

## **Report of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2019**

**Councillors present:** Ann Lovesey, Stuart Southall, Derrick Folbigg, Chris Hutton, Di Ames, Graham Pendrey, James Rudgley

**Councillor apologies:** Tim Wood, Noreen Byre, Tobias Waltham

Borough Councillor Moon and members of the public were present

### **MINUTES**

#### **1. Apologies for absence**

1.1 Apologies were received from Councillor Byrne, Councillor Wood and Councillor Waltham. Councillor Rudgley chaired the meeting.

#### **1. To approve and sign the Minutes of the last Annual Meeting**

1.1 The minutes were agreed and signed by Councillor Rudgley

#### **3. Introduction by Chair Great Barford Parish Council**

Councillor read his introduction. See Appendix 1

#### **4. To receive a report from Bedford Borough Council Ward Councillors – Mr Stephen Moon and Mrs Sheryl Corp**

Councillor Moon read his report. See Appendix 2

#### **5. To receive reports from village organisations.**

##### **The following reports were read by Councillors present.**

Great Barford Methodist Church Report written by Adrian Besant. See Appendix 3

Police Figures written by Kerry Jones. See Appendix 4

Community Events written by Louise Geary. See Appendix 5

WI Report written by the secretary. See Appendix 6

Great Barford Bowls and Pentanque Club. See Appendix 7

##### **The following reports were read also out.**

Great Barford United Charities. Read out by Councillor Lovesey. See Appendix 8

Neighbourhood Plan read out by Councillor Pendrey. See Appendix 9

Playground Association read out by Councillor Southall. See Appendix 10

Wollstein Twinning Partnership read out by John Vincent. See Appendix 11

Village Hall Report read out by James Hetherington See Appendix 12

Church Report read out by the Vicar. See Appendix 13

#### **6. Questions and Answers Session.**

The Village Hall Association advised that they will be updating their trustees information and all accounts will be audited by the new Secretary and updated in the next 3 / 4 weeks and put onto their website.

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A Local resident commented on the East/West Rail Link and advised this had been sprung on local residents and wanted to know how close to the village this would be as inevitably the building in Great Barford would spread out to the line. Also, would the Neighbourhood Plan be taking into account the railway link.

Councillor Pendrey from the Neighbourhood Plan Committee responded that they had not included the East/West Rail link as currently it is outside the Neighbourhood Plan remit. Also the 2030 Plan does not take into account the East/West Rail link

A local resident commented regarding the leaflet distributed to residents appearing to be championing the plans to increase housing in Great Barford and they also requested information on where they were planning on building and also the flooding issue. The Chair advised that the leaflet was sent by a land owner attempting to sell his land and this was not a Parish Council leaflet or issue. The Chair advised that the Neighbourhood Plan Committee was working hard and were in the process of producing a booklet and report on how the village would like to see their village. When this has been put together by the Neighbourhood Plan Committee an open meeting will be held for residents to give their opinions.

Councillor Moon commented that whether Great Barford get 500 new houses will depend on the 2030 Plan and the Neighbourhood Plan Committee would have an influence on where they would be built.

## **7. Any other Business**

The Chair advised that the Great Barford website was currently in the process of being updated and built. If any residents wish to add anything to the website please let the Clerk know and this can then be put onto the Website and Facebook.

### **Appendix 1**

A Highways meeting has been arranged to combat traffic calming and funding for the state of Great Barford's roads.

Bedfordshire in Bloom has been a success and many bulbs were planted and now flowered.

A litter pick was arranged but sadly due to weather conditions was cancelled.

The Parish Council meet monthly and Committee meetings are held when required each month.

Local elections will be held in May and we currently have 12 nominations with only 11 seats.

A thank you from the Chairman for the last 4 years for the support as Chairman for Great Barford Parish Council. We have had a Clerk change in the last year and we would like to thank Anne Papé (the previous Clerk) for her service and hard work.

### **Appendix 2**

#### **Great Barford Parish Council: Update from Cllrs Stephen Moon and Sheryl Corp – April 2019**

##### **East West Rail**

It remains difficult to identify the precise line of any of the five possible routes. Two of those routes (B and C) will pass south of Bedford and then continue east just south of Cardington and

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Cople. They will then turn north passing between Willington and Moggerhanger and Great Barford and Blunham. There is no date given for announcing the decision as to which route will be chosen but it is unlikely to be for many months.

