

Barston News Sheet

August 2024

Issue 101

Don't Forget:
Barston's biggest charity fundraiser event is later this month on the field behind the Bull's Head pub!

(see insert page for more)



Parish Council

Hello everyone, and welcome to the Barston News Sheet!

Summer has arrived, bringing with it the haymaking and harvest season. The fields around our parish are buzzing with activity, so please be patient and cautious around large machinery on the roads.

A huge thank you to Mike Lynn for his work on the Parish Magazine. We now welcome Tony Burton, who will be taking over. We look forward to Tony's contributions to the New Sheet and hope his involvement continues well into the future. While we often turn to our phones and tablets, there's something special about reading local news on paper.

Mark your calendars for Sunday, August 11th, as the Solihull Half Marathon returns. Let's give the runners a warm Barston welcome! We need volunteers for the Barston water station, so please message me if you can help. The roads will be closed from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm, and let's hope for good weather.

Birmingham Airport is becoming busier, with plans to increase capacity and night time flights. If you're disturbed by excessive noise, especially at night, make your voice heard by complaining to the airport.

Remember to support our local pubs; they are vital to our community, and we are fortunate to have two of them!

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Wednesday, September 11th, at 8 pm in the institute. We had a great turnout last time with valuable feedback. All are welcome to join.

Jeremy Emmett (Chairman)

Barston Association

The 38th Annual Barston Fete is coming up fast. Please find the **accompanying sheet (see insert)** for information of what is going on and when. All offers of help will be greatly appreciated,

Donations of suitable **Tombola Prizes** are needed, please contact **Jeny** on 07715 372729

As are offers of **bric-a-brac** / clothing / books, please contact **Zee** on 07878 346462

Please contact myself with any other queries not covered **Pete Sumner** on 07870 483505

Save the date – **Barston Ball** – Saturday 9th November

Pete Sumner

Editor's Note

After a truly heroic ten years as Editor of the Barston News Sheet, **Mike Lynn** has signed off and closed his laptop for the last time. Please join me in thanking Mike for his AMAZING dedicated service to the Barston Community!

As your new Editor, I am very keen to continue Mike's work as best I can and develop the News Sheet in the direction that YOU, the villagers, would like. So, if you have any thoughts on new regular items you would like to see, or have any one-off news items to share, please contact me on 07850-338189 (phone, text or WhatsApp) or email me at dr.tony.burton@gmail.com. Thank you!

Tony Burton

The Barston News Sheet is paid for by the Parish Council and printed by Midland Business Equipment, Knowle.

Airport News

Night Flying and associated noise continue to be under, if quite slow, consideration. Solihull Planners are due to consider changes to the Section 106 approvals associated with the Runway Extension ten years ago, shortly. Delays have been requested, but not agreed.

A portable noise monitor has been in the village during June/July, for a month. The results will be compared to a similar period in 2018, and will be published.

I have recently emailed the Airport with a few questions, not all associated with Night Noise, on behalf of the Parish Council. It will be interesting to see the response, if any, and if any meaningful progress, is forthcoming.

There is detail, on the BHX website, of current noise policies. There are also links to the noise complaints pages. Additionally, there is a link to Webtrak6, which is an almost in real time, detail of all take offs and landings, noting track being taken together with heights and also noise levels at the three Noise Monitors to the south (and the north) of the airport.

If there are any questions or comments please do not hesitate to ask.

My time representing Barston on the Airport Consultative Committee (ACC) will shortly come to an end. If there is anyone who may like to represent Barston on the committee, which does consider many aspects of the impact of the Airport, not just noise, then I would be happy to explain their function and answer any queries. It is not unduly time consuming and is quite interesting.

David Elliott (07771 593104)

edavidelliott@aol.com

Barston & Hampton W.I.

In June our speaker let us down, literally at the last minute.

We were fortunate to have local artist Charlotte Kirkham step in to tell us about the upcoming exhibition at Kingshill House, Dursley, Gloucestershire, 2nd -30th September 2024, 'Sudden Cardiac Art'.

The exhibition is backed by the international charity Heartcharged. It seeks to raise awareness of preventable cardiac deaths and gender disparity in the treatment of sudden cardiac arrests.

