

**Issue Number 172**  
November/December 2022

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

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**Happy  
Christmas**  
to all our  
readers  
and  
advertisers!

## YOUR HELP IS URGENTLY NEEDED!

You will be aware by now that the **DORN FREE PRESS** is struggling financially, like most others in the world today, and whilst we think we may have found a solution to that, for the time being, we also need people to join our team! We need people with fresh ideas to replace many of the current committee who are retiring, after a combined total of over 50 years on the job, in order to take it forward. The March/April edition will be the last one produced by the current committee and if we cannot find other volunteers to take on the roles then the **DFP** will close.

There are several roles to fill and we are hoping that you out there might like to come to the aid of our magazine which has been going since 1994 - and would be missed if it was to vanish.

If you think you might be interested in helping to keep the **DFP** afloat then come and have a chat with us and see what we are all about. It is very rewarding gathering information and amalgamating articles and photographs to form what has become an informative and "jolly good read" over the years.

It's fun and not a bad way to volunteer either!

Please come and meet the present team, we would love to meet you. We can be contacted on either 01869 349931 or 07974 940764 or by emailing us at

**chairman@dornfreepress.com**

**PLEASE GIVE IT A GO!**

We look forward to hearing from you



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

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**Do you have something for the next (January/February 2023)**

**DFP?**

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

**by 30th November 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

If you're like me, you'll probably be wondering where on Earth this year has gone, but we are now quickly approaching the end of 2022. It's been our first year since COVID started without us enduring a lockdown, which seems extremely strange, but it's nice to be getting back to whatever 'normal' may be with the virus. We're definitely going through some interesting times, and there are no doubt concerns among us regarding the cost of living crisis and other worries going on in the world, but we hope to give you a little sprinkling of joy as you read the updates surrounding your Dorn Valley. Warm meals and friendly faces can be found at the Alice Marshall Hall (see page 5), Middle Barton School have enjoyed a wonderful first term back after the Summer (see pages 6-7), and the Scouts have had some exciting adventures too (see page 12). Christmas is coming, and we in the Dorn Valley certainly know how to celebrate! See events from the Pre-School (page 4), the Church (page 10) and the Sports and Social Club (page 8) for more. We at the DFP wish you all a wonderful Christmas, and hopefully, a very happy new year.

Can you find all the Candy Canes?



There are 12 altogether!

Who is Santa's favourite singer?

Elf-is Presley!



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# Pre-School Update

Elle Frost writes:

It's a new academic year, and we have enjoyed welcoming some charming new faces to our pre-school. Older children have had the opportunity to attend Forest School on Thursday afternoons, which is something that they love, and we are proud to be able to offer them. Outdoor activities include arts and crafts with forest materials, woodland discovery, empathy for animals, and occasionally, supervised marshmallow roasting over a campfire!



Alas! We are losing two more of our outstanding staff to retirement. Both Linda and Karen will be leaving us after Christmas following many years of dedication with us. They have nurtured so many little ones in their earliest, tentative school days and it will be terribly sad to see them leave. We wish them all the best in the future.



We would like to thank all who attended the Monsters Ball in October. It was a terrific success, and a pleasure to see the little ones delightedly scampering around in their Halloween costumes! Proceeds will go towards our current project of sprucing up the garden and adding a couple of new features.

Save the dates:

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> of November, the Lighting of the Village Christmas Tree. We are pleased to be hosting a hot mulled wine stall at this festive event, so do come by and treat yourselves to a warming cup of *vin chaud*.

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> of December 5-8pm, Santa's Sleigh. Santa will again be taking a tour of the village to see who's been naughty or nice. He'd love to see you either way, so keep an eye out for his published route, which will be available nearer the date.



The pre-school is a registered charity (290217) and is run by a committee of staff, parents, and community members. One easy way to help support us is by switching from Amazon to

*Amazon Smile* for any of your Amazon purchases. For every order you place with *Amazon Smile*, Amazon will make a donation to your chosen charity. Simply go to [www.smile.amazon.co.uk](http://www.smile.amazon.co.uk) and log in with your usual Amazon details. From there, scroll to the bottom to 'Get Started' and then type 'Middle Barton Preschool' in the free text box, select us as your charity, and away you go! You will then be able to navigate all of the site as usual. Do please save *Amazon Smile* as a new bookmark, as using your old Amazon bookmark will not automatically update you for future shopping.

If you would like to register your child for pre-school, then do please contact us so that we can send you a registration form. Registering your child in advance helps us navigate staffing requirements throughout the year. We take children from age two and accept government funding for 15-30 hours if eligible.

