



**Issue Number 167**  
January/February 2022

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

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the next (March/April)  
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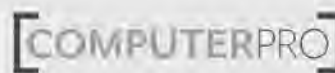



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## From the Editor

This is a lovely full edition, detailing all the many events that have taken place over the last few months. December in particular has been busy... which is just as well, as we are once again facing uncertainty with the Omicron variant quickly spreading through the population. After the hectic festive season, hopefully come January you will find time to curl up with a cup of tea and a copy of the DFP. Here you can reminisce about Halloween and the snowy lighting of one of the village Christmas trees. You can read updates from our Parish Council and District councillors – including new speed restriction plans, and information about community grants (pages 8, 18-19). Darren Bullock provides an excellent idea on page 18 for turning your Christmas tree into a temporary bird feeding structure. You can read all about what has been going on at Middle Barton Primary and Pre-Schools (pages 10-12), and if you want to spend any Christmas money on books, we have some great children's book reviews on page 11. Wendy Denby reports on how far the children of Middle Barton School have run (page 9) – inspiration, if you needed some, to start that New Year fitness regime! And on pages 4-5 Rachel Lawmon takes a fond look back at the life and adventures of friend and colleague, Peggy Gregory. If, after all of that, your cup of tea is empty, why not brew another and tackle the 'Spot the Difference' on page 11! I hope you enjoy this edition. With best wishes for the New Year from all the DFP Team.

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*Rachel Lawmon writes:*

For many years Peggy was Leader of 1<sup>st</sup> Middle Barton Guides and following her sudden death in November, here are a few memories -

After she moved to Middle Barton, Peggy started with MB Guides in 1981, following on from Maureen Keefe. I joined the unit with her in 1994 and we had many, many happy times until she stood down from active Guiding in 2002. But Guiding did not stop for Peggy – with great enthusiasm, she recruited Guiding friends old and new to open the new MB Trefoil Guild.

With Peggy most of the memories are of camps and pack holidays. And of course, talk of camping with Peggy and the conversation inevitably goes to toilets, or lack of them. Peggy delighted in telling everybody that in her day the toilet was a trench dug out in the field over which she stood astride. Many of our earlier camps were in a field at Fenemore's farm in Clifton and things had progressed a bit further – the trench was a big hole dug out in the corner of the field into which the contents of the toilets were emptied on a daily basis. And to ensure that the contents were aplenty, Peggy used to make sure that during the week there was an ample supply of plums or prunes in the diet to give it a boost.



Peggy's usual job at camp was as Quartermaster – providing a regular supply of food and drink, day and night. Her speciality was making the

porridge for breakfast – this was often prepared the night before, heated up and placed in a haybox to cook overnight. Then by magic in the morning it was hot and ready to eat. Peggy's menus always included plenty of fruit and vegetables and many a sunny afternoon was spent chopping and preparing them in great quantity – Peggy's famous sweet & sour recipe was a favourite, followed by a packed fruit salad. Another favourite was her roast beef dinner – vegetables prepared in the morning and put in a big billy with a big piece of beef over the top and left for the day over the fire. Delicious after a busy day out in the open air.

Peggy loved being outside and enjoying the out of doors. She was always the first up in the morning,

which was fine if you were not sharing a tent with her and not a natural early riser. Accompanied by her dog Shumba, she would then be sat outside, watching the wildlife and drinking a cup of fruit tea. Our enthusiastic Young Leader, Natalie, would inevitably join her for that peaceful time at camp and prepare the fire and breakfast before rousing the sleepy Guides with the 'bummy knocker' – Peggy's big, squeaky hammer for keeping everyone in order. At the other end of the day, it was not uncommon for Peggy to be wide awake, knitting and chatting, whilst the other tired guiders on a Brownie Pack Holiday were trying to sleep after a busy day. But she did produce a lovely crib scene afterwards.

One of our most memorable camps was to Goathland in Yorkshire, where the TV series Heartbeat was filmed. After a long bus journey, we had to carry all the equipment down the long lane to the site, which was right next to the steam railway, with trains coming by and passengers waving to us on a regular basis. An absolute highlight of the camp was to go up to the farmhouse, where they were filming, and to meet the character 'Greengrass'.



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Middle Barton

# Guiding in the Bartons



Whilst at camp, everyone was given a camp name, often based on a well-known children's book and there was always huge anticipation and excitement at the end of the

camp before the names were announced at the final campfire – mine was Christopher Robin for looking after everyone. Peggy's camp name stayed with her from her early days in Guides – she was very appropriately named Kookaburra, "laugh Kookaburra, laugh". And we all had many laughs together.

Camps with Peggy were traditional and basic, so if you were not keen on DIY loos or washing morning and night with a small bowl of cold water – in Peggy's words – 'tough, just get on with it.'

