the barfordbugle

The Magazine of Great Barford Parish Council

Autumn 2022



Great Barford Parish Council
The Parish Council Office, Green End Farm,
108 Green End Road, Great Barford, Bedfordshire MK44 3HD
(by appointment only)



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Office Opening Times:
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9.00am to 12.30pm

Wednesday - 12.30pm - 3.30pm

(subject to change due to training, Council commitments and holiday)

01234 870245
clerk@greatbarford.org.uk
www.greatbarford.org.uk

an answerphone is available if calling outside of the office hours.

Contributions for the next Issue of The Bugle

should be sent to the Parish Clerk before

Monday 24th October

Submit Your Photo!

The Bugle Committee is always looking for seasonal photographs from around the village to place on the cover of the Bugle. If you would like to submit a photograph, please contact the Clerk at:

clerk@greatbarford.org.uk



CHAIR'S REPORT



Weather

It is hoped everyone managed to cope in the extreme July heat. As a country more used to the mid latitude climes, we are not well suited to the extremes of either hot or cold. But as Brits, we have a moan and then get on with it.

Visitors

Talking of hot weather; that is a time when we get inundated with visitors to the Village Green and River. Now we have been discovered, this influx of outsiders has become the norm, just like every other beauty spot around this green and pleasant land. I just wish some would show a bit of respect, and take their rubbish away with them, AND park considerately. Due to cars parking on High Street, between The Anchor and Churchgate causing problems for the traffic queuing at the lights, we have deployed 10 Traffic Cones along this stretch. We have to get permission from the local Bedford Highways Authority to enable this – more hassle and time we could do without. As this will be an ongoing problem, we may have to seek a more permanent solution and ask for yellow lines, but we must remember legitimate use for Weddings and Funerals.



More visitors usually means more litter. We have installed bigger bins to cope, but we must also be thankful for the dedicated few who do a brilliant job tidying up most mornings. A lot of this clear up is done by the wild swimmers and dog walkers. Thank you.

Besides the Village Green, we have been plagued with litter on the Playing Field. There is no excuse for this, it is unacceptable. We are just grateful to the anonymous person who cleared it up – thank you.



Village Green

Staying with the Village Green, I'd just like to point out the Flags and Bunting for the Queen's Jubilee were acquired and displayed by the Parish Council. It seems a lot of people mistakenly thought The Anchor pub was responsible – but as long as you enjoyed them, that's what matters.



Some of you may have seen safety netting around the Village Green seats at times, this was during work to extend the concrete bases to provide a wider, more comfortable foot-rest. The extra base size will also help prevent wearing out the grass in front of the seats.

Yarn Fairy

The Yarn Fairy has been excelling again, with tributes to the Queen, and some aquatic scenes. If you missed seeing the crochet work at the time, there is a photo compilation elsewhere in this issue.

Play Equipment

Most things wear out eventually, and the children's cradle swings in Jubilee Play Area are no exception. Unfortunately the rubberised crotch straps had perished, with one exposing the reinforcing wire cables. We temporarily removed the swing as it was not safe. Replacement spare parts were purchased, and swapped for the worn-out items, and the swing replaced.

We periodically review the condition of all our play equipment, and have become aware some of the wooden items are also showing their age. With this in mind we are looking to replace some of the

"stepping poles" on the agility trail. While we are at it, we want to add some more play equipment suitable for the younger age group. We have asked a play equipment provider to design some new items to compliment what we already have. It will take a few months to agree and manufacture, but we are hoping to see some changes and new equipment around the turn of the year.

Defibrillator



We have purchased another Defibrillator; it has been installed on the rear of the Village Green Notice-Board. We now have THREE Defibrillators, at the Village Hall, Post Office, and Village Green. It is hoped they are never needed, but we have them just in case they could save a life. We are still trying to organise some in-person first-aid training, so if you are interested, please contact the Clerk.

Covid Snake

The Covid Snake, that started on Willoughby Close green space, has found a new permanent home on Silver Street outside the school entrance. It is indeed a colourful tribute to a difficult time. Have a look, and enjoy. See the separate article with photos.

Garden Competition

Yes, your Councillors have been out looking at Front Gardens in July/August. Despite the dry, hot spring and summer, there were 26 proposals put forward this year for the Best Front Gardens Competition. If we meet the printing deadline, hopefully the results can be found elsewhere in this issue. A BIG THANK YOU to Roxton Garden Centre for donating the prizes, which will be presented at the Fun Day.

East West Rail

EWR continues to hold some local/regional drop-in presentations, but does not exhibit any new information, saying it is still considering/reviewing previous consultation feedback.

Meanwhile, a recent Government report by the Infrastructure and Projects Authority (IPA) gave a red rating to stages two and three of the ambitious scheme to connect Oxford and Cambridge. Later phases of the under-construction East West Rail project "appear unachievable" according to the report. This means the IPA unit, which sits within the Cabinet Office, does not believe the scheme can meet its objectives on time and within budget unless risks are addressed. The report highlights 27 red ratings issued across the government's total of 235 major projects.

The Department for Transport said in its own projects update, released to support the IPA's report, that delivery approaches for East West Rail phases two and three were "being reviewed".

We can but hope the EWR section between Bedford and Cambridge, that needs new track-bed, finds an alternative cheaper route, or may become uneconomic to pursue, and gets dropped. Keep your fingers crossed.

Bird Flu

The Government Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) declared a case of Avian Influenza on premises near Blunham on 28 July 2022. The 3km radius Protection Zone includes Great Barford from the cross-road to the river. All premises within the zone will have received an information letter detailing the legally enforced conditions. Please be aware of all these control procedures. It is not known how long restrictions will be in place, but we are told the avian influenza is caused by a strain that is adapted to birds, and presents a very low risk to human health.

Casual Vacancy

We still have a vacancy for a Parish Councillor, if you are interested then please contact the Clerk for further information.