Contact us: Tel:01869 347968.

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

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



## Social Bartons at the AMH

*Kate Carter-Windle writes:*

This Winter, we have a combination of bodies providing food, tea and coffee.

The Destiny Children's Panto Trip is putting on a Breakfast Club from 9:30 to 12pm every Saturday in the Alice Marshall Hall.

The Sports and Social Club are providing Coffee Mornings every Tuesday and Thursday, and the Alice Marshall Hall are having a weekly Lunch Club between 10am and 4pm on Wednesdays. This will be shared between the Churches Together Team, the W.I Team and the Alice Marshall Hall Team. We hope you will come and enjoy time with us over the winter months in warm and jolly surroundings. There will be varied menus to suit all. From a full English Breakfast, coffee and delicious homemade cakes and buns to a jolly good lunch or soup and a roll.

Don't be cold at home this winter, come to us. Don't be hungry this winter, come to us. Come with your friends or make new ones. Lynn at the Sports and Social, the W.I, Churches Together, and the Alice Marshall Hall team, all look forward to seeing you.



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## Busy Bees

*Ella Daniels writes:*

Busy Bees have had a good first term back. At the end of last summer, we waved off lots of our children as they joined preschool and school in September. We have been lucky enough to welcome some new faces to the group, including one very special Busy Bee who visited at only one week old!

Alongside our usual fun and games, we have celebrated Harvest, Halloween, explored sand, water, bugs, ice, numbers and done all sorts of other sensory activities and crafts.

We will be having our Busy Bees Christmas Party on Tuesday 20 December so join us for a morning of jolly fun!

Wishing all our Busy Bees & their families a very merry Christmas and a happy new year!



*Busy Bees runs every Tuesday in term time at the AMH between 9-11am. For more information contact Ella on 07930694239.*

# Middle Barton School

## Be Curious – Believe – Challenge – Achieve

Kim Griffin writes:



Welcome back from Middle Barton School! What an amazing start to the school year. The children have come back so focussed and ready to learn. They all looked very smart in their uniforms and proud to be part of the school. We have

welcomed back Mrs Peedell, who is working in a variety of classes across the school. We also have Miss Winson and Mr Heath with us, who are Associate Teachers embarking on their journey to be qualified teachers. Miss Winson will be working in Sycamores and Mr Heath in Willows.

### Classes

#### Acorn class

Our new starters have settled in incredibly well and are already known by so many of the older children. They are learning where everything is in their classroom and outside and are making



lots of new friends. The class has been making the most of the outside while the weather is still good. The children have been sitting in the



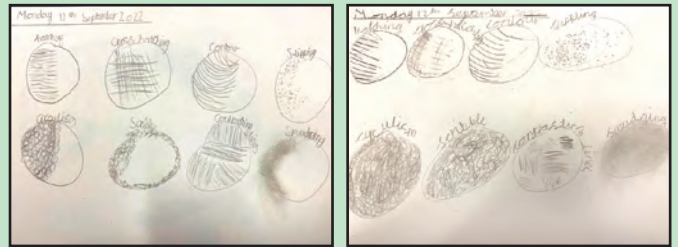
sunshine being read to by Mrs Overton and Mrs Peedell. With Mrs Horner, the class dug up potatoes, and washed and peeled them. They were then baked in the oven and devoured by the class in the Outdoor classroom. They were delicious!



#### Sycamore class

They have settled in very well with Miss Epsom and Miss Winson. They have been learning all the new routines and expectations for their class. In maths sessions, they were getting used to all of the maths equipment that they will be using this year. The

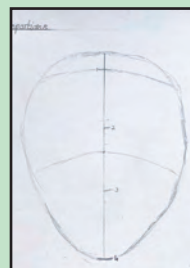
class have also taken part in yoga sessions with Lucy, our Yoga teacher. The class has been working hard on their presentation since the start of term and trying really hard to learn cursive handwriting and letter formation. The class has been learning about the Upper, Middle and Lower class in history and how they lived. They had remembered lots of facts.



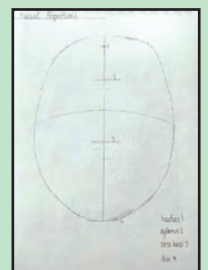
#### Maples class

The class have also taken part in yoga sessions this term and are starting to look at techniques so they can relax. They have begun their Art topic and created mark making pieces of artwork. They have settled in really well with Miss Sylvester and are getting to grips with being in Key Stage 2. The children were thinking of adjectives to describe the three pigs. They have also been looking at the 3 periods with the Stone Age as part of their new History topic. Maples have been describing a setting as part of their English work. In Maths, they have been learning to partition numbers up to 1000.

