

The Old Year will be remembered as the year of the tsunami - a disaster that united north and south, east and west in anguish, yet also in positive action. In these pages Ray Fleming reflects on the anguish, many others tell of on-going responses. This New Year will see if good intentions are carried through.

For the **DN**, 2005 sees the launch of a simple website. It means that our friends beyond the parish boundaries can download each issue as it is published. Please make this known to your friends and relatives, and give us their email addresses so that we can send them an alert

each month. 'DN Extra' is a page for items omitted for lack of space: PC Clive Middleton's own cautionary tale; Betty Caporn's son-in-law's tribute to her. The website has a calendar page on which events are listed to the end of the year, such as **LIVING ROOMS** events and the **DEDDINGTON FESTIVAL** programme. Keep telling Jean Flux what you are planning, and consult the calendar when you are choosing a date for your event. Visitors to [www.deddingtonnews.co.uk](http://www.deddingtonnews.co.uk) will then know when to visit Deddington in person. *CF*

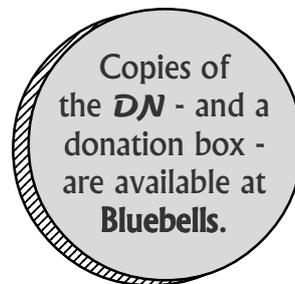


### February Diary

- Tue 1 Deddington Badminton Club: Junior Club Night.  
 Wed 2 Friendship Club: Windmill Centre, 2.30 pm. ➔ p.11  
 Wed 2 Deddington Ladies: Holly Tree, 8pm.  
 Mon 7 Monday Morning Club: Coffee Morning, Holly Tree, 10 am-noon.  
 Tue 8 WI: Margaret Hyslop, *Crafty Inspiration*, Holly Tree, 7.30 pm ➔ p.11  
 Tue 8 Deddington Youth Club: AGM, The Windmill Centre, 7 pm. ➔ p.11  
 Wed 9 History Society: John Madicott, *Gaveston and His Age*, Windmill Centre, 7.30 pm. ➔ p.12  
 Wed 16 Friendship Club: AGM, Windmill Centre, 2.30 pm. ➔ p.11  
 Wed 16 Parish Council: Meeting, Town Hall, 7.45pm. ➔ pp.2-3  
 Mon 21 *Living Room Report from Mbatho/Mafeking*, Holly Tree, 7.30 pm ➔ p.5  
 Thu 24 Book Club: Call Sally (338094) for venue. ➔ p.11  
 Sat 26 Deddington Farmers' Market: 9am~12.30 pm.  
 Sat 26 Victorian Music Hall, The Parish Church, 7.30 pm. ➔ insert

### March Diary

- Tue 1 Concert by The Lyra Singers, Parish Church, 7.30 pm. ➔ p.13  
 Wed 2 Deddington Ladies: Holly Tree, 8pm.  
 Sat 5 Concert by Warwick University Gospel Choir, Parish Church.  
 Mon 7 Monday Morning Club: The Holly Tree, 10am-noon.  
 Tue 8 WI: AGM, Holly Tree, 7.30 pm. ➔ p.11  
 Wed 9 History Society: Deborah Hayter, *Ridge and Furrow*, Windmill Centre, 7.30 pm ➔ p.12  
 Sat 12 Deddington Beches Bowls Club: Race Night, Royal British Legion, 7.30 pm ➔ p.11  
 Wed 16 Parish Council: Meeting, Town Hall, 7.45 pm ➔ pp. 2-3  
 Fri 18 *Treasures of Waddesdon*, an illustrated talk: The Holly Tree  
 Sat 26 Deddington Farmers' Market, 9am~12.30 pm.



### Weekly Meetings

- Mon: Brownies: Windmill Centre, 6-7.30 pm.  
 Mon: Youth Club: Windmill Centre, 7-9 pm  
 Mon: Bellringing Practice, Parish Church, 8-9 pm.  
 Tues: Craft Group: Holly Tree, 2.15-4.30 pm.  
 Tues: Deddington Guides: Windmill Centre, 7-9 pm.  
 Wed: Babies & Toddlers Group: Windmill, 9.30-11am  
 Wed: Anchor Boys: Deddington School, 3.15 pm.  
 Wed: Boys' Brigade: Windmill Centre, 5.30 pm.

- Every other Wed: Friendship Club: Windmill, 2.30 pm.  
 Thurs: Life & Portrait Art Group: Town Hall, 10~4 pm.  
 Thurs: 1st Deddington Cubs: Windmill, 6-7.30 pm.  
 Thurs: 1st Deddington Scouts: Windmill, 7.30-9 pm.  
 Fri: Coffee Morning in aid of Katharine House: Parish Church, 10 am~noon.  
 Fri: Babies & Toddlers' Group: Windmill, 9.30~11 am.  
 Fri: Deddington Friendly Bridge Club: Holly Tree, 2-5 pm

### **THE DEDDINGTON NEWS** - Copy please to the relevant editor by next copy date: **15 FEB**

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**Meeting in Town Hall - 15 December 2004**

Present: Cllrs Flux (chair), Cox, Haslam, Rollason, Squires, Swash, Todd, Watts, Wood, the Clerk, the Minutes Secretary and 4 members of the public.

**COMMUNITY POLICING**

Responding to Tony Baldry MP's letter, seeking PC views on the Government's proposals to enhance policing in the community, notably to give wardens in 10,000 Parishes and Towns power to issue on-the-spot fines for anti-social behaviour, including dog-fouling, litter and vandalism, it was agreed that Deddington did not [yet] need to seek such powers. If such wardens were to be appointed, should they be local residents - or not ?

**DISCONTENT WITH COUNTY**

Projects are not being delivered as promised by OCC, giving the impression that Deddington is low on its agenda. C/Cllr Jeff to be asked to kick-start progress.

**BUS SERVICES**

Every passenger is receiving a 45p subsidy on the X59, and £18 each on the 159 Connection.

**PLANNING & PROPERTY**

PC no objection: (i) Roseville, Chapel Lane, Clifton - single storey rear extension. (ii) Denbigh Place, Clifton - garage and machinery store. (iii) Castle Dene, Castle Street, Deddington - extension to form indoor swimming pool. (iv) Monks Court, Castle Street, Deddington - replace roof window, new roof light, reslate roof as existing. (v) Clifton Mill, Clifton - restore stable as carport and workshop, re-roof outbuilding. (vi) 2 The Beeches, Deddington - side and rear extension. (vii) St Anne's Home, Clifton - additional nursing home wing (revision of previous permission).

PC objection: (viii) Habitat, Hopcrafts Lane, Deddington - retrospective permission for mis-erected solar panels (unsightly and obtrusive; previous applications for similar installations nearby have been refused).

CDC approvals: (ix) The Red Lion, Market Place, Deddington - 5 new bedrooms & new restaurant in rear. (x) Castle Barns, Deddington - redivide single dwelling into two. (xi) Eagles, Market Place, Deddington - new fascia sign. (xii) Christmas Cottage, Clifton - erect garden shed. (xiii) Sylvan Cottage, Clifton - garden room, covered walk and pergola. (xiv) Brick Court, Deddington - reshape two holly trees.

**PARKING TASKFORCE**

The Taskforce report was received with thanks and is publicly available. 84% was the highest level of parking recorded in the survey of the Market Place and Bull Ring, 15% higher than in 2001, and traffic is forecast nationally to increase by 26% by 2010. 99 vehicles were parked for over 4 hours. Strong arguments for providing facilities for long-term parking. [See D-o-L, and extracts on next page.]

**NO PARKING RIGHTS - Reminder**

There are no enforceable parking rights on the highway in the parish for any residents.

**PARISH PLAN WORKING GROUP**

Feedback from groups and businesses as well as from the open meetings will formulate the questionnaire to be circulated to all premises in the spring.