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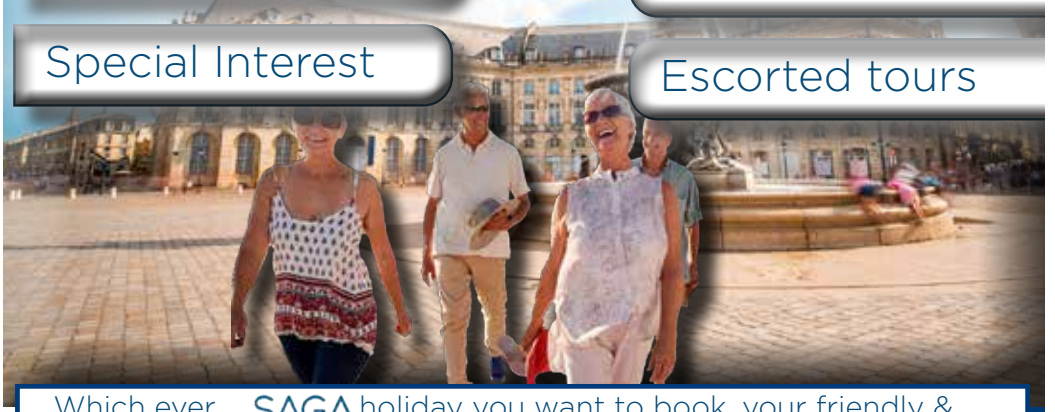
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bugle QUIZ!

1. The Venus Rosebowl plate is awarded to the winner of which competition?

2. The theme song of the TV series "Heartbeat" was originally recorded by which artist?

3. Trinity House is the organisation responsible for which group of iconic buildings?

4. In "Neighbours" what are the first names of the characters played by Jason Donovan and Kylie Minogue?

5. Which Royal Navy rank does the fictional James Bond hold?

6. What was the name of the dog who retrieved the World Cup in 1966?

7. The author Dick Francis wrote many novels about which sport?

8. In which county is Stratford Upon Avon?

9. What is the date of St Georges Day?

10. What is the capital of Portugal?

11. In which year of the 60's was the "Big Freeze"?

12. A pair of scales represents which star sign?

ANSWERS ON PAGE 40



From Our Village Agent

Our Village Agent, Teresa Moon, is here to help people in Bedford Borough villages to access the services and support they might need. She can also help with money issues. Her services are confidential and free and she can visit you at home. **Just call Freephone** 0800 039 1234.

There are a number of payments available to help you with rising costs of energy and food, which you can check on https://www.gov.uk/guidance/cost-of-living-payment. If you are unable to use a computer, contact me for help. If you're eligible for any of the payments below, you'll be paid automatically, in most circumstances. You shouldn't be contacted and asked to apply, or asked for any personal details. If you are contacted, be on your guard, as this could be a scam. Here is a summary of benefits available for pensioners:

Money Off Energy Bills.
All households in Britain will get £400 off their energy bills between October 2022 and March 2023. In most cases, it will be credited to electricity accounts automatically. If you pay by pre-payment meter, it will either be credited to the meter or you will receive a voucher.
Council Tax Rebate If you are in Council Tax bands A-D, you should be entitled to a non-repayable £150 from your council. Payments will be made from April 2022 and, unless you pay your bill via direct debit, you'll need to make a claim.

One-off Payments
• A £300 Pensioner Cost of Living Payment for households that receive the Winter Fuel Payment. This is a top-up to your Winter Fuel Payment in November/December 2022.
• A £650 Cost of Living Payment for households on means-tested benefits, such as Pension Credit and Universal Credit. You'll be paid in two instalments if eligible. Your eligibility for the first instalment will depend on whether you were entitled to certain benefits – Universal Credit, Income-based JSA, Income-related ESA, Income Support or Pension Credit – between 26 April 2022 and 25 May 2022.
• A £150 Disability Cost of Living Payment for those receiving disability benefits, such as Attendance Allowance. To get this payment in September, you must have a successful claim for a disability benefit in progress on 25 May 2022.

Household Support Fund.
This is a payment to help those considered most in need with the rising cost of food, energy and water bills. Bedford Council will make an award to Council Taxpayers of pension age who are receiving any amount of Council Tax Support.

Are you Eligible for Pension Credit? If your income is below £182.60 (single person) or £278.70 (couple) then you should qualify. Ask me to help you to apply.

Contact your Village Agent on Freephone 0800 039 1234
(This is an answerphone service, so please be ready to leave your name, address & telephone number, and I will aim to call you back within 48 hours.)

GREAT BARFORD W.I

Great Barford W.I. meet on the second Tuesday of every month at The Bowls Club in Great Barford at 7.30pm. Visitors are welcome, cost £4 or £2.50 if you are a member of a different WI. The main part of the evening is a talk or demonstration (sometimes with 'hands on' experience), preceded by some brief WI business. Tea or coffee and cakes are served by members on a rota basis. We also have a walking group who meet on the first and third Thursday mornings of each month.

The next three members' meetings are:

- **Tuesday 13th September:** Craft evening where members will practise a selected skill instructed by fellow members.

- **Tuesday 11th October:** Birthday meeting. We are to be entertained by Jon and Sandy Digweed playing the Ukulele and Singing.

- **Tuesday 8th November:** Making Christmas Wreaths.

Our Christmas dinner is at The Anchor on Tuesday 13th December.

For more information, please contact us on greatbarfordwi@yahoo.com

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BEDFORDSHIRE WI

the barfordbugle

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GREAT BARFORD BOWLS & PETANQUE CLUB



At the time of writing this it is the height of Summer (hot, phew!) but you may well be reading this as another bowling season draws to a close in September. Petanque will continue under our new LED floodlit all-weather piste almost the year round. But it is never too late to come forward if you want to take part. During the Bowls closed season we have Carpet Bowls in the clubhouse on Thursdays at 7 pm starting from **29 September 2022**.

