

Issue Number 159
September/October 2020

The village magazine of the
Bartons, Sandford, Ledwell and
Over with Nether Worton

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Madeleine Samuelson-White “walking for charity” - see page 23 for more.



The Dorn Free Press is published bi-monthly and distributed free of charge to some 850 households in The Bartons, Sandford St. Martin, Ledwell and Over with Nether Worton. If you would like extra copies of the Dorn Free Press, please contact

Morag Thomson at
distribution@dornfreepress.com

Editorial policy: The DFP reserves the right to edit or omit contributions. Contributors names and addresses must be supplied, but may be withheld from publication by request. Anonymous contributions are not accepted. Views expressed do not necessarily reflect the views of the DFP.

It is the responsibility of contributors to ensure that safeguarding procedures have been followed and that any necessary permissions have been obtained for photos and articles submitted for publication.

Copy may be emailed, or delivered, to any of the DFP team.

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the next (September/October)
DFP?**

**Please send it to
editor@dornfreepress.com
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From the Editor

Even in the time of 'the new normal' things continue to change, move on. This edition of the Dorn Free Press will be the third since 'lockdown' began, and six months since I last edited one, and a lot has changed. We've become accustomed, but not necessarily accepting of the new state and I'm sure that many will be longing for things to continue to revert to how things were before. This edition will, once again, have a limited 'print-run', for those who are unable to access it on-line, via email or the Locals Facebook site. Our intention is to deliver to our community a DFP to all households in the five Parishes we serve - and maybe the next edition will do so by our crew of volunteers! However we would like to hear from anyone with any ideas about how we can ensure the greatest coverage, after all, if we deliver then we know they've been received!

Middle Barton School is planning to open 'as normal' with extended days and 'bubbles'; the staff will need support as guidelines from government may change as the situation changes. Local businesses have begun to trade. The Fox, The Cinnamon Stick and the Sports and Social Club have all found ways to welcome back customers. Local trades have also ventured back into the workplace to build, fix and improve our lives, and the summer hot spells have seen local children splashing in the Dorn, much as they might have done generations ago. OurBus is restarting enabling people who have largely been housebound the chance to reconnect and our local footpaths have been well and truly trod.

However, we shouldn't forget that the Coronavirus has taken some of our community's loved ones, as well as family and friends and in some cases we weren't allowed to say goodbye in ways that would have been normal only a few months ago. We would also like to mention specifically the passing of Robin Fleming who passed away in June, from a non-Covid related condition.

The DFP is hopeful that the next edition will reach your doormats in a couple of months as we begin our return to normal.

Robin Fleming CBE 1932–2020



Robin Fleming CBE, who passed away in June, was a constant friend and benefactor to our community.

There are those in Middle Barton who can still recall Robin, and his sisters, in the village as children and many more who will remember his support of the local British Legion - serving as President - and the Bartons Victory Memorial Playing Fields Committee, for which he was a Trustee for many years before retiring only recently. Robin took over the post of President of the Bowls Club from his father in 1979, a post he held until 2017 when he, in turn, passed the hat to his son Philip, the current President. During this time he generously supported the new clubhouse and watering system.

Robin served as High Sheriff of Oxfordshire in 1980 and was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of the county a decade later.

Robin Fleming will be remembered by those who knew him locally as an approachable, genuine and considerate member of our community. Always willing to 'take a call' and listen when asked, and to try and find solutions to what often appeared to be intractable problems at the time.

Middle Barton School and Pre-School, the Alice Marshall Hall, The Bartons Victory Memorial Playing Fields and the British Legion have all felt the support from the Fleming family through the years, along with many other gestures that were never made public. He will be missed.

Karen Brown writes:

In common, I suspect, with most other groups, there is very little to report from Middle Barton Drama Group.

We have had several meetings and play-readings via Zoom, which has been fun, and has involved some technological updating for several of us (I have grandchildren to thank for sorting me out on this one!).

One occasion when several of us did meet physically (observing social distancing, and wearing masks and gloves) was when we helped to clear out the Alice Marshall Hall, in preparation for its exciting renovation. We are really looking forward to seeing the promised changes. Of course, this is an ideal time for the work, when none of the user groups can meet anyway, and we wish the Hall committee and the renovators the very best of luck with the work.

As soon as we are able to meet and rehearse properly, we will make a final decision on our next production, and we look forward to welcoming our lovely audience back.

Watch this space!

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The *DFP* from an Advertiser's Point of View

Jennie Barry writes:

THE CINNAMON STICK IS OPEN!

We missed out on our three year celebrations in March and it has been a challenging few months since then, to say the



least! The uncertainty continues with news of localised lockdowns and maybe the 'trade-off' between pubs/restaurants and schools. But, in spite of this, we are still on our feet and meeting the challenges head on.

As have many small businesses, we needed to monitor all of our spend during the past few

months and we are extremely grateful for the support of the *Dorn Free Press* in continuing to provide advertising at no cost whilst the publication is mainly online. This has enabled us to reassure our customers that we are still in business, that we continue to operate under the guidelines required and, as always, are happy to serve them both in house and via takeaway.



We are sure that, especially when we were operating takeaway only, that the circulation of the *DFP* ensured that this message was seen throughout the local community and we cannot thank the community enough for their support. We have made new 'takeaway friends' and have a special group of stalwarts who ordered from us multiple times and some, every single week of lock down! I won't name names here, but on reading this I am sure they will know who they are! Our heartfelt thanks to every one of them.

