



Issue Number 169
May/June 2022

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

CONTENTS:

<i>From the Editor</i>	<i>p. 3</i>
<i>Bartons Victory Memorial Hall Fund</i>	<i>p. 4-5</i>
<i>W.I.</i>	<i>p. 6</i>
<i>Chess Problem & Wortons Litter Pick</i>	<i>p.7</i>
<i>MB Pre-school</i>	<i>p. 8</i>
<i>The Happy Gardener</i>	<i>p. 9</i>
<i>Gardens and AD&D Photographic</i>	<i>p. 10</i>
<i>Church Updates</i>	<i>p. 11</i>
JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS	p. 12-13
<i>Wordsearch & Drama Diary</i>	<i>p. 14</i>
<i>Bartons Scout Group</i>	<i>p. 15</i>
<i>News from Middle Barton School</i>	p. 16-18
<i>Councillor Reports</i>	<i>p. 20</i>
<i>Election Info and Rural Travel</i>	<i>p. 21</i>
<i>News From Facebook</i>	<i>p. 22</i>
<i>Dates for the Diary</i>	<i>p. 24</i>
<i>Wordsearch Solution</i>	<i>p. 24</i>
<i>Farmers' Markets & PYO</i>	<i>p. 24</i>



THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE 2022

See what our villages are up to on the centre pages!





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

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THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

2022



Hidden amongst this bumper issue are 15 crowns - can you find them all?
(Hint: they are not all the same size!)

Happy hunting!

From the Editor

Hello, and welcome to this special bumper issue of the Dorn Free Press! You might notice we have a few more pages this month, and that's partly because of all the fabulous content we have about the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. After all, it is a very special occasion – Her Majesty The Queen is the first British Monarch to celebrate 70 years of service to the people of the United Kingdom, the Realms and the Commonwealth. Take a look at our centre pages (pages 12–13) where you'll find details of all the events that are taking place to celebrate.

There are some other events coming up, too: on page 9 you'll find information about the upcoming Bowls Club Open Day, and on page 11 some information about the Duns Tew Church Fête.

Of course, we also have all our usual things! The children of Middle Barton School have been incredibly busy (see pages 16–18), as have the Scouts, Beavers and Cubs (page 15) and on page 21 you'll find information about the candidates for the local elections coming up on 5th May. And he may have left the Abbey, but he's still writing for us: look out for The Happy Gardener on page 9!

Enjoy the celebrations and fingers crossed for some sunny weather! — Kat

JOIN THE DFP TEAM!

Would you like to volunteer with the DFP?

We are seeking a new editor to join our team. It's an excellent chance to support a valuable local resource, get some editorial experience, and to meet new people! For more information, please email us at editor@dornfreepress.com

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. Many thanks – Kay and Carol Stewart.



Secretary Trevor Payne writes

Your playing fields: a brief history

Firstly, I would like to thank all those who responded positively to my article in the last DFP, particularly those who have made constructive suggestions for ways of increasing income, and those who have joined the club. I am aware that some of you are interested in knowing more about the playing fields, and in this article I will attempt to briefly summarise their history.

As mentioned last time, the Bartons Victory Memorial Hall Fund was set up at the end of the Second World War to provide a lasting and useful memorial to the residents of the two parishes who served their country in both world wars. The original intention of providing a village hall was changed, and the land for the playing fields was purchased in 1948. The conveyance, which is one of the governing documents of the fund, is dated 28th June 1948, and records the sale of two freehold closes of land by William John Constable to the Trustees: namely Major Phillip Fleming of Barton Abbey, Norman Henry Cross (farmer) of Church Farm, and Robert Jarvis (garage proprietor) of Steeple Barton. The land was purchased for £775 and was to be held for the benefit of the residents of the two parishes. An early development was the re-siting of the building used as the officer's mess on the wartime airfield at Hopcrofts Holt to the centre of the plot to be used as a pavilion. This building is still there as part of the Social Club Lounge Bar.

By 1970 there were a bowls green, a hard tennis court, some play equipment and facilities for football and cricket. The pavilion was also used for whist drives and other activities. Those of you that grew up in the Bartons in the 50s and 60s will know far more than me about the fêtes, matches and other activities that took place on the field. The fund was formally registered as a charity on 25th August 1970, and the land was vested with the Commissioner for Charities.

In the early seventies a group of residents got together with the aim of expanding the facilities

provided. In 1974 the veranda on the pavilion was enclosed and storage added to form the Social Club, which also hosted the Bartons Branch of the Royal British Legion. On 3rd August 1976 the trust deed, which is the other governing document for the fund, was enacted. Two of the named trustees – Norman Cross and Robert Jarvis – were the same, but Phillip Fleming was replaced by Robert Fleming (known to many of us as Robin), and he remained a trustee until 2018.



The Club rapidly become oversubscribed and it was clear that expansion was necessary, so three plots of land between the bowls club and Worton Road were sold to provide funds for a

community hall. This was opened in 1977 and appropriately named the Jubilee Room. In 1985 extra storage was added, and in 1990 the original building was clad in Bradstone. The separate Bowls Club building was completed in 1990. During this period the sloping field was also levelled to provide better football pitches. Most of the construction work described above was done by residents in their own time, so that the fund was only needed to pay for materials and professional fees. This tradition of volunteer labour goes on today: local tradespeople voluntarily carry out many of the day-to-day repairs, while bowls green maintenance, bin emptying, litter picking and other essential tasks are carried out by volunteers, not to mention all the administrative work associated with the three organisations.

More recent developments include the new play equipment purchased in 2004: this was sited at the top of the field and was largely replaced in 2011 by the playground you see today. The tennis court was refurbished and extended to become the MUGA in 2012. The Jubilee Room was extended in 2015 to provide public toilets, externally accessible changing rooms, disabled toilets and an extended kitchen. Since then, the Jubilee Room has had upgraded insulation, new heating, new furniture and redecoration. During lockdown, new carpet tiles (obtained free from a

Memorial Hall Fund



charitable organisation) were installed throughout the main building and some volunteers redecorated the lounge bar.

Most of these developments would not have been possible without the

support received from local councils, organisations such as Sport England & Viridor and, most of all, local people, particularly the Fleming Family and the PF Trust, but also Harry Imbert who was Treasurer for many years, and Tony Reed who is still the Funds Chairman. The Management Committee would love to continue to develop and extend the facilities with more possibilities under consideration, including an outdoor gym, a running track, and more varied playground equipment. But these will only be possible with your support.