This is the fifth season of the new improved clubhouse. It has become a popular venue for many external events. County Bowls had planned to use our green and facilities for four bowls events. Unfortunately, the first two were cancelled because of the heatwave we had earlier in the Summer. However, nil desperandum, The Bedfordshire vs Essex Ladies match went ahead place on 09 August 2022. I include a picture of the handover of the green by our Vice-President, and longest standing member, Brian Payne. The event couldn't have been successful if the number of members, playing and social, were not working behind the scenes setting up the green, catering for the excellent meal provided (to 63 attendants), running the bar and even yours truly donning the Marigolds – 63+ plates, bowls, fork n' knives, etc. The last event is the finals of the County Ladies Benevolent Triples on 21 August 2022

Our clubhouse is not only for the Petanque and Bowls players. There are Yoga and Pilates classes, WI, Bridge days, Quiz nights and coffee mornings. Information about the Club, including pictures and details of upcoming events and information on Bowls and Petanque, can be seen on the website **www.greatbarfordbowlsclub.org.uk** and Face book page **www.facebook.com/Great-Barford-Bowls-Club-927365523974564.**

Friday 16 September, we have a **Bridge Day**. 10 am reception for a 10:30 start with a two-course lunch with wine and coffee/tea all included in the admission charge of £15. Contact Beryl Seymour on 01767 449116 for details.

But we are a Bowls and Petanque Club! **So, what kind of a year have we had?** Almost every competitive team had great success. At the time of writing this report the Petanque team is 3rd in the league and, with one game to go, look set to end in the promotion zone. The bowls team of the club is the East Beds League 'A' team who, with 2 matches still to play secured promotion to the First Division of the East Beds League with 7 of the same players who, after being promoted (and league champions) countless times, started down in Division 5 in 2016. They should finish league 2 champions. The East Beds League 'B' team is also knocking on the promotion door but must produce some outstanding results to fight off the other challengers. Due to injuries, the Ladies League captain has had needed to play several new, and young, players to strengthen the squad in depth. The team is set to finish in the

GREAT BARFORD BOWLS & PETANQUE CLUB



middle of the division which promises to make an exceptional squad for some time to come. Our over 60s team lie also in the middle of the table with just two games to play. Unfortunately, this is a precarious position because the league division is closely competitive so the final position could be very different.

On Sunday 07 August we had the first internal club competition winners in the Triples Day with 30 members, playing in two round-robin leagues culminating in an exciting final that was won by Nic, Marianne and Ray. Our Finals Weekend is 17/18 September, and we have a bowls spoon drive on Friday 09 September. This is a chance to see the best of the Bowls Club with exciting play and good company. And the bar is open from 11:30 am! Pop in and see what it is all about. Hopefully, you can see in the triples day picture that we have a thriving



club of men and women keen to play and enjoy Bowls and Petanque. We will still need new players of both genders in the spring, whether new to the club or new to the sport. So, if you're looking for a new year's resolution the bowls club will be here to help. Perhaps you would like to try Petanque (contact Beryl Seymour on **01767 449116**) or bowls (contact Joe Lound-Keast on **07757 701955**) or see the club's website or Facebook. Some of our "friendly" bowls games had to be cancelled due to lack of players. These friendly games are an opportunity for all abilities to get to grips with the game and all the rules, plus making new friends, so are ideal for new players.

And I leave you with: Simon's wife had warned him to be particularly careful about his language as he was down on the team list to be lead in the vicar's triple. He was struggling with the length and was getting more and more frustrated. Unfortunately, he was up against Ben, the best lead in the business. On the eleventh end Ben put down a long jack and bowled his first wood forehand to land touching the jack. Simon tried to follow that, but he was too heavy and sent the bowl right into the ditch. Again, Ben landed on the Jack. This time Simon sent his bowl on the perfect line, but he was too short. Ben's third shot joined his first two. In his frustration Simon forgot to check the bias and watched as his perfectly weighted bowl sailed out of bounds. He lost his resolve and let fly with a string of expletives. The vicar felt obliged to respond. "I have observed," said he in a calm voice nodding towards Ben, "that the best bowlers do not use foul language." "I guess not," said Fred, "but what the hell do they have to swear about?"

If you have not followed the terminology used in this joke, turn up to the "roll-ups" on Fridays at 6 pm, the spoon drive (**Friday 09 September)** or the finals weekend (**17/18 September**) and we will be happy to explain it.

Joe Lound-Keast, Publicity

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New GBNP Committee Structure

The Great Barford Neighbourhood Plan Committee has reorganised to reflect its ongoing role. We now operate with a team of 4 Residents and 4 Councillors. The prime tasks now are to monitor the implementation of the Adopted Neighbourhood Plan, and maintain a close engagement with the GB West Developer Consortium.

Implementation and Use

Any new planning applications within the parish submitted to the Borough Council are assessed not only against the Bedford BBLP2030 policies, but must now also take into account the policies of the Great Barford NP. It is notable that in the BBC Decision Notice and Officers Reports for the outcome of recent planning applications, quotes have been taken from the GBNP; in particular these have referred to the Design criteria of D1; ***High Quality Design and Rural Character***, and D2; ***Sustainable Design and Construction***. The Historic Environment HE1; ***Great Barford Conservation Areas and their Settings*** has also played its part. So our NP is being used as intended when considering planning applications.

GB West Progress

We continue to meet online with the GB West Developer Consortium, where they can update us on what is happening, and there is an exchange of comments with open discussion. At a recent meeting, they were able to inform us of a Traffic Survey around the village that had to be aborted due to a road closure in Blunham, potentially skewing data and not giving a true representation. The Traffic Survey was rescheduled for a few weeks later, with vehicle counter strips across the entrance roads to the village, and manual counting of vehicle types at the major junctions.

Arrangements had been made for an Aerial Drone Topography Survey. You may have seen a few white cross datum reference points on the edge of some fields, and the footpath at Green End.

Other surveys will include Arboriculture, and Landscape & Viewpoints during summer and winter.

Master-Planning Consultants have now been appointed. These will cover specialist topics such as Heritage, Ecology, Environmental and Landscaping. The specialist reports will help inform the Development Brief and Master-Plan processes.

