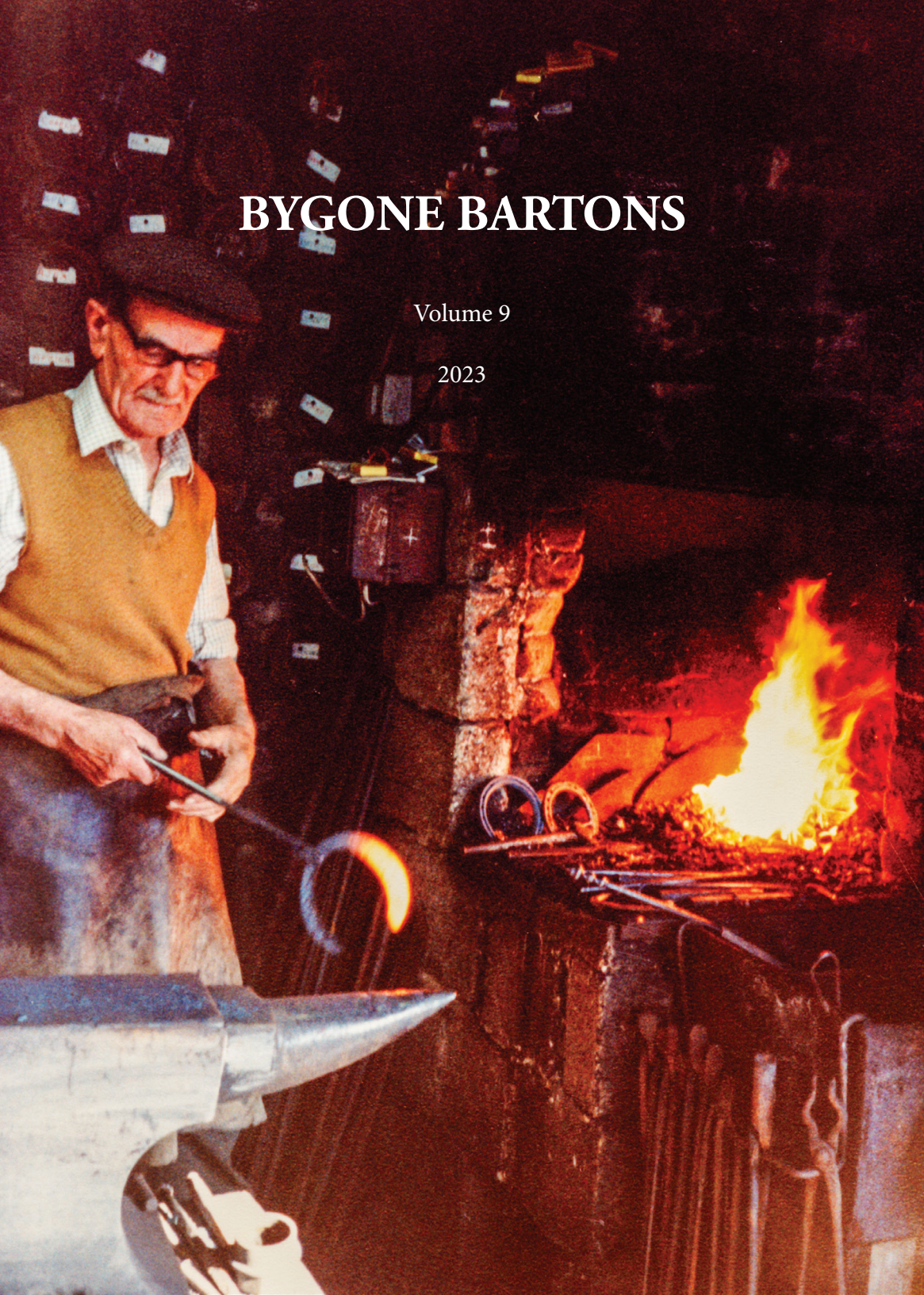


BYGONE BARTONS

Volume 9

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Contents

A History of Steeple Barton *Harry Knight*

Photographs of shops and services of the Bartons - *from the History Group archive.*

History of the Bartons, part 2 *George Laws*

A Transatlantic Bartonian *Bethany Thorne*

Middle Bartons Bowls Club Centenary *Peter Wild*

Look what the chickens dug up! *Chris Edbury*

The Dorne Valley Boys. *from the Boys themselves*

Front cover: Frank Gascoigne blacksmith, in the smithy on the corner of Worton Road and Farriers Road.

Introduction

On behalf of Bartons' History Group

The continuing publication of our periodic editions of local history is something that The Bartons' History group have been looking forward to, the last edition (volume 8) was printed in 2020. Covid(19) has, of course, interrupted our lives. It has, and continues to, shape history in many ways, the non-publication of Bygone Bartons being one of the least consequential outcomes. However we would like to remember those who passed away, directly or indirectly, as a result of that world-wide plague, and the countless lives affected.

History, or histories, are of course stories, the clue is in the word. And what gets considered to be “history” depends very much on who tells the story or stories and how. These volumes (this is the 9th in the series) of Barton's related history have, since their inception, focussed a great deal on ‘oral histories’. From the very first article in Volume 1, a dozen years ago in 2011, familial histories have gathered together many strands of how ‘life’ was lived and how communities existed, to paint a contemporary picture of how their histories have been remembered. In this edition we can see two different versions of the history of this area. There is a great deal of overlap in the period of history described, the styles and perspectives differ, but both were written by people who lived in our community, and may both have known some of those local people whose photographs are now in the Group's archive - a short selection appears on pages 14 and 15.

At the heart of a healthy community is a sense of belonging to a place that we can call, and feel, home. Much of this edition centres on those twin notions of community and home. The Middle Barton Bowls Club, now a hundred years in the making, is remembered and celebrated. A “group” of local lads, the “New Dorne Valley Boys”, who used that sense of home when they named themselves after the place in which they lived. An emigrant (and her descendent) to the United States of America, who continued to feel connected to this quiet rural part of Oxfordshire. As well as a look beneath the local earth that uncovers evidence from many centuries ago of local trade, traders and community.

A History of Steeple Barton

Harry Knight

Bartons' History Group acquired the document below from a colleague in a nearby Local History Group who had obtained the handwritten history from Phyllis Barnes (nee Golder). Phyllis attended Steeple Aston School between 1951 and 1955 and lived around the Bartons from 1960-1963. She has expressed a wish to hear from anyone who remembers her from that time. *The photographs are from the Bartons' History Group Archive.*

The opinions expressed in the following transcript are entirely those of Harry Knight and do not represent the views of any members of Bartons' History Group. As indicated below, one of Harry's sons was Hector. Hector and his son Phillip lived at 35 North Street, Middle Barton during the 1950s and 1960s.

Introduction by Phyllis, granddaughter of Harry Knight:

My Grandfather, Mr Harry Knight lived in Middle Barton first at The Carpenter's Arms. He was married to Mary Ebbon. They had four children, Harry, Doris, Mona and Hector. Grandad served in both wars. He was a big writer with his views to The Oxford Times. Granny died when I was about 3-4 yrs. Grandad died when I was 18-19. He was around 94. He wrote this, his memories of Barton. I would like to think it was of some interest.

'History of Steeple Barton'

Writers of History have placed on record that Towns and Villages with names ending with 'ton' such as Steeple Barton, had their beginning after the Romans left, when the luckless Britons were invaded by Saxons, Jutes and Angles, and if this is so, Steeple Barton was founded more than a thousand years ago.