The two routes (D and E) passing through Bedford are the ones preferred by Bedford Borough as they are seen as having advantages such as bringing investment to the town centre. Neither is likely to affect Great Barford as it is overwhelmingly probable that they will come no closer than Wyboston. The most likely route remains Route A which will pass directly to Sandy.

### **Local Plan 2030**

The Planning Inspectorate will be considering the proposed Local Plan at public hearings during late May and June. It remains to be seen how many objectors to the Plan will be called but it can be anticipated that the promoters of the 'garden villages' will take the opportunity to argue that their schemes should be incorporated in the Plan. The Parish Council or any resident in the village who responded to the planning consultation has until the 2<sup>nd</sup> May to apply to address the public hearing. This will be the final opportunity to argue against the 500 houses scheduled for Great Barford. For more information search 'Bedford Local Plan 2030'

### **Rough Sleeper Initiative**

The Council is to receive £383k from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to continue a range of services to support rough sleepers. The money will be used to provide additional units of accommodation and outreach workers.

### **Public Space Protection Order Consultation**

A consultation is being held by the Council on Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) which are currently used to restrict cycling in the town centre and implement dog control orders throughout the Borough.

PSPOs were introduced in 2016 and the consultation is asking for residents' views on whether or not they should continue or be amended. For more details see <http://www.forms.bedford.gov.uk/PSPO2019/>. The consultation deadline is the 28<sup>th</sup> April.

### **Council Website**

You may have seen that the Council has a new website as of December 2018. A feature of the new site is the inclusion of 'customer journeys' which aim to make it easier to report or discuss certain issues. For example, residents can now report potholes, graffiti and noise nuisance using the website. New customer journeys are undergoing testing and are being added to the site incrementally. See [www.bedford.gov.uk](http://www.bedford.gov.uk) and click on 'Pay, report, request it'

**Cllr Stephen Moon 01234870061 and [stephen.moon@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:stephen.moon@bedford.gov.uk)**

**Cllr Sheryl Corp 07734888988 and [sheryl.corp@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:sheryl.corp@bedford.gov.uk)**

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## **Appendix 3**

### **Gt Barford Methodist Church Report to Gt Barford Annual Parish Meeting April 16<sup>th</sup> 2019**

We have continued our weekly Morning Worship services at 10.30am throughout the year with pastoral oversight from our minister Rev Paul Beard. Paul is moving on to pastures new in August and from then on we will be in the care of our circuit superintendent Rev James Bamber. We are also looking forward to the support and assistance of a lay worker, Mrs. Margaret Wilson from September. Our membership numbers have remained steady, but a couple of supportive friends moved out from the village during the year, and we miss their presence and encouragement.

We were pleased to hold the Women's World Day of Prayer service on March 1<sup>st</sup> and welcomed nearly 30 friends in the congregation. Tea and Talk meetings continue on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month, and the Coffee Break on the first Tuesday with an increasing number of visitors. We have occasional lunches with excellent varied menus to suit the occasions; and a Fish and Chip meal for an unusual Christmas meal together.

We have continued with our gradual progress of refurbishment, with new curtains added in the Church Hall. Externally, work has been done to improve the guttering which now means we have a dry wall during heavy storms, hopefully this will help the inner wall to be drier too. We are now looking to renovate the front door to the church, not only to make it more attractive, but also cut down on the draughts!

The chapel continues to be used by other outside organisations during the week, especially The Alma Singers and the Old Barfordians, and several others use it on a less regular basis.

