



Issue Number 160

November/December 2020

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

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**Cover photo: The Fox Inn during the
heavy rainfall in October**

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the next (January/February)
DFP?**

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From the Editor

Each of the three editors here at the Dorn Free Press have full responsibility for one issue every six months, and the last time it was my turn, the coronavirus pandemic had just begun to hit.

I remember it well: for a while we wondered if we would get anything out at all. However, as regular readers will know, we did put together a full issue, and we published it electronically. We even managed a small print run for those that struggle with online access. And we did the same for the following two issues. (Please see our updated T&Cs on page 2.)

But now, hurrah, we're — hopefully! — back in print! Of course, things are far from the way they were, but we have all, perhaps, adapted to different ways of doing things: facemasks, zoom calls, social distancing and a bit less forward planning in general.

Some of that is reflected in this issue. Traditionally, this November/December issue would be full of Christmas-related dates for the diary, but this year things are quieter as people watch and wait. There's hope for the future, though. We've had a tuck shop at the park, the Scouts have a new portacabin, and the church is hoping to have not one, but two, choirs!

So from all of us at the Dorn Free Press, stay safe, stay well, and let's hope 2021 brings some good things!

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Afternoon Tea in the Park!

Andrea McStocker writes:

A massive thank you to all that came to Afternoon Tea / Picnic in the Park on the August bank holiday Monday. A brilliant time was had by all, and the food was delicious.



We must also say a huge thank you to all our helpers, we wouldn't have been able to do it without you. Thank you to Tanya Southam, Sheena Hinton, Becky Bishop, Caitie Galbraith, Julianne Hall, Sarah Shorley and Lynn Benfield.



Don't forget that the tuck shop is still running. The kids are loving visiting independently as it is a safe distance from the park. We would be able to open more often on sunny afternoons if we had more helpers. Please contact me (Andrea) on 07879617863 if you are able to help.

SpeedWatch

Brian McKeown writes:

Our Speed Radar system was displayed at Middle Barton Primary School on Friday 25th September in an effort to try to recruit additional volunteers from the parents and carers depositing their children at the gates.

As this article was written the day before (the 24th), I can't tell you how successful a recruitment drive it was, but fingers crossed! The more volunteers we have to call upon, the more frequently we can take the kit out and the smaller the burden will be on any individual in the pool of volunteers.

In future, I hope that articles about your Community SpeedWatch will detail the positive impact we are having, rather than merely appealing for additional hands: we can never have too many volunteers! Any article you see is an appeal for your assistance, whether or not it directly references that. My contact details are **brian.j.mckeown@gmail.com** (please put 'speedwatch' in the title) and **07766 004577**.



We had so much fun doing it, and had so many compliments! Everyone had a fantastic day! We even delivered to some who were self isolating and it made their day.

We raised a massive £431 for The Barton Victory Memorial Hall. This will go towards supporting and maintaining the hall through these tough times.

Karen Brown writes:

Greetings to all from Middle Barton Drama Group. We are missing you all, as our lovely audience and, of course, we are missing each other and the buzz you get from working on a play.

However, we have not been idle these last few months! Mike, our chairman, has been putting 'Lockdown Special' photos of our many past productions on Facebook and Email. We hope you have enjoyed seeing them, and it has been interesting watching ourselves age!

We have also had several online meetings and play-readings via Zoom (which I, for one, had never heard of before the lockdown!), which is helping us plan for future activities and productions whenever we are able to start rehearsing and performing again.

We are intrigued to see how the renovations to the Alice Marshall Hall will affect our future productions. This is very exciting, and we are so glad, for all hall users, that the work has been able to go ahead during the lockdown.

We are always eager to welcome new members to Drama Group, whether to go on stage, or help in the many support roles backstage. If you think this might appeal to you at all, please get in touch with Mike, our chairman (mcherbert2@outlook.com, 01993 775702), or with me (01869 347601 brown@jpandkbrown.plus.com). We would love to hear from you.



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Friends of the Oxfordshire Museum

David Wharton writes:

Join the Friends Zoom talk on **Wednesday November 4th at 7.30 pm** and hear about life in Oxford over 1000 years ago. Ruth Buckley will talk about the history of the town's foundation, its Anglo-Saxon period and its life under Alfred the Great. E-mail **contact@FriendsOfTom.org.uk** for a visitor invitation (free). An example of early work from this period can be found in the Anglo-Saxon gallery in the Museum:



The photo shows a West Hanney Brooch, found in a high-status female burial site of around 650 AD. It is a composite disc brooch of copper alloy, garnets and gold foil, with some repair work evident.

