



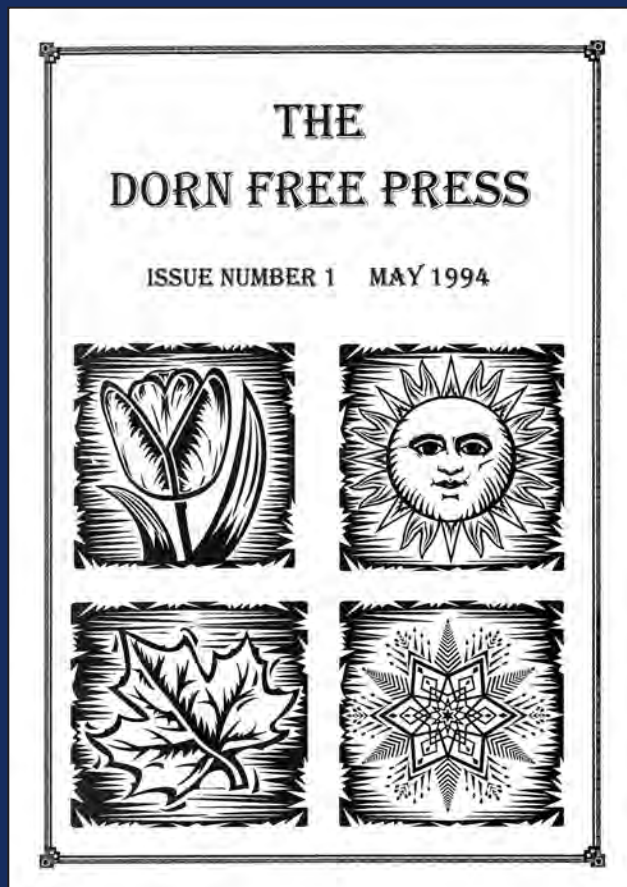
Issue Number 174

March/April 2023

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

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1994 ~ 2023



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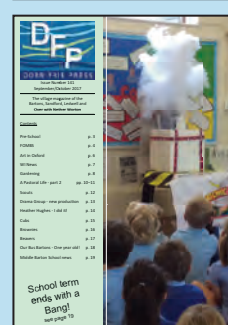
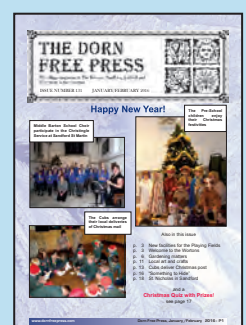
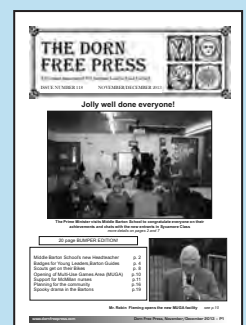
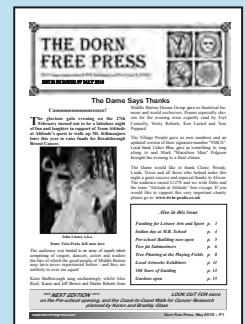
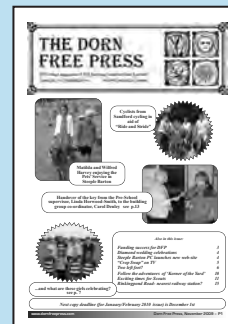
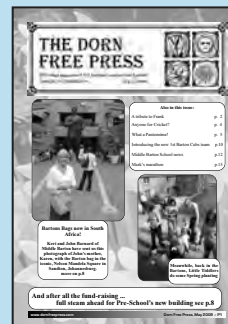
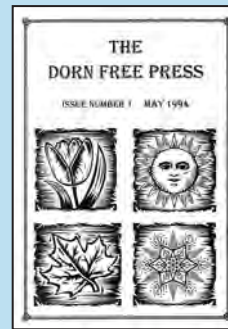
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FAREWELL

It is with deep regret that we are finally closing the pages of the Dorn Free Press after more than 28 years of publication. But before we do there are several people we would like to thank.

Firstly, to our advertisers, who have been many and varied and without whom we would have been unable to produce such a wonderful magazine. Some of you have even been with us since the beginning, and we are so grateful for everyone's support.

Thank you to our team of distributors, past and present, who have volunteered to pound the pavements to deliver your DFP on time and in all weathers.

To all our contributors, both regular and occasional, thank you for all your local information and reports on local happenings, for all the interesting and diverse articles from a wide circle of authors and thank you for all the photographs which have enhanced the pages of the DFP, and which our readers love to see.

Last, and by no means least, a huge thank you to all on our DFP teams throughout the years who have worked together to produce our magazine. To all Chairs, Treasurers, Secretaries, and Editors, thank you so much for your time, your expertise, and your dedication. Most especially to the present team of Robin, Morag, Bernie, Bex and Miche, just thank you for everything!