**NEWS IN BRIEF**

- PC warmly congratulated the Farmers' Market on its equal second place in the nationwide competition.
- Land Registry has still failed to register the Parish Council's ownership of Hempton allotments which was due by 18 November.
- Town Hall: very limited disability access options.
- All-weather court renewal cost £11000: £5200 5-year interest-free loan from PC; CDC has been asked for grant of £2775; cost to village £2125.
- Windmill Centre: police recommend that back stairs should be enclosed.
- Deddington Library legacy: 10% to be spent p.a.
- South East Regional Plan: OCC initiated amendment reducing target for new housing from 36000 to 32000 over the next decade.
- Roadside memorial opposite the fire station has been allowed by OCC; a policy is to be drafted.
- Carol Service: it should not be as representative of the PC that a councillor reads a lesson in the parish church [*contrary to nationwide custom - Ed*]

**PARISH FINANCES**

Invoices passed for payment totalled £9376.58, including £1094.65 imprest (stewards' wages); £2696.24 traffic calming; £934.63 NI/tax & Clerk's wages; £1339.51 environment; £535.82 all-weather court; £2220.75 Windmill Centre repairs; £92.84 Holly Tree hearing loop.

Investments totalled £549802.44, of which £8642.59 Barclays (£7039.22 current account + £1603.37 imprest) @ 0.1%; £1000 Bradford & Bingley @ 2.85% on 120 days; £540159.85 West Bromwich @ 4% overnight.

**Meeting in Town Hall - 19 January 2005**

Present: Cllrs Flux, Squires, Todd, Swash, Haslam, Watts, Wood, Spencer, Alton, Westley, Rollason, C/ Cllr Jelf, D/Cllr O'Sullivan, Graham Pitts (Clerk), Sue Gibbs (Minutes Sec.). Cllr Harvey has resigned: letter of thanks to be sent to her.

Matters Arising: Objection to such a short time (23 days) allowed by ODPM for response to correspondence. Jim Flux to raise issue at next local council meeting. Letter of congratulations to be sent to Vivien Pleydell-Bouverie on being awarded MBE.

**WORKING GROUPS:**

- \* Finance & General Purposes: largely because of expense of resurfacing hard playing area at Windmill Centre, there is currently a deficit of £3,630. During next financial year extra expenses include Windmill CCTV, the Parish Plan and Stonepits allotments. Reserves should not be used, budget should be balanced; not good housekeeping to have deficit; standards should be maintained so cutbacks not a good option. Precepts to be raised by £2. Finance to be discussed in greater depth for first half of PC

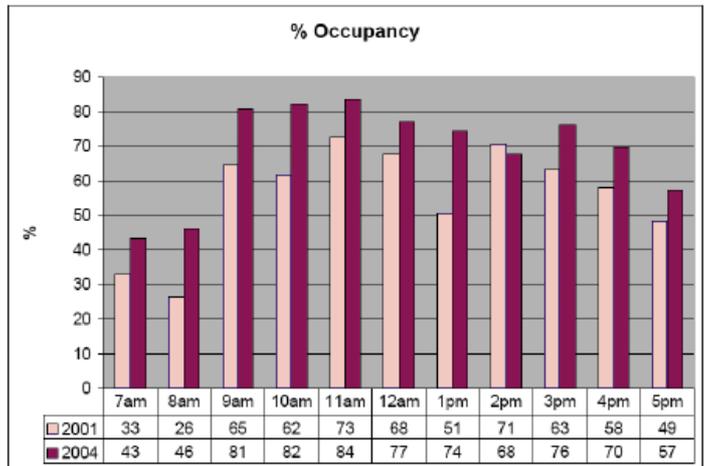
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The graph on the right shows what percentage of the available and legal parking areas in the Market Place & Bullring was occupied in the 2001 and 2004 surveys throughout the working day.

The two main deductions that can be drawn from the graph are:

1. Parking levels have risen by an average of 15% since 2001. [NB: The one exception of 2.00pm in 2001 was because of a funeral at the Church.]

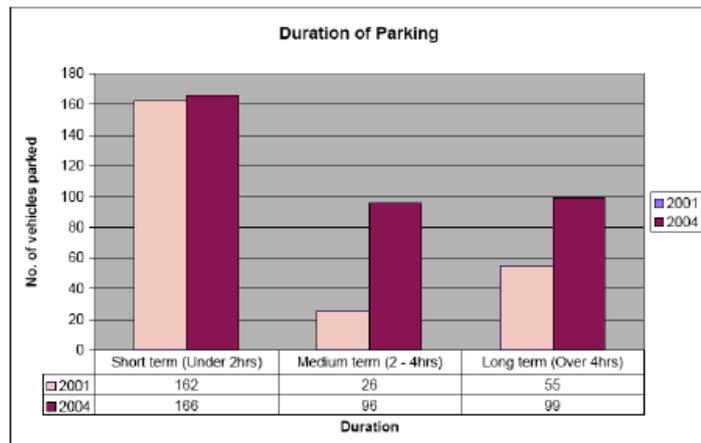
2. Occupancy was highest in the morning - peaking at 84% at 11.00am. Six subsequent occupancy checks have been carried out at the same time of day but on different days of the week. Occupancy levels were between 85% and 90% on all six occasions.



The graph below shows that the overall increase in parking shown has been entirely due to the growth in medium and long term parkers.

CONCLUSIONS

The perception that the area analysed is full all the time is not strictly true, but true enough to be a major



problem for the health of parish and local businesses.

The anticipated growth in number of cars wishing to park in the future will undoubtedly rise due to the factors listed in the report. This is to be welcomed because the Parish requires a vibrant local economy to hold its place as a good place to live. This, in turn, needs a high turnover of people visiting its shops, which, in turn, need adequate short term parking.

There are a very significant number of Business/Unidentified users who are able to park for medium to long term periods free of charge and who occupy a significant part of the Area. If they could be persuaded to make alternative parking arrangements then this would free up space for residents and more short term parking.

There are therefore very good arguments for trying to provide long term parking facilities, for the long term parkers, which are as close to the centre of the village as possible, which in turn makes more space for residents and short term parking.

[Task Force's own emphasis. Ed]

meeting on 16 February.

\* **Environment & Recreation:** reply from Land Registry concerning Stonepits allotments asked for receipts from 1947 to 1989, disputed facts and needed assurance that proper fencing and locked gates are installed. Photographs will be sent. Windmill CCTV - need to have someone to talk about the appropriate CCTV and to have police viewpoint of it. Grass cutting as last year.

• **Highways:** no correspondence from Co-op has been received concerning re-seeding damaged edges of Market Place green. Meeting to be arranged to discuss proposed pelican crossing on Hempton Road; there have been complaints from residents; Cost will be £50,000. If traffic could be slowed down, no need for crossing.

There is no ultimate solution to Deddington's parking problems - long term parking is main problem. WG need to be aware of developments which will cause more cars to be parked. [See above ??? Ed]

Letter from new Area Engineer states that white gates & build outs are low priority, but 'shark's teeth' & roundels at 30 mph signs & a rumble strip at Clifton will be provided.

\* **Planning & Property:**

PC No objection: **22 The Daedings:** two storey extension & new front porch. **Hempton House, Hempton:** re-roofing garage with pitched roof. **Cromwell House, Market Place:** installation of mini satellite dish at rear. **Home Farm Cottage, Clifton:** two storey extension & erection of garage to rear & front porch. **The Old Vicarage, Church St.** remove dead branches from walnut tree. **The Vicarage, Earls Lane:** demolition of existing vicarage & erection of two new houses & new access to highway; no objection if houses are moved 5m towards road. **Council Depot on Banbury Road:** development of 20m lattice tower; no objection if tower placed on north side of depot on west side of road

PC Objection: **Land adjoining the Barnstead, The Lane, Hempton:** erection of one dwelling with access - too large and overbearing, overlooks row of cottages, near listed cottage.

**NEXT MEETING Wed 16 Feb, Town Hall, 7.45pm.**

Official minutes of PC meetings may be seen at the Clerk's office and the Library, on parish noticeboards and the village website: [www.deddington.org.uk/pcminutes](http://www.deddington.org.uk/pcminutes)

It seems impossible to imagine that Christmas has been and gone as I write this article. Here at the school we had a very enjoyable and busy time. Both of the Key Stage productions went very well and were greatly appreciated by all who came to watch. Those who came to the Key Stage 2 Carols also appeared to enjoy the mulled wine and mince pies provided by our wonderful PTA. The children were wonderful and as always on these occasions a little tear was not far away. I must thank all the staff and parents involved on these occasions as they worked so hard to make them so polished.