We are now open with reduced capacity in the restaurant but with the addition of the Arabian Lounge and the refurbished garden area we hope for some continued months of warm dry, weather to make the most of our season.



Advertising from the the *DFP*'s Point of View

Deborah Bailey writes:

It has been said that it 'pays to advertise' and in the last six months we hope that this has been the case for all of our advertisers, whether in Middle Barton or further afield, and that your businesses have survived during the many months of lockdown under the tyrannical rule of Covid19. We also hope that by running your advertisements free of charge during lockdown that it has been of some help and goes a small way to saying thank you for your support to *The Dorn Free Press* over many years.

Without our advertisers there would be no *DFP*. We are a voluntary organisation, and our advertisers are our sole source of income. By advertising with the *DFP* they enable us to provide you with your magazine.

Sadly we are saying goodbye to one of our longest serving advertisers Andrew Henderson Limited, as the company have laid their last paving stone, delivered their last ton of sand and gravel and decided to call it a day. Hendersons have advertised with the Dorn Free Press since the first issue in 1994 and we are indebted to them for their unstinting support. We wish Andrew and Ruth much happiness for the future and they go with our thanks and very best wishes.

As a publication we have also managed to stay afloat by publishing mainly online for our readers, and despite not being able to have the normal print runs or be able to deliver as normal we have still been able to print a small number of magazines for those unable to access a digital copy. These have been available from the shop or have been specially delivered on request. In so doing I think that we have been able to cover 99% of our readership.

We mustn't forget either, the wonderful *DFP* team who have managed to keep the magazine on track during this time. Our three editors, Kat Day, Bex White and John Umney, who collate all your contributions and who also write pretty well themselves!

Behind the scenes are Robin, Bernie, Morag and me. Robin has the huge responsibility of final copy and publication and is our 'Mr Fixit' across all sections! We would be lost without him. Morag is our Treasurer and makes sure that you are all safely delivered of a *DFP* magazine. Admin and Advertising are handled by Bernie and myself scurrying about, which just about sums up the team.

Thank you to all of you out there who have made some great contributions both written and photographic which have enabled the magazine to remain an interesting and colourful read. Keep up the good work

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Chess problem No. 31

In this week's puzzle, what is the best move for Black? **Answer on p. 21**



Middle Barton School

Charlie Barwell writes:

We have come to the end of a unique school year for children and staff – who could have imagined that home learning would become the norm and that life in school would be so different.



Over the summer term, we added to our class 'bubbles' as we welcomed back to school our Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children. All were delighted to return, embrace the new school routine and be back with their teachers and friends once again. It was great to have the buzz of the children back in the buildings, and



everyone soon got used to the fresh air blowing through the classrooms and constant cleaning!

All the Year 6 children were in school for their last weeks of term and, although their celebrations were somewhat muted, they enjoyed their time together. Whatever is going on elsewhere, a water fight and takeaway pizzas are always good! To mark their departure, they have buried a time capsule in the school grounds, which should make for very interesting reading in the years to come. We send them all our good wishes as they start Secondary School.

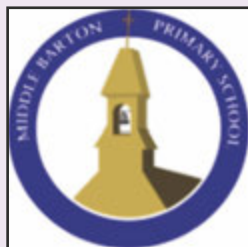


We have also said 'Farewell' to Mrs Cox, who has been teaching Reception Class for the last 8 years. We send her our best wishes for her retirement.

So, what is happening in September?

Government guidelines are being constantly monitored and our plans are to open up as 'normal' in September, checking our risk assessments and subject to any updates and changes.

Our new longer day will be from 8.40am - 3.10pm, with children and staff in their own class 'bubbles' for the whole of the day. And It will be back to wearing school uniform!



We are looking forward to welcoming our new Reception Class children and parents and hope that they will soon settle in and feel part of our community, despite the uncertain start.

Wraparound childcare provision

We are pleased to be able to offer parents increased wraparound care, now from 7.15am to 6.00pm around the school day. This will be starting straightaway in September, at the beginning of the school year.

We already have a very successful Breakfast Club, offering collection for children in the village using OurBus Bartons. Breakfast and activities are provided, giving the children the benefit of a good start to the school day.

We are now adding to our provision of wraparound care with the start of our after school Teatime Club. Children will be supervised in games and activities and a snack will be provided.

School premises work

During the summer holidays work has taken place inside the school to update the fire alarm system and to provide welcoming class space to children in Key Stage 1.

Outside, there will be a new running track, thanks to all the hard work and fundraising by FOMBS. Already well used during the lockdown period, the chance for all children to get outside and exercise will be greatly enhanced with a new track.

For all school updates and further information on Breakfast and Teatime Clubs, please refer to our website.

www.middlebartonschool.org

Local Planning Applications Did you Know?

Bob Hadley writes:

As a local resident, you can register with West Oxfordshire District Council (WODC) to automatically receive emailed details of all Planning Applications in your locality. This is part of WODC's Planning Alert Procedure which generates a link to their website, to include the Application Reference Number and detailed drawings, PLanning Officer's name, etc. that may be downloaded, as well as giving an early opportunity to comment - see below for contact details.

There is only a 3 week period allowed for comment on Planning Applications and the present system of stapling a yellow A4 Notice at the Applicant's address may not even be seen by nearby residents - especially in our current Covid crisis - let alone in sufficient time for comment.

Registration for this valuable service from WODC is therefore very worthwhile and can be made by calling WODC in the first instance (registration on-line is not available at the time of writing).

www.westoxon.gov.uk/planning-and-building/

email: planning@westoxon.gov.uk

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* Note from Editor: this article missed the previous edition due to an oversight. Apologies to Bob and thanks for highlighting this issue.