To kick-off these studies, a group site visit by all the Consultants, and representatives from the GB West Consortium and our GBNP team met on Wednesday 13 July. We walked the site and also viewed various Character Points around the village. The visit enabled a healthy discussion on numerous concerns, such as a Bedford Road Gateway Entrance with Roundabouts; Pedestrian Access to the main Village Facilities; Healthcare Provision; a possible new Vehicular Access to the rear of the School; Views & Landscape Buffering; Green End Conservation Area; Surface Water/ Drainage Control, and other topics as issues presented themselves.

Public Participation

The GB West Consortium Team is eager to engage with the residents. Public and Stakeholder input is required, so it can help inform the Development Brief and Master Plan processes. The Fun Day information stand was intended to start an exchange of ideas with residents and help stimulate further interest. Drop-In sessions are expected to follow once the preliminary work can be processed to provide some discussion topics to consult on.

Activity Promotion

It is anticipated that physical Poster and Leaflet, as well as Social Media campaigns will be used to actively promote future public events, and encourage communication with the GB West team. The Bugle is another media that the GB West team have already utilised, and to which they would like to continue to submit regular news letter updates.



Horse Race Night

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Audience Participation - The Race is On!!

At Great Barford Village Hall Saturday 15th October 2022

arrive at **6:30pm for 7:00pm** start -- 11:00pm

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: Ed Burnett. 07874862833

Great Barford Partnership Twinning greatbarfordtwinning.org.uk

So What Has Been Happening In Our Parish?

Here is a quick summary of some leading projects and activities undertaken by your Parish Council.

Jubilee Play Area



Periodic review of all our play equipment has revealed some pieces are showing their age. We are looking to update, and add some more items suitable for the younger age group. A play equipment provider has been asked to design some new items to compliment what we already have. It will take a few months to agree and manufacture, but we are hoping to see some changes, and new equipment in a few months.

As part of the Queen's Jubilee activities, we planted 250 saplings in the play area.

The Parish Council would like to thank Councillor Ames for kindly taking her own time to open and lock up the play area every day.



Defibrillators

The original Defibrillator is still outside the Post Office. We have now purchased two additional units. The new Defibrillators can be found at the Village Hall patio, and Village Green notice-board. It is hoped they are never needed, but we have them just in case they could save a life.





We would like to thank Tots and Teenies Toddler Group for their kind contribution towards the Village Hall unit, and Nick Crusco for installing it.

There will be in-person first-aid training for residents and local organisations – 1st October.

Covid Snake



The Covid Snake, that started on Willoughby Close green space, has found a new permanent home on Silver Street outside the school entrance. It is indeed a colourful tribute to a difficult time. Have a look when you are passing.

Village Green Area



Since Covid, an influx of visitors has become the norm, just like every other beauty spot around the country. The Parish Council have been working tirelessly to help resolve the issues that we have been experiencing.

We purchased cones to deploy along High Street, between The Anchor and Churchgate, where parked cars cause problems for the traffic

queuing at the lights. Others are used along New Road to help control the inconsiderate parking. Bedford Borough Council kindly loaned us some cones for the High Street, as ours were sadly stolen.

As visitors will be an ongoing problem, we may have to seek a more permanent solution and ask for more yellow lines, but we must remember the needs of those attending Church Services, Weddings and Funerals.



More visitors usually means more litter. We have installed bigger bins to cope, but we must also be thankful for the dedicated few who do a brilliant job tidying up most mornings. The wild swimmers and dog walkers deserve a big Thank You. The bins are emptied THREE times a week, by special arrangement.



Local school children became involved by designing "keep it tidy" posters to display on the railings.

For the Queen's Jubilee, we acquired and displayed Flags and Bunting on the Village Green. Some people mistakenly thought The Anchor pub was responsible. We just hope you enjoyed the display.



The concrete bases for the benches have been extended. The extra size will help prevent wearing out the grass in front of the seats, and provide a wider, more comfortable foot-rest.



Some new donated benches have been installed, and all benches have been given a nice new coat of paint.



Extra safety railings were requested and installed on the riverside footpath towards the weir.



Yellow lines were put around the entrance to Woodpecker Close, to protect the junction from visitors' parked cars blocking the view of motorists negotiating the junction. Other yellow lines help make space for traffic queuing at the lights

A speed monitoring device, and 30mph roundels were put on New Road. We are in contact with the local policing team who patrol the area. The cross-county team regularly deploy a speed van enabling them to issue tickets to speeding vehicles.



Two "No Jumping" signs were install each end of the bridge, after local police had to intervene to stop the dangerous practice of jumping off the bridge.

We have installed a bollard at the entrance of the Village Green to help prevent unauthorised vehicles driving onto the village green.



A sign on the railings advises that the Village Green is owned by the Parish Council.

We have replaced the rotted wooden Notice-Board on the Village Green with a nice new metal one to match the style of others we already have around the village.



SID

Our Speed Indicator Device is used at strategic places around the village. There does seem to be a notable reduction in recorded speeds, especially along New Road, where we believe the permanent speed signs have had a good influence on speed awareness in that area. Generally our percentage of speeders is much lower than the national average, but any speeding is still unwelcome.

Trees/Hedges

Tree and hedge maintenance is a major annual cost, but critical for safety, and has a big visual impact on tidiness around the village. Our tri-annual independent Tree Survey and Risk Assessment is used to inform and prioritise a rolling works programme to keep everything in order. It was very sad when the old oak tree on the playing field was damaged in high winds, and emergency work to ensure the safety of this was actioned by us.

Christmas Lights

Christmas is always a good time to put up some decorations, so we have invested in new lights to dress the Christmas Tree. We also converted several Lamp Posts to enable them to have illuminations added over the Christmas period. We intend to expand the coverage over future years.



Playing Field

We have been plagued with litter on the Playing Field. There's no excuse, as we have 2 new larger bin enclosures to increase waste capacity in the area.







The old rusted MUGA wall panels have been replaced, and a Zip Wire has been installed to be enjoyed by the local children.



In commemoration of the platinum jubilee we planted 4 oak trees on the playing field.



Grass Cutting

A new Grass Cutting Contractor started in March 2022. The contractor comes well recommended, and seems to be finding his way around the village, using the many grass location maps we have produced.

