

November 2021

The **DEDDINGTON NEWS**



Delivered free to Deddington, Clifton and Hempton

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DECEMBER 2021 COPY TO
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Steve Waterman

The DEDDINGTON NEWS

Having just spent a few days in sunny Scotland, I was impressed to note that everyone was wearing a face mask wherever more than one or two people were gathered together; they were also assiduously using well-provided hand sanitiser. Although we're all in the fortunate position to have been offered vaccines, it's still very much here, with rising numbers of infections in the Cherwell District area. Infection rates in Scotland are falling. Is that a coincidence? I don't know because I have no medical knowledge but it seems at least possible.

Take care so that you can enjoy the festive period as it approaches.
JC

What's On November

- Mon 1 Friends of Hempton Church: AGM, The Old School Room, Hempton, 7.00pm
- Wed 3 Photographic Society: 'Photographing Wiltshire', Robert Harvey, ARPS, Adderbury Institute, 7.30pm
- Sat 6 Winter Craft Fayre: Windmill Centre Hall, 11.00am–2.30pm
- Sat 6 Cherwell Choral Society: Concert includes Fauré's Requiem, Parish Church, 7.30pm
- Tue 9 Friends of Deddington Church: AGM, Deddington Arms, 7.30pm
- Sat 6 Deddington Fireworks: Primary School field, gates open 6.00pm, blast off 7.00pm
- Sun 14 Remembrance Parade and Service: 10.15am assembly in the Bull Ring, followed by 10.40am march to the war memorial
- Wed 17 Parish Council Meeting: 7.30pm
- Wed 17 Deddington Fair arrives
- Thu 18 History Society: 'Child Labour in 19th Century Oxfordshire', Liz Woolley, Primary School, 7.30pm
- Sun 21 Deddington Fair departs
- Sun 21 Music in Adderbury: Viv Mclean, Concert includes Scarlatti, Beethoven and Schubert, Parish Church, 7.30pm
- Thu 25 Bookworms: Holly Tree, 6.30pm
- Thu 25 Book Group: Contact Sally Lambert 01869 338094 for details
- Thu 25 Royal British Legion: AGM, Deddington Arms, 7.00pm
- Sat 27 Banbury Symphony Orchestra: Romantic Classics, including Brahms and Elgar, Parish Church, 7.30pm
- Sat 27 Farmers' Market: Market Place, 9.00am–12.30pm

December

- Sat 4 Choros: Advent Carols by Candlelight, Parish Church, 6.30pm

The cover this month is a view of the Oxford Canal near Heyford Common Lock.

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

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DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Windmill Community Centre on 20 October

Present: Higham, Oldfield, O'Neill, Robinson, Rogers (chair), Snelling, Squires, Swadling, Timms, Watts and locum parish clerk

County Councillor Fatemian

Hempton roadworks are complete apart from a 'Give Way to Oncoming Traffic' sign and resurfacing which will need the road to be closed.

Foliage has been cut back at the traffic lights, new signs are being ordered and updated road markings added to the maintenance programme. The request for a camera has been sent to TVP who are reviewing all their cameras.

Councillor Fatemian gave his advice on a proposed 20mph speed limit in villages in Oxfordshire: this is for a change of signage only; other traffic calming measures would fall to the PC. A request would need to be supported by him. TVP will not enforce revised limits. He thinks there is a case for all the roads apart from the A4260 to be made 20mph. To be discussed at the next PC meeting but in the mean time feedback, either via *DN* or direct to the PC would be welcomed.

District Councillor Williams

Residents who currently have brown sacks will be able to purchase these for £15 per bundle of 25, only available to residents who cannot accommodate a bin. They will receive a food caddy for their food waste.

Finance & General Purposes

Rents for allotments were agreed at £25 per chain and £15 for a half chain.

There was some discussion regarding the availability of £25,000 from OCC towards the cost of indoor and outdoor accessible toilets at the Windmill. This was originally allocated on the basis of supporting the Thursday Club who have now indicated to the Windmill committee they are unlikely to return. This is to be followed up with OCC to find out if it is still available.

Planning

No objection

Corner House, Duns Tew Road, Hempton: remove concrete garage and replace with garden room, with condition that it should not be used as separate dwelling space.

The Coach House, Horse Fair: change of use from annexe to dwelling with internal and external alterations. Orchard House, Hopcraft Lane: replacement of gas boiler with separate external flue.

1 Castle Farm Cottages, Earls Lane: two-storey rear extension to provide family dining and 1st floor master suite.

Tomwell Farm Cottage, Hempton: single storey extension to rear replacing existing single storey building to provide utility, pantry, and lobby.

1 St. John's Way, Hempton: certificate of lawfulness of existing use of garage to living space.

Old Lodge, St Thomas Street: demolition of conservatory and erection of rear extension to provide garden room.

Hen Cloud, Castle Street: tree works, 4 Lawson cypress, fell to ground level, but request reciprocal planting of more appropriate sized trees in their place. End Cottage, The Stile: tree works, biannual re-pollard. Holly Tree Cub: tree works, sycamore – fell, yew – lift canopy over pavement to 3m, but request reciprocal planting of more appropriate sized trees in their place. Berwick House, New Street: single storey extension to rear and new porch to rear, internal alterations, also bathroom to detached barn, but defer to conservation officer regarding appropriateness in respect of listed building status.

Garage Courtyard, Hudson Street: demolition of two-storey barn (retaining east gable) and 10 concrete garages, erection of 2 (three-bedroomed) mews cottages with associated parking, but request sympathetic materials in keeping with locality.

Objection

28 The Daedings: Single storey side and rear extension and part two-storey rear extension. Over-development.

The Studio, Hudson Street: continued installation of illuminated sign for 24 hour use and one fascia sign. Conservation area in small residential street, inappropriate.

Plot F, Land East of Oxford Road, Deddington: erection of dwelling with means of access to be assessed, but request that, if allowed, the footpath from the site to St Thomas Street is suitable size and standard, that the site entrance vision splays are to the necessary standard and that the 30mph limit be moved to better protect residents.

Approvals

Manor Farmhouse, Main Street, Clifton: conversion of existing barn/building from office use to domestic workshop and accommodation.

Highways & Transport

The saga of the PC wheelie bins continues, to be reviewed next month.

Advance warning of a road closure at Water Street, Somerton on 24 November from 9.30am–3.30pm.

Environment & Recreation

There was another long-winded discussion about accessible toilets at the Windmill. This is to be discussed again at next month's meeting.

It was agreed that the PC should no longer organise litter picks because of H&S concerns but should provide equipment and organise removal of litter bags afterwards. Any groups who would like to involve themselves should contact Councillor Watts.

Next meeting: Wednesday 17 November at 7.30pm at the Windmill Centre, Hempton Lounge.

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

Deddington Farmers' Market

The Run up to Christmas

Shhh, don't say it too loudly but Christmas is coming. As I write this halfway through October, the market organisers have started to turn their thoughts to the Christmas event – to be held this year on 18 December – just one week before the big day. The December market is probably one of the best markets of the year. Although 2020's was held it was, perhaps inevitably, rather more downbeat than usual due to the constraints of social distancing, one way systems and so on. It was also sad that none of the usual extras (school carol singers and brass band) were able to be present.