Over the years the playing fields have been the venue for many village gatherings for fêtes, Easter and Mayday events, a village carnival including a USAF float, an It's a Knockout style event, festivals and royal celebrations. It has hosted visiting fairs, car boot sales, charity football matches, music and beer festivals and an annual country and western weekend. In the 1980s and early 1990s in the Jubilee Room the New Year's Eve events were packed out; there were regular, well-attended discos and country and western dances, special entertainment nights with singers and comedians, and every Friday night it was full of families with grandparents, parents and children socialising together.

Although lifestyles have changed, and the pandemic has encouraged us to stay at home more, I believe it would be good for the community to come together as mixed generations more often: all it needs is some volunteers to organise things and the rest of us to support them. The Management Committee of the fund will certainly do their best to try to ensure that the playing fields will be there for all residents and future generations to enjoy. Finally, I would like to

encourage you all to join in the upcoming Queen's Jubilee celebrations.

The Jubilee Room

This is available to hire with or without a bar. It has seating for up to 120, a dance floor, stage and a large kitchen. Enquiries to Helen Pauling: hpauling@live.co.uk

Forthcoming events at the playing fields

- Bingo in the Jubilee Room: May 4th and June 1st
- Quiz in the Club Lounge: May 18th and June 15th
- Country and Western in the Jubilee Room: May 21st and June 18th
- THE INFLATABLES in the Jubilee Room: June 25th – tickets now on sale.

Queen's Jubilee weekend: 2–5th June

There are lots of activities are planned, including a BBQ, live entertainment and a beer festival. For more information, **see pages 12–13**.

Sponsors are needed for the barrels for the beer festival which will then mean that all the profits from the sale of the beer can be split equally between the Playing Fields and the Social Club. You can sponsor a whole or half barrel, and sponsorship includes some free drink and food tokens. Sponsorship forms are available from the Club Bar. Contact markfidler1961@gmail.com, or hpauling@live.co.uk.

For more information, contact the Secretary of the BVMHF at bvmhfsec@gmail.com

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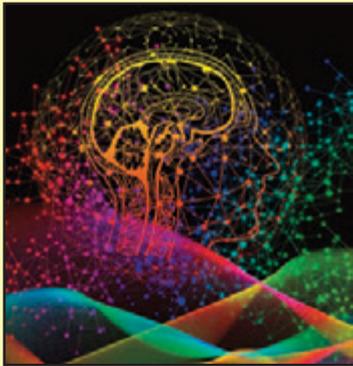
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Women's Institute News

Mary Gregory writes:

For our meeting on the 10th of May at 7.30pm in Duns Tew Village Hall, you are invited to take part in what many consider a very important date in the WI calendar: it's our time to decide whether our WI wishes to support this year's national campaign choice.



Why is this important? Well, we must look back at our successes over the past 100 years and the influence the WI has brought when tackling issues that matter to us, as women. Everything from equal pay and

climate change to mental health and violence against women. The WI has brought about real change – and we are just getting started.

This year our focus will be: **Women and girls with ASD and ADHD – under-identified, under-diagnosed, misdiagnosed, under-supported.** The focus will be on the need for action to be taken to improve the diagnosis process for women and girls, to ensure that they are equipped to better manage these conditions and do not suffer in silence. So why not come along and join in the debate, which gives all our members the opportunity to participate.

June sees the beginnings of summer and flowers in the garden, so what better time for our next speaker? On the 14th June at 7.30 pm in the Duns Tew Village Hall we will be welcoming Richard Preston. Many of you may know him as the Chairman of both the Horticultural Society and Garden Society in Steeple Aston. Besides being very knowledgeable he is also extremely witty, so why not come along – we will be experiencing a very enjoyable and entertaining evening! Everyone is welcome, members or not, so don't be shy.

Finally, are you interested in finding out more? Why not come along, meet new people and make new friends? We are a very welcoming group, so please pluck up the courage and come and join us – we're not just 'Jam and Jerusalem'! If you would like further details or any information please contact Jenny Jackson on 01869 340759, or via email on skellgill_jenny@yahoo.co.uk



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Chess Problem 41

Trevor Daniels writes:

What should White play in this position?



Answer on page 11.

Wortons Litter Pick

Jennifer Schuster writes:

It was a sunny March morning and a third of the village (about 20) turned out to walk the verges armed with plastic bags and litter picking tongs.

This is a biannual event and we collected a sizeable pile, but on the whole thought there was not as much as we've seen in the past. Mostly it was drink cans and fast food rubbish, plus several car parts and a traffic cone!

We managed to cover the whole parish of Over With Nether Worton, so it was a great success.



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Middle Barton Pre-school

Lauren Ross writes

A huge thank you to everyone who made our St Patrick's quiz night such a success, a lot of fun was had by all and the stew went down a treat. A special thanks to Middle Barton Primary school for letting us use their hall and to Lynda for being a fantastic quiz mistress. In total we raised over £600!

We hope all of your little ones enjoyed our Easter Eggstravaganza held on the 8th April. It was nice to see everyone together, and the Easter crafts created were wonderful.

We are looking for new committee members! Middle Barton Preschool is a registered charity run by staff and a committee made up of parents and community members. The preschool is required to have a committee to stay open: without one it can't continue to provide much-valued and amazing care for our children.

We have regular meetings to review important topics such as financial and administrative roles, as well as organising fundraising events throughout the year. If you would like to help our fantastic preschool, please contact the preschool directly, or speak to a member of the committee to get more information.

In addition, did you know you can also support us 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:

smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/290217-0

If you would like your child to join our wonderful setting this September and you are not already on our waiting list, please get in contact with us as soon as possible as spaces are limited.

If you would like to register your child to be included on our waiting list, please get in contact via email: middlebartonpreschool@gmail.com or phone: 01869 347968, and we will 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

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Darren Bullock writes;

The Happy Gardener!

Welcome to my first article from our garden, in a village not far from the Bartons! It's of a modest size and only three years old, but I've tried to incorporate so much of what I love about horticulture.

My latest little project has been to take a strip of lawn which runs down the side of the garden and to turn it into what I hope, given time, will become a wildflower area.

Most garden centres now stock a range of wildflower plants which vary in price, but you can find cheaper alternatives online, or you can grow a good many from seed. So many seed companies sell a great range and this is by far the cheapest method. I bought a selection of plants in pots and a selection of plug plants, the latter being bought online.