Handyman

We have a new Handyman to do odd jobs around the village. You will already have seen a Fix, Paint and Tidy purge going on, with several pieces of Street Furniture getting a long overdue refurbishment; graveyard gates and benches being painted, and removing the masses of ivy from the graveyard wall.

Silver Street

We will be funding a new 20mph speed limit along Silver Street which has been requested by residents for some time. We have been advised from Bedford Borough Council that this should be undertaken shortly.



Village Hall Car Park

The blocked drain gullies in the village hall car park were cleared recently.

The parking bays and direction markers in the village hall car park have been professionally reapplied in a hot-pour thermoplastic paint.

We are currently looking into many new and exciting projects for the village. Look out for future updates in the Bugle. The Parish Council would like to thank all residents for their continued support.

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01234 266 366 peacockauction.co.uk

BEDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL SERVICES

BENEFITS and SUPPORT
email: customerservices@bedford.gov.uk
Tel: 01234 718097 option 2

BLUE BADGES
email: blue.badges@bedford.gov.uk
Tel: 01234 718009

CUSTOMER SERVICES
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email: customerservices@bedford.gov.uk
Tel: 01234 267422

ELECTORAL REGISTRATION
email: electoral.registration@bedford.gov.uk
Tel: 01234 718078

DOG WARDEN
email: ehadmin@bedford.gov.uk
Tel: 01234 718099

MOBILE LIBRARY
https://www.bedford.gov.uk/libraries
Tel: 01234 276453

PARKING ENFORCEMENT
email: parking.services@bedford.gov.uk
Tel: 01234 718359

BINS and RECYCLING
email: recycling@bedford.gov.uk
Tel: 01234 718060

COUNCIL TAX
email: customerservices@bedford.gov.uk
Tel: 01234 718097 option 3

EDUCATION SERVICES
email: childrensservices@bedford.gov.uk
Tel: 01234 267422

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
Environmental concerns, including Dog Bins, Street Cleaning, Fly-Tipping, Waste Collection and Graffiti
email: callcentre@bedford.gov.uk
Tel: 01234 718060

HIGHWAYS HELPLINE
Roads, Footpaths, Street Lights and general highways problems
email: highways.helpdesk@bedford.gov.uk
Tel: 01234 718003

PLANNING
email: planning@bedford.gov.uk
Tel: 01234 718068

RIGHTS OF WAY Footpaths and Bridleways
email: row@bedford.gov.uk Tel: 01234 718003

You can now report issues directly with Bedford Borough Council quickly and simply through their Online Report It Service which allows you to track your report online through the **"Save Time, Do It Online"** process – Home page: **https://www.bedford.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/website-information/Pay-Report-Request/**

ARO
GREAT D











OUND BARFORD











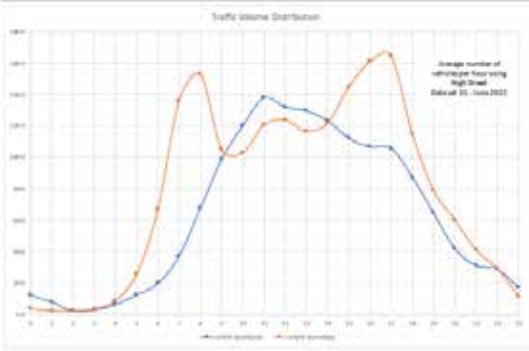
Location	Average number of vehicles per day	Average number of speedsters per day (exceeding 35 mph)
Bedford Road	3021	51
Green End Road	1871	70
High Street	1615	47
New Road	497	49
Roxton Road	2066	36

Our Speed Indicator Device (SID) has been doing the rounds again, reminding drivers of the speed limit and collecting more data. We have a number of sites that we regularly visit, these are located on our 'worst' roads for speeding, these are on the five through roads through the village. The data that we collect shows little difference from one session to the next, occasionally there will be a slight reduction in traffic flow but this can often be attributed to traffic issues elsewhere.

By averaging out the data we can see where our biggest problems are and any trends that are occurring.

The data in the table shows the total average flow (in both directions) along with the total average number of vehicles exceeding 35 mph.

SID often tells us what we already know, the graph here shows us the flow of traffic along High Street at different times of the day. We all know that we have two rush hours but this shows when they start and which are the quieter times of the day. It reinforces the fact that the busy times for traffic coincide with the school run – when children and parents are having to cross the road. It shows that the weekend



pattern is different to the working week.

Parking continues to be an issue. There are houses in Great Barford which were built before the motor car was invented, we've a lot of houses built when the thought of car ownership was only a dream. The reality is that now we have the majority of houses with multiple cars, these all need somewhere to park, hence the problem. As long as a car is Taxed and MoT'd it is allowed to park on the road, the issue arises when that parking is inconsiderate – blocking drives etc. The Parish Council has little it can do in this regard. Bedford Borough will issue fines for illegally parked vehicles (parking on yellow lines, parking on pavements or verges where a restriction is in place, parking across driveways). If you have a problem then you can report it to

them on **01234 718359**.

Abandoned vehicles (A vehicle can be considered to be abandoned if: it has not been moved for at least two weeks, it is in poor condition, such as having flat tyres, or litter has built up under the vehicle, there is evidence of damage, such as poor body work or broken windows, it doesn't have a valid MOT or Road Tax). These can be reported to Bedford Borough online and they will investigate for you and deal appropriately. This all takes time.

During the **summer season** parking becomes a major issue by the village green. Paddleboarders, Swimmers and other Visitors flock to the area, many bring their cars. There is very limited parking in this area and those parking spots that are available soon become filled. We have had some yellow lines put on the roads, we do put out cones on some of the pavements (we have to ask permission to do this) but it still presents a problem. We do ask that both the Police and Bedford Borough look in on the area but they have limited resources. They do attend and 'tickets' are issued. It is a particular problem for our farmers who need to use these roads to move their machinery, Emergency services too. It's of little comfort to know that we're not the only place with this problem, other beauty spots suffer the same. The weather does make a difference – if we have a wet weekend we don't get the problems! The only slight positive from the parking is that it results in less speeding, the narrower roads make it less enticing for the speedsters.



