

## OXSPRING FRIENDS

Those of you who attended the Jubilee Gala on the 4th september will perhaps know that any monies raised were allotted to the following organisations:

The Parent Teacher Association  
Oxpring Junior Football Club  
Oxspring Friends

### Who are Oxspring Friends?

In 2000 Oxspring Parish Council suggested that an autonomous group be set up to take forward much needed projects and activities for the community and to raise their own funds. Freda Shaw took this on, contacting members of the community who had specific skills, i.e. finance, administration and leadership to name a few and from this the 6 members of the Executive Committee were elected. With the much needed professional help from Voluntary Action Barnsley, a Constitution was set up, approved and signed. A bank account was set up and Oxspring Friends was born.

### What did/do they do?

- **Harvest supper dance** (which was 70s, 80s themed) was a success for several years.
- **Children's halloween disco** again was a success for several years

Support dwindled for the above, so they were abandoned after only a few years

- **New Year's Eve Supper dance (Ceilidh)**
- **Seniors' Tea with live entertainment**

The above two events were successful for many years, but costs increased and numbers dwindled and they were subsequently abandoned.

- **Carol Singing Evening**
- **Indoor Bowling** - (October until April - every Monday afternoon)

Only the later two activities remain today. The Carol Singing, although absent during Covid, returns this December.

If you are looking for a winter indoor activity in a warm and inviting environment, why not try out our indoor short mat bowling experience at St Aidan's, Oxspring to see if this is what you want. We meet every Monday commencing 10th October 2022 1.30 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. finishing in April. Everyone is welcome whether you are a beginner or a seasoned bowler and all equipment is provided. We have a friendly and relaxed bowling environment with time for refreshments. An admission fee is payable on the day. We look forward to meeting with you on the 10th.

**The Titivators** is a sub-group of the Friends, and their roles, (all voluntary), throughout the village, too many to mention here include: litter picking, Christmas tree installation and lighting, gardening duties, including planting and weed control, repairs to walls, benches and inspection, maintenance and repair of the children's playground equipment (including fortnightly checks of playground equipment), fence repairs (where possible), installation of flower troughs on the fence in front of the Willows, grass cutting of the paths in Bower Dell and cutting back trees on the main

roads and around all the village seats.

### **The Oxspring Friends Now!**

Unfortunately, for a variety of reasons the numbers in the original group diminished and in 2019 the group considered dissolving, and allocating any remaining funds to other causes in the village. Then came COVID, when another small group of volunteers called the Oxspring Buddies, set up to ensure that during lock down any vulnerable people in the village had the help and support they needed to get through the crisis. The Chair of Oxspring Parish Council suggested that rather than dissolve Oxspring Friends, as had been planned, that they join forces with the Oxspring Buddies, yet continue under the name Oxspring Friends, (due to bank accounts, formal constitutions etc. ) but with a new Committee and therefore a new beginning!

Funds for Oxspring Friends have always been raised by private donations, grants and various fund-raising events, the latest of which being this year's Jubilee Celebration day.

### **Oxspring Friends (Reborn)**

The initial meeting to bring the two groups together took place on August 23rd and a new Committee was formed. If anyone is interested in joining this new group as a member (there are only three meetings per year) or as a regular volunteer, please contact Ann Walker -

email: [walkerann2000@gmail.com](mailto:walkerann2000@gmail.com)

Mobile: 07586 881336

Home: 01226 379895

To date we can tell you that the Christmas Carol evening has been arranged for Saturday 17th December at 7 pm in St Aidan's, and our Christmas Hampers will be delivered that same weekend (information to follow).

We will keep you informed regarding the group's progress on the Oxspring Friend's section of the Parish Council website and on Oxspring Community Facebook. A new webpage is being created and we will keep you informed as soon as it is ready.

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

#### **Remembrance Day Service - 13th November 10.45 a.m. St Aidan's Church**

If you would like to attend the Church service prior to the Remembrance day service, you will be made very welcome.

#### **Christmas Carol Concert - 17th December 7.00 p.m.**

The normal format for this event will continue as usual, and sherry and mince pies will be on offer. Malcolm Wainwright will once again be leading the carol singing supported by a small group of musicians to help us with our singing.

This year we will also be providing a short comedic sketch for you to enjoy and Father Christmas will be in attendance with a small gift for everyone who comes along, to help us celebrate Christmas.



with:

- contacting energy suppliers
- ways to save money on your bills
- accessing the Priority Services Register
- checking eligibility for Warm Home Discount
- information on smart meters
- benefit checks
- carbon monoxide awareness
- claiming a **FREE** carbon monoxide detector

To book a one to one appointment please leave a message on the online contact form:

<https://barnsleycab.org.uk/contact-us/>

To help them to identify your query please add the word **ENERGY** to the top of your message if you would like a full energy appointment or **CARBON MONOXIDE** if you only need the carbon monoxide awareness information.

### **DO YOU NEED ADVICE?**

Whatever your problem, wherever you live in Barnsley, Citizens Advice can help. Here's how to contact us:

Tel: 0800 144 88 48

Email: [barnsleycab.org.uk/contact-us/](mailto:barnsleycab.org.uk/contact-us/)  
Fill out the online contact form to receive a response via email.  
(Usually within 2 working days, however at busy times this may take slightly longer.)

Advice via Video Call: 01226 666017  
Please call this number and leave a message. An adviser will call you back within 2 working days to arrange an appointment.

Face to Face Advice: Face to face advice is now available in a small selection of community outreach locations across Barnsley. Please check social media for details.

### **Get Help from specialist services via the following methods:**

Universal credit: 0800 144 444

Debt: 0800 240 4420

Energy: [barnsleycab.org.uk/contact-us/](mailto:barnsleycab.org.uk/contact-us/)  
If you can't afford to pay for your gas or electricity or need help with your bills, fill out the online contact form to request a one to one appointment.

## OXSPRING FRIENDS FEEDBACK FORM

The rejuvenated Oxspring Friends group is looking at how best to serve Oxspring and you, its residents. We would like to know how you think we could best support you.

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1. Please tell us if you think we could help practically in any way:

- collecting shopping
- transport locally
- collection of prescriptions
- other - please specify

2. Please tell us if you would like advice on specific issues so that we can target the speakers for our Drop in Cafes - please specify below:

3. Please tell us if you have any ideas to support/improve our village community socially/environmentally in any way:

4. Please tell us if you would be interested in either of the following:

- volunteering for any activities on a regular basis
- volunteering on an ad hoc basis i.e. as and when you are available

This form can be anonymous. However, if you wish for us to be able to discuss your suggestions with you or to talk to us in confidence about your ideas, please complete the following:

Name: .....

Contact number and/or email address: .....

You can either email the completed form to Ann Walker at: [walkerann2000@gmail.com](mailto:walkerann2000@gmail.com)

or drop off at : 9 Brookfield, Oxspring, Sheffield, S36 8WG or in the specific boxes at St Aidan's Church or Oxspring Post Office.

Thank you