



**Issue Number 170**  
July/August 2022

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

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**Do you have something for the next (September/October)**

**DFP?**

**Please send it to [editor@dornfreepress.com](mailto:editor@dornfreepress.com)**

**by 31st July 2022**

**Thank You!**



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Louise Barnes FCIMSPA, Senior Activity & Health Practitioner, Personal Trainer, Fellow Member of The Chartered Institute for the Management of Sports and Physical Activity.

## From the Editor

As usual a lot has been going on across our Villages. Not least gathering to mark the 70th Anniversary of Queen Elizabeth's reign. Weather-wise, the Jubilee weekend was changeable, with heat and sun on the Thursday, and chilly rain on the Sunday. But everyone got on with it nonetheless, and didn't let a bit of weather get in the way.

Talking of weather, I've just come back from a fantastic 4-person theatre production on North Aston Village Green, by the Mikron Theatre Company. It was all about the weather; and how it is something that we all have in common, a bonding experience and the start of a thousand conversations.

There's lots to talk about in this issue - Speedwatch updates, a new Drama Group production, a music festival in July, and all the activities the children have been up to. Read and Enjoy! But before you do, there may be storm clouds gathering for the DFP given rising costs. So please do read about that below and get your thinking caps on.

## DFP Funding Struggles

Your DFP, which has been in circulation for over 25 years now, is produced as you know, to bring you news, views and articles of interest to the villages. It is produced entirely by volunteers from the villages. There is a core committee of seven including our three hardworking editors and together with our marvellous band of deliverers we regularly manage to get the DFP through your letterboxes six times a year. We are solely reliant, at the moment, on the funds we receive from our local advertisers. We count ourselves lucky to have such a wide variety of local trades and organisations advertising with us. The fees cover the costs of our production which are for paper, printing, and delivery. Like so many others we are feeling the pinch with costs outrunning our funds and it is clear that our present situation is not sustainable as printing costs have already risen 85% since October and are likely to rise more in the near future. The DFP is in distress! The production team have been urgently considering different ways to keep the DFP going into the future but this will mean we need more funding from a regular source. We are not giving up the production and delivery of the DFP to you without a fight. It means too much to us, the DFP team, and too much for our villages.

Please do contact us if you have any observations or suggestions about ways of helping us out of our current situation. You can do this through our usual contact points in the DFP. Thank you.

# Women's Institute News

Mary Gregory writes:

July – the seventh month of 2022 and we are now well into summer - where does the time go?



After the success of our June Meeting where we were able to pick up all types of tips and ideas for our own garden design, July will provide a complete change of subject which will be just as interesting.

## RADIO BROADCASTING

I am sure many have experienced the nerves and tremors of giving short or long presentations facing an audience whom you may or may not know, but have you ever wondered what it would be like to sit in front of a microphone and present to the nation without being able to see anyone and maybe feeling sea-sick at the same time. On the 12<sup>th</sup> July, 7.30 pm in the Duns Tew Village Hall we will welcome Peter Meadowcroft who will be talking to us about his experiences in broadcasting including working on 'Radio Caroline' which I am sure many will remember from the days of pirate radio. This should be a fascinating topic so why not come along and learn more.



On to August when the WI normally has a summer rest but this is not to be. Last year we held a belated 80<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration when the emphasis was on 1940's memorabilia. This year I have to report the plans are currently still under wraps – maybe a walk and afternoon tea, maybe an outing with a tea or something more. Who knows as the Committee have their heads together busily deciding on the final offerings so, watch out for local notices to see what's on offer. One thing I am sure about is whatever is decided, the event will be a success.

Finally, are you interested in finding out more? Why not come along to one of our meetings, meet new people and make new friends, we are a very welcoming group. Please pluck up the courage and join – you will find we are 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](mailto:skellgill_jenny@yahoo.co.uk)



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## Chess Problem 42

Trevor Daniels writes:

What should White play in this position?



Answer on page 14.

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## COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

Dave Jackson writes:

We have had a break for a few months recently as we have had to get to grips with new procedures introduced by Thames Valley Police (TVP). Since we started the Speedwatch in early 2019, we had been allowed to train our volunteers ourselves at roadside sessions. But now, in order to co-ordinate the training across the whole TVP area, every volunteer has to do an online training. Thankfully most of the Bartons helpers have done this, so we are now up and running again.