The market committee wants to make up for that this year so that it's even better than usual. December's market is probably the happiest, most joyful, vibrant one of the year with people out in force enjoying the festive atmosphere and stocking up on delicious goodies. So what's the current plan? Stallholders will be encouraged to decorate their stalls if possible. Customers are also invited to don whatever festive attire they wish in order to join in with the spirit of the occasion. If customers have their own reindeer, they are invited to bring it with them and I have it on good authority that, if they let the committee know in advance, a 'parking space' will be made available along with some nutritious fodder.

Deddington Brass will be playing, contributing to the atmosphere. It is likely that the school choir

will gather round the Christmas tree to get us in the Christmas mood. The pantomime horse may pay us a visit although we may have to keep him away from any reindeer.

We hope that Santa and his elves (courtesy of the PTA) will be around as well.

Customers are encouraged to come early and buy lots. I am told that you will be able to order in advance with most of the stallholders for goods to be collected on the 18th. If you want to be sure of being able to purchase what you want it is really important that you take advantage of this to avoid disappointment. It will be a great help to the traders too, especially this year. Web links to the various traders can be found on the market website – <http://www.deddingtonfarmers-market.co.uk>. It may well be that orders can be placed with traders to be picked up from them at a date even nearer to Christmas.

As you can see, a great effort is going into making sure that this year's Christmas market will be one of the most joyful and festive ever – the committee is certainly doing its best to make it so. We hope we can support them and have a wonderful and happy time.

See you on 18 December.

Jenny Snashall

jennysnashall@gmail.com

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Cherwell Local Plan Review 2040 and Potential Development Sites

Cherwell District Council (CDC) is in the process of reviewing and updating the current Local Plan 2011–2031. They are consulting on the policy options for the new plan and the deadline for comments is 10 November.

The CDC consultation paper does not indicate any district or parish housing targets since these will be a function of the targets to be set under the higher level Oxfordshire Plan 2050 (OP2050). As discussed in the September DN p8, OP2050 is considering three housing growth scenarios, all higher than under local plans and one 'transformational'.

In response to a Call for Sites by CDC, the following 13 potential development sites have been put forward:

Deddington (8)

009 Land east of Oxford Road, south of Deddington, 4.4 acres

016 The Poplars, Clifton Road, Deddington, 6.2 acres

054 Home Farm Works, Clifton Road, Deddington, 5.5 acres

054 Land opposite south of Clifton Road, Deddington, 9.6 acres

056 Land west of Banbury Road, north of Deddington Grange, 39 acres

074 Land east of Banbury Road and north of Fire Station, 12 acres

148 Land north of Wimborn Close, 4.7 acres

148 Grove Fields, Deddington, 20.75 acres

Hempton (3)

065 Land south of Hempton Road, 10.8 acres

148 Radwell Hill, Duns Tew Road, 5.5 acres

148 Land south of The Lane, Hempton, 1.2 acres

Clifton (2)

104 Land at Manor Barn, Chapel Close, 5 acres

148 Home Farm, Clifton, 4.7 acres

The above site sizes are gross rather than net developable areas. CDC's target housing density is 30 dwellings per hectare (12 dwellings per acre), although lower densities have been accepted in Deddington. CDC has not assessed any of the sites at this stage.

By signing up to the Oxfordshire 'Housing and Growth Deal' with the government, the district council has signalled that it is pro development.

Previous Cherwell Local Plans have focused housing development on Banbury and Bicester, and to a lesser extent Kidlington, with a more restrained approach towards rural areas. There is no assurance that the latter policy will be maintained.

The CDC consultation paper contains 34 Options and 29 Questions, covering a wide range of topics from affordable housing to infrastructure. The following are of particular concern from a Deddington perspective.

(1) Option 30 (Housing in the rural areas) asks whether (i) development should be limited to meeting local needs or (ii) more development should be directed to rural areas to meet wider district needs.

Imposing wider district needs on rural areas, rather than meeting truly local needs, would be the ruination of some villages. Instead of delivering sustainable development, villages would be placed at risk of over-development, harm to local character and landscape, pressure on infrastructure, and more road congestion and pollution from additional commuting.

(2) Option 31 (Meeting rural housing development needs) asks whether (i) CDC should work with local communities to allocate specific sites to meet identified housing needs, or (ii) provide a parish level figure and allow sites to be allocated through Neighbourhood Plans or (iii) a combination of both.

It is government policy to encourage (ii), since it makes sense to take advantage of local knowledge. In a Deddington context, there is a Neighbourhood Plan team currently looking into local housing needs and the suitability of potential sites.

(3) Under Section 6.6.10, the question is posed whether CDC should define settlement boundaries, beyond which development would not normally be permitted?

This would help to ensure that development takes place in the most sustainable locations in terms of accessibility and infrastructure. Defined settlement boundaries provide greater certainty, and many other local authorities have adopted such a policy.

(4) Option 32 (Developing a Rural Settlement Hierarchy) asks whether (i) certain services and facilities should be given additional weight and (ii) accessibility of urban centres by public transport, walking and cycling should be given additional weight.

Weighting formulae risk being arbitrary. The parish has poor transport sustainability credentials in terms of distance from urban centres and hence contribution to congestion and pollution. There may be a bus service (not serving Hempton or Clifton), but for a variety of reasons it is little used.

Copies of the 'options' consultation paper and background documents may be downloaded at: <https://www.cherwell.gov.uk/planningpolicyconsultation>.

Responses to CDC's Call for Sites (see Representations LPR-A-001 to LPR-A-150) may be found under: <https://www.cherwell.gov.uk/info/33/planning-policy/851/local-plan-review---representations-to-the-issues-paper-consultation>.

If you are concerned not to see Deddington and other villages at risk of being overwhelmed by over-development, please make your views known to CDC by emailing planning.policy@cherwell-dc.gov.uk or completing the online representations form. The deadline is Wednesday 10 November.

Deddington Development Watch
deddingtondevelopmentwatch@hotmail.com

CHURCH

Parish Church SS Peter and Paul

November

Deddington church is open for public worship and services continue to be streamed live. Please see the church website, www.deddingtonchurch.org or Face-Book, <https://www.facebook.com/DeddingtonChurch> for updates.

Mon–Fri	8.45am	Morning Prayer
Wed	10.00am	Holy Communion
Thu	9.30am	Tea & Toast and Squiggles and Wiggles
Sun 7	10.30am	Holy Communion
	3.00pm	3 O’Clock Service, informal
	6.00pm	Choral Evensong
Sun 14	8.00am	BCP Communion
	10.50am	Meet at the War Memorial, then to church for Remembrance Service
Sun 21	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sun 28	10.30am	Holy Communion

Hempton

Sun 21 9.00am Holy Communion

Barfords

Sun 14 9.00am Communion, Barford StM
 Sun 21 10.30am Family Service, Barford StM
 Sun 28 9.00am Holy Communion, Barford StJ

From the Parish Registers

Funerals

5 October Cynthia Simpson
 19 October Alec Kinghorn
 25 October Jean Ruddock

For baptisms and 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, then please contact one of the church wardens, Iain Gillespie (01869 338367) or Meriel Flux (01869 338901).

