

December 2019

The **DEDDINGTON NEWS**



The best Christmas package delivered free
to Deddington, Clifton and Hempton

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by **18 January**

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by **10 January**

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COVER

Alison Day

The DEDDINGTON NEWS

The day after the fair had visited I walked the short distance to the village. On my way I picked up a recyclable drink carton, a cigarette packet, a tin foil container that had had food in it, a beer bottle, a paper napkin, and a piece of artificial ribbon. As they were all on the Hempton road and the footpath running between Hempton road and the Daedings, I think it's safe to assume that they were left by people who live in Deddington. Depressing, isn't it? JC

What's On

December

- Mon 2 Holly Tree Club: Coffee Morning, Holly Tree, 10.30am
- Mon 2 Bookworms: Library, 6.30pm
- Tue 3 PFSU and Nursery: Christmas Fayre, Parish Church, 7.30pm
- Wed 4 Photographic Society: 'A Personal Wander Through the Technology Used in my Photography', Cartwright Hotel, 7.30pm
- Wed 4 Windmill Centre: Drinks, 7.00–8.00pm
- Thu 5 Knit and Natter: Holly Tree, 7.00pm
- Fri 6 Royal British Legion: AGM followed by Christmas Dinner, Deddington Arms, 7.00pm
- Sat 7 Hempton Bazaar: Old School Room, 11.00am
- Sun 8 Choros: Advent Carols By Candlelight, Parish Church, 6.30pm
- Tue 10 WI: Christmas and Birthday Lunch, Duke in Clifton, 12.00pm
- Thu 12 Holly Tree Club: Film Night, *Holiday Inn*, Holly Tree, 6.30pm
- Fri 13 DOGS: 9-hole Texas Scramble, Tadmarton Heath, 1.00pm
- Wed 18 PC Meeting: Holly Tree Club, 7.30pm
- Wed 18 Photographic Society: 'Restoration of Old Photographs', Dianne Berridge, Cartwright Hotel, 7.30pm
- Thu 19 History Society: Christmas Social, Primary School, 7.30pm
- Fri 20 Dolly and the Ivys, Parish Church, 7.00pm
- Sat 21 Farmers' Market: Market Place, 9.00am–12.30pm
- Tue 24 Christmas Eve Carols: Market Place, 6.00pm

January

- Mon 6 Holly Tree Club: Coffee Morning, Holly Tree, 10.30am

Continued on p2

Cover Deddington Circular Walk

The Market Place in all its Christmas glory and the start and end of the circular walk. Thank you to my husband, Chris for, providing the photograph and John Price for making it print ready. You can download a map of the walk from Cherwell District Council's website at www.cherwell.gov.uk/downloads/file/7931/deddington-circular-walk. Also have a look at *Walking around Deddington* written by the late Ralph Elsley and reproduced on Deddington OnLine: www.deddingtonhistory.uk/guides/countryside/ralphswalks.

Alison Day

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DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Old School Room, Hempton, 7.30pm Wednesday 20 November

Present: Councillors Collins, Eames, Kent, Oldfield, Robinson, Rogers (chair), Squires, Swadling, Timms, Watts. Also Cllrs Fatemian (OCC), Williams (CDC).

Planning Applications

No objection

Russet Cottage, The Stile, Deddington: first floor extension over existing single storey.

Grove Court, Deddington: reduce crowns of three trees.

19 The Paddocks, Deddington: construction of 3-bed bungalow in garden on site already approved for single dwelling. Access from The Paddocks with ground floor room being demolished to create drive through arch. Addition of conservatory at rear. DPC requests no skips on road and permeable surface for onsite parking areas.

Old House, Philcote Street, Deddington: replacement of roof and internal works.

Whittawyers, Horse Fair, Deddington: replacement of existing windows and two doors at rear.

Caldicote House, Main Street, Clifton: insertion of dormer in rear slope of extension to main house.