For planting, I simply set my mower on its lowest setting and shaved off the grass. I then raked over

the area with a metal lawn rake and then gave it another mow. This will allow the newly planted plants a short period of reduced competition from the grass. Do not be tempted to add any fertiliser. The potted plants were planted in the usual manner, while the plugs were planted by taking out a core of soil no bigger than a tea mug. I turned this core upside down and replaced it in the hole with the grass at the bottom. I then made a hole in the centre large enough to take the plug, planted and firmed it all down.



Finally I spread a few yellow rattle seeds which, if they grow, will feed off the roots of the lawn grass, reducing the vigour of the more competitive grasses. This area is a work in progress but hopefully, fingers crossed, it will help the bees and other local insects. I'll keep you posted as the months go by.

From our garden to yours, happy gardening!

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Beautiful Gardens to Visit in May and June

Bernadette Balfe writes:

We are so lucky to be surrounded by many private homes who generously open their beautiful and inspirational gardens to the public.

By belonging to the National Garden Scheme, they also raise money for worthy charities and last year raised just over £3 million, providing vital support to the NHS and communities across the UK during the COVID pandemic. This included weekly provision of one million items of PPE to the hospice network. When we contribute a small entrance fee, usually about £5, we too become involved in supporting the vital work of nursing charities such as Marie Curie Nursing Care.

If you love gardens and plants, here are a few local gardens you might like to visit in May and June. Go to the National Garden Scheme website for more information and to pre-book.

Sunday 1 May: Broughton Grange, Broughton, Banbury, OX15 5DS (10–5.00pm)

Wednesday 11 May: Claridge's Barn, Chipping Norton, OX5 5XG (11am–5.00pm)

Sunday 29 May: Barton Abbey, Steeple Barton (2–5.00pm)

Sunday 29 May: Steeple Aston Gardens, Steeple Aston, OX25 4SF(2–6.00pm)

Sunday 19 June: Whichford and Ascott, Shipton-on-Stour, CV36 5PG (1.30–5.00pm)

Sunday 26 June: Charlbury Group Gardens (2–5.00pm)

When visiting most of these gardens you will find they offer teas, cakes and plants for sale.

There are plenty more to view across the country on the National Garden Scheme website: www.ngs.org.uk



AD&D Photographic Society

Ann Hunsley writes:

Adderbury, Deddington and District (AD&D) Photographic Society meets on the first Wednesday of each month and is a non-competitive camera group.

We're always looking to encourage new members; you do not need lots of expensive equipment or lots of image taking experience, because the emphasis is on experimenting, learning new techniques and having fun.

We don't run competitions, but we do love a great image and if you'd like to see what the group gets up to, please do explore our website: www.addphoto.co.uk.

You will find information there on how to join us: currently we meet at the Adderbury Institute. As well as our monthly presentation evenings there are also organised photoshoots – a recent one was to the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire.



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Church Updates

The Revd. Jane Wright writes:

Our growing **Family@Church** services continue on the first Sunday of the month in Westcote Barton and third Sunday in Duns Tew. These begin with a children's activity and breakfast from 9am, followed by the service starting at 9:30. Recent activities have included tree planting and decorating birdboxes which families could take home.



We are also pleased to be able to continue at least **one zoom service a month**. This will usually include the Evening Service held on the second Sunday of the month at 5pm in the Alice Marshall Hall. If you would like to join by zoom, please email: zoom@bartonbenefice.org.uk for the link.

In May the zoom service will be Sunday the 8th, however there won't be one in June. Instead, on Sunday 12th June we are delighted to welcome back **Gospel Bell to an outdoor service at Steeple Barton Church** at 5pm.



There is a **church coffee morning** in aid of church funds in Duns Tew Village Hall on Saturday 7th May, 10.30–12.30.

We have **Barton Abbey NGS Open Garden and Plant Sale** on Sunday 29th May. Gates open at 2pm and parking is available. Entry is £5 per person. The plant sale and teas will be held on the cricket field, as last year, with proceeds going to St Mary's church, Steeple Barton.

As this goes to press the parishes are all busy finalising their plans for the **jubilee weekend in June**. We will be holding a Benefice Service of Celebration on Sunday 5th June at 10.30am in Steeple Barton Church. We hope to have both our benefice choir and the school choir there, as well as our uniformed groups and the Duns Tew WI. We will

Answer to chess puzzle

The move 1.Ne6+ (discovering a check by the Queen).

This leaves Black with only one move 1.Kh7.

Well spotted if you saw White could then capture the Queen with 2.Nxd8. And if you saw White could mate with 2.Qxg7#, excellent!

be inviting people to wear red, white and blue or to choose an era from the Queen's reign and dress accordingly.

Following the service there will be a procession back to Bartons Victory Memorial Hall and Playing Fields for a picnic lunch with entertainment.

On Saturday 4th June there will be an evening service at St Martin's for the Queen's Jubilee.

For more information about jubilee events, see **pages 10–11**. Further details of events across the parishes will be added to the website.

Duns Tew Church Fête will be held in Duns Tew Manor Gardens (OX25 6JP) on Sunday 3rd July from 1.30–4pm. This will be a traditional village fête complete with White Elephant, Cakes, Teas, Hoopla, Bouncy Castle, Books, BBQ, and Bottles and more – something for everyone!

We also have four weddings taking place in our churches this summer, and a number of baptisms. If you'd like to discuss getting married or having a christening, we'd love to hear from you.

If you'd like to receive the weekly Notice Sheet by email, please email Clare our administrator on: enquiries@bartonbenefice.org.uk

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The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Kate Carter-Windle writes:

It has been a long time since the whole village has been able to come together, so let's make this a wonderful celebration for everyone! Events have been organised by the Parish Council, together with different village groups, to cover the whole of the celebration bank holiday from Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June. Let's come together to make this a celebration to remember. Dressing up in clothes from across the last 70 years is very much encouraged!



Scarecrow Competition

To start the celebrations there will be a scarecrow competition open to all Bartons residents. Design a Jubilee-themed scarecrow – **depicting any decade from the last 70 years** – to display outside the front of your house for everyone to enjoy and, hopefully, remember some highlights of times gone by! Prizes will be awarded. From Sunday 29th May.