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Although we have not been able to have a face to face meeting, I am pleased to say that the Management Committee has been able to continue to fully function and make decisions via emails. The Fund is however currently working with reduced income as the closure of the Memorial Sports and Social Club and the Jubilee Room means that the rental payments made by the club have had to be suspended and the application we made for a community grant was not successful. The two organisations are very interdependent and it is important that both the Club and the Fund continue to be financially viable.

Robin Fleming:

11 members of the Committee were very sad to hear of the death of Robin Fleming. He had been a Trustee of the Fund for many years, only retiring twelve months ago. Robin was of great assistance over the years to the fund and he will be fondly remembered by all that knew him.

Childrens Playground:

as has been mentioned before the Committee are very keen to try to maintain and develop the existing playground. Sadly, some of the posts are beginning to rot below ground and this does not become apparent until the post becomes loose. The most recent example is the zip wire which, at the time of writing, was closed awaiting repair. The Fund has set up a separate bank account for funding the future maintenance and development of the playground, and any donations to this account will be very welcome. I am pleased to say that the Steeple Barton Parish Council has agreed in principle to make regular annual contributions to this Playground Repairs, Replacement and Development Fund.

With regard to items that have to be closed from time to time, we would be most grateful if the notices we erect were not torn down and scattered on the ground.

Victory Memorial Fund

Fund Raising:

in common with most Charities funding is a key issue and the Fund needs to raise money on an ongoing basis if it is to maintain all the facilities provided on the playing fields and to develop them to meet changing needs in the future.

In that respect we would like to say a big thank you to John Umney for his fund raising activities through the sale of his excellent photographs, and also to all those that made donations to the Club during lockdown.

As a registered charity the BVMHF has been able to join up with the PayPal Giving Fund which means that anyone who wants to make a donation with the benefit of gift aid can now do so through this facility. The web page is where you can search for charities you wish to donate to, in particular the Bartons Victory Memorial Hall Fund.

We have also just set up a page with the Cherwell Lottery which enables you to take part in the lottery and also make a donation to the fund on a regular basis. By the time you are reading this you should have received a flyer giving full information about the Lottery. All you need to do to find out more information and to join is to visit and search for Bartons Victory.

Another way of supporting us is to join the Memorial Sports and Social Club and to use the Club and the Jubilee Room when you can. If the Club is a success financially then it will be in a position to help fund the playing fields, as it used to do in the 1980s.

The Bartons Memorial Sports and Social Club:

this is now open on Fridays from 4pm – 11pm; Saturdays from 12 pm – 11pm; Sundays from 12 to 2pm and 5-10pm. There is a one way system for getting drinks from the bar and the Jubilee Room is in use as a seating area to permit social distancing.

The Bartons Football Team:

The retirement of the team manager and a shortage of players means that there will not be a team for the forthcoming season..

PLEASE TAKE CARE OF OUR PLAYING FIELDS

There is a stalwart group of volunteers who regularly litter pick the playing fields. However, since lockdown was eased their task has become much more difficult.

It is great to see people using and enjoying the playing fields but it is not so great to see the mess that is left by some users. There are bins at various points for litter but they seem to be invisible. Glass is especially dangerous but plastic bottles left in longer grass will get chewed up into sharp pieces by the mower, and uneaten food attracts vermin. If it is adults that are causing this mess then they should know better and if it is children then their parents should be teaching them to have respect for public facilities.

Please follow these simple rules and help keep the playing fields tidy and attractive to visit.

1) Tidy up after your picnic

2) Place all litter in the bins or take it home, don't just discard it where you happen to be at the time

3) Take extra care with glass bottles

And please remember, dogs are not allowed anywhere on the playing fields.



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Is there a generational

Jonny Rosemont writes:

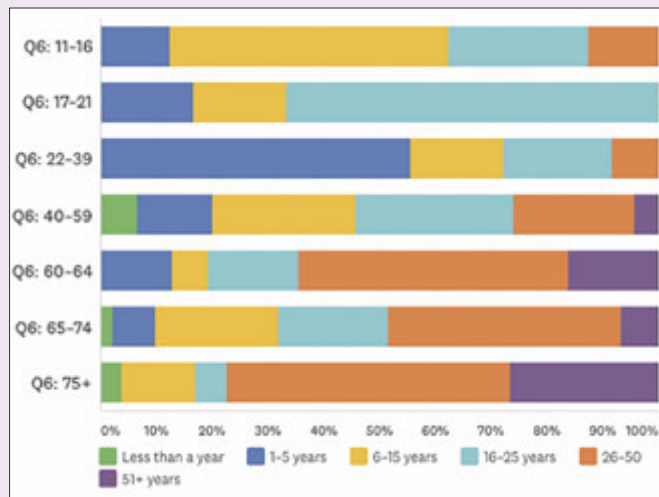
In our latest article covering the results of our Village Appraisal survey, we wanted to investigate whether there was a difference of opinion dependant on the age of the respondent. The exercise is not to create a generational war but to understand better the views of the different age groups that make up our village. The results are very interesting indeed!

Before we review the results, it is important to point out once again that there are two clear large demographic groups in our village – essentially young working families and older retirees (65+). The table opposite breaks down the ages of the survey's respondents.

