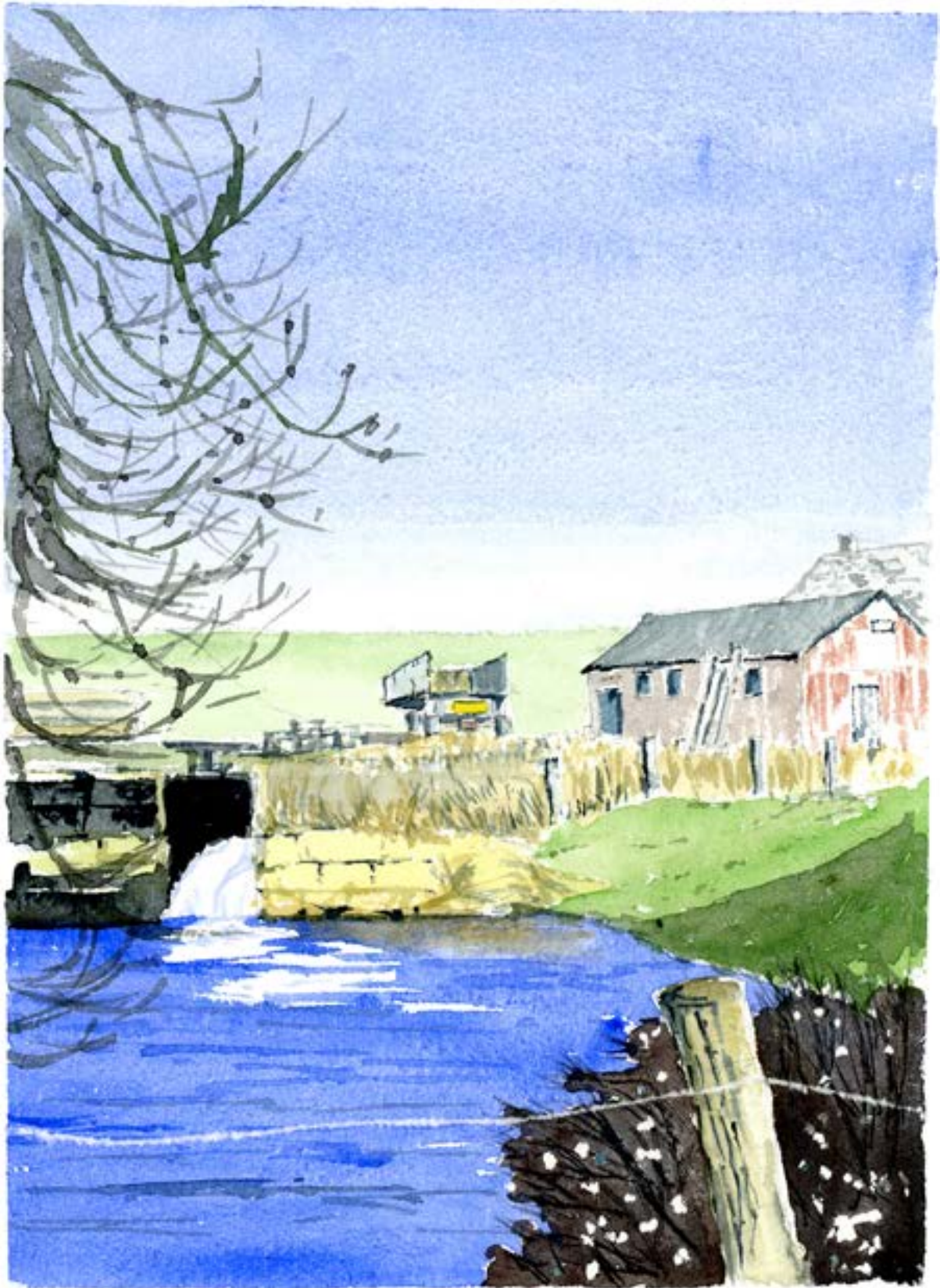


March 2021

The **DEDDINGTON NEWS**



Delivered free to Deddington, Clifton and Hempton

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by **20 March**

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The DEDDINGTON NEWS

Apparently the *DN's* readership prefers its parish news on paper with old-fashioned print and we are delighted to satisfy this preference. As we cannot reach our own printing machine in the Windmill until lockdown ends, we have contracted with a professional printer to produce this and the next two issues. By June, however, we hope to be back in the Windmill, with our regular collating team creating our unique handmade version.

CD

2021 NATIONAL CENSUS

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is using posters like these to alert everyone to the national census occurring on Sunday, 21 March.

Apart from its intrinsic interest to us and future historians, the data gathered enables the ONS to provide information for government, local authorities, charities and businesses to use in planning everything from transport to education and healthcare.

In the past the census has been taken by households completing a paper form. Census 2021 is a digital-first census, with people encouraged to respond online if possible, using any device, including mobile phones or tablets. You can find out more online at www.census.gov.uk.



Cover: This month's cover is a watercolour of Barford Mill.

Submission of any article to the DN carrying personal information (for example names, locations, pictures) will imply that the person submitting the article has obtained the necessary consent from the individual (or parent/guardian in the case of a minor) /company/organisation for this information to be used both in print and online. Contributors should be aware that the monthly issues are posted online and therefore any personal contact details given are there in perpetuity. Disclaimer: The views expressed are not necessarily those of the editors or the committee. Inclusion of an advertisement or insert does not constitute any recommendation or endorsement of the organisations concerned on the part of the Deddington News. The DN takes no responsibility and gives no guarantees, warranties or representations, implied or otherwise, for the content or accuracy of these advertisements. The DN always seeks copyright permission where appropriate. Material is proof read. The editors seek to ensure the material is not scurrilous, offensive or otherwise unacceptable to the public at large. The DN team reserves the right to refuse any material on this basis.

<https://www.deddington.org.uk/>

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DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting held via Skype 17 February

Present: Councillors Collins, Cox, Eames, Higham, Oldfield, O'Neill, Robinson, Rogers (chair), Snashall, Squires, Swadling, Timms, Watts, County Councillor Fatemian, the parish clerk and two members of the public.

Open Forum: Ria Betteridge, the Windmill's minutes secretary, outlined proposals for upgrading the toilet block, including the option of a more open plan unisex area. Eight toilets in floor to ceiling cubicles are proposed. The referee's room would be retained and a baby changing unit combined with a disabled facility. A public consultation will be held.

District Councillor's report:

Counsellor Williams was thanked for organising an additional bottle bank at the Deddington layby.

County Councillor's report:

OCC Highways will take firm view with Thames Water in relation to ownership of pipes in Clifton. OCC's recent budget increases Council Tax by 3%, which includes £4m for adult social care next year. Money could be allocated for applications to install 20mph speed limits.

Finance and General Purposes

A grant of £2,000 will be split equally between the uniform youth groups.

Planning

No objection

59 St John's Way, Hempton: demolition of conservatory and garage and erection to rear and side extension. Greystones, Banbury Road, Deddington: installation of a two-bay framed garage with adjoining log store in front left hand of plot.

Stonewall, Main Street, Clifton: front porch extension and internal works.

Large Scale Developments

Stonepits – the revised layout for the 21 houses is more acceptable than the original outline proposal and includes funding for improving the Wimborn Close playground. Open space has been incorporated at last. Work would be required to establish a pathway through to Wimborn Close and movement of the restricted speed limit on Hempton Road, and possibly a slowing chicane with gates into the village. The existing conifer hedge fronting Hempton Road would be replaced with native hedging and native trees planted on the boundary. No action has occurred on the 14 house development to the rear.