There have also been several other changes in procedures. We now have to go onto the TVP Speedwatch website to log in advance any session we are planning to do. We have to stipulate the exact location, which has been previously verified. Instead of us sending data of motorists travelling at 35 mph or over to a local police contact, we now have authorization to log the data directly on to the system. I am very grateful to Kate Jackson, who has kindly offered to be our coordinator for these online requirements.

We have lost a few volunteers this year with folk moving away or changing jobs, which has thwarted daytime commitments. We are constantly trying to recruit new members, especially as we want to vary our sessions to include early morning and teatime ones. Please get in touch with me if you would like more details

Dave Jackson

07407 443944

### 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](mailto:editor@dornfreepress.com)

# Middle Barton Pre-school

Lauren Ross writes

After many years working at Pre-school Gill has decided it is time to retire. Gill has been a valued member of the Pre-school team and will be greatly missed. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Gill for all her hard work and wish her every happiness in the future.



In June we celebrated the Queen's Jubilee with the children, making decorations and having a tea party. The children also made a wonderful commemorative tea towel created from their handprints. Each child was given a tea towel as a gift from the Preschool to remember the event.



We've been learning about Growing and Minibeasts. As part of this we have just released our butterflies, have hens' eggs incubating, and peas, beans, carrots and courgettes growing in our raised beds.

We recently had a lovely visit from the PCSOs (Helen and Ben) who chatted with the children and allowed them to sit in the police car!



100 Club: If you would like to join (£1/month), please contact the Pre-school for a form. Each number gives you a chance to win £10 in the monthly draw and a Christmas treat of £50 in December.

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

**middlebartonpreschool@gmail.com** or phone: **01869 347968**, and we will send you a registration form. 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!

The garden at home is only of a modest size but it certainly keeps me busy at weekends. The last few weeks have been full-on with getting the garden summer ready with planting, staking, mulching and watering. But just as you think it's looking okay, the wind picks up and another weekend is spent getting it straight again!

This year I have really been trying to help the bees. With small projects like the wildflower area I wrote about last time, I am really hoping that in our small way we are.



Today I have continued with the bee theme by planting up a small pot with a mixture of bee friendly plants which have included two Lavenders, three small Thyme's and one catnip (Nepeta). These plants will eventually outgrow the container but then I can divide

them up and replant them in the garden. All of the plants came from a local nursery in Chipping Norton. The compost I used was a John Innes No. 2 as it's fairly low in nutrients. As for the pot, any old container will do, just ensure it has adequate drainage holes. It has only just been planted, but placed on our sunny garden table it has already had a lot of bee activity.

From my garden to yours ...

Happy Gardening!



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## Ledwell's Platinum Party

Freda Volans writes:



A truly British Jubilee: with outrageous headgear, wet dogs, coronation chicken and trifle - perfect!

The street party moved indoors but the treasure hunt round the village stayed mainly dry with, of course, a regal theme.



Face-painting, food and a barrel of beer were kept safely under cover and there were prizes for the best crown, with plenty of toasts to Her Majesty for 70 loyal years of service. A big thank you to Bridget, Nicky, Luke and all the team for making it happen.

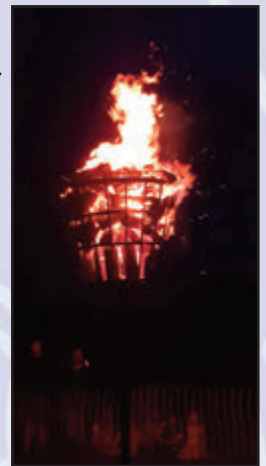


## Bartons' Jubilee celebrations - From our own Correspondent

Putting on my best Kate Adie voice... There was an awful lot going on around the Bartons over the long Jubilee weekend. Fun street parties, frolics, fire lighting and finding time to give thanks in Church, were just some of the ways we celebrated the 70 years of service from the Queen.

To give us the local low-down, we hear from our own correspondents. First up is Rose Dale (age 8), reporting from the Beacon Lighting and Children's Disco...

At the beacon lighting there was a disco and a stage with lights. After the disco, most of the kids including me, played on the play equipment until the beacon was lit. When the beacon was lit one of the Cub leaders did it. The fire was small at the beginning but soon it grew bigger. Quite a few sparks flew everywhere. Eventually the crowd dispersed. We left at around 10pm. It was fun!



Next we hear from Bella Knight (age 14), who attended the Thanksgiving Service and tree planting at Steeple Barton Church...