Children's Activities – Thursday 2nd June

There will be games and fun activities for different age groups held on the playing fields from 3.00pm, followed by a children's disco from 5–7pm.

Adults' Activities – Thursday 2nd June

There will be a beer festival and entertainment at the Social Club, followed by The Lighting of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Beacon at 10pm. This event has been organised jointly by The Sports and Social Club, The Barton's Victory Memorial Playing Fields and Steeple Barton Parish Council, and will bring our first day of celebration to a conclusion.

Art and Photographic Exhibition at The Alice Marshall Hall – Friday 3rd and Saturday 4th June from 11.00am to 4.00pm

The Alice Marshall Hall will host an exhibition of art and photographs from The History Group of 'Bygone Barton Days'. Come along to refresh your memory or spot your parents, friends and local celebrities that you remember from past celebrations. There will also be a short film to enjoy. Afternoon tea and refreshments will be served at The Alice Marshall Hall.



Evening Entertainment at The Sports and Social Club – Saturday 4th June

During the evening there will be family entertainment and a beer festival, and food will be available throughout the weekend. For information about beer barrel sponsorship, **see page 5**.

Live entertainment will include **Steve Carmel** on Thursday evening and **Jeff Denton** on Saturday evening. Look out for posters closer to the date!

St. Mary's Church Service of Celebration – Sunday 5th June at 10.30am

The Benefice Service of Celebration for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee will be held in St. Mary's Church, Steeple Barton at 10.30am.

The Benefice Choir along with the School Choir will sing for this joyous service in a beautifully decorated church. Jane Wright, our vicar, will conduct this special service. The Scouts, Cubs and Beavers will lead the parade into church.

Why not join these festivities by wearing the colours red, white and blue?

After the service in church there will be a tree planting ceremony in the churchyard.

Celebrations in the Bartons

Jubilee Walk to the Playing Fields for The Big Lunch Picnic

After the service everyone is invited to walk back together to the playing fields for **A Big Lunch Picnic**. This will be a chance to bring all your family and friends for a whole village picnic party. Bring your own picnic, tables, chairs, blankets and other picnic paraphernalia to meet up with old friends, and perhaps make some new ones! This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to come together, not only to mark the Platinum Jubilee of a reigning monarch but to make some Bartons history too.

There will be an afternoon of entertainment from The Drama Group, Bel Canto Choir, One 4 the Road and The Groove Company who will entertain us with music from across the last 70 years.

The Social Club will be open for drinks and food all weekend.

So come along to eat, drink, dance and sing. It's your day to be part of history.

The presentation for the winner of the scarecrow competition will be made during the interval.

This is a joint production from The Steeple Barton Parish Council, The Bartons Victory Memorial Playing Fields and The Sports and Social Club.

was the first for a British monarch in over a hundred years, and her visit to (West) Germany in 1965, rather poignantly the twentieth year since the end of the Second World War, was the first since 1913.

Her Majesty remains the only female royal family member to have entered the armed forces; she trained as a driver and a mechanic in the Auxiliary Territorial Service in World War Two. She is the longest-reigning British Monarch (having surpassed the reign of her great, great Grandmother, Queen Victoria in 2015) and is the longest-serving female Monarch in the world.

The Queen's sovereignty has not been without its difficulties. In 1992, the year she herself termed her "*annus horribilis*", three of her children's marriages ended, Windsor Castle was gutted by a fire, and public resentment to the monarchy grew, due to the effects of economic hardships. This resentment appeared to grow after the tragic death of Diana, Princess of Wales, in 1997, when the Queen did not publicly address the matter straight away.

During her reign, Queen Elizabeth has seen the conflict of The Troubles, the admission and subsequent end of the UK's EU membership, a decrease in the number of Commonwealth nations, the abolishment of capital punishment and the London 2012 Olympics, to name a few. One thing is for sure though, as we celebrate her seventieth year as monarch, the Queen has certainly kept the promise she made in 1947 on her 21st birthday: "*I declare to you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong*".

Happy jubilee celebrations everyone!

A very brief history of Her Majesty's 70 years



Michelle Newell writes:

Queen Elizabeth II was never supposed to be Queen. It was only after the abdication of her Uncle, Edward VIII, and the subsequent crowning of her father, King George VI, that it became her reality. During her seventy years on the throne, she has seen a vast amount of change and modernisation.

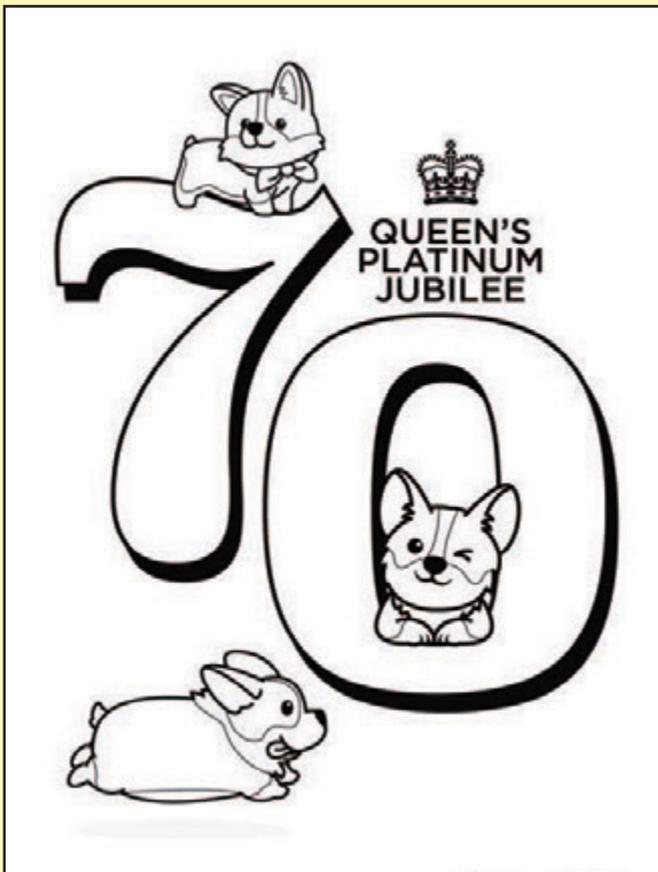
Born in 1926, the then Princess Elizabeth became Queen in 1952, aged 25. Since then, she has seen fourteen Prime Ministers, has owned over 30 corgis, and has planted over 1500 trees. She has four children, eight grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren.