Our school CD has sold very well with 200 copies going in just two weeks and we managed to raise £500 towards our Early Years Unit - many thanks to all who bought one. Plans for the Unit are moving very slowly, but we have received an Early Years Capital Grant of £20,000. We are now £30,000 off our building target, but will also need additional funding for the outside area which is needed for the children to play on. Hopefully there will be more news in February, along with developments on our new car park and playground.

The school, as everyone else, was incredibly shocked by the Tsunami disaster and the children were very keen to do their bit to help fundraise for the disaster appeal. We have planned a 'coins around the playground' and a Blue Peter Bring and Buy sale to support this worthwhile cause, so hopefully Deddington School children will be able to send direct support to those so badly affected.

This month also sees the arrival of a specialist science team for a day, to provide our children with a hands-on science experience. As you can imagine there is much anticipation and excitement around this.

*Judith Tinsley 338430*

### **Deddington Pre-School**

At Pre-School we welcome Harry, Millie, Joseph, Luke, Louisa and Ellie who have started this term. We are continuing with dance lessons, on a Wednesday morning, once a month. We also have regular visits from Fr Hugh, who introduces the children to bible stories using props and picture books. Our theme for this term is 'Our feelings and family' so children are bringing in pictures of their family to include in our 'feelings' and 'family' activities. We are also introducing a 'Praise Tree' to help promote positive behaviour. We are delighted to welcome Sophie Nicholls to the Pre-School this term, who is with us on work experience until July. She will be working with us on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Many of you will recognise her from the primary school, where she was previously working. We would like to have a list of people who are available to help out at Pre-School in the event of staff sickness or training (on a paid basis). Please contact Jane Privett on 337395 if you are interested.

*Rowena Dickerson*



*We are currently seeking a special person to work for 9 hours per week with one of the Special Needs children at our school, (Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 9.00 a.m. to 12.00 a.m.), from February 21<sup>st</sup> 2005. The delightful young man in question has Downs Syndrome and is supported in school by a Statement of Special Educational Needs. You will need to be patient but firm and be willing to work as part of a co-operative team. This is a temporary post ending in July 2005.*

*Application forms and further details can be obtained from the Headteacher, Mrs Judith Tinsley, at the School.*

*The starting salary will be G3: Point 10 (£6.36 per hour), term time only. Closing date: February 7 2005*

### **PTA**

December was a very busy month for the PTA. The school staff & PTA organised a 'Drop, Bop & Shop' for the children. The idea was that whilst the parents/carers dropped the children off at school & went late night shopping, the children enjoyed lots of fun, games, movies, food & a disco too! A great time was had by all! The Christmas cards designed by the children earlier in the term were fantastic. They sold really well and the feedback has been excellent. I would hope that we could produce a set of cards each Christmas which would be a nice way to mark the children's progress through the school. Our thanks to all who helped us produce, market & sell the cards. Santa's Float was a great success! Many thanks to everyone who so generously supported this event. Santa and his little helpers raised in excess of £675 for the school. A nice crisp winter day welcomed the December Farmers' Market where Santa waited in his Magical Grotto to greet the hoards of excited children. Santa wasn't disappointed and neither were the children! Santa proved to be hugely popular & whilst the queue was a little long at times, the air of excitement & anticipation only added a fantastic atmosphere to the morning. Our grateful thanks to Santa & his helpers, the Farmers' Market Committee, the Unicorn, Igloo Insulation & Trade Secrets for their kind donations. The PTA provided mulled wine & mince pies at the Keystage2 Carol service, which was a delightful event. Our thanks to all who so generously supported this. I must also thank the wonderful ladies in the Church 'tea shop' at the Farmers' Market who so very kindly sold warm mince pies on behalf of the PTA too! We have a very full calendar lined up for 2005. Apart from organising the more 'internal' school/home fundraisers for Mothering Sunday & Easter, our 'public' events start with our Quiz Night on Saturday 19 March. This is always very popular and tickets usually sell fast. For further details or to pre-book your place, please contact Mike on 338750.

*Stella O'Niell*

**SS PETER AND PAUL, DEDDINGTON AND ST JOHN, HEMPTON** [www.deddingtonchurch.org](http://www.deddingtonchurch.org)

*You will always be very welcome at any service in Church or Chapel*

### Parish Church in February

Wed	2	10.00 am	Eucharist
Thur	3	2.00 pm	Squeals & Wheels
Sun	6	10.30 am	Morning Praise
		6.30 pm	Evensong [BCP]
Wed	9	10.00 am	<b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b> Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes
Sun	13	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist and Children's Church
Wed	16	10.00 am	Eucharist
Thur	17	2.00 pm	Squeals & Wheels
Sun	20	8.00 am	Holy Comunion [BCP]
		10.30 am	Service of the Word
Mon	21	7.30 pm	<i>Report from Mbatho [see below]</i>
Wed	23	10.00 am	Eucharist
Sun	27	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist and Children's Church

### St John, Hempton

Suns 6&20	9.00 am	Eucharist	
Sun	27	6.00 pm	Evensong

### From the Parish Registers BAPTISMS

12 Dec: Emily Louise Hilda Barnett, Hannah Rose Coull & Josephine Mary Alice Thompson  
 FUNERALS - 7 Jan: Geoff Shelley; Betty Caporn 13 Jan: Betty Harper 20 Jan: Pat Bliss

### BIBLE STUDY GROUPS:

Aberford, Hopcraft Lane, Deddington [Jean Welford 338539] Weds 2 & 16 Feb, 7.30pm  
 2 The Leyes, Deddington [Liz Dickinson 337050] Weds 2 & 16 Feb, 7.30pm

**Charity of the Month** - please use the special envelope to put donations [if a taxpayer, in a pink GiftAid envelope] into the Parish Church chest.

February : **SPCK WORLDWIDE** - promoting Christian literature

### WESLEYAN REFORM CHURCH, Chapel Square

*Pastor Isabel Walton 337157*

Sunday Mornings at 10.30 am Preacher - Pastor Isabel Walton, except 27 February - John Hine  
 Bible Study/Fellowship every Wednesday at 7.30 pm

### CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, New Street

*Joyce Minnear 338 529*

Sunday *morning* worship jointly with Wesleyan Reform congregation at 10.30 am  
 Sunday evening services at the Chapel will restart on 6 March.

### R.C. PARISH OF HETHE WITH ADDERBURY

*The Revd A J Burns 277396*

*Heihe* : Mass is said every day [except Wednesday] at 10.00 am. Confessions: Sats - 5.30~6.00 pm  
*Adderbury* : Mass is said Sundays at 8.30 am; Wednesdays at 7.00 pm; Confessions before Mass.  
 On Ash Wednesday 9 Feb there will be distribution of the Ashes.

#### LIVING ROOMS PROJECT

Building has started in Deddington Church.  
 Come in and have a look !

**Mbatho Living Room:** The Vicar & Tony Elvidge report on their recent visit on Monday 21 February in the Holly Tree, at 7.30 pm

Events continue with the **Victorian Music Hall** on Saturday 26 February at 7.30pm [see insert].

Further events planned for this year are listed on the Calendar page at [www.deddingtonnews.co.uk](http://www.deddingtonnews.co.uk). Please put them in your diaries.

#### PARISH COOK BOOK

We are pleased to report the sale to date of 235 copies. Copies are still available from Bluebells, the Library, the Church at the Friday coffee morning, or John Sampson 338739. We regret that offence may have been caused by the inclusion of the Prologue/Epilogue verse; please accept our apologies. JS



#### CONGRATULATIONS ...

Vivien Pleydell-Bouverie on the award of a MBE in the New Year's Honours for her service to the Guide Movement. The investiture at Buckingham Palace is early this month.

#### DIAMOND WEDDINGS

Cliff & Mildred Homans  
 Ken & Doreen Smith



Lent Charity Lunches will be served in Deddington Church every Tuesday from 15 February to 22 March inclusive. Just drop in any time between 12noon and 1.30 and enjoy a simple meal of home-made soup, bread, butter and cheese. This year's charity is UNICEF Tsunami Children's Appeal and suggested minimum donation £3.00.