RC Parish of Hethe

St John’s Church in Banbury will be streaming Mass daily at 9.30am, Mondays to Fridays; at 10.00am on Saturdays; and 11.15am on Sundays 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.



the windmill

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POSTCARD FROM AMERICA

Washing, Ski Queues and Medical Bills

My wife is trying to make my life even harder. I just discovered that she has bought a dozen pairs of exercise socks that are foot dependent. Each pair has a left sock and a right sock, and they are different. And she complained that I had paired them wrongly.

I know most of my male friends (ie all my friends) will find this very difficult, but I do the washing in our house. Every Friday afternoon I hunt down items of clothing spread around the house, root out old tissues from pockets and load up the washing-machine. I was happy on one occasion because I found no tissues in her pockets but I was wrong. I missed a piece of chewing-gum. Have you ever had to scrape gum from around the cylinder of the dryer?

The good thing about doing the washing in America is the size of the machines because there is always a laundry room in these enormous American houses. The machine doesn't live under a counter. I can get a week's washing into three loads – fills me with pride really.

The class structure in the US is not like the UK. It is based on one thing: money. Rich Americans think that money gives them rights that poor Americans do not have, like the right to vote. Here in ski country the next battleground is the right not to queue. Skiing is not cheap here but the big argument this week has been resorts selling 'fast track' tickets. For another \$49 per day you can cut in at the front of the 'line' at the lifts. Money talks, but in this case there has been a lot of shouting back.

My month has been dominated by health checks. The doctor sent me for a stress test on my heart. Since I can't run because of my arthritic knee, they injected



me with some very interesting drugs which raised my blood pressure and enabled them to measure the effect on my heart. I sat for a while afterwards before the serious-looking nurse came out with her clipboard and told me I had scored zero. I nearly had a heart attack but she reassured me that zero was a perfect score. My wife doesn't believe I am perfect.

The real heart attack came two weeks later when I got the bill – the treatment had cost \$16,082. Our insurance paid most of it, leaving me with \$357 to pay for a 20-minute treatment. Of course, the 16-grand figure is a con. This is not what the insurance company paid, it's what I would pay if I had no insurance. They will have paid less than half that amount. Yes, everything in America is big, particularly the medical bills.

With the great American nation having declared the pandemic to be over, despite there being record hospitalisations here in Colorado. I am trying to start travelling for work again. We went to visit customers in New Jersey last month: the excuse was Bruce on Broadway but no customers would meet us. The world is open for business but people just don't want to go back to the old ways. I guess the good news is I won't catch scabies in a hotel in Venice Beach, or tread on cockroaches on my way to the toilet in a hotel in Houston.

I love my wife and I would like to stay married. So, if the two of you who read this drivel see us in the village during our November trip, please don't mention this postcard to her.

Mike Ward

Mikew@qsoftware.com

DEDDINGTON LIBRARY

Last month, one of our volunteer team reviewed our Christmas stock: a seasonal treasure trove of adult and child fiction, together with a great collection of books themed around things to create and give, as well as Christmas recipe books. If you fancy crafting some Christmas presents, then these books are now available. My favourite is *I Felt A Bit Festive* by Carol Rowan which is full of ideas for creating festive caricatures from needle-felted wool, including a Victorian carol singing group and characters from Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*.

New additions to our adult fiction shelves include John Le Carré's *A Murder of Quality* which I read over a weekend and loved. This is Le Carré's second George Smiley novel, first printed in 1961 and now re-printed as a Penguin Modern Classic. This

edition includes an afterword by the author in which he shares insight into the impressions gained from his early education which shape many of the principal characters and locations.

Also new: Peter Ackroyd's *Mr Cadmus*; *The Sunday Times* bestseller *An Orphan's Journey* by Rosie Goodwin, and a lovely anthology of poetry *Everything is Going to be All Right* with the promise of 'poems for when you really need them', including work by Emily Dickinson, Cecilia Knapp, Kae Tempest, Frank O'Hara and many more.

I look forward to seeing you in Deddington library soon.

Louise Willis

Community Library Manager

CAN YOU IMAGINE OUR VILLAGE WITHOUT ITS CHURCH?

Well, I certainly can, but it's a dispiriting image. Ten years ago, to help provide much needed financial support to the church, a small group of us established Friends of Deddington Church, realising that many Deddingtonians, of any religious persuasion or none, appreciated our beautiful church as a vital community hub.

The Friends' 2021 Annual General Meeting is scheduled for 9 November at 7.30pm. Current members and others interested in learning more about our activities and plans are invited to join us in the upstairs room of the Deddington Arms: drinks are conveniently available at the bar below. Newcomers to the village will receive a particularly warm welcome.

Like many societies, we are currently running on empty, with a much smaller committee and a smaller range of skills than required to meet our goal of raising funds to support the church. So a major item on the agenda will be the essential activity of post-pandemic recalibration.

Mercifully, we are beginning slowly to emerge from pandemic-related restrictions and the church is once again functioning as a social focal point for our village. This is great news, not only for those who remember

better times, but for the many newcomers to the village who have had little opportunity to experience and appreciate our greatest asset. Farmers' market stalls are back, as was the Parish Show. Two wonderful classical concerts took place during October; another two are scheduled during November. And this is just the beginning. Events around Christmas are invariably delightful.

While the church of St Peter and St Paul is both beautiful and historic, it differs from many rural parish churches in being much more than a museum piece, regularly attracting visitors from outside the area. In normal times, not only regular worship, baptisms, weddings and funerals take place there, but also a range of other activities. Up-to-date furnishings and kitchen amenities enable enterprising village groups to organise concerts, exhibitions, market stalls, brass band practice and children's activities of many kinds. In short, our parish church enhances the lives not only of its regular congregation but of those who live and work in the village. Do come along and join us on 9 November.

Lesley Milroy, Chair
Friends of Deddington Church
01869 337614

2022 PARISH CALENDAR

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NEWS FROM HEMPTON

The Friends of Hempton Church and Old School Room are holding their AGM on 1 November at 7.00pm in the Old School Room. They are looking for new committee members and anyone interested should contact Angela Conlan or Janet Watts. This is a public meeting; anyone with an interest in our only community facility is welcome to attend.

Well done, Robin Gogoi, for completing the London Marathon in a respectable 5 hours 5 minutes 9 seconds, running in support of the British Heart Foundation.

Hempton finally bade farewell to the Robeys: Ingrid, Steve and the girls, after previous abortive escape attempts. They are now establishing their new home in Bloxham. It seems a lot of trouble to get out of reporting for the *DN*.

The Women's Tour of Britain passed through Hempton in a flash. TV coverage didn't show any interest in Hempton, cutting straight from Culham to the climb up Iron Down Hill. Rider 144 Janneke Ensing snuck through Hempton in the lead nearly obscured by an entourage of official cars and camera bikes. She maintained a lead of 15 seconds to Iron Down Hill where the TV people figured out how to switch their cameras back on to record her taking maximum points on the first categorised climb of the stage. Being early in the race the peloton was closely bunched and slipped through the constriction, hardly slowing down and was gone. Their passage was both exciting and anticlimactic. At least we got the road patched.

Some residents enjoyed the brief road closure, revelling in the ability to move about the village without fear of becoming roadkill. Briefly, there was silence and birds were heard singing. I thought I might have gone deaf, but was soon disabused.

Luckily the village poltergeist did not show up. In the 20th Century there were reports of cyclists passing

through the village and being pushed off their bikes by an elemental force.