#### Willow class



What a hard-working class! They have been focussed on writing their diary extracts this term and working with their buddies; improving it to



make it a really excellent standard. In Art, the class has really been challenged this term. The Year 4s have been experimenting with using techniques of scale and ratio to create correct proportions using the grid method. The Year 5s have begun to learn how to use the facial thirds rule as part of their work on drawing portraits.

#### Oak class

The class have already risen to the challenge of being in Year 6! Many children have supported the





Acorns at lunch times; which is just lovely to see. I have already seen some fantastic writing being produced and quite a few have been to ask if they can write in pen. We are so proud of their determination and sense of pride. The class has been reading *Beowulf* by

Michael Morpurgo as their class text. There has been an emphasis on new vocabulary. They have learnt new words such as; redeemer, hearth, kinsman, plight, larder and envious. The class has also embarked on their residential to Bushcraft. They have made fires in different ways using matches, flint and steel, batteries and steel. They have shown great teamwork and support for their tribes (groups).



From the children:

### Year 5 Sports Leader Training

We went to Chipping Norton School Leaders and learnt how to help make our school more active. We are doing this by setting up more sports groups for younger children. We are also encouraging smaller children to go outside and be more active. We will start by introducing two groups, Football skills for Reception and Stuck in the Mud/toilet tag for years 1, 2 and 3. We will add more clubs after time. We encourage our school to be more active!

By Jozef, Stanley, Juno, Erin, Nate and Lea.

### Under 11s Football Tournament

On Wednesday afternoon, seven girls and boys went to Chipping Norton School to play in a football tournament. We competed against four small schools. Every time we played a match we got more successful as a team. We made better decisions that helped us be a stronger group. We really enjoyed competing against other schools.

It was good and at the end, there were fun skills games that we played. Then they announced the top three but sadly we were not one of them. Finally, the sports leaders gave one of the teachers some certificates for us.

By Evie and Gabby

Who hides in the bakery at Christmas?  
*A mince spy!*

Middle Barton Primary School  
*Christmas to the community*

Tuesday 13th December  
6pm on the playground

*If it is raining the performance will be cancelled*

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To book your personal tour time.  
Please let us know if you would like to visit on another date.

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# BVFHF - Sports & Social Club

Trevor Payne writes:

## Childrens Playground

At the time of writing the tunnel in the playground is closed for repairs as one wooden supporting wall has collapsed, and another is very loose. This is entirely due to the wood rotting which unfortunately will be an increasing problem as the playground ages. There are also early signs of deterioration in one of the supports for the big swings and this is likely to need complete replacement in the near future. The cost of play quality wood chippings, which need annual topping up and full replacement when compacted, has almost doubled in twelve months. The Management Committee have obtained costings to replace the chippings under the Zip Wire and the 3 Swings with a flexible bonded surface which will save money in the long run but will require an initial significant capital outlay. Your financial support for the playground either through the Cherwell Lottery (Barton's Victory page), fund raising, or more directly by gift aided donations to the fund, is becoming ever more vital if we are to be able to keep the playground fully operational.

## Playing Fields Car Park

Residents are reminded that, with the exception of one night's parking after attending the Club or an event in the Jubilee Room, overnight parking is only permitted for permit holders (for which there is a charge). A penalty charge applies to all other cases.

## Lighting Up Ceremony For The Playing Fields Live Christmas Tree

This year's lighting up ceremony will take place on Friday 2nd December. There will be a fairground organ, children's fair rides, Christmas Carols, various exhibits, festive stalls, and hopefully a visit from Father Christmas. After the formal switch on there will be live entertainment in the Jubilee Room by Sapphire Duo. It is anticipated that activities will commence around 5pm with the switch on occurring around 8 pm followed by live music from 8:30 pm. Full details of the programme and timings will be exhibited on the notice board at the entrance to the playing fields when they have been finalised.

## The Bartons Memorial Sports And Social Club

Club members are reminded that memberships should have been renewed in October. Only paid-up members (and their children) can participate in the Christmas Parties. New members are very welcome; the annual cost is £10 per adult, £4 for seniors and £2 for junior members (ages 12 -17).

## The Jubilee Room

When not in use for events 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.

Bingo in the Jubilee Room: Wednesdays November 2nd and December 7<sup>th</sup>.

Quiz Night in the lounge: Wednesdays November 16<sup>th</sup> and December 21<sup>st</sup>

Country and Western in the Jubilee Room: Saturday November 15<sup>th</sup>.