Any items mentioned in this History before October 15th, 1905, were gleaned from aged villagers more than fifty years ago.

News and Views may annoy or amuse
The truth should not offend,
Friends who are true, they are but few,
Who seek not their own ends.

A spring of water that rises on Little Tew Ground Farm, and another that rises on Showell Farm in the Parish of Swerford, join[s] near the Hookerswell Farm in the Parish of Great Tew, and these form the silver Dorn that flows through the valley and enters the Parish of Steeple Barton at the New bridge which spans the Kiddington Worton Road, and flows on to the lake in Blenheim Park. Steeple Barton is built on the North and South banks of the Dorn, the main street being North Street, which is also the Bicester Chipping Norton road.

The village has a South Street and one known as Worton Road which was called Pound Lane fifty years ago, probably because the Westcote Barton Pound was situated on the North West corner of the road.

It is fourteen miles distant from Oxford, twelve miles Banbury, nine miles Bicester, nine miles Chipping Norton, and eight miles Woodstock. The nearest Railway Station is Heyford, three miles on the Oxford Banbury line.

The Lord of the Manor was Captain Cottrell Dormer of Rousham Park, and his agent held what was known as a Court Leet at a Cottage at the Turnpike, to collect the rent due on Cottages and Gardens at the Turnpike, and some that were bordering the Norton Road, now known as Greenways. Bread, cheese and beer was provided for the Payees. The last occasion a Court Leet was held, was I believe, in 1906 as the law relating to the Lord of the Manor was changed.



The history of Barton must place on record the name of the family of Hall who owned the Estate and resided at Barton Abbey over many years.

The Honourable Mrs. Hall was the daughter of the Lord Bribport, a relative of Admiral Horatio Nelson of Trafalgar fame. She was a deeply religious woman, and very generous. Twice weekly she would visit certain aged and sick, where so I am told, the Bible had a very prominent place in the house. On such occasions the visits were followed by a servant with a truck carrying Wines, Spirits, Puddings etc. and distributed to each as she thought fit according to the need.

During the Agricultural depression in 1890's when there was such unemployment in the village, she opened a Soup Kitchen, and the villagers would get Soup which contained plenty of meat, also at Christmas, gifts of Blankets were given. In fact she was a real friend to the Parish.

A story told me in connection with such visits of the Hon: Mrs. Hall was:-

Hon: Lady. – How are you today Mrs. E. ?

Mrs. E.- Very poorly Mam, very poorly indeed.

Hon: Lady. – I see you still have the Bible.

Mrs. E. – Yes Mam, I get great comfort from reading the Bible, but I often wish I was in Beelzebubs Bosom.

Hon: Lady. – You don't mean Beelzebub you mean Abrahams.

Mrs. E. – Yes, that's it, but you understand the gentlemens names better than I do.

After the death of the Hon. Mrs. Hall, the Abbey and Estate passed to the elder Son, Alexander William Hall, who had extensive repairs carried out to the Abbey and the Pond was cleaned out. He took a great interest in everything with connection of the village of Steeple Barton. He was the first Chairman of the Parish Council, and was elected afterwards over the years as long as his health permitted. The Parish Council Act was passed to end Squirearchy, it wasn't needed in Barton at that time, Squire Hall never sought to oppress anyone, he upheld democracy in those days, and was ruled by what the people wanted and what was best in the interests of the village.

Over many years he was County Councillor for the Wooton Hundred Rural District Council, and Chairman of the now defined Woodstock Rural District Council. He was greatly interested in the village Sick and Friendly Club until it ended, owing partly to the Insurance Act and was the beginning of the Oxon Insurance Scheme. For a period of some years he caused a truck of coal to be put in the Coal Barn, Farmers lent their teams and wagons to haul it from Heyford Station, and it was sold to the poor in the winter at sixpence per cwt, for so long as it lasted. Wages were low at that time, and he employed many regular employees, and if there we[ere] unemployment in the village, would help out for a few weeks finding work for them on the farm or the Estate. It was always a pleasure for him to have the people around him at occasional 'tea on the Lawn' at the Abbey, or a 'tea on the Lawn' for the inmates of Woodstock Workhouse. A Friend and wise Councillor to all in the Parish, and I doubt if he will ever be surpassed.

The two old thatched cottages that have been pulled down bordering the Heyford - Kiddington Road, side of Judkins Hill, was for many years I am told, an Inn, the 'Woolpack', and the road leading from Church Farm is still known as Woolpack Lane, cal[l]ed Pack Lane for short.

The wages of the farm workers at the end of the past century were Ten and Eleven shillings per week. Owing partly to the War in South Africa they rose to fifteen shillings per week, and remained at that low level till June 1916. The first world war started at the beginning of August 1914, and the price of food rose greatly but wages remained low, and it is quite likely that the position of empty bellies caused more to join the Army than their patriotism. I ask the reader to ponder a moment on how the poor lived on these low wages. Take a family of six, Father, Mother and four children, if they had three meals a day costing a penny each per meal, the cost for seven days was ten shillings and sixpence, leaving four shillings and sixpence for rent, firing, clothes, boots, washing and mending materials and all such other items, and there are people living today who refer to those days as 'The good old days' but they were bad old days. On one occasion at a Tea on the Lawn given by the late Squire Hall, he made a short speech and then said 'I would like to hear a few words from old John B...' Old John replied and said, I haven't much to say Squire but I think I can honestly say something you can't and that is I have had three hundred and sixty five Kettle Broth breakfasts in the last year and I don't think you can say that. Kettle Broth was a few crusts of bread, a very small portion of salted butter or lard, pepper to taste, and water a sufficiency, and that was the breakfast for farm workers to sustain them till midday dinner, which, in many cases consisted of a top of a small, loaf, a hole cut in the centre, and a bit of lard or salted butter put in the hol[e] to spread on the bread. On reaching home in the evening, a small portion of suet pudding with a little black treacle maybe, or a herring and potatoes, and only on very rare occasions could he sit down to bacon and veg other than on Sunday.

To celebrate the Coronation of King George the Fifth a meat tea was provided and held in the barn at Church Farm. During the war there were many activities in connection therewith. Special Constables, and some to shout 'Put that light out!' These being a much better and easier way of serving King and Country than going for a shooting expedition on the Continent.

When the war ended and the Boys came home to the 'Land Fit for Heroes' to live in, they were invited to a Grand Spread in the School, and later on ex-servicemen were invited to attend a meeting and it was agreed to make application for money from the United Services Fund. A grant of fifteen pounds was received for different

objects. The village and the Trustees could and did help ex-servicemen in time of need for a period of about three or four years. A supper was provided for ex-servicemen in the village, and it was decided to start a Branch of the British Legion. The members of the Committee decided they wanted a meeting place of their own. One person promised £10 and two promised £5 each.



