

BARTON PARISH COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORT 2016

Part 2

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4. Report from Barton School - Cathy Martin, Chair of Governors

As reported last year, Barton School continues to be a popular school of choice, attracting pupils not only from its catchment villages of Barton and Grantchester but also other villages and the city of Cambridge. Our current roll is the highest it has even been at 117, and although there is some variation, it has remained consistently over 100 for the last eight years.

This year has been one of consolidation; of embedding the improvements that we have made following our last Ofsted inspection in March 2014. These improvements have been recognised by HMI in two visits subsequent to our inspection and by Local Authority improvement advisers. The measures we have put in place are successfully raising the standards in achievement and progress of our pupils, with the focus being on meeting the many and varied needs of each individual child through an educational experience that makes learning fun and exciting. Our practice has been very reflective and has constantly had to change to meet the new demands of a continually changing educational landscape. Staff have had to adopt new assessment frameworks, following the removal of national standard assessment levels, and work hard to meet the higher expectations of achievement of the new National Curriculum. Careful monitoring of all pupils' progress has enabled interventions and resources to be targeted so that any gaps in achievement can be addressed before they become too wide. The school was recently cited as an example of best practice in its allocation of Pupil Premium funding, which is used to address the needs of those children deemed to be disadvantaged for a range of reasons.

The next initiative to which governors have to turn their attention is the expectation that ALL school will become academies. There are a number of options available for Barton School, and governors are at the beginning of the process of determining how to move forward in a way which will retain the school's identity and ethos.

We have had quite a bit of staff movement over the last year, with most of our Early Years and Key Stage 1 team being new appointments. They have settled well and quickly become part of our staff team, dedicated to providing the best possible educational outcomes. Our new caretaker has become an essential asset to the school and his DIY skills, along with his cooking skills, have been a welcome addition.

We have always been well supported by the church and are grateful for the time that a number of the local clergy have given to provide for the spiritual needs of our whole school community. As well as celebrating traditional church festivals at St Peter's we have a new School Prayer group set up in response for requests from a number of parents, which meets on the first Tuesday of every month.

Providing the best possible educational experience for our pupils, includes widening the traditional curriculum with enriching activities. Amongst other things, we have been able to rekindle our tradition of music at Barton. Our enthusiastic choir have participated in a concert at the O2 arena with thousands of other children and performed at West Road Concert Hall. We also now have a school wind band. Our Years 5 and 6 pupils, many of whom had never played an instrument before, all recently started playing brass and woodwind instruments under the instruction of our peripatetic music teachers. The pupils' efforts culminated



in an end of term concert, performed for parents and the wider community, in collaboration with Eversden Brass Band.

Our recent transition from a satellite kitchen to a full production one has been very successful and has improved the quality and take-up of school lunches. We now offer a choice of meals each day that are freshly cooked on site. This has been well received by pupils and staff and the feedback from parents who joined their children for a special 'Toast with a Roast' meal to celebrate our new provision was very positive.

In September 2015 our governing body had to reconstitute in line with new regulations requiring governing bodies to consider more skills-based approach to governor appointments. As a consequence of this we developed a new position of co-opted governor and have recently appointed our first candidate to this post whom has specialist skills in data analysis. We do still have a vacancy for a Foundation governor who, alongside their general governor duties has the specific responsibility of upholding the Christian character of our school.

My last comments are the ones I make every year but they remain as strong and true as ever. 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. In these challenging times of change and new educational initiatives, we continue to be very grateful to 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 all our children.

5. Reports from Barton Village Institutions and Groups*:

• **Arbory Trust**

Matthew Lavis

The woodland burial site has seen substantial growth. The idea was mooted in 1997 and the first burial took place in 2000. The idea was to create a woodland of British native trees and then bury people in the glades. There have been 163 burials in the past year. The Bishop of Ely consecrated the second 20-acre North Glebe last July; although the burial ground has a Christian ethos, anyone may be buried there. The Trust wishes to remind villagers that this is also a Recreation Area open to the public. Every Wednesday from 11-1 Arbory Trust staff are on site. A Friends' Group will gather on 14th July at 4pm, to which all are welcome.