Charlotte, who has volunteered with the charity FastAid as a Community First Responder, explained the difference between a heart attack and sudden cardiac arrest, and when a defibrillator and CPR should be used. The use of a defibrillator and CPR massively increases the chances of survival.

The exhibition serves to point out that topless women are everywhere in Art and the media, and yet a woman might die because people are too embarrassed to remove her bra in public, or to perform CPR.

More than 30 artists from around the world are submitting a vast array of art pieces, presenting their interpretations of rebirth and revival and the 'heart warrior' journey.

Many of the contributors have themselves suffered with undiagnosed heart conditions, including the founders of the charity, one of whom was a young dancer with the New York Ballet, and Charlotte herself.

Charlotte then showed members very quickly printed copies of some of the beautiful paintings she had done for the exhibition, showing topless ladies with defib pads in place, or with an ICD fitted.

An absolutely fascinating and unexpected talk, and particularly pertinent to our members. Charlotte is known professionally as Charlie Kirkham MA SGFA DP and details of the exhibition can be found on her web site www.charliekirkham.com and www.suddencardiacart.com

July was our annual strawberry tea in St Swithin's House, where members were joined by guests from Berkswell WI, our Vicar Stuart and his lovely wife Alison, and other welcome guests. Although the weather was not brilliant, we all had a lovely afternoon, with fabulous strawberries, cakes and good company. Thank you to the committee for their hard work preparing the tea and cooking the cakes.

Our August meeting is lunch out at our local Bull's Head, followed by the Produce Show in September.

Barston and Hampton WI normally meet in the Memorial Institute at 2.15pm on the second Wednesday of the month. All ladies are welcome.

For details, please contact:

Tracy Pearson 07977 430733,
Annmarie Elliott 0167544 2177 or
Debbie Kirkham 01676 532233

Debbie Kirkham

Village Hall

There are, as ever, opportunities to use the hall for a regular class or a children's party, a meeting or social event etc. I understand that our charges are significantly lower than other similar places.

For details please contact Caroline Hadley (carolineshadley@btinternet.com or 01675 442061), who is our Bookings Secretary

David Elliott

to have more information about any aspect of
Barston U3A Contact **Keith Fraser** 01564 777262

Barston U3A

Our regular Programme of lectures and presentations take place at Barston Memorial Institute at 02:30pm on the second Tuesday of each Month, the aim being to provide interesting talks on as wider variety of subjects as possible. We are a small friendly group of approx. 50 members and would welcome anyone who would like to join us.

Our next talks are:

13th Aug *Looking at Local Churches*, Tim Bridges
10th Sep *Medical Detection Dogs*, Harry Stanton

Recent talks and visits

In June 11 Sylvia Gill and Jane Winder gave an interesting talk on The REP at War.

In July we held our AGM which was followed by tea and scones

A visit to Castle Bromwich Hall gardens, Wednesday 29 May, 10 acres of restored c17/18 walled gardens.

Visit to Court Barn Museum Chipping Campden, a guided tour of the high street, lunch and a visit to Kiftsgate Court Gardens Thursday 4th July 2024

Groups

The Book Reading, Table Tennis, Stem, Mah-jong and scrabble groups have met on a regular basis and are open to new members.

Future events

Tuesday 3rd September: Visit to Chavenage House, Tetbury, Gloucestershire (used for the locations of Trenwith in 'Poldark', Candleford Manor in 'Larkrise', and 'Wolf Hall'). A Cotswold Manor House, virtually unchanged for 400 years and owned by only two families since 1564, this house is not open to the general public. Guided tour (usually by a family member) in the late morning followed by lunch and a walk in the garden. More details will follow.

In August a ramble of about 3 Miles from the Bulls Head Barston with lunch afterwards

Dates for the following are to be arranged.

Victorian Radicals: from Pre- Raphaelites to Arts & Craft Movement, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

A Spirit Inside (How women artists have grappled with the notion of a sense of spirit.) Compton Verney, 21st Mar to 1st Sep

The Hidden Lives of Plants: Botanical Illustrations from the V&A, Barber Institute of Fine Art, 22nd Jun to 10th Nov

The End of History: Working Class Photography 1989-2024, Herbert gallery, 26th Mar to 16th Jun

If any of the above interests you or if you would like

Inspirational Villagers

Florence Maddison was born in Barston in 1893. Growing up in a modest household, she displayed an early interest in healthcare, often assisting the local midwife. In 1914, with the outbreak of World War I, Florence seized the opportunity to train as a nurse, driven by a deep sense of duty.