1918 Celebrating the end of World War I at The Carpenters

A sub-committee was appointed of five who decided to use the £10 from the Legion Fund and purchase a hut. The General Committee accepted and ratified the arrangement. At the next meeting of the Committee the Chairman said they had paid for the hut, others had come along and wished to be included in the movement – all contributed to the purchase of the hut, so they put the £10 back in the Legion Fund, had appointed Trustees, and were letting the hut to the British Legion Branch at so much per annum. As their action was contrary to the letter and spirit of the Legion, three members of the sub-committee resigned straightaway, they refused to be the tools and fools for officers who showed very clearly there would be no Comradeship as far as they were concerned, the organisation would be officers and lesser breeds. The hut has since been sold and is now a chicken farm. The money paid for the hut has been handed to the Steeple Barton Parish Council, to be fair to the Trustees who decided to sell the hut and hand the money to the Parish Council, they may not have known that the purchase money was promised and given to the Committee of the British Legion, and I submit that the money rightly belongs to the Barton Branch of the Legion, for proof, consult the Legion Minutes.

During the first World War the Coalition Government passed part one of the Agricultural Act, fixing price and set up wage committee to regulate wages rose from 15/- weekly to 16/- weekly at the end of the war. In the meantime a branch of the workers union had started in the village, and at one time had a membership of one hundred and thirty three. When the war ended the Coalition Government thanked the farmers and farm workers for the part they had played in beating the

'U' boat menace. They scrapped part one of the Agricultural Act and abolished the wage committees and put industry on the scrap heap as it were. They set up correlation Committee to deal with the matter. Wages fell to 25/- per week. Farmers were sacked and no other work was available. There were about twenty in Barton that were not included in the unemployment Insurance scheme. The Secretary of the union got in touch with a Councillor of the Woodstock Rural District Council, and he advised that they attend the meeting of the Board of Guardians and ask for work or maintenance. About twenty members walked eight miles to Woodstock and relief work was started, the first in the county. I believe they were employed over a period of weeks till they could claim unemployment benefit. New blood was introduced on the Parish Council who pressed for council houses and a public supply of drinking water. People living a distance had to fetch water from the Dorn, the only public supply at that time. Feeling ran high, property owners objected to both schemes, the then Vicar of Steeple Barton, Dr. Stephen, supported the opponents, and on one occasion told the Chairman of the Parish Council that houses weren't needed in the Parish and that people would go to the Colonies, and added the travelling now is so good, he had travelled and should know. The Chairman asked him if he had ever{y} travelled steerage, to which he replied No, and the Chairman informed him that is how the people of Barton would have to travel – work their passage. The Vicar must have known that at that time families were herded together worse than cattle, sexes were all in one room when almost grown up.



The Woodstock Council purchased one and a half acres bordering North Street, and four Council houses were built. The old gang got back on the Council and stopped the building of the other two as planned. The Woodstock Rural District Council turned down the public supply of drinking water. It was suggested that a supply should be obtained from a spring on

Holliers Barn Farm. Levels had been taken at an earlier period. The spring of water was at a point eighteen inches higher than the bell tower on the school, and it was suggested that it be piped and brought to a reservoir near the present one, and it would have supplied the village by gravity, no pumping station would have been necessary. The estimated cost of the scheme at that time was three thousand five hundred pounds. The present supply I believe, cost about twelve thousand five hundred pounds.



When the Woodstock Rural District Council ended and the district divided between other councils over the head of Steeple Barton Parish Council, a petition was signed by parishioners, asking for a Public supply of drinking water.

In the meantime the Chipping Norton Rural

District Council had purchased the field which had a bore hole, and the water supplying the village was obtained from that source. During the controversy about the water supply, Walter Parsons spoke for the objectors rushed into print in the 'Oxford Times', and asked the Chairman of the Parish Council if he was aware that low lying villages with a stream running through were more healthy than hill villages with a supply of well water. The chairman replied that that may be so, but that the running stream through the village polluted by impurities, swellings from farm yards, wasn't a fit source of drinking water.



The public water supply has changed the village life. Fifty years ago only three houses had a bath room and a fixed bath. The new council estate bordering the Worton Road have fixed baths, and some folk who opposed the water scheme have now had a bath installed, and probably no longer have to wash their feet in the pudding bowl as they did formerly. Steeple Barton of today has a supply of 10

drinking water and a sewerage scheme, and compares very favourably with any other village in the district.

At King George the Fifth Jubilee a collection was made in the village, and villagers were asked to contribute to the fund for a Playing Field for the children. A sum of money was received from the National Playing Fields Association for that purpose. The Playing Field has since been sold and is now a pig and poultry farm, so Steeple Barton has no Playing Field, the Playing Field which is available is in Westcote Barton Parish. The County Council (the ruling authority) has stated on at least two occasions that the mission hall is in the Parish of Westcote Barton, if that is so, Steeple Barton has no Public Hall or Playing Field in the Parish, and cannot claim to have any authority over the Hall and it raises a doubt if it is in order and in keeping with the Parish Council and Parish Meetings in another Parish. Barton and District has a Horticultural Society and was founded many years ago, also a local branch of the Womens Institute.

For the Coronation of King George the Sixth, a meeting was arranged in the Mission Hall to make arrangements to celebrate the Coronation. The then Rector of Westcote Barton was in the chair. A question was, if the people of the two Parishes had been consulted and were willing to join in the celebrations, as at the Coronation of King George the Fifth. Westcote Barton refused to join with Steeple Barton, and held the Coronation on their own. The Rector asked the questioner 'Do you live in Steeple Barton?' the reply was 'Yes'. The Rector then said 'This had nothing to do with you, this is Middle Barton and Westcote Barton'. The questioner then asked him w[h]ere the Parish of Middle Barton was, as Middle Barton is only the Postal Address. Of course the Rector realised he had slipped, so he had to administer the snub – Trouble your head about your own business, this has nothing to do with you! He got the reply that it had to do with the questioner and everyone in the Parish. The questioner was an ex-serviceman, and it was those who served that made the Coronation possible and prevented the English from Hock Hocking the Kaiser. I believe they had a bit of a do on the sands at Barton Abbey.

At the Coronation of our present Queen Elizabeth the Second, the Rural District Councillors of the two Parishes convened the meeting at the Mission Hall to make arrangements to celebrate the Coronation. The Parish Council was the appropriate authority to make the arrangements, they failed in their duty and allowed the Playing Field Committee to be elected in block to carry out the celebration arrangements. 'He is a slave who will not be in the right with two or three faint of heart and easily cowed. Is he who always shouts with crowd the misguided Yes Man.

As a Nation we are committed by the Government to support Democracy, and as Parish Councils are part of the system of Government, it is their bounded duty to carry out the Parish Council Act in the spirit and letter, and as I believe Truth and Duty are the safeguards of human rights I feel I must record what took place at a Parish Meeting.

The County Council (the ruling authority) requested the two Parishes to consider the amalgamation of the Parishes to form one Parish. The proper proceedings would have been to convene a joint meeting of the two Parishes stated and put it to the people why the request was made, and then accepted the wish of the majority, that would have been democratic. What happened was, Westcote Barton convened a meeting and decided against the merger, it is a much smaller Parish and consists of not more than forty households. After Steeple Barton called a meeting to consider the matter, I know not if arrangements had been made, and all signed and settled over the 'phone, but it certainly was a very extraordinary meeting. The Chairman stated that as Westcote Barton had turned the request down there was nothing Steeple Barton could do about it. When it was pointed out to him that surely Steeple Barton, the much larger Parish had a right to have a voice in the matter, he would have no interference, he didn't even ask the Councillors present what their feelings were on the matter. The Chairman would have no debate, the Councillors seemed to know their place, the voice said nothing we can do, echo [sic]- we must agree with you or we will fall from grace.

