



# KING GEORGE'S FIELD NEWS

ISSUE 1 MARCH 2017

## Welcome to our Newsletter

Welcome to the new series of King George's Field newsletters which will be published several times a year. In this edition:

- ◆ National award success for our newly refurbished facility
- ◆ Memory Books available – pictures of the journey we've taken
- ◆ Barford Sports Club is developing with lots of activities at the field being lined up for netball, bowls, tennis, football and much more
- ◆ Keeping in shape, the volunteers keeping YOUR field fit for use
- ◆ Barford Family Festival – the weekend programme for 9th & 10th June revealed
- ◆ Barford United Football Club – the launch story of our new junior team
- ◆ What's on – keeping you up to date with all of the recreational events at the field

## Barford's win at Lord's rounds off a great year

Congratulations were given to the whole Barford, Sherbourne and Wasperton community as King George's Field achieved a major success at Lord's Cricket Ground in the Fields in Trust national awards prior to Christmas.

The project was voted UK's number 1 *Have a Field Day* with its Celebration Day held in Barford last May and also a finalist in the *Most Improved Playing Field 2016* at a gala dinner presented by TV Sports Personality Jill Douglas and ex football international Graham Le Saux.

The community scheme was recognised by judges with hundreds of entries from all over the UK and was listed in two of

the final nine categories. Guests attended from all over the country at a prestigious event where members of the King George's Field Working Group were all taken by surprise to find out that they had become outright winner in one category and then to be announced as one of two finalists for the Most Improved Field 2016.

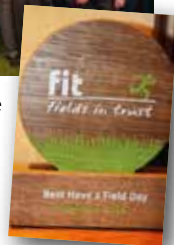
The judges recognised all of the community work and support to improve the field over the last few years and Barford was praised as a first time entrant.

For once the Working Group was silenced by the announcement of the success on the night at the home of cricket as the announcement came as a total surprise given that



it was a first time entering for any awards.

The award win generated lots of messages of congratulations from far and wide. The message to the press from JPC Chair John Murphy on the night from the team was "This whole project was funded hugely by the community, the Field is being used massively by the community and now needs to be celebrated by the community of Barford as their award to cap a wonderful three year journey to improve King George's Field".



# Spring is in the air

Since last summer the transformation of the Field has seen the formation of Barford Sports Club (BSC). As an umbrella group for all recreational activities it works on behalf of the Joint Parish Council (with some JPC members on the committee) to promote and encourage community use of the new facilities.

The club currently has representation for several groups including netball, football, tennis, cricket and bowls. The aim is to encourage wider community use of the Field for all ages and abilities.

To support these activities a grant from Sport England has helped to fund lots of brand new equipment which can be used by community groups and includes a great range for public use:

- ◆ football goals
- ◆ rugby posts
- ◆ hockey sticks and balls with practice boards
- ◆ rugby, netball and footballs
- ◆ mini, junior and adult tennis rackets
- ◆ balls and nets
- ◆ catching cradles for all sports
- ◆ training bibs
- ◆ rounders bats
- ◆ various bowls sets
- ◆ cricket equipment.



We even have an electric bowling machine for batting and tennis practice once the decent weather and electrical installations are with us.

We are looking at ways to make this equipment available to the public for use on certain times each week, possibly for group use or supervised sessions. If you are interested or know anyone who may be interested in getting this off the ground then please do contact us [info@barfordplayingfields.org](mailto:info@barfordplayingfields.org)

To book a court or Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) we remind you that all courts should be pre-booked using our free booking system on [www.barfordplayingfields.org](http://www.barfordplayingfields.org) Courts are free to use but there will be limited availability at certain times. We are extremely grateful to Barford Village Shop for supporting us in funding our online booking system, it is much appreciated.

In the first 8 months of use over 600 court bookings were made and that excludes school and group use. Some continued through the winter so the signs are that this will continue to be popular as spring arrives in the village.

This is YOUR Field and we welcome YOUR ideas and help on making the facilities accessible for all so please contact the BSC committee with any suggestions which you may have.

## Ladies netball is growing in numbers



The launch of the ladies netball club was one of the main achievements from last May's demonstrations by England Netball. Since then a group of over 20 ladies led by Ellie Lees and Hilary Rhead have been enjoying practice every week to improve their netball skills.

With all ages and abilities the girls have the benefit of a qualified coach to practice drills and techniques. The enthusiasm through last summer did not end when the

dark nights arrived. Throughout the winter the girls have been meeting in floodlit facilities elsewhere so that they could practice and keep up the momentum of forming their newly formed squad.

The weekly Thursday evening practice sessions on the netball court have been a great way for the girls to meet new friends, have fun and enjoy playing netball again. The group welcomes all new players to come along (all ages

and abilities). Sessions cost £3 per week and include training from a qualified England netball coach.