Neighbourhood Planning:

The Plan is currently stalled as the CDC planning officer is adamant that the sites currently offered would not be suitable for development. More sites could become available after CDC publicises its list of housing needs. The PC's consultant opposes the planning officer's suggestion that the PC undertake a housing needs survey.

Community Orchard

Mrs Welford would be delighted to see a community

orchard behind the goalposts at Welford's Piece and DEN is happy to pursue this as a dedicated site.

Environment and Recreation

An annual parish spring clean will not be possible with Covid restrictions but individuals can carry out a litter pick independently and should contact Councillor Watts for safety equipment.

Deddington Cricket Club has requested an additional bench near the scoreboard on a concrete plinth for whose maintenance they would be responsible.

The electric car charging points are being used although some people are parking in front of them when not charging their cars.

Thanks to Gareth and Terry for replanting willow whips on the Pocket Park.

The gate at the Windmill will be installed in early April.

Highways and Transport

County Councillor Fatemian will follow up lack of action on street light for the corner of The Daedings.

An 'Elderly Pedestrians' notice is to be placed on an existing pole at Holcombe Gardens and 'Slow' road markings placed outside the Grove.

OCC will be asked to install a 50mph limit beyond Deddington on the Hempton to Clifton road.

Next meeting Wednesday 17 March at 7.30pm on Skype

These parish council notes are the view of our reporter, Jill Cheeseman, and not the official minutes. For those, go to <http://www.deddingtonparishcouncil.org/2021.html>

Sun, Exercise and Sociability

Three volunteers needed
to cut grass
in the lower church graveyard
one hour per week in summer
Contact John Nason for details
on 01869 338494

COVID JABS

If you fall in to one of the four groups below and have not booked your first Covid vaccination, and would like to do so, please call us urgently at the Deddington Health Centre on 01869 338611.

1. Residents in a care home for older adults and staff working in care homes for older adults
2. All those 80 years of age and over and frontline health and social care workers
3. All those 75 years of age and over
4. All those 70 years of age and over and clinically extremely vulnerable individuals (not including pregnant women and those under 16 years of age)

A CLERK'S EYE VIEW

I watched the viral spread of Handforth Parish Council meeting with bemusement. Here we go, another chance to belittle and demean the role of parish councils and councillors – or should we call them ‘Vicar of Dibley’ wannabes? However, we are no Handforth.

Since taking on the role of Clerk a few years ago I have seen first-hand what a progressive council we have at the heart of our own parish. The work of our unpaid councillors has been second to none, with hundreds, if not thousands, of hours of their time spent working for the greater good and, to be honest, usually without fanfare.

The PC deals with the mundane things that happen and no-one really realises a whole range of people are involved in setting grass cutting contracts, putting up the Christmas tree, running a burial authority, seeking quotations, attending site visits, tree management, managing road closures, health and safety, keeping the streets clean, maintaining assets, dealing with vandalism, insurance claims, speed watch, funds' investment, allotments (with Satin Lane Allotment Society) and looking after the vulnerable.



However, our PC goes beyond the mundane. One only has to look around the parish to see real changes; a new MUGA, a woodland walk, an adventure playground, Pocket Park, EV charging points. The PC has established collaborative links with all parts of community life and its many organisations, for example, working with the Windmill Management Committee to improve the Windmill Centre, as identified in the Parish Survey. Aided by our generous county and district councillors, it often

works behind the scenes; helping, for instance, with applications for grants to aid social care, supporting food banks, laptops for schools, Christmas lunches, the Covid volunteer group and uniformed groups.

I am proud of our council. It works within the confines of legislation so can sometimes seem slow but these constraints are only there to protect proper spending of your money – less than a tenner a year for most households. Our councillors work selflessly and deserve the occasional nod to their efforts.

Susan Fuller, Clerk to DPC




JOB VACANCY: TRAINEE BAKERY ASSISTANT/BAKER DEDDINGTON

Our team is growing so we are looking for a motivated person to join us. The right candidate needs to have a willingness to learn and work hard. Relevant experience is not necessary. While we have mechanical mixers, all other aspects of this position are manual, which is very satisfying but very hard work!

We are looking for someone with a friendly personality who is happy to work as part of a team. You need to be punctual, flexible, reliable and an early riser — the baking day starts at 5am. You will be required to:

- Assist with all aspects of production — weighing out, shaping and baking.
- Wrap and pack our products for wholesale and retail.
- Keep the kitchen and equipment clean and tidy at all times and maintain high food safety and hygiene standards.

This is an entry level position and is an excellent opportunity to learn and progress. If you are keen to join the bakery industry, please send an email to Tanya@knifeandforkbakery.co.uk with a copy of your CV and a covering letter to tell us a bit about yourself and why you would like to join our team.

This could be one full-time or two part-time positions

Do have a look at who we are at:
www.knifeandforkbakery.co.uk or Insta: [bakerybyknifeandfork](https://www.instagram.com/bakerybyknifeandfork)

POSTCARD FROM AMERICA

The pandemic has made us all a bit crazy. I have even gone back to DIY and put in a few lights over a new painting Heather bought. Then I counted them and realised we have 111 spotlights in this truly American house. I bet if I switched them all on, they could see us from the space station.

America is a vast country of contrasts and right now full of huge differences. In the last year the billionaires in America have increased their wealth by 37% while there are 10 million unemployed and great hardships in large swathes of the population. However, for most of the middle classes, life is rapidly going back to normal.

I have booked my COVID vaccination for early March but this is not easy in the finest democracy in the world because there was no rollout plan and the states don't want to be told what to do. Vaccine distribution has been a mess, although some states have done a great job. Alaska is leading the country despite great logistical challenges. Even in summer there are places in the state with no road access. We took a very iffy light airplane to get to the glacier and view the bears. They have done a great job in vaccinating the indigenous peoples, many delivered by boat, helicopter, and even huskies. However, in the Indian reservations in northern Arizona, the Covid death rates are the worst in the country. Their health care facilities are very poor and, in reality, no-one cares.

The lack of a centralised US health care system is a huge issue. When old fogies became eligible for a 'dose' in Colorado last week I went on five different

websites to try and register. Some of my neighbours have spent hours calling different numbers. I struck lucky when Heather was given a 'secret number' and I signed up in 20 minutes. Heather wasn't happy that I then emailed everyone with the number. She wanted to keep it secret until it is her turn to call.

In America, polite society believes in striving to be the best and that everyone has a chance to achieve it. The land of opportunity rewards those who have the aptitude and the means to achieve but ignores those who have no means and lack the necessary family circumstances.

Life continues to be a lot calmer on the political front, although it is interesting to watch the Republicans squirm as they try and balance their morals (Trump obviously started a riot) with their political survival (they think they need his supporters). Amazingly 36% of Americans believe there was 'widespread fraud' in the election, despite a complete lack of evidence. Of course, all politicians have a tendency to separate themselves from the truth on occasions but the fall-out from all this will go on for a long time. Reality is suspended, this is Trump's real legacy. Now he has been let off again, to paraphrase him, 'he will be back'.

Another cheater, Tom Brady, won the Super Bowl. Apparently the Bucs are now World Champions. I feel guilty about the way we have survived the pandemic, so far. I hope you are all doing OK and, most importantly, caring about each other.

Mike Ward mikew@qsoftware.com

NEWS FROM CLIFTON

A big Lower Larkrise shout out to our snow wardens who did a great job before the snowfall and an even better one afterwards. Led by Cllr Mark Swadling, his team of Sharon, Alan Holmes, Steve Lewis, David Murray-Hundley and Craig (sorry Craig – no one knows your family name) laid salt from the bin before the snowfall, observing the OCC recommendation of one eggcup full per metre square (or else we run out), and then cleared the footpaths and walkways afterwards. A great effort – valued especially by those less able than the rest of us.