The next business was the Street Lighting. The Chairman got a bit mixed, the first thing he did was to turn on the heat by asking the only O.A.P. present if he was prepared to provide a loan to light the village. The O.A.P. informed him of the usual proceedings in the case of loans for Public Services, but the Chairman remarked ' I know all about that' so his purpose became plain, without just cause and through personal animosity, he failed to uphold the dignity of office and the action degraded the chair by openly administering a snub bordering on the insult to a ratepayer of more than fifty years, and a past chairman of Steeple Barton Parish Council, and who got the first Council Houses erected, and also pressed for public drinking water to supply the Village, and I ask the reader to ponder the position of the Chairman who is resident by virtue of his employment and has no roots in the Parish.

A word on Democracy – I believe in democratic freedom, individual liberty, equal rights, and social justice. Freedom to agree without Freedom to dissent is not Freedom at all, and Democracy outside those beliefs becomes a meaningless word. Truth and Duty are the safeguards of human rights.

Apropos the Parish Meeting it seem[e]d to the writer that the Chairman was not conversant with the Parish Council Act, or had no intention of carrying out the Act either in the letter or the spirit, and the proceedings reminded me of the old out-dated marionettes with the chairman pulling the strings: Heads together like Billy Goats would have been a much better performance and more in keeping with the Parish Council Act. No man can serve two masters, is a biblical truth.

There is a matter concerning the Mission Hall that needs clearing up. On at least two occasions the Ruling Authority has stated the Hall is situated in the Parish of Westcote Barton, if that is so, Steeple Barton cannot claim to have any authority over the Hall or the management thereof, and a doubt arises if it is in order or in keeping with the Parish Council Act to hold Parish Council or Parish Meetings outside of the Parish.

The Playing Field is I believe, in Westcote Barton Parish, therefore the Hall and the Playing Field may in the not far distant future, cause the two Parishes to merge into one.

I beg to suggest to the Steeple Barton Council that Flowering Trees be planted on the verges from the grove to the Mission Hall, on both sides of the road where the verges are wide enough, as I feel it would impress those people passing travelling through, and would change the view and improve the village scenery. Perhaps the Womens Institute would take an interest in the matter and help to bring it into being.

In concluding this History of Steeple Barton over a period of fifty five years, I make no claim to having literary ability over the ordinary individual, I only claim to be able to state truthfully what I have seen and experienced.

Signed, Harry Knight





Some of the shops and services available in bygone Bartons. There is a key to these on the back cover.

History of the Bartons: part 2

George Laws M.A.

This is the second half of "The History of the Bartons"; part one was published in Bygone Bartons Volume 8 in 2020 (still available - see page 34.)

ANCIENT REMAINS, ROADS, RIVER AND BUILDINGS

The earliest things around us are the little river, the roads and the churches. But the earliest remains of human occupation are the stones.

Hoar Stones

In a field near the Oxford/Banbury road are the remains of a Hoar Stone which was formerly much larger. We know that about 1800 it was blasted into three pieces and in 1842 it was broken into smaller fragments by a "Goth of a farmer" but Squire Hall had them collected and preserved in their original situation. It was probably a megalithic tombstone, and may be 4000 years old. In the Abbey woods, on the back road behind the Abbey and nearly opposite Barton Lodge, is another Hoar Stone. It is now overgrown and hard to find, but it shows that the green lane, near which it stands, is a very ancient track. Of the same date would be Enna's Stone at Enstone and the Thor Stone at Taston. The fact that all these stones, Thor Stone, Enna's Stone and the Hoar Stones, are by lanes or roads shows us how old the roads are, much older than the Roman occupation.

The other very ancient remains in Barton is also in Sesswell's Barton; this is Maiden Bower, a little round wood between Barton Lodge and New Barn Farm. Maiden Bower is possibly a corruption (a very pretty one and there are said to be nightingales there in June) of Maidan Burgh - strong fortress.

The Roads

The great Roman road Akeman Street ran from St. Albans to Bath. In Oxfordshire it went from Bicester to Sturdy's Castle (and near there it would cross the old green road mentioned in the section on Steeple Barton), then across Blenheim Park. You can follow its route on the 1 inch map. Pack Lane, Steeple Barton, has already been shown to be an important old road. This very year [1969] negotiations are going on with the Council for the straightening of some of the bends on the road to Hopcrofts Holt.

The worst bend is by Whistlow cottages. The wood on the south side of the road is called Showell Covert, and the dip in the road is Showell. What has caused the delay in the acquisition of land for road straightening? Simply this: the word Showell is a corruption of Seven Springs or Wells. These springs gave their name a thousand years ago to Showell. To this day these same springs are the only water supply to Barton Abbey, Whistlow Farm, Church Farm and all of Steeple Barton village. The springs lie exactly where the straightened road would go. When the new turnpike road was built in 1794 it had to twist at this point, as the old road had, to avoid these precious springs. [The road has not yet been straightened.]

The River Dorn

Oxfordshire is full of streams and brooks. Dr. Plot calls it the best watered county in England and gives seventy different brooks. Barton has grown along the Dorn. The name is a back-formation from Dornford - hidden ford. Barton Brook is the River Dorn and the Dorn may once have been called the River Ray, cf. Rayford Lane (which goes from the Turnpike cottages to Church Lane). Ray is a Celtic word meaning a babbling brook.

The Dorn enters Westcote Barton in Laundry Lane (was the cottage there, by Betty's Meadow spring, the laundry for Sandford Manor?), and runs through Manor Farm to the bridge on the Enstone Road. This bridge was rebuilt in 1868 at a cost of £95. Then it goes through Park Farm, below the Rectory, to the ford at the foot of Fox Lane, and then to the Kiddington Road bridge, which was built in 1867 at a cost of £120. The next crossing, apart from the footbridge in the path from the Chapel to North Street, is the ford and footbridge in the centre of Middle Barton, between Manor Farm and the Old Mill House. Then it goes under two bridges at Steeple Barton, around the Abbey lake (which is fed by springs independently of the river), past Purgatory (was this a piscatorium?) and so out of the parish at Tittenford Bridge. At Wootton (Milford Bridge) it joins the Glyme, which feeds Blenheim lake and joins the Evenlode at Bladon. It is now a small stream, but still contains trout and crayfish. It was larger in old days.

The fishing rights on the Dorn were the subject of an enquiry by the jury of Wootton Hundred in 1274. The court held that John de St. John, by virtue of his lordship of the manor of Barton (i.e. Steeple or Great Barton) had the right of fishing on one bank from Rayford Bridge (still so called) to Ramford Bridge, which by its description must have been just north of Tittenford Bridge.

But its main importance through the centuries was that it drove corn mills. There was a mill at Sandford until the present century. There was a mill, probably until

about 1800, by the ford at Westcote Barton. There was a mill at Middle Barton until the present century which only stopped grinding just before the Second World War. There was (in 1086) the mill at Steeple Barton. Besides this, the river drove several water wheels for pumping spring water, William Wing mentions four of them downstream from Barton Mill. Perhaps the only work it still [1969] does in the village is to drive the 3 foot undershot water wheel at Westcote Barton Manor.

Westcote Barton Church

There was almost certainly a church on this site in Saxon times, probably built of timber between 700 and 800. The first stone church may have been built in the year 1111, for there is an old stone built into the tower with these figures carved on it, perhaps to preserve a note of the date of this first stone church. But it was certainly built in its present shape at some time before 1200 and is about 800 years old.