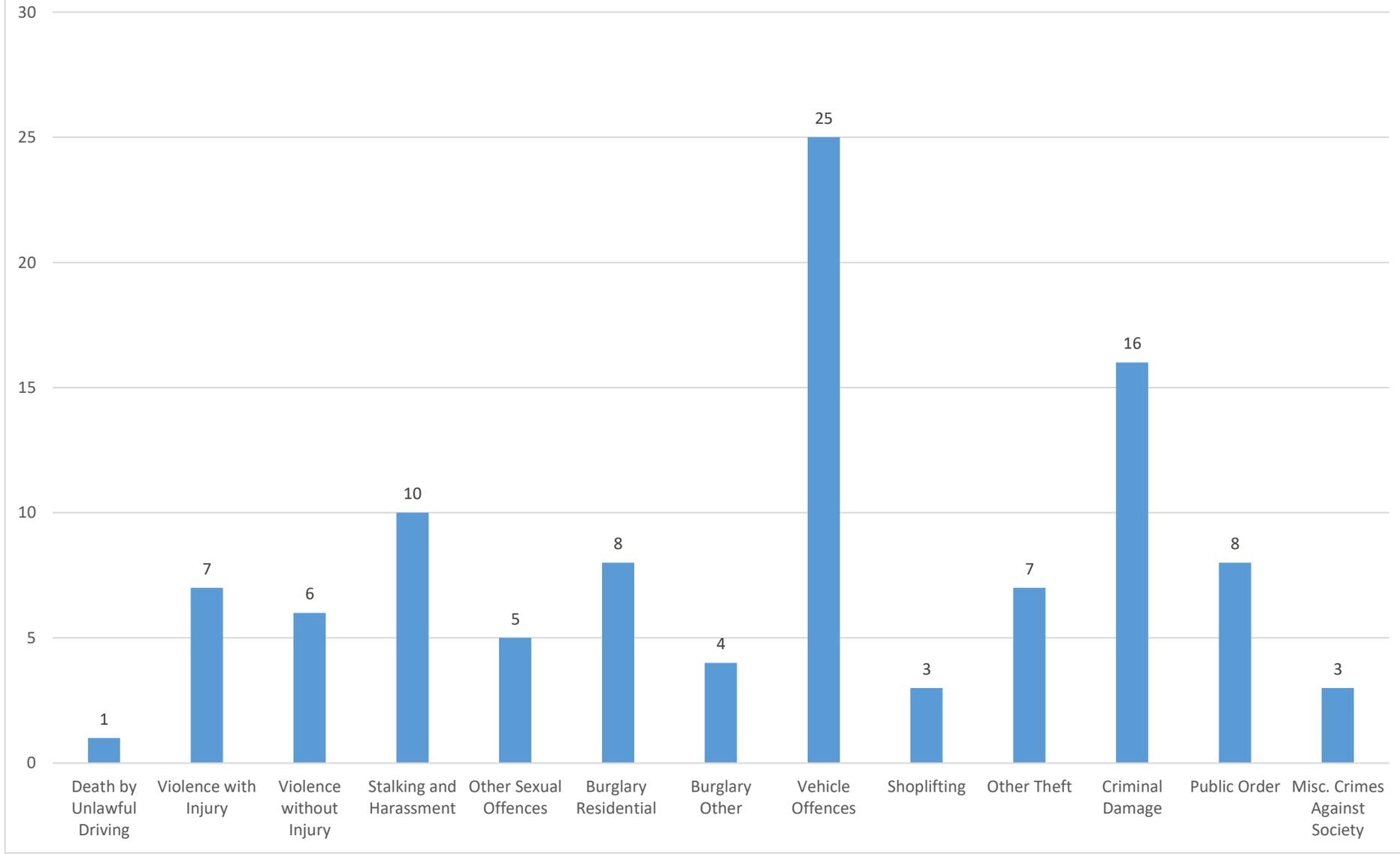
We thank all friends who have supported the chapel services and activities throughout the year, or helped in many other ways.

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**Appendix 4 – Crime statistics**

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### Great Barford 13/04/2018 - 13/04/2019



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**Appendix 5**

**COMMUNITY EVENTS COMMITTEE REPORT**

The village fun day this year will be on 22 June and arrangements for a circus themed event are well under way.

Support from the Parish Council and the Village Hall Association in making the field and hall facilities freely available, is very much appreciated, and means all the funds raised throughout the year from our regular quiz nights, can be used on this community event.

Louise Geary  
Chairman CEG

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## Appendix 6

### Great Barford WI Secretary's Report 2019

We had a very entertaining talk last June from Biff Raven Hill, who explained exactly what it was like to be a wartime housewife and brought many kitchen items with her for us to guess what they were.

At the July meeting we were treated to a wonderful demonstration by Valerie Haygarth, who showed us how to make gorgeous cream gateaux which we all enjoyed with a cup of tea.

In August we had a special social event and tried our hand at bowling followed by a delicious supper provided by members.