The Jubilee weekend arrived with many local celebrations within the village. One of these was the church service held at St Mary's Church, Steeple Barton. Modge, alongside others from Middle Barton School sang with the church choir, where I read a reading. We both wore our uniforms representing the Scouting association which we are both part of. The congregation all wore red, white, and blue whilst the church was then decorated in those colours. The service came to an end with the planting of a Crab Apple Tree within the church yard. This was to represent the Queen's Green Canopy. We, the children, were invited to place the soil





around the roots. It was lovely to be involved with something that as a resident of the Bartons I will then be able to watch it grow and remember the day that the Queen celebrated 70 years on the throne.

Harrie Peedell (age 10) also attended the service and sent in this report,

*We were asked by Reverend Jane if we would do a reading in the church as part of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations. Gabriella and I enjoyed reading in the service, it felt very important that we should be part of it. The Queen is an absolutely amazing woman who has done so many incredible things for*



*everyone. It was very nice to represent the school and the scout group. It was an honour to take part in this once in a lifetime celebration.*

After the Church service, a picnic was held on the playing fields. There was music, drama and lots of nice food.



There were – of course – also some street parties where neighbours came together to raise a toast to Queen Elizabeth...and eat some sausages! Michelle Newell (our oldest correspondent) has the tough job of reporting from the front line...



*Despite the change from warm sunny weather to dreary downpours, many of us experienced the joys of a street party to celebrate the Jubilee. Here on Kirby Close, we had great fun with BBQ food, music, beer from our local Hook Norton Brewery and a fabulous group quiz. Some of our residents even performed a song or two to the very supportive crowd. The children drew chalk pictures, decorated*

*biscuits and designed their own regal crowns to wear. It wasn't just Kirby Closers either— word had got out and we had many other villagers come along and join in with the festivities, which was wonderful.*



As I think you can gather, the children and adults of the Bartons had a grand old time marking this anniversary and all contributed to making it a long weekend to remember. Many thanks to our correspondents for sharing their experiences.



## Jubilee in the Wortons

*Jennie Schuster reports:*



Top: The Parish Garden Party  
Bottom left: Flying the flag on the Church  
Bottom right: George Hewett cutting the cake he made

## Drama Diary



Well, we did it. Because the weather was rather uncertain, we were able to perform our little excerpt on the dance floor of the Sports and Social Club, which made life a bit easier. Many thanks to all for allowing us to do that, and congratulations to all organisers for a splendid jubilee weekend.



The accompanying flyer (right) says it all about the full version of 'They Came from Mars...' which we are aiming to produce in the Autumn. If you found our excerpt from it a little confusing, perhaps in the full version, all will become clear...perhaps! Come and see anyway!

# THEY CAME FROM MARS...

**MIDDLE BARTON DRAMA GROUP  
PRESENT A SNEAK PREVIEW OF  
OUR AUTUMN PRODUCTION**



Thanks for watching our short taster of our forthcoming production, the full version of which will be seen at the Alice Marshall Hall some time in the autumn—thrill as the ladies of the Farndale Avenue Townswomen's Guild attempt lift-off with their Dramatic Society's unique production of a sci-fi thriller. Needless to say, high tech effects going awry and the limited talents of some group members ensure that the cast remains firmly on the ground, some more than others!

The resourceful chairwoman, Mrs Reece brilliantly circumnavigates pitfalls as she steers the company into orbit and through space to genteel tea on Mars, where the nail-biting action is interrupted to present the Flower Arranging Award!

**GET INVOLVED!**

We'll be casting this production and starting rehearsals soon and we are always on the lookout for new faces so if you'd ever fancied dipping a toe into Am Dram why not give it a go? If a speaking role seems a bit daunting we have vacancies for non-speaking bucketheaded minions of the evil Indesit the Martian—and there are always vacancies for the hundred and one backstage roles that every production needs!

We're a friendly bunch, so follow us on Facebook for updates or send a message to [mcherbert2@outlook.com](mailto:mcherbert2@outlook.com) and we'll make sure you are kept up to date with all news, developments and rehearsal/casting dates!

## Jambojam Music Festival

SATURDAY 23RD JULY

# Jambojam Festival

**FROM: 5PM**

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Celebrate the start of summer with us in the heart of Middle Barton at Jambojam Music Festival! Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> July, from 5 pm. Individual tickets £10 or family tickets £30 in advance from the shop (£15 and £40 on the day). Ticket price includes food in the form of a BBQ. Please bring cash for the bar too.

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# 1st Bartons Scout Group

Jill Elliot writes about Beavers and Cubs:

## Leaders Get Awards As Well.

Three of 1<sup>st</sup> Bartons' leaders have received awards recently, it's not just the young people who get badges. Chris Brock, Scout Leader, has completed his Leader training and was presented with his Wood Badge and beads. Anne Barras our Group Scout Leader received her 10 years Long Service Award, and John James - AKA Buzzard - our previous Beaver Scout Leader, received the Award for Merit for Services to Scouting.