We know that the church was consecrated or reconsecrated in the thirteenth century, either in 1238 or 1273. The patron saint chosen was Edward the Confessor. This choice was probably due partly to his Oxfordshire connection (he was born at Islip) and partly to the fact that in 1269 his remains had been translated by the King, Henry III, with great pomp to his new church, Westminster Abbey, and this would be fresh in people's minds.

Although the church was much restored in 1855 the work was very well and carefully done by George Edward Street, who afterwards built the Law Courts in the Strand, and most of the old church remains today. Between the nave and the south aisle are two Norman arches which were probably part of the earlier, twelfth century, building. The lovely rood-screen was made, doubtless by a Barton carpenter, in the thirteenth century, and Street had it painted in what he believed to be its original colours.

The style of the church is Perpendicular. It has its original piscina, a stone seat in the chancel window-sill, and a credence shelf. You can still see the doorways of the staircase in the north wall which led to the rood loft above the screen. This was used for keeping the candles alight in front of the rood crucifix. The pulpit is the old one, restored in 1855.

Steeple Barton Church

This much larger church is still referred to by villagers as the mother church, as distinct from Westcote Barton which is nearer to them but which is not, for most of the people in Middle Barton, their parish church. The age is much the same as

Westcote: an early Saxon church, replaced by a Norman one, which in turn was rebuilt into its present shape about 1300.

Here again the arches dividing the nave from the south aisle are Norman, but the four pillars are more elegant, with quaintly carved capitals, and again there are the remains of a piscina in the south wall.

But here the restoration, in 1851, was not so lovingly and carefully done. Many of the monuments were removed, particularly a fine pair of kneeling Dormers, Michael who died in 1584 and his wife Elizabeth, which was moved to Rousham. We know, from the will of Robert Mise, who was lord of Sesswell's Barton before the Dormers and who died in 1523, that Steeple Barton Church was rich in images, but so doubtless was Westcote Barton before the Reformation.

The Reformation in the sixteenth century and the troubles of disunity were followed by the breakaway of Christians from the established church. This led in the seventeenth century to the building of a Quaker meeting house in Barton, in Jacob's Yard, which was not completely secularized until about 1850.

The two churches went through a bad, lazy, neglected time in the late eighteenth century. At Steeple Barton this culminated in the induction of Robert Wright as vicar. He was vicar for 42 years and never entered the church after his induction but lived elsewhere on the salary and paid a curate £30 a year to take the single Sunday Service (at 1.30 to fit in with his other churches).

Chapels

By 1835 in the Worton Road, the Wesleyan Methodists had built their Chapel, now converted into a house. Before this, certificates had been granted to allow buildings to be used for Nonconformist worship, in Middle Barton in 1828 and in Westcote Barton in 1814. In 1851 the Primitive Methodists bought land in Fox Lane from Solomon Jarvis and built a chapel there. Known afterwards as Chapel House, it was sold back to him in 1860 when the Primitive Methodists built their present chapel at Dorn Dock.

Alice Marshall Hall

The Hall was built in 1888-9 as a result of the work of Miss Alice Marshall of Westcote Barton Manor. It was built as a Church of England Mission and Temperance Hall which could be used for secular and religious meetings. The Hall was called the Mission Hall until 1968 when it was renamed The Alice Marshall Hall.

Barton Abbey

Barton Abbey was formerly Sesswell's Barton manor house. The first lord of the manor was Bishop Odo, of Bayeux, and the next William de Sharshull - hence Sesswell's. It was Henry Hall the brewer who named it Barton Abbey, probably because of its assumed early connection with a cell of Oseney Abbey. The house was built in 1524 by John Dormer, who was a merchant of the Staple, and much of the original still remains. Over the stable gateway in Wood's time was the motto 'Thinke and Thanke, Anno 1570' and it is still there today.

The Dormers soon moved to Rousham (where they still live) and were succeeded at the house by the Sheldon family who kept the old faith at the Reformation. The attics contained a great room, 92 feet long, adorned with frescoes, which was fitted up as a Roman Catholic chapel by the Sheldons. Wing saw it about 1830 when it still had its altar, vesting chamber etc. It was approached by an 'easily winding staircase, composed of solid blocks of polished oak' which is still there.

Although the Sheldons owned and lived in the house, they never became lords of the manor. The lordship remained (and still does) with the Dormers. The Sheldons must have been there until the end of the eighteenth century. From 1800 to 1820 the house seems to have belonged to William Willan of Souldern and to have been occupied by William West. By this time it was no more than a farmhouse.

In 1822 Willan sold his Sesswell's Barton estate to William Hall of the Swan Brewery, Oxford. The Halls added to the estate considerably and by 1860 had rebuilt and renamed the house. They built Barton Lodge in the parkland south east of Barton Abbey and in 1870 planted the avenue of wellingtonias. The Halls remained for just 100 years. In 1922 the estate was broken up and sold. Barton Abbey and some of the land was bought by the Pikes who sold it in 1934 to Major and Mrs. Fleming.

Westcote Barton Manor

The Marshall family were lords of Sandford manor. Between 1852 and 1858 Jenner Marshall built the present Westcote Barton manor house. He bought the lordship with three farms - Park Farm, Manor Farm and Graftons - and also most of the cottages in Westcote Barton. The Marshalls lived in the manor house for just over 50 years and they owned the estate until it was split up and sold in 1954.

Westcote Barton Lodge

This house was built as a rectory by the then rector, Samuel Seagrave, in 1836. (The earlier rectory stood between the church and the present rectory.) In 1965 it was

sold by the parish to Mr. Cunningham who enlarged it, and the present rectory was built on glebe land.

Church Farm, Steeple Barton

This fine old house may have been originally Steeple Barton manor house. There is a tradition to this effect, and we know that there was a manor at Steeple Barton as well as at Sesswell's Barton.

Manor Farm, Middle Barton

This house, with the corn mill opposite, was at one time known as Middle Barton manor house. It was built by the Brangwin family in about 1730 and the Brangwins sold it in 1806 to Samuel Churchill of Deddington. By 1860 the house belonged to Thomas Painter and was occupied by Mr. Sharman.

The Old Vicarage, Steeple Barton

A house on this site was built in 1216 and was many times pulled down and rebuilt. The present house, which is where Professor Hoskins lived, was built in 1855-6 on land given by Thomas Painter. Wing described it as a piece of land worth at least £60 for building purposes. The old apple trees at the foot of the garden are perhaps the successors of those recorded in the glebe terrier of 1634.

The Pubs

Until quite recently there were three inns in Barton. The third, the Three Horseshoes, is still standing. [It was on the site of Nos. 22-32 North Street and was demolished in 1971]. The Carpenters Arms (or the lower house as it is called) has changed its name at least once over the centuries; it was formerly the Fleur-de-Luce.

The Stocks; the Malt House; the Pound.

The stocks stood near The Fox until 1868, when they were pulled down and the metal work used for the new church gate, which is still in good repair. The stocks were doubtless in this position so that offenders could be seen by visitors to the pub, and by churchgoers on Sunday.

Just below The Fox is the Old Malt House. I do not know when malting finally ceased here, but malt was still made in the house one hundred years ago.

The pound stood at the N.W. corner of the Mission Hall cross roads. It was pulled down in 1749 and the stone slabs from its fences were used for repairing what was then a footbridge on the Kiddington Road. There was a second pound in Church Lane on the corner [No. 12].