*Dorothy White*

**PAT BLISS** was born in 1950 in Austria where her father was a British soldier. She was brought up on a smallholding in Hampshire, a spartan rural life which gave her great practical skills and a lifelong love of animals. Working with horses in different stables brought her to Deddington, where she married Terry Bliss some 25 years ago. 'Little Pat' became a tremendous feature of Deddington life, with a wide circle of friends, and working in many homes, particularly caring for old people with an affection well beyond the call of duty. Her activities ranged from providing donkeys on Palm Sunday to plucking (?poached) birds for friends. Without her our streets, markets and pubs will never be the same. *JS*

**BETTY CAPORN** [née Bothams] was born in Southwark in 1924 and went to school in Catford. She married Walter Caporn in 1952 and had two children, Sue and Simon. The family came to Hempton in 1967 and then to Deddington in 1984. Betty worked as a medical secretary for Dr Watson and the village practice in the '60s and '70s. She was heavily involved in the Women's Institute, the Mothers' Union (a member for 50 years) and the Churches in Hempton and Deddington. A good musician, she sang with local choirs and played the piano for various organisations. In her unassuming way Betty made a considerable contribution to Deddington life and her generous nature and sweet smile will be greatly missed. *FW*

**ALBERT FOX** was born in Somerton in 1926. As a child he was fascinated by steam trains and spent many hours at Somerton station. He was also interested in aeroplanes, held a Glider Pilot's Licence, and was a keen astronomer. An accomplished organist, he built his own organ at home. Albert was an electrician by trade with his own business, until he was called to the Ministry. He studied at the Memorial College in Swansea from 1976-1980 and became a fluent Welsh speaker. Albert was ordained in Deddington Congregational Church on 27 September 1980 and was Minister there for a number of years until ill health caused him to retire fully last year. The Funeral Service was in Somerton Church on 21 January and was conducted by the Rev Martin Hathaway. The Cremation Service in Banbury was led by Pastor Isabel Walton. A Memorial Service will be held shortly in Deddington Congregational Church. *Joyce Minnear*

**BETTY HARPER** (née Sheppard) was born at Bampton in 1916, and came as a baby to Deddington. In 1936 she was married in Deddington Parish Church to farm worker Leslie Harper, the beginning of a happy partnership of over 50 years. The couple had two daughters, Daphne and Lesley. Betty worked for the Stilgoe family and 'Harpy', as she was known, acted as a second mother to children of the Grounds Farm community; a speciality was baking cakes for their great occasions. Betty, a hard worker who liked to be busy, enjoyed her garden and her cookery, a particular pleasure being to give away the preserves she made. A repository of local knowledge, she maintained a generous interest in the doings of friends and family throughout her life. *FW*

**TED HARRIS** died shortly before Christmas after a long illness. He and his late wife Nan came from Cornwall before moving to Bath and eventually to Hempton. He served in the Navy during the war and later became a teacher. When he moved to the village he taught at Chipping Norton and later at Banbury School. He was a keen gardener and could grow virtually anything. When St. John's Church was threatened with closure, he, Nan, the late Rose Edginton and Pam Dodd were prime movers in preventing this happening. He was also a member of the Parochial Church Council. Our sympathy goes to Christopher and Josephine.

*Les Chappell*

**GEOFF SHELLEY** grew up in Bournville in Birmingham, and went to King Edward's Camp Hill School where he was introduced to rugby, an enduring passion in his life. He first played for Bournville, and finally for Aldermaston. After a back injury he would watch his favourite rugby team Northampton, and with friends travel to Twickenham. Geoff trained as an accountant, working mainly with the brewery industry. After becoming self-employed, he enjoyed training people in accountancy and management practices. He married Sue in 1976 at Beer in Devon; they moved to Deddington in 1994, where he became involved with the Oxfordshire Council for Voluntary Organisations. Geoff always loved a new challenge, and was just getting into this important work within the county. He had a wonderful sense of humour, wide general knowledge and a great love of music. *Paul Brothwell*

## TIME FOR A CHANGE?

As a fully qualified Life Coach, I offer face-to-face coaching for individuals and small groups. Working from my office in Bloxham Mill, I offer support to motivated people who really want to change their lives for the better.

Are you happy within your chosen career  
-or is there something else  
that you would rather be doing?

Would you like to improve your work/life balance?

Would you like to think more positively,  
or be more confident and assertive?

Are you keen to lead a healthy lifestyle?

Life Coaching helps you focus  
on what is important to you.

Call me for an informal chat or to make an appointment.

claire fuller  
life coaching

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artist in the parish. Although there will be no admission charge, there will be an opportunity to contribute voluntarily to Festival funds. Artists interested in exhibiting should contact Peggy Baker, 338576. Get your names down now!

An update of events planned for the Festival is on the Calendar page of the new **DN** website [www.deddingtonnews.co.uk](http://www.deddingtonnews.co.uk).

One of the main strengths of the Festival is the unpaid work of willing volunteers, spanning the whole year. There are, of course, inescapable costs, such as professional fees and hire of equipment and premises. These will be covered by ticket sales, donations, advertisers and fund-raising activities. We are very grateful for the support we have received so far, not least from the Friends of the Festival, and confidently expect that this will be maintained and even exceeded. So that we may be more accountable to the Parish, work more efficiently, obtain better value for money, and be in a stronger position when applying for grants, we are about to set up a limited company which should qualify for registration as a charity. Our Secretary is Eileen Anderson -338325. *Norman Stone* 338019

### Artists wanted

The Festival Art Exhibition at the Holly Tree, 24-26 June, aims to show at least one painting or drawing by every

### JOHN CHENEY'S POETRY NIGHT

Poetry lovers, readers and writers, came from as far afield as Bloxham and Middleton Stony to join John Cheney for his poetry evening on 3 Dec at the Unicorn. The theme, widely interpreted, was winter and it embraced poets as far apart as Ogden Nash, Benjamin Zephaniah and Don Marquis, by way of John Clare, Thomas Hardy and Robert Graves. Lesser-known poets, including The Revd John Browne, subaltern in the second West Kent Regiment in 1943, Michael Goulder, Rex Walford and Christopher Matthew, added to the eclectic and very personal mix. Four people read their own poems, to sincere applause, and these evenings would not be complete without one of John's own inimitable rhyming commentaries. The Unicorn gives its upper room to the poetry lovers and a very young man in chef's whites made his way from the kitchens to read us a poem about old age. Another evening is promised during this year's Deddington Festival. *KS*

### Get Writing

The entry form for the Deddington Writers Group writing competition is now available from the library, from 26 The Daedings, Deddington, OX15 0RT; or downloaded from [www.deddington.org.uk/arts/writing.html](http://www.deddington.org.uk/arts/writing.html). The competition, part of Deddington Festival 2005, has five categories, all on the theme of Festival (fiction: all ages; non-fiction: adult and under-16; poetry: adult and under-16); deadline April 16. Entrance fee is £2 for adults, free for under-16s, and there are modest prizes.

*Sylvie Spenceley* 338995

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**Tales from the edge of the Indian Ocean**

*Interrupting the story of their odyssey, Ray Fleming comments on the Tsunami Disaster:*

Fortunately for us we were safely tucked up in Deddington when news started coming through about the Boxing Day tsunami, and within a few days we had heard that friends we met while travelling were all safe and well. However, as the death toll continued to rise, and the appalling scale of the disaster became apparent, it was obvious that what had happened wasn't going to be another terrible, but localised, natural disaster that we'd all forget about pretty quickly.

During our family world trip we'd visited two of the countries that were affected - Thailand and Malaysia - and in our travels, before the children, we'd visited virtually all of them. We spent 2 months in northern Sumatra in the early '90s and we found it difficult to get around then, when travelling 50 miles on the road could often take all day - no wonder that the scale of the disaster there was so slow to emerge. We visited Sri Lanka, the second worst hit country, in the early '90s too, and remember with affection the town of Galle, with its historic fort and towering stone walls, and the old run-down colonial hotel we stayed in inside the fortress. It was such a shock to see all of these places decimated in a single moment, along with other places where we had personal memories - the Maldives, Mauritius, India - all swamped.



We'd visited 10 of the 12 countries where people died - if the timing had been different we could easily have been the ones affected too. So often on our trips we've stayed in the small wooden and palm-frond bungalows right on the beach front - where you step out of the door directly onto the sand. We'd never considered that could be the worst place to be at some point in the future.

In Thailand, in 2004, we met so many amazing, friendly people, who made us, as a family, especially welcome. Their future prosperity relies on tourism, just as their recent prosperity has, and hopefully tourists will return - after all, it has some of the most beautiful coastline in the world.