To find out more contact Ellie Lees on 07796150286. Weekly sessions start back on the field on Thursday 30th March at 6.30pm until 7.30pm and run most weeks through until October. If you want to 'get back to netball' then come along, you'll be really welcome.

## Keeping in shape

Over the last six months a team of over 20 volunteers has been regularly attending the field as part of our maintenance team to look after our facilities. This dedicated group has put in loads of work picking up leaves, keeping tennis and MUGA courts tidy and the children's play area nice and clean. We are also grateful to many field

'ambassadors' who quietly help by picking up rubbish, dog litter, lost property and even locking gates to keep unwanted visitors from prowling where they shouldn't be! If you see anything which looks out of place then please do let us know as we want to keep our facilities looking clean and tidy for all. The team has great fun and all



equipment is supplied, meaning a duty of less than once a month is all that the commitment entails. Thank you to our team!

## Last few copies remaining



To commemorate the improvement of King George's Field a limited number of memory books have been published. With over 150 pages incorporating 400 colour pictures capturing the project from start to finish including the Royal visit and fundraising events, these books will

be a souvenir for future generations. There are only FIVE copies left and these can be purchased from Barford Village Shop at £35 per copy (including donation to Barford Sports Club). A great gift for Easter to have and first come first served so hurry whilst stocks last!

# Barford Family Field Festival Weekend

Friday 9th &  
Saturday 10th June

To celebrate the first anniversary of the re opening of the field we are holding a number of events over this weekend all made possible with a grant from Big Lottery 'CELEBRATE' fund. We have a marquee and stage all booked for the weekend and our current line up of events is:

## FRIDAY 9th JUNE

**Classical Quartet with cheese, wine & grapes under the stars**

A fun evening with selection of over 15 different cheeses, biscuits, welcome drink and classical musical entertainment. There will also be a bar for anyone wishing to purchase drinks. Seats and tables are limited so booking in advance essential (tables of 10 can be pre booked). 7.30pm – 10.30pm tickets £12 per person from Barford Village Shop. Join us for a memorable evening with all proceeds to BSC.

“Buy in advance for peace of mind and a piece of food and a drink!”

## SATURDAY 10th JUNE

**Sport, live music and real ale in our marquee**

Sports competitions throughout the day with face painter, pig roast, real ale bar. Local entertainment

provided by the Barford Folk Singers, the Barford “Ensemble” and then finally the ‘King George’s Field Players’ - Jazz, Funk, Soul & Party Band for all tastes where you can dance the night away in our entertainment marquee.

The fun will start at 12noon (food from 2pm). Our competitions are for all ages and abilities and at present include :

- ◆ **TENNIS TOURNAMENT – mixed adult doubles and adult and child doubles competition – to register your interest in entering email Mark Griffin by 8th April on [info@barfordplayingfields.org](mailto:info@barfordplayingfields.org) If you don't have a partner that's not a problem. Depending on demand we may have preliminary rounds prior to the day and EVERYONE is encouraged to register for the first tennis tournament on the field**
- ◆ **NETBALL MATCH – Barford Netball Ladies plan to have their first match on this day. Come along to support or better still have a game yourself and join the girls!**



# BARFORD FIELD FESTIVAL



To find out more information contact Mark Griffin via 07802 470896 or [info@barfordplayingfields.org](mailto:info@barfordplayingfields.org)

- ◆ **SIX A SIDE FOOTBALL FINALS – Barford St Peter's school will be holding the final matches of their competition**
- ◆ **'BEAT THE BOWLER' – Come along and test your batting skills against Doris, our new electronic cricket bowling machine. Most runs scored in 6 deliveries on the MUGA wins a prize, will you be the next Ian Botham?**
- ◆ **DOG AGILITY COMPETITION – bring your four legged friend along to see who is the best performing dog in the village this year judged by our professional trainers**
- ◆ **BOWLS COMPETITION – the final rounds of pairs and singles bowls tournament. Depending on number of entries pre qualifying rounds may be played in weeks prior. To register your interest see Bill Worrall and the bowls club at the MUGA on the Field every Friday afternoon and early evening from April onwards. Who will Barford's best bowlers be for this inaugural event?**

All the fun starts at 12noon on Saturday, with competition presentations at 5.30pm. Music and entertainment is from 6pm onwards. There will be refreshments, (including ice cream) from 2pm onwards. To assist with catering we will be offering discounts on tickets purchased in advance from Barford Village Shop from May.

Discounted advance tickets are £5 each and include pork batch and free drink (plus children get a kiddy goody too, under 14s). Food can be purchased on the day but priority on food will be given to those who have bought tickets in advance so availability will be limited. BUY IN ADVANCE FOR PEACE OF MIND AND A PIECE OF FOOD AND A DRINK! Save the date for all the family for a weekend to remember.