New traffic signs have been installed on the eastern approach to the Hempton narrow. Situated on the right side of the road, facing west-bound traffic, they seem to be more effective in drawing attention to the priority of oncoming traffic. We look forward to peace, harmony and less colourful vocabulary. I don't know what happened to the traffic monitoring we were promised and wonder what the purpose of the new post with no sign is.

Residents are busy preparing for the annual vigil of Allhallowtide, the time in the liturgical year dedicated to remembering the dead, honouring the saints and praying for the recently departed souls who have yet to reach Heaven. Accompanied children will go on a pumpkin hunt and be rewarded with a treat for each pumpkin they spot. Donations will be collected in support of the Old School Room.

Until supplanted by pumpkins, turnips and mangel wurzels were carved into grotesque faces as lanterns, reputedly to represent the spirits or ward off evil spirits. They were common in Ireland and the Scottish Highlands in the 19th century, as well as in Somerset where the event was called Punkie Night. In the 20th century they spread through England. They obviously work; no one has reported the presence of evil spirits for ages.

Some scholars believe the tradition may have pagan roots and was adopted by the early Christian Church from Celtic harvest festival traditions. Others believe it originated as a Christian holiday. Contemporary celebrations seem to be more commercial than Christian.

Stuart Oldham

01869 338147

sj_oldham@btinternet.com

PFSU and Village Nursery

We were very excited to be able to watch the Women's UK Bike Tour as it sped through Deddington. We made flags and got into position on the Hempton Road ready to wave at the police motorbikes, the vans and the cyclists as they went by. We were rewarded with plenty of waves and a fine selection of sirens, really making our day. Even the local press stopped to photograph and interview some of the children.

A few days later we joined the primary school by dressing in yellow to support World Mental Health Day and to raise money for Young Minds. We helped our children to think about how they could make their friends feel better if they were feeling sad. They came up with some really positive ideas.

Lucy Squires

01869 337484

Hempton Common Lands Charity Open to All Residents of Hempton

The charity can consider applications for furniture, bedding, clothing, food, fuel, heating appliances, tools, books, payment of fees for instruction or examination or travelling expenses. This list is indicative rather than exclusive.

Most of the grants are up to £100 but the trustees might consider making a larger grant if there were funds available.

Applications must be made in writing to the vicar, Annie Goldthorp, vicar@deddingtonchurch.org. More details are available on our website, www.hempton-charity.org.

DEDDINGTON ENVIRONMENT NETWORK

Saturday 16 October saw an enthusiastic team of about 40 volunteers gather at Welford's Piece in Clifton for the planting of our new community orchard, in collaboration with the parish council. Some brought spades, some bulb planters, the Brownies provided delicious cakes and drinks and the spring bulbs plus 15 assorted heritage fruit trees were soon settled into their new homes, complete with stakes and tree-guards. It was a wonderful morning, a tribute to the fantastic spirit that underpins our community. Heartfelt thanks to everyone who generously donated their time or money or helped in any way with this project.

By the time you are reading this, the United Nations COP26 Summit should have started in Glasgow and will continue until 12 November. If relying on our global leaders to save the planet isn't enough for you, you might want to have a look at the #Together for Our Planet campaign which has been building momentum this year and aims to reach out and educate individuals, schools and businesses about the steps we can all take to tackle the global climate emergency. As part of the campaign, #One Step Greener ambassadors have been appointed to showcase how as individuals we can come together. You can visit the website <https://together-for-our-planet.ukcop26.org/> for more information, ideas and packs for your school or business.

It seems early to mention the C-word but with Christmas approaching check out our website www.deddingtonenvironment.net for ideas on how to celebrate the festive season in a simpler, more earth-friendly way including ideas and tips for 'green' decorations, presents and food.

If you maxed out on all your old DVDs and iPlayer during lockdown and are fed-up with Netflix and other streaming channels but are looking for some good TV

to watch during the long winter evenings, then have a look at WaterBear. It's a free streaming platform and app dedicated to the future of our planet, created by Ellen Windemuth, producer of *My Octopus Teacher*. You can watch documentaries and original content on themes related to the UN's sustainable development goals, as well as sign petitions and link up with climate organisations through their interactive hub.

Following the success of our recent Gardening for Wildlife talk and Swift Walk in June, we are working hard to put together a varied programme of events for the coming year including talks on subjects such as how to boost hedgehog numbers and wilding your garden, visits to Otmoor bird reserve and local organic farms, cider-making and wildlife photography workshops, regular litter-picks and porch pick-ups, as well as film screenings and a monthly pub-meet, among other things. Keep a look out here, on Facebook or via our newsletter for more details. All these events are being made possible by the efforts of our loyal and hard-working team of volunteers. We have been very lucky to have been joined recently by some new and enthusiastic members but would always welcome new helpers, so get in touch if you could spare some time, however small, and would like to get involved or want to subscribe to our email newsletters at info@deddingtonenvironment.net.

Nick and Fiona Smith

Friends of Deddington Library

Thank you to everyone who bought calendars at the September and October farmers' markets. Sales were up on last year so don't wait until the December market as it could be too late. Come to the November market and get your Deddington library calendar before they're sold out.

If you can't make it to the market, then call in to Nellie & Dove in the Market Place as they have calendars in stock. They're an ideal Christmas gift for family and friends near and far.

We're looking forward to seeing your photos of the Women's Tour cycle race that sped its way through the parish. There were some great images to be had and the autumnal colours are providing us with some beautiful photo opportunities. Keep on snapping.

Bryn Williams
abw@brynwilliams.com
 01869 361940

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Development at the Windmill

There's been plenty going on outside at the Windmill this year. At the play park, the parish council hired a Portaloo for the summer holiday period and now, courtesy of the Windmill team, that's going to stay until the end of October half-term week. This has shown there's a huge need for an outside toilet as families have often been pitching up with picnics, happy to spend half a day here.

There's more: bicycle racks will be going up near the Lookout to keep bikes safe and, thanks to another grant from the farmers' market, we'll be sowing more wildflower seeds on the other side of the ramp leading to the copse, matching the gorgeous display last summer.

You may have noticed a gate across the entrance to the Windmill. We've been advised to have a lockable gate in case of unwanted visitors who might choose to set up camp on the playing-fields. We know anyone can get in if they are determined enough, so we have to make it that bit more difficult for them and less costly and disruptive for us to get them out. If we have to take emergency action, signs will be posted on the gate so cars can be retrieved and there will be plenty of warning on social media.

You'll see the old play equipment by the tennis courts has gone. Wood rot meant it was no longer safe – and anyway we have the hugely popular and successful adventure playground, woodland trail and Pocket Park to keep children happy.

We keep a careful eye on finances – your finances – so it's particularly galling when we have to fork out to repair damage resulting from vandalism. Recent mindlessness involves spray painting on the MUGA fence and tarmac surface, and stones, logs and concrete being thrown around. The play areas are checked regularly and they're covered by CCTV. We won't hesitate to prosecute anyone found damaging anything around the Windmill.

There are changes too inside the building: the Hempton Lounge has a new hard floor and it's been redecorated, making it a much brighter space (thanks again to the Windmill team). Later this autumn, and with a grant from the William Delafield Trust, an old storeroom will be turned into a room for the Parish Archive – it can also be hired as a breakout space for meetings elsewhere in the Centre.