## Beavers and Cub Camp April 2022

After two years, the Beavers and Cubs finally camped at Youlbury, Boars Hill Oxford. We arrived early on Saturday morning, pitched tents, and then headed off for activities. The Beavers all had a go at archery, and Cubs the 3G Swing. The Beavers practised their pioneering skills, lashing together broom handles to make stretchers for sick teddies who needed to go to hospital urgently. The Cubs made a chariot frame which they raced against each other. Osprey came and led a campfire and then a highlight of the camp was the Night Hike to see the 'Infamous Jaffa Cake Tree'. This is an old tree in the middle of a field which mysteriously bears unusual fruit – Jaffa cakes and sometimes Jammy Dodgers if there has been a very wet Autumn! We ended the camp with investing Kite, AKA Tom Ward, a new Beaver Leader, and Theo our newest Beaver. Gwennie and Reuben 'Swam up' to Cubs, and Lilly, Matthew, Harry B and Angus 'Leapt' up to Scouts. It was a brilliant weekend - a lot of hard work for a 30-hour camp, but well worth it. The atmosphere was joyful and exciting. It was so rewarding seeing the children enjoying being outside lighting fires and cooking 'Dampers' (dough twists on a green stick), playing wifes games, exploring the site and helping with camp duties – washing up, collecting water etc.



Millie.B said she doesn't have just one favourite thing about camp, but lots of things! *"I really enjoyed the 3G swing because it was a great, fun experience to share with my friends. I also loved sleeping outside in a tent and listening to owls at*

*night."* Thomas J said, *"the best bit of camp was the night hike, because I got to walk and run in the*



*dark."* Reuben loved the night hike and chatting to Goshawk about gardening whilst hiking. Theo enjoyed sleeping in a tent and playing lots of games with his friends. Goshawk who had never been to camp said afterwards, *"It was brilliant! Glad I joined the best Beavers/Cubs in Britain. And no-one else has a magic Jaffa Cake Tree ..."*



The weekend's success was made possible by the support and help of parents helping to transport kit, pitching the mess tent, cooking the meals, supporting Beavers and Cubs with activities, and finding their torches and taking wet tents home to dry!

1<sup>st</sup> Bartons is a very successful Scout Group with three strong sections and good connections with Chipping Norton ESU. We have an experienced Leadership Team who are enthusiastic about Scouting, but we do need more leaders especially within the Cub Section. If you know someone in the community; family members, friends, colleagues, neighbours who might be interested in getting involved, please contact Anne Barras GSL.

I have been a Scout Leader at 1<sup>st</sup> Bartons for 30 years and I am still passionate about what Scouting offers young people and adults alike, but I think Ian Taylor – a parent helper at camp – says it better than I can, "My overall take-away from camp was awe for the leaders and the massive enjoyment of the whole thing by the children. I cannot recommend this experience enough – if you're thinking about your children joining Beavers, Cubs or Scouts go for it! And if, as a parent, you have a bit of time to give to help the leaders please do that too. The combination of scout leaders and parent helpers gives the children an experience so amazing that they simply say 'everything' was their favourite bit and I think that was my favourite bit too." 1<sup>st</sup> Bartons needs your help and support. Please think about how you can support scouting in The Bartons.

Kim Griffin writes:



The Summer term is always a busy one with lots of exciting things going on. The children have been enjoying the better weather and the opportunity to take even more learning outside.

Other events that have taken place in school have included an amazing plant sale, which was organised by FOMBs. They raised approximately £800 which will help support the school enormously with a range of additional events and resources. Thank you to all those who kindly donated plants and a special thank you to Barbara Hill, Carol Bowerman and Pat Woodward who donated a considerable amount.

Some of our Year 5 girls, Poppy and Sachini, worked hard and organised a cake sale to raise funds for Ukraine. They not only baked, but organised the whole event. They raised a grand total of £277.30 We are very proud of how passionate our children are about things going on in the world and how they can generate support.



The school pond is nearly finished! The Year 6 children have worked incredibly hard with the support of Mrs Horner. They have researched to make sure they were within budget and that the pond contains the correct plants to support our local wildlife and ecosystem.