The December Zoom talk will be on **Wednesday December 2nd at 7.30pm** when art-historian, Dr Alice Foster, will present her favourite Christmas art-works and paintings. Tickets on application as above.

Our last Zoom talk was on September 7th and was much appreciated. Friends enjoyed seeing each other 'on screen' and our Director, Carol Anderson, presented a fascinating and illustrated talk on the history of Fletcher's House and the evolution of the Museum in Woodstock.

Not many of us knew that the garden sculpture, 'Spirit of Audrey' was created and donated by the sculptor, John Kennedy, to celebrate the

work of film-star, Audrey Hepburn, as a UNICEF ambassador. The original is in New York and John, who loved the Museum and its gardens, created another copy specially for the Oxfordshire Museum. Entrance is free.



Please consider becoming a Friend of your local Museum for only £15 pa. (£25 for couples). Benefits are 10% discount on purchases in the Museum café and shop, frequent newsletters, and the full programme of talks and trips. Not to mention the satisfaction of helping to keep the Museum and its Gardens close to the Bartons in Woodstock.

For more information, e-mail **contact@FriendsOfTom.org.uk** or go to our website: **www.FriendsOfTom.org.uk**

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Katharine House Collection

Kay and Carol Stewart write:

We are still collecting stamps for Katharine House. If you have any stamps, from any country, used or unused, on letters, postcards whatever, please bring them to Middle Barton Stores who have kindly agreed to collect them for us. It is a wonderful charity and every little helps. Thanks from Kay and Carol Stewart.



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Middle Barton School

Pupils Neve Barratt & Isabella Webb write:



Our wellbeing assemblies are active and creative, we discuss how being outside can help almost anything and can improve your mood. Since we have been back at school, all of our classes have had at least one assembly in our forest school or eco classroom. Mrs Horner has been holding these assemblies and we have all made something to remind us to go outside for good mental health. We only used natural resources to help the environment.



We also play outside and find bugs - even the teachers joined in!

We talked about what we could make and how we will be helping the world by using natural resources.



We loved doing this and hope to do it again. We had fun and learnt how being outside can help with positive mental health as well as making friends - which is good!

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



www.middlebartonschool.org

Book Review: A Boy in the Girls' Bathroom

Afia Osei-Bempong, age 10, writes:

What I liked about A Boy in the Girls' Bathroom, by Louis Sachar, was that it showed courage and bravery. Bradley Chalkers was a good guy underneath, but he just needed a friend so he could open up to them. That's what Carla did. Carla helped Bradley in so many ways, as she helped him have a growth mindset and to think for himself. I disliked some of the characters in the book, like Jeff's friends,

because some of them were mean and hurtful. That doesn't mean I didn't like the book; I actually loved the book, not only the writing but the story that was told.



Cover image reproduced with kind permission of Bloomsbury Children's Books

From the Editor: we'd love to make this a regular feature! Please send your book reviews to editor@dornfreepress.com — all ages and types of book welcome!

FOMBS News: Running Track

Wendy Denby writes:

At last, after much work by the FOMBS team and many generous donations, we're pleased to announce that our school running track is installed and in use! Described as 'very bouncy', the all-



weather surface is already being enjoyed by the children in their PE lessons and at break times. The track was installed by Eco Surface, a local company, and is made from recycled forklift truck tyres which have never been on the roads and are therefore unpolluted. Safer for the children, better for the environment!

If not for the Covid-19 restrictions, we would have invited the school and wider community for a 'grand opening'. Alas, this is not currently possible so, meanwhile, FOMBS are using the track for an internal school Sponsored Run. Pupils remain in class 'bubbles', but as well as having fun and getting exercise, they'll be collecting sponsorship. The money raised will be dedicated to equipment and supplies for Forest School and Outdoor Learning to ensure that every child gets the maximum benefits of a safe and healthy outdoor education.