Interested in sponsoring? Great opportunity to raise the profile of your organisation so contact us today to find out more.

Save the date for all the family for a weekend to remember



# What's On at the field

## Starting April

### Monday Evenings – Football

from 6.30pm onwards (starting April) – Dad's Footy Workout, adults only social football on the MUGA



### Wednesday Evenings – Tennis

6pm – 8pm – ladies tennis mixing. Social tennis for beginners. No need to book just turn up, equipment provided

### Thursday Evenings – Ladies Netball

6.30pm – 8pm – ladies netball sessions with qualified coach, £3 per session just turn up to register

### Tuesday & Friday Mornings – Fitness Workout

Classes begin at 9.30am every week. Bring your mat and trainers with Kate from Rebel Fitness. Evening sessions start in May, no need to book.

### Friday Afternoons and Evenings – Social Bowls

1.30pm – 3pm and 5pm – 7pm social bowls for all ages and abilities. With 37 local players and equipment provided there is no excuse not to have a stroll to the MUGA and join in the fun for a slower pace leading into your weekend



### Friday 9th and Saturday 10th June

Barford Family Field Festival



### Saturday 15th July

Barford Cricket Club 6 A Side Festival – BBQ, bar and refreshments, supporters, players all welcome. Fancy entering a team? Contact Simon Morgan on [alvinsmate@googlemail.com](mailto:alvinsmate@googlemail.com)

### Wednesday 27th December

Festive Walk on the Field, building on the success of our inaugural event last year, come along and enjoy a brisk walk and chatting to locals!

# Proud to represent their village

Only four months since forming Barford United Football Club, the junior team, coaches, parents and growing fan base are reporting a huge level in popularity within the team. The young players came together in November to form a team. Within weeks they were admitted to the local league by the Birmingham FA.

With qualified coaches, excellent organisational structure and ready to use facilities it was only a matter of weeks before the first competitive games were played at home on King George's Field.

The under 11s team have received huge support from parents who organise cake sales, hot drinks and refreshments at all home games. Parking is at the nearby school playground and supporters are encouraged to use the benches and perimeter paths to watch matches.

The fundraising and enthusiasm of the club members has seen them secure sponsorship to fund brand new kit and training equipment. A contribution by Barford Community Charity enabled



Wearing their village team kit with pride just like the Barford football team of 1911

further sponsorship from Plum Save Ltd of Leamington Spa and six other donations making the purchase possible and enabling the children to leave the borrowed shirts to one side and proudly pull on their own new kit.

Barford United FC is one of the sections of Barford Sports Club. It follows all of the strict guidance for safeguarding of children with its own approved policies and its aim is to be a self financing section enabling coaching and

development sessions for the team. The support from Sport England helped launch the team and encouraged children to be active in sport from an early age.

The fixtures can be found at <http://full-time.thefa.com/DisplayFixture.do?id=16752461>

All home matches kick off at 2pm. To find out more contact coaches Mark Edwards or Christopher Lee via the Barford United Facebook page [www.facebook.com/BarfordUnitedFC](http://www.facebook.com/BarfordUnitedFC)

# Tennis takes off



The tennis courts have been really popular all year. Along with regular coaching for school children, the demand from locals to play tennis has been boosted by the ladies mixed ability group. Playing every Wednesday evening from 6-8pm

the social group of beginners is keen to improve their skills this summer. If you want to come along and join in then simply turn up to find out more. We also have requests regards providing tennis coaching and setting up a men's

mixed ability group too. Contact [info@barfordplayingfields.org](mailto:info@barfordplayingfields.org) to find out more.

## And our visitors to the field love it too

"The playing fields are superb and a vast improvement to the village" – **Lorraine Hancock**, Barford

"Me and my friends go to the park everyday because of the amazing range of sports equipment and play stuff which has changed Barford forever" – **Child**, Barford

"It's making me get out and exercise by walking around the park four times a week" – **Sonia Farey**, Barford.

"A lovely place to be, the footpath is the bonus" – **Jenny Evetts**, Barford.



## Contact Information

### Barford Sports Club Committee Members

Mark Griffin – **Chair**

John Murphy – **Treasurer**

Harry Gadsden – **Vice Chair**

Simon Morgan – **Secretary**

Mark Edwards – **Chair Barford United Football Club**

Paul Harris, Hilary Rhead, Roger Clay, Wendy Barlow, Espen Oshaug, Richard Ganjavi, Carl Gallagher, Chris Lee

[info@barfordplayingfields.org](mailto:info@barfordplayingfields.org)

[www.barfordplayingfields.org](http://www.barfordplayingfields.org)

To receive regular news updates by email, log on to our website and book a court or send us your email details and we will add you to our database.

This newsletter is a free circulation to ALL houses in Barford, Sherbourne & Wasperton and is funded through support of local fundraising by Barford Sports Club and a grant from Warwick District Council.