We had many regular traditions in our unit meetings - an annual event used to be the making of

miniature Christmas cakes. Each one cooked in old tins (which I still have) and then individually marzipanned and iced with a unique design. And Peggy's mincemeat recipe was always a sticky and messy activity – literally mincing the dried fruit through an old mincer. Another favourite in the summer was backwoods cooking over fires down the lane by Steeple Barton Church. And of course the many campfires with Peggy singing and enthusiastically doing the actions to all the songs. Craft activities were Peggy's passion and she loved sharing her skills with others young and older.

Having 'retired' from Middle Barton Guides, Peggy continued Guiding as a member of Trefoil Guild – a friendly group sharing their interest and enthusiasm in Guiding. Peggy was Chair for some years and enjoyed the many activities locally, in county and beyond. And with her love of singing, Peggy was a member of the Oxfordshire Warblers group.



And finally, a couple of quotes from former Guides: 'Peggy was a strong and fearless character, practical and resourceful, she brought creativity, mischief and fun to those meetings.' 'She had that sparkle in her eye when she had an idea that was just very slightly crazy but equally awesome. We

all knew that look meant some adventure was inbound.' 'It feels important to celebrate the mark Peggy made on the lives of so many young women.' Thanks Peggy and, in the words of Taps: 'All is well, safely rest, God is nigh.'

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# Halloween Spooktacular!

*Kat Day writes:*

This year Halloween fell on the last Sunday of the school half term, and the children had a wonderful time on the Halloween trail, organised by FOMBS. The decorations were amazing, with many houses going far above and beyond in their efforts to provide a delightfully creepy experience. Afterwards lots of villagers commented on how polite all the children had been, and how nice it was to have trick or treaters again. A TERRIFIC time was had by all!



## SPEEDWATCH

*Dave Jackson writes:*

The more unpredictable weather has thwarted some planned Speedwatch sessions in the run up to Christmas. Also the lessening of daylight hours means we haven't been able to do early morning and teatime sessions, when traffic tends to be at its speediest. But every session we do is an opportunity to remind motorists that we are serious in The Bartons about adherence to the 30 mph limit.

A big bonus has been the support and help we have recently received from the Alpine F1 works (formerly known as Renault). The Health and Safety Manager, Steve Martin, has been able to join us on several sessions, and has offered the services of their graphics department to design a logo, reproduce printed material and make a roadside banner to publicise our sessions.

Moreover, he has asked us to send the details of any vehicle that we are allowed to record exceeding 35 mph, that we send to the police. The management at Alpine are keen to know if any of their workforce are speeding through The Bartons, and will take appropriate action if the 'speeders' are Alpine employees.



Mr Martin is our 33<sup>rd</sup> trained volunteer, so our team is gradually increasing. If you want to make a New Year's Resolution to join our merry band, new volunteers are always welcome. Please get in touch with Councillor Dave Jackson for more information 07407 443944/ skellgilldave@yahoo.co.uk

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## Chess Problem 39

Trevor Daniels writes:

What is the best move for White in this position?



Answer on page 12.

## Passing on kind gestures

Rebecca White writes:

It was lovely to hear from Muriel Standen who was the lucky recipient (or finder?) of a posie of flowers - a number of which had been left around the village by our local florist, Wonderland in Bloom. Intended to brighten up the days of those lucky enough to stumble upon them, Muriel decided to immediately pass on the kind gesture. A neighbour had very recently lost her husband and so Muriel took the flowers to her. Muriel said, "it was nice to see the flowers and know someone had gone to the trouble of making them up. So it was also really nice to give them to someone when you know it will help cheer them up".

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# Steeple Barton Parish Council

*Jonny Rosemont writes:*

## Traffic calming

A joint Steeple Barton Parish Council/Westcote Barton Parish Meeting proposal has been prepared in conjunction with Oxfordshire County Council Communities for a 20mph speed limit throughout the two parishes. The proposals will also include a reduction and extension of limits on the roads leading into the village, as well as some traffic calming build-outs along Enstone Road and if needed in other locations. There is a requirement for a public consultation culminating in an exhibition with villagers to rally support and answer any questions that they have. We are hoping that the results of the consultation will enable the Parishes to submit a formal proposal to Oxfordshire County Council shortly.

## Flood prevention

In recent months, there has been a concerted effort to reduce the level of the Dorn riverbed by dredging and clearing the debris underneath the Mill Lane bridge. This has facilitated a much better flow of water. The sewage drain coming down Mill Lane from North Street has also been resleeved and blown through to clear any blockages. The drains at the school have also been cleared to alleviate further pressure during our next period of adverse weather. Connected to this, the village Emergency Plan is to be updated in the new year and will be published on our website.

## Defibrillator

The council would like to thank Simon Day for fitting this adjacent to the electricity box on North Street. This now gives access to the lower end of North Street and the Holliers estate. The one at the Playing Fields serves the upper end of the village.