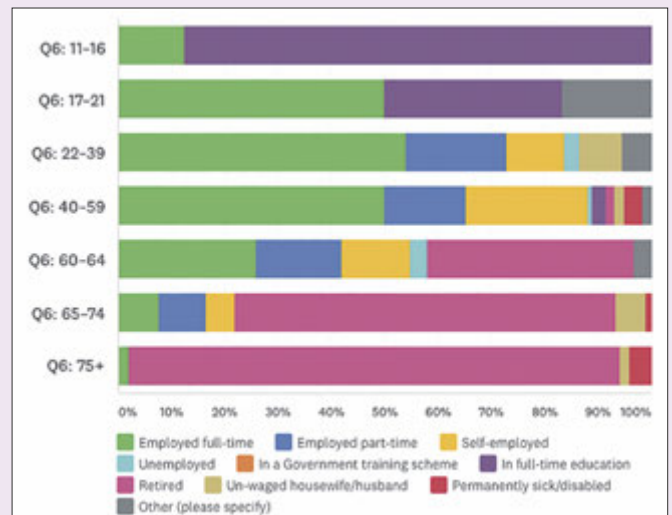
With 73 questions, the Village Appraisal survey results have a wealth of information that can be

Age	Steeple Barton	Westcote Barton	Number of survey respondents
11-16	5	3	8
17-21	2	4	6
22-39	23	14	37
40-59	82	38	120
60-64	27	2	29
65-74	70	21	91
75+	44	7	51

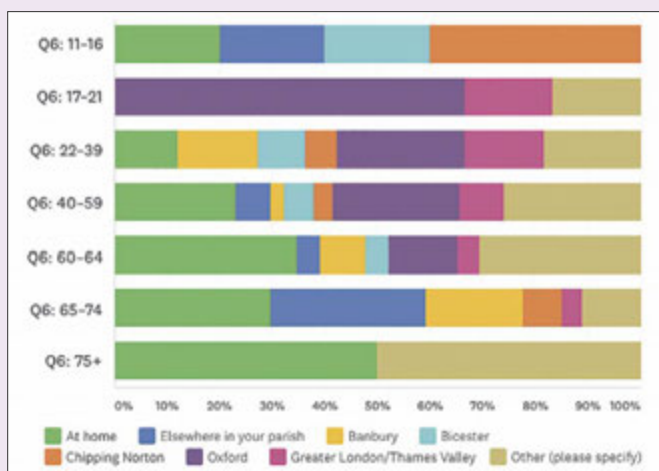
filtered and analysed according to any data set. You can get in touch with me (email) if you would like to understand any of the specific results of the survey. However, for this article, we've picked out what we thought were the ten most interesting conclusions relating to age.



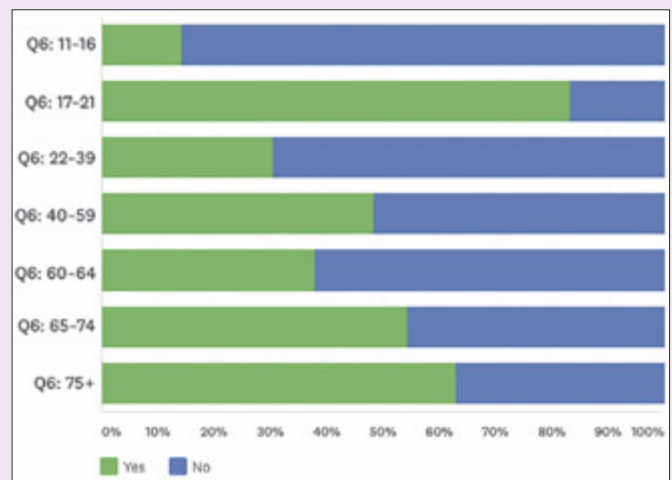
1. The older you are, the longer you have lived in the village - 56% of people aged 22-39 have lived in the village for 1-5 years, whereas a large majority of people aged 60+ have lived in the village for more than 16 years.



2. Roughly 50% of people aged 17-59 are employed full time – but, as expected, retirement starts to take place from 60+.

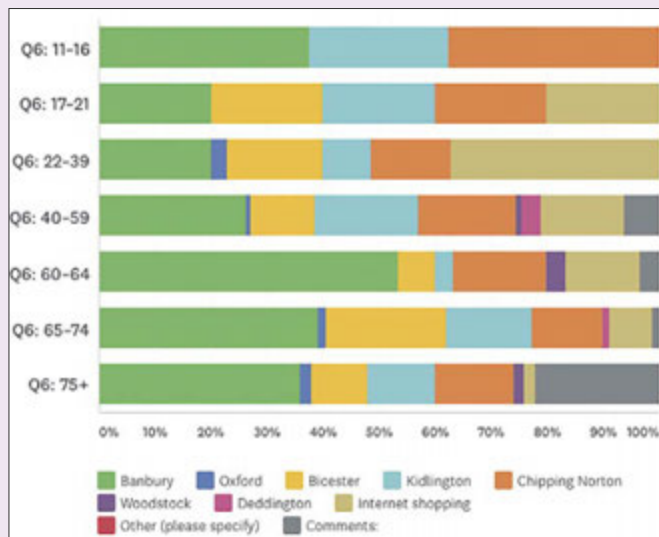


3. For workers, as you get older, the more likely you are to work from home or within the parish – younger people are more likely to work in Oxford, London or within the Thames Valley.