• **Barton Energy Group**

Bev Edwards

Barton Energy Group has the aim of assisting villagers to use energy more efficiently, save money and reduce Carbon Dioxide emissions. We have been involved in several initiatives in the past six years to pursue those aims. Our main project at present is to produce a Carbon Map of the village. This will help us to evaluate the changes that will be needed to make Barton more energy efficient and support our future planning.

An issue that we need to take action on right now is fuel poverty. The District Council has identified Barton as one of only 10 villages in South Cambridgeshire where this is most acute. People in fuel poverty need to spend more than 10% of their income on heating. Thousands of pounds of funding are available to be taken up by 31st July.

Funding is available for certain home energy improvements, mainly insulation and replacement boilers, for owner occupiers and people in private rented property. People need to be receiving a means tested benefit, have less than £20,000 in savings and a household income of less than £13,000 a year (if a single person) or £26,000 (if a couple).

If you know anyone that this may apply to, please let Patrick or I know and we'll provide details of the confidential help line at the District Council.



- **Bowls Club** Hugh Greenfield

The Bowls Club has now been using the New Pavilion for 5 years and benefitted from the provision of better facilities of electricity, hot water, underfloor heating and toilets. We continue to have social activities during the autumn and winter seasons.

The Bowls club has approximately 20 members, that is a reduction from 2014 when we had 25 members, although we have had a few new Barton residents joining, we need to recruit a few more. We have kept the membership at £40 per year We are having to spend approximately £2000 per year on regular maintenance of the green and surrounds. An innovation in the last two years has been to hold quiz nights in the spring and autumn which have been enjoyable and assisted with our finances.

Our main expenses are insurance, maintenance of the green and our equipment. We play league matches both afternoon and evening, playing in the Foxton League against 10 other clubs. We also play in division 4 of the Cambridge and District against 10 other clubs.

- **Burwash Manor** no report

- **Countryside Restoration Trust** Vince Lea

Vince, as Wildlife Monitoring Officer, told us that The Countryside Restoration Trust was doing well at its reserves at Lark Rise Farm in Barton and also in Herefordshire, Norfolk and Surrey. Efforts for an open day were being concentrated on the Festival of Farming and Wildlife on 25 September. Awards had recently been received for the growing numbers of grey partridge and yellowhammers. He encouraged villagers to come and enjoy Lark Rise and to act as volunteers. He reminded dog owners to keep their dogs on a lead because dogs unwittingly scare wildlife. He will support a possible wildlife audit throughout the village.

- **Cub/Scout Group** Norman Bradshaw

The 6/17th CAMBRIDGE SCOUT GROUP has had a busy year yet again. Our Cubs and Scouts taking part in many events, Hikes, Sausage Sizzles, Canoeing, Weekend Camps (Cubs to Bromham and Scouts to Bromham and St.Ives), Week Summer Camp to Appletreewick, Yorkshire to name but a few. Plus all the very busy weekly meetings, and Cubs church cleaning at Barton twice a year.

No swimming competition was held again this year due to lack of organisers.

The Group also ran 2 good Jumble Sales to raise much needed funds to keep the group running and a very good bonfire night. 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 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) who's farm we have our stores on and the local Parrish Councils who also work with and support us when needs be. The Leaders have had a very busy and hard year 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.

The programs, badges, etc. have all changed yet again so more challenges lay ahead for us all.

Also Wednesday night canoeing at Over for the scouts.

At our family BBQ /AGM (which were yet again a great successes) all had great times.



Our Numbers are:- 20 Cubs, 18 Scouts, 10 Leaders, and 1 Helpers and 2 D of E helpers, compared with last year, 16 Cubs, 16 Scouts, 10 Leaders, and 1 Helper and 4 D of E helpers plus we now have 3 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.

We are still needing to recruit a **District Commissioner** and are very much in need of a **Group Scout Leader** for the group so if you know of anyone or are interested in this position or would like to know more please do not hesitate to speak with any of us and we will do our best to progress this on.

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 Matt Wingate who has worked tirelessly to get and keep the accounts all right up to date and workable and Gift Aid claiming now in full progress and to all parents for responding so well to our requests for help and support when needed.

We are looking forward to a Seashore Hike on 24th April, (Many thanks go to BPC & BRIG for allowing us to use the facilities on these occasions) a fun day at Barton Day on 9th July, (wet sponge stocks etc), our October Jumble Sale on 15th October, and our Bonfire Night on 5th November.