GREAT BARFORD SURGERY

Flu Vaccine Programme

The flu vaccine is a safe and effective vaccine. It's offered every year on the NHS to help protect people at risk of getting seriously ill from flu.



Who can have the Flu Vaccine?

- Are aged 50 and over
- Have certain health conditions
- Are pregnant
- Are in long-stay residential care
- Receive a carer's allowance, or are the main carer for an older or disabled person who may be at risk if you get sick
- Live with someone who is more likely to get infections (such as someone who has HIV, has had a transplant or is having certain treatments for cancer, lupus or rheumatoid arthritis)
- Frontline health and social care works

How to book your appointment

If you are eligible for a free flu vaccine, you can book an appointment at your GP.

Please contact the Surgery from the end of September and ask to be placed on the 'flu vaccination waiting list'. Once we are able to release the available dates we will contact you via SMS or telephone.

Everyone who is eligible for the free flu vaccine will be able to get it. For more information please visit **https://www.nhs.uk/condition/vaccinations/flu-influenza-vaccine/**

Missed appointments

Could all patients kindly be reminded that if you are unable to attend a pre booked appointment with any of our Clinical Team that you contact the Surgery on Tel: 01234 870325 and cancel your appointment. The total number of missed appointments covering the period of May/June and July were as follows:-

GP's
32 @ 10mins

NURSE
59 @ 10min

HCA
93 @ 10 mins

CLINICAL PHARMACIST
44 @ 10 mins

TOTAL HOURS LOST
Approx. 37 hours

Dispensary reported that for May and June there was total of circa £2000 of wasted Medication.


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Bedford
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Wyboston
St. Neots
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THE SERVICE IS AVAILABLE TO EVERYONE AND IS TIMETABLED
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www.ivelsprinter.org.uk
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Fortnightly every Monday

For mobile times check with Library

THE PARISH COUNCIL WOULD POLITELY ADVISE USERS OF THE PLAYING FIELD THAT **GOLF** IS NOT PERMITTED ON THE PLAYING FIELDS AT ANY TIME

Midgard Property Maintenance

- Roofing repairs, reroofs or roof de-mossing.
- Leadwork repairs and replacements.
- Gutter and facia cleaning and repair.
- Chimney and brickwork repointing and repair.
- Any other ladder related work.

Local friendly service, happy to help.

Contact: Ashley
Tel: 07851 121782
Email: midgardpm@outlook.com

The Great Barford Covid Snake

It seems ages since the painted stones, forming the Covid Snake, first started to appear around the edge of Willoughby Close central green space during early Covid Lockdown. The stones have a poignant meaning, so had been removed, cleaned, varnished and stored for safe keeping. This was in readiness for them to be installed as a permanent tribute, to when the community came together to support one another at a difficult time.



Over 150 stones were painted by many young and older children alike. Several suggestions for a permanent home were put forward, and Volunteers and Contractors were sought to create a display that could be enjoyed by all. After consulting, some proposed locations were rejected, or not practicable, but eventually an approach to the Great Barford Primary Academy provided a solution, by offering a piece of the school's land on their Silver Street frontage, near the main entrance.





The stones, forming a giant wiggly snake, are now set in concrete with a commemorative plaque and finished with a hard-wood surround. The costs of creating the final display piece were covered by the Parish Council, and the Engraved Slate plaque was produced and donated by Little Moments Gifts Ltd. And a big thank you must go to Victoria Moir for helping to drive this project forward and for coordinating activities, and the school for providing the ideal location. Have a look and enjoy.

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Garden *competiton* Winners 2022

This year has been really difficult hot and dry weather, but there has still been several good displays nominated for the Great Barford Front Garden Competition. Judging was conducted July/August, again looking for COLOUR, VARIETY and EFFORT in the two categories of LARGE and SMALL gardens. Congratulations to the Winners, and this year we would like to thank Roxton Garden Centre for donating Prizes.

LARGE GARDEN **- 1st -**



54 High Street
Francis & Colin Darlow

LARGE GARDEN **- 2nd -**



4 Beresford Close
Marianne Simpson

LARGE GARDEN **Highly Commended**



52 High Street
Carole & Roger Eyre

FRONT GARDEN COMPETITION

SMALL GARDEN

After considering the criteria of COLOUR, VARIETY and EFFORT, we were unable to separate the best two, so we award them Equal First. The displays look even better in real life. Well done.

SMALL GARDEN
- EQUAL 1st -



3 Woodpecker Close
Russell Mabbott

SMALL GARDEN
- EQUAL 1st -



58 High Street
Bill Heale

SMALL GARDEN
Highly commended



The Boat House, New Road
Shirley & John Furniss



David Austin Rose Roald Dahl

Inspiring Gardeners...

Willington has been a place for growing and nurturing beautiful plants since the 1890s, when the original nursery was founded by Isaac Godber, grandfather of one of the present partners. Few of today's Garden Centres can claim over 100 years of continuous family involvement.

Frosts at Willington combines the traditional values of high quality, value for money and unrivalled service with a commitment to excellence in horticulture.

FROSTS
AT WILLINGTON

Frosts Garden Centre, Sandy Road, Willington, Bedford,
MK44 3QP, Tel: 01234 838777 frostsgardencentres.co.uk

QUIZ! night in the hall

FUND RAISING for the 2022 VILLAGE FUN DAY

Bring your team for a fun social evening
(bring your own snacks)

the bar is open, and bottles of wine for the winning team.

21st October

To book your team, contact **Louise** on **870443**





PARKING ISSUES

The adverse impact on individuals and communities of illegal or excessive parking by visitors and businesses is being clearly seen around the village currently.

It seems clear that a car dealing/recovery business is being operated out of the old Mirrorspan premises. The direct result of which is the use of the nearby village streets to store the cars and sometimes the transporter. This has particularly affected Silver Street and Chapel Field. The remedy is likely to lie with the Borough on planning grounds as there is no means of preventing taxed and insured vehicles from using available parking spaces, however much they may be needed by residents and visitors etc. Untaxed vehicles can of course be reported to the police who may take action.