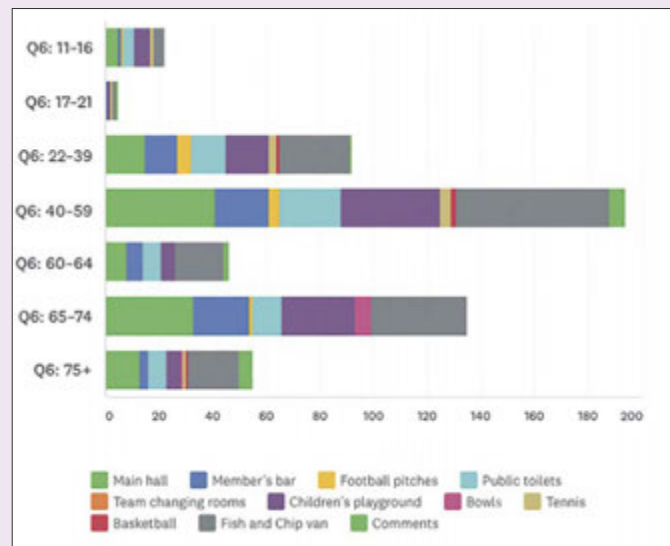


4. The older you are, the more you think the parish needs more housing – although those aged 17-21 overwhelmingly want more housing despite being a small data set of just six people.

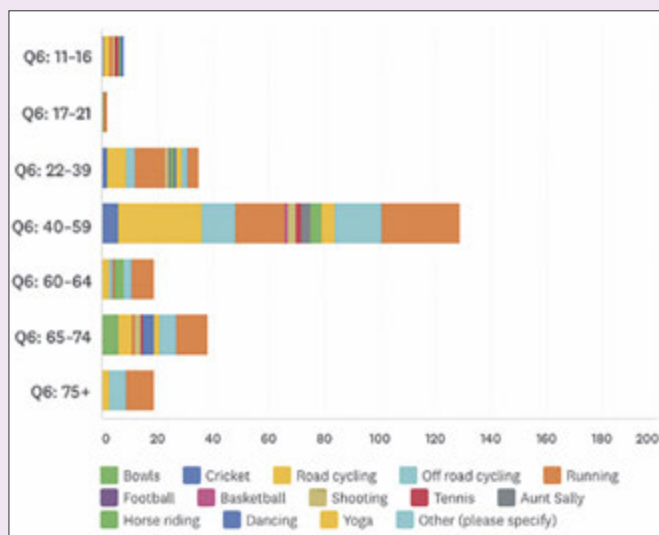
divide in the Bartons?



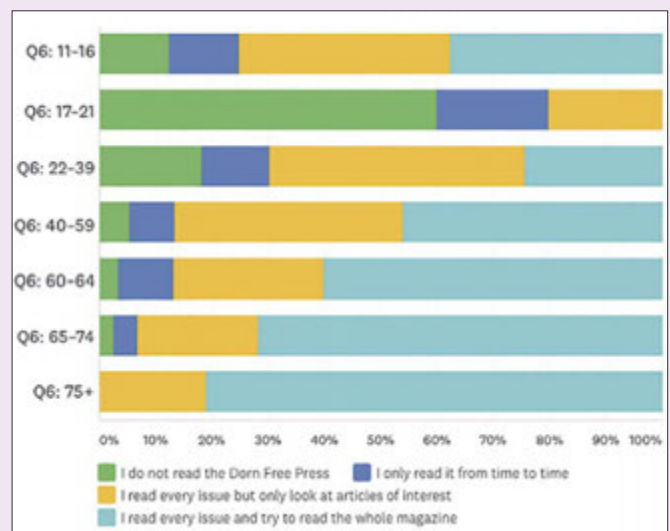
5. Internet shopping is most popular with people aged 17-39 – whereas Banbury is the majority shopping destination for people aged 60+.



6. Across generations, the Fish and Chip van is hugely popular – although greater use of the football pitch, tennis/basketball courts and bowls should be encouraged.



7. Across all age groups, individual sporting pursuits (cycling, running etc) gain greater involvement than team/group sports – road cycling is of particular interest to people aged 40-59.



8. The younger you are, the less likely you will read this article – the Dorn Free Press becomes more popular the older you get.

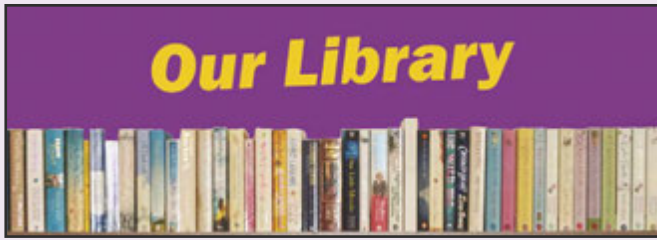
9. People become more aware of council responsibilities as they get older – whether at a Parish, District or County level, the young are less aware of the role the different levels of local government play.

10. Villagers also become more concerned over local crime as they age – 60% of people aged 22-39 have no concerns, whereas 65% of people aged 65+ do.

What do you think? Anything here that you find surprising. With two further DFP issues this year, we will be doing two more articles analysing the results. If there is anything you'd like to investigate please don't hesitate to get in touch with me by emailing bartons@jonnyrosemont.com.

Until next time!

Our Community News



Our Library has remained open throughout lockdown, many thanks to Diane!

A few of our regular borrowers have continued to use the library throughout lockdown, albeit less often and we are glad to have been of service. We are now operating a self service system and would love to see more visitors popping in throughout the week. There are sheets to record the details of books borrowed and we have provided hand sanitiser for your use. Please leave returned books on the table and I will deal with these during one of my regular maintenance visits.

Diane has very kindly said that anyone wishing to visit the library may do so at anytime during shop opening hours and we are very grateful to her for this flexibility and for her ongoing support. If the door is locked just ask at the till.