As a school we were able to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee. The children learnt about it in their class but also took part in a celebratory lunch. The top playground was decorated with flags and bunting. Judy and Denise from the kitchen, provided the staff and children with a delicious picnic lunch and Becky Bishop baked an amazing cake for use to cut as part of the celebration. Thank you to Reverend Jane and Kate Carter- Windle for attending. The children sang the National Anthem and danced the conga down to the playground. Great memories were made!

A number of classes have taken part in Government Assessments recently. Year 1 have completed their phonics screening, Year 2 have completed their

SATs (Standard Assessment Tests) which helps form part of a teacher assessment, Year 4 have completed Multiplication Tables Check and Year 6 have completed their SATs. We are always so proud of the children and the maturity and effort they put into these assessments.



### Reports from the children

#### Pottery Workshop at CNS

At our pottery workshop, they taught us how to make a pinch pot and a coil pot. To make the pottery we each used a ball of clay, which had a cloth over it to keep it moist, a lolly stick, a toothpick and a pot of water to smooth our clay out.

To make a pinch pot, you must roll some clay into a ball and then use your thumbs to push the clay out to form the sides of the pot. Then, you round it into the shape you want and use water to smooth it out. To make a coil pot, we took some clay and rolled it into a ball and then flattened it out. We then took some more clay and rolled it into a sausage shape until it was the right length. It needed to be as long as our flat circle. This was tricky! Then we laid each coil on top until our pot was formed.

We had so much FUN! We would all love to go again as we thought the teachers were kind and funny which made it amazing and more enjoyable.  
By Talhia and Evie

#### Rugby Tournament

Some reflections from the children:

On the way to the rugby tournament, I felt a bit worried but also excited. I had been to a football tournament before, so I knew what it was like to play in an event like this. I really like sports, rugby especially, so it was great to get a chance to go. I feel much more confident in tag rugby because of the tournament.

I was nervous when we were going, but also excited. I was worried I might get hurt - I fell over a

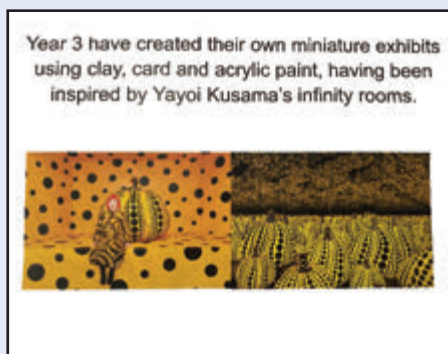
# Barton School

## Give – Challenge – Achieve

few times but other than that I was fine and enjoyed it. I would definitely go again. When we went, I realised we were more than just a class, we're friends and can work really well as a team.

I enjoyed it, I felt it was 10/10 and really fun. The most fun part was seeing my friends who go to the rugby club. I'd like there to be another tournament. I just want to say a big thank you to my dad, Luke Ingram, for stepping in, helping out, and boosting our confidence. I wouldn't have scored my first try in the tournament if it wasn't for him. We would also like to thank the team who helped organise it, and support us throughout.

Arden, Brodie, Gracie, Harley, Harris, Harry C, Lily Reed, Millie, Phoebe, and Rory.



### AIM (Able, interested and motivated) Drama workshop

At Chipping Norton School it was very exciting because we've only been there a few times, the workshop was very unexpected and it's not what we thought it would be. Though we did end up laughing at each other. The drama teacher was very energetic, very enthusiastic and very kind. The studio was dark and had lights on the ceiling which were not turned on. Some of the drama was based on a story about an autistic kid that got blamed for killing a dog. We also acted like astronauts in space. Our favourite part of the drama was the giant Jenga.

By Harry B and Riley

### Chipping Norton Athletics

Firstly, we lined up at the office door, we were all excited as we got on the bus heading for the tournament. Nervously, we put our bags down and lined up for the 75 metre sprint start line. First, it was the year 6 girls, then year 6 boys, year 5 girls, year 5 boys, year 4 girls and lastly year 4 boys. We all

tried our best and cheered each other on. The competition was hard!

Secondly, we did a 300-metre sprint followed by a standing long jump, this was harder than it sounds! Everyone tried really hard to run their fastest and to jump their furthest. After the long jump we had a go at throwing a howler - we had a few rounds to throw and we got points depending on where we came against the others.

After all the races, we were given our awards. Everyone was sweating, we all had a good drink! On the way back to Middle Barton we chatted on the bus about all of the events and how hard some of them were. Eventually, we got back and headed home for a good rest.