Lower Larkrise has been aflame with pollution, post-Brexit nationalism, local government anarchy and neighbourly equality issues. And this discord stems from light. Down here there is a 'street' of ten houses with six street lights. The Campaign to Protect Rural England's star count last week showed this street to be subject to unacceptable light pollution. When you strolled down Drovers Lane only nine stars could be counted in Orion's constellation instead of thirteen. (Twenty put you in true dark sky territory.) Now the build-up for this count was the more eagerly anticipated when one of the six streetlights went out. 'Hurray', many of us thought. It caused some nocturnal 'comfort visits' to be modified but generally it was welcomed

as the night sky grew a little more visible when the Saturn–Jupiter conjunction was briefly seen in late January.

However, the joy was short lived when OCC turned up to fix the light. An in-depth enquiry failed to turn up the snitch and there was some surprise at the role of a large hammer in the repair activity. There was sadness that the replacement light fitting was found to be French (clearly no Customs problem there) but more encouragingly it was a LED (for the environmentalists among us). It was also very white, which was different from the halogen type in the rest of the close (affecting the OCD of some). It was also very bright. This prompted a conversation with OCC which sent another team out to 'turn it down' and fit blinds, favouring one resident but not his neighbours.

It seems unnecessary for only ten houses and nebulae remain elusive for the astronomers amongst us.

But hey ho, it gave some of us a point of interest and many lines for this fine journal.

Any news – you know what to do.

Martin Bryce
martinbryce@gmail.com

CHURCH

Parish Church SS Peter and Paul

March

Services from the Deddington benefice will only be available online from the Deddington Church website, www.deddingtonchurch.org, due to the high level of Covid infections in the area. We want all members of our congregations to remain as safe as possible. However, Deddington church will be open on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 9.15am to 5.00pm, Wednesday from 10.45am to 5.00pm and Sunday from 11.45am to 5.00pm for individual prayer. The toilets will remain closed until further notice. For updates and ideas and activities for Lent please see the church website or the FaceBook page at <https://www.facebook.com/DeddingtonChurch>.

Weekday Services streaming online:

Mon-Fri 8.45am Morning Prayer
Wed 10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday Services Online

Sun 7 10.30am Holy Communion
Sun 14 9.00am BCP Communion
10.30am Holy Communion – Mothering Sunday
Sun 21 10.30am Holy Communion
Sun 28 10.30am Holy Communion – Palm Sunday

For baptisms, weddings, funerals and home visits, in case of illness, please contact the Vicar, Revd Annie Goldthorp, at vicar@deddingtonchurch.org or on 01869 336880. If Annie is not available, please contact one of the churchwardens, Iain Gillespie on 01869 338367 or Meriel Flux on 01869 338901.

RC Parish of Hethe

St John's Church in Banbury will be streaming Mass daily at 9.30am, Monday to Friday; at 10.00am on Saturdays; and 11.15am on Sunday on <https://www.mcnmedia.tv/camera/st-john-the-evangelist-banbury>. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be streamed for 30 minutes at the end of each weekday Mass.

History Corner

deddingtonhistory.uk

After a promising start and the receipt of many items into its cupboard in the library, the Parish Archive latterly ground to a bit of a halt when the library needed its space back. The Windmill kindly agreed to store it but access was difficult ... and then there was the pandemic.

We are delighted to say that, thanks to a timely initiative by Mary Robinson who applied to the William Delafield Charitable Trust for funding, the Archive has been granted the very generous sum of £10,000. Discussions are now underway with the Windmill Management Committee for a permanent work space and storage area to be funded by the grant.

Many items have already been digitised and can be found through the register on the Archive's web page, <http://www.deddingtonhistory.uk/parisharchive>. Donations of paper based documents – we are unlikely to have space to store artefacts – are very welcome. We will stage exhibitions from time to time for people to see items from Deddington's past.

Rob Forsyth
contact details on the website

FROM THE FIRE STATION



rarely managed to get to a job before being turned back by control.

We have had more changes at the station as we sadly said goodbye to officer Nicky Isted, who, after eight years at Deddington, has moved to Banbury. However, we are able to welcome recruit Coral King who is currently completing her basic training and we hope will pass her on-the-run in two weeks' time, allowing her to be part of an on-call crew.

As we are still under lockdown, training is currently via Teams, as no on-station training is allowed but we are all looking forward to getting back to proper training.

James Greenwood, FFD
james@cyclogicalshop.co.uk

WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE



Recent roadworks in Clifton have exacerbated an already appalling surface water flood situation.

The sewage treatment plant has suffered a series of stoppages caused by excess silt getting into the treatment pools. When this 'contamination' rises above a certain level Thames Water must shut the plant and resort to tankering the sewage offsite for processing elsewhere. Apart from discharging effluent into waterways and onto neighbouring fields, the tankers damage Drovers Lane, run day-and-night and are sufficiently expensive to make Thames Water fix things. There are no facilities for the drivers and one tanker broke its sump on the Lane, spilling its engine oil into the environment. In order to protect the sewage treatment works Thames Water has found and capped off all of the connections between the surface water sewers and the foul water sewers hoping this will make the sewage treatment works function properly.

At what cost? The surface water flooding situation has become much worse. One home has gained an unwanted pool in place of its front garden. You can't miss it, it's the home with the Thames Water bunting outside.

So why not fix the surface water sewers? In 2015, Thames Water supplied a comprehensive list of its

assets across the parish. This clearly shows that the surface water system was in its ownership and is its responsibility to maintain.

Thames Water has maintained and repaired the pipe network until very recently, including a very cheeky trick to reduce the flow into its pipes. The ditches on either side of the Clifton Road are the responsibility of the riparian owner. To limit flow from these ditches Thames Water reduced the outflow on the southern ditch by narrowing the outflow pipe from six to two inches, thereby changing the ditch into a reservoir, without the permission from the ditch's owner and placing the moral obligation on the owner to prevent the ditch from overtopping.

Having done all this, Thames Water has now decided that the surface water system is not its responsibility and that it will not maintain it hereafter. OCC has been very clear that the pipe network under Clifton is not its to maintain but is the responsibility of Thames Water.

In short, the system isn't up to the job, it has a number of collapsed or blocked sections, no-one is accepting responsibility and we will have no improvement until the ownership situation is resolved.

David Rogers

NEWS FROM HEMPTON

Stuffing unsuitable materials down the khazi seems to be a popular pastime in Hempton. Following the incident of a blocked and overflowing sewer near the head of the Barford St Michael road, Thames Water were called out again to a blockage and overflow incident at St John's Way. TW unblocked the same sewer on 10 November last year and reported that both were caused by a build-up of wipes flushed down the loo. Far from being just an unsavoury smelly mess and an unpopular job for TW engineers, these spillages came from a manhole in a domestic garden and spilled over neighbouring agricultural land, contaminating ground water courses and grazing in the paddock below St John's Way and Barford House.

Thames Water advises that blockages are normally caused by fat, oil and food leftovers which solidify in

pipes; wet wipes – even the ones labelled 'flushable' block your pipes; and sanitary items, including towels and tampons. It's easy to avoid blockages, just remember to bin any item that's not pee, poo, or toilet paper.

Anyone short of some reading matter to while time may find their next read in St John's porch. The book swap offers a selection of children's and adult's titles. Feel free to take anything that takes your fancy and leave a donation to the church fund if you can. Donation pots are in the smaller book boxes. You can donate any unwanted reading matter for the entertainment of others. You will also find hand sanitiser available.

Please send me any news items for the April edition.