It is probable that the business is operating in breach of planning rules. If it is based there, although one of the transporters involved appears to be owned by a business based elsewhere, it will be an unauthorised change of use. However, the Borough will need clear evidence before they can take action. I have discussed the problem with Planning Enforcement and they can take no action without clear evidence. In the absence of any investigative resource within the Borough team it will require the involvement of local residents to provide the necessary evidence.

What is needed is an idea of the number of vehicles involved, particularly the untaxed ones that are parked either in the car park or on the road and the turnover of cars. It would help if anyone witnesses vehicles being loaded or unloaded and takes a note as to the time and place. I would welcome any such information and have attended several times to photograph unlicensed cars that have been reported to me. If anyone sees a car being dropped off or collected please call me immediately and if I am around I will attend and photograph the incident

There is also a problem with parking near the river. Since the village green was "discovered" during lockdown the number of visitors from across the region and beyond has remained very high, particularly during the current warm weather. The High street and New Road are regularly impeded by parked vehicles and blockages of the pavement are also common. The Council does send parking officers regularly but the problem of pavement parking is a police matter. The police local team has confirmed that it is aware of the problem and have said they will make regular visits.

EAST-WEST RAIL

It seems increasingly possible that the Bedford to Cambridge section of the proposed new railway line will not be proceeded with. The cost of the project is increasingly being questioned and there is no evidence of any realistic business plan. However, unless it is actually cancelled it remains probable that it will continue to blight the value of those properties that are adversely affected by it.

FLYTIPPING

This remains a problem in several locations. The Council usually responds within a day or so and is often able to trace the originator or dumper and will issue fines whenever it can. As has been previously reported PC's and indeed individuals can request the installation of temporary cameras by contacting the **Environmental.EnforcementTeam@bedford.gov.uk** It would be helpful to copy the ward councillors if a request is made.

PARKING OUTSIDE SCHOOLS

In the last 6 months the Borough has issued about 500 parking fines for parents parking illegally or hazardously, quite a few in Silver Street. The Parking Patrol vehicles visit during drop off and pick up times and will respond to requests for additional visits where there is a specific need.

The objective is both to help ensure safety for both the children and other road and pavement users as well as encourage walking and cycling to school.

Stephen Moon
01234 870061
Stephen.Moon@bedford.gov.uk

Tots & Teenies (toddler group)



Every Wednesday* *(in term time)*

at Great Barford Village Hall

9:45am-11:30am

Includes toys, craft, song time, snacks, and drinks for babies & toddlers.

Plus, hot drinks for adults.

£3 for 1 adult & 1 child

£1.50 per extra child/adult thereafter.

Pay on the door (cash or card), no need to pre book.

Please bring some extra pennies to buy yourself some cake

Contact Nicci 07970114030 for more information

**Please note Tots is now on a WEDNESDAY*

GREAT BARFORD WEST

What's been happening?

The Great Barford West team have started work on the Development Brief for the site and have begun a series of activities to help bring forwards our vision for Great Barford West. These include:

• A team of technical consultants have been recently appointed to assess the opportunities and constraints of the site and identify the area most suitable for development and inform the master planning work.

• The technical survey work includes:

- Highways and transport analysis
- Ground Conditions & Drainage surveys
- Topographic survey
- Ecological habitat surveys
- Landscape and Visual Impact

• A site walkover with the technical team – to identify the constraints and opportunities for the site and understand the most important characteristics for the village, in discussion with representatives from the Great Barford Neighbourhood Plan Group.

These key project activities will assist in the preparation of the Development Brief and creation of some initial concept plans, which we will be sharing with the local community in a series of consultation events.

Community consultation

We will shortly be initiating a series of engagement exercises with the local community on the proposals for the site, which began with our attendance at the Great Barford Community Events Fun Day. We were delighted to meet with the local community and to begin to share with you our vision for the site.

As always, your views are crucial to us as we evolve the proposals. As such, we will be hosting a thorough consultation on our vision so far. The consultation will utilise a range of mechanisms, including an information newsletter, community events, updates to our project website and dedicated project contact details, where you can speak directly with a member of our project team.

We look forward to meeting you and working collaboratively to bring forward a thriving and integrated development, which understands the needs of the existing community.

Further information

If you would like to be kept up to date on our progress so far, future community consultation events, or would like to view further information on the background of the site and progress to date, please visit our project website at:

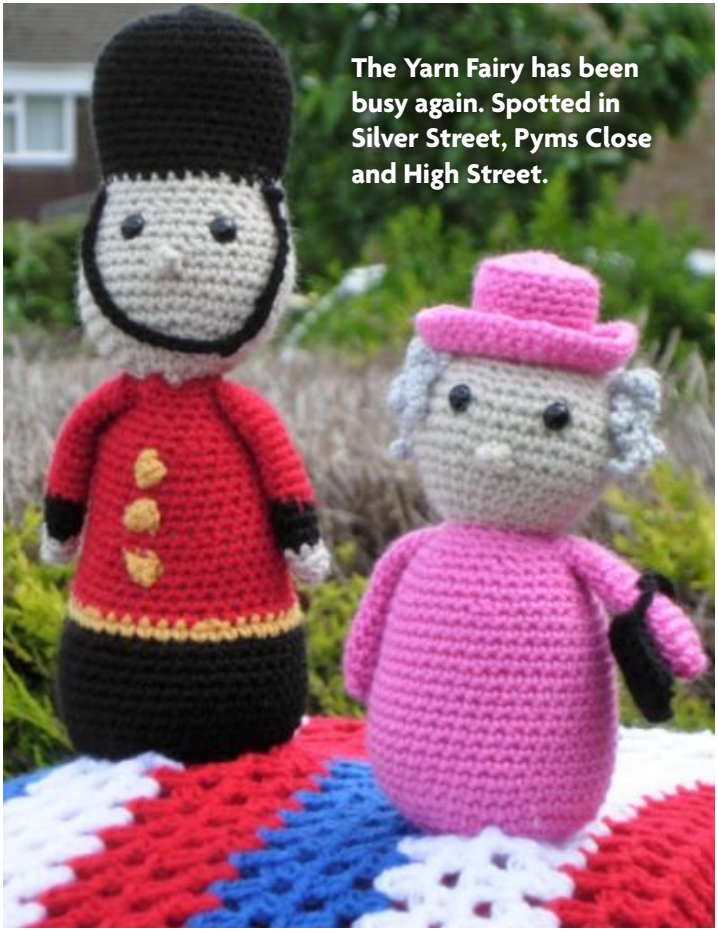
www.greatbarfordwest.co.uk.