During our September meeting we learnt about Mercy ships and the essential medical aid they offer to countries in Africa.

At our 66th birthday meeting we were entertained with poems by Pam Ayres and amazed at the wonderful flower arrangements by Moira Fuller and her team, who kindly donated them to our raffle at the end of the evening. Our visiting ladies from WI Tempsford were extremely lucky to win most of the arrangements. We have now forgiven them and will invite them back.

We enjoyed a very interesting talk on Shackleton's Lost Men in November and in December Dr. Tim Wreghitt talked about his displays at Chelsea and how molecular diagnostics had paid a huge part in extracting essential medicine from plants.

Dot Wigg visited us in January and we played Call my Bluff and in February Ruby Eastwick told us about her Trek in India.

Members visited Milton Keynes Theatre to see shows such as: 'An Office & a Gentleman' and 'Matilda' which were very good.

We try to support events organized by Federation such as Woburn Flower show, Suffragette, the Murder Mystery and a meal at the Indian Summer Restaurant.

We have sadly lost two of our long standing members, Ruth Cox and Pat Gates who I know will be missed by all and a centenary rose been planted in the Bowls Club garden.

This concludes my report.

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## **Appendix 7**

End of year report on behalf of

### **GREAT BARFORD BOWLS AND PETANQUE CLUB**

#### **Why is the club such a valuable organisation in Great Barford?**

Throughout the year the club has held social events and activities. Already this winter we have had three Quiz Nights, two Coffee Mornings, a Horse Racing evening, a Bridge day, and weekly Whist and Carpet Bowls evenings. In the summer there were several club social activities including a spoon drive, a fish and chips evening and a BBQ as well as Bowls and Petanque involving the WI, Wöllstein-Great Barford Twinning Partnership and Gunns Bakery. The members of the Club took an active part in the village "fun day" and Lower School fete. We also found time for Community social activities including our ever-popular coffee mornings. The clubhouse has been used for Table-Top Sales and Crafts, and weekly Pilates and Yoga classes. It is used for meetings of the Women's Institute and other organisations. The club is determined to continue to offer, and grow, the sporting, social and community activities and at the highest standard we can.

#### **What makes the Club such a Premier Sporting Facility?**

The Bowls and Petanque club continues to be one of the most forward-looking clubs for some distance around. We have consolidated ten years of improvements from the extension of the playing area and building the car park to the recent extensive work on the green and Clubhouse building. Following the other refurbishments of recent years and hard work of our green keepers and their helpers we can rightly claim Great Barford has one of the most outstanding village bowls clubs in the area. As a result, it has become a popular venue for county bowls games. Two years ago, we were awarded one event. As a result of our new status, we hosted three prestigious County Bowls matches last summer and have been awarded five county events this year.

#### **How competitive are our Bowls and Petanque players?**

The competitive leagues still ring with our successes. Our Over 60s Millicent Childs League, East Beds League "A" team and Petanque players were all promoted in to a higher league (our East Beds "B" team just missed out on promotion). However, we pride ourselves in being a sociable club so we enjoy our friendly games and encourage every member to take part regardless of ability or experience.

#### **Why have we been successful?**

The Social Committee and Booking Officers have worked hard to attract the local community to our activities and invite private functions to be held at the club. So many of our club members have given of their time and expertise; time running activities, liaising with builders, applying for grants and expertise decorating the clubhouse and tending the green. Great Barford Bowls and Petanque Club would also like to acknowledge and thank the continued sponsorship by Franklins Farm Butchers, as well as generous donations from local business men, various grants and continued support from Great Barford Parish Council (not least with the loan of the Carpet Bowls equipment).

#### **What problems do we have?**

The most pressing and troubling threat comes in the lack of numbers: number of members, number of people using our activities and numbers of spectators at events. In the last few years we have delivered leaflets in the area, we have had advertising in the local press, and we have produced regular reports in the Bugle, Bridge and Cople News. Members have been urged to tell others about the club and encourage friends and neighbours to try the activities and/or the sports on offer. This has met with a dispiritingly small success for the effort. This year, we will have a slight increase on membership in the bowls and Petanque membership, but the casino night had to be cancelled through lack of sufficient support and some activities are/have been very low in numbers threatening their viability. We will

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continue with our efforts, of course, but do need what ever assistance the Parish Council and other organisations in the parish can possibly offer.