Watch out for more information and please support us in any way you possibly can.

• **Barton Gardeners**

Sue Edwards

The Barton Gardeners have a healthy membership which remains around 100 members from Barton and surrounding villages. However we do struggle to attract committee members who will take the society forward to its 70th anniversary in 3 years time.

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 Hidcote Manor, this year to East Ruston Old Vicarage in Norfolk. It coincides with their Open Day which will give added interest.

Non-members are invited at £23 and we will be taking bookings and payment at the Plant Sale.

Other events include the Christmas Mince Pie morning where local stallholders can raise funds, and the Plant Sale & Bacon Butties morning in May. This year it is 7th May.

We were delighted to have been able to reduce membership fees at the AGM which are now £10 and £5. Members benefit from, amongst other things, discounts from local suppliers and 3 colourful and informative Newsletters.

We are continuing with our links with the School and fund materials when requested for the School Gardening Club.

The highlight of the year is the 67th Show held during Village Day on 9th July. The BGs will be concentrating their efforts on encouraging entrants; we will continue to offer

Free Entry to all classes for BG Members. Setting up and doing specific jobs over the weekend is always a challenge and we would encourage everyone to volunteer some of their time. Never has the saying 'many hands make light work' been more appropriate.



As you know the Queen is 90 this year. The Parish Council approached the Barton Gardeners' Committee to ask if they could do anything to make Barton (even more) beautiful for this celebration.

We discussed various options and decided to fund 4 raised beds at strategic locations around the village - Comberton Road boundary, the Pond, the Recreation Ground/High Street and Cambridge Road/Roman Hill junction.

The planters have been made, the flowers - red, white and blue petunias, are being nurtured and we hope to start positioning them and planting up later in May. We will need village volunteers to 'adopt' and care for the raised beds. Nearer the time we will be asking people in each of the locations to water and keep an eye on them. Please contact Sue Edwards if you would like to help or know more about the club.

• **Playgroup**

Elise Fielder

Barton Playgroup has been running in the village for many years with Carrie Cope and Karen Wilkins at the helm. We have strong links with Barton Primary school but operate independently – though most of the children do go on to attend it and we support this by regularly visiting the school with the children and taking part in stories and play with the reception and year one children.

Playgroup follows the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum and each child is assessed and encouraged to progress at their own pace using this framework. OFSTED inspect us - as with any educational setting - and we were delighted to receive an 'outstanding' result in the 2015 inspection.

The EYFS looks at a number of different areas including Personal, Social and Emotional development, Communication and language, Physical Development, Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the World and Expressive Arts and Design. Carrie and Karen use play – both inside and out – stories, the computer, arts and crafts, music and singing to help the children in all topics.

At the beginning of the school year and again this term, each child has been able to take home the 'All About Me' box which they fill with their favourite books, toys, family photos etc. to show and talk about with the other children. This aims to develop a positive sense of themselves as well as giving Carrie and Karen a good idea of their interests. Other activities through the year that use the topic framework include learning about festivals such as Diwali, Bonfire Night, Hanukkah and Thanksgiving, using painting to explore autumn colours, considering things to be thankful for, learning song to celebrate Christmas and of course the children put on a wonderful Christmas play for the parents to enjoy!

We do a lot of role playing with a special story chair they can use, and dancing and singing too. Physical Development ranges from construction toys and lacing cards to yoga, parachute play and full use of the play garden – including making dens! We also use PE games to encourage skills in letters and numbers – such as skittles for counting, magnetic fish with letters and numbers and phonic cards.

This year we also looked at the topic of 'People who help us' including Police, Postal Workers, Dentists, Vets and others. The children acted out role plays – with much enjoyment – and read stories around the topic. We also used this area to explore concepts such as healthy eating, exercise, washing hands and brushing teeth. The children practised writing skills and had a trip to the post box to post letters they had written themselves to their parents. Shops and restaurants role play allowed number counting as well as sorting and sharing.

We've also used music to explore emotions – listening to Carnival of the Animals and Peter and the Wolf to discuss how it makes them feel. During the latter there is also the area of 'rules' as Peter is asked not to go outside the garden, so we were able to discuss the importance of these with the children too. Physical development is explored as they move like the animals – from tortoise to hare, elephants to kangaroos!