Florence served on the Western Front, where her exceptional skills and calming presence provided solace to countless wounded soldiers. Her dedication was recognized with several commendations, including the Royal Red Cross, awarded for her extraordinary bravery and devotion under fire.

Returning to Barston in 1919, Florence was determined to improve healthcare in our community. She observed that many villagers had limited access to medical services, a situation that was particularly dire for the poor and elderly. Using her savings and funds raised from local benefactors, she established the Barston Community Health Clinic in 1920. The clinic offered free medical consultations, vaccinations, and maternal care, becoming a lifeline for the village.

Florence's work extended beyond the clinic. She organized health education workshops, teaching hygiene and nutrition to prevent common illnesses. Her tireless efforts during the influenza outbreak of 1928 were particularly noteworthy. Florence worked around the clock, tending to the sick and containing the spread of the disease, which resulted in a remarkably low mortality rate in Barston compared to surrounding areas.

Florence Maddison's impact on Barston was profound and lasting. She continued to serve the community until her retirement in 1950.

References:

1. *Solihull Heritage & Local Studies Service archives.*
2. "Women at the Front: Hospital Workers in World War I" by Shirley Williams, for context on wartime nursing.
3. *Local newspaper archives from the Solihull Observer detailing the establishment and impact of the Barston Community Health Clinic.*

St. Swithin's News

As I write, we are celebrating a successful and lovely **St Swithin's Weekend**. The weather stayed dry ... lots of visitors came to enjoy the fabulous flower arrangements in church – what talented

ladies we have in our community – the varied paintings, pictures, photographs, craftwork and handmade cards on show in the Institute, together with demos by 'Inspire', a textile stitching group which meets weekly in St Swithin's House. And what can I say about the delicious teas and cakes and scones being served by a busy, dedicated team? It is just so nice to sit in the garden and enjoy it all. Thank you to all our many visitors and of course to the wonderful helpers and volunteers over two days.



St Swithin's Weekend. The weather stayed dry ... lots of visitors came to enjoy the fabulous flower arrangements in church

Bishop of Birmingham Visit to Barston

On the Sunday (13th), we welcomed Bishop Michael, the new Bishop of Birmingham, who led the morning service in the garden of St Swithin's House. It was so good to welcome him on his first visit to Barston and we are happy that we are now on his map. Interestingly, he told us that he runs ultra-marathons for relaxation! Lots of folk from all around came to enjoy the service and to hear him preach, and to sing hymns with the Filling Station's worship band accompanying.

No charges were made over the weekend – donations were invited – £1,254 was raised, after deduction of expenses. This will be divided into 3 – a third each going to the Institute, the Church and the House.

Fortnightly services are held at Eastcote Park, much appreciated by those who are able to attend. Two or three of the residents now come along on Sunday mornings to church, together with Jo, the activity co-ordinator. They also stay for coffee afterwards and we welcome this opportunity to get to know them better.

August tends to be a quieter month as folk enjoy time away on holiday. We are starting a sermon series in September on 'James'. The end of the month will see our Harvest Festival (29th) – if you would like to come and decorate the church ready for this, do come along at about 10 o'clock on Saturday the 28th.

St. Swithin's House

The 'future plans' to build an extension to the south side of the church, together with landscaping, plus development of the House are very slowly progressing. The next step is to seek planning permission and then funding.

Hobby House and Tea Club dates – 6th and 20th August; 3rd and 17th September.

Big breakfasts – 3rd August and 7th September, 8.30 till 11am, £8 or £4 for children.

!4th Sept – from 4pm –social evening with music, quiz and supper. Look out for further details.

Mary Daymond



Bishop Michael, the new **Bishop of Birmingham**, who led the morning service in the garden of St Swithin's House on Sunday 13th

Next Issue...

The next Issue of the Barston New Sheet will be in October 2024.

Don't forget to contact me with any thoughts on new regular items you would like to see, or have any one-off news items of interest to the local community. Thank you!

Tony Burton