Christmas Lights Switch-On with live entertainment in the Jubilee Room on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

Club Members Christmas Parties in the Jubilee Room:

Children's Christmas Party Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December; Members Christmas Casino Night Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December; Seniors Christmas Party Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December

New Year's Eve: Family Disco – more information to follow soon.

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

Finally, on behalf of the Trustees and Management Committee I would like to wish all the residents of the Barton's a very Happy Christmas.

Trevor Payne, Secretary BVMHF

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Karen Brown writes:

It is with some sadness that I write what might be the last report from Middle Barton Drama Group as a performing society.

This drama group has been in existence for nearly forty years, and some of us who started it are still part of it. In the beginning we were mostly in our 20's, 30's or early 40's. All the men had hair, and all our knees still worked!. Over the years we have probably presented more than fifty plays. We have been joined by some wonderful participants, both on stage and back stage. Inevitably, some people have left, have moved away from the village, have moved on with their lives, have gone to university, or are feeling no longer able to take part. For a long time, as people left, others joined. It has always been a welcoming group, and firm friendships have been formed through the group. Recently, however, we have found it more difficult to recruit new members, and those that have joined have found it difficult to make the necessary commitment. Covid and lockdown haven't helped, nor has the increase in the cost of living.

Therefore, Drama Group is evolving. Instead of a performing society, we are aiming towards more of a club format. We will meet to read and discuss plays, and maybe arrange to go and see other local productions, amateur and professional. It would be lovely if some other people could join us for these one-off events. There is no need for any commitment, line-learning, or other things that might be difficult. The play-readings will probably be in people's houses or back rooms in pubs, and are expected to be quite social affairs.

Mike Herbert, who has been a wonderful and supportive chairman for the last few years, is retiring from the post this Autumn. However, if you would like to take part in our play-readings, please contact him (01993 775702) or me (01869 347601) or any member of the group, and we will make sure to add your details to be contacted when these activities are to take place.

So, Drama Group hasn't gone away, it is merely changing somewhat and, who knows, we are not discounting the possibility of putting on productions in the future, and welcoming our lovely audience back!

## RIP, Queen Elizabeth II

Michelle Newell writes:

Since the last edition of the DFP, we lost our much-loved monarch, Queen Elizabeth the Second. I believe that she was a remarkable woman. She was the only Monarch many of us have ever known, and it's unlikely that many of us will see another Queen on the throne. She promised, on her 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, that "*I declare before you all with my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service*". Her life was indeed very long, living to the wonderful age of 96, and her words rang true throughout her reign. I feel that the village response to her death was lovely, from Church services, to books of condolences, to raising a toast with neighbours. Rest In Peace, Your Majesty.



As I edit this edition of the DFP, it has just been announced that King Charles III's coronation will be held on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2023. Despite the sadness at losing the Queen, I'm sure the coronation will still be a joyous occasion, and a chance for the village to come together once again for the festivities.



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# Church News

Clare Harper writes:

This year the harvest festivals in Duns Tew and Over Worton were modified to include reflections on our late Queen. All the gifts from Duns Tew, and half the gifts from Over Worton, were donated to Polly who cares for homeless and vulnerable people in Banbury. She said: *"It was absolutely wonderful of you - everything will be used to benefit the lives of those who need support. The donations will provide for at least 10 days to 2 weeks and the vouchers will enable me to choose the foods etc for the lads and lasses."*



We have had Harvest Donations in Sandford Church for Leonard Cheshire Home in Banbury (see photo).

Other donations from these Harvest festivals went to the North

Oxfordshire Community Foodbank. They were accepted with real joy. Their stocks have gone down and so the gifts of goods and money was very welcome. If you would like to donate to the foodbank there are boxes in the porches of Steeple Barton and Westcote Barton churches. A list of most needed items can be found on our website homepage under 'foodbank requests' at [bartonbenefice.org.uk/](http://bartonbenefice.org.uk/)

November is always a season of remembering in the Church calendar. On Wednesday 2 November we are having two All Souls' Services where we remember loved ones who have died. These are reflective times, with an opportunity to read out names of loved ones and light a candle for them. The services are 3pm at Westcote Barton followed by tea at the Alice Marshall Hall and 6pm in Sandford St Martin followed by drinks.

All those who have died in the last three years will be remembered by name. Please contact us before the services if you wish to add any other names to those being remembered. You can email Clare our Administrator at: [enquiries@bartonbenefice.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@bartonbenefice.org.uk)



This year our popular Benefice Remembrance Sunday Service is on 13 November at 10.50am in Sandford St Martin. There is also a Remembrance Service in Duns Tew at 10.50am. Riders and Horses in World War I dress, courtesy of Duns Tew's Centaur Transport, added a special dimension to our civic Remembrance Service in front of the Church in 2021.