Joe Lound-Keast  
GBBPC publicity

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## **Appendix 8**

### **Great Barford United Charities**

The United Charities were formed from the amalgamation of the Arnold Franklyn and Poor's Land Charities in 1969. Rent from these small plots of land which amount to a few acres provides the income which is then invested.

Originally the gifts had been in the form of vouchers to be used in the village shops. In the trust Deeds, the income is to be used for the relief of those in need ion the parish.

Gifts of money are usually given out at Christmas, but can be raised at other times when a need identified. Last Christmas we gave £50.00 to couples and £30 to single persons.

If you know anyone who is in need, pleas mention them to either Rev Graham Buckle or myself. All applicants will be dealt with in the strictest of confidence and only the recipient and the Trustees will know of any benefit given.

We are also looking for additional Trustees, so again if you are interested, please speak to Graham or myself.

Ann Lovesey – Trustee

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## **Appendix 9**

### **GBPC AGM 2019 - NP Report**

#### **NP Committee Members**

Within the past 12 months, the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) Committee has expanded from 10 to 12 members, now consisting of:

8 Residents

4 Parish Councillors

We still meet regularly, on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month at the Village Hall.

We have also engaged a NP Consultant, who joins our meetings to focus us on topics and work we need to undertake to keep us on track.

#### **Fun Day 2018**

At last June's Village Fun Day we had a stand promoting our NP activity, and explaining the principles of Neighbourhood Planning. Several notice boards conveyed our Vision and Aims, based on the feedback we received from the earlier Residents' Consultation.

#### **Scoping Report**

Under guidance from our Consultant, we have drafted a Scoping Report to provide factual evidence showing the village as it currently is. This is a vital document with chapters covering:

- Methodology and Problems
- Current State of the Natural, Social and Economic Environment
- General Background
- Population
- Design and Housing
- Key Service Areas
- Environment / Heritage
- Infrastructure and Transport

Having set out where we are, this document can be used to show any changes that are desirable, or required to support future growth, and also what will be needed to conform to the BBC Local Plan.

#### **Grant Funding and Technical Support**

Some of the work we are doing involves the use of external sources. Not only do we have a Consultant, but we are utilising the resources of Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity (BRCC) to provide a Green Infrastructure Plan for the parish. This will establish the green environment and its infrastructure that is so important to us all. The network of footpaths, open spaces, the river, and animal habitats will all be highlighted, with potential for improvements. BRCC will be holding a public review session here, on 29 June.

All this costs money, so we are covering expenses with Grant Funding, available from the government sponsored Locality organisation (on behalf of the Department for Communities and Local Government).

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Locality also has connections with another partner to provide Technical Support. As the BBC Local Plan requires potential development sites and land to be identified, we have engaged with AECOM (a global planning consultancy) to perform an "Options and Site Assessment" review. They have undertaken a comprehensive review of the proposed sites around Great Barford, and will provide a full report in due course.

Once we have the GI Plan and AECOM report, our Consultant will guide us through the next stages, to start drafting our NP policies, with full supporting documentation.

### **Fun Day 2019**

We want to keep everyone up to date with what we are doing. So we intend to have another NP Information Stand at this year's Fun Day on 22 June.

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## **Appendix 10**

Councillor Southall advised that the Playing Field Association is currently attempting to swap ends to allow build out at the top and this would make it more accessible and therefore there would be no need to go through the school entrance. More members are required so if anyone would like to volunteer please contact either Councillor Southall or the Clerk.

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## Appendix 11



### Annual Partnership report to the parish council. 16<sup>TH</sup> April 2019

Last year was the official 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Twinning Partnership, in May the Village Twinning Organization entertained 45 guests, plus 10 students and 2 Teachers from Real School Plus Wollstein.

Our day out on the Friday saw us all at Sandringham until 3pm then on to visit Hunstanton. Our official evening was attended by some 120 guests with entertainment from a 10 piece swing Band arranged and organized by Gareth King. It was a great evening. Catering was undertaken by Capers of Eyeworth which was first class.

Sunday morning we unveiled the Wine Press in its new position in the Village Pound; a short address was given by Mr. James Rudgley on behalf of the Parish Council and replied to by Lucia Muller on behalf of the Wollstein Gemeinde.