Goodbye from all of us on the DFP team, and best wishes to all our readers.

Deborah



A Huge Thank You!

Rachel Lawmon writes:



After 13+ years of standing outside in all weathers, Karen Roper is finally handing over her lollipop! We really appreciate her seeing everybody safely over the North Street crossing - from Pre-Schoolers, School children, parents, and staff. As a thank you from us all, the children made bunting for the bus shelter and each class made a card.



Gardening Update

Darren Bullock writes:

It's January the 28th and it feels such a long month with periods of mild and extremely cold temperatures, and I am sure most if not all of the flora and fauna found in and around our gardens has been struggling to cope.

Thankfully life is beginning to return to the garden here at home which always gives me hope that spring and warmer days are on their way. Our first snowdrops started to show just after Christmas and are now in full bloom. I think it's *Galanthus* 'S.Arnett' which is a lovely tall variety with a very nice scent. These have been planted now for three years and are beginning to clump up well.

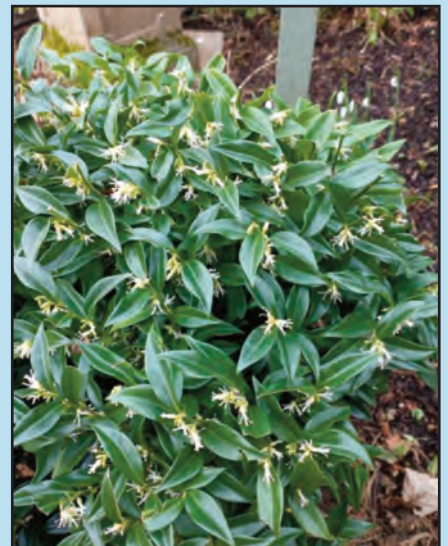


We have a number of trees in our small patch all of which provide interest at various points throughout the year.

My favourite by far is our Winter flowering cherry or *Prunus subhirtella* 'Autumnalis 'Rosea'. It is a great tree to have for not only its autumn foliage but for its blossom. Ours started way back in October and will continue until the spring. Frosts will damage any open flowers, but more will follow on to replace them.

Yesterday as I returned home from work, I noticed for the first time this year the heady scent coming from the flowers on the *Sarcococca ruscifolia* shrubs we are trying to grow into clipped topiary balls as a substitute for Box. These are great evergreen plants which really do perfume the gardens at this time of the year.

All I need now is a nice sunny weekend to get back out into the garden not only to appreciate these and many other plants but to get the garden Spring ready!



Well, this is my last article and I would just like to thank the one person who has read my ramblings over the past few years...thanks Mum! Seriously though thank you to all of you who have read my waffling and for supporting the gardens at the Abbey during my tenure as Head Gardener. It was a year ago that I said a sad goodbye to the Abbey and now it's time to say goodbye to you. Wishing you all the very best and "Happy Gardening" to each and every one of you.

Busy Bees

Ella Daniels writes:

We have enjoyed welcoming all the children and families back after the Christmas break. We had a wonderful Christmas party with party games, biscuit decoration and a visit from the Vicar. Was lovely to see the Children get into the spirit!



Since we've been back, we've been busy crafting, exploring textures with our very own rainbow rice construction site, making cakes with play dough, 'tarmacking' the road and have had plenty of fun together!

We have been lucky enough that Will, one of our Busy Bees dad's will be running the London marathon in April to fundraise for Busy Bees. To say that we are grateful is an understatement - the money that Will is raising will allow children to have

new sensory experiences and activities throughout the year and continue to provide this provision for families. Thank you Will!

If you are interested in donating to support Will and Busy Bees, please visit:

<https://gofund.me/96fd2d73>

Busy Bees is a not for profit baby and toddler group which runs 9-11am every Tuesday in term time at the AMH. For more information contact Ella 07930694239.



Middle Barton DRAMA Group

presents

Karen Brown writes:

Well, this should be a time of new beginnings and fresh starts; but, instead, so many things seem to be coming to an end. We are so sorry that the DFP is having to close. It has been a brilliant part of the life of the village, has highlighted and reflected aspects of the village, including Drama, and we thank everyone that has been involved in it.

Here, in Drama, we are coming to terms with not being a performing group any more, but becoming an open club where everyone is welcome to join us in reading a variety of plays.

At the time of writing, we have had two full meetings where, amongst the drinks, nibbles and social chats, we have enjoyed reading a couple of plays.

By the time you read this, we will have had our third meeting, when we will have read 'The Ladykillers', a stage version of the famous film comedy starring Alec Guinness. This should be fun.

We are aiming to have these play reading/meetings on a monthly basis, on the second Thursday of the month. I will put reminders on the local Facebook site but, if you would like to join us, you would be very welcome. Send me your contact details, and I will make sure you are on our contact list. (brown@jpandkbrown.plus.com).