Happy reading!

Alison & John Umney



At the time of writing OurBus Bartons is planning to resume a limited bus service - subject to continuing Government restrictions - from Saturday 22nd August to Deddington Farmers Market.

OurBus will operate within the Covid guidelines with all passengers and drivers being required to wear masks at all times - there will be masks available for those who might have forgotten their own! Anti-Bac' will be available for the use of all passengers and the capacity of the bus will be reduced to ensure social distancing rules are being adhered to.

On the new interim timetable we have printed the telephone number of OurBus to reserve your place. At this stage the numbers of passengers wanting to use the service are unknown, but we feel there is a pent-up demand that we want to respond to.

Not all services will be running in the first instance, for example - Routes 1,2 & 5A will not run at all and many services will have time alterations, so please check with the new timetable, which should now be widely available, these changes appear in purple.

As always we will be led by our passengers so let us know which service you would like to use.

Contact numbers to reserve places:

01869 340635 & 01869 3471988
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or visit:

www.ourbusbartons.org.uk

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From the Pre-School Committee

Thanks to all our pre-school families for their understanding during the unsettled times over the past few months. Pre-School were glad to welcome back many of the children during the summer term and even managed to produce an end-of-term leavers' assembly with the older children. This was video'ed and sent to parents.

September will see Pre-School open as usual (following all the guidelines issued by Government and Early Years). We look forward to welcoming several new children and their families.

If you have a two year old child and would like to register them for Pre-School, please email for a registration form to:

middlebartonpreschool@hotmail.co.uk

Pre-School are still looking for parents and community members to join the Pre-School committee. Pre-School cannot continue without a committee so it is imperative we find new members. Please email Pre-School if you would like to assist.

Finally, Pre-School wish all our leavers the very best as they settle in to Primary school in September, we will miss them all and would like to thank all their families for their support over the years.

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Unit 4, Duns Tew Road, Chipping Norton, OX7 7DG

Art in The Bartons An Exhibition

IsitArt writes:



An art and craft exhibition is being planned in Middle Barton called 'Creating in a Crisis' where people will be exhibiting and selling the work they have created over the past few months. Proceeds will be in aid of the AM Hall and the Social Club. The proposed dates are late October, but of course it is all dependant on Government restrictions at the time, and it may need to be postponed. If it goes ahead it will have social distancing, masks, no touching etc. so that it is as safe as possible.

It's hoped to have a wide variety of sorts of work there - painting, woodwork, textiles, jewellery, soap-making, photography - all the talent of our wonderful village on show! And you don't need to be an 'artist' to take part, it's open to anyone of any age (I imagine there will be a few rainbows there).

Contact John Umney or Sue Lewis if you are interested in taking part.

artinthebartons@gmail.com



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Give me a ring and I'll explain: Ken Langdon on 07850 616069

Church News

The Revd Jane Wright writes:

Over the summer, our churches have continued to enjoy meeting via Zoom. These Sunday morning services have drawn a regular following from across all our villages and some friends from further afield too. For now, we plan to continue these Zoom services as well as meeting in our churches or church grounds, now we are permitted to do so.



As ever, all information about services and other events is updated on our website, Facebook page and church notice boards.

We receive many appreciative comments from people who enjoy the peaceful surroundings of our churches. In Steeple Barton, we will be holding an end-of-season tidy up in the churchyard on 26th September between 10.00 and 12.30. If you would like to lend a helping hand, then please come along and join us. We'll be delighted to see you – and bringing your own secateurs, rake, shears etc. will be a big help. For more information, please call:

David and Ann on 01869 347547



All our villages have been wonderfully caring during the pandemic, showing a community spirit which is second to none. While supporting one another, we have also become increasingly aware of ongoing difficulties experienced by individuals and families right across the Chipping Norton area. In the porch of Westcote and Steeple Barton churches you'll find we still



have foodbank boxes and would really welcome donations of non-perishable food.

While we were in lockdown, there were fewer contributions to these boxes, so any donations now will be very welcome. Likewise, if you would like to give any financial support to this work, then please contact

Susan Small on 01869 340455

who can provide more information about this.

The annual Ride and Stride event will take place on Saturday 12th September. This is organised by the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust, with half the proceeds raised going to OHCT and the other half to our local churches. If you'd like to join in with this sponsored event, or to sponsor someone who is riding or striding, then please contact me and I'll let you have details.

All best wishes, Jane Wright.

Tel: 01869 340510
follow us on Facebook

Over Worton's (anonymous) moment of fame!

Jenny Schuster writes:

The BBC TV Countryfile team have been filming John Craven locally!



The television celebrity has been talking about how to enter the annual photographic competition for the 'Children in Need, Countryfile Calendar'. Some photographs are shown each week, the interviews are filmed in the village, fields, as well as Worton.

So far there have been over 30,000 entries to the competition and there is a thought that this is going to be a record.

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Duns Tew W.I. News

Mary Gregory, president of Duns Tew WI, writes:

I must admit that I am writing this article more in hope than expectation that our proposed 2020-2021 programme will have started again but since we are still a state of limbo and not totally clear as to whether we can or cannot start our activities – this pandemic has a lot to answer for.

However on a brighter note, and with the situation hopefully slowly improving, we are planning to get back to some sort of normality soon and continue to make the best of the remainder of our year. So, being encouraged to meet again albeit with Social Distancing restrictions, we are happy to announce that the DUNS TEW WI will start meeting again (fingers crossed) from 8th September, 7.30 pm in the Duns Tew Village Hall. Many of our members are definitely looking forward to getting together again so we are enthusiastically organizing the re-launch of our group.