FOMBS would like to thank:- The Ammco Trust, Morrells Farming Ltd, The HDH Wills Trust, The PF Charitable Trust, The Robert and Margaret Moss Charitable Trust, The Henry Meads Charity, Evenlode Investment Management, The Bartlett Taylor Charitable Trust, and all those families and individuals who also contributed — it is very much appreciated!

With any luck the situation will improve enough to allow villagers to see and use the running track. FOMBS and the school will be making the most of this new facility — thank you!

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Dave Jackson (OSPREY), assistant Beaver Scout Leader, writes:

We were delighted that under the guidance from the Scout Association, we were able to recommence Beavers in September. Meetings have to be outdoors, so the programme has had to be carefully thought out to minimize social contact and the sharing of equipment.

We welcomed 10 brand new Beavers at our second meeting, and they all seemed to settle in splendidly, learning about the Beavers law and promise, and following a village trail to find 14 clues.

At the time of writing, our meetings up to half term are covering aspects of map recognition and the teamwork challenge badge. Meeting at 5 o'clock, means that we can still do these things in relative daylight, but the possibility of bad weather would normally scupper the planned activities. So we came up with the idea of erecting our scout marquee (minus the sides), in our back paddock for three weeks. It would be a crying shame if the enthusiasm of the new Beavers was thwarted because we had to cancel the planned activities.

Thinking of activities in the dark after half term is going to be quite a challenge, if we are not allowed to meet indoors.

Chris Brock, 1st Bartons Scout Leader, writes:

At the start of 2020 the 1st Bartons Scout Group was fortunate enough to be donated a portacabin to replace the old, leaky garage in a small compound off the Sports and Social Club field that we have been using for more than 20 years to store equipment. Leaders, parents and Scouts alike set to the mammoth task of demolishing the old garage structure and levelling the site. At that time, we couldn't transport the portacabin across the soft ground, so we were very grateful that the Sports and Social Club allowed us to store the cabin on the carpark while we waited for the weather to improve.

In that time, the coronavirus pandemic took hold and non-essential activities had to be suspended which meant the portacabin was on the carpark for somewhat longer than anticipated. Fortunately, during the summer we have been able to get it relocated to the compound, and even (just in time for the nights to draw in) get some lighting installed so we don't have to always keep the door open if we're trying to sort through equipment. Once some of the current restrictions are lifted we will be getting a group of Scouts together to give the whole cabin a well-deserved coat of paint as we realise it looks a little tatty in places. The whole Scout Group is really grateful to everyone involved in making this a successful transition and the new store should keep everything safe and dry for many years to come.

Also at the start of 2020, the Scout Troop was just finishing work on the Astronautics badge (no, not going into orbit but looking at forming craters, the effects of gravity and aerodynamics as they apply to rockets). Apart from some weekend activities such as the district swimming gala and the Monopoly Run around London, next on the programme was preparation for a patrol camp in the spring, combined with an expedition for a group of the older Scouts but just before we were due to head off, the coronavirus lockdown was brought in and all face to face Scouting activities had to be cancelled.



, Scouts & Cubs



Scouts are always resilient in the face of a challenge and after a number of weeks where we had managed to take part in 'walking to the moon', and a weekend camp where everyone was in their own garden, we were able to get together virtually using Zoom. Zoom Scout meetings are not quite like normal meetings but they can be a lot of fun and we were able to cover almost all the requirements of the Chef badge, and practice some campsite-friendly recipes (cake in a mug, cooked in a saucepan of water is one that springs to mind). The final part of the badge was to cook their family a two-course meal and do all the washing up, which most of the Troop did during our summer break.

Now that the autumn term has started we have been able to meet as a Troop once more, albeit outside and being careful to maintain social distancing – which doesn't always come easily to some of the Scouts. At the moment we are working towards the Skills challenge which means all the Scouts have to learn / demonstrate various practical skills as well as developing problem solving in a range of activities. Being Scouts we're also going to be out and about hiking and orienteering. For the time being our meetings will be done outside so if the weather turns against us too much we may need to break out the Zoom meetings once again, but you can be sure the Scouts will make the best of whatever situation they find themselves in.

Anne Barras, Group Scout Leader, adds:

The cubs have started working on their athletics badge learning about warming up before activities and then warming down afterwards. We have done lots of jumping, running, throwing and even an egg and spoon race. The cubs had to concentrate when throwing and catching an egg - having suitably sanitized both egg and cub before commencement.