## Public attendance at our meetings.

In 2022, as always, parishioners are invited to attend our meetings in person to listen and engage in village matters. We hold our meetings on the third Monday of every month at 8 pm, except during August, in the Alice Marshall Hall. Prior to every council meeting, there is an opportunity of up to 15 minutes for members of the public to make comments and to ask questions of the Parish Council.

Happy new year from everyone on the council!

# Bartons Victory Memorial Hall Fund

*Trevor Payne writes:*

Happy New Year to everyone from the Trustees and Management Committee of the Fund and the Management Committee of the Bartons Memorial Sports and Social Club.

**Notice of Annual General Meeting:** The annual general meeting of the fund will be held on Wednesday January 26<sup>th</sup> at 8 pm in the Jubilee Room. Any resident of the Bartons is welcome to attend. Questions must be submitted by Friday 21<sup>st</sup> January either by email to the Secretary ([bvmhfsec@gmail.com](mailto:bvmhfsec@gmail.com)) or in writing to any member of the Committee.

**BMX Track:** Several years ago a BMX track was built at the top of the field with some humps and banked turns and incorporating the mound in the righthand top corner. This appears to have fallen into disuse and the Management Committee would like to know if it is still a useful facility as it is not easy to mow around it! Feedback to me please by email to: Trevor Payne, Secretary, BVMHF [bvmhfsec@gmail.com](mailto:bvmhfsec@gmail.com)



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## Morning Run at Middle Barton School

Wendy Denby writes:

On the first day of term in September everybody was ready to get back out on to the track around the field for Morning Run. With a banner on the fence and a hooter to welcome everyone back, Morning Run soon re-established itself even more strongly than before.



Many children remembered from before the pandemic that if you run a lap (or a few) of the track before school, when you get to 78 laps you have completed a Half Marathon (13.1 miles). This warrants a certificate in Assembly, a mention in the weekly newsletter and your name pinned in the noticeboard by school reception.

The children embraced the challenge with determination and we gained many new recruits as well. At the height of the good weather in October a record number of 73 children ran one morning. Now the weather is deteriorating we are still regularly seeing about 40–45 children participating. All these laps mean that at the time of writing (end of November) we have been able to award 35 Half Marathon certificates, ten certificates for completing a whole Marathon (156 laps) and three pupils have even obtained their certificate for 1½ Marathons (234 laps)!

Even better is that every week more children are achieving their goal, and we have plenty more people who are within a week or two of collecting their certificate! The total distance covered by all the pupils of the school currently stands at 1050 miles, which we are very proud of! With thanks to all those who supported the installation of the Running Track.

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# Middle Barton School

## Be Curious – Believe – Challenge – Achieve

Kim Griffin writes



The school has hosted its first event since Covid began. It literally went with a bang! It was just amazing to see so many families and members of the community back on school grounds enjoying the fireworks display. A huge thank you to FOMBS for organising such a successful event.

At Middle Barton we have a great love of books and we have been very fortunate to have received 350 new books for school. Each class has been given 50 books to fill their shelves with to help keep up the enthusiasm. The books were kindly purchased through FOMBS and we are truly grateful.



In October, the whole school celebrated Black History month. The event took place in each class and the children recognised the contributions and achievements of people with African or Caribbean heritage and the children also had a fantastic opportunity to challenge negative stereotypes.



The theme for Black History Month this year was 'Proud to be', to celebrate at school each class learnt about significant Black people. We learnt about scientists, artists, sports men and women, musicians, actors, authors, and politicians and why they are important. To share what the children had learnt they created a display in their classrooms for other classes to view. It was a very successful event.

The whole school has also taken part in a range of activities learning about Remembrance. Each class created a display to represent what they had learnt, which was displayed centrally in school. Acorns even made their own wreath and placed it on the village memorial. A display of the children's work was created

and displayed in the church for Remembrance Sunday. The school raised a grand total of £96.60.



A number of children throughout the school have taken part in a range of events this term. Year 6 have taken part in a Street Dance workshop and Bikeability. Two, Year 5 students attended an AIMS (Able, Interested and Motivated) workshop for English at Chipping Norton School and two attended the AIMS DT workshop. A group of Year 5 and 6 children represented the school at a Boys and Girls Hockey Tournament. A small group of Year 6 children took part in a Literacy Quiz at Chipping Norton School. Another group for Year 6 children had the opportunity to participate in a Boccia event.

The children enjoyed wearing their own clothes as part of the fundraising for Children in Need. The donations go to many worthwhile causes and all contributions were greatly appreciated.

During Anti-bullying week the children learnt all about different types of bullying - physical, verbal and cyber.

### Outdoor Learning and Forest School

The second half of the Autumn term has seen a number of classes taking part in a whole variety of Outdoor Learning and Forest School experiences. Beach class made wind chimes and have been investigating sound, making string phones. Year 6 have been busy digging the pond with the money donated from ENCON. Maples have been making the 'Perfect Compost' and have had an outdoor Stone Age experience- lighting fires and making flatbread. Willows have been investigating force and making ramps in the outdoor classroom.

