Langley and Scouts to Perrys, Abington and Mepal), Week Summer Camp to the Gower, South Wales, and Appletreewick, Yorkshire to name but a few, plus all the very busy weekly meetings and Cubs church cleaning at Barton twice a year.

The Scouts also winning the inter district swimming shield in March this year.

The Group also ran 2 good Jumble Sales each year, to raise much needed funds to keep the group running and 2 very good bonfire nights. I would like to thank everyone who helps to make these events as successful as they usually turn out to be particularly my customers and my company and people like Mrs Maybe and many others who really have nothing to do with scouts but turn up and give us their most precious time and support and help and the Pages (CRT) whose farm we have our stores on The Leaders have had a very busy and hard 2 years working within the programme to keep it interesting, varied, and challenging and a very good job they are making of it. It has been a challenging time for all. Also Wednesday night Canoeing at Over for the scouts. A great time was had at our



family BBQ.

Our Numbers are:- 16-25 Cubs, 18-20 Scouts, 10 Leaders, and 1 Helpers and 4 D of E helpers, compared with last year, 20 Cubs, 28 Scouts, 11 Leaders, and 1 Helper plus we now have 4 young leaders who are basically older scouts who still want to be part of the group and are now giving back and being very useful and training to be leaders as they progress.

A great deal of thanks go to each and every Leader and helper (and family members) who all work so hard and tirelessly for and with the boys and with the extra time we now have to give up to keep up to date with our training. I really can't thank these people enough there just is not the words to do justice to the amount of commitment and friendship that gel this group together.

My thanks go out to everyone who has helped us in any way at all, but special thanks to the committee members who have worked hard, phoning round and organising parent help at events, our chairperson Chris Price, secretary Debbie McNeil, and treasurer Cathy Thorbinson who has worked tirelessly to get the accounts all right up to date and workable and Gift Aid claiming now in full progress to all parents for responding so well to our requests for help and support when needed.

We are looking forward to a fun day at Barton Day on 12th July, (wet sponge stocks etc) and our October Jumble Sale on 11th October and our Bonfire Night on 1st November and a Seashore Hike on 27th April 2014. Watch out for more information and please support us in any way you possibly can.

At my Warrant review in October 2013 I felt unable to fulfil all of the requirements to be able to continue to hold the position of GSL but was able to make use of a newly created position within Scouting as a Group Section Assistant which means that I can continue to do the practical things that I so much enjoy and feel useful doing within the group for as long as the rest of the team would like me to.

• **Gardeners** Sue Edwards

The Barton Gardeners have a healthy membership and have been joined by a good number of new members since our AGM. This is due, in part, to the distribution of our Spring Newsletter to all households in the village. We also have a number of members from other villages.

We are continuing with 3 Speaker evenings a year where a variety of garden related topics are explored.

In addition, we run a successful Summer Outing - last year to Sissinghurst, this year to Wightwick Manor & Gardens in Wolverhampton.

Other events include the Christmas Mince Pie morning where local stallholders can raise funds, and the Plant Sale & Bacon Butties morning in May.

Members benefit from discounts negotiated with local suppliers and we have just put in an order for summer bedding plants with a wholesaler.

Since the AGM, we have revamped the club image with a new bright Logo. We are using our dedicated email more often to keep our members in touch with what we're doing and we are in the process of editing the Summer Newsletter.

We are continuing with our plan to forge greater links with the School and have been able to fund the plug plants required by the School Gardening Club.

The highlight of the year is the Show held during Village Day. The BGs will be concentrating their efforts on encouraging entrants; with this in mind we are sponsoring a Flower Arranging Workshop and we will be introducing Free Entry to all classes for BG Members. We need more volunteers to help with the setting up and general organisation of the Show and are working with the Village Day Committee to achieve a smooth running event.

It's not all plain sailing though, as this year we will be losing 3 of our longest serving committee members, so we have a recruitment drive on to encourage members, old and new, to help our club to grow and bear fruit!

Thank you and please see me if you'd like to know more!

- **Playgroup** Karen Wilkins

Barton Playgroup in 2014 probably bears little resemblance to the playgroup of old that many of you will remember. Many children from villages other than Barton now attend, so that five morning sessions are not enough. For a few years we have offered one extra afternoon session to meet demand and from September we will have to offer two.

This means that the Playgroup's finances are now very healthy; we have the opportunity to buy better resources, whenever needed, after so many years of being frugal. You may have noticed the improved outdoor provisions. We can also afford to treat the children to an end of year outing, including Milton Country Park Outdoor Education Centre, and Audley End Miniature Steam Train. We also continue trips out around the village such as Burwash Manor Farm to see the animals, the Church, the park and Church Close garden to pick apples in the autumn.

Playgroup was inspected by Ofsted in May 2012 and our provision was judged to be 'good'. We continue to provide strong links with Barton School to enable the children's transition to school to be as smooth as possible.

Playgroup enjoyed contributing towards the village celebration of the Queens Diamond Jubilee in 2012. Community involvement is valued and so we welcome, each year a year 10 student from Comberton Village College to carry out work experience with us, which the children enjoy.

Barton Playgroup is a very happy and safe place in a lovely setting, Carrie and I consider ourselves very lucky to work there.

- **Snooker Club** Roger Wake

Membership is sufficient for our small club and finances are relatively buoyant, but we have been affected by an increased electricity standing charge. Repairs and refurbishment have been carried out to decaying woodwork and a second lock added. Guest members are encouraged to play for a fee of £10.

- **Tennis Club** no report

- **Wednesday WI** no report

*These groups are ones which were left out of the list last year. The ones being invited to report in 2015 will be: Baptist Church, Bridge Club, BRIG, Community Car Scheme, Drama Group, Friendship Club, Guides/Rangers, Lunch Club, Neighbourhood Watch, St Peter's Church, Village Institute and the WI.