Stuart Oldham
sj_oldham@btinternet.com

FARMERS' MARKET

Did you know that in September this year, the market celebrates its twentieth birthday? It was started following discussions on the village website about how local farmers and producers could be helped as they struggled with an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease and BSE. An exploratory meeting was held in June 2001 and the initial committee of seven under the chairmanship of the late Charles Newey got to work. They rallied much local support, leafleted 20 villages within a five mile radius of Deddington, spoke to other local farmers' market traders and enlisted a team of willing helpers. The result of all this industry was the opening of the first market in Deddington for 170 years on the fourth Saturday in September.

There were just 12 stalls to start with, selling a range of products – meat, vegetables, honey, crafts and plants. Several local people sold allotment produce and the WI had cakes and jams. According to a newspaper report of the time, many stallholders sold out and local shops, who had been worried that their trade would suffer, also did well. There was a great community atmosphere, helped along no doubt by Geoff and Joan Todd, dressed as Pearly King and Queen, playing their street organ.

It is interesting to note that three of the original stallholders – Fenemores, the Greengrossers and



North Aston Organics – are still to be found plying their wares in the Market Place each month.

From the start, the quality of the products sold was very important and this led to the market becoming certified by the National Association of Farmers' Markets, now FARMA, the first one in Oxfordshire. It was also named as runner-up in the National Farmers' Market of the Year competition in 2005 and in 2006. Other awards followed: in 2017, Deddington was named as the third best Farmers' Market in the UK by National Geographic magazine and just last year Oxfordshire Prestige Awards named it as Farmers' Market of the Year.

From the outset, unlike some others, Deddington market has relied solely on volunteers from the community to make it happen each month. For some, this involves very early mornings – set-up starts at 7:00am. In the early days, money was donated or loaned to help with initial costs, although now the market makes enough profit to be able to give grants annually to local organisations to further their work.

To quote one of my sources, 'It is truly extraordinary to see how the market has grown to what it is now'. Thank you to all those who worked and continue to work so hard to make it happen.

Jenny Snashall jennynashall@gmail.com

DEDDINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

As we approach half-term, the children are in need of a well deserved break. By this I don't just mean the children who remain in school but also those who are learning from home. It goes without saying that the parents and carers of our pupils are also in need of an well earned rest. We cannot thank our families enough for their support and hard work, week in, week out, since lockdown began again.

Since our last newsletter, teachers have increased the number of Live Lessons on offer to their classes. Consequently, the children have loved 'seeing' their peers online, whilst being taught by their teachers and teaching assistants. We have continued to offer online assemblies and Revd Annie has supported us with these. Our major focus has been to maintain an upbeat approach in our lessons, with the aim of helping keep our pupils' mental health as positive as possible throughout this challenging time. Our focus on physical exercise has, as always, remained a priority too.

The children loved the snow when it came in January and it feels as if more could be on the way now. This would be perfect timing for our children to enjoy during their half-term break.

For now, all of us at Deddington primary school send you our very best wishes and hope you remain well.

Denise Welch

dwel3954@deddington.oxon.sch.uk

Friends of Deddington Library PHOTO COMPETITION

Winning entries will be featured in the
2022 Deddington Parish Calendar!

Once again, we are inviting you to enter your photos of Deddington, Clifton, Hempton and the surrounding countryside.

All ages and abilities welcome!
Images must be landscape format, files must be minimum 5Mb, 300dpi and saved as high quality JPGs.

Deadline for entries is Friday 13th August 2021
Submit your entries by email to abw@brynwilliams.com

More details at:
www.FriendsofDeddingtonLibrary.com



All calendar proceeds go to Friends of Deddington Library
Registered Charity No. 1164811

CLIMBING MOUNT FUJI



Photo by Pixabay from Pexels

When we lost our last dog some years ago, I stopped walking twice a day every day and very gradually my mobility deteriorated. By the time we moved from Watford to lovely Deddington four-and-a-half years ago I was already finding walking a chore instead of a pleasure, and the walk to church needed a rest and a coffee before I could walk back. The start of the first lockdown gave me the excuse to walk even less and I was hardly leaving the house.

I was trying to lose weight, as I knew Covid-19 was worse for the obese, so asked our daughter-in-law not to give me a chocolate egg that Easter. Instead, on Easter morning I was given the Virtual Walk of the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu! I was fascinated, as the pack included the promise of an amazing bling medal for finishing and a page on the website to record each day's walking, showing my flag on the map, and a real Google Earth photo of where I had got to.

For the first few days I just about managed half a mile, finding that walking with a single walking stick was not a good idea, so I nicked the stick Bob uses for serious walking and walked more evenly with two. I gradually increased my distances so that on a good day it was a full mile. I found it incredibly motivating and soon asked that my birthday present in May should be Hadrian's Wall, with which I am familiar (at least in parts) from visits when I was young and lived in Northumberland. That took a lot longer, as it was about three times further but presently I had another medal and signed up for the English Channel – definitely one to do virtually. By then the website had started sending virtual postcards of where I had got to, and also planting a real tree for every twenty percent of a walk completed, so I have 'planted' a veritable forest by now.

After that I really wanted to do St Cuthbert's Way in the Borders, as I am very interested in the northern saint, Cuthbert, (about whom my sister has written three books – ask me if you want to borrow one). I went to a different website for this walk and bought a really good map, and used clip art for the pictures. The end of the walk is across the sands at low tide to the Holy Island of Lindisfarne. After all the lock-

downs I intend to do that bit for real. My sister lives in Berwick-upon-Tweed, so when I was about to cross the causeway I asked her to tell me the time of low tide that day. At the time of the real low tide I walked along the Hempton Road, vividly imagining it as the causeway I have crossed so often, and that the fields either side were sand. As there was no medal, my fantastic chief supporter daughter-in-law gave me a T-shirt for Christmas. It has a map of the walk across the back and I wore it for my first vaccination, suitably impressing the nurse. On the way home I asked Bob to drop me in Hempton and walked my mile from there, instead of halfway there and back again.

After that I went back to the Virtual Mission website and signed up for Mount Fuji in Japan. That's a relatively short one (46 miles) so I finished last week and am waiting for the amazing medal to come from America. When I am next in Northumberland I will visit Alnwick Gardens where there is a big orchard of Japanese cherry trees and think of Mount Fuji.

Now I am having a go at the M25 (on the hard shoulder) on my own, which is far longer than any of the previous walks and should keep me going past my 80th birthday in May, and well into late summer. I know a lot of people who live fairly near the M25, so every time I pass a junction that leads to a friend I intend to send them a postcard.

I walk in all weathers except snow and ice, which are too dangerous and have missed only five days since last Easter. As Alfred Wainright said, 'There is no such thing as bad weather, only unsuitable clothing.' In spite of the weather, I am enjoying seeing signs of spring as I walk, particularly the snowdrops along Hempton Road. Since last Easter I have lost two stone – and dress sizes, and feel very much better for it. My Valentine's present was not chocolates but a matching walking stick. If you see me, wave, and I will rattle my medals. If this gives anyone the idea to have a go you can ask me for details.

Sally Best
salandbob1@gmail.com

DOWN ON GEORGE'S FARM

'In like a lion, out like a lamb', as I put this together during February I cannot guarantee the March lion (wind) but I can promise the lamb. The old dears are now all inside eating their heads off and will soon be on the job. It is many years since I was given the management of my first flock and left to get on with it. This year will be no different with the first flock coming down in March and the organics in April, but with the new DEFRA animal regulations and the ever present 'bunny huggers', the Clifton sheep flock's future is in some doubt. When I first came to Clifton every farm in the three villages had a livestock enterprise. Today we have the only resident sheep flock, but if the anti-red meat environmentalists have their way they will end up in the pet food can.



from drinking the water and instead pipe water in for them .