It is encouraging to see that the DFP Committee is not totally discounting the possibility of it being resurrected at some future date. Similarly, we are not discounting the idea of putting on another production at some time in the future; but for now, this is how it is.

BVMHF - Sports & Social Club

Trevor Payne writes:

It is very sad to be writing this for the last edition of the DFP which I have found to be really useful as a means of letting you all know what is happening with our playing fields. At the time of writing, the claim for the damage to the Bowls club wall is still being processed by the insurers. Over Christmas some volunteers dug out a trench to install a French drain along the wall of the Bowls Club to help prevent damp getting into the inner walls. We would like to publicly thank John Day, Albert Beale and the other volunteers who have worked on this project, also Steve Rogers, those that lent equipment, and Smiths of Bletchington who donated and delivered the shingle we needed. Thanks are also due to Ben from Barton Abbey Farms who cut all the boundary hedges for us.

The bad weather has meant the cancellation of several football matches but hopefully they will be re-scheduled for later in the season. We have a number of potential future developments planned (outdoor gym, children's roundabout, installation of solar panels) all of which will only be possible if sufficient funding can be raised.

Finally I would like to remind everyone that the Fund is registered for gift aid so the value of any donations are increased by 25% which is recovered from HMRC; also don't forget that you can support us via the Cherwell Lottery

Annual General Meeting Of The Fund

This was held on Wednesday 25th January. The Treasurer reported that the accounts showed a small surplus for the year, thanks to some generous donations that had been received. The Funds balance in hand at the year end was better than the previous year but we were committed to significant expenditure in the first three months of our accounting year which would reduce this balance by 50%. The Secretary thanked all the volunteers who help to keep the playing fields in operation and tidy: in particular the team of litter pickers, those that inspect the playground equipment regularly, the groundsman Robert Johnson, also John Gardner and the other local tradesmen who help with maintenance and repair.

Finally tribute was paid to Tony Reed who has been Chairman of the Fund for many years: sadly Tony's health no longer allows him to continue in this role. In the past Tony was also the groundsman and he has contributed in many ways over the years to the upkeep of our playing fields, the Bowls Club and the Social Club.

The Bartons Memorial Sports And Social Club

The Club now has a new management committee who are working hard to make it financially sound and secure its future. Like all hospitality venues they are suffering from increased energy costs and price increases on commodities; they need your support so please join and use the club.

The Jubilee Room

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Enquiries to Heather: email

middlebartonssc@outlook.com

or telephone 07746 603544.

Forthcoming Events At The War Memorial Playing Fields

Country and Western in the Jubilee Room: Saturdays March 18th and April 15th.

Football: over 50's matches on Sundays March 26th and April 9th, Easington Clans play home matches on Saturdays.

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

Trevor Payne, Secretary BVMHF
(**bvmhfsec@gmail.com**)



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Help before it's all gone

An anonymous Person writes:

We all live in a lovely area of the country, the villages are friendly, BUT, the heart of these villages rely on us all taking part and volunteering to keep things alive. There is little left in the way of sports facilities, the Bowling Club is the only active sports facility left. We have Cubs and Scouts run by volunteers. The people that run these, like the Dorn Free Press and the Bulletin, all rely on us stepping up and keeping these things going for our future generations. Please get involved, it's not necessarily all consuming, we can all share the workload, but if you don't, there may not be the clubs for you, your children or grandchildren to join in future years.

Pre-School Update

Elle Frost writes:

Right out of the gate, this year's first term has really kept the little ones absorbed. We had a really excellent day celebrating Chinese New Year, with our own hand-made dragon, and lanterns, as well as trying some local cuisine of noodles and prawn crackers!



'Senses' have also been on the menu - tasting different flavours, listening to different instruments, making a herb garden, and treating some lucky parents to a spot of cooking with some superb apple and cinnamon muffins.



We were thrilled to have a visit from a local Police Officer, who gave the children a chance to look at all the exciting equipment they use. From the trusty traffic cones, to the essential first aid kits, and

mesmerising flashing lights, to even rolling out the stingers. Good thing everyone remembered to cover their ears when the sirens came on!

The ever-popular Potato Night was back, delivering a cheerful hot spud for teatime to many homes in the community. We're delighted to say that we raised over £350, so thank you to everyone who helped out, and ordered. Hopefully see you again next time around!

With a waft of Spring in the air, we're aiming to have the little ones hopping about for their Easter Egg-stravaganza. Fingers crossed; it'll be a little balmier than it was last year!

On a different note, as this will sadly be the last DFP, we wanted to say thank you to the DFP for giving us some space each issue to tell you about our wonderful pre-school, but also to all of you who have taken the time to read. You can still keep up with what's happening through our Facebook page, Notice Board by the gate, and also in the Bartons and Sandford bulletin.