Approved by CDC

Agricultural building, Clifton Road, Deddington

8 Castle Street, Deddington

Home Farm, Main Street, Clifton

Ashley House, Chapel Close, Clifton

Post Office Cottage, Main Street, Clifton

Laurel House, Bull Ring, Deddington

19 St John's Way, Hempton

63 St John's Way, Hempton

Grove Lodge, High Street, Deddington

Planning

Neighbourhood Plan

The PC is formally notifying CDC of the withdrawal of the Neighbourhood Plan and its intention to continue with the process and submit a revised plan as soon as possible.

Large Development

An extension has been granted for the application to develop land south of Clifton Road which is now a ribbon development along the existing building line. It is for 14 houses, including five affordable units; two 1-bed flats, and a terrace of three 2-bed houses. A request will be made that the units are tenure blind so that it is unclear who owns their property and who is renting.

Environment and Recreation

The Windmill lease has been registered with the Land Registry. A full structural survey is to be done by June 2002. The 2020 business plan proposes completion of projects held over from 2019: installing a wood floor in the upstairs meeting-room and refurbishing the toilets, repairing the roof and surfacing the rear car park. Guards have been installed on the heaters in the Main Hall to solve the cooked shuttlecock problem. A working party will sow the wildflower area on Sunday 8 December. The Pocket Park is nearly complete, on time and on budget, and will be opened after an independent safety inspection. However, the owner of the adjoining house continues to fail in his responsibility to replace the fence he removed previously.

The Christmas tree will be erected on 25 November. The Castle Grounds tree survey revealed three trees needing urgent attention and 40 more within six months.

Finance and General Purposes

Current funds total £730,505. The annual precept request is due in January. CDC is phasing out its Council Tax Support Grant over the next two years: it will be down to £900 for 2020 from £2,200 in 2014.

Highways and Transport

Clifton residents have deluged Thames Water with complaints about flooding and are strongly encouraged to keep up the pressure.

There will be a four day closure of Main Street at Flur Cottage in Duns Tew between and including 2–5 December.

Next meeting: Holly Tree Club, Wednesday 18 December 7.30pm.

These Parish Council notes are the view of our reporter, Catherine Desmond, and not the official minutes. To see those, go to <http://www.deddingtonparishcouncil.org/2019.html>.

What's On

January *Continued from p1*

Mon 6 Bookworms: Library, 6.30pm

Wed 8 Photographic Society: Andreas Klatt, Interactive Session, Cartwright Hotel, 7.30pm

Thu 9 Holly Tree Club: Film Night, *The Fisherman's Friends*, Holly Tree, 6.30pm

Thu 9 Knit and Natter: Venue to be confirmed, please contact Cheryl, 07789 966486

Tue 14 WI: Scam Awareness, Holly Tree, 7.30pm

Wed 15 PC Meeting: Old School Room, Hempton, 7.30pm

Thu 16 History Society: Stephen Wass, 'Old Mettle', Primary School, 7.30pm

Thu 16 Deddington Players Pantomime: *Robin Hood*, Windmill, 7.30pm

Fri 17 Deddington Players Pantomime: *Robin Hood*, Windmill, 7.30pm

Sat 18 Deddington Players Pantomime: *Robin Hood*, Windmill, 2.30pm and 6.30pm

Thu 23 Skittles: Parish Church, 7.00pm

Thu 23 RBL: Burns Supper, Masons Hall, Banbury, 7.00pm for 8.00pm

Sat 25 Farmers' Market: Market Place, 9.00am–12.30pm

Thu 30 Book Group: Please contact Sally Lambert on 01869 338094 for details

FARMERS' MARKET

WHAT I DID ON MY HOLIDAYS

Mairood is in the far south of Thailand on the Cambodian border. Inhabited mainly by Cambodian refugees, it's a fishing village built on stilts over a mangrove swamp and a *khlong* (canal) leading to the sea. Hidden away in the middle, accessible only by the narrow boardwalks, is a hotel run by Mr Chin. Of all the amazing eating experiences (from mantis shrimp to fermented mud crab) one stood out – partly because of its apparent simplicity and partly because it is just an amazing dish. Here's how to do it:

CRAB OMELETTE

Serves 2

4 eggs, lightly beaten

Crab meat (about 150g, preferably white meat only)

Soy sauce

White pepper

Oil (more than you can possibly imagine)

Pour enough oil into a deep saucepan (or a wok if you have one) to fill it by about a third and put it on a medium heat. Yes, it is a frightening amount of oil but very little will make it to the finished dish and you can use it again for deep frying other things.