With spring just around the corner the local wildlife is getting geared up, with the dog foxes on the roam. However, the ones you hear at night are the vixens as it is they that do the courting. This year the rooks are nesting high, something that according to local folklore denotes a good summer. We have two large rookeries in this section of the river valley and the birds can cause

With the run up to lambing under way, it's time to get the spring crops planted, but, after what can only be describe as a wet autumn and winter, the fields are still waterlogged so it will be a case of 'dragging' in the crops for next harvest and then trying to put right the soil damage before the autumn planting. Needs must to get a harvest and pay the rent.

I have fished since a very small boy, catching tidlers (minnows, sticklebacks and gudgeon). My first trout came from the river at Barford on a home-tied fly and until last year I have fly fished ever since, using split cane rods made for me by an American pilot from the base, who lived in one of the farm cottages. The rods are now hung on the office wall and I have gone back to attempting to fish the River Cherwell. I say attempting because the river below Banbury is so polluted with industrial waste and other unmentionable human waste that nothing can survive. We have to fence it off with electric fencing to prevent the livestock

a lot of damage to growing crops. They need to be controlled with the branchers (young rooks just out of the nest) being taken out, something that is not undertaken today. These young birds were considered something of a delicacy with the breast and middle back meat made into a rook pie. I was given a 20-bore shotgun at the age of fourteen and kept the table well stocked with wild meat. There is something special about food that you have provided, something akin to the hunter home from the hill, although not something that would be contemplated today as few would know how to prepare wild game for the table.

As I sit at the keyboard the rain is once again hitting the window and the valley is flooded. This may be a sight for the local locked downs taking their daily exercise but in truth the flood water is covering the grazing for the sheep flock and next year's hay crop. The water is bank to bank and has prevented all our normal winter migrants from visiting. The valley has always flooded but the recent floods are more damaging because of the run-off from the increasing number of new builds for the multiplying number of fat cheque book incomers escaping to the countryside.

George Fenemore
01869 338203

FRIENDS OF DAEDA'S WOOD

It is sometimes good to have a different voice commenting on Daeda's Wood and this month's report is written by local resident, Sam Brown.

These difficult times we find ourselves in have given many of us the gift of time to notice and appreciate the wonders we have on our doorsteps. At first glance, Daeda's Wood on a winter's day is a still and lifeless place but the quiet of winter offers opportunities that the hustle and bustle of spring and summer hide. Take your time, tune in your senses and your patience will be richly rewarded.

I sat, albeit briefly, in the snow on the bench in the meadow and could hear a group of blue tits bustling around in the canopy. Closer to the ground groups of blackbirds were playing out their daily family dramas. Ever inquisitive, a robin came and checked me out and sang me a beautiful flowing song.

Wandering round the wood at dusk I began noticing all sorts of interesting things on the skeletal trees: the patterns, textures and markings of the trunks and a bracket fungus, like mini shelves, attached to a tree trunk.

But to my mind, the jewels of winter in the wood are the brightly coloured lichens nestling in the branches. These very fascinating slow-growing organisms are actually made up of two species; fungus which provide structure, but need food, and algae, which can make food using photosynthesis, but need shelter. Together they work at making little brightly coloured splodges that look like mini sci-fi cities. Take a look next time you're in the Wood.

If you would like to write a report one month please contact me.

Annette Murphy, Chair
murphyannette74@gmail.com

EXPERIMENTING WITH THE EXISTENTIAL

Six months have passed since we moved into our new house in the Tchure. Several years ago, when we began the project, we thought it time to explore whether building technology could be used to better adapt to climate change as it is manifesting itself. This was not to say that the house could cope with anything nature sent its way. What we can report so far is it has passed its first stress test in coping well with weather such as the Noah's flood we have had to these many months.

A requirement from Thames Water was that, as a new build, we could not connect rainwater discharge to the sewer. The solution was nearly 300 feet of seamless gutters, a dry season water tank, a wildlife pond, an underground soakaway and permeable mortar in the garden terrace, all of which are helping to keep rainwater onsite. That's some of the good news but, as promised previously, we will also share the challenges.

First among them is that we have not adapted well to some of the 'smart house' technology. In particular the room thermostat system which was designed to depend on a connection to the internet, allowing us to change temperature anywhere in the house. We did not quite realise this when the system went in. I am one who believes that to go online should be a discretionary act and certainly not obligatory. We have enough on our plates these days without being concerned that the Russians might hack our boiler in the dead of winter. The fix has been to replace the smart system with far fewer and less enlightened manual thermostats which work very well, thank you.

One piece of technology that new buildings with off-street parking should install now is an electric vehicle battery charger. This can be combined with an off-peak tariff, using surplus night time energy, together with a green tariff for maximum reduction in carbon footprint. The most attractive part of an off-peak tariff is that using the charger at night fuels a car at one-third the cost of the daytime rate. Plug the charger in before retiring and the car charges itself at the pre-set time. Smart technology, enabled by built-in smart meters and no internet required.

I can see a problem in future though, if we do not pay more attention to the market for electric cars. Electric car sales grew 185% last year and there is no sign of that slowing down. At this rate, power network managers will need to plan for what could become an exponential increase in demand and move more of that demand off-peak. The market for charging stations is growing as well. In addition to the two new public stations at the Windmill, Oxford City Council, in Summertown, has sponsored the installation of innovative curbside chargers that lie flush with the pavement and pop up in a telescopic post when needed. This could be a real benefit for homeowners without off-street parking. To electrify our vehicle fleet will be a massive undertaking but also a creator of many new skilled jobs and a continuing benefit to the economy. It is an exciting prospect and not without controversy but, if

we're serious about stopping climate change from getting worse, the internal combustion engine cannot be part of our energy future.

As we continue to experiment with elements of the house, a quite unanticipated one was a different use for the wall-mounted ventilation and heat recovery units we installed for energy efficiency. They bring fresh filtered air in from outdoors while retaining 90% of the indoor heat. After reading of the work engineers had done in Taiwan to use building ventilation controls to stop a tuberculosis outbreak on a college campus, I began wondering if units similar to ours might be used to lessen the risk for indoor transmission of COVID-19? For some time now, engineers have been using indoor levels of carbon dioxide as a proxy for air quality and the Taiwanese had demonstrated that, in this one case, keeping CO2 levels low could prevent new infections. Out of curiosity, using a digital CO2 meter, I began to vary the ventilation fan speeds in our house and found we could keep our levels at or below these thresholds.

Clearly it would take a lot more in the way of investigation and scientific rigour before we could know if the Taiwanese approach might help to better manage pandemics but countries like Germany are looking at ways to improve building ventilation technology and recently offered half a billion Euros to promote research in this area. We all hope that vaccines, masking and common sense precautions will get us back to some semblance of normality. Even so, we may not eliminate this virus-du-jour or its variants entirely. We need every tool at our disposal and perhaps some focus on building ventilation technology can keep more businesses open here and more homes safe as well.

If the weather of late isn't a harbinger of climate change, it is doing a rather good impression of same. Monty Python skits used to announce 'and now for something completely different' and this might well become our weather forecast meme in future. We cautiously look forward to extended spells of something else.

Dan Desmond dessr@outlook.com

WELL REMEMBERED

Pamela Sykes, née Smith 1939–2020

Peter Sykes has contacted the *DN* to let people know that his sister-in-law, Pam, who will be remembered as Pam Smith, died on 20 January in Hampshire.

She was born in Waterford, Ireland, and came to Deddington as a young girl, with her mother, Mrs Breen, who ran the Holcombe Hotel. She married Gerald Sykes who was a friend of Don Walker both at school and until he left as a seventeen year old to join the Navy in the 1950s.