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 the age of 2, and accept government funding for 15-30 hours (if eligible)

Tel:01869 347968

Email: middlebartonpreschool@gmail.com

www.middlebartonpreschool.co.uk



Middle Barton School

Be Curious – Believe – Challenge – Achieve

Kim Griffin writes:



Events

We have had a number of extra-curricular events going on in school. Evie H, in Year 5, took part in the AIM (Able, Interested and Motivated) Art event at

Chipping Norton School. She produced a lovely piece of artwork which is currently displayed in the school art gallery. We have also had 8 year 6 children attend the swimming gala at Chipping Norton pool. The team spirit and enthusiasm were amazing, and they were all an absolute credit to the school.

We took 31 children from Years 4, 5 and 6 to the Chipping Norton School to take part in a cross country run. All of the children that participated were just amazing. The support for each other and the determination was phenomenal. They all returned a little muddy, but they had great fun!

Assembly Topics

What motivates you?

As it is the start of a new year, we talked about motivation in our first assembly. We unpicked the things that can motivate us- self-motivation, money, physical rewards, verbal recognition, and many others. It was really interesting to understand what motivates each child; some were just interested in getting more laps around the track than others, while others were self-motivated and just wanted to achieve something for themselves.

Can you learn how to manage under pressure?

We talked about pressure that we may face and how to have strategies in place to support these. The children were very open and shared some of their own strategies.

Do we throw things away too easily?

In assembly, we learnt about upcycling shops and the Repair Cafe in Wales. We realised that we were actually quite good at upcycling at school.

How much control do influence have over our topics?

We talked about influences and what impact they can have on the choices we make. The focus was on the drink 'Prime' and how those behind the product (KSI and Logan Paul) had influenced so many to go out and buy it! The assembly ended with some reflection time. Whilst influences may guide our choices, it's important for us to remember to make our own decisions with an open mind, considering both positive and negative consequences.

Curriculum

Acorn class



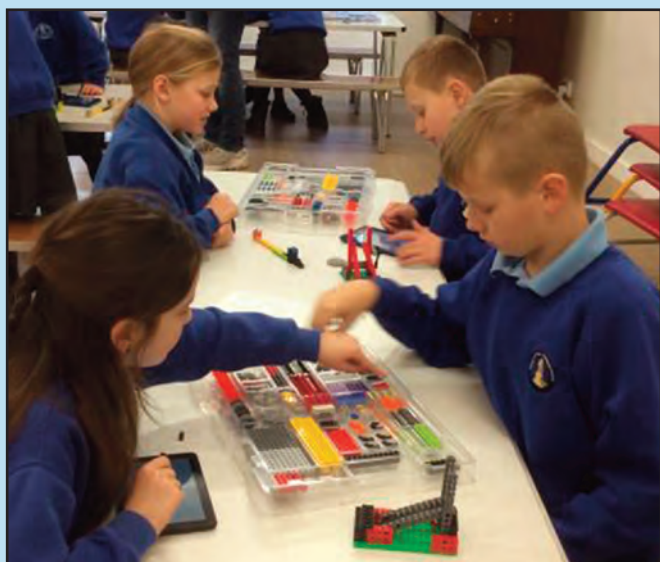
They have been very busy learning all about cleaning their teeth and how important it is. I saw that the dinosaurs were all waiting to have their teeth cleaned. They have also made some lovely Gingerbread people with Mrs Horner. The children have been learning all about the Lunar New Year. They have been dancing



around school with dragons and even had a banquet to celebrate. As it is the year of the rabbit, they have been making rabbit shaped biscuits. Pizzas have also been on the menu. They spent a morning making pizzas with a



variety of toppings. They didn't last long! They have started learning about sea creatures in class and have read *Commotion in the Ocean* - one of my favourites!



Sycamore class

In Maths, Sycamore class have been learning all about 3D shapes and money. They have gone back in time this week to the Victorian era. They have been learning about Victorian houses and how they compare to houses today. They have also been learning about Florence Nightingale in History and what she did to help make changes to medical practices today.

Maple class

The children have been working on poetry and when I walked in during a lesson, they were talking all about alliteration and onomatopoeia.

They have also started a new writing unit and are writing a diary. In Maths, they have been learning about multiplying and dividing by 8. They listened to a very catchy song to help them learn how to count in 8s! They have also been learning to use their times tables and place value knowledge to solve questions using larger numbers (50 x 6). In RE, they have been learning about the main beliefs of Islam. One day this term, I visited class to find them all lying on the floor with torches. I was quickly informed they were using torches to learn about light and shadows as part of this term's Science topic. In Art, they have been planning out their self-portraits.