Sycamores have had their first fire and have loved playing in the leaves and using the rope swing. They have sown up loose branches ready for future fires.

Acorns have been taking part in a range of seasonal activities in Forest school and have built their own Sukkah, from the Jewish festival of Sukkot and also celebrated Diwali outside.



## Book Reviews

### CODE NAME BANANAS

By David Walliams

This fantastic action-packed thriller for all the family is a funny, fascinating story based in London 1940! An orphan boy named Eric gains a bog-boggling friendship with a gorilla in London Zoo! It goes from bombing houses to stealing a U-boat. I personally rate it ★★★★★ for all the family!



By Lachlan Ingram

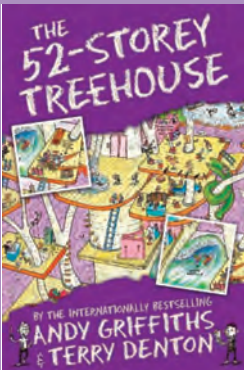
### The 13 Storey Treehouse Series

By Andy Griffiths and Terry Denton

The 13, 26, 39, 52, 65, 78, 91, 104, 117, 130 Storey Treehouse books are great for any age. Andy Griffiths and Terry Denton are amazing at writing comedy books for children.

I love the little animals talking rubbish like a random owl shouting 'BLUEBERRY HORSEFLIES!'

The treehouse series are fun and funny for everyone. There is no inappropriate language at all.



When I read the 13 storey treehouse for the first time it was outstanding. Every level is humor like the tiny horse level and the 13 storey igloo.

There are many levels and a lot of silly alien characters.

By Jamie Hills Wild

## Spot the difference

There are ten differences between the two pictures, can you spot them all?

Answers can be found on page 17.



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# Middle Barton Pre-school

Lauren Ross writes:

We raised an amazing amount of £340 during the Monster ball held in October, thank you to everyone that came, it was so nice to see people in the Pre-school again. With the money that was raised we have created a new sensory area called the 'Calm Corner' which is located in the quiet room with a variety of sensory toys for the children if they need time to themselves or when they feel sad or angry etc. The aim of this is to help the children express their emotions and discuss these feelings.



Thank you to everyone that came to the lighting of the tree. We raised a fantastic amount of £500.59 for the Pre-school, we hope everyone enjoyed the festive music and enjoyable food, we even got some snow for a little extra magic.

Did you spot the odd one out? During December we created our advent adventure, thank you to everyone that took part and to those who decorated their windows, they all looked wonderful.

Keep your eyes peeled for details on an upcoming event this year, we will be hosting a Quiz Night.

You can also keep up to date with news and events on our Facebook page – search Middle Barton Pre-school and like the page.

Did you know you can also support the Pre-school through Amazon Smile where a percentage of your order is donated to the school each time you buy anything, please enter this link into your browser to get started

<https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/290217-0>

We still have numbers for our 100 club and it is open to the whole community, parents, family and friends. It is one of the activities that we run to help raise funds to enhance the Pre-school environment for the children & is particularly important currently where most of our normal fundraisers have had to be cancelled. By purchasing just one number not only will you help support the Pre-school, but you could win up to £50. The more numbers you have, the more chances you have to win.

The 100 Club costs £12 a year per number and membership runs from September to August. You can buy as many numbers as you wish. Every month four numbers are drawn, each winning £10 and there is a special draw in December where one number wins £50!

If you would like to register your child for Pre-school to be included on our waiting list, please get in contact via email/phone

[middlebartonpreschool@gmail.com](mailto:middlebartonpreschool@gmail.com)

or 01869 347968 so we can send you a registration form. Registering your child in advance helps us navigate staffing requirements throughout the year. We do also accept government funding for 15-30 hours if eligible. For any further information or details you can also visit our website:

[www.middlebartonpreschool.co.uk](http://www.middlebartonpreschool.co.uk)

## Answer to chess puzzle:

White has a mate in two: 1.Rd8+ with the Queen keeping the Black Rook pinned.

Black has only two moves 1..Kh7 or 1..Kg7 but in either case White mates with 2.Qg6#.





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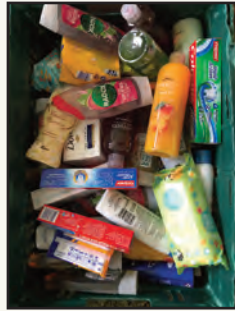




# Katharine Hospice - Village collection

Lisa Sokol writes:

Huge thanks once again to the residents of Middle Barton who donated such an amazing amount of wonderful gifts to the Katharine House Hospice Appeal. Katharine House is situated in Adderbury and offers specialist palliative care to adults with life-limiting conditions. Although they are part of the NHS partnership they still rely on donations to cover over 50% of the cost of the clinical services they provide. As well as the in-patient beds, the hospice also provides services in the Community, a Living Well Scheme and Bereavement Support.