The long-awaited refurb of the toilets is getting closer. They were past their best years ago and are going to have a complete revamp to bring them up to date, including a proper accessible toilet and baby change. Not before time, I know. We are investigating putting accessible toilets, one internal access and one outside access (replacing a Portaloo), on the west side of the Centre. There's a way to go on this project yet.

So lots of improvements, big and small, going on to make your Community Centre a better place for everybody.

Mary Robinson

robimary@gmail.com

Tales from the Pump

It was approaching closing time with just a few hangers-on in the bar. The sort of time conversations can get creative. It was Julie who said, 'You know, Grumpy, I really enjoyed those quiz nights you used to have here on a Tuesday night. Used to be quite busy and good fun.' 'Trouble with quizzers,' I grumped 'is they don't drink a lot, trying to keep their concentration, and by the time the question-master had drunk free beer all night and all the prizes were given, there wasn't a lot of profit.' 'What you need, Grumpy', chips in Reg, 'are quizzes that encourage drinking. They could be based on TV quiz shows maybe. For instance, there's a show on now called *Beat the Chasers* – people who get a question wrong would have to drink a shot.' Julie likes this idea and orders a whiskey chaser for her lager and joins in with, 'Yes, and how about Have I got Booze for You? or for the winos, Hock the Week?' Peter isn't a big drinker and suggests quizzes called The Weakest Drink and Pintless. 'But you'd still make a good margin, Grumpy,' he adds hastily.



Reg has been keeping quiet but has obviously been thinking about the old days. 'There used to be a show with Eamonn Andrews which could be adapted to What's My Wine? and how about Ale of the Century?'

Young Pete is a sports enthusiast and looks at Reg a bit quizzically, not having a clue what he's talking about, but is determined not to be left out and volunteers A Lager of their Own and A Question of Port.

By this time I realise that this scintillating pub badinage was designed to keep me open and behind the bar. They look at me expectantly for my input.

'There was a game on TV called *Beat the Clock* which I'm afraid you guys haven't. If I was allowed to say Time Ladies and Gentlemen I would, but Time People will have to do. And anyone thinking of suggesting Who Wants to be a Millionaire? please remember, don't buy a pub.'

Grumpy night to all.

Grumpylandlord1@gmail.com

LETTERS

FROM CHRISTOPHER HALL, DEDDINGTON

The Traidcraft stall is no longer at the farmers' market but samples of the wide range of Christmas cards are on display in the church and Traidcraft catalogues are available in the porch. Viviane Hall handles orders for cards, Fair Trade foods, crafts and domestic products available from Traidcraft, saving individual customers the postage payable when placing online orders.

Let her have your order at The Knowle, Philcote Street, Deddington, OX15 OTB, 01869 338225, vm-hall1990@gmail.com.

FROM KATHARINE HOUSE HOSPICE *Care for a Curry*

This autumn, why not host a #CareForACurry event and help raise money for Katharine House? Simply pick a date, get some friends and family together and enjoy. It's a simple and tasty way to raise money for Katharine House.

What's on the Cards this Christmas?

We have a range of charity Christmas cards this year. As well as some traditional designs, we have



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

snow-covered local scenes to a glitzy partridge in a pear tree. So why not stock up on your Christmas cards now and get ahead of the game? Cards are available to buy in our shops as well as online.

RC Baker Christmas Tractor Run – 18 December

The RC Baker Tractor Run is making a welcome return, bringing all the glitz and glam of Christmas. A fleet of fairy-lit tractors will be taking a tour around local villages to spread Christmas cheer and raise money for Katharine House Hospice.

FROM JOAN WRIGHT, DEDDINGTON

You will have seen in last month's edition of *The Deddington News* that I have stepped down, having been on the Parish Show committee for many years. My role as assistant secretary involved publicity, raffle prizes and delivering a few posters. I have to emphasise that this was not an arduous job and I am now hoping that somebody will come forward to fill this vacancy.

If you're interested, please contact me on 01869 338535, 07484 818182 or joanwright985@btinternet.com. Thank you.



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DEDDINGTON WAR MEMORIAL REFURBISHMENT

In recent years several hundred people from our village have attended the short annual service on Remembrance Sunday at our war memorial in the lower churchyard. Last year the ceremony had to be cancelled but we fully expect it to take place this year at 10.45am on Sunday 14 November.

Those who come will find that the memorial has been professionally cleaned and the pathway to and around it is refurbished with steel edging and new gravel. We now have a very fitting memorial to those from our village who gave their lives for our country.

I should like to record that there are many to be thanked – starting with the members of the Royal British Legion who donated £2,800. The Deddington Original Golf Society, *The Deddington News* and several individuals also provided several hundred pounds each. Johnson's of Deddington kindly donated the new gravel and lastly, but certainly not least, Richard Spencer's company did all the work at cost. The parish council had offered up to £1,000 should it be needed but in the end the costs were met by donations. Finally, the whole lower churchyard is looking at its best for at least a generation, thanks to our team of volunteers who now look after it.

We can rightly be proud of this commemoration of the huge sacrifices by previous generations which gave rise to the peace which we have all enjoyed.

Andrew Green



Pic: Richard Broadbent, The war memorial

FRIENDS OF DAEDA'S WOOD

The Friends finally had the AGM which was postponed from 2020 ... I report in brief:

Sadly, since the last AGM in 2019, Sylvie Nickels, who championed the planting of the Wood, has died. The Woodland Trust will be placing a plaque on the gate near the Cosy Lane entrance very close to the silver birch tree planted in her memory by the Friends.

The Friends will stay convened as a group with a watching brief, that's to say we will monitor the Wood and liaise with the Woodland Trust when necessary. Funds in the account will be used for necessary expenditure and possible purchase of a bench in the future.

There will no longer be a need for paying a subscription.

The present committee is happy to continue to serve.

Occasional reports will be sent to the *Deddington News* and *Barford News*.

It was noted that much use of the Wood was made during the lockdown periods. The Woodland

Trust has ensured that the rides are kept free from encroaching undergrowth, the wildflower meadow has been strimmed and the wheelchair accessible path improved. The bat-boxes had been in use last year although no monitoring was possible until this month when Reg Tipping's group recorded 16 natterers and adjusted the fastenings of some boxes where tree growth had caused fixings to cut into the bark. Their next visit will be in May 2022.

The Friends were pleased to note that visitors to the Wood have been respectful and considerate in clearing up dog and picnicking litter. It's a valuable community asset and this shows how much it's prized.

Alison Day's preparation of the digital updated Diary of the Wood continues and will be made available in due course.

More information about Daeda's Wood is available on the Woodland Trust website as well as Deddington OnLine.

Annette Murphy, Chair

murphyannette74@gmail.com

Ride and Stride Funds Raised

Thank you to everyone who took part in this year's Ride and Stride, walking, cycling and welcoming visitors. Together we raised £905. Half of this will go to help churches in need throughout Oxfordshire, and the

other half to our church here in Deddington.

Look out for details of next year's event, second Saturday in September.

Sarah Liebrecht s.liebrecht2@gmail.com

NEWS FROM CLIFTON

It is my sad duty to write of the sudden and unexpected death of Andre. He will be missed, not just by Book Club (he was a keen attendee and was on many of their trips) but by all the community. Our thoughts and all the assistance we can give go to Cindy.