Willow class

They have ventured back to ancient times and have been learning about Ancient Greece. The class has been researching about Gods and Goddesses as part of their English. Reading lessons have been linked to their history topic on Ancient Greece- they will all be walking Ancient Greek encyclopaedias soon with the amount they are learning about! In Maths, they have been learning to multiply with a focus on multiplying 4-digit numbers by 2 digit numbers. The class has also been focussing on division. The children have worked really hard to understand and use the method taught. In Art, Year 5 are going to produce a piece of artwork based on the artist Kehinde Wiley using acrylics. The Year 4s will be producing artwork in the style of Quentin Blake.

Oak class

They have continued to plan and collect items for their 'Green House' project- please keep collecting 2 litre bottles- I have been informed they need 1500! I have also been informed that they will need 100 canes! I am going to be very intrigued when this starts being built to see how big it is actually going to be! In Maths, they have been learning about using scale factors to increase the size of a shape. I have seen some lovely practical Science going on in Oaks class. The children were learning about the refraction of light and were experimenting using light, an image and a glass of water. A few things got a little damp but there were also some wow moments too. They have also been writing diary extracts linked to their History topics about the Vikings.

From the Children at Middle Barton School (continued)

Words from the children

Swimming Gala by Harrie Peedell

On Wednesday, eight-year sixes went to Chipping Norton Leisure Centre for a swimming gala. We were competing against four other schools. Harrie P enjoyed it because she generally likes swimming. The coaches from Four Shires swimming club used their timers to find the winners of each race. Harry C enjoyed it because we did a variety of strokes. There were five races, freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke, medley, and a float race. One person said that they enjoyed the tournament as we got to experience another year 6 sporting event. As there were five schools and only four lanes, we had to do the races in heats. Harvey enjoyed it because he enjoyed competing against other people. In all the races apart from the float race, four of us went to the pool side and got ready to swim. All the races were relay races. For the float race all eight of us were swimming. Another person said that they found the gala really fun because they hadn't swum for 2 years before the gala. Poppy loved it as it was her first swimming competition. Once the first person had got to the other end of the pool the person from that end would come back down to our end. Millie liked it because she enjoys swimming, and it makes her more competitive. After we had done all the races, we got our results. We were tied in third place for the medley. Phoebe said that she was

nervous at first but after she got in the pool, she really enjoyed it.

Cross Country

A report from Leá and Ruby

On the 25th of January, Chipping Norton School held a cross country competition against other local schools. They held 4 competitions, under 9 boys, under 9 girls, under 11 boys and under 11 girls. If you were under 9 you ran 1500m and if you were under 11 you ran 2000m. It was very difficult and tiring but everyone took part. Some of the people in our school came in the top 10. The experience was very fun and in the end we all enjoyed it. Even though our school did not win any races, we were still proud of ourselves. Going to Chipping Norton and running cross country is an experience that we will cherish for years to come.

A report from Evie H

Art motivated by Marc Allante

When I went to Chipping Norton School, I went into their art room and sat on a stool. Then they told us what to do. After that we got red, yellow and blue ink, then we all painted our outline onto a wooden canvas.

At the end I had created a zebra which contained a lot of colours. I thought it was so fun! I loved it and I am very happy about what I made, and the art teacher was very kind. She would make sure you knew what you were doing. I had the best time! I think the best part in my opinion were the helpers, they were really kind and caring.



WI Update

Ali Mawer writes:

WI have celebrated the past year with talks, activities, campaigns, and friendship, led by our president Jenny Jackson with the committee helping alongside.



We celebrated Christmas in style with card making and as well as a community Christmas crafts event, where we saw some lovely decorations made to be taken home and displayed.

December was our group festive celebration with a delicious three course meal, quiz of the year and the committee singing their interpretation of 'The twelve days of Christmas' – the food was the highlight, closely followed by the entertainment – you had to be there!



We have our AGM in March when we will come together to share ideas and reflect on the past year, and always enjoy homemade cake and a cuppa!

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's a great way of making new friends and meeting people. It has been a busy year, and we welcome newcomers!

Contact for membership is Jenny Jackson (President)

Email skellgill_jenny@yahoo.co.uk or telephone 01869 340759

Dates for the diary

14/2/23 – Community Constable Ben Hallam

14/3/23 – AGM and supper

11/4/23 – Hedgehogs Hugh Warwick

District Councillor Update

Dave Jackson writes,



Future Elections In The Bartons

My four-year term of office for The Bartons ward will not be finished until 2026, and Andy Graham's County Council seat will terminate in 2025. So, the next election in our area is likely to be a general election.

You may have heard that The Bartons will likely be part of a re-formed Banbury constituency, not Witney. There is some confusion about this, so I thought this might be an opportunity to try and clarify matters.

The boundaries commission are wanting to make most parliamentary constituencies with roughly the same number of electors (except for huge rural areas like The Highlands of Scotland). So areas where there has been large amounts of new houses, like Oxfordshire, will gain a new constituency, whereas more urban areas (like inner cities) may lose one.