In our future travels, we'll be a little more cautious ourselves, and a little more aware of our surroundings. But at the back of our minds, throughout our travels, is the knowledge that if something goes *really* wrong, we can hop on a plane and come home. It's a way of dealing with things that isn't available to 99% of the people affected by the tsunami, and similar catastrophes around the world. Those that survive have literally to pick themselves off the ground and start to rebuild their lives from nothing - again.

It's often said that "travel broadens the mind", but it also helps to remind us how lucky we are, and this Christmas was an especially disturbing reminder of that.

*Ray Fleming*

**REDISCOVERING DEDDINGTON**

This view of Deddimngton Church is from an original lithograph by Nathaniel Whittock, Oxford, printed by D. Redman, London, early in the 19th century. It was rediscovered by John Vaughan, of Castle Antiques, Clifton, among some long-overlooked odds and ends. The inscription under the title reads: *This print is Respectfully Dedicated to the Benefactors & Subscribers to the Deddington National Schools, established July 16th. 1814, (to whose funds the profits arising from the sale of it will be appropriated) by their humble Servt . C. Faulkner*

Although this 'engraving on stone', as early lithographs were often known, is undated, there are clues. A Georgian porch is shown, and this was replaced by the present porch in 1865. There is no clock on the church tower. The present clock, made by Taylors of Oxford, was installed by Thomas Fardon, of Deddington, in 1833. Nathaniel Whittock was lithographic printer and engraver to the University of Oxford. He removed his business to London in 1828, where he traded as Whittock & Goodman. It is probable, therefore, that this lithograph of Deddington Church was



THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY'S AND ST. JOHN'S, DEDDINGTON, OXFORDSHIRE. ENGRAVED BY NATHANIEL WHITTOCK, OXFORD. PRINTED BY D. REDMAN, LONDON. 1814.

produced some time between 1814 and 1833, most likely before 1828. It has been republished some 180 years later by Jimmy Guthrie and John Vaughan as a fundraiser for Deddington Primary School, which receives £10 from every £33 framed print sold, and for the parish church, which gets £5.

For further information, telephone Jimmy Guthrie 338229, or Norman Stone 338019.

FROM JENNY FERNBANK, CO-ORDINATOR, WINDMILL TUESDAY/THURSDAY CLUB

Everyone at the Windmill Tuesday/Thursday Club would like to extend their sincere congratulations to Joy, Carol and Brian at the Unicorn, for their Diamond, Sparkling Diamond and Warm Welcome Awards, which we know are richly deserved. The meals we receive from them every week are the highlight of our day, and much appreciated by our members, many of whom live alone and are no longer able to cook for themselves. We have a long and happy association with the Unicorn, dating back to the days of Anton and Kathy, and are so grateful for their community spirit in supplying dinners at a subsidised rate. Two Christmas dinners with all the trimmings rounded off a very happy year, and Brian was an added bonus as a convincing substitute Father Christmas.

FROM DAVID HOOD, EARLS LANE DEDDINGTON

I have often wondered why the Deddington War Memorial is tucked away in the graveyard extension, to be seen only by a few on Armistice Sunday. It is so hidden that on a couple of occasions I have even been asked if Deddington has a memorial. Most towns and villages have their memorials where they can be seen, serving as a sobering reminder to the living of those who gave their lives in war. A more central location would avoid the current practice on Armistice Sunday of the official wreaths being laid at the Memorial while

individual crosses are placed at another site in the Market Place. This tends to lessen the significance of an important occasion. I would be interested to know if other DN readers feel that the Memorial should be re-positioned in a more prominent place, such as the Market Place.

Please address all letters to:  
KRISTIN THOMPSON,  
5 THE LEYES, DEDDINGTON  
e-mail: op@kristin.demon.co.uk  
and include your name and address,  
even if they are not for publication.

FROM COLIN COHEN, THE OLD VICARAGE, BARFORD ST. MICHAEL

Pace the December DN's information about foil or waxed cartons and aluminium food trays: you might be interested in this e-mail last summer

from Sheila Mee of CDC. In answer to my question, about where to re-cycle foil she wrote, "You can put foil and foil containers, as long as they are fairly clean, into your blue recycling bin." Pity CDC did not put this fact in the new information pack they sent out recently. As for foil- or wax-lined cartons, your correspondent from CDC Amenity Services only told half the truth. There was a scheme that ended a month or so ago, by which the Carton Manufacturing Association supplied consumers with postage-paid labels to send empty drink cartons direct to a paper mill. The idea was to shame local authorities into collecting them. But the local authorities were too idle and, unsurprisingly, the postage became too much of a burden.

FROM ALAN BENNETT, HOPCRAFT LANE, DEDDINGTON

In December 2004 I attended a small family birthday party for Mrs Freda Walters who was born Freda Watts in Deddington in December 1900. She was born in the house next to the Holcombe Hotel, where her father was a shoemaker. She attended school here and sang in the Parish Church choir. As a teenager she looked after the children of Doctor Jones who suggested that she trained as a nurse. She trained in London as a midwife, returning to this area where she continued this calling until her retirement in the 1960s. She then retired to Adderbury and is now living in Banbury. She has a remarkable recollection of the people in the village, where they lived, their family life and occupations. One of her greatest friends was Emily Deeley, sister of the

*Clydesdales*

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late Fred Deeley. She has read the articles on Charles Dodwell and identifies with his recollections. In particular she recalls that she and Emily often took a horse to the bottom of Deddington Hill for the extra pull on the carrier's cart. "Auntie" Freda, as she is known to me, sends her best wishes to all Deddingtonians and in particular to any who remember her or even those whom she helped into this world.

FROM SHEENA HUGHES, DEDDINGTON POST OFFICE

We would like to say a big Thank You to all our customers for their support throughout the year. Thank you too, for all the gifts and cards. Looking forward to your custom in 2005, Sheena, Ann and - last but not least - Ron.

FROM WALTER, SUE & SIMON CAPORN, NEW STREET, DEDDINGTON

Walter Caporn and family would like to express their thanks and appreciation for all the cards, expressions of sympathy and support after the loss of Betty on 24 December. We greatly appreciated your prayers and attendance at her funeral at Deddington Church on 5 January.

FROM JAN WALSH, PEPPER ALLEY, CLIFTON

Please will you thank everyone, through the DN, for making the service to celebrate the work of St. Anne's Care Home over the last twenty years so special. It was wonderful to see residents, staff, relatives and friends from surrounding villages, and to catch up with people who had had relatives in St. Anne's in the past. I would also like to thank Canon Christopher Hall and Revd Dr Hugh White for arranging the service and for their kind words and understanding of what St. Anne's has been trying to achieve - caring for the individual, the person with dementia, in a holistic way. It was an honour for our practice to be recognised by our local community.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to my flowers and present. Though I have retired from St. Anne's, Peter and I will still be living in Clifton and hope to keep in contact with our many friends.

FROM DAPHNE HARPER, EDWARD HARRAP, AND MRS IRENE O'ROURKE, DEDDINGTON

The family of the late Betty Harper of 25 The Paddocks, Deddington, would like to thank friends, neighbours and relatives for their cards, letters, flowers and donations. They also thank the staff of Deddington Health Centre, especially Drs Ruddock, Rush and McLaughlin and District Nurses, Gloria, John and Gill. They thank the Revd Dr Hugh White for a very moving service and finally Robert and June Stilgoe, helped by Daphne Edgington, for the wonderful refreshments served by members of the WI.

FROM KAREN EVANS, THE DAEDINGS, DEDDINGTON

On 13 January 2005, a light went out in this village - we lost Pat Bliss. Our hearts are with Terry, Aaron and Matthew who were her passion and love of her life. Her other passion was 'lame ducks'. Anyone in need became Patti's cause. People and animals were her great love. There are too many people to list but Monty was her much-loved rescue dog and some may remember

Maggot, her cat, whom she reared from three days old. Enormous courage in every area of her life, along with that amazing sense of fun and love of living. Pat, the smallest dot on the biggest horses, riding through the village. Indeed, the smallest dot in stature, with the largest, warmest personality - our beloved Pat. How we miss you.