The churches were also key places of remembering during the period of mourning following the death of HM Queen

Elizabeth II. Special services were held, and the

churches were all open giving people an opportunity to reflect or pray. Nearly 100 people attended the Benefice Service of Commemoration for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second, held at Steeple Barton Church on Sunday 18th September, and there were

readings and prayers from representatives of the School, Scouts, Guides, WI, and Victory Memorial Hall.

## Looking ahead to Christmas:

As we prepare for Christmas, do look out for a Christmas card with details of all the services and events which should arrive before Advent Sunday (27 November).

This year some of the highlights include:

- A Carol Service in Duns Tew with donkey and sheep on Saturday 11 December at 5pm.
- Steeple Barton are holding a sponsored Christmas Tree Festival in the church from the beginning of December. This is a fundraising event with trees sponsored and decorated by different local groups and organisations. Don't miss it!

The usual services including Christingle and Midnight Masses will be taking place across the churches. You can also check the website and church noticeboards for details of all our events. We look forward to seeing you.



### An updated pattern of services

We have slightly updated our regular monthly pattern of services, which will help to reduce the amount of time needed to heat our buildings. With that in mind, when there is no service in your own parish, we hope you will join us in worshipping elsewhere in the benefice. If transport is a problem, please get in touch - email

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

so we can help with lift sharing.

Stay up to date with news of services and events. If you would like to be added to our weekly notice sheet email list please send an email to: [enquiries@bartonbenefice.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@bartonbenefice.org.uk). Please do contact us at any time if we can be of help or provide you with information about services and activities in the benefice.

The Revd Jane Wright, Rector of the Barton Benefice

Tel: 01869 340510

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# Scouts, Beavers and Cubs

## 1st Bartons Scout Group

### Beavers

*Sarah Elliot writes:*

At our first meeting in September, we tried lots of different team games which involved a lot of running about and thinking! We presented three of our senior Beavers, Katherine, Charlie, and Billy, with the 'Top Beaver Badge' their Chief Scout Bronze Awards and then they 'Swam Up to Cubs'. We also welcomed some new Beavers, Charlotte, Teddy, Oliver, and Noah. We are looking forward to a busy term including a Sleepover at Youlbury Scout Activity Centre.

We do have some spaces at the moment, or you can contact me about getting your child onto the Waiting List. Beavers is for girls and boys aged between 6-8 years old. We meet in the AM Hall Monday 5pm-6.15pm.

### Cubs

*Anne Barras writes,*

At the first Cub meetings we covered the athletics badge which involved a lot of running, jumping and a great warm up from our newest cub leader Mang (aka Bruce). Also, many thanks to Matt and Richard who helped Mang run the activity on the night.

Meanwhile Shere Khan was asking the cubs to agree to personal challenges that they had selected as part of one of the Challenge Badges. The cubs set themselves some interesting challenges such as knitting a scarf, learn to play a specific tune on the piano and hula hoop for 10 minutes!

We are also planning for the Group to attend the Remembrance Sunday service at Sandford and leaf clearing at Wescott Barton Church.

### Scouts Summer Camp to Kandersteg in Switzerland.

*Jill Elliot writes,*

This August, after a year's delay due to COVID, six leaders (including four from 1st Barton's: Jill, Anne, Sarah and Tom) and sixteen Scouts and Explorer Scouts from Chipping Norton



(including Oscar and Henry from the Bartons) finally camped at the international campsite in Kandersteg, Switzerland. Brownsea Island in Poole Harbour was the site of the first ever scout camp organised by Baden Powell. After WW1, he wanted an international site that would be open 365 days



of the year so that scouts from all over the world could get to know each other and, hopefully, prevent further atrocities like WW1. It is a beautiful site in The Alps and as well as meeting international Scouts we hiked up to a mountain hut and slept over. Before setting off the following morning we invested our two newest Explorers Jacob and Henry. For me, it will certainly be the most memorable investiture I have ever done. We also had a go at rafting, zip wires, and we swam in a beautiful alpine lake. We also went in a cable car to a summer sled run.



### Beavers and Cubs Christmas Card Delivery

This year's Christmas Card Delivery will be on Monday December 12th. We will be delivering your cards to Westcott and Middle Barton (apologies, the delivery does not run to Steeple Barton, Sandford St Martin or Ledwell). Please make sure you address the cards clearly with the full address not just the name of the recipient! Over the years we have tried to make sure every card reaches its correct destination but sometimes even Miss Marple would have struggled. Please look out for post boxes and poster in late November!