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News from Barton Abbey

Head Gardener, Darren Bullock

As a gardener I've learnt over the years to plan ahead. I am always thinking about where and what we need to be doing in the gardens at the Abbey in the coming weeks and months. During these very testing times having that opportunity to plan for the future and, hopefully, better times is one of the many positive benefits about horticulture.

The new seed catalogues are already on my office (shed) desk, and these give us a great planning opportunity for next year. One of the areas of the kitchen garden that we are keen to alter next year is the humble salad section.

For years now we have grown several varieties of lettuce. We sow four varieties every six weeks sowing just a pinch of each in small pots, and when germinated pricking six seedlings of each variety into one standard sized seed tray. These are eventually planted out and, by sowing ever six weeks, our aim is to achieve a good succession of lettuce. That's the intention but sadly it never seems to work as we always end up with too many!



So this year we have had a small trial comparing the benefits of lettuce to salad leaf mixes. We have grown Sutton's mixes including french mix, Italian mix, spicy mix and oriental wonders mix. Short rows were sown every four weeks.

Each one performed well with the French mix having the best all round flavour. We really enjoyed these, they grew quickly and we had two to three pickings of each before they bolted and set seed. However

the real winners were the showings of the lettuce mixed salad leaves. We used Sutton's "lettuce mix" and Wilko's "red leaves mix". Our first sowings were made in March and we were still picking from these in August. They never bolted unlike our usual lettuce, and if we had too much we simply cut them back lightly and within a week or two we were picking again.

All of these salad mixes are ideal for container growing. At home I have grown them in old buckets, cardboard boxes and old Quality Street tins with added drainage holes. Is this the end of the humble lettuce being grown at the Abbey? I think not. All we shall do is lengthen the period between sowing them and plug any gaps with the salad mix.



2020 has been a year like no other and looking back we are so happy to be reaching its end! It has been quite a journey and one that I'm so pleased to have shared with the team here: Wendy, Karl and Radu. We have had many ups and downs along the way so, to the three of them: thank you for your hard work, dedication and your company.

From all of us here at the Abbey stay safe, and here's to a better 2021



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Come on, light my fire!

Bernadette Balfe writes:

Winter has arrived. Being outdoors holds little attraction in the evening and we become stay-at-homes. But you can be sure, there are some compensations to not going out!

The glow of a wood-burning fire is a welcome sight during the winter months. The sight of flickering and dancing flames, the crack and pop of burning wood and best of all the delicious aroma of woodsmoke all help to dispel the gloomy darkness outside.

It is very helpful to know the type of wood your logs have been chopped from and they generally fall into two categories: hardwood and softwood. One is good for starting your fire and the other for creating a longer, hotter blaze.

The Firewood Poem by Lady Celia Congreve, published in the *Times* in 1930, remains as accurate today as it was then in her understanding of the virtues and the dangers of using different types of wood. Some she recommends are ash, which is “fit for a queen with a golden crown”, while Elm wood “burns like churchyard mould” but, she enthuses, best of all are apple and pear wood which will scent your room, “like flowers in bloom”.



It is true that some wood should never be used as it can produce toxins that are harmful to breathe. So, burn nothing with the word poison in its name such as Poison Ivy or Poison Oak. Nor burn driftwood because it holds dioxin which is toxic to humans. It is not recommended either to burn your Christmas tree as an abundance of dry needles can rise up to cause a chimney fire, while the wood is heavy with sap that forms a poisonous creosote. Burning plywood or chipboard is also a bad idea as they are formed from high strength adhesive which becomes toxic when burned.

The most important factor in ensuring you have the best of fires is to prepare your wood well, and start this in the summer months. Wood must be well-

seasoned so that the water content is reduced. This can be done naturally by cutting the logs into fire-sized pieces, stacking them and keeping them as dry as possible. Use an old pallet as a base and then ensure that one side of your stack is open, but in the dry. When building a wood-pile start at the edges and work inwards. Build layers by keeping the logs level and create corners by laying the edge logs at right angles like the brickwork of a house. A carefully and perfectly stacked woodpile is a beautiful thing to behold and very satisfying to achieve!