The proposal is to create a new constituency, most likely to be called "Bicester and Woodstock" This is taking out huge chunks of the present Banbury and Witney constituencies, so they are gaining smaller areas adjacent to them. So, the proposal (which will be ratified in June) means that The Bartons, Charlbury and Chipping Norton will go into The Banbury constituency

One point of confusion is that this is nothing to do with the local government set-up, so we will still be part of West Oxfordshire District council, and Oxfordshire County Council. So, I am afraid you are stuck with me for over three more years! Sadly, the demise of the DFP will undoubtedly mean that it will not be as easy for me to keep you updated, especially if, like me, you are not a great user of social media. Let's hope a different version of the DFP might rise from the ashes of this marvellous publication.

Councillor Dave Jackson

skellgilldave@yahoo.co.uk 07407 443944

Book Review

The Explorer by Katherine Rundell

Modge Knight writes:

I've recently read *The Explorer* by Katherine Rundell. It has become one of my all time favourites. This book is based on four children whose plane crashes in the Amazon Jungle on the way to Manus. Following the crash, the children decide to walk to Manus. On the journey they have to deal with many troubles such as forest fires, no food and bullet ants (ants that if they bite you then you slowly die.) Another character within the story is an adult explorer whose family had died. He finds a ruin of a lost city. This character isn't quite sure of the children but soon decides to lend them a plane as Max (one of the children) gets bitten by bullet ants. After the children return home the story skips 12 years to a coffee shop where they'd promised to meet up if they ever escaped the jungle.

Katherine Rundell's form of storytelling is one of the best. She makes you feel as if you're part of the story, experiencing all the emotions that you would have whilst on a wild adventure. I found that I

couldn't put this book down, and for once finished it within a few days. After I read '*The Good Thieves*' and now I'm reading '*Wolf Wilder*' by the same author.



Beavers, Cubs & Scouts Update

Jill Elliot and Anne Barras writes:

Many of you will have seen that as part of the King's Coronation weekend that Monday 8th May will be the Big Help Out.

The Big Help Out will highlight the positive impact volunteering has on communities across the nation and will encourage people to try volunteering for themselves and join the work being undertaken to support their local areas. No details plans for the 1st Barton's Scout Group just yet but if you would like to be involved, even if just for the day, then please drop me a line at

Anne.scouts2020@gmail.com.

Cubs

This term the Cubs have been working on their astronomy badge, walking out into the countryside to look at stars and galaxies as well as learning about our constellation and making a model of the solar system (not to scale!). We also celebrated Burns Night with haggis, caber tossing and some country dancing. All great fun.



Beavers

We started 2023 presenting Henry with his top Beaver award his Chief Scout Bronze Award and then swimming him up to Cubs. Well done, Henry!

At the end of last term, we asked the Beavers what activities and badges they wanted to do in the first term of 2023. Amongst some of the suggestions which we were able to include into the programme were to complete the Builder Badge. This involved designing a model of something they wanted to make, working out what they would need to build it, and once they had built it, thinking about what they could do to improve their design. We had a lot of incredible and amazing creations. Later on in the term we are going to visit a local Fire Station and do a Night Hike; two more requests from the children.

Chess Problem 46

Trevor Daniels writes

What is the best move for Black in this position?



Answers on Page 22!

Save your postage stamps!

Carol and Kay would like to thank you all for saving your used postage stamps that raise much needed funds for our local Hospice Katharine House in Adderbury.

Please continue to save and ask your friends and neighbours to chip in too. Please hand them to Diane in Middle Barton shop for collection.

Church Contribution

Clare Harper writes:

Special Services during Lent and Easter

There is plenty planned for Lent and Easter this year. You can be sure of a warm welcome at all of the services and events.

This year we celebrate Mothering Sunday on 19th March with services at 9.30am in Nether Worton and an 11am Family Eucharist in Sandford St Martin and a Barton Churches Together Service at the Alice Marshall Hall at 5pm.

Seasonal Feature: Palm Sunday 2 April

Come to Westcote Barton Church for "Family at Church" on Palm Sunday, 2 April 2022, and meet George the Donkey: short children's service from 9.30am, breakfast and coffee from 9am. Children may like to take part in acting out the Palm Sunday story: to quote an old Sunday School hymn, "on the first Palm Sunday morning, Jesus rode to Salem town; little children ran to greet him, spreading green palm branches down". So, Jesus rode into Jerusalem. The people were hoping for a King, like King David, and in the words of the Christmas carol, "born of David's line". However, He didn't arrive with a conquering army or with great fanfares, but instead, He arrived humbly, riding on a donkey, to show that He came in peace. This was a fulfilment of an Old Testament prophecy.