This event was followed by an invitation to spend a few hours at the bowls club with light lunch snacks then on to the Village Hall for our Games evening and finger buffet. Much fun was made of the outdoor sumo wrestling bouts, and indoor games. Great Barford retained the Eddie Petri Trophy.

As mentioned, during the late winter early spring in conjunction with the Parish Council the wine press was renovated and re-installed in its new home in the village Pound. Thanks to all for their efforts and co-operation, It looks very smart and quite at home, we look forward to the new plaque stand installation when it arrives.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> June we held our main Plant sale day thanks to the very dedicated work by Bill Wood and family looking after and growing plants for over two seasons producing quality plants, thanks also to Ivor Geary`s for the loan of his field in the High Street.

Later in June came the fun day with its usual celebration of stalls and our contribution of the coconut Shie, Skittles and Kevin`s Classic Cars.

At the end of September we once again held a horse race night which is turning into a major fund raising exercise.

2019 will be our 41<sup>st</sup> anniversary, In the early 1980`s Wöllstein named two new streets after their two twinned towns / villages, Great Barford Strasse and Barsac Alle` for their French partners. I

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would like to re-iterate my request in last year's report that with all the new building envisaged in Great Barford perhaps this could be an opportunity to reciprocate and name a new street here in Great Barford after our twin town? "Wollstein Way" perhaps.

I hope the Parish council will consider this no cost opportunity and promote their 41 year old officially twinned organization with positive support.

At the end of May we will be taking 45 guests over to Wollstein to enjoy their hospitality and friendship. The Twinning Partnership belongs to the village and, as always, it welcomes anyone to join us. Occasionally, we hold well advertised free social evenings with cheese and wine or a beer if you prefer. For contact details please visit us on our website at [greatbarfordtwinning.org.uk](http://greatbarfordtwinning.org.uk) or our facebook page.

John Vincent, Chairman

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## **Appendix 12**

### Introduction

number of resignations from the committee but also new arrivals so still at normal levels, thanks to noreen

vh performs well, highest levels of turnover in eight years

enabling re-investment into the facility

new curtains in the hall, led lighting throughout, tables and chairs in the small bar, curtains etc

removed the bar co from the vh, now brought in house and operated by us.

Replaced the caretaker role with a facility manager p/t two roles, caretaker with the ability to run the bar and sell the venue

significant bar refurbishments, back of house, pumps, glases etc. Introduction of a till and standardised pricing, new bar lines and cellar re-configuration next week. Further planned improvements include customer wi-fi and the ability to take debit card payments

introduction of family events, family fridays and a very successful. Family new years party, 180 attendees

three main focus areas, new kitchen, conversion of the room upstairs, and building on our marketing with facebook and other mediums

summary of our year and where we are at present happy to take any questions from those present.

James Hetherington

Chairperson Great Barford Village Hall Association

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## Appendix 13

As most of you know, I was appointed as Priest-in Charge for the Riversmeet benefice in October 2018. I was licenced by the bishop of St Albans, the Rt. Reverend Alan Smith. I was immediately encouraged by the support I received, not only at my licensing service, but also since that time.

I initially worked with the service pattern that existed during the vacancy, but since February of this year a new service pattern has been introduced. The new pattern has provision for two services of Holy Communion per month in each of the four churches. At Great Barford the month has in addition Morning Prayer on the second Sunday of the month led by our resident Reader, and on the fourth Sunday we have re-introduced a less formal service which is led by a team of parishioners, which we hope will encourage more families to be part of our core worshipping community.

Some of our church members will be undergoing training in May in order to help us as a team reach out into the community, especially those who are making their residence in the new housing projects. This we hope will bring in new members to support our ageing church membership. We have lost this year Chris Branch as our second churchwarden, and we therefore need to recruit a new churchwarden to support Ann Lovesey.

Our financial status is fluid, and we are always grateful for the financial support we receive, but alas this is never enough to keep the church in a good state for public worship without us dipping into the small amount of reserves that exist. Therefore greater support is needed if we are to maintain the life of the church in Great Barford. We now have a new treasurer- Sally-Ann Baldwin, who replaces the long-standing Richard de-Fraigne.

We look in hope to the future for a lively more vibrant church membership, when we will be able to serve the community in a more supportive role of Christian love.

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