FROM LUKE GARRETT, as from NEW STREET, DEDDINGTON

I would like to say a big thank you on behalf of myself and the children at the El Redil Orphanage in Asuncion, Paraguay, to all the people who donated money to me to take to the Orphanage and buy sports equipment. The children were very grateful and have sent a thank-you card to my parents, who now have it if anyone wishes to see it. I am writing this letter from La Paz, the capital of Bolivia, while travelling around South America on the way to Peru and Chile. (Luke wrote to the DN last year asking for sponsorship for his work trip to Paraguay. Ed.)

E-MAIL FROM CHRISTIAN SCHNEIDER, DEDDINGTON

I would like to thank everyone who came to my Quiz Night at the Windmill Centre on 11 Dec in aid of Cancer Research UK. It was a fantastic night and it raised £1,100, which will go a long way towards my £3,000 target fundraising. I will be taking part in a 40 mile trek (mostly steps!) along the Great Wall of China for Cancer Research UK. To sponsor me and donate money to a worthwhile cause, please visit - [www.bmycharity.com/christianchina05](http://www.bmycharity.com/christianchina05) or contact me directly on 340078 (email: [christian\\_ss@vodafone.net](mailto:christian_ss@vodafone.net)).



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**Deddington Art Group**

It was a full house at our last meeting before Christmas with 3 more joining (they are all doing a two year Art Degree course in Banbury). We enjoyed a party lunch at The Red Lion and then went back to painting. We started again on 5 January, and continue to meet every Thursday in the Town Hall.

*Ken Wilkinson*

**Deddington Beeches Bowls Club**

On Saturday 12 March we are holding a Race Night at the Royal British Legion commencing at 7.30 pm. All are welcome.

*Yvonne Twomey* 337213

**Deddington Friendship Club**

Our first 'get together' in 2005 was a New Year's lunch at the Unicorn Hotel, which was most enjoyable. The first meeting at the Windmill Centre is on Wednesday 2 February and on Wednesday 19 February we hold the AGM. Indoor bowling is on alternate Wednesdays starting on 26 January - it proved to be quite popular during the latter part of 2004. We shall, as always, be pleased to see new members in the age group 50+. Do come along!

*Joyce Minnear* 338529

**WI**

At our meeting on 11 January there was a minute's silence to remember the sudden loss of a valued member of the WI, Betty Caporn. Betty will be missed by her many friends. A collection was made in her memory to share between Cancer Research and Katharine House. Our speaker for the evening was Jan Warner on 'The history of child rearing'. This was fascinating. Jan is a good speaker with a remarkable display of historical objects and a fund of horror stories and superstitions regarding the newborn and early years of childhood. Members later took great interest in questioning Jan and examining her display, which contained many items of antiquity collected over some 20 years. Our next meeting is on 8 February and the speaker is Margaret Hyslop on 'Crafty inspirations'.

*Rene Mahony* 338438

**1st Deddington Guides**

Last term finished in a flurry of Christmas decorations, parties and parcels. We wrapped parcels for party games for several children's organisations and worked with the rest of group - Scouts, Cubs and Brownies - to raise funds by delivering Christmas cards. Thank you for your support. Well done to 5 Guides who came to help with the party at Wardington House Nursing Home: they made lots of friends.

This term we're planning 1001 activities ranging from good turns and international challenges to caring for others and the environment, as well as having fun together along the way. We hope to have a stall to raise funds for the tsunami victims - please look out for this and lend us your support.

*Maggie Rampley* 01295 810069

*Glynnis Eastwood* 334021

**Deddington Youth Club**

We ended the year with a Bingo and Quiz party - there were lots of very good prizes and everyone had a great time. We are all very sad to say goodbye to Peter

Robinson who has given up being one of our youth leaders. A youth spokesman gave him a big thank you for all he has done for the club. Pete is very popular with the members and we are very pleased he has offered to come back to help with outings in the future.

The youth club evenings started on Monday 24 January, 7-9 pm We have managed to get enough helpers to start the year, but the committee is very disappointed that there has been no response to the request for volunteers to give a little of their time to the youth evenings

The Annual General Meeting is on Tuesday 8 February 7 pm at the Windmill Centre.

*Mauveen Forsyth*

**Book Club**

November's book was 'Toast' by Nigel Slater and the following is representative of the evening's discussion: 'We found this autobiography, unusually developed around Nigel Slater's memories of food, generally entertaining and an interesting social documentary of middle-class life in the 1960s (even 1950s). A toast to the resilience of a lonely childhood.'

We did not meet during December, which gave us a little extra time to read our January selection, 'Kafka's Last Love' by Kathi Diamant. Dora Diamant, a vivacious Polish-born Jew, lived with Kafka during the final year of his life. This is a sad story, carefully researched and beautifully written.

Our book for February is 'One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich' by Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn and we meet on Thursday 24 February. Please call Sally for venue.

*Sally Lambert* 338094

**Deddington Town Football Club**

1st team results

Bishops Itchington (a) Won 2-1 D.Clouston, B.Durrant.

Wroxton (h) Won 2-1 J.Pearce, K.Laird.

Wroxton (a) Won 2-1 A.Shepherd, K.Laird.

Heyford Utd (h)(Benevolent Cup) Won 10-1 J.Pearce (4),

K.Laird (2), A.Shepherd, S.Flemming, J.Flemming, B.Durrant.

Heyford Ath (a) Won 5-1 B.Durrant (2), K.Laird, S.Flemming, J.Pearce

Cropredy (h)(Jersey Cup) Lost 2-3 B.Durrant (2).

The 1st team's season gets better and better. Currently the team sits proudly at the top of the Premier Division after an amazing 8 game winning run. Can anyone remember the last time Deddington topped the Premier Division? The pick of the victories was against Bishops Itchington, who rarely lose and especially at home. The goal scorers that day were Dave Clouston and Ben Durrant. Keith Laird was on target in both the wins over Wroxton. The two Heyford sides were comprehensively thrashed in the cup and league and Julian Pearce and Steve Flemming were on the score sheet in both matches.

Reserve team results

Bishops Itchington Res (h)(Geoff Wilson Cup) Lost 2-5 P.Smith, J.Crawley.

Langford Mustangs (a) Won 8-6 P.Gibbs (2), P.Kirsopp (2),

M.Walker, D.Gibbs, R.Oakey, P.Gallant

Souldern (h) Lost 1-2 M.Walker.

Cropredy Res (h) Lost 2-6 J.Flemming, J.Crawley.

The Reserve side continues to struggle. The highlight

of the past month was the amazing 8-6 victory against Langford Mustangs; player manager Marc Walker was one of the goal scorers. The evergreen Paul Gibbs also chipped in with 2 goals in this match. A Paul Smith headed goal was not enough to bring victory in the cup game against Bishops Itchington, with the visitors winning after extra time. The team are at the foot of Division 1 and need to win the majority of their remaining league games to avoid relegation.

Our traditional Boxing Day charity match ended in a 2-2 draw, but the "oldies" lost the penalty shoot-out. Many thanks to all those who turned out and contributed to the £120 collection. We usually donate the proceeds to a local good cause but, exceptionally, this year the money will be donated to the Asian Tsunami Appeal. The club has added £80 to the collection and a £200 cheque will be sent. Thank you to Andy Shepherd for once again organising the game.

75 Club Winners: 17/12/04 Mrs M.Plumbe £50; 24/12/04 M.Alexander £50; 31/12/04 A.Shepherd £100; 7/1/05 P.Rudge £50; 14/1/05 Mrs M.Plumbe £50

*Steve Plumbe* 01295 278258

### **Deddington Cricket Club**

Midweek Cricket Deddington Cricket Club intends to enter our area's Midweek League this summer. We hope to field a mix of younger players (12+) and more experienced cricketers. The matches are on Wednesday evenings in May, June and July. Please contact Hugh White (01869 349869) if you are interested and think you might like to play.

### **Cubs**

In preparation for Christmas the Cubs spent a few weeks making decorations ranging from table runners of potato-printed hessian and origami Christmas trees to an original nativity scene (the first one I've seen where the kings have tartan bow ties!). The Cubs attended a 'Beach Party', which included volleyball, fishing, mini sandcastles and candy floss - the atmosphere more Southend than Barbados. Five new Cubs were invested in January - Joshua, Jake, Oliver, William and James' and we also welcome Lewis, who joined us recently. Oliver, Sebastian and James all gained their creativity award. The new term has started with Cubs working towards their scientist badge. *Jo Churchyard* 338071

### **Scouts**

For their Christmas party the Scouts found the youth room transformed into a maze of tunnels for an evening of indoor potholing - happily we didn't need the cave rescue! Tom was invested into Scouts, and Mark, Edward, Ben and Adam moved up from Cubs. We now have 10 Scouts, more than we've had for years.