The aim of stacking wood is to reduce the water content to less than 20%. This can take several years. For example willow, which likes to grow in very damp conditions, naturally absorbs and holds a lot of water and it take up to three years to season — you can't rush the process!

Birch wood produces a good heat although it burns quickly. Its bark can be peeled off and used as a firelighter and it will even light unseasoned — but the sap can cause a build-up of deposits in your flue or chimney. Thank goodness we've learned not to send small boys up chimneys to clean them! These days you just need an appointment with a friendly sweep who uses a type of vacuum cleaner for the job and may look as clean at the end of the day as they were at the beginning.

Now for the exciting bit — build your fire. Start with some loosely rolled newspaper at the bottom. Not too much — about two sheets will do. Don't bother with magazines (or the last DFP!) as they don't burn well because of their printing ink. Next add some kindling in no particular pattern, then the logs: small ones first and a good sized one across the top. A box of long matches is handy.

Light a corner of your paper, pull up a chair, kick off your shoes, dim the lights and enjoy the cosiest moment of the day. Winter is not so bad after all.

Duns Tew W.I. News

Mary Gregory writes:



I begin this article with both good, and less than good, news. The good is that after months of being in limbo our Group was finally able to meet again in September observing all the Covid-19 Health guidelines.

Fourteen of our members felt comfortable enough to return and, following discussion of a small amount of business to keep all up to date, it was lovely just being able to chat, exchange thoughts, ideas and experiences. Above all, it was wonderful to see people again who, probably like me, have been fairly isolated.

Unfortunately, on the downside, the day after our long awaited get-together, the Government announced further restrictions preventing social gatherings of more than six individuals. At present the guidelines are somewhat confusing but we are trying to work our way through the paperwork, so, at the time of writing this article, we have no news as to when we can hold our next meeting.

In the meantime our Federation, OFWI, is still publishing their monthly newsletter and providing on-line talks and courses – they are even intending to hold our Annual Council Meeting via Zoom, which should be interesting! The National Federation are also working hard behind the scenes to ensure that whilst the Women's Institute Movement appears to be sleeping, it is still a very much alive and well.

So please, when all returns to some sort of normal life, think about joining us to make new friends, learn new skills, take part and, as always, eat cake. If you have any queries, or are just a little hesitant, why not give me a call, Mary on **01869 3470212** or e-mail **mary.gregory@btinternet.com**. You can also find more information about our Federation at **www.oxfordshirewi.co.uk**

Pre-School Committee

Katy Barrow-Grint writes:

The children are all settling back into the new normal at pre-school, and we welcome all our new families. The main topic this term will be 'All about me'!

During the summer holidays we had the exterior of the building and fences painted so pre-school now looks very smart. In September we held our AGM and a new committee was formed. We would like to say a big thank you to the outgoing committee for everything they have done for the pre-school and welcome our new committee for 2020/21.

We are very aware of the need to care for our environment and we work hard to minimise our use of plastic packaging (including in the children's lunchboxes). We have finished the display that the children started last year (see photo).



Thanks to all those who collected them for the display, but the staff never want to see another plastic bottle top!

We still have spaces available at pre-school for children from the age of two. Please email **middlebartonpreschool@hotmail.co.uk** for more details.



Chess problem No. 32
In this week's puzzle, what is the best move for Black?
Answer on p. 20

Do you know the Fishman?

Emma Belcher writes:

Apparently not many people do. Unless you happen to be hurtling up South Street on a Wednesday early morning school run, you may not be aware of our weekly visitor.

Mr William Hill (yes that threw me the first time I saw it on my card statement) visits Middle Barton and the surrounding villages with his fish van all the way from Grimsby. His visits came about courtesy of Anna Horn who would visit Mr Hill for her fish at Eynsham market. As we went into lockdown and open markets became a temporary thing of the past he offered to come, literally, to her door. So thanks to Anna he can now be found at the top of South Street, junction with Mill Lane, every Wednesday for about half an hour from 8.15am.



From a Dressed Crab to a Scallop, Haddock to Halibut or Finest Sashimi Tuna and much much more.

Not only does Mr. Hill have a wide range of fish in the back of his iced van, he also offers really good advice on what to DO with fish which is very helpful if you're a bit like me, and the most you have managed to do recently is open a can of tuna or a box of fishfingers.