If you have any further questions, or would like paper copies of the materials available, please contact the developer at the details below:

0800 080 3164

great-barford-west@devcomms.co.uk

YARN FAIRIES



The Yarn Fairy has been busy again. Spotted in Silver Street, Pyms Close and High Street.











1. A421, Near Brook and Footpath FP3
2. Bridleway BW24, Birchfield Rd
3. Old School, High St

bugle QUIZ!

ANSWERS

1. Ladies singles at Wimbledon.
2. Buddy Holly
3. Lighthouses
4. Scott and Charlene
5. Commander
6. Pickles
7. Horse racing
8. Warwickshire
9. 23rd April
10. Lisbon
11. 1963
12. Libra



The Great Barford Village Hall is managed by a voluntary Committee, and we would like new members. Are you able to give some time to helping run this community facility?
If so, please contact James Hetherington, Chairman, at **r67jlh@outlook.com**.

Our regular weekday classes from September, will be as follows:

Mondays:	Boot Camp with Conor Inskip	7.00pm to 8pm
	Burlexburn with Lian Longlands	8.00pm to 9.00pm
Tuesdays:	Kids Taekwondo with Paul O'Brien	4.30pm to 6.30pm
	Parish Council Meetings (1st and 3rd)	From 7.30pm
Wednesdays:	Tots&Teenies with Nicci Martin	9.45am to 11.15am
	Personal Trainer Sam Moss	5.30pm to 6.30pm
	Guides with Liz Spurling/Jo Nicholls	7.00pm to 8.30pm
Thursdays:	Over 60's Keep Fit with Conor Inskip	10.00am to 11.00am
	Slimming World	5.00pm to 7.30pm
Fridays:	Boot Camp with Conor Inskip	8.30am to 9.30am
	Dance Fitness with Jennie Taylor	10.00am to 11.00am

The Bar is open to the community on most Friday evenings from 7.30-11.30pm
We have a wide range of drinks competitively priced.

In the main hall
Family Friday (1st) from 6.00pm to 9.00pm
Swingsters Freestyle Dance (2nd) from 8.00pm to 11.00pm

BOOKINGS
Check our website **greatbarfordvh.org** and use the form to make an enquiry.
We have weekday availability for new classes and activities. Check the Diary on the website for confirmed bookings. Get in touch to arrange a viewing and discussion of your event with our Bookings Secretary, Louise Geary on **01234 870443** or **07974 816880**.

THE BAR
Is managed by Sid Smith. We need more bar staff. If you have experience and would like to help serve behind the bar for parties and events, please get in touch with Sid on **07505 359764**.

LOCAL GP'S SURGERY & WALK-IN CENTRES

THE SURGERY
16 Silver Street
Great Barford
MK44 3HX

01234 870 325

0845 8500734 Out of Hours

Opening Hours:
Monday to Friday
08:30 - 13:00 & 14:00 - 18:00

Telephone Monday to Friday
08:00 - 13:00 & 14:00 - 18:30

St Neots
Health Centre
24 Moores Walk
St Neots
PE19 1AG

01480 219 317

Non Registered Patients
Opening Hours
(outside these hours, patients are advised to contact their own registered GP)
Monday to Friday
08:00 - 09:00 & 18:00 - 20:00
Saturday & Sunday
09:00 - 16:00

Putnoe
Medical Centre
93 Queens Drive
Putnoe
Bedford
MK41 9LE

01234 319992

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Sat, Sun & Bank Holidays:
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REPORTING FAULTS

If you see a fault or problem in Great Barford that is the responsibility of Bedford Borough Council please report it using the contacts below:

Roads, footpaths, street light and general highway problems including signage, report to the Highways Helpdesk:

01234 718003
highways.helpdesk@bedford.gov.uk

Environmental concerns such as dog bins, street cleaning, flytipping, waste collection and graffiti contact:

01234 718060
callcentre@bedford.gov.uk

Dog Warden contact:

01234 718009
ehadmin@bedford.gov.uk

For any other issues please contact the Borough Council and they will advise you as to which department can help.
01234 267 422

The Borough Council website provides very useful information on the specific services of the Borough Council and contact details:

www.bedford.gov.uk

If you see a faulty streetlight with a PC number please report it to the Parish Clerk.

For any faults or issues with the graveyard, village green, playing field, jubilee play area, allotments or areas of open space please contact the Parish Clerk.

If you are not sure who is responsible or if you need help or advice with reporting items please contact the Parish Clerk on:

01234 870245 or
clerk@greatbarford.org.uk

THE BOBBY SCHEME

Can the Bobby Scheme help you?

The Bobby Scheme is a local charity that provides a free service to over 65s and the vulnerable by improving their home security to reduce crime and the fear of crime. The Bobby men are trained lock fitters and crime prevention advisers who offer advice, reassurance and fit a range of security devices to make people feel safer in their own home. The Bobby Scheme has been running since 1997 and has improved or enhanced the security of over 20,000 homes across Bedfordshire.

If you would like a visit from the Bobby Scheme or know someone who would benefit please call.

01234-842619
or visit our website at
www.bedspolicepartnership.org



Do you care about your village and want to help make a difference?

If you are interested in volunteering to be a litter picker around the village please contact the Clerk at **clerk@greatbarford.org.uk** for more information.

Equipment will be provided.



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