Lower Larkrise was plunged back into the three-day week when Scottish Power wrote to us warning of two power outages from 9.00–9.30am and again at 4.00–4.30pm. What actually happened was West Lower Larkrise enjoyed privation of nine hours, not seen since Ted Heath picked a fight with miners. This happened while the leaky company was trying to take away the tarpaulin that has been a feature of the bus stop for the last 27 years since someone leaving St Anne's confused their brake with the accelerator and hit the village transformer.

Our tame sceptic, David Darst, had a traumatic RTA of his own, not as he was 'sitting in the railway station with a ticket to his destination' but hugging the left-hand bushes as a very large tractor towing a muck spreader came down the hill to County Bridge and took his mirror clean off. Beware big vehicles coming down that hill at speed.

Local news is still a bit thin with Book Club continuing to fail to prepare a traditional Hook Norton visit to finally give Mr Clinkard the traditional send off he deserves. Once again Iron Man proves he can't organise a proverbial, this time hindered by our dear Italian.

Fantastic Mr Fox has been trying to cheer up DD by visiting his garden, leaving his messages around and generally entertaining him. Some, however, think it

might be the Hungarian Vizsla that lives next door, enjoying having taken a point off Gareth the other week.

All updates including introductions, corrections or family additions to Martin Bryce – martindnbryce@gmail.com PLEASE!

Holly Tree Club

On Monday 4 October we were able to hold our AGM in person at last. We were unable to hold one last year because of Covid and it was lovely to see so many members able to get together at this year's meeting. It was well attended and reports from the treasurer and chair, among others, were well received. Most importantly, we're delighted our members felt able to welcome the remaining Deddington Day Care members into the Holly Tree Club family and look forward to seeing them at our weekly coffee mornings.

Two committee members stood down at the AGM and were thanked for their work over the previous years. The newly elected committee hopes that the club continues to thrive and recover from the Covid closure. Members are really enjoying being able to meet again regularly and very much enjoy the new surroundings in our lovely hall.

We are currently organising a trip to Stratford Garden Centre for November and there are plans for more outings, lunches and, we hope, film showings.

For all Holly Tree Club enquiries, please email info@The-HollyTreeClub.org.

Julia Cork, Members Liaison
07881 438930



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DL History Corner

deddingtonhistory.uk

Those readers who attended the RBL Poppy Appeal evening on 29 October will know that our War Memorial was erected in 1922. Having been recently cleaned and restored (along with the gravel path and grass surround) it looks today just as it must have done on 6 August of that year when it was unveiled by Major General Sir Robert Fanshaw, KCB, DSO, and dedicated in the presence of the vicar, the Revd Boniface, and the Wesleyan and Congregational pastors, Revds Buckingham and Carter.

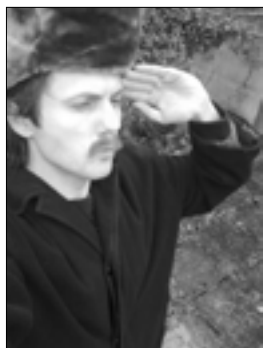
However, the project was not without significant problems. The idea for a memorial was first mooted in May 1919 and a committee formed under the chairmanship of Mr Millington of Leadenporch Farm. By August, a design had been approved at a cost of £230 – some £12k today – but there was a lot of village politics about its location and getting approval from the diocesan authorities caused delay. In January 1920 the chairman felt obliged to issue a public apology for the continuing delays. A further year later,

when still no progress had been made, Mr Millington, in a letter to the diocesan authority, says he is close to resigning. At this point an angry Miss Ellen Hands had a brass plaque engraved with the names of the fallen at her own expense and hung it in the church in March 1921; it can still be seen on the wall in the north porch. Discussion as to whose names should be on the memorial may have been one of the causes of the delay. There were no rules or precedent. In the end there were 51 names engraved on it. Subsequent research for the book *A Parish at War* revealed that there were a further 19 men born or resident in Deddington who were not included. They have now been recorded on the plaque on the north wall which was dedicated by the Bishop of Dorchester on 16 June 2013. All 70 names – along with the 16 Boer War, WWII and national service names – are read out by the vicar at our Remembrance Sunday Service before the two minutes silence.

Rob Forsyth

robert.s.forsyth@gmail.com

BLISSFUL THINKING



With summer being almost gone and, by virtue the season of Samhain where we endeavour to break through to the other side, I felt like I should touch upon the macabre somewhat.

Like the story of the Headless Horseman of Hempton who, legend has it, spawned the phrase 'losing one's head' when he got so angry at a

carriage that cut him up on his journey, he actually removed his own head to hurl as a projectile at the transgressors and continues to haunt the intersection of Hempton, Duns Tew and the Barfords to this day. Or the malevolent Clifton Gargoyle, who comes to life only during great storms in order to wreak havoc on those with weak hearts. I'm never sure of Deddington's blight but sometimes I suspect it is the mysterious face etched into the wall at the back door of Eagle's, facing the church. I always thought it resembles Jim Morrison or at least the Val Kilmer version of Jim Morrison, opening the Deddington Doors of perception to the non-believers.

Have your eyes seen this?

Aaron Bliss

aaronjbliss@hotmail.com

DEDDINGTON FIREWORKS NIGHT

6 November

Deddington Primary School teachers and parents invite you to join them for a night of fireworks on the school field on Saturday 6 November. Access is from Earls Lane and the event starts at 6.00pm, with blast-off scheduled for 7.00 pm. Everyone from the parish and beyond is welcome.

There will be a licensed bar, barbecue, Paddy's coffee stand, popcorn, candyfloss and the famous flashing toys stand. It's a lovely community event which raises important and much appreciated money for Deddington Primary School.

Work is under way to renovate the playground which is in need of some TLC, and funds from the fireworks night will help to make it a brighter and more exciting place to play.

It's been a long time since we've been able to come together with a beer and a burger in our hands, so please join us to 'ooh and ahh' at the thrills of fireworks night.

Early-bird tickets can be purchased, cash only, from the Flower Shop or at the gate. For enquiries please email deddingtonpta@gmail.com.

Please note this is a cash only event so bring your pennies and pounds. See you there.

Anne O'Brien

Deddington Primary School PTA

DEDDINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL



As we head towards half-term, we are enjoying autumn. The whole school attended Deddington church for the Harvest Community Communion Service during early October. This was the first time we had been able to do this in more than a year. The children in each class

produced some beautiful artwork on large sheets of paper which was displayed in church. They also generously brought in a huge amount of produce to support Banbury Food Bank. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

A wide range of after-school clubs have run since September. Children of all ages have been able to take part in these, involving singing, producing artwork, Makaton signing, athletics, football and more. We were again inspired by professionals when the Women's Cycling Tour 2021 passed the school on 4 October. Many of our pupils were thrilled to catch a glimpse of the race.

On 8 October we joined in YoungMinds '#HelloYellow' day. By getting involved in this, which was set up in support of World Mental Health Day, we were able to show that doing a small thing can make a big difference to young people's mental health. The children loved wearing yellow clothes and brought in £2 each to donate to YoungMinds. Thank you to all our parents and carers who supported the children with this event.