The term began with finding ways of dropping eggs safely and constructing accurate egg timers. Thanks to everyone who used the Christmas post boxes and helped to deliver the cards. *Peter Churchyard* 338071

### **Deddington Badminton Club**

We are back playing after the Christmas break and are still looking for more ladies to join our teams. For

those thinking of joining it's not too late - our night fee is just £2. Junior club starts on Tuesday 1 February. Our last club night is Tuesday 5 April. All Teams are still doing well with both Men's teams at the top of their divisions.

*Janine* 347539 *Mark* 338056

### **1st Deddington Boys' Brigade**

We welcomed Jack D into Anchors in January and congratulated Daniel on his promotion to Juniors. On 15 January teams from Deddington won both the Anchors and Juniors 5-a-side football tournaments held at the Spiceball Centre.

Boys' Brigade is open to all boys aged from 5 to 11. Both our Anchors (5, 6, and 7) and Juniors (8, 9, 10 and 11) meet at the Windmill Centre from 5.15 pm every Wednesday evening during school term.

The Boys' Brigade Brass Band is open to boys aged 8 and over. Band practice is held on Tuesday nights in the Congregational Church from 7 pm.

*Brian Bushell* 338715

### **Deddington and District History Society**

At our January meeting Edward Shawyer, organiser of the North Oxfordshire Archaeology Group, spoke to us about recent archaeological finds in North Oxfordshire. He has offered to lead us in fieldwalking this area. It is an exciting prospect, and we hope to arrange the first walk later this year.

I am sometimes asked about Piers Gaveston, one of the most famous figures ever to have spent a night in Deddington. All questions will be answered at our next meeting, on Wednesday 9 February, when John Maddicott of Exeter College, Oxford, one of the country's leading medieval historians, will talk about Gaveston and his age. Don't miss this chance to learn all!

Our speaker on Wednesday 9 March, Deborah Hayter, will talk about that familiar medieval landscape feature, ridge-and-furrow. As always, all are welcome.

*Chris Day* 337204

### **WINDMILL COMMUNITY CENTRE**

The showers in both the home and away changing rooms have been refurbished, along with the Gents toilet. The All Weather Court, complete with new surface, is now available for hire - details and key from Joyce Minnear on 338529.

Vandalism is an ongoing problem - damage was done recently to some of the pavilions on the sports ground. CCTV Cameras are still on the agenda and the Management Committee have approached the PC for assistance with the funding for this project. On a personal note, I find it sad that we have to resort to such measures to protect what are, after all, are community amenities. *Roy Hart* Chair WMC

*There are bins around the Windmill Centre, so there should have been no need for the Steward to spend more than an hour clearing up after the customers of the newly-opened and welcome FAMOUS HOUSE Chinese takeaway. Let's ALL "Keep Deddington tidy!" Ed*



## THE HOLLY AND THE IVY

You have heard me before on the subject of shrivelled evergreen branches decorating our sitting rooms, but at this time of the year the holly and the ivy are particularly lovely to look at - out of doors, that is. A variegated holly against a bright blue sky is something very much worth looking at. The snag with hollies is that they grow so slowly, but there are a number of different sorts in the nurseries which are well worth planting for your grandchildren. They won't grow as saplings from berries (as far as I know) so buying rooted cuttings will save you a few years in waiting time. Ivy out of doors is tough stuff, and for your pots you need something less coarse. It will make good evergreen for your planters. If you buy ivy to edge your tubs, look out for pots which have two or three little plants jammed in together and separate them.

This year again we have shrubs with all leaves still in place. We are told that this is due to the changing climate, so what about all the pests and bugs which are supposed to be killed off by sharp frosts. Should one spray even more?

The Aconites are out. Madeline Allen planted them at the foot of the big walnut in our garden and each January they pop up, yellow heads with a green frill. By now they have invaded the nearby flower beds and clumps of them appear even before the Snowdrops. The Tulips are well away, though I notice that a lot of them have been nibbled by mice. In the meantime, have you inspected the mower and arranged to have it serviced? Or have you been mowing steadily throughout the winter?

By the time we meet again, spring will be here and the days will be lighter. I, for one, look forward to that more and more as I get older. *Marianne Elsley*



## NEWS FROM HEMPTON

It was a fine day for the Christmas Bazaar on 27 November. Despite numbers being down from last year everyone enjoyed themselves. Thanks to everyone who came along and to those who manned the stalls. The Church was full for the carol service on 17 December, where the Deddington Choir was in attendance. Another good attendance was Christmas Day Eucharist with about 40 in the congregation.

It is hoped that some major repairs to the Church will commence shortly, possibly in March. Most of the cost will be funded by the Friends of Hempton Church who have raised money over the years for this purpose.

I was stopped in the village the other day by a motorist who asked me if this was Hempton. I said yes, but you would never have known, as both village signs are missing and have been so for several months. I have heard that there have been one or two break-ins to properties in recent weeks, so we must all be on our guard! We also had the Fire Service coming round homes with safety advice on fitting smoke detectors for those who did not have them - well done to the authorities concerned.

## ON THE FARM

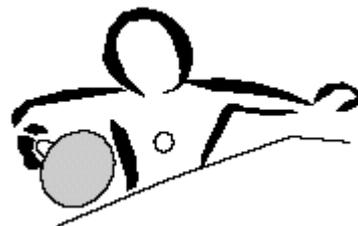
With Christmas and the new year out of the way we can look forward to the onset of Spring which, judging by the weather of late, cannot be very far away.

The bees were fed at the start of the new year and appear to have already made an early start, as some of the hives are already preparing for the coming season by bringing in pollen which must be coming from either early catkins or late ivy. It was nice to see the bees flying but if the queens are starting to lay at this time of the year they could well have problems, as they will run out of food before the Spring flowers get going. Then if the weather changes and we get a cold snap, there will not be enough bees in the hive to keep the growing brood warm and most, if not all, will die and it will be well into the summer before they can get going again.

The sheep came in just before Christmas and seem to be enjoying being waited on hand and foot. We shall start the lambing season some 6 weeks earlier than last year, with the first 100 coming down at the start of February. The main flock should start at the end of March with the ewe hogs (a female sheep under 12 months of age) coming down during April.

It will make for a long lambing season but it should give us an extended marketing period to help the cash flow cope with the effects of the changes in the Common Agricultural Policy arrangements, as we shall not see any payments from DEFRA until mid 2006. The arrangements for the mid-term review are going to have many far-reaching effects for farming and the countryside but the mechanics of implementing the new regulations are still not very clear as we are still awaiting vital information from DEFRA, but it must all be in place and the forms returned by 16 May, so we have a lot to do before then. Some of it is rather confusing but not as confusing as the handbook for Environmental Stewardship, a rather complicated work which I understand is still being added to. It appears to be a case of the blind leading the blind as the reference book recommended by DEFRA, to standardize the English names of plant species because many plants have different names in different parts of the country, went out of print some years ago. It will not be reprinted until the autumn, long after we need to have the new environmental plans in place. I thought that all these new changes were supposed to cut red tape and form-filling (dream on!).

*George Fenimore* 338203



The Table Tennis team are playing a little better, but the First Division of the Banbury and District League is very strong, with some players bordering on County standard. In a close match against Bodicote they lost 6-4 and the previous match with BGN 7-3. Both games had some close matches and with luck the results could have gone the other way.