The first week I treated myself to some jumbo prawns which he suggested I warm lightly with some melted butter and garlic. Shamefully, I couldn't even be bothered to do that and dipped them into a jar of mayonnaise thinking how a glass of rose would wash them down nicely. But perhaps not advisable given this was a Wednesday lunchtime and I was working from home.

If you are after something less indulgent and more family orientated, how about going for the cod or haddock which Mr Hill suggests you cut into slices and coat in tempura batter. I found actually that crushed cornflakes work just as well and got a resounding thumbs up from the children. Simply coat your fish pieces in flour, dip in beaten egg, cover in crushed up cornflakes, drizzle with a bit of olive oil for extra crunch and bung in the oven for about 20 – 25 minutes. If you are thinking this sounds a little bit like fishfingers you could pick up from any favourite supermarket, you wouldn't be far wrong, but at least you can tick that domestic god/goddess box and congratulate yourself on cooking from scratch. Above all the taste really does make a difference. The salmon is beautiful and I would highly recommend the mackerel. The kippers I understand have also gone down well and as an added bonus he also has a cooking solution to deal with the smell!

So why not give it a try? Maybe see you on South Street, next Wednesday at about 8.15am.



Linda Page, first customer of the day

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Church News

The Revd Jane Wright writes:

September and October had a slightly more normal feel about them, with indoor and outdoor services back in our parishes. Zoom services have also continued at 9.30 every Sunday morning. Harvest Festivals were held outdoors (Over Worton) and indoors (Steeple Barton), with produce and gifts being shared between Polly's work with homeless people in Banbury, and the North Oxfordshire Community Foodbank.

In mid-September, the sponsored Ride and Stride event took place. To all our riders and striders, congratulations on the miles covered and money raised. At the end of September an end of summer tidy-up in Steeple Barton churchyard was good fun and well supported. Thank you to everyone who supported these and other events.



Looking ahead, we are hoping events and services will be able to go ahead. We will follow all guidelines relating to Covid and, should things change, details will be posted on our Facebook page, website and notice boards. We need numbers in advance of services, so ask that you email us if you plan to attend on: **services@bartonbenefice.org.uk** or ring Jane (number at the end).

In November, All Souls Day is on Monday 2nd and our annual service will be in Steeple (not Westcote) Barton church. This service, starting at 3pm, remembers loved ones who have died.



If you would like a friend or relative's name read out in this service, please let Jane know by the end of October.

Remembrance Sunday is planned for 8th November at the Bartons Victory Memorial Hall. This begins at 10:50 and will be outside, by the new Memorial Garden.

We hope to hold our Advent Carol Service in Duns Tew Church as usual on Advent Sunday, 29th November at 5pm — subject to restrictions in place by then.

After the service, a special light show will take place in the churchyard. Please join us for what will be a wonderful occasion and “come into the light” of the Christmas period, as the side of the church building is bathed in light. This has been made possible by the generous loan of equipment from White Light Ltd **www.whitelight.ltd.uk** and the art and skill of professional Lighting Designer, Tony Simpson **www.tonysimpson.com** who lives in Duns Tew. Tony has a wealth of experience and we are immensely grateful to him for adding Duns Tew Church to his hectic schedule.

As I write, Christmas is still a good few weeks away. It is difficult to plan too far ahead at the moment, so details of all services will be advertised nearer the time.

Finally, choir – or choirs – news! In September we said a huge thank you to Trevor Daniels who retired from leading the Benefice Choir since 2012. Now we are planning ahead for when singing is permitted in our churches again... (see opposite!)



Once Covid restrictions permit, we'd like to be ready to start our new Church Choir(s) straight away.

We want to welcome children and young people as well as adults to make music at our services in all the different villages of our Benefice. So please get in touch if you are interested in: singing, accompanying, playing instruments or percussion — or just participating in any way at all!

We plan on offering uplifting modern music as well as ancient motets and time-honoured favourites. We are considering two sections — you could join either or both!

Worship & Children's Choir

For children and adults who would like to have fun and experiment with instruments, singing and modern worship music — it won't matter if you can't read music!

The Other Choir (name to be decided!)

For those who can read music and are willing to rehearse more regularly to sing sacred anthems and 'cathedral choir' type music — including singing a capella.

The choirs will support a different church each Sunday, usually at 9.30am or 11am. Our Bus Bartons will be available for transport for evening rehearsals if there is enough interest.