The Queen has made history for many reasons, but notably for her visits to certain countries. For example, her visit to the Republic of Ireland in 2011





How many words can you find in our Jubilee wordsearch? Answer on page 22. Alternatively, why not colour in this picture?



We are still intent on presenting the snappily (not!) titled, *'They Came From Mars and Landed Outside the Farndale Avenue Church Hall in time for the Townswomen's Guild's Coffee Morning'*, but a few read-throughs have shown us that there are some complicated physicalities that will need a lot of rehearsal time so that we can get it right for you. Therefore we now intend to present it in October: watch this space for final dates.



In the meantime, we've been asked to perform a short play as part of the village celebrations for the Queen's Jubilee. At the time of writing (late March), no final decisions have been made on this, but current thinking is that we present a taster – a small episode of *'They came from Mars...'* to give you some idea of the hysterical ineptitude of the Farndale Avenue Ladies Drama Society as they try to present a misbegotten sci-fi thriller.

We find ourselves rather hampered at the moment by a shortage of available bodies, as people have moved away, gone to university, or simply find themselves too busy to take part. We would love to welcome some new people to the group, either to join us on stage, or to help with the many backstage roles that contribute to a production. If you have ever thought you would like to join us, please get in touch with Mike, our chairman – (01993 775702, mherbert2@outlook.com) or me (01869 347601, brown@jpandkbrown.plus.com). We would love to hear from you, and we look forward to welcoming you to our productions for 2022.

THE ALICE MARSHALL HALL

The newly refurbished **Alice Marshall Hall** is now available for use and we are looking forward to hiring out this beautiful, historic building for your special family occasion. Birthday parties, anniversary parties, christenings and small wedding receptions etc. can be accommodated. There is capacity for up to 70 people seated or 100 people standing.

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To book, please telephone **Jackie Hinton** on **07780 680274** to confirm availability.

1st Bartons Scout Group

Jill Elliot writes about Beavers and Cubs:

Two of the Explorer Scouts, Bella and Floss, came to Beavers and ran the International Badge. The Beavers found out about Scouting in Australia, made Fairy Bread and taste-tested Marmite and Vegemite.

The Beavers have also completed their Health and Fitness Badge. Learning about what the heart and lungs do and what happens after strenuous exercise, and then after a rest. They did an obstacle course and a slalom course with a football, all interspersed with star jumps! Heart rates certainly went up and that was just Merlin's and Kite's! The evening ended with a four-way tug of war, which was great fun, and the Beavers showed some very good team-working skills.

After the Scouts did the Monopoly challenge in London, the Cubs did their own – but around Middle Barton. They were given a map of the village and a list of places to visit. They earned different amounts of points for each place, and if they got the set then points were doubled. But equally, they could lose and gain points! The aim was to gain as many points as possible, but the Cubs had to decide on their route – did they go for fewer, more expensive places which were further away, or more, cheaper and closer ones! A fun activity which involved navigation and team working skills.



Chris Brock writes about Scouts:

The Scout troop has been busy this term, learning first aid and refining their navigation skills, including the Monopoly Run around the streets of London which was a wonderful day out. We're looking forward to more campfires, cooking, adventurous activities and camping before the end of the summer term.

25th World Scout Jamboree – Korea

Florence Pearce writes:

On a sunny Saturday in February, three former Middle Barton scouts set off to Hill End to join one hundred and eighty scouts and explorer scouts from across the county to compete for thirty-six places

representing Oxfordshire at the 25th World Scout Jamboree in Korea in Summer 2023. We were split into groups, with people we'd never



met, and faced with many challenges through two gruelling days. We were marked by assessors from across the country on everything, including, as we later found out, our breaks!

Two nerve-wracking weeks later, envelopes slipped through the letter boxes of all one hundred and eighty of us defining our fates for the next eighteen months. 'You are in – CONGRATULATIONS!' Amazingly, all three ex-Middle Barton scouts got in proving, as we always declared, that 1st Bartons' Scouts really are "the best scout troop in the universe!"



Five hundred and nineteen days to go, and lots of money to fundraise: one week later we had our first fundraising meeting and another week later – our first camp together!

Over the next year and a half, we will be busy baking, selling, car washing, dog walking, litter picking, putting bins out, bag packing and much more to raise the funds we need. If we can help you in any way, we will endeavour to do so (for a small donation!). We can be contacted via our parents (Tash 07740 862749, Florence 07990 633108 and Annabel 07526 795097).

If you would like to support us, you can use Easy Fundraising

(www.easyfundraising.org.uk/invite/3p69wu) or Wonderful Charity Giving

(wonderful.co.uk/pay?ref=291693) to donate to 'Oxfordshire Scouts Jamboree Unit Korea 2023'.

We look forward to updating you after this once in a lifetime adventure with 45,000 scouts from all over the globe!

Kim Griffin writes:



As I write the Easter holidays are about to begin, and it's been a very busy term!

Sachini and Poppy from Willow Class did a great job with a fabulous presentation at the community Bartons'

Bus event held in the school hall on Tuesday 15th February. Toby, Modge and Lachie, from Year 6, also read out their letters to show their support for the community Bartons' Bus event. I was so proud of all the children who were at the event – they were an absolute credit to the school. Robert Courts and many others that attended commented on how passionate and articulate the children were.

We are also very proud to announce that Jonathan D (Year 6) has won the UNA Climate & Oceans – Oxfordshire Primary School Art Exhibition. Sachini (Year 5) has also been awarded recognition for showing great talent and effort. Their artwork had been displayed in an international virtual gallery: please feel free to explore and share the gallery further: Artsteps | UNA Climate & Oceans – Oxfordshire Primary School Art Exhibition.

A huge well done to Lachie and Toby from Year 6 for organising an incredibly successful Ukraine fundraising event that was enjoyed by all ages. The hall was transformed into a cinema for the night and the children snuggled down to watch *Encanto*. Thank you to all of you that supported this event. Our grand total is £616.53. I am very proud of Toby and Lachie and how passionate they have been!

Finally, we've recently purchased a Government approved phonics scheme. *Bug Club* is the only whole-school reading programme that combines an online reading world with fantastic print books and assessment tools. Find out more at www.pearsonschoolsandfecolleges.co.uk/primary/subjects/english-literacy/bug-club. The Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children have been using the new scheme and are really enjoying it.