By Niamh



Art work by Willow Class who have been studying the work of Kehinde Wiley

### Ukraine Bake Sale

On the 26th of May, we (Poppy, Sachini, Phoebe, and Millie) raised money for Ukraine by having a bake sale. A special thanks to Lily Bishop, who also raised money, selling toys and mystery bags. We sold all of the cakes, and the total amount of money we raised was £277.30. We would like to thank everyone who donated cakes and biscuits; they were all delicious.

Our thoughts:

*"I really enjoyed organising and running the bake sale."* Poppy.

*"I loved running the bake sale, and I feel great knowing that we have helped Ukraine."* Sachini.

*"It was good. I really enjoyed it."* Phoebe.

*"I enjoyed making people happy."* Millie.

*"I liked that there were loads of people. It was fun."* Lily.

# Bartons Victory Memorial Hall Fund

Secretary Trevor Payne writes

We hope that everybody enjoyed the Jubilee Celebrations and everyone had the chance to appreciate the facilities available on your playing fields. We would like to thank Chris Fowler for making the Jubilee Beacon, Mark Johnson for the wood & help, and John Gardner for undertaking repairs to the play equipment. It is likely that Easington Clans, Easington U17 and Brackley U18 football teams will use our pitch as their home ground next season.

We are awaiting a report on the potential to reduce the long term running costs of the buildings on the playing fields through solar power and ground source heating.

Finally two reminders:

- Don't forget that you can contribute to the costs of maintaining the playground by joining the Cherwell Lottery (Bartons Victory page)
- Dogs are not allowed anywhere on the playing fields: sadly, despite the numerous signs, we still get owners that ignore this fact.

## CRIB LEAGUE PRESENTATION EVENING

This was held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April, our first since 2019. Two finals were played and there was a finger buffet. Six trophies were presented and the winners and runners up all received a bottle of wine. A very enjoyable evening was had by all. The league will restart on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September; new members are always welcome. We meet every Thursday from September to April at 8pm in the Club Lounge. Please contact me by mid-August if you are interested in joining our friendly bunch or would like more information.

## 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](mailto:hpauling@live.co.uk).



## FORTHCOMING EVENTS AT THE WAR MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELDS

The pop-up café is still running every Tuesday and Thursday mornings in the Jubilee Room (except on polling days!)

- \* Bingo in the Jubilee Room: July 6<sup>th</sup> and August 3<sup>rd</sup>
- \* Quiz in the Club Lounge: July 20<sup>th</sup> and August 17<sup>th</sup>
- \* Country and Western Festival in the Jubilee Room: 13<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> July (For more details email: [kath4john@btinternet.com](mailto:kath4john@btinternet.com))
- \* Country and Western in the Jubilee Room: August 20<sup>th</sup>
- \* Kids Disco in the Jubilee Room: July 2<sup>nd</sup> and also in August (date to be confirmed)

Up to date information on events is generally displayed on the boards by the entrance to the Playing Fields.

### Answer to chess puzzle

White has a mate in two: 1.Qxf7+ Kh8 (the only move) 2.Qf6#



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# Beeches Light Railway

Chris Raworth writes:

Anyone watching 'BBC South Today' on 5<sup>th</sup>. April may recall seeing a feature on an Oxfordshire based privately owned steam railway with a locomotive from the



Darjeeling Himalaya Railway (DHR). What wasn't clear from the feature was that it was within sniffing distance of The Bartons. The Beeches Light Railway is owned by Adrian Shooter at Steeple Aston, and he steams it three or four times a year. The locomotive was built specifically for the DHR by Sharp, Stewart & Co. of Glasgow in 1889 for the steep Himalayan gradients. The 1:22 gradient at the



Beeches makes No.19 really work for it's living! The railway is completely operated by volunteers, some of them professional railwaymen, and some of us locals. The railway is 600yds. long

approximately, with a figure of eight track, and an outer loop; the Indian style station is called Rinkingpong Road.

The BBC spent the day with us which coincided with a visit by some 50 plus model T Fords gathering in the central paddock, a number having travelled from Europe. A spectacular sight was when they all moved off in convoy heading for the Bicester Heritage site. The Beeches has its own Model T Ford, a



railway inspectors' car. Mounted on rail wheels, and with the steering wheel removed, the track inspector would have ventured out onto the line. Once his task was complete, a hydraulic jack would raise the car off the track on a turntable, the car would be manually rotated, lowered back down, and the inspector could return.