LOCAL HAPPENINGS AND VILLAGE LIFE

Twice in its history Barton has had the sort of happenings which would be front page news in some of the newspapers today.

1) 1650. Anne Greene worked as a servant at Duns Tew where her child (by a son of the household) was found dead soon after birth. She was sentenced and hanged in Oxford. Her body was taken for dissection but she was then found to be alive. She recovered and returned to Steeple Barton where she married and had three children.

2) 1801. Jane Watts, after a slight tiff with her husband, went to Blenheim and threw herself and her three children off the west side of the great bridge. All four were buried in the same grave at Steeple Barton.

Volunteers have been raised twice, each time commanded by the owner of the manor house of Sesswell's Barton. In 1940 it was Major Fleming. The earlier occasion was in 1803, during the Napoleonic Wars, when William Willan was commander and William Wing was ensign. One of the drummers was a man called Jepson who in 1787 had married Ann Egelstone and their son became village schoolmaster, first at Westcote Barton and then at Middle Barton.

The Westcote Barton school was for a time held in the second of the Manor Farm cottages. In the attic were found the words written in 1896 by Jenner Marshall: 'In this room of the old cottage, late Jepson's school, I write in seclusion the family history of Marshall of Westcote Barton Manor'. The present school in Middle Barton, which was provided by Squire Hall, was opened in 1866.

The depths of poverty were probably reached about 1820, at a time when neither church had a resident parson and neither manor a resident squire. The farm men were kept at work after harvest on the poor rate, either on the 'rounding system' or the 'all day idle system', so well described by Wing.

During the nineteenth century came the growth of the squirearchy and also an increase of population from 577 in 1801 to 1161 by 1861. Any cottages with more than one room up and one room down tended to be divided into pairs or more. North Street grew haphazardly by squatting on the waste with the back gardens rented from the Hall estate until 1922.

In the 1890's there was still deep poverty. I know a man who was brought up as one of a large family and they lived in a cottage with one room down and one up. The men worked a six day week and the wage was 10/- to 12/- a week. The wives stitched gloves for the Woodstock factories; they would walk with the gloves to Woodstock, probably by the green lane past the church. But by now their lot was eased a little.

The allotments were greatly used. Men grew corn as well as vegetables and brought it to the mill to be ground for flour. (A few of the allotments are still there but not so much in demand today.) Prices were lower: beer at 2d a pint and tobacco at 3d an ounce. Bread and cheese cost 1½d.

There was a strong chapel tradition and people were, many ways, independent of the squires. It is noticeable that Middle Barton (unlike Sandford and Rousham) has never been ruled by a squire.

It is surprising to see the number of shops and trades in Middle Barton at the turn of the century. In 1903 there were: 2 blacksmiths, 2 wheelwrights, 2 bakers, 3 saddlers and a bootmaker, 3 carriers, 3 pubs and 1 off-licence, 6 builders, including a carpenter, mason and plumber and no less than 8 shops, including a post office, a butcher and a herbalist plus a tailor, a miller and a nurseryman.

Since then has come the revolution of the 40's and 50's, with electricity, water and cars. A change to affluence but perhaps not such a happy time.



The ford in Fox Lane.

A Transatlantic Bartonian

Bethany Thorne

Regular readers of Bygone Bartons may remember an account of the Jarvis family in BB6 (page 34). This adds a little more to the story. Faith Worville's mother Emma lived at 1 North Street, Middle Barton. Arthur Beck who emigrated to Canada heading for 'The Worville family' in 1924 was the father of Win Jarvis who lived in the Bartons from 1948 to 2012. Win was the grandmother of Bethany who wrote this account.

Druscilla Faith Worville was born in Duns Tew in 1878 to William and Emma Worville. Both Emma and William had grown up in the Bartons. Druscilla grew up in Steeple Barton on Harpers Court (thought to be in the area of Jacob's Yard) with three siblings: Rebecca, Jacob and Ruth. Her father, William, was an agricultural labourer. In 1897, Druscilla married Alfred Pitson Whichelo at Nuneham Courtenay where Alfred spent some of his childhood living with his Uncle. Alfred also spent time at the Abingdon St. Helen workhouse as a young child after being born out of wedlock. It seems as though Alfred's maternal grandfather emigrated to the Midwest USA in 1867 which may have sparked Alfred's later move.



On 9th April 1897, Druscilla and Alfred arrived in New York on the "Germanic". Their intended destination was listed as Denver, however, they appear to have settled quickly in Rhode Island, instead. By 1900, the young couple were boarding at the home of a Mr. Lincoln Curtis in North Kingstown, RI. Here, Druscilla was a cook and Alfred a labourer.

The couple made a return trip to Oxfordshire in 1900. They arrived back in the UK on 5th August 1900 aboard the ship "New York". Whilst Druscilla and Alfred were home, a family portrait was taken in Oxford with Rebecca and Arthur Beck and their young daughters Faith and Emma. Just one month after their trip, in Sept 1900, Druscilla's elder sister Ruth died in Steeple Barton.

Shortly after their return, Druscilla's first daughter was born in February 1901, and the family moved to their home on Old Davisville Rd, which remained in

the family until at least the 2010s. The family seemed to remain in contact across the Atlantic and Druscilla's mother sent postcards of home to her daughter. The harvest scene is dated from 1909. And, interestingly, when Arthur Henry Beck emigrated to Canada in the 1920s, his arrival form named a "Mrs Worville" as his intended destination.



Druscilla went on to have nine children — eight of whom are pictured with her in the attached photo taken at Alfred's funeral in 1935. From left to right: Lilian, Gladys, Ethel, Ernest, Charles, Florence, Bertha, and David. Druscilla died in 1939 just days after the outbreak of WWII.



The final photo is of Bethany Thorne, the 3 x great-niece of Druscilla, at Kingston Railroad Station in the neighbouring town to North Kingstown. This station has been standing since the 1870s and has long been a mainstay of the New York to Boston railroad. It is likely that Druscilla passed through this station more than once — perhaps on her journeys to and from the Bartons! Beth now lives and works in New York City.



Middle Barton Bowls Club Centenary

Peter Wild

Middle Barton Bowls Club (MBBC) was founded in 1923 and is one hundred years old this year. The club is affiliated to Bowls Oxfordshire which was founded in 2009, its predecessor being the Oxfordshire Bowling Association (OBA) founded in 1907. Although not one of the original members, MBBC has been part of the Oxfordshire family of bowling clubs since its inception.



The club thrived in the 1920's and 30's, winning the Heyford Challenge Cup in 1937. The photograph of the winning team still hangs in the clubhouse today.

The following is an extract from the OBA centenary handbook printed in 2007: "Founded 1923, playing on Westcote Barton Rectory lawn, after-match refreshments at the Fox Inn. Moved to Worton Road in 1958 (n.b. this date appears to be an error on the part of the publication). After a 1980's decline in membership, early 1990's saw a revival, and construction by members of new brick pavilion and green improvements in 1993, followed by a new watering system. Winter short-mat bowling and excellent facilities for a small village club."

Source - OBA Centenary Handbook.

Bowlers tend towards being both resourceful and resilient as witnessed by the durability of the club. Many people have bowled during its existence and no better example of resilience can be found than the club's survival through the second world war.

The Minutes Book of the club illustrates how a major event like a world war can interrupt, but not destroy, the things that people hold dear. The Second World war broke out in 1939 and Middle Barton Bowls club continued to play until 1942, when it was agreed to postpone fixtures until the war was over. The minutes of the club tell the story....