Acorn class

Acorns have been celebrating Chinese New Year. They have danced, eaten and learnt all about Chinese culture and traditions. They also had a visitor in school who told them about how she

celebrated Lunar New Year when she lived in Hong Kong. They've also had their binoculars out searching for birds this term and taken part in the RSPB Big Schools bird watch. They have had a lovely time looking for all the different types of birds. They've also been doing PE outside with Mrs Horner and Mrs Overton, listening carefully to instructions and joining in with great enthusiasm.



It has been so nice to see the children using their Outdoor Learning Area recently as the weather has been much warmer. The Reception children have even been doing their Maths outside! I have also seen some amazing writing being produced when I have been visiting. The class have started reading their new class book, *How to Catch a Star*. They have described their own star using the phonics they have learnt.

The Year 1s attended a dance workshop at Chipping Norton Secondary School. They learnt dance moves to accompany the story, *Commotion in the Ocean*. The children thoroughly enjoyed the event, and so did the adults!

The whole class has taken part in Science Week. They watched a live session all about space and robots – it all sounded very interesting!

Sycamore Class

Sycamores have started looking at their class text, *Fantastically Great Women Who Changed the World*, with a focus on Mary Seacole. They have written instructions for their own herbal remedy potion inspired by the work that Mary did. They have also dressed up as Victorians and experienced what life would have been like!

In Maths, the class have been working on division and have been learning about how to create a tally. They've also been learning all about earthworms and have been outside collecting a few, but I had it on good authority that they were released unharmed!

In Forest school, they've had the tools out. The children have learnt to saw and whittle sticks, under the close eye of Mrs Horner. They have also been cooking bread on the fire.

Maple Class

Maples have been working really hard learning all about how water travels and created some fantastic working models in Outdoor Learning, and they also had fun during Science Week: they conducted an experiment to find out which solution affects the growth of potato roots. We await the results! They also had the fantastic



opportunity to visit the Pitt Rivers museum to learn all about the Egyptians for their future history topic.

In Maths, the children have been looking at data. They have collected their own data, learnt how to represent it in a bar chart and then interpret it. They've also been working really hard on writing a newspaper article about the Indus Valley using the facts learnt in their history lessons.

Beech Class

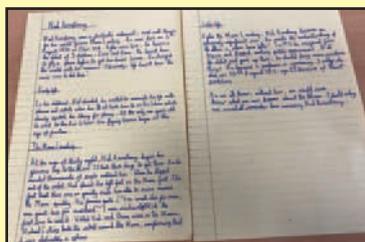
Beech class have continued with their Egyptian death masks, which look amazing. They've also written a set of instructions all about mummification, have been dressing up as Egyptians and have tried to mummify each other using toilet rolls! In RE, the class have been learning about sacred texts with a particular focus on the Bible. They have also learnt about pets in French.

Poetry writing has been very evident in Beech class recently. They have been learning all about shape poems and how the use of figurative language can make them sound fantastic – similes, alliteration and onomatopoeia.

For Science Week the class made pool! They added crackers, orange juice and bananas into a bag and smashed and crushed them. They have filtered them through a pair of tights – sounds lovely!

Willow Class

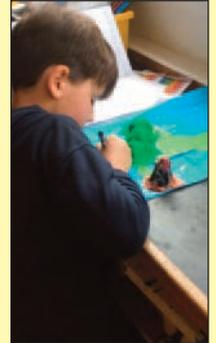
Willows have written biographies about Neil Armstrong – what amazing writing! In Maths, the class have been learning how to multiply fractions. They have also been focusing on poetry writing in English – learning about personification and onomatopoeia.



They have also been creating 3D models of the Mayan civilization and, for Science Week, they have been making slime and working out which combination and proportions make the best slime – sounds rather messy, but fun!

Oak Class

Some of Year 6 have taken part in a Netball tournament. They represented the school well and demonstrated all of our school values: respect, integrity and compassion. In class, they have written balanced arguments about tourism in Antarctica and, in PE, the children have been working on their dynamic ability and balance and are learning a new game called 'jump ball'.



The class have been learning about resurrection in RE and exploring this in different religions. In French, they have been learning to talk about what they do at the weekend. They've also been looking at things from a range of angles! They have been learning to use a protractor in maths and measure angles accurately.

For Science Week, they made electrical circuits and used these to send Morse code messages to each other using bulbs and buzzers. They also attempted to make origami antibodies and viruses! They joined an online session all about space.

Safer Internet Day at School!

Acorns discussed the importance of only playing computer/tablet games that a grown up has agreed are safe. They listened to *Buddy the Dog Safety Story*. Sycamores read *Digiduck and the Magic Castle*, from saferinternet.org.uk. It emphasises keeping passwords safe and highlights issues with in-game purchases.

Maples had a discussion about sharing details online and, in circle time Beech talked about how to stay safe when online gaming. They came up with many suggestions such as not putting personal information in their usernames, only playing with friends, not messaging strangers and not retaliating to rude messages.

Willows and Oaks class completed the online quiz. They looked at different scenarios and what children would do in certain situations – it generated a lot of discussion!

Middle Barton School

The Children Write...

Able, Interested and Motivated Art Workshop

Lily (Year 5) writes:

The AIM Art Workshop at Chipping Norton School was a fantastic experience for me, and I imagine it was for every other child who was chosen to go. It was lovely for children from different schools to see Chipping Norton's art classroom, from Holy Trinity to St. Mary's school.

The wonderful art teacher taught us how to do monoprinting, by spreading black ink on the table and getting messy and fun! Then we created beautiful pieces of artwork just by drawing over lines and painting ink all over a table. My time in the AIM Art Workshop was one of the best things I have ever done and I hope every other child enjoys it as much as I did.

Year 6 Netball Tournament

Zac, Toby and Jamie write:

Fourteen of the year six pupils participated in the Chipping Norton Partnership School netball tournament. Unfortunately, the Middle Barton School boys team came in 4th place. They put a lot of effort into their matches and had fun!

The Middle Barton girls team came in 3rd place, winning 1 out of the 4 matches. They played really well and won 4–0 in the second match against Enstone. Everyone enjoyed participating, it was all fun and games!

Ball Games at Chipping Norton Primary School

Juno and Evie (year 4) write:

Year 4 went to Chipping Norton school to participate in a ball skills competition. Year 4 came 3rd out of 6 different schools. Every school represented a different country: we were team Portugal. The games we played covered a range of ball skills. It was really fun, exciting and a little nerve-racking to visit somewhere new.