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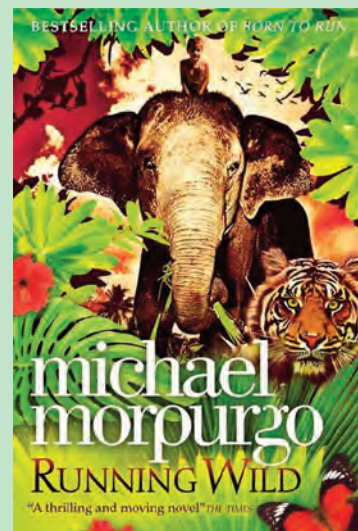
## Book Review: *Running Wild* by Michael Morpurgo

Harrie Peedell, age 10, writes:

*Running Wild* is a captivating children's novel by Michael Morpurgo. I enjoyed this book because it shows how nature can be very helpful in bad situations, even if it can be annoying sometimes. I also adore how he gets you hooked from the first page!

First things first, if you are to read this book, definitely make sure you have a box of tissues right next to you. The book picks up on many sensitive subjects including tsunamis, deforestation, endangered animals and loss of family. When Will and his mother escape from their home for a trip to Indonesia, it isn't just a holiday for them. It is a chance to forget about the pain of Will's father's death, even if it is just for a short while. But when Will is riding along the beach on an elephant named Oona, she begins to act strangely. Moving away from the water as if sensing that something bad was going to happen. Suddenly, a tsunami comes crashing in! When it comes, Oona starts running, but even when the tsunami is gone she keeps running.

Can Will survive in the deep depths of the forest with nothing more than the t-shirt he's wearing and a bottle of water?



## District Councilor Update

*Dave Jackson writes,*

It is nearly seven years since I instigated a '20's Plenty' campaign along South Street and Church Lane. So, it should come as little surprise that I am pleased that, finally, new speed limits have been introduced in the Bartons. My thanks go to the parish councils who worked in tandem to submit a scheme for the new regulations, and in particular to Roger Tyers (SBPC) and Steve Ferrelly (WBPC) who had numerous on-site meetings with the OCC Highways representative to discuss possibilities and locations for signage etc.

I am delighted that some of the boundary speed limits have been moved further away from the village, notably the 20 mph signs over the hill from the school, and the new 30 mph signs coming into Westcote Barton, which are now before the hill summit. I had a meeting back in 2018, shortly after becoming a District Councillor, with a traffic official from OCC to ask for those changes to be made, but was not successful at that time.

I also had a meeting with the same official at the top of Rayford Lane, before the parish council replaced the ineffective mirror. I enquired if the speed limit could be reduced from the allotments, and again that was rejected. As a result, I am doubly chuffed we have a 40mph limit at that point.

Not everyone who has spoken to me is in agreement with the new limits. Thankfully we live in a democracy where differing views can be tolerated. I am told that some drivers will simply ignore the lower limits, and that is probably true. This is where Speedwatch will be vital (see the other article, *right*). Sometimes it is difficult to lower speeds right down to 20mph, but I hope most would at least try to get near the mark. It only takes one driver to go slowly to create a mini convoy effect. Sadly, there will be the occasional driver who thinks it is acceptable to overtake, but most drivers do appreciate the need for lower speed limits.

Because the new Alliance elected in 2021 who are in charge of O.C.C. have facilitated the new speed limits, nearly all the parish councils in villages near us have requested 20 mph limits. So, in the next couple of years, we can expect to see limits in places like Sandford St Martin, Kiddington and Wootton. I think that this 'new-norm' of reducing speeds in villages will gradually become the logical mind-set for drivers. Only time will tell.



## Speedwatch

*Dave Jackson writes,*

The new Speedlimits through the Bartons officially came into force on October 1st. I have checked with the main Speedwatch coordinator for Thames Valley Police (TVP) exactly what we are allowed to do now that the whole stretch of the main road is an official 20mph limit.

All of our verified Speedwatch sites will now be altered to be 20 mph. We can simply carry on as before with three volunteers monitoring the speed of traffic. We can take the details of vehicles exceeding a certain speed. These details will be the time, speed, location, registration number, and colour and make of vehicle.

We are allowed to send these details to TVP, but for the first three months they will only send out warning letters to vehicles exceeding 30 mph. This is standard procedure to allow for 'familiarisation' of a new speed limit. After that time, all offending drivers will get the standard warning letter.

I have been asked if we need to do Speedwatch now that we have lower speed limits. My answer is that I reckon that it is even more important to keep up our sessions. The presence of our flashing sign will remind drivers of the new speeds, and Alpine F1 works, who are incredibly supportive, are making us some roadside banners to display at our sessions.