“Meeting held in Legion Hut on Thursday April 30th 1942 at 8.00pm. Rev. W Lindsay in the chair, following members attended. Mr. LG Newman, Mr. Brooks, Mr. Canty, Mr. Cox, & Mr. Courtnell.”

“It was proposed to keep club going for 1942 but owing to the war no matches could be arranged owing to transport difficulty.”

“It was proposed to ask Mr. Gooding if he would keep green cut once a week one rink so as members could play amongst themselves.”

“It was proposed to open green on Whit Monday May25th 1942. Meeting closed at 8.50pm”.

The club then ceased its activities between 1943 and 1946. Extracts from the minutes of the committee meeting of the Middle Barton Bowls Club. On the very next page of the very same book we see, after a four-year gap, a resumption of activity, almost as if nothing had happened in the interim. Extract from the minutes:

“Meeting held in British Legion Hut at 7.30pm On Wednesday February 13th 1946.Rev. W Lindsay in the chair. Following members attended. Mr. LG Newman, Mr Gibbons, Mr. Cox, Mr. R H Stickland, Mr W Moulder, Mr. G. Brooks, Mr Adams, & Mr. W A Courtnell.”

“Minutes of last meeting were read and signed by Chairman.”

The matter of factness of that statement really made me chuckle, but also speaks volumes about people’s capacity to combat adversity.

The next significant change in the life of the club was its move to the playing fields on the Worton road – its current home - with the meetings of the club being held in the Playing Fields Pavilion.

Extract from the minutes book:

“ Opening of the new green (1952). It was suggested that in the interest of the club we thought the Executive of the County Association should be asked to perform this ceremony.”

The actual opening eventually took place on May 20th 1953 with the publicity being a small advert in the Oxford Times. There must have been a change of heart

about which dignitary should open it as the minutes read: “ It was agreed that the secretary should communicate with the president, Major Fleming, to ask if he would open the green.” The strong connection with the Fleming family continues to this day.

Things had progressed by 1988 including now having lady members, minutes being typed not hand written, and a proposal:

“For the benefit of those who had not seen them, the Captain had brought the plans for the proposed Club House to the meeting. Though this still at the discussion stage.....it was unanimously agreed that the future success of the Bowls Club depended upon it having a Clubhouse of its own.” “ The Captain said that he would order a supply of scarves for the ladies, each scarf having a motif similar to that of the men’s ties.” Source... club minutes 9th March 1988.

Things are considerably more informal these days with a more gender neutral club polo shirt, no-one can accuse bowlers of being stuck in their ways! Nonetheless, the precursor to our present shirts had to pass a high threshold of approval. “Some discussion followed regarding the purchase of coloured bowls shirts. Tony Fowler asked for a show of hands in favour as it would only be acceptable if all in agreement.” Source – minutes of pre-season meeting held on 7th April 2005.



Bowling attire is more relaxed now than back then, however, one thing doesn't change and that is the nature of the required footwear – flat soled shoes that prevent the green coming to harm.

The club had to take the step of writing a formal complaint to Deddington Beeches club in June 1993 with the following complaint.....

“There was a bowler on the green wearing heeled shoes.” A profuse apology was sent by return post and a guarantee that the misdemeanour would not be repeated..



As a piece of resourcefulness some fairly nifty ‘crowd funding’ took place in 1993 to make up the shortfall in the sum needed to complete the new pavilion. “An update of the budget showed that around £2,500 was still needed to meet future costs. After a discussion it was decided that members be invited to make an interest free loan for 2 years, in units of £50.00.” Needless to say, the pavilion that you see today was built and paid for and continues to thrive. In terms of today, the club is striving to fully recover the quality of the green following lapses in routine

maintenance due to the privations of the Covid pandemic, the club house recently incurred some structural damage and needed improvements to the damp proof course and that is underway.

The routine maintenance of all the facilities are largely undertaken by club members, the fixtures continue with other clubs throughout Oxfordshire, and the club has recently re-designed its shirt. In other words, life goes on despite the interruptions and setbacks.

There are over 40 members currently from Middle Barton and the surrounding area, with new members added earlier this year following an open day. All of those members are joining a club with a long history and a tradition of friendly competition. As the world flies by at a 100 miles per hour, members can recover their equilibrium at Middle Barton Bowls Club secure in the knowledge that it is rooted in the past, but still able to flourish in the modern world, and I hope that this article has given you a small taste of that.

A hundred years is a long time and much has happened during this period with the world changing beyond recognition. However, throughout this, there are some constants and the minutes of the meetings held by the Middle Barton Bowls Club show the power of sport and social contact to bind communities and provide comfort in times of adversity.

Happy Centenary!



MBBC
The Opening of the New Green - 20th May 1953

W Moulder, W Courtneil, A Perkins, P Osment, R Jarvis, J Lowden, L Newman, K Castle, M Adams, J Stewart, R Butler, J Harper, G Newman, C Gibbons, W Sturges,
A Stewart, V Gardner, F Deeley, W Stewart, W Woods, F Gascoigne, Major Fleming, G Cox, W Howe, M Stockford, E Williams, C Boffin

Look what the chickens dug up!

Chris Edbury

The garden at No. 18 North Street has been cultivated and tilled for nearly three hundred years and still interesting bits and pieces come up from time to time. According to the deeds of 1714 the ground around the house to the west and south was called Bowles Close, an old enclosure according to the Enclosure Award of 1796, and was in the possession of the Widow Bowles.



Long before the present house was built who was walking along the river valley, about 30 feet from the river Dorn? Who was the person who lost a shoe buckle? Were they walking between the early medieval mills of Steeple Barton (Mill Lane) and the mill in Fox Lane? We'll never know.

The chickens have free range in parts of the garden, digging about as chickens do, and this particular day were down near the spring/well when I saw something on top of the soil. It turned out to be a medieval shoe buckle, dating from around 1350 to 1450. Medieval buckles, belt or shoe, are very hard to date more accurately as the style and material never changed. Anni Byard, the Finds Liaison Officer, identified it at one of the Ashmolean's Archaeology Identification Days. It is very well preserved and made of copper alloy.

And, look what the rabbit dug up! Thumper, the old rabbit, dug holes in the lawn regularly. He turned up this old weight. Identified again by Anni, it is a trade weight, weighing 2 ounces, dating to around the end of the reign of George III. The sword indicates London and the ewer indicates the Worshipful Company of Founders; the A possibly means Averdepois (goods sold by weight). After a lot of research, this is all the information I could find. I have no idea why a 2oz trade weight should be in the garden.



The rabbit is long gone but I wonder what other treasures the chickens will dig up?

The Dorne Valley Boys

As told to Bygone Bartons by members of the band, both past and present: John Huntley, Bryan Tyrrell, Mick Newman & Kenny Woodward.

Although many topics have been covered in the 'Bygone Bartons' series of booklets, one notable omission has been an article about 'The Dorne Valley Boys'. In the early 1960s, when 'Beatlemania' held sway, a few young lads from the Bartons banded together to form 'The Dorne Valley Boys'. Founder members were, in what was then a trio: Dave Shirley, Nigel Woods and Robert Cox, not long after came Michael (Mick) Newman. There have been a few members of the band over the years from the village and surrounding areas, but the group has largely stayed with four members. As a band they have been performing for about 60 years (though the exact date they began appears to be a bit hazy now!).