Add a decent pinch of white pepper and a generous splash of soy sauce to the beaten egg then carefully fold in the chunks of white crab meat.

You want to ensure the oil isn't too hot – or your omelette will burn. Drop a tiny bit of the egg mixture into the oil to test the temperature. When it's ready, carefully slide your egg mixture into the oil. You are

trying to float the egg in the hot oil. It should never touch the bottom of the pan.

If you have the temperature right the egg will foam and bubble. Gently guide its progress with a spatula (it sometimes helps to have two spatulas) and baste it with the hot oil. As the egg mix cooks and thickens you will be able to carefully fold or roll it into a more or less conventional omelette shape. The dish is done when the outside is crispy while the inside is still moist.

Gently lift the cooked omelette out of the oil and drain on paper towels. Some strategic dabbing with paper towel will remove any oil on top of the omelette.

Plate up and garnish with coriander and perhaps a finely shredded red chilli.

A Chang beer goes well with this.

If you need further instruction or elaboration you can have a look at Jay Fai's video. She runs a food stall in Bangkok – the first food stall in Thailand to gain a Michelin Star. <https://www.finedininglovers.com/article/michelin-starred-crab-omelette-jay-fai-street-food-star>.

The market webpage is www.deddingtonfarmers-market.co.uk. The market is on Saturday 21 December from 9.00am to 12.30pm. If you can't wait till then, there's always the Adderbury market on the second Thursday of each month at The Institute, The Green, Adderbury, 6.00-8.00pm. More details are at www.market.adderbury.org.

Good shopping!

Ian Willox

01869 337940

ian.willox@btconnect.com

Management Committee

First of all, an invitation to all Windmill users – and that means most of you. You are cordially invited to the Windmill on Wednesday 4 December at 7.00pm for festive drinks, mince pies and an informal chat about our plans for 2020. We'll be meeting in the Hempton Lounge and look forward to seeing you there.

There's a lot to celebrate. The improved outdoor sports facilities, new adventure playground, and soon to be opened new Pocket Park for the under-6s have transformed the Windmill into a wonderful community asset. We owe a massive thank you to Mary Robinson and the rest of the Windmill Development Group for seeing these projects through.

We've been steadily improving facilities inside the Windmill building too. New signage, doors, curtains and blinds, CCTV, WiFi, LED lighting, stage lights and heating in the Main Hall – the list goes on. You may also



have noticed a selection of fantastic photos of our beautiful parish adorning the walls. Thanks to Rosie Burland and the Friends of Deddington Library for making that happen.

We continue to host an ever-growing list of clubs and groups who offer a huge variety

of activities to suit every taste. Look out for more information on our website www.thewindmilldeddington.org or Facebook page. If you want to start a new club or group in the new year and are looking for a venue, then try us first as we still have some availability.

If you don't manage to make it to our drinks party on 4 December, on behalf of the whole Windmill team, I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Oh, and I'll see you at the Windmill for the Deddington Players' panto *Robin Hood of Daeda's Wood* on 16–18 January. (Oh yes, I will!)

Vaughan Jones

vaughan@englishlanguage matters.com

Friends of Deddington Library

The 2020 parish calendar was launched on 27 September in the library at a gathering of sponsors, volunteers and photo entrants and the photo competition winners were announced. By month they are Paul Drawmer, Geoff Todd, Linda Newbery, Steve Waterman, Tei Williams, Katherine Petty, Kevin Mayo, Mike Higgins, Helen Spencer, Alex Hayes, Jacek Ratajczak and Simon East. Each winning entrant received a complimentary calendar with the top three, Simon East, Kevin Mayo and Alex Hayes, receiving a large canvas print of their entry. Thank you to all our entrants, the winners and of course our loyal sponsors who are invaluable in producing the calendar.