*Les Chappell* 338054

**DEDDINGTON 150 YEARS AGO**

The following are extracts from the diaries of the Rev. Cotton Risley for the months of January and February 1855:

- 19th January - We were busied filling the Ice House (still there, but not filled now!) - from the ponds at Adderbury owing to the scarcity of water elsewhere.
- 20th January - Went to Mr. Field's office to hear a vagrancy case - committed two Irish women to prison for 7 days for breaking the Relieving Officer's windows.
- 23rd January - Mr. Brogden wrote me a note about the remainder of the Bread Fund - for the benefit of the poor - answered him that anything done for them during this weather whether by that means or any other would be a kindness - if impartially done, but that I did not intend being present at any further Parish Meetings either in or out of Vestry or being on any Committees.
- 28th January - A Quaker's meeting was held here this evening in the Independent Meeting House, by permission.
- 29th January - A meeting took place at the Town Hall about the distribution of the balance of the Bread Fund collected last year - now in the Savings Bank. I did not attend it having decided on attending no more Parish Meetings.
- 31st January - The most bitter and wintery day we had yet had - wind east - it blew and snowed more or less all day.
- 3rd February - Roads and Streets being one sheet of ice.
- 8th February - The most wintery day yet - I may say for some years past - it snowed from morning till night.
- 10th February - The mail not in till past 10 o'clock again.
- 14th February - I sent Cowley round the Town to distribute some money amongst the widows and old men - 77 in number - and 3 single men.

*Buffy Heywood*

**CHARLES BERNARD DODWELL BEM**

*Bernard continues:*

"From Deddington School I passed an examination to the Banbury County School, as did Elsie, daughter of the local Blacksmith. We both received travel passes to go by train from Adderbury Station, via Kings Sutton, to Banbury. In all weather we 'biked' to Adderbury Station until at the age of 14 our train passes were withdrawn and we 'biked' all the way from Deddington to Banbury and back! On wet days we were allowed to dry out in the School's furnace room and miss Morning Assembly.

The School was in Marlborough House, Marlborough Street where at the corner with High Street was a cake and ice-cream shop where in break time we could buy Banbury cakes, Chelsea buns and Cream Sodas. Besides our usual curriculum we were taught French and German, Algebra and Geometry. Sports included cross-country running.

I enrolled in the School's Cadet Corps run by Mr Bannard, who, as an ex-Army PT instructor, trained us to a very high standard. I remember well when our Corps was entered into a competition at London's Earls Court Exhibition and ended up the winning team. What a great home-coming it was when we were met at Banbury Station by a jubilant reception committee. The Cadets Summer Camps were usually at Dawlish in Devon, but one year my age group was able to travel to France. We camped in the Army Barracks in Dunkirk where Morning Parades were supported by a Cadet Unit of the 'Green Howards' Boys' Band. From Dunkirk we toured WW1 battlefields, visited 'Hill 60', Mennen Gate, Zeebrugge and Bruges."

*Bernard ends his Cadet Corps memories with the following sentence, his great pride still uppermost in the recollection of the event over 70 years ago. "In uniform of a Camp Bugler I sounded the Last Post and Reveille at the Deddington War Memorial only 50 or so yards away from where my parents are now buried."*

*Ruth Johnson*

*(Bernard's Memories will be concluded in the next issue.)*

**DEDDINGTON MAP GROUP**

Just a reminder that, although Deddington Map Group no longer has a regular stall at Deddington Market, our products are still available.

Book: <i>Discovering Deddington</i>		£4.00
Maps	<i>Framed</i>	<i>Unframed</i>
Deddington	£33.00	£8.50
Clifton	£26.00	£5.00
Hempton	£26.00	£5.00
Farms & Fields	£26.00	£5.00
Ages of Buildings	£31.00	£10.00
Prints (Ken Langstaff)		
Deddington	£22.00	£5.00
Old Inns of Banbury	£26.00	£5.00

For further information, or to order, call in at Deddington Library, or telephone Buffy Heywood 338212 or Norman Stone 338019.

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A visitor to Deddington parked their car secured and unattended. An expensive laptop was spotted by two undesirables, who smashed the window and escaped, using a recently stolen van. An observant member of the public gave a partial registration number to Deddington Police Office. The number is immediately circulated and officers from Kidlington, Bicester, Chipping Norton, and Banbury moved in to locate the vehicle. A dog handler and a helicopter were also deployed. The stolen vehicle was sighted by Sainsbury's. As the police car approached from the rear, the stolen van reversed and rammed the police car. Despite extensive damage, it was able to follow the van, which, evading capture, collided with a stationary BT van, causing major damage. In a short distance, the two occupants ran away but were eventually arrested.

All this excitement does not come cheap for you as a rate payer and for anyone with motor insurance. This incident could and should have been avoided. Thames Valley Police, and indirectly you, the rate payer, are eligible for the insurance excess and an expensive police vehicle is off the road being repaired. Insurers also paid for repairs to the BT van and the stolen van. Any payouts during the year will be offset the next year by increased premiums. We all stand to lose. Rate payers pay for all the police officers, the dog handler and helicopter. The cost of this incident was in the region of £50,000 for the police resources and damaged vehicles, and all because of property left visible on the back seat of a car.

*PC Clive Middleton*

### English Elm in our Parish

Elm and ash were characteristic trees of the stone belt and claylands of the Midlands. Elm, like ash, oak and beech, is lovely as well as useful. Foliage of the English elm (*Ulmus procera*) was once a source of fodder for cattle, sometimes being cut and fed from its place in the hedgerow. In Deddington, there is at least one rain gutter made of elm wood. Coffins, the hubs of cartwheels and the boards for the beds of wagons, were all made of elm.

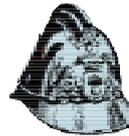
The decline of the English elm was a twentieth-century catastrophe, though one of the properties of populations is that not all members of a species are equally susceptible to a given disease. Not all English elm trees were killed by the Dutch elm disease - caused by the fungus *Ophiostoma ulmi*.

English elm is reasonably common in hedgerows, growing from rootstocks in 25% of the 598 Deddington parish hedges that I surveyed, growing at first with characteristic hope, bearing leaves typical of their species. But none reach adulthood. New shoots rise to a height of 6m or so, then die, leaving trees in the hedges as bare and grey as gun barrels.

The American elm (*Ulmus americana*) is like *Ulmus procera* in ornamental value, prized for the elegance it confers on suburban avenues, but it too was struck by Dutch elm disease, carried by wood-boring beetles. As in Deddington, the genome persists, and waits perhaps

### FIRE SERVICE

Calls: In total in 2004 we received 181 call outs. Since the Dec report we attended 3 road traffic accidents, 1 car fire, 1 fire in a boiler flue, 2 rubbish fires, 1 chimney fire, 1 false alarm with good intent, 5 calls to stand by, and one call to a fire caused by a candle setting light to table decorations. This year to date we have received 9 calls, 1 call to a fire in Funtasia Banbury, 3 chimney fires, 1 stand-by, 1 controlled burning, 2 false alarms, and a call to a fire behind a gas fireplace.



Community Safety: Three of the fires could have become serious house fires. All three houses had smoke alarms either with no battery, or the battery was flat. These occupiers were extremely lucky that the fires were discovered by a person during waking hours. Had these happened at night the consequences could have been fatal. Please check your smoke alarms are working - weekly. If you or elderly or disabled relatives or neighbours need a visit, please call 338281 to arrange a visit to fit smoke alarms or carry out a home risk assessment.

Tsunami Appeal: Thank you to all the generous donors at the traffic lights on Saturday 15 January. We raised £1,710.84. Apologies for the heavy handed tactics employed by some of the crew (Richard Bolton) but the result was worth it!

Crew: I am back on operational duties following the birth of my son Joseph - a whopping 10lb 7oz and doing very well. I would like to thank Pete Taylor for running the station throughout my maternity leave and doing such an excellent job.

*Anne Waters 338281*

for the decline of the fungal population or of the wood-boring beetle. Princeton, New Jersey, is known for its university and the survival of its elm trees. Hardy trees attracted the attention of nurserymen in the UK, and researchers from the US Dept. of Agriculture who, injecting increasingly stronger strains of the fungus in mature trees, found that all survived.

All very well and good, but what does it have to do with England? Princeton elms have been planted at the Royal Horticultural Society Gardens, Wisley, and at the National Trust. They are available to us from a stockist in Wimborne Minster, Dorset.



England is a showcase of the world's flora, as churchyards and home gardens blossom with plants from Greece, Mexico, South Africa and North America. Cherwell District Council's tree officer might conceive a small experimental programme, planting these disease-resistant elms, along the eastern side of the wide verge on the Milton Gated Road. We could be the first parish in Oxfordshire to replant elm trees in its hedges and thus become a pioneer in the work of restoration ecology.

*Walter L. Meagher*

*[We wish Walter speedy full recovery from surgery. Ed]*