Palm Sunday is the beginning of Holy Week. This leads us up to Good Friday, the only day of the year

when, traditionally, we should be eating Hot Cross Buns, although they are now available all year round. We wait until Easter Sunday to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus with Easter Eggs.



During Holy Week which runs from 2-8 April we will be having Night Prayer (Compline) on zoom at 9pm on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Then, on **6 April, Maundy Thursday**, there will be a Benefice Service and supper at 8pm in the Alice Marshall Hall.

On **Good Friday** there is an all-age service in Duns Tew at 10am and then a reflective service in Sandford St Martin from 2-3pm.



On **Saturday 8 April**, we hold the **Easter Vigil and Eucharist at 8pm** in Westcote Barton, followed by a glass of bubbly.

Easter Day Services on 9 April are at 9.30am in Steeple Barton and Sandford St Martin and at 11am in Over Worton and Duns Tew (where it's also livestreamed via zoom). Full details of all the Lent and Easter services will be on the website.

Lent Lunches and Study Groups

During Lent our study group will meet every Tuesday at 8pm, starting on 28 February. The venues will be confirmed but there is also the option to join the meeting on zoom.

We will be reading "Reflections for Lent". This gives a daily Bible verse, short reflection, and prayer. It is available as a paperback and also on kindle/e format online from Church House Publishing.

If you would like to join, please email: studythebible@bartonbenefice.org.uk or contact Jane for further information.

Lent Lunches

We will be holding a Lent Lunch in each of our parishes again. This will be a simple soup lunch followed by a short talk. They will be hosted by Westcote Barton (3 March), The Worton (9th), Sandford (23rd), Steeple Barton (17th) and Duns Tew (30th). Please visit our website for full details.

Middle Barton Bowls Club

Elaine Argent writes:

Middle Barton Bowls Club is celebrating its Centenary this year having been founded in 1923 playing on the Rectory Lawn opposite the church in Westcote Barton. In 1953 the Bowls Club moved to their current location at the Playing Fields on Worton Road.



The club today is thriving and has a current membership of 52 of which about 45 are playing members. The club plays most Tuesdays and Saturdays throughout the summer months hosting local clubs and visiting these for the away matches. It's great fun and each game ends in refreshments and a friendly chat.

In the winter the club plays indoors on their short mat which is an enjoyable, friendly afternoon with teams from within the club.

The club always welcomes new members who would like to try the outdoor greens on any of our 'roll up' afternoons, when members will be practising and willing to answer questions and give tips on how to bowl. Come along and watch and see if you would like to join. Contact:

secretarymiddlebartonbc@hotmail.com

if you would like any further information.

Bartons History Group

Michelle Newell writes:

The Bartons History Group are working hard to create the next edition of *Bygone Bartons*, as well as to preserve our illustrious archives and to encourage more interest in the history of the area. To do this, we need your help!

One way to help us is to search for our website - **www.bartonshistorygroup.org.uk**. The more searches we get, the more it will bump it up on the respective search engines, meaning that it will find more people. So, if you could help us out by searching for the webpage now and then, it would be very much appreciated!

Another way to help would be to get involved and volunteer. We are always looking for more people to join, so if you'd like to help research, write articles for our *Bygone Bartons* series, organise fundraising events, maintain the archives, or just learn and have some social fun, we'd love to hear from you! Contact us at:

enquiries@bartonshistorygroup.co.uk

We are starting to plan some exciting things for 2023, including our next edition of *Bygone Bartons*, so watch this space!



Wonderland in Bloom

Claire Ludlow writes:

I'm so grateful for the support in this beautiful village that I like to give back a little when I can.

I hid some beautiful double tulips round the village for you to take home and enjoy, did you find some? I would love to know...

All because flowers don't tell, they show...



Answer to Chess Puzzle:

Black has a mate in two:

- 1...gxf, a Pawn capture threatening
- 2...f5# checkmate.

White has only one move that can prevent this:

2.f5, blocking Black's Pawn move. But Black then has:

2...Rh4# and White is mated anyway, as White's pawn on f5 now blocks the King's only escape square.

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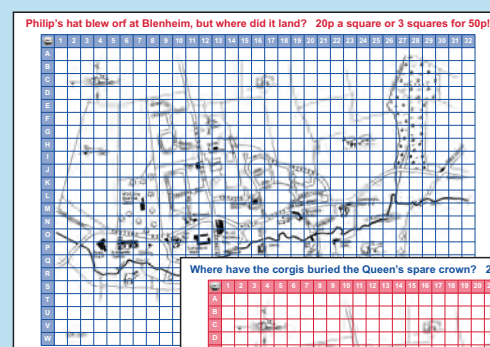
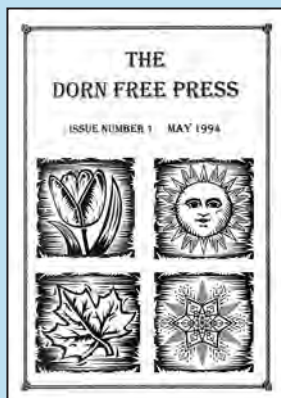
Final thoughts