Denise Welch

dwel3954@deddington.oxon.sch.uk



It's great to see most of our regular groups back at the Windmill: badminton, MissFITT fitness, Pilates, yoga, Zumba,

dance, Dance to Health, Canine Paradise, Cubs, Scouts, Brownies, Guides, Spartans, Beavers, Little Olives Baby Massage, Musical Minis and Deddington Babies and Toddlers are all doing their thing. The Deddington Players held their auditions for this year's panto and rehearsals will soon be ramping up, oh yes they will. Outside, adult and youth football and tennis are in full swing as are netball and the many five-a-side football teams on the all-weather court. If you're interested, details of all these activities are on our website at www.thewindmilleddington.org or on our FB page.

A pretty good range of activities on offer, I hope you'll agree. But there is room for more – so much more ... What about circuit training, ballet, ballroom dancing, line dancing, Barre fit, table tennis, walking football, Padel, pickleball? (I'm not just making this stuff up). Of course it's not just sports and exercise. The Windmill is ideal for all sorts of clubs and classes, not to mention parties, meetings and fundraising events. Our programme of updates and improvements to the facilities continues apace so we are waiting for your call. Are you somebody who could set up a group, run sessions and expand our range of activities? We'd love to hear from you.

Vaughan Jones

vaughan@englishlanguagematters.com

What's in a Name?

The parish council was asked recently to come up with possible names for the new housing development on the Hempton Road, and we zoned in on Hobart Close and Fardon Way. So who were they?

Major General Sir Percy Cleghorn Stanley Hobart of Leadenporch House had an illustrious career as the developer of Hobart's 'Funnies' – mine clearance equipment, bridge layers and swimming tanks – which proved crucial in the WWII Normandy landings. The Fardons were a famous family of clockmakers in the 17th and 18th centuries.

That set me thinking about some of the other street names in the parish. Some are self-explanatory like the Banbury and Clifton Roads; some have a historical connection like Castle Street (near the site of the 12th century Deddington Castle) or Mill Close and Windmill Street (near the windmill which once stood where the Windmill Centre is now). Another historical connection gives us Piers Row and Gaveston Gardens, both derived from Piers Gaveston, a favourite of Edward II,

captured and murdered in Deddington in 1312. The Daedings was named after Daeda, probably an early Saxon lord who gave his name to Daedintun. The Tchure has been the source of much speculation over the years but is thought to mean a narrow alley – what it says on the tin.

Some have a geographical link, like Church Street and Chapel Square, sites of the parish church and Wesleyan Chapel respectively.

But who was the earl in Earl's Lane? And what about Hudson Street, Chapmans Lane and Mackley Close in Deddington, Batchelors Row in Hempton, and Pepper Alley and Chase Villas in Clifton? If anyone has any ideas why these were so-called, I'd love to hear.

A more complete list – still with lots of gaps – is on Deddington OnLine <https://www.deddingtonhistory.uk/publishedhistories/mvt/3.streetsandhouses>.

Mary Robinson

robimary@gmail.com

01869 338272

CALLING ALL CLUBS

Photographic Society

At our last meeting we were treated to a very special look at Yorkshire in the 1960s by Paul Brewerton, ARPS. During lockdown Paul used the time to look through his archive of negatives. He transferred his old film images into pixels and produced a series of stunning black and white images. It was interesting to see the landscapes of Yorkshire and the Lake District and to hear the accompanying stories with each image. They show a much simpler life with very little traffic, horses working the land and all the textures that black and white can create. The main collection was of landscapes, including clean snowy fields with drifted snow against dry-stone walls. Paul also showed the contents of run-down tithe barns where old wagons were illuminated by brilliant shafts of light as well as atmospheric stations with steam trains – a truly black and white delight.

Sunday 19 September saw members celebrating the 15th anniversary of the society's foundation. Miggy Wild organised a 'photo safari' around a circuit of villages and venues including a visit to Hinton-in-the-Hedges for the sky-diving. Inspiration for image ideas came from titles such as lines and curves, rural life, and transportation. There were some excellent photo opportunities along the route, especially at the airfield. The participants then met at North Aston House for a sunny picnic, a perfect end to a great day. Photographs are on the website.

You can also see the images submitted for our annual exhibition held at The Adderbury Institute and Deddington church if you were unable to visit.

Our next presentation is on Wednesday 3 November at 7.30pm at the Adderbury Institute where Robert Harvey, ARPS, will talk about photographing Wiltshire. You are most welcome to join us. Visit our website for further details.

Anne Hunsley
www.addphoto.co.uk

Royal British Legion Deddington Branch

The Remembrance Day Parade and service is on Sunday 14 November. Our former RBL Club and other generous benefactors deserve the acknowledgement given elsewhere in this edition for cleaning the war memorial and landscaping around it so that we now have properly surfaced pathways on which to march from Castle Street to the churchyard and then to the church afterwards.

An important part of the Branch's activity is remembering the 86 Deddington men who died in war; we are also responsible for ensuring that any ex-servicemen and women living in the local communities who need help receive it. The cost is paid for by the money raised in Poppy Weeks. Another way of supporting this is by becoming a member of RBL. Everyone is welcome to join. The modest annual membership subscription of £17 is a vital part of funding our charitable activities.

You can either join online (you will need to enter our branch number – RBL 0746) or contact me for a form.

The Branch AGM is on 25 November at 7.00pm in the Deddington Arms upstairs. Nominations for the committee should be received by 18 November.

Rob Forsyth Chairman
robert.s.forsyth@gmail.com

Deddington Players

Panto is back! This season's pantomime is *Peter Pan* and we've got everything crossed for it to go ahead without any surprises (expect the panto kind). Performance dates are 20–22 January at the Windmill. Thursday 20th's performance will be socially distanced audience seating, the other three performances will be as normal. Tickets available online later this year.

Suzie Upson
suzieupson@mac.com

Bookworms

Last month we read *The Versions of Us* by Laura Barnett. The story of Eva and Jim is told in triplicate, so the reader gets three different versions of their future – together and apart – from 1958 when they meet, to the present day. With various twists and turns to the conclusion, the narrative is really all about the choices that are made and the different paths that their lives follow. This has a similar storyline to the 1998 romantic comedy drama, *Sliding Doors*, written and directed by Peter Howitt.

Disappointingly, despite the good reviews, the Bookworms found all the twists and turns of the different versions frustrating and tediously confusing. It was a page-turner but not in the usual sense, as the reader must keep referring back to see which version is being updated. The writing was not of a standard to keep the reader enthralled and so most gave up on this book before the end.

We meet on the last Thursday of each month and currently have a couple of spaces for new members.

Continued on p17

Deddington Fire Station

We have had the benefit of some off-station drill nights across September, using unfamiliar derelict buildings to keep crew members up to scratch with vital breathing apparatus (BA) procedures and allowing those working towards their BA Team Leaders to practise the required skills in the run up to their practical assessments. FF Wilby will soon be undertaking his initial BA training course in which we wish him the best of luck.

Among the nine fire calls we responded to in September, we attended our first chimney fire of the season. Fortunately it was extinguished before any damage was done but it serves as a timely reminder to get your chimney swept before lighting the fire on one of the chilly autumn days we have been having.

FF Corrie King

CALLING ALL CLUBS

Continued from p16

If you would like to join us, contact me for more information.

Janet Macey
01869 336156

Local Vocals Community Choir

We meet on Mondays at 7.30pm during term-time at Deddington Primary School.