The Sykes family lived in one of the Co-op Cottages in the Market Place. Their son, Peter, left home in 1968 to join the police while Gerald and Joan, lived on in Piers Row until they died.

LETTERS

FROM RUTH JOHNSON,
DEDDINGTON

'In a word or two', I'd like to suggest an excellent cure for those suffering from advanced grammar sickness. No matter of language.

My brother, three years my superior, suffered much over grammatical errors in my letters, written in our joint mother tongue, I'd say from about the fifth year I lived in UK. His remonstrations in kind brotherly letters from Switzerland obviously did not have the required effect, whereupon his excellent newsletters to me arrived, together with my last letter to him, text heavily underlined in red, when in breach of German grammar.

No, I did not feel in the least upset, having always admired and even enjoyed his superiority in general knowledge. Very quickly, I also realised just how much good it did him to express his frustration about my sloppy German grammar. Sadly, I know of no such happy cure for the author of 'In a Word or Two' ... except correcting, advisably, my many grammatical 'faux pas' in the pure English language.

Ruth's letter is in response to John Price's article on what makes you shout at the telly, in February's online DN, pg 10.

CD



Please address all letters to:
JILL CHEESEMAN
37 THE DAEDINGS, DEDDINGTON
letters@deddingtonnews.co.uk
and include your name and address
even if they are not for publication

DAVID ROGERS, CHAIR,
DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
Deddington Parish Council would like to thank the generous donor who has kindly paid for two electric vehicle charging points at the Windmill Centre. We hope that these are a great success and help encourage people to switch to electric vehicles.

We have been happy to fund a number of projects at the Windmill and continue to do so. Thank you to the management committee for their hard work in bringing them to fruition.

As always, the PC is grateful to all those who support the parish in so many ways and we are delighted to be able to assist many local groups and organisations during the lockdowns.

Most recently we have been offered a £6,000 grant from the government Containing Outbreak Management Fund and have been able to share the details of the Re-opening High Streets Safely scheme with local businesses to give everyone a safe and early return to normality.

So, thank you Bryn, thank you Arash and thank you all for your efforts to make Deddington the wonderful parish that it is.

Thinking of selling your Jewellery?

Mallams 1788



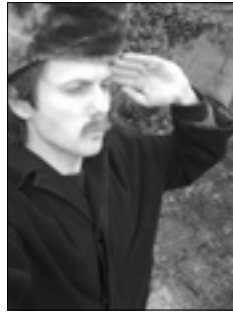
Mallams' specialist, Louise Dennis FGA DGA, is available to give **free** confidential valuations on any piece(s) you are considering selling at auction

Home visits also available

Enquiries: 01865 241 358
or louise.dennis@mallams.co.uk
www.mallams.co.uk

BLISSFUL THINKING

Jackie Weaver, asserting her impugned authority by throwing various rowdy members into virtual waiting-rooms while assorted characters added hostility or comic relief to the Handforth Parish Council meeting, demonstrated the ongoing effects of unfamiliar technology being forced, in the last two decades, upon people otherwise unprepared for it. From families following their satnavs into the ocean to foul-mouthed parrots ordering treats from Alexa, it's clear that most of us welcome technology into our living quarters without adequate preparation or contingency for the unexpected. Intimate data has been inadvertently shared, not by some malicious third party but the custodian themselves, through their lack of familiarity with devices that have long since ceased being 'labour-saving' and become more 'dopamine distractions'. The pandemic has forced even less prepared



sorts to resort to digital communication, and the results are not entirely unpredictable. The recent case of the US lawyer having to insist he was a human, after appearing on a Zoom court hearing through the filter of an anxious white kitten face and being unable to disable it, was a clash of the old and the new, as the software for the filter was apparently a decade old. Amid all the current misery, the fascinating sociological consequences of technology that parts of the world are seemingly not ready for rolls on in real time, to my infinite intrigue. Driverless cars, 3D printers and artificial intelligence robots will presumably be next to be rolled out to the wider Western populations, and the inevitable cavalcade of epic failures will add many more chapters of novel idiocy to keep future historians entertained.

Aaron Bliss
aaron@hotmail.com

DEDDINGTON ENVIRONMENT NETWORK

Thank you to everyone who took part in the community orchard survey. We had 137 replies, with 110 respondents in favour of an orchard somewhere in the wider Deddington area and 26 against. A hundred and one people said they would be interested in getting involved from helping taking care of the trees and fruit harvesting to undertaking wildlife surveys as well as sponsoring a tree. That is wonderful news, thank you. With regards to a location for the orchard, Gaveston Green and the land to the north of Wimborn Close have been ruled out and the parish council is currently discussing possible sites.

Here are a couple of programmes and ideas that might inspire you in lockdown. *Countryfile* has launched an ambitious two-year programme to plant 750,000 trees across the country called Plant Britain. They are offering 100 people the chance to plant trees at one of each of twelve Woodland Trust sites across the UK with one of the *Countryfile* presenters. If you don't want to enter the ballot to plant a tree, you can still take part by recording the trees, plants, fruit and veg you are planting at home or on your allotment on their interactive map, and by sharing your photos and videos with them, which might be featured in future programmes. You can find out more on the BBC website.

For a quick blast of ideas listen to *BBC Sounds* which is releasing a series of ten 15-minute programmes called '39 Ways to Save the Planet'.

Please get in touch if there is anything you would like to share or discuss. If you would like to help us, even if it's only for an hour a month, we would love to hear from you.

Nick Smith
info@deddingtonenvironment.net

HOLLY TREE CLUB

As you may have seen from the road, the tree work has been carried out at the Holly Tree, necessary either to manage and preserve what we have or to allow for building works.

Work is moving ahead very well. The roof has now been replaced, along with guttering, fascia and down-pipes. The damp is being eradicated in various areas from the north and west walls, which are now tanked and insulated, to the large area under the parquet flooring – all of which has been lifted and cleaned, block by block, and a damp proof membrane installed ready for the parquet to be re-laid later in the process. A serving hatch has been made from the kitchen to the hall too.

The electricians are rewiring the hall as we go to print and gas central heating pipes are being installed. We are working through the quotes for the hearing loop system which will be installed shortly, as well as quotes for a cinema screen, speakers and projector. We may only install the infrastructure for these, leaving us to fundraise for the fun bits once we've seen how far our budget will stretch.

The next outside tasks are to install ramps from the pedestrian gate to the hall, and dig a large trench on the north wall and build a retaining wall so that we can keep the soil, and consequently the damp, from the outside of that wall too.

We hope our members will like what they see when we can finally re-open post Covid and building works. In the meantime, we hope you are all staying safe and warm and have had at least your first Covid vaccinations. If not, please contact your health provider now, and make sure you get one soon.

Revd Annie Goldthorp, Chair
Holly Tree Management Committee

TALES FROM THE PUMP

I was a bit surprised when I opened the pub door the other day to a knock from Rishi Sunak. 'You, of all people, know we're closed', I moaned, 'and anyway, shouldn't you be at home or counting the mounting debt in Whitehall?' 'I'm on essential business', he says. 'I'm tired of getting flak from supposed Hospitality Chiefs, and Phil-the-Spread said you're the best constructive moaner in the business', looking at me rather doubtfully. So we sat at opposite ends of the empty bar and he said tentatively, 'I don't suppose you think much of VAT?' 'Actually', I said, 'taxing when people spend rather than earn is a good idea – at least it's pretty much voluntary, given that the basics aren't included. That you do both is not so good. No, the problem from my point of view is that VAT needs to be a level playing field. As an example, in normal times, restaurant meals are increased by 20% VAT whilst supermarket ready meals carry no VAT. M&S even advertise their £10 with wine meals with a picture of a candle-lit dinner, suggesting a cheap



restaurant meal at home, and some have an aisle in-store called Gastro-Pub Meals. Why not remove the VAT on eating out completely, levelling the playing field and giving a boost to restaurant businesses and all the people they employ?"