The steamings are not public open days, but groups wishing to attend a steaming can contact [shooter.adrian@gmail.com](mailto:shooter.adrian@gmail.com)

# District Councillor Report

Councillor Dave Jackson writes:

At the local elections in May, I was very grateful to the electors of The Bartons ward for giving me their support, and re-electing me with an increased majority. The result was (by party affiliation)



|                  |     |
|------------------|-----|
| Liberal Democrat | 543 |
| Conservative     | 160 |
| Green            | 27  |
| Majority         | 383 |
| Turnout          | 47% |

My thanks to the residents who voted for me, and, in particular, displayed my orange diamond poster. I think it was fairly obvious that I was standing again!

A third of the council wards (16) were up for selection. The Conservative party retained four wards, but lost seven – five to the Liberal Democrats, one to Labour and one to the Green Party. The result of these changes was that the Conservatives lost overall control.

So a new 'West Oxfordshire Alliance' has been formed from the 'non-conservative' parties, to form a new administration. Our own county councillor, Andy Graham, is also a district councillor, and he has been selected as the new district council leader, with the leader of the Labour group, Duncan Enright, as his deputy.

I requested to carry on with my roles on the planning committee, and the licensing committee (where I have been appointed vice-chair), as I feel that my four years experience has developed my knowledge and confidence. But being part of the new administration means that I have also volunteered to be on the 'Audit and Governance' scrutiny committee.

There are several scrutiny committees, whose role is to scrutinize the work of the cabinet. Under the previous administration, these committees were all chaired by councillors from the ruling group. The new alliance decided that they should be chaired by opposition councillors, who can cast a more critical eye on the work of the cabinet so Conservative members are chairing these committees.

The other extra commitment that I have been asked to undertake is to volunteer to be a WODC representative on some 'Outside Bodies'. So I will attend meetings of *Wild Oxfordshire* and *The Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association*. At the time of writing I have not met the two organisations, and, naturally, I am hoping that they don't meet too often! But they are both representing themes in which I have a keen interest, and *Wild Oxfordshire* may well dovetail nicely into the work of the Sustainable Bartons group.

I am hoping that my extra council workload will not significantly affect the time that I can commit to my other village interests that I so enjoy, such as The Beavers, the school Eco Club, and the Community Speedwatch. I have discussed this with the other volunteers, who are aware that I might have to miss the odd meeting. Only time will tell.

Councillor Dave Jackson:  
skelligilldave@yahoo.co.uk / 07407 443944



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# Busy Bees

Ella and Sian write:

**B**usy Bees have been busy welcoming our local children and families to play group. As a community focused not-for-profit group the support of the



local parents, carers and community are what keep it running. That said, we would like to thank The Westcote Barton and Steeple Barton Trust who generously provided Busy Bees with a grant to secure the future of the playgroup after a turbulent few years following Covid. And since receiving the grant we have welcomed many new families and feel very positive for the future of Busy Bees.

The children have recently enjoyed a lovely Jubilee party, where they made crowns and had London focused stories and songs. A great time was had by all! There have also been a



range of crafts and sensory activities to engage and interest our Busy bees! At Easter we were lucky enough to have a visit from the Barton Benefice who gave the children an Easter Story complete with play chicks, painted eggs and a variety of other props.



We are all looking forward to the last half term of the academic year and have plenty of fun activities planned. We run every Tuesday during term time between 9-11am at the AMH. Contact Ella for more information on 07930694239.



## 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.

## 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



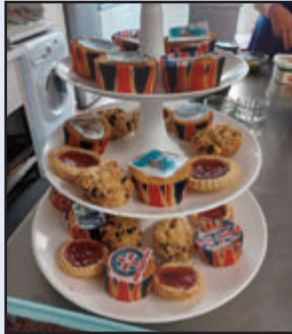
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## News From Facebook

Kat Day writes:

The Middle Barton Locals Facebook group has been busy as ever recently. We've seen people on the hunt for various products and services, local businesses advertising, and things being sold or given away – everything from bubble wrap to biking gear, some hedge cutters, and even a free telescope!



Of course we had lots of posts about Jubilee celebrations, both in the run-up and over the long weekend itself. Anita Morris Green reminded us about the pop-in cafe on the Tuesday before with lots of mouthwatering photos.

There have also been updates from the new Middle Barton Dog Park (for more information see [www.middlebartondogpark.com](http://www.middlebartondogpark.com)), and Carol and Kay also recently reminded us that they're still collecting used stamps for Katharine House Hospice, and that you can drop those at Middle Barton Stores.

Have you joined us yet? If not, come and find us at

[www.facebook.com/groups/mbigroup](http://www.facebook.com/groups/mbigroup)



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## Barton Benefice Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

The Rev.d Jane Wright writes:

Celebrations in the Benefice started on Saturday 4th June with a Teatime Choral Celebration in St Martin Church, Sandford.