Also, on the positive side, through OFWI (the Oxfordshire Federation) we have been receiving regular Newsletters and many members have taken part in the on-line courses which have been on offer during this period so again much has been going on behind the scenes - contact details below.

I think I would now like to just end this article by reminding all that whilst Duns Tew WI may be a small group with members not only from Duns Tew but also the surrounding villages, it is part of the largest voluntary women's organization in the UK involved in a wide range of interesting and informative activities, campaigns on issues that matter to all of us. Why not 'give us a go' – come and make new friends, learn new skills, take part and, of course, eat cake. If you have any queries, enquiries or a little hesitant, why not give me a call, Mary on 01869 347021

e-mail: mary.gregory@btinternet.com

www.thewi.org.uk

www.oxfordshirewi.co.uk

News from Barton Abbey

Head Gardener Darren Bullock writes:

Blackberries are one of my favourite soft fruits and for me there is nothing better than an Apple and Blackberry pie or crumble served with thick cream on an Autumn evening.

Blackberry picking was always a family affair as I was growing up and armed with Tupperware bowls we would all go out in high spirits looking for the best blackberry bush - sadly this feeling wouldn't last long as we always seemed to return with very few berries, arms scratched from the brambles and legs stung by nettles and sporting a lovely shade of green from the dock leaves mum would spit on and rub into your legs - those were the days!

In those far off days the idea of growing a cultivated blackberry in your garden was unheard of, well, it was in our household. I do recall looking longingly in our neighbour's garden at their neatly trained, easy to pick and heavily laden with fruit blackberry trained along their fence. When I tried to convince my parents to buy a similar plant and giving them all the reasons why they should their reply was "the challenge of picking wild ones makes them taste even better".

Here at Barton we grow a fantastic cultivated form called 'Loch Ness' and, if I am honest, once you have tasted it you'll never go wild blackberry picking again.



It's such a lovely plant that I have planted one in my garden at home. It's growing on a sunny fence and has been planted for just over a year.

I waxed lyrical about how big the fruits were going to be, how juicy and how flavoursome they were.

Last summer the plant just sat there looking very forlorn. It sent out three shoots from the base which I hoped would fruit the following year. Having tied these new shoots in and



having removed any old wood in the winter I was so pleased to see it in flower in May. It's flowers bloom for about three weeks and are so popular with the bees. The flowers slowly turned to fruit and began to swell in size. The first few I picked certainly didn't live up to my earlier hype and expectations. Since then the remaining fruit which ripen over a long period have been large, succulent and full of flavour. My only tip is not to pick them too early, temptation is to pick them as soon as they turn black, just wait an extra day or two, the fruits will be better for it.

It's such an easy plant to care for - simply tie in any un-fruited wood and remove old fruited wood in the winter, mulch with compost or manure, avoiding going too close to the crown, and water in hot spells. I grow mine at the back of a flower border and it certainly looks just as good as a rose when in flower and you can eat the fruits too!

If you think you will miss getting savaged by the wild brambles just be like me and plant a very vigorous rose bush in front of it! Ouch!

From all of us at the Abbey stay safe and happy gardening

News from Facebook

Text and photo by Kat Day:



The Middle Barton Locals Facebook group continues to be a way for people to reach out to each other, share local knowledge, ask for recommendations, give away unwanted items, and just say thank you, and we now have well over 900 members.

Recent posts have included information about the Bartons Victory Memorial Hall Fund Cherwell Lottery page — set up to raise money to support the playing fields (see p11 for more info). We've also seen a reminder from our local Thames Valley Police Officer, Chris Jones, that the team would be at the Sports and Social Club if anyone would like an informal chat about local issues. And furniture, toys, jam jars and all sorts of other things have been posted by people having lockdown clear-outs!

As always, local photography has featured. Ian Taylor's Lockdown *Excuse Me Project* has been fantastic, and we've had some great pictures of our beautiful local surroundings.

We've also had some warnings about scams — including one in which a local resident was telephoned about alleged fraudulent spending on her credit card. It turned out to be an attempt to get her details. Do please be aware: if in doubt, hang up. Nothing is so urgent it can't wait until you've had a chance to contact your bank directly via a known number.

If you haven't found us yet, come and look us up. Search for 'Middle Barton Locals Group' on Facebook, or go to this address:

<https://tinyurl.comugxkt4r>

Parish Council Update

Jonny Rosemont writes:

To confirm the date of the next meeting, this is scheduled for Monday 21st September 2020 either by telephone conference or at the Alice Marshall Hall, Middle Barton at 8.00pm. Telephone conference details will be made available on Steeple Barton Parish Council's website.

<https://steeplebartonparishcouncil.org>



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County Council Update

Ian Hudspeth writes:

We must not be complacent as the virus is still around and may well be with us for some time to come. The Public Health team at Oxfordshire County Council are monitoring the situation and should they see an increase in a particular area then they will work with that local community to try and ensure that it does not spread.

We can all play our part by following the guidelines, I have listed some of the details at the end of my report.

The bid for tranche 2 of the Active Travel funding must be submitted by 7th August. I bid for 20 mph speed limits throughout the villages in my Division as I saw this as a good way to encourage cycling and walking within the villages. Unfortunately, the guidelines from the DfT do not allow the funds to be used in this way and are aimed at more urban schemes, I have written to ask for the guidelines to be

changed to allow local determination of how funds are spent.

The lockdown restrictions have been eased but it's important that we do not become complacent.