We also record the speed of all vehicles on our own forms, so we can work out the percentage of vehicles speeding at different locations, and at different times of the day. This data will be useful to gauge if the average speeds have been reduced since our lower limits have been in force. It will also help identify if certain locations (like past the church) are still speeding areas, which might be useful evidence if further physical measures are needed (finances allowing). I am particularly keen on the vehicle activated signs, like those in Gagingwell.

We can always do with new volunteers, especially as about 10 of our original members have either moved away, or have new work commitments. The on-line training is quite straightforward, and takes about 40 minutes. Please get in touch.

## Picking a Winner

Jennifer Schuster writes:

Bea McNair is doing her Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award and for the volunteering section has been regularly out and about all summer holidays picking up litter along the roadside in the Wortons. In spite of our great village effort in the spring keeping our roadsides clean, she has managed to collect many bags full of rubbish for which we are grateful.



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## WI Update

Ali Mawer writes:

Duns Tew and Middle Barton celebrated summer with a Treasure Hunt and supper arranged by the committee, held in the newly refurbished Alice Marshall Hall. We navigated our way around Middle Barton following clues, collecting souvenirs and hopefully the correct answers! Our supper was home cooked and delicious, a selection of quiches and desserts was enjoyed by all at the end of a hot but fun evening.

We started our autumn calendar with a visually interesting talk on miniatures which I think inspired some members to have a go!

We attempt card making in October and looking forward to Ken's talk on 'The Iranian Embassy' in November.

We are a very friendly WI with members from many neighbouring villages who are proud to offer a warm and welcoming environment. At our monthly meetings, we strive to offer a large and diverse range

of activities including talks, demonstrations, leisure pursuits and workshops. By joining us, you will become part of the largest women's organisations in Great Britain, so why not pop in to one of our

monthly meetings and see what we can offer! It is a great way of making new friends and meeting people. If you would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact a committee member.

Contact for membership is Jenny Jackson (President) email [skellgill\\_jenny@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:skellgill_jenny@yahoo.co.uk) or telephone 01869 340759



## Christmas Quiz

Answers on Page 19!

1. Which country started the tradition of putting up a Christmas tree?
2. How many gifts were given in total in 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' song?
3. What year did Mariah Carey's 'All I Want For Christmas Is You' come out?
4. What is the opening line to Shakin' Stevens' 'Merry Christmas Everyone'?
5. What were the three gifts that the Wise Men gave to Baby Jesus?
6. What fruit do you need to make a Christingle?
7. "Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light" – name the carol this line is from.
8. In which country is it popular to eat KFC on Christmas Day?
9. In Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, what was the first name of Scrooge?
10. How do you say "Merry Christmas" in Spanish?

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# Chess Problem 44

Trevor Daniels writes

What should Black play in this position?



Answers on Page 19!

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## Garden Update

*Darren Bullock writes:*

I have always been a thrifty gardener, looking at ways to save money in our garden at home can be challenging but, in this winter, when we are all facing unprecedented rises in the cost of living, for me being thrifty is even more important. So here are just a few of my tips.

On visiting garden centres with my loyalty card in hand I look for plants which can be potted on and grown on. These are usually sold as container and basket plants and will often be small shrubs, ornamental grasses, and ferns. Most have a reduced section and many of these plants just require a bit of TLC to perk them up. We have many plants at home that have been reduced!

I buy most of my compost from our two German supermarkets, it can be trial and error, but they compare very favourably with some of the more expensive brands. They are also very good for bulbs, seeds, plants, and sundries. However, I wish they would care for their plants better! Our two local markets in both Banbury and Chipping Norton have two excellent plant stalls where good quality plants can be purchased at bargain prices. Also don't forget car boot sales, local garden club plant sales and even the one at Barton Abbey where excellent plants can be bought.

Seeds can be saved from your own garden and swapped with friends, reuse old seed, most packets now have a use by date. If you are worried about their viability just sow a small pinch into a pot of compost, if they germinate you are good to go. A lot of places will also sell off a lot of their seeds just before they put their Christmas stock out...some real savings can be made.

Finally, if you are planting trees plant smaller, bare root ones, these will not only be cheaper but will establish themselves so much more quickly. Being thrifty for me is part of my gardening journey but we must remember that all our local garden centres and nurseries will need our support over the coming months because without us they simply cannot survive.

From our garden to yours, happy Christmas, and happy gardening!