I think we have all felt like complete novices on our return to singing. Thankfully our ever-patient choir leader, Rachel, is teasing out the notes and occasionally we erupt into spontaneous applause when we get it right. It's only October as I write this and already we have started to learn our Christmas songs. We all seem keen to have as much practise as possible this year. Please come and see if the choir is for you. You will be made very welcome. The first session is free. No experience is required and no need to be able to read music as we learn by ear.

To find out more about our choir (including our Covid protocols) or to contact us, please see our website, www.localvocalscc.co.uk.

Alison Grieve

Book Group

The Great Fortune is the first of *The Balkan Trilogy* by Olivia Manning. The story, which is semi-autobiographical in nature, follows a newly married expat couple, Guy and Harriet Pringle, and their many disparate colleagues and acquaintances in Bucharest at the start of the war. The unease amongst the large cast of characters starts to grow as they wait for the war to affect them.

The start of the book is promising and there is

expectation for the story to develop but, despite the momentous events which are taking place throughout Europe, nothing much seems to happen.

The sections relating to the extreme poverty of the peasants with the great privilege of the upper classes and the memorable descriptions of the changing seasons in Bucharest, in particular the snow-melt, combine to make it worth persevering through some of the slower and less interesting chapters.

Our next book is *Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell, which we will be discussing on 25 November.

Sally Lambert
01869 338094

Deddington and District History Society

Our next meeting is at 7.30pm on Thursday 18 November at Deddington School, when Liz Woolley will talk on 'Child Labour in 19th Century Oxfordshire'. Liz is a lecturer at Oxford University Department for Continuing Education and has done invaluable research into every aspect of life and industry in Oxford and the surrounding areas. She has published several booklets as a result of her work and is keen on supporting local history associations by giving illustrated talks. She is no stranger to our Society, and we are very pleased to greet her again.

We are making every effort to make our meetings Covid safe and stress free. The room will be well-ventilated and seats will be arranged at a distance. Groups can move together and cautious folk can move seats to be socially distant. Our aim is to get back to normal while at the same time respecting each other's sensitivities.

Jean Dipper

SPORT

Deddington Tennis Club

On the sunny Sunday afternoon of 26 September, we had our annual club finals. Having great weather, nice cakes and a barbecue are three sure-fire ways to get an audience and there was a good turnout of supporters as well as the players taking part.

The men's and ladies' singles started at 10.00am. In the men's, Sam Anand eventually emerged the winner over Peter Dahlman in two hard and closely fought sets. In the ladies, Kathryn Hampshire had a more comfortable win over her friend and ladies' team captain, Sally Wetten.

Our umpires, Ed Toll and Paul Taylor, oversaw all the finals. It soon became clear that all of Ed's matches were going to be epics. Paul umpired the men's doubles, which was won by David Edwards and Steve Ashby in straight sets over Nick Adams and Andy Camoenie. The ladies, umpired by Ed, was a much less straightforward match, with many long rallies and three hard-fought sets. Eventually Anne

Pearson and Cathy Wigmore emerged the winners. The runners-up, Sarah Hewett and Chrissie Rose, had five minutes to rehydrate before opposing each other in the mixed doubles.

Ed umpired again and, guess what? It was another three-set epic. Eventually Sarah and her partner Steve Geekie won. Having lost the first set, they found their form and easily took sets two and three from Chrissie and her partner Andy Hawken.

Chrissie and Sarah were possibly only marginally more tired than Ed, who had been on court solidly for about six hours.

Thanks to everyone who was involved in organising the day and congratulations to all the winners and runners-up.

If you're interested in playing tennis, please visit our website where you can also see photos of finals day.

Becky Jones
www.deddingtontennis.com
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SPORT*Continued from p17***Deddington Town Football Club***First Team results:*

18.09.21 Longford Park FC (h) W 4–1 Atherton, Hall S, Thornton (Joe) (2)
 25.09.21 Charlton and District (a) W 2–1 Kaye, Thornton (Joe)
 02/10/21 Hardwick Sports Club (a) L 1–3

Reserve Team results:

18.09.21 Steeple Aston First (a) L 0–3
 02.10.21 Bicester Athletic First (a) Forfeit
 09.10.21 Wroxton Sports Res (h) D 1–1

The Humbugs have finally begun their season, and it's been a decent start, with two wins out of three and Joe Thornton contributing most of the goals. This leaves them sitting in midtable with a couple of games in hand on most of the teams above them. Sadly, 2 October was a dismal weekend, where the First Team managed to field a team at the expense of Deddington Athletic, who had to forfeit their game, for no benefit, as they lost their first match to Hardwick. Athletic had a month to forget but still sit comfortably in midtable.

Aaron Bliss
 07909 642882

Deddington Town Youth Teams

The Under 15s playing in the B League had an 8–0 win over Carterton Town with two goals each for James Marrett and Ben Jones, followed by a 2–2 draw with Chadlington, and 5–0 win over Combe Junior Sports. The Under 13s playing in the B League, had a narrow 2–3 home defeat to Chadlington (nearly coming back after being 0–3 down at half-time) followed by a 1–1 draw with Kidlington Youth, and then a 6–1 heavy defeat at Tower Hill. The Under 12s playing in the Oxfordshire Youth Football League in the D division had a 7–1 away win at Grove Challengers with a hat-trick for Henry Downes and two goals for Aiden Corner. This was followed by a 5–0 win over Kennington Athletic, with two more goals for Henry Downes, and a 12–1 win at Oxford Blackbirds Athletic with hat-tricks for Henry Downes, Aidan Corner and Jack Thomas and two goals for Jacob Adams. The Under 12s now sit top of the league.

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,
 07899 914425

YOUTH**1st Deddington Scout Group***Cubs*

The Cubs have had a busy time working towards their Communicator Badge. We looked at stamps and the postal system (remember them?), Braille, signing and codes. They learnt to send a message in Morse code and use a walkie-talkie correctly before finishing off with a fiendish treasure hunt that incorporated all the former.

Cubs is for boys and girls aged 8–10½. We meet every Thursday, in term-time, between 6.00 and 7.30pm at the Windmill Centre.

Jo Churchyard
deddingtoncubs@gmail.com

Scouts

Oh, my goodness, they are so noisy! But that's probably a good thing as they have also been working towards their Communicator Badge. First came the Lego game: look at a Lego pattern then try to describe it to your team-mates to replicate, no pointing allowed. Then they made a simple open electrical circuit as a Morse code 'flasher' and sent some Q-code messages (look it up). They learnt the phonetic code and then made up their own based purely on articles of clothing.

We have ventured out in the dark to play a game called Combat. It is like chess but with more shrieking, and we staged a conker tournament that was won, not by William, but by Harry.

Scouts is for boys and girls aged 10½–14. We

meet every Thursday, in term-time, between 7.30 and 9.30pm at the Windmill Centre.

Peter Churchyard
deddingtonscouts@gmail.com

Explorers

Our small but exclusive group has been out and about, bowling and enjoying an evening at The Escape Room (unfortunately, they did all escape). An evening of sports and a movie night rounded off the month's activities.

If you are interested in joining the Unit contact any of the leaders at spartanexplorers@gmail.com

The Spartans Explorer Scout Unit is for anyone aged 14–18. We meet every Thursday, in term-time, between 7.30 and 9.00pm.

Janet Duxbury
spartanexplorers@gmail.com

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