'The trouble is', says Rishi, 'you guys are tremendous contributors to the nation's coffers. With VAT, alcohol duty, business rates, PAYE, and NI you may look like pubs but really you are thousands of tax collection booths'. I had to admire his honesty and I had an inkling of what was coming next. 'We could certainly charge 20% VAT on ready-meals and some other supermarket non-basic lines though'. Seeing my pained expression he jumped from his stool and made for the door, 'Many thanks for your time and VAT ideas – I really must be getting back now – cheers!'

Sorry folks – sometimes I should keep my grumpy thoughts to myself!

Grumpylandlord1@gmail.com

FOOD BANK

I hope you are all keeping safe and well in these very challenging times. The pandemic has been extremely damaging for many people in a variety of ways, not just through catching the virus itself but also the isolation and difficult financial situation some are finding themselves in. My thoughts and prayers are with you as we continue to work our way through this.

I would like to say a huge thank you to all those who generously provide food for the Banbury Foodbank through the Deddington church. It is a sad fact is that more and more people are having to turn to the food bank for help to feed themselves and their families.

It is great, therefore, to be able to announce that Deddington Church is now a referral agency for the Banbury Foodbank. This means that if anyone here, or in the surrounding villages, needs access to the Foodbank they can get in touch with the church's food bank administrators for vouchers. You will need to contact the administrators on 01869 220720 between 12.00–4.00pm on Wednesdays or email foodbank@deddingtonchurch.org and your request will be dealt with promptly. If you are in urgent need of food, please call the same number and we will be able to supply, and deliver if necessary, on Tuesday or Wednesday afternoons between 12.00–4.00pm.

The plan is for us eventually to operate a food bank directly from the church to save those in need from having to travel to Banbury.

A gentle reminder that we can only take unopened dried or tinned food within its 'sell by' date and the Foodbank doesn't want fresh produce or food that should be kept in a fridge.

Revd Annie

PFSU AND VILLAGE NURSERY

Both our settings are currently open to all the children who wish to attend and we continue to respond to the ever-changing virus situation. Our Christmas activities went ahead as planned. We enjoyed our parties and produced a nativity play and a selection of songs which our families could enjoy on video. Our Christmas Fayre and online raffle raised an amazing £1,146 so far – thank you for your support.

Lucy Squires

lamjsquires@aol.com

LOCAL KNOWLEDGE ANYONE?

Can anyone shed light on George Dancer, Thomas Parish or number 5 Hempton Road?

David Hood recently came across a receipt reading: '1896 George Dancer, Mar 28 (Taken) No 5 Cottage; Garden and Hovel Hempton Road Deddington, of Thomas Parish. Rent to be 1/6 per year.'

The receipt is written across what appears to be a 'purple on rose red' Jubilee stamp of 1887. Mike Boyd thinks No 5 sounds like the Windmill Cottages. Apparently there was one row of four and one of five very basic cottages on the site of the existing Chinese takeaway, going back towards the Windmill Centre.

Rob Forsyth has found a schoolboy George Dancer in the 1881 census, living at Hazel Hedge Farm. He reappears in 1901 as a milkman living with his own family at 6 New Street, and in 1911 in Marble Arch. Is this at the end of New Street opposite what used to be the May Fu II Chinese restaurant? As to Thomas Parish, there were a lot of Parish's in the 1891 census – Thomas among them.

CD

BURIAL AT SEA

Having recounted the tale of taking a scrubbing brush for a walk in my submarine (*DN* May 2020) and a visit by my submarine crew to Wigan Pier (Feb 2021), readers may have begun to wonder about how seriously the defence of their realm was being taken by their underwater navy. At the risk of further erosion of confidence I offer one more 'dit'.

I had the privilege of two years in command of HMS Alliance. She was a just post-war built diesel-powered boat; cramped, oily, no air conditioning and the overpowering atmosphere was of oil and cabbage – a powerful aphrodisiac we thought but our other halves did not. In consequence, we wore old clothes to be thrown away on return to harbour, which were appropriately referred to as 'steaming gear' or 'gardening clothes'. The captain was no different. But I had one sweater I was particularly fond of. To make it last through successive patrols, I only donned it when I ordered the crew to 'action stations' for a close encounter surveillance of a Soviet ship or submarine or a mock attack on a Blue Force ship.

On conclusion of my final day at sea in command, as we approached harbour on the surface, I sadly consigned my sweater to the gash can (rubbish bin) and changed into shoregoing gear. A little while later, while in the Control Room looking at the chart for entering harbour, a cry went up, 'Captain is required on the bridge'. Thinking there must be a problem, I rushed up the ladder to the top of the conning tower to be greeted by the officer on watch with a broad grin on his face and his hand pointing down to the casing on which a small party of men, in submarine sweaters and caps, was assembled with a plank on their shoulders on top of which was a white ensign with what looked like a large box underneath.



Members of HMS Alliance's crew

'Your sweater is about to be consigned to the deep, sir', the officer announced. The Navigating Officer dressed in his reefer jacket, cap and a dog collar then read the words to consign my sweater to the deep. The pall bearer tipped the plank and the box (suitably weighted and holed) disappeared beneath the waves. It so happened that a merchant ship was passing us the other way and had obviously seen the burial party through binoculars and, quite correctly, dipped its Red Ensign in salute.

Rob Forsyth
robert.s.forsyth@gmail.com

Note: HMS Alliance is an integral part of the submarine museum in Gosport, www.nmm.org.uk/submarine-museum, and normally open to visitors, with partial wheelchair access. She is also a memorial to the more than 5,000 submariners who have died in service.

PARISH ARCHIVE – HOME AT LAST

The Parish Archive is to have a new permanent home in the Windmill Centre. What's the Parish Archive, I hear you cry? Well, it had a dodgy start in the 1990s when donations were found mouldering in the 'archivist's' garage and had to be returned to donors. By 2015 enough material needing preservation had been collected to try again and we were confident that more would appear if a permanent archive were established.

The Parish Archive Group, comprising Gareth Richard, Rob Forsyth, Richard Broadbent, Mary Robinson, John Plumbe and David French, is now moving ahead to turn the southeast corner of the Windmill, formerly the football store, into a self-contained work and storage space. The William Delafield Charitable Trust has provided a generous £10,000 grant and the Windmill Management Committee is also providing support.

The archive is paper only, photographs, maps, historical documents, etc, as we don't have room to collect artefacts. You can give or lend items to the archive. Many have already been scanned and recorded, and can be viewed via the searchable register. To find out how to donate and access the register go to www.deddingtonhistory.uk and click on the Archive tab in the Index.

Highlights of the collection so far are the millennium parish maps, primary school records, WWI newspaper articles and George Coggins' scrapbooks dating from 1836–1914. When it's up and running the Archive Group plans to stage exhibitions and displays to showcase its work.