To register potential interest please email:

choir@bartonbenefice.org.uk
or ring Frances on **07880 518744**
or Clare on **01869 347382**

We hope lots of you will join us when the time eventually comes!

The Rev'd Jane Wright: **01869 340510**
clergy.bartonbenefice@outlook.com
www.bartonbenefice.org.uk
www.facebook.com/bartonbenefice





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Local Councillor Update

Councillor Dave Jackson writes:

In September important virtual meetings and discussions took place with WODC councillors and officials to consider radical changes to the planning system that the government are proposing. The White Paper, 'Planning for the Future', is wide-ranging and fairly complicated, so it would be impossible to give a detailed synopsis here, and indeed there are some aspects which are to be commended.



However the main tenure of the report is that more decision making will come from central government with some powers taken away from the local planning authorities.

It is proposed that Local Plans are stripped back to focus on identifying three types of land. 'Growth Areas' would be classified as being suitable for substantial development and outline planning permission would automatically be granted. 'Renewal Areas' would also be deemed to be suitable for development like expanding built-up areas, and again there would be a general assumption in favour of development. The designation of 'Protected Areas' would mean development proposals would come forward as they do now, through the normal planning applications.

The standardised approach of the first two categories across the whole country will inevitably mean that local priorities and needs are overlooked. It also means that local democratically elected members (like me), will have little say or control over what happens.

Another major area of concern is the proposal to effectively scrap the present way in which developers make contributions to vital infrastructure needs, through what is called S106 money, or a 'Community Infrastructure Levy'. This currently helps to pay for initiatives such as affordable homes, or traffic safety measures like those promised for Middle Barton

from the Mullins Museum proposal. Instead, there will be a nationally set tariff for such grants. Once again, the concern is that such decisions are being taken away from the local districts who arguably have a better understanding of where money could be spent.

It was significant that, at a fully attended meeting of the WODC Development Control Committee, where all three political parties and senior planning officers were present, there was not a single person who was in agreement with the drastic changes being proposed. The authority are hoping to enlist the support of our M.P. to press the case for reconsidering these proposals.

STOP PRESS! *Due to widespread concern it seems that the government are considering shelving these planning proposals in their present form. Watch this space!*

Dave Jackson, skellgilldave@yahoo.co.uk
07407 443944

Barton Youth

Bruce Norgrove writes:

When the Village Appraisal was formulated, the aim was to build a picture of the makeup, opinions and needs of all peoples' lives in the village. However, having looked at the vast amounts of data coming from the survey, it seems that the youth of the village seem to be acutely under-represented, under-served and perhaps a little bit under attack? Alongside our requirement for traffic calming measures, I'd argue that the wellbeing of young people is one of the core issues impacting our village.

When we talk about the 'youth' or 'young people', we mean people between the ages of 11 and 21, although we also need to understand the needs of the young adults of the village, specifically in relation to housing.

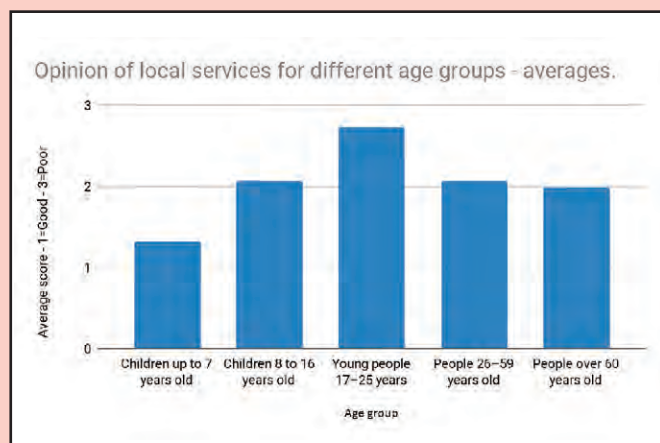
Our Village Appraisal results include responses from just 14 people in the 11-21 age group from a total of 362 participating, leaving

a very big gap in our knowledge of a large section of the village population. The 'young' represented less than 4% of survey opinion.

There is also little or no youth or young adult representation on the governing bodies or on the management committees that exist in the village, including those that manage the facilities they use.