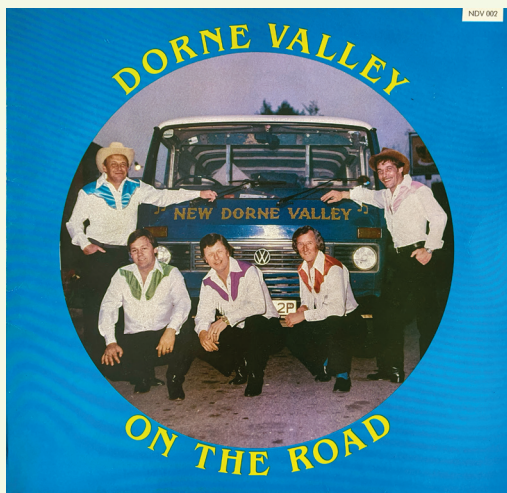
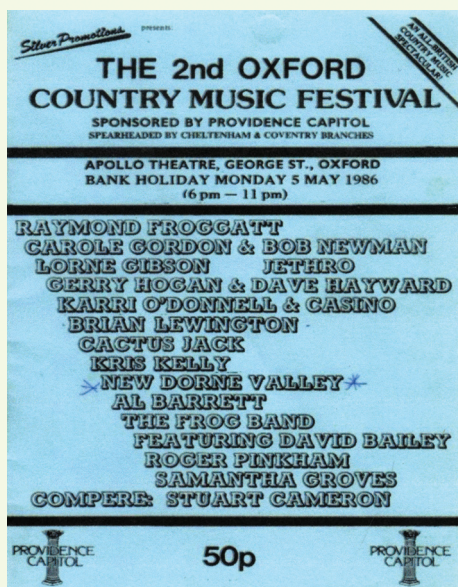


The "Boys" played at numerous local venues such as the Chipping Norton British Legion Club and the Alice Marshall Hall, but also further afield in Banbury, London, Stratford-on-Avon, Coventry, Thame, Birmingham, the Morris Motors Club in Cowley and the Heathrow Airport Officers' Club. John Stewart, their 'Roadie' or Road Manager, was from Middle Barton. John was a particular asset when amplifiers and other kit - which was much heavier than nowadays - needed moving to the venues, Alcan's entrance was particularly remembered!

The band released two albums, the first of which ("Come The Dorne") was recorded in 1979 at a studio in Wellingborough and the second "On The Road" was recorded and mixed by Dave Pegg (of Fairport Convention), in Barford St Martin in 1984 in

his studio, and who also featured on the album with his mandolin. A CD “On The Road Again” was also released.

As the Band was so popular there were sometimes conflicting demands for their services. On one such occasion there was a double booking for a date in Banbury at the same time as one at the Deddington British Legion Club. Band members drew straws to decide which clients would enjoy their company and they played at the Deddington Club. A fateful decision as this resulted in John Huntley - an early member of the band - meeting Thelma who was to become his wife, with whom he has now spent over half a century.



On New Year's Eve 2012 BBC Radio Oxford aired a nostalgic programme, presented by Mark Watson, called 'Bringing Back the Good Times' which featured material from the New Dorne Valley Boys.

Along with their line-up, their band-name has evolved. From the “Dorne Valley Boys”, to the “New Dorne Valley” and now, the “Dorne Valley Country Band”. The current line-up comprises: Kenny Woodward - Lead vocals and rhythm guitar, Robert Phipps - Vocals, steel guitar and

keyboard, Bill Schanche – Lead guitar, Bryan Tyrrell – Drums and Mick Newman – Vocals and bass guitar. This current line-up have been together for the longest, and they still thoroughly enjoy it, although their days of performing three times a weekend have somewhat diminished.

At the time of printing
The Dorne Valley Country Band are still available for bookings!

Bartons' History Group Publications

- 'Middle Barton School - Aspects of School Life 1866-1996'** £2.50
by Audrey Martin
A terrific read with photos and turn-of-the-century quotes from the school log-book.
- 'The Changing Faces of the Bartons'** £8.50
by Audrey Martin
Includes pictures of people, streets, houses and events from Victorian times onwards.
- 'Middle Barton - a village walk'** £0.80
Alerts you to sights you may never have been aware of.
- 'It Happened in the Dorn Valley'** £3.50
*A vivid account of life in the Bartons during WW2
through the eyes of the Women's Institute.*
- 1920's prints** £1.50 each
Fox Lane, Mill Lane, North St, South St, Worton Rd and the School.
- Silver Jubilee Celebrations in the Bartons (1977)** £5.00
A compilation of three films taken during the celebrations, now on a single DVD.
- Barton Abbey** £1.00
An updated (2010) leaflet, now in colour.
- Bygone Bartons (inc the Jubilee Edition)** £3.00 each
Not all printed editions are available please contact the Group for details.
All editions are downloadable from:
<https://bartonshistorygroup.org.uk/bygone-bartons-and-the-dorn-free-press>

For any questions regarding availability of these publication please contact Michael
Horwood-Smith tel: 01869 347588

Bartons' History Group

www.bartonshistorygroup.org.uk

The Bartons' History Group was revived in 2007 with a committee of eight members and the support of many village residents. Much of our activity initially centred around preserving, and making more accessible, the material collected by the late Audrey Martin. This work continues but mixed with other activities, not least being the writing and production of the Bygone Bartons series.

We also deal with a considerable number of local and internet requests for village information, particularly family history. Some of these have come from places far distant, such as the USA and Australia.

Our website (www.bartonshistorygroup.org.uk) is easy to use, so do please have a look at it. In line with current data protection rules, some information is not publicly available; please apply to the Group, via the address below, for access if required.

Above all, we try to choose projects which interest us as village residents. If you like the sound of it and would like to help, or have some new material we could use, simply get in touch via the address below.

Enquiries:

enquiries@bartonshistorygroup.org.uk

Bartons' History Group is grateful for the support provided by:

Steeple Barton Parish Council (2007-8, 2019, 2023)
West Oxfordshire District Council (2007-8, 2010-13, 2015-18, 2023)
Westcote Barton Parish Meeting (2012, 2019)
The Bouttell Trust (2008)
and village residents.

Key to photographs on pages 14 & 15

1 & 5, Cox's shop (1 with Mark Stockford).

2, Clara Hawkins c1930 in the doorway of the shop (also photo 10) she kept in the front room of her house at 44, South Street where she and her husband Jesse lived.

1	2
3	4
	5

6	7
8	9
10	11
	12

3, William Baker c1900 by the smithy at the back of 45, South Street, next door to Home Farm, where 3 generations of the Baker family were blacksmiths and wheelwrights.

4, Mark Stockford (in the 1940's) pictured with his mare Kitty, delivered bread for Hedley Gardiner Snr who took over the bakery from the Constables.

6, Post Office - North Street. 7, Florence Farley, in her shop in Mill Lane.

8, Thomas and Grace Barrett outside the butchers.

9, Constables Bakery in South Street, later to become Pillings.

11, Frank Gascoigne with his son Ron at the blacksmith's on the corner of Worton Road and Farriers Road.

12, North Street.

This copy of Bygone Bartons is delivered free of charge
to every household in the Bartons.

It is the tenth in a series of booklets by Bartons' History Group.

www.bartonshistorygroup.org.uk

Additional copies are available from Michael Horwood-Smith
(Tel: 01869 347588) at £3 each.