The *Dorn Free Press* has been a part of our community for nearly 30 years. Its origins go back to the Parish Plan of 1993 when our villages suggested that something was needed in addition to the excellent *Bartons' and Sandford Bulletin*, something that could report, in more depth, on the many and varied activities going on in our community. This, the DFP has endeavoured to do, bringing 'News, views, and articles of interest' to every household in our community - and also to the many folk who have moved away but receive a pdf copy via email so that they can continue to enjoy and keep in touch with the community in which we live. All of this at no cost to our readers because of a wonderful group of volunteers and advertisers who, over the years, have given freely of their time and support to produce this magazine.

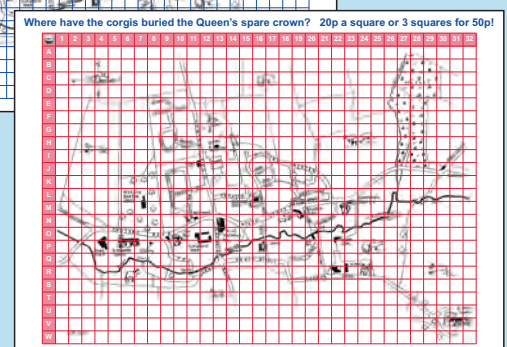
Together, we have celebrated the successes of so many of our individuals and groups who have achieved so much, often in the face of adversity. Through the pages of the *Dorn Free Press* the troops have been rallied to raise funds, fight causes, and gather together to celebrate Jubilees and other events that mark our journey through life. Friendships have been made through common interests that have been brought together through the many activities, groups and clubs that have been reported and highlighted in our pages. Our

local politicians and councillors have kept us up to date with the latest news and activities of those whom we elect to look after our interests. Our local schools, our clubs, our groups have all invited us to join in the many and varied activities and successes that are part of our wonderful community life. More importantly, through the pages of the *Dorn Free Press*, the community has been able to help those who, from time to time, need a helping hand.

In this 'modern age', there is a danger that we have become too insular or just too busy. We live in small communities with a mixture of the wealthy and not so wealthy, the 'life and souls', and the lonely. Many groups within the Bartons, and further afield, are closing or reducing in activity because folk seem to have lost the idea of what living in a community is. Community living is where folk can get together to have fun, share a common interest, and look after their own. This means being aware of the person next door, giving up a little time and sharing our respective expertise for the good of everyone. Volunteering is not a chore, it is one of the most rewarding things you can do. We need to put our collective arms back around our community.



2012 DFP
Jubilee stall



Dates for the Diary



March 2023

April 2023

- 7th Tues.** **W.I**
Duns Tew Village Hall, 7.30pm
Event: The AGM. All welcome
Contact: Jenny Jackson:
01869 340759
- 9th Thurs.** **The Barton's and Woodstock Walking Group**
Meet at 10am. Various venues
Contact: David Wharton:
david@thistledome.net
- 18th Sat.** **Abilene Country Music Club -**
featuring: Travis Logan
Sports and Social Club, 8.00pm
- 19th Sun.** **Mothering Sunday**
- 20th Mon.** **Steeple Barton Parish Council Meeting**
Alice Marshall Hall, 8.00pm
- 26th Sat.** **British Summer Time begins**
Clocks spring forward one hour.
- 31st Fri.** **End of Term** at Middle Barton
Primary School

7th Fri.- 10th Mon: **Easter Bank Holiday Weekend.**

- 11th Tues.** **W.I.**
Duns Tew Village Hall, 7.30pm
Event: A Talk About Hedgehogs -
Hugh Warwick
Contact: Jenny Jackson:
01869 340759
- 13th Thurs.** **The Barton's and Woodstock Walking Group**
Meet at 10am. Various venues
Contact: David Wharton:
david@thistledome.net
- 15th Sat.** **Abilene Country Music Club -**
featuring Ben Thompson
Sports and Social Club, 8.00pm
- 17th Mon.** **Steeple Barton Parish Council Meeting**
Alice Marshall Hall, 8.00pm

Farm Shops

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
For more information visit: www.tvfm.org.uk
Tel: **01235 227266**

Farmers' Markets

Most Farm Shops will be re-opening from March with Pick Your Own fields opening for the first vegetables of the season in late April followed by early fruit in May.

You will be able to collect ready cut asparagus bunches, freshly dug new potatoes and the first harvested tender rhubarb (for pies and crumbles) from the shop in late March or early April.

Some Farm Shops are beginning new creative workshops using flowers to make Spring wreaths, flower gifts for Mothering Sunday and home displays using seasonal flowers and greenery. Please check on each farm's website for booking workshops and for their 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