CNPS Cross-country Run at Chipping Norton School

Jamie and Honey (Year 6) write:

A cross-country competition took place on the 16th of February. Children from Y6, Y5 and Y3 from a variety of schools were invited. The competition was

a challenging race, but worthwhile. The Y3s had to run a lap around Chipping Norton school field while the Y5s and Y6s did two laps. It was a tiring experience, but our school never gave up and we eventually achieved our goal and finished the race. Everyone had a fantastic time and we cheered our team on all the way. On the way back we reminisced on what had just happened and enjoyed what we had previously achieved during the tournament.

Able, Interested and Motivated PE Workshop

Gracie (Year 5) writes:

When I went to the Chipping Norton Able, Interested and Motivated PE Workshop, I, like everybody else that participated in it, had a lot of fun. In the workshop, we did hand co-ordination with throwing and catching balls. We also played a game of handball, which I found really entertaining. In doing this, we learnt how to play in a team of people that we don't really know, and also how to achieve sportsmanship and to help other people to reach their potential. I really enjoyed going and I hope I get the opportunity to go again.

Beech Class Trip to Pitt Rivers Museum

The whole class writes:

Firstly, we walked through the Natural History Museum and saw the chocolate and brown bears, and the colossal dinosaurs. Then, we went into Pitt Rivers and saw the precious Ancient Egyptian artefacts. We split into groups and all looked at different artefacts and how to identify whether they were from Ancient Egyptian times. We can identify Ancient Egyptian artefacts through their colours, which are black, blue, red, yellow, and green. We can also tell if there are hieroglyphics written on them. Hieroglyphics are special symbols that the Egyptians used to write with. We learnt that scribes were people that were taught hieroglyphics and would write on papyrus and stone!

Using these artefacts, we had to identify a Scarab Beetle, Isis, weighing of the heart, Anubis, and the Eye of Horus on the inner and outer coffin of the mummy Irtarau. Next, we had to go on a scavenger hunt and had to look for blue death masks to find and draw the Ancient Egyptian objects. Finally, we had our lunch and at the end we got to look around the gift shop. We had an exhilarating and amazing trip to finish off our learning!

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District Councillor Report

Councillor Dave Jackson writes:

Until I became a district councillor I had not fully appreciated the critical role that local authorities play in our lives. This was particularly highlighted during the lockdown periods, when things such as testing and contacting critically vulnerable residents were much more effective at a local level.



The unprecedented rise in the cost of living is the next hurdle that many families are facing. In the recent budget statement, the government pledged extra cash for local authorities to assist families who are struggling. At the time of writing this article (March 29th), it's not clear how such funds will be allocated.

With previous grants, the Citizens Advice Bureau have played a pivotal part in the allocation of funds, so maybe they will be a point of contact. By the time you read this article I will hopefully have more information. Please get in touch with me if I can be of any help: I also know that the Steeple Barton Parish Council are a great support in these matters.

The other area that the local authorities have been asked to help with is supporting families who are offering to house Ukrainian refugees. At the time of writing, the process seems to be bogged down with red tape regarding visas and so on, but both OCC and WODC have been promised extra money to cover expenses such as employing support workers, providing emergency cash while people are waiting for benefits, providing school places, checking accommodation, and help registering with a local GP.

I know of several families in our area who are hoping to be able to provide accommodation. I have spoken in confidence to them, and asked if they would like to be put in touch with each other for moral and practical support. But there are also other local people who would like to help in the background. One idea being mooted is that, if the host family want their own family to stay, but they no longer have a spare room, other friends in the village could host them. I am sure there are other services that we could offer to hosting families. Let me know if you have ideas and would like to be involved: skellgilldave@yahoo.co.uk

07407 443944

County Councillor Report

Councillor Andy Graham writes:

I am delighted to share with you the news that Oxfordshire's £32.8 million Zero Emission Bus Regional Areas (ZEBRA) bid to the Department for Transport (DfT) was successful. Along with £6 million from the council and £43.7 million from bus companies Go Ahead and Stagecoach, the DfT funding will deliver 159 electric buses and the infrastructure to charge them, in a package worth £82.5 million.



The electric buses will be rolled out over approximately nine months, starting in summer 2023. The new buses will be used on bus routes operating wholly within the Oxford Smart Zone, an area covering all of Oxford and stretching from Kidlington in the north to Sandford in the south, and from Cumnor in the west to Wheatley in the east. They will save an estimated 9,200 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions each year – the equivalent of taking more than 6,000 cars off the road – and will mean that approximately 70% of bus miles driven in the Smart Zone area will be operated by electric buses.

The funding is a major boost to the council's wider plans for transport decarbonisation and cleaner air in the county, and is directly linked to our proposals for traffic filters, a larger zero emission zone and a workplace parking levy in Oxford. Public consultation on these linked schemes will take place in summer 2022 and will help shape the final plans before a Cabinet decision in the autumn.

In particular, the proposed traffic filters will help deliver bus journey time savings of at least 10% in the city, which are required to enable the bus operators to make their £43.7 million investment for ZEBRA. The DfT's funding will therefore not be transferred to the county council until after the Cabinet makes its decision on the traffic filters in the autumn.

I also wanted to add a big thank you to the Our Bus Bartons group, and to say how delighted I am to contribute £1000 towards their ambitious target of replacing their diesel bus with an electric one in a few years time. As a community led initiative, this group could be one of the first in the county to do this, and I am looking forward to seeing the successful outcome of their endeavours.

andy.graham@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Upcoming Election Information

There are three candidates for the Bartons Ward in the upcoming local election on 5th May. They're listed below in the order which they appear on the ballot paper:

DAVE JACKSON – Liberal Democrat

RICHARD JACKSON – Conservative

FRANCES MORTIMOR – Green Party

There is no Labour candidate.

This is the first time the Green Party has stood in the Bartons since at least 1998 (this is as far as records go back on the WODC website).

Rural Travel Options

West Oxfordshire District Council writes:

West Oxfordshire District Council is calling for stronger recognition of the transport challenges faced by rural communities in a future planning document for transport across Oxfordshire.



Councillor Jeff Haine, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, said; “We welcome the on-going engagement on the Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP), which outlines the long-term vision for transport in the County.