## The Fox Inn

*Rebecca White writes:*

As you may have noticed, The Fox Inn in Westcote Barton (or is it Middle Barton?...joke!) is happily open again. I had a catch up with Steven Leather, its current proprietor to find out more.

Steven, a Geordie by birth, has been running pubs around the country for the last 15 years. What he loves to see most of all is how a pub can be turned around. And that is what he hopes for the Fox. Phrases like, 'family pub' and 'community pub' often crop up in his talk about hopes for the Inn. I couldn't agree more, it really should be that. The addition of family board games, books and doggie biscuits certainly adds to the feel that all are welcome. The place was sparklingly clean when I dropped by, and he certainly keeps a good pint as well.

Finding staff is Steven's number one priority as this will allow the kitchen to open up, and food to be served. He plans to offer good quality, good value pub food. So, if you would like to earn some extra money doing shifts at the pub, please get in touch!

The Fox is one of our village treasures - a cosy little pub, with a beautiful garden overlooking the Dorn valley. Pubs are at their best when the bar is full, so please grab a friend or loved one and head down to the Fox.

How do snowmen get around?

*They ride an icicle!*

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Page 3!  
Hint: The 12 Candy Canes include the one on

### Answer to Chess Puzzle:

Black can mate in two moves:

1...Qe6+ 2.Kg5 (the only move) Qh6#

### Farmers' Markets

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

**Bicester:** every Fri, 9.00–4.30pm

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

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

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

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

**Woodstock:** 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat of the month,  
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### Farm Shops

Some Pick Your Own Farms remain open even though their picking fields are now closed because they sell a range of seasonal stock and lots of other treats in their shops, particularly in the weeks before Christmas. Please check on each farm's website for their 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

### Answers to Christmas Quiz:

1. Germany
2. 364
3. 1994
4. "Snow is falling, all around me"
5. Gold, frankincense, and myrrh
6. Orange
7. We Three Kings
8. Japan
9. Ebenezer
10. Feliz Navidad

# Dates for the Diary



## November 2022

- 3rd Thurs.** **Middle Barton School Bonfire and fireworks**  
More information from school and pre-school
- 8th Tues.** **W.I Duns Tew Village Hall, 7.30pm**  
Event: The Iranian Embassy - Ken Lusted.  
Contact: Jenny Jackson: 01869 340759
- 10th Thurs.** **The Barton's and Woodstock Walking Group**  
Meet at 10am. Various venues  
Contact: David Wharton: david@thistledome.net
- 11th Fri.** **W.I Christmas Crafting Evening** at The Alice Marshall Hall, 7.00-9.30pm  
Contact: Jenny Jackson: 01869 340759
-  **13th Sun.** **Remembrance Sunday.**  
Remembrance Day Service at 10.50am Sandford St. Martin Church  
See Church News for more information of all services.
- 19th Sat.** **Abilene Country Music Club** - featuring: Jeff Galant Band  
Sports and Social Club, 8.00pm
- 21st Mon.** **Steeple Barton Parish Council Meeting.** Alice Marshall Hall, 8.00pm
- 25th Fri.** **Westcote Barton Church Jazz Concert, 7.00pm**  
Tickets available from Kate Carter-Windle
- 26th Sat.** **Middle Barton Village Tree Lighting Event** at 6.30pm  
More information to follow.

## December 2022

- 2nd. Fri.** **Sports and Social Club Grounds Tree lighting Event**  
Information to follow
- 8th Thurs.** **The Barton's and Woodstock Walking Group** Meet at 10am.  
Various venues  
Contact: David Wharton: david@thistledome.net
- 11th Sun.** **Santa's Sleigh** Village Event  
Fundraising Event for School and Pre-school.
- 13th Tues.** **W.I.**  
Duns Tew Village Hall, 7.30pm  
Event: A Festive Christmas Meal and Evening.  
Contact: Jenny Jackson: 01869 340759
- 19th Mon.** **Steeple Barton Parish Council Meeting** Alice Marshall Hall, 8.00pm

## Middle Barton Stores

25 Worton Road, Middle Barton, OX7 7EE  
Phone: 01869 340340 Fax: 01869 349731

Your local Convenience Store and Post Office

### STORE HOURS

Monday to Saturday 7am to 6pm

**FREE CASH WITHDRAWALS**

## Save the Stamps

*Deanna Gardner writes:*

Carol and Kay want to thank you all for your continued support in collecting used postage stamps in aid of our local Hospice, Katherine House in Adderbury.

They are so grateful for your donations which can be handed to Diane at the shop. If you are new to the village please help by saving your used stamps to raise funds for this very worthwhile cause.

What kind of motorbike does Santa ride?

*A Holly Davidson*