Mary Robinson, Secretary
robimary@gmail.com

CALLING ALL CLUBS

Photographic Society

'Don't be frightened or intimidated by the dark' was Tony Worobiec's advice. During his Night and Low Light Photography presentation, Tony gave us a wealth of tips to encourage and inspire us to go outside in the dark and accomplish some amazing images. He displayed images taken pre-dawn and post-sunset, all stunning. An interesting tip was to turn 180 degrees to the sunrise or sunset to achieve a softly illuminated landscape where colours bloom rather than being drowned out by the intense sun. Of course, pre-dawn there are opportunities to capture those wonderful mists and fogs that lie in fields and valleys during high pressure. It would appear the early riser catches the proverbial worm by setting up and having an exposure of at least a minute to capture the detail whilst it is still dark. The same is true of dusk where, waiting for forty minutes after sunset, the image colours will improve considerably. Tony often uses a torch as a filler light when using a 15-second shutter speed to fix stars in the sky at 400 iso. If star trails are needed, he will use a 15-minute shutter speed, remembering the moon can be a great illuminator too. Tips for focusing in the dark were to pre-focus but if you want a totally manual focusing use the bulb setting where exposures can vary from 20 seconds to 20 minutes.

Tony gave us a series of ideas for future night-time photography topics including fireworks, fairgrounds, piers, bridges, shops, industrial sites, and buildings at night and explained crossover lighting. So, inspired, we are off to try taking some night-time images; look for them on our website and check Tony's website, www.tonyworobiec.com, to see his remarkable images.

The next presentation is on 3 March at 7.30pm when Nathan Barry will talk about 'Achieving Natural Results with Lightroom'.

Anne Hunsley
www.addphoto.co.uk



Royal British Legion

The RBL logo has changed. In fact, it would be more accurate to say that, where there were previously some 36 variants of the old logo, there is now just the one as displayed here. Its typeface is blue with a red poppy, as can be seen in the online *DN*. It is inspired by the lettering on the grave of the Unknown Warrior. The need for change was driven by the shocking statistics from a public survey that showed that less than half of the people supporting the Poppy Appeal associated it with the RBL. It has been launched in time to underpin the 100th Anniversary of the RBL. Deddington Branch will reach its own centenary on 22 January 2025.

It is with very great pleasure that I can announce that the RBL National Chairman has notified Norman

West that he has been awarded a Gold Badge in recognition of his near 60 years of unstinting and constant support of the Legion. For much of that time he served as Treasurer of our branch and club, was Poppy Appeal Organiser and, for several years, our President. Major David Hood (President) and the Branch Committee offer Norman our heartfelt congratulations on this well-deserved recognition of his exceptional lifetime service to the Legion.

Rob Forsyth, 01869 338384
robert.s.forsyth@gmail.com

Deddington Bookworms

Another meeting via Zoom. Who would have thought twelve months ago that this would be the only way we can get together? It's been a long hard year, but we are all very grateful for our monthly chats.

In January we discussed *The History Room* by Oxfordshire author Eliza Graham. The story is set around a private school in the Cotswolds where Meredith Cordingley's father is the headmaster. Meredith is the central character and returns to the school (which was also her childhood home) when her soldier husband is injured in Afghanistan and the trauma puts the marriage under strain. As we get to know the characters, secrets are revealed; from modern day as well as those that have been kept hidden for many, many years.

Graham covers modern-day issues along with historical ones in a neat way. With believable characters this is an easy and enjoyable read and although the story felt a bit predictable at times it turned out to have a twist at the end.

At the next Zoom meeting we will discuss *Mirror World of Melody Black* by Gavin Extence.

Bookworms, Deddington Library

Book Group

Hons and Rebels is Jessica Mitford's entertaining account of her early life. One of the famous Mitford sisters, Jessica had an independent streak from a young age and eloped with her second cousin, Esmond Romilly, when they were both eighteen. After a brief involvement in the Spanish Civil War, they returned to London before emigrating to the United States.

Jessica paints a vivid picture of her childhood near Swinbrook. Many anecdotes, often amusing, underline the Mitford family's aristocratic privilege and connections but also isolation from ordinary life. Later we learn in fascinating detail about Jessica's experiences in Spain and also the conflict between her own communist beliefs and the Nazi sympathies of her sisters, Unity and Diana. The years spent in the US provide a great contrast and the impression is one of adventure and fun. Jessica and Esmond have no money but survive financially on a combination of self-confidence, quick wits and wealthy contacts. The book finishes with the onset of WWII. In the last chapter

CALLING ALL CLUBS

Continued from p15

Jessica considers what aspects of the sisters' upbringing had led to such rebellious behaviour. We enjoyed reading this book and forming our own conclusions.

Our next book is *Unsheltered* by Barbara Kingsolver. Please contact Sally Lambert on 01869 338094 for more information.

Sian Waterman

Local Vocals – Community Choir

Thinking positively, our top priority this year is to seek out a new choir director. We are looking for an engaging and enthusiastic vocal leader to take over conducting and musical direction of our community choir. Is there anyone out there who would be interested? Or do you know someone who might be?

Local Vocals is an open access choir with no auditions and no requirement for singers to read music. Under our previous director we sang unaccompanied in three-part harmony (occasionally in four), with all songs taught by ear. The choir leader is responsible for planning songs for each term, some based on choir member suggestions, and organising performance opportunities when appropriate. The choir is run by a volunteer committee which takes care of everything else. To find out more and contact us please go to our website www.localvocalscc.co.uk.

Alison Grieve

SPORT

Deddington Tennis Club

It's been a while since we have been able to play tennis. During February we have at least been able to get a bit of a tennis fix from watching the pros at the Australian Open. With regard to Deddington, at the time of writing the tennis club is still closed. We hope that tennis will be something that can be permitted again as the lockdown is eased. Pending government announcements on 22 February, we will wait to hear what the LTA has to say. For further information about the club, to find out about coaching, become a member and keep up to date about the arrangements for reopening, please go to our website www.deddingtontennis.com.

We hope we will be back on court in some shape or form in the not-too-distant future.

Becky Jones

Deddington Town FC Youth

Perhaps by the time you read this, we may have a clearer picture on the lockdown and whether we can return to any youth football before the season ends at the end of April 2021 and the cricket season starts in May. If we can, our priority will be applying our Covid-19 plans for the safety of players, parents and coaches.

As the Under 7s plan for playing in the league in the 2021/22 season, we are after a kit sponsor. If you are a local business who would like to support the club, please get in touch with me for further information.

If you want to get involved with the club as player, volunteer, sponsor or fundraiser, please do not hesitate to get in touch. Further information about the club is on our website www.deddingtontownfc or visit us on Facebook www.facebook.com/DeddingtonTownFc.

**Roger Sykes, Development Officer
and U7/U6 Coach
01869 337034**



WINDMILL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Will we or won't we be open by the time you read this? I suspect not, although I would hope that organised outdoor activities such as tennis, football and netball will be able to resume soon – fingers crossed. Not that the Windmill is deserted in these Covid times. Despite the cold weather, it is heartening to see how many children and young families are having fun in the Pocket Park and adventure playground. I've also seen several Lycra-clad individuals huffing and puffing around the field and of course there are always dog-walkers – the majority of whom respect the rules and keep their dogs off the sports pitches and on a lead. Thank you.

In February, thanks to a generous private donor and help from the parish council, we saw the installation of two fast 22kW Shell NewMotion EV charging points to the rear of the Windmill building – the first public ones in Deddington. They are now fully operational and registered on all networks. Other projects we are busying ourselves with during lockdown are roof repairs, a long-awaited loo block refurbishment (hoo-rah) and an initiative from the Parish Archive Group to re-purpose one of our larger storage spaces to house their archive. We are also keen to redecorate and modernise the stage area and surround. Maybe the painted version of our proscenium arch has had its day? As ever, we are grateful to the PC for supporting all these initiatives.

Last, but not least, we are recruiting a volunteer development officer to join our committee and take the lead on applying for funding to help pay for our ambitious Windmill plans. Please get in touch if you are interested. Stay safe and well everybody.

**Vaughan Jones, Chair
vaughan@englishlanguagematters.com**