“There are many aspects of this plan we are wholly supportive of and the general direction of moving to more sustainable travel, improving road safety and protecting the environment is the right approach. It fits very well with our plans at a district level to improve health and wellbeing and tackle climate change.

“However, in our view we believe this plan needs more flexibility for rural communities where accessing public transport, walking and cycling often aren't practical for many journeys.

“We would like to see different approaches to the urban and rural areas of the county, taking into account the transport challenges faced by rural communities, especially when trying to reduce emissions and move to greener forms of travel.”

The county Local Transport Connectivity Plan has been out for public consultation over the past two months with West Oxfordshire District Council submitting its views as part of the consultation.

The Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP) outlines Oxfordshire County Council's long-term vision for transport in the county and the policies required to deliver this. The Plan covers the time period up to 2050.

More information on the plans can be found on the Oxfordshire County Council website at:

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/roads-and-transport/connecting-oxfordshire/policy-and-overall-strategy

OurBus Bartons

The **OurBus** 2022 timetable is now available and up and running. You can get copies from the shop or from the buses, and they are also on the bus stop and notice board at S&S. Over the last eight months we have experienced a depletion of drivers which has put pressure on the current volunteers to maintain **OurBus** services and we are once again looking for anyone who is able to offer some of their time to join us and keep **OurBus** running.

Full details from Martin, tel. 01869 347188



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News From Facebook

Kat Day writes:

There's been lots of great stuff on the Facebook group recently, including the sale of mini chocolate eggs to raise money for Lawrence Home Care, cakes baked by Sarah Pinion to raise money for Dementia UK, and multiple initiatives to support Ukraine. We've also heard about Busy Bees' celebrations and the FOMBS golden Easter egg hunt. Brilliantly, the Mother's Day Teas for World Scout Jamboree raised £435.

On a less happy note, as I write this there's recently been a warning about dogs getting stomach upsets, possibly linked to splashing in the ford, so please do make sure you wash your dog's feet after walks.

As usual, there have been lots of freebies: wooden track toys, books, a bench, deck chairs and even some nappies, as well as all updates from local businesses – the pictures of homecooked curries from Curry Nights have been particularly mouthwatering!

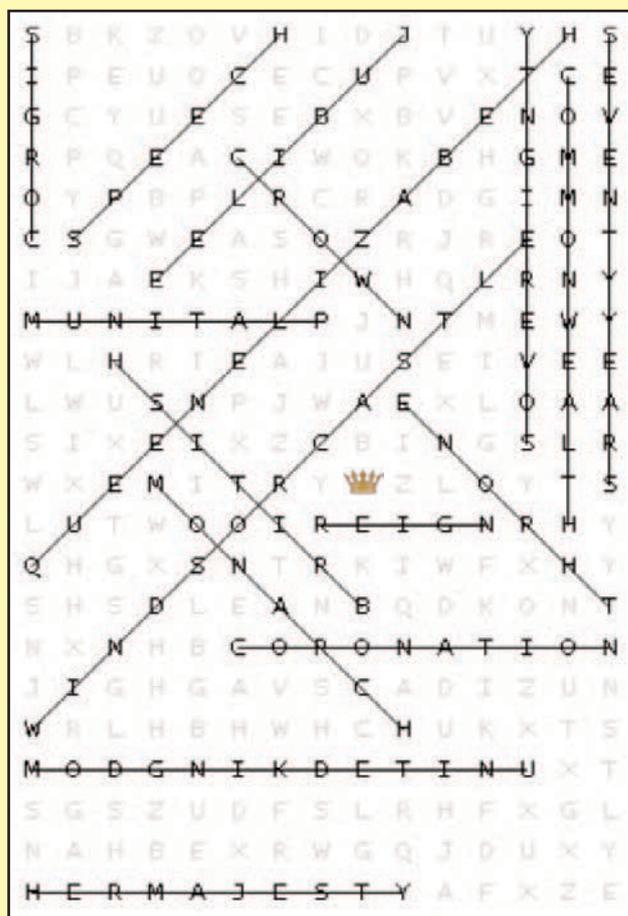
Do come and join us to make sure you get the latest updates – particularly about events planned for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations. Find us at www.facebook.com/groups/mbigroup



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Dates for the Diary



May 2022

- 2nd Mon** **Spring Bank Holiday**
- 5th Thurs** **Local Election in the Bartons**
- 10th Tues** **W.I.**
Duns Tew Village Hall, 7:30pm
Resolutions Meeting, followed by
cheese and wine. Contact:
Jenny Jackson 01869 340759
- 12th Thurs** **The Bartons and Woodstock
Walking Group**
Meet at 10am: various venues
Contact: David Wharton
david@thistledome.net
- 16th Mon** **Steeple Barton Parish Council**
Alice Marshall Hall, 8pm
- 21st Sat** **Abilene Country Music Club –**
featuring Longshot
Sports and Social Club, 8pm

June 2022

- 2nd Thurs–
5th Sun** **The Queen's Platinum Jubilee
Celebrations**
See the programme of celebrations
on pages 12–13
- 9th Thurs** **The Bartons and Woodstock
Walking Group**
Meet at 10am. Various venues.
Contact: David Wharton
david@thistledome.net
- 14th Tues** **W.I.**
Duns Tew Village Hall, 7:30pm
A Talk: My Garden in Steeple
Aston, with Richard Preston
Contact: Jenny Jackson
01869 340759
- 18th Sat** **Abilene Country Music Club –**
featuring Woodchuck
Sports and Social Club, 8pm
- 20th Mon** **Steeple Barton Parish Council**
Alice Marshall Hall, 8pm



Pick Your Own Fruit and Veg Farms are NOW OPEN

Pick Your Own Farms are now open and the spring season begins in mid-April with Cut Your Own asparagus and rhubarb and then in mid-May the strawberries will be ready for picking. Early new potatoes will be available from the shop with lots of other treats. Please check on their websites and view their calendars for all the fruit and veg that is ready for picking and for opening times.

Medley Manor Farm: Binsey Lane, OX2 0NJ

Milletts Farm Centre: Frilford, Abingdon OX13 5HB

Rectory Farm: Stanton St. John, OX33 1HF

Wykham Park Farm, Banbury OX16 9UP

Farmers' Markets

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

Bicester: every Fri, 9.00–4.30pm

Chipping Norton: 3rd Sat of the month,
8.30–1.30pm

Deddington: 4th 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: 1st and 3rd Sat of the month,
8.30–1.00pm

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