We held our Benefice Platinum Jubilee Service on Sunday 5th June at 10.30am. This was followed by tree planting as part of *The Queen's Green Canopy* and then lunch time celebrations in all our

parishes. In the Bartons this included live music and drama at the Bartons Victory Memorial Hall.

Thanks to everyone who helped organise events and who came to support them. It really was a special occasion for all.

### Summer in the Benefice

**Duns Tew Church Fete is on Sunday 3rd July 1.30-4pm.** There will be all the old favourite stalls and games plus a few new ones including a Platinum Jubilee Pudding competition, Tug of War and Children's *Dressing Up as a Royal Competition*. And **Westcote Barton Church Fete is on Saturday 27th August.**



Special services to look out for are the popular annual Pet Blessing Service in Steeple Barton Church on Sunday 24th July 11am.

Visit our website for details of forthcoming services and events ([www.bartonbenefice.org.uk/](http://www.bartonbenefice.org.uk/) or [www.facebook.com/bartonbenefice/](http://www.facebook.com/bartonbenefice/)). If you'd like to receive the weekly Notice Sheet by email, contact Clare our administrator on

[enquiries@bartonbenefice.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@bartonbenefice.org.uk)

All best wishes, Jane Wright. Tel: 01869 340510

[clergy.bartonbenefice@outlook.com](mailto:clergy.bartonbenefice@outlook.com).

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# Dates for the Diary



## July 2022

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sun** Duns Tew Church Fete (see p18)

**12<sup>th</sup> Tues** **W.I.**  
Duns Tew Village Hall, 7:30pm  
Life as a Radio Caroline DJ with  
Peter Meadowcroft. Contact:  
Jenny Jackson 01869 340759

**14<sup>th</sup> Thurs** **The Bartons and Woodstock  
Walking Group**  
Meet at 10am. Various venues.  
Contact: David Wharton  
david@thistledome.net

### Abeline Country Music Club Weekend

**14<sup>th</sup> Thurs** Music in the bar area 8pm  
**15<sup>th</sup> Fri** with M.T. Allen, 8pm  
**16<sup>th</sup> Sat** With Dave Montana at 2pm and Ian  
Highland Band at 8pm.  
**17<sup>th</sup> Sun** with Chris Mezza at 2pm and  
Ridgeway Band at 8pm.

**18<sup>th</sup> Mon** **Steeple Barton Parish Council  
Meeting**, Alice Marshall Hall, 8pm.

## August 2022

**9<sup>th</sup> Thurs** **W.I.**  
Duns Tew Village Hall, 7:30pm  
Event: Summer trip out and meal  
Details TBC. Contact Jenny  
Jackson 01869 340759

**11<sup>th</sup> Thurs** **The Bartons and Woodstock  
Walking Group**  
Meet at 10am. Various venues.  
Contact: David Wharton  
david@thistledome.net

**15<sup>th</sup> Mon** **Steeple Barton Parish Council  
Meeting**, Alice Marshall Hall, 8pm.

**20<sup>th</sup> Sat** **Abeline Country Music Club –  
featuring Woodchuck**  
Sports and Social Club, 8pm

**27<sup>th</sup> Sat** **Westcote Barton Church Fete**



## Pick Your Own Fruit and Veg Farms are NOW OPEN

Pick Your Own Farms are now fully open and the summer season is in full swing with Pick Your Own Fruit and Vegetables. There will be strawberries, early raspberries, blackcurrants, redcurrants and plentiful mid potatoes and various beans. Some of the farms also have flowers for cutting. Most of the farms have stock available from their shop if you don't have enough time for picking, together with lots of other treats. Please check on each farm's website for opening times.

Medley Manor Farm: Binsey Lane, OX2 0NJ

Millets Farm Centre: Frilford, Abingdon OX13 5HB

Rectory Farm: Stanton St. John, OX33 1HF

Wykham Park Farm, Banbury OX16 9UP

## Farmers' Markets

**Banbury:** 1<sup>st</sup> Fri of the month, 8.30–1.30pm

**Bicester:** every Fri, 9.00–4.30pm

**Chipping Norton:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat of the month,  
8.30–1.30pm

**Deddington:** 4<sup>th</sup> Sat of the month,  
9:00–12.30pm

**Kidlington:** every Fri and Sat, 9.00–4.30pm

**Summertown:** every Sun, 10.00–2.00pm

**Woodstock:** 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat of the month,  
8.30–1.00pm

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