On the following day our calendar went on sale to the public at the September farmers' market and did very well. We were also present at the October market and will be there again for November and December so please pop along to support the cause.

For this year, we have a smaller A5 sized calendar, should you prefer that to the normal A4, and we also have a beautiful Christmas card depicting our illuminated village Christmas tree and church tower from last Christmas. Once again thank you to all who have and continue to support the library and may I wish everyone a very happy Christmas and prosperous new year, thank you.

Bryn Williams
abw@brynwilliams.com

Don't be a Victim

Victims First has launched a video to raise awareness of coercive control and emotional abuse in relationships.

Following on from Victims First's 'Know It Isn't Love' campaign launched in February, the video, 'Don't Disappear', highlights signs to look for in a relationship which can be warnings of controlling behaviour and abuse. Coercive control became a criminal offence in 2015 and involves an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse by someone that is used to harm, punish or frighten their victim. Although many people associate domestic abuse with physical violence, coercive control recognises the damaging impact of other forms of abuse in relationships as well.

'Don't Disappear' follows the story of Jamie and Emma, from the seemingly loving early stages of their relationship to the development of abusive behaviour.

Anyone can be a victim of coercive control, but 'Don't Disappear' is particularly aimed at younger people with less experience of relationships, or people who are at the beginning of a relationship, to raise awareness of signs which may be missed or misinterpreted as acceptable behaviour.

The video can be viewed on the Victims First website www.victims-first.org.uk, on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/d6rt8w5HBWw> or on Facebook @VictimsFirstTV.

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION DEDDINGTON

Burns Supper

A FUND RAISING EVENT

23rd January 2020
 Freemasons Hall, BANBURY

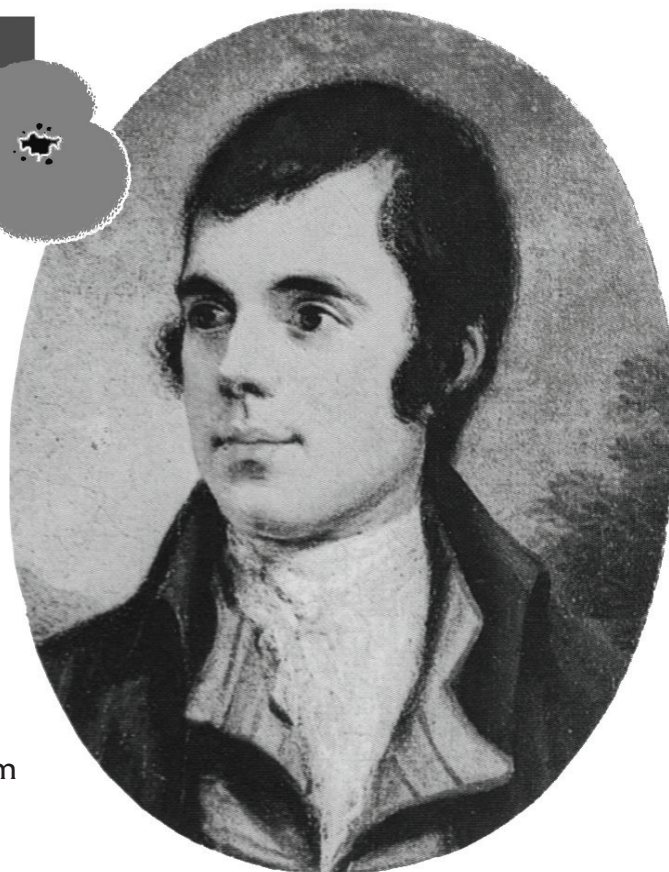
£35 per person
 (to include a wee dram)

To reserve tickets

email Tony Lowe at rbl0746@gmail.com

7pm for 8pm supper

Charity Number 219279



CHURCH AND CHAPEL

January 