Do not leave home if you or someone you live with has any of the following:

1. a high temperature
2. a new, continuous cough
3. a loss of, or change to, your sense of smell or taste

NHS test and trace service

The NHS test and trace service is now live. Everyone over the age of five presenting symptoms should have a test.

The new NHS test and trace service works as follows:

You request a test or by calling 119

If the test comes back negative, you and everyone in your household can go back to normal

If the test comes back **positive**, the NHS test and trace team will get in touch with you – via text, email or phone call – to discuss whom you have come into contact with

The NHS test and trace team will then alert those contacts, where necessary, and notify them if they need to self-isolate to stop the spread of the virus

You and members of your household need to follow the usual guidelines about

Please do not hesitate to contact me and keep safe.

Ian Hudspeth
07956 270 318

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Local Councillor Update

Dave Jackson writes:



At the full WODC meeting on June 24th, a minutes silence was observed in memory of Arthur Goffe. Arthur served for 20 years as the district councillor for the Bartons Ward, until his retirement in 2014. I gave a brief tribute expressing the community's gratitude and affection for

Arthur for his loyal service. I also mentioned a small 'legacy' that he was able to leave, namely the affordable houses for rent at the east end of North Street, near the Cinnamon Stick. Being a local farmer, Arthur was able to provide the land for this 'Rural Exception Site', which means that people with a local connection were given first refusal to the affordable homes.

I was thrilled that WODC were able to give a community grant of £15000 towards the Alice Marshall Hall refurbishment. I was fearful that this year's allocation would be cancelled with the authority running up an unexpected deficit due to the COVID situation. I wrote a letter of thanks to the lady from Leisure Services, Rachael Biles, who met two of the hall committee at my house before lockdown to advise us on the grant application.

Sometime in September a government White Paper is expected outlining future plans for the reorganisation of local government. It is widely predicted that nationally the government will propose the setting up of 'Unitary Authorities', rumoured to be brought in by May 2022. In a nutshell this means that all services will be dealt with by a single authority, so the County Council and the District Council will effectively disappear.

As yet it is not clear whether this new Unitary Authority will be the same size, or indeed the same geographical area as the present County

Council. But if this scheme goes ahead, it will mean a profound difference to the Bartons. Because the wards will have to be bigger to decrease the number of councillors, the Bartons Ward as we know it (i.e. The Bartons, Sandford, Ledwell and The Wortons), will disappear. Once we know exactly what is being proposed, it would be useful to have some public forums to discuss how this might impact locally, particularly as the role of the parish councils might become more pivotal. I will keep you updated.

Answer to the chess puzzle: No. 31

Black has a forced mate in two.

1..R8d4+ and White has only one possible move:

2..Bxd4 followed by 2..Qf3#

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Police Matters

What's happening in my neighbourhood?

Chris Jones C9516 writes:

Speeding

As most people are aware COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH has now been set up within the Bartons. Community Speedwatch (CSW) is a national initiative where active members of local communities join with the support of the Police to monitor speeds of vehicles using speed detection devices. Vehicles exceeding the speed limit are referred to the Police with the aim of educating drivers to reduce their speeds. In cases where education is blatantly ignored and evidence of repeat or excessive offences is collated (even across county borders), enforcement and prosecution follow. Speeding remains one of the top priorities for the Neighbourhood Team and has been working with our colleagues in Roads Policing and Safer Roads to try to address this.

Drugs

We have received a number of reports of suspicious activity around the village believed to be connected with drugs. Please continue to report this as we have acted on information received and will continue to do so. We have conducted drug warrants and stopped a number of vehicles where the drivers have been prosecuted for drug driving.

PLEASE BE AWARE

Recently there has been a national increase in rural crime such as theft of quad bikes and farm machinery. Can I please ask you all to be aware of this and if you see anything suspicious then call us immediately.

If you have any problems or concerns you think I can help you with or you would simply email us at:

woodstockNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk.

To report a **crime in progress**

phone 999,

For **non-emergency** either call **101** or report it through the **Thames Valley Police website**

www.thamesvalley.police.uk.

CRIMESTOPPERS – they are an independent charity that gives people the power to speak up to stop crime 100% anonymously.

<https://crimestoppers-uk.org>

or call

0800 555 111



Working together we can and will make our area a better place in which to work, live and spend our leisure time.

Walking for Charity

Under the 'lockdown' there are many stories of people deciding to make an effort to contribute to the community. Madeleine Samuelson White, who had previously helped



raise funds and awareness for Katharine House, decided – on the day of the London Marathon – to walk 26 times up and down her disability ramp to raise further funds for the charity. The ramp helps Madeleine because at 85 and having suffered a fall a year ago, which led to a number of complications, combined with her severe arthritis.



The sun was out on the day, and a small, socially distanced crowd gathered to 'cheer' Madeleine on and it was a great success.

The card Madeleine received from Katharine House thanked her for her wonderful effort in raising £1600.

Well done Madeleine!

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Farmers Markets and Pick Your Own

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Banbury: 1st Fri of the month, 8.30 - 1.30pm

Bicester: Fridays, 9.00 - 1.30pm.

Deddington: 4th Saturday. 9:00 - 12.30pm

Kidlington: Fri and Sat, 9.00 - 4.30pm.

Summertown: Sunday, 10.00 - 2.00pm.

Woodstock: 1st and 3rd Sat, 8.30 - 1.00pm.

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Tel: 01235 227266

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Stanton St. John, OX33 1HF

Wykham Park Farm:
Banbury, OX16 9UP

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