One of the most unique and appreciated services is the support they provide for family and friends of loved ones....this hospice is truly a wonderful place with amazing and fantastic staff. The

donations this year will be for patients and staff. On behalf of the fund-raising and living well team at Katharine House please accept this as a BIG 'Thank You' to everyone who donated to this wonderful cause.



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Karen Brown writes:

First of all, we wish a Happy New Year to all readers of the DFP. Fingers crossed that 2022 will see us more able to take part in the activities that help to define who we are; in our case, partaking in drama activities but, whatever you like to do, we hope that this year brings you more opportunities.

As I write this, towards the end of November, we are in final rehearsals for our ghostly story-reading evening, 'Tales from Studio 13', an entertainment devised by Mike Herbert, our chairman. If you came to see this, thank you very much for the support. We hope that you were suitably entertained and, perhaps, a little bit scared! Below are a few rehearsal photos.



For the future, we are hoping that now we will be able to start rehearsing and presenting another full production. The details of exactly which play, of the many we have

considered, are still to be finalised, so this would be a very good time to join us, if you had ever thought you might like to give us a try. We have been very pleased, for 'Tales from Studio 13', to welcome Anna Carter-Windle and Robin Roberts-Gant to our ranks, and anyone else bringing new blood into the group would be similarly welcomed with open arms, social distancing notwithstanding! So please get in touch with Mike (01993 775702,



[mcherbert2@outlook.com](mailto:mcherbert2@outlook.com)) or me (347601, [brown@jpandkbrown.plus.com](mailto:brown@jpandkbrown.plus.com)) or any member of the group.

Meanwhile, we look forward to welcoming you to our next full production, whatever and whenever it is. Watch this space (and the Bulletin, and posters) for details.

# Church Updates - Happy New Year!

*The Revd. Jane Wright writes:*

**A**s 2022 begins, we are grateful to everyone who took part in our Christmas festivities at the end of last year. It was really good to see so many people at our carol services, and a huge thank you to everyone who supported events, donated to the foodbank, gave to our chosen charities, brought Christmas gifts for the Sunshine Centre, or gave to help the vulnerable people cared for by Polly in Banbury.



*A young visitor, Grace, enjoying her visit to St Martin's*

Thanks also to those who worked behind the scenes over the Christmas period. This includes everyone who helped with cleaning and decorating the churches, offering a warm welcome, providing the music, refreshments, and so much more.

## Looking ahead to 2022

January is a continuing time of celebration at church. The month begins with the Feast of the Epiphany on 2<sup>nd</sup> and ends with Candlemas on 30<sup>th</sup>, with music led by our choir.

In the New Year we will begin classes for those who wish to be confirmed. There's still time to join if you let us know in early January.

As I write we are finalising our rota of services for the New Year. There are plans for the occasional informal evening service in the Alice Marshall Hall, so please keep an eye out for details about that or ring Jane for more information.

Family@Church will continue on the first Sunday of the Month in Westcote Barton and the third Sunday in Duns Tew. Both services start at 9.30 with a breakfast and activity at 9.00.



## The great outdoors

These may be the coldest months of the year, but the first bulbs are peeping through and will soon begin to flower. Many people enjoy walking near or through our churchyards – the snowdrops are always especially lovely at Steeple Barton and Over Worton.

## Update on work on St Martin Tower, Sandford Church

We are delighted the scaffolding is now down. Safety work on coping stones on the Tower, together with an overdue refurbishment "told the knell" of an expensive project!



Our thanks to PR Alcock for completing the work within the original timeframe in these difficult times. Also, a most generous anonymous donation, grants from Oxford Historic Churches and All Churches Trusts means the Tower at Martin's once again shines out as a beacon in the village. The Church is now open daily during daylight hours.

Our rota of regular services is published on our website and noticeboards, or you can contact Jane for information (details below).

## Stay up to date with news of services and events

If you would like to be added to our weekly Notice Sheet email list, please send an email to: [enquiries@bartonbenefice.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@bartonbenefice.org.uk)

Please do contact us at any time if we can be of help or provide you with information about services and activities in the benefice.

The Rev'd Jane Wright, Rector of the Barton Benefice

Tel: 01869 340510/ [clergy@bartonbenefice.org.uk](mailto:clergy@bartonbenefice.org.uk)

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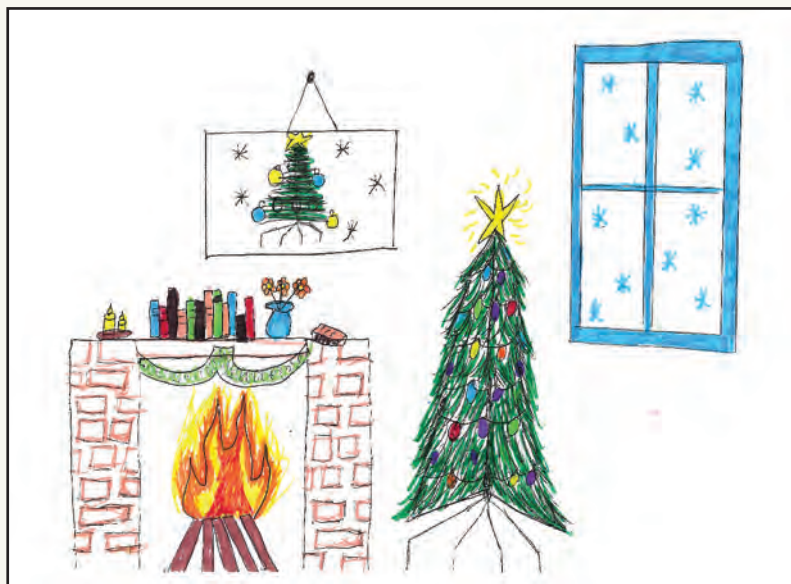
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## Christmas Tree Lighting

Kate Carter-Windle writes:



The lighting of the Bartons' Christmas tree, which is now in its 6th year, was such a magical evening in the snow. A true winter wonderland, and the children had a ball. The Pre-school were responsible for the excellent pulled-pork baps, delicious mulled wine, hot chocolate with all the trimmings, and superb mince pies. The delightful Lily Reed, winner of the poster competition, pushed the button after the traditional and loud countdown. The wonderful Bel Canto sung before the switching on, and the fabulous Sue Greenway played her Sax dressed as Mother Christmas after the switch on. Thanks to all those who attended and supported this event. As next year is the very special and extraordinary jubilee for the Queen, and for

most of us a once in a lifetime event, we may add to the celebrations. So watch this space; we will really light up the Bartons. Many thanks to Brian Wood, the Fleming Estate, and of course the Christmas Angels who help every year to make all this possible. Special thanks to Victor who, for six years, has delivered our tree.



# 1st Bartons Scout Group

*Jill Elliot writes:*

As a regular reader you will know what great fun the children and adults have in this thriving local group. If you would to join us why not come along to a few meetings and see for yourself? Please get in touch with Anne. We'd love to see you there! [anne.scouts2020@gmail.com](mailto:anne.scouts2020@gmail.com).

## Beavers

*Sarah Elliot writes:*

The beavers took part in their first night hike around Enstone. They walked a circular route and had to look out for CDS which had letters to try work out a word. It was an evening full of fun finishing with Hot Chocolate and biscuits outside. Stanley has successfully completed his Chief Scout Bronze Award which is the top badge for Beavers and has moved up to Cubs.

## Cubs

*Anne Barras writes:*

Again, another action-packed term at Group. Cubs were working on a new badge skills badge which involved all sorts of activities including designing our own cub currency. Alas we didn't attend the Remembrance Day service at Steeple Barton church this year as a Group but we all painted poppies on stones which were on display within the church and also made cards with our thoughts on remembrance. The cubs performed campfire sketches for parents which were very good and funny with lots of lovely feedback from parents. Once again, the Group have cleared leaves from the Westcott Barton church yard and the Barton Christmas Card delivery service was back.

Three cubs also achieved the highest awards in cubs, their Chief Scout Silver Award, so well done Sam, Katie and Alex. Tom Ward our Young Leader has achieved his Young Leader Award and we are hoping that he will soon be joining us as an adult Leader when he turns 18.

## Scouts

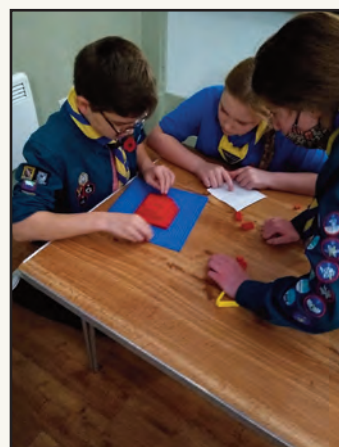
*Chris Brock writes:*



The Scouts have continued to be busy in the Alice Marshall Hall and enjoying the break from being exposed to all weathers.



Notable recent meetings were our international meeting where we made Tan Yuan which are little sticky rice dough balls (not the tastiest treat any of us have encountered but would probably be better if included with some soup) and a meeting where we learned about



map contours using Lego and painted pebbles for Remembrance Sunday. We've also looked at other things as diverse as identifying electronic components and discussing how boats float. At this time of year, we are always aware that the weather can be an issue, but we are intending to get out for another hike before the snow hits and lots more besides!



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## Duns Tew W.I. News

Mary Gregory writes:

After what has been a (sometimes) challenging year for us all I would like to start by wishing all readers

A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

as we start 2022. So, what are our plans – well starting with January...

**SOMETHING'S A FOOT - REFLEXOLOGY**  
(or zone therapy)



A term many have heard of BUT never tried. Have you ever wanted to know more about this alternative medical practice involving the application of pressure points to specific points on the feet and hands?

If so why not come along to our Meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm at the Duns Tew Village Hall when BETH ASTLE will be giving a talk and demonstration.

For February we have an 'INVASION OF BEETLES'



Not literally – we are holding a BEETLE DRIVE, an old favourite and a simple game requiring only paper, pencils and dice. A great inclusive game which provides a way to enjoy each other's company and make new friends. If you have never played why not come along and find out how much fun and laughter happens.

Interested, curious, our Meeting will be on 8<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30 pm in the Duns Tew Village Hall. Your only challenge will be the first to complete a drawing of a Beetle.

Finally, I am pleased to note we have several new members however we are always open to more. So have you recently moved to the area and thinking maybe it would be nice to meet new people and make new friends, we are a very welcoming group. Why not pluck up the courage and come and join us and find we are not just 'Jam and Jerusalem'. If you would like further details or any information please contact - MARY GREGORY on 01869 347021 or via my email on

[mary.gregory@btinternet.com](mailto:mary.gregory@btinternet.com)

## Friends of Oxfordshire Museum

David Wharton writes:

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022 7.30pm – David Juler - 'Museum of Oxford: Recent refurbishment, acquisitions and attractions'.**

The Museum of Oxford, on St. Aldates road Oxford, which first opened in 1975 has recently re-opened following a £2.8m refurbishment, trebling in size. The spruced-up galleries include sections on the Romans and Anglo-Saxons, the first Cowley factory workers, the , and the inspiration behind Alice in Wonderland, Alice Liddell. David Juler is Museum Development Officer at Oxford City Council. The Talk will be a Zoom talk only.



**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2022 7.30pm – Professor Malcolm Airs OBE: 'The Settlement and History of Nuneham Courtney in Oxfordshire'**

Friends' Talks are free to all Friends of the Oxfordshire Museum. Friends with e-mail will be sent a reminder of the Talk one week beforehand and will receive the Zoom link 24 hours beforehand. Tickets to the Talk for non-Friends can be purchased for £5 by e-mailing

[contact@friendsoftom.org.uk](mailto:contact@friendsoftom.org.uk) or calling 01993 813108. Annual Friends' memberships may also be purchased for £15/£25 (single/double).

### SPOT THE DIFFERENCE ANSWERS



## District Councillor Report

*Councillor Dave Jackson writes:*

One thing that has become increasingly obvious to me during the awful time of the pandemic, is the crucial role that the local authority can play in protecting the most vulnerable in our society.



WODC are once again enlisting the help of the Citizens Advice Bureau to distribute financial help for those residents struggling to afford life's essentials over this winter. In particular, the impact of the steep rise in energy bills is meaning that some families are having to make drastic choices whether they can keep their homes warm, or sacrifice other priorities.

Funds to help struggling families could be available via the C.A.B. Make enquiries at [info@citizensadvicewestoxon.org.uk](mailto:info@citizensadvicewestoxon.org.uk) or ring 01993 892063. Funds are NOT restricted to people in receipt of benefits.

If you need any more advice or help, please get in touch with me, and I will see if I can be of assistance. Every year at this festive period, I feel

so grateful that I live a stable and comfortable life, when I see all around in the news the genuine struggles that so many families face.

It is also gratifying in these times of financial constraints, that WODC are still able to offer 'Community Grants' to local organisations. You may recall that the Alice Marshall Hall received such a grant last year to help pay for the splendid refurbishment.

Another new type of grant from WODC has been brought to my attention, called a 'Community Action Grant', of up to £500. The criteria is to facilitate projects that 'foster community cohesion, build relationships, and organize activities that benefit health and wellbeing'. Again, please get in touch if this may be of interest.

Any application for a community grant has to be submitted around February time. If you are involved in a local organization that has a particular project in the pipeline, and think there may be a chance of some financial help, please get in touch with me. There is no guarantee, but one thing is for sure...If you don't ask, you won't get!

[skellgilldave@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:skellgilldave@yahoo.co.uk), tel: 07407 443944

*Darren Bullock writes:*

## Barton Abbey Gardens

January and February can be two of the longest, darkest months of the year in a garden. The sparkle and excitement (perhaps) of Christmas has faded and for most of us all that is left of the festive season is a semi-bald Christmas tree flung in the back garden where it awaits its imminent demise at the local tip...sorry recycling centre! But why not give it a new lease of life? It is not just us humans who might find these months a little difficult just think of how our feathered friends a fairing!

Many years ago I remember watching a feature on 'Blue Peter' when we were all encouraged not to burn our old trees in our back gardens (how times have changed) but to temporarily plant or stick our trees in our gardens and to use them to hang bird feeders on. Some of you may be thinking that I have gone completely mad but just imagine you could thread monkey nuts together, just to clarify these are peanuts still in their shells, to create natural edible swags, fat balls for baubles, bird feeders hung on the stronger branches the list goes on. Also

it may just provide some shelter for some of our smaller birds.

I am certainly not suggesting you keep the tree in your garden all year but just for those first few difficult months. Who knows good old Leslie, John and Peter's idea may just be a life saver for many a feathered friend.

From all of the team here at the Abbey have a very happy and, fingers crossed, a healthy New Year.





## News from Facebook

Kat Day Writes:

After last year's quiet, the Middle Barton Locals Facebook Group has been buzzing with news of events recently. It seems a long time ago now, but the village pulled out all the stops for Halloween this year, with many households going above and beyond to produce truly spooktacular displays! (see page 6) And, in case that wasn't enough, we also had news of Middle Barton Drama Group's creepy 'Tales from Studio 13' (for more see page 13).

In November it was lovely to see that the Fox had reopened, and to see posts from locals enjoying the village pub. We've also had several photos with stories from the past, prompting many to share their memories.

As always, the Facebook group has been a useful place to talk about local issues, from lost pets to

road closures to stray shop alarms! However, please do remember that Facebook isn't for urgent issues: crimes, in particular, should always be reported to the police (101, or 999 if there's immediate danger).

As usual, we've had people looking for recommendations – everything from carpenters to window cleaners – updates from local businesses, people selling things, and even things being given away. If you haven't found us yet, please come and join in!

[www.facebook.com/groups/mbllgroup](https://www.facebook.com/groups/mbllgroup)

(Note that joiners must answer the membership questions.)

## Update from Councillor Andy Graham

I am happy to report that I have secured the funding of Section 106 money to contribute to the reducing speed scheme from 30mph to 20mph. This will significantly support a



more permanent solution to the speeding traffic along this busy road, and give priority to safety and particularly the impact it has had on so many residents.

Officers have been working with the speed watch group and the parish council in drawing up the scheme. We are now awaiting costs before deciding how best to implement within a reasonable time frame. This is another example of community engagement with an enormous voluntary effort. I will be officially endorsing my support to this excellent work.

The work done in clearing the River Dorn has been a herculean communal effort. I have escalated the requests for OCC this week to clear the silt, soil and growing vegetation in Mill Lane either side of The Dorn to complete this important work.

The Homes to Schools policy is being reviewed and a deep dive into the issues will be undertaken. This affects many children and parents in the village

particularly those who are put in the difficult position of losing their free schools entitlements because of not choosing their closest school as first preference. There are also mapping/route issues and having sufficient capacity to get children to school. Once dates have been set for this, I will be calling on residents who have contacted me to verify the issues so we can make some headway in finding a solution.

### Sandford St Martin

Finally, we are reaching a conclusion to the flooding mitigation measures needed in the centre of the village. We are expecting the final works to be undertaken in January/February 2022. Thanks again to the landowners partnering up to make this happen and the officers at OCC who I brought into solving this problem. It will make a significant difference to the lives of people who have been affected by this in the past.

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# Dates for the Diary



## January 2022

- 11<sup>th</sup> Tues**      **W.I.**  
Duns Tew Village Hall, 7:30pm  
Event: Reflexology with Beth Astle  
Contact: Jenny Jackson,  
01869 340759
- 13<sup>th</sup> Thurs**      **The Bartons and Woodstock Walking Group**  
Meet at 10am. Various Venues.  
Contact: David Wharton -  
[david@thistledome.net](mailto:david@thistledome.net)
- 15<sup>th</sup> Sat**      **Abilene County Music Club**  
Sports & Social Club, 8pm  
Featuring: Steve Lovett
- 17<sup>th</sup> Mon**      **Steeple Barton Parish Council**  
Alice Marshall Hall, 8pm

## February 2022

- 8<sup>th</sup> Tues**      **W.I.**  
Duns Tew Village Hall, 7:30pm  
Event: Social Evening  
Contact: Jenny Jackson,  
01869 340759
- 10<sup>th</sup> Thurs**      **The Bartons & Woodstock Walking Group**  
Various venues, meet at 10am  
Contact: David Wharton,  
[david@thistledome.net](mailto:david@thistledome.net)
- 19<sup>th</sup> Sat**      **Abilene County Music Club**  
Sports & Social Club, 8pm  
Featuring: Dorne Valley
- 21<sup>st</sup> Mon**      **Steeple Barton Parish Council**  
Alice Marshall Hall, 8.00pm



## Farmers' Markets

**Banbury:** 1<sup>st</sup> Fri of the month, 8.30–1.30pm  
**Bicester:** every Fri, 9.00–4.30pm  
**Chipping Norton:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat of the month,  
8.30–1.30pm  
**Deddington:** 4<sup>th</sup> Sat of the month,  
9.00–12.30pm  
**Kidlington:** every Fri and Sat, 9.00–4.30pm  
**Summertown:** every Sun, 10.00–2.00pm  
**Woodstock:** 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat of the month,  
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