The overall aim at Playgroup is to prepare children for the next stage in their education – starting school – and not just in the tangible skills such as mathematics and literacy, but in social development too, which is so important to a happy integration to the school environment. We primarily therefore want to introduce and encourage children to soft skills such as listening, sharing, understanding and recognising emotions in themselves and others. And of course we want them to make friends and have fun – which judging by the happy faces I see when I collect my daughter, is something Carrie and Karen succeed in!

- **Snooker Club**

Roger Wake

The club continues to be well supported by members from Barton and adjoining villages. Membership is virtually full at present, but we will be pleased to hear from any further new members or possible guests. The table is used quite regularly even in winter time and ample heat is provided. The club does offer a very good snooker or billiards facility in the village and is enjoyed by all members and guests.

- **Tennis Club**

David Ireland



The hard courts were built for the people of Barton in 1988. It is run on a voluntary basis. The aim has been to provide affordable access to the courts which were completely reconstructed 10 years ago it was however apparent by the end of 2014 that they were in bad need of cleaning and repainting. This work was finished at the end of April 2015. Not only do we have two excellent courts now, but the work carried out last year should hopefully mean that there should be no further maintenance required for some years I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Parish Council for their contribution to the cost of this work.

Access to the courts has always been by payment of a yearly membership fee, currently £40 for family membership and £25 for single membership. This provides a key which enables access

at almost any time. The change of lock this year will be on May 1. We believe this represents very good value. The courts are often empty and it would be good to see more people using what is an excellent facility.

During 2015 we organised coaching for adults on Tuesday evenings. The lessons were run by Mike's tennis academy and proved to be very successful. The adult coaching this year will again be on Tuesday nights commencing on May 17 from 7.00 until 8:30 PM. In May 2015 we also held an open family barbecue with tennis coaching for the children. Mike uses the courts some weekday mornings for his private lessons; this brings invaluable extra revenue for the club. In the summer of 2014 we were also able to provide two afternoons coaching for Barton school. This enabled almost all of the children to try their hand at tennis, although unfortunately these sessions were not taken up last year. We hope to have a similar arrangement this year. There has been a gradual reduction over the years in the number of people playing tennis and it would be nice to see some new faces. We will be organising an open evening one Thursday evening in June, if you would like to come along and try a game. We will also try and organise some hot sunny hot evenings, ideal for tennis, although as yet we're not doing very well.

- **Wednesday Women WI**

Cherry Garland

The Wednesday Women WI meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, hence our name, usually at the White Horse Pub in Barton. The group began almost five years ago, in May 2011, and meets from 6.30 until 8pm, with the aim of attracting members who might prefer to meet in the early evening, perhaps on their way home from work. We have a relaxed atmosphere and warmly welcome new members and visitors. It is a great opportunity to mix with other women and the ages of members in our group ranges from twenty-something to sixty something or beyond – but of course we'd never ask a lady her age! Although we usually meet in the pub, we do on occasion meet at other venues, depending on the activity, and our next meeting on May 18th will be at 'Backstitch' at Burwash.

Over the last year we have had a mixture of speakers, with topics ranging from sign language, yoga, cookery demonstrations and 'make-overs' to 'craft evenings' where we have learnt to make rag wreaths, paper books and flowers.

One highlight of our year included a presence at the Village Day where we dressed in 'forties' style to sell our rag wreaths, in true 'make do and mend' style. At Christmas we had a wonderful meal and get together at the 'Old Crown' at Girton.

This year saw the centenary of the National Federation of Women's Institutes on the 16th September and to celebrate this Wednesday Women re-created the original photograph of the first Women's Institute meeting at Llanfair PG in Wales.

As it happens our September meeting speaker was a milliner Abigail Crampton, so members came, adorned with hats, as a tribute to the 1915 ladies. We posed, teacups in hand – which actually contained something sparkling - and toasted the 100 years of the Womens' Institute. Three of our members, who organise the regular 'Tea at Three', also marked the centenary with a WI theme for their autumn event, which was well attended by village residents and visitors. Our committee at present is mostly made up of village residents and we average about 20 members + a few guests at our regular meetings.



*These groups are ones which were left out of the list last year. The ones being invited to report in 2017 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.