The Village Appraisal also raised questions around the recreation services for teens and young adults. Across all age group opinion (not just young people), the general view seems to be that the local recreational services for the 17-25 age group were generally poor.

The data for the 11-16 age group are unclear as it was grouped in the 8-16 category (something we'd think about if we did the survey again today) but anecdotal evidence suggests this is the age where services drop off. Children aged up to 7 years old are well catered for but, as a village, we should do more for older children, teens and young adults.



A common theme in the housing section was the need for more affordable housing in the village. This is an area of concern we can't fully understand without the views of the people that will need access to this housing.

Wholly unfairly but not at all unsurprisingly, young people came up frequently in the crime and security section as a social concern. They were the only age group mentioned, particularly with drugs. Despite the fact that

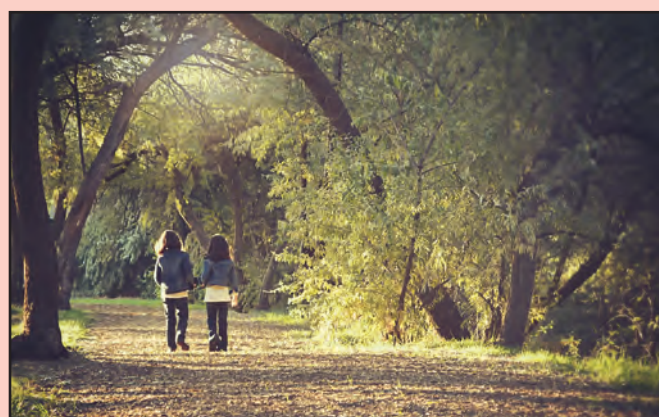
only one of the 79 recorded offences in the last 12 months was drug related (www.police.uk).

There is certainly an argument that young people are disproportionately blamed for crime in the village when the evidence would suggest it is a much more complicated picture. The demographics of our village (majority older or family based) might lead to a clichéd view that the youth are always causing mischief. As a community, we must confront this opinion head on.

I'd like to think that the Bartons are an inclusive place, and that we care about people of all ages, not least because many of us are related/know/care about young people personally. If people feel concerned or worried, then we should be doing more to understand how to address this.

It's clichéd but true: young people are our future. If we want to stay being a mixed, vibrant village with a mixed demographic, then we need to make sure the village is accessible and an attractive place to live for our young.

To solve the representation problem, we need to understand the young people of the village. In 2003, there was a youth appraisal and out of this came a renewed push for the youth club and other activities. We would like to start the process of conducting another youth survey so we can fill the holes that exist, both in recreational facilities and housing. Anyone that was involved with the original document or has a specific interest in this please contact me. (brucenorgrovesbpc@gmail.com)



News from Facebook

Kat Day writes:

The Middle Barton Locals Facebook group was a particularly useful resource early in October, when heavy rainfall led to flooding and a collapsed wall on the usual walking route to the school. It was really helpful to know where the problem areas were before we found ourselves at the edge of fast-flowing water!

There were some truly amazing photos too, with particularly notable shots from Elaine Argent (top below and front cover) and the DFP's own John Umney (bottom below).



Other recent posts have included information about COVID-19 and lockdown, including suggestions to put coloured pictures of pumpkins in windows for halloween, and pictures of poppies for Remembrance.

As usual, there have been lots of requests for recommendations, things being given away, and adverts from local businesses. Please do remember that there's a separate page, 'Middle Barton Private Sale Site', which is for private sales.

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: tinyurl.com/ugxkt4r

Farmers Markets

Most markets are open but may have fewer stalls than previously to limit the spread of Coronavirus. The dates and times advertised here are confirmed but may differ if rules for combatting the virus are changed.

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

Bicester: Fridays, 9.00 - 1.30pm

Chipping Norton: 3rd Saturday, 8.30-1.30pm

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.

For more information visit: www.tvfm.org.uk

Tel: 01235 227266

Answer to the chess puzzle no. 32

The danger is that Black can be mated if the e8 square is not doubly protected, but Black can safely capture the White Knight:

1.. Qb1+ then, whatever move White makes to get out of check, say 2.Kg2, is followed by...

2.. Qxb5. The e8 square remains doubly protected, and with the Knight gone there is no longer any danger of being mated.



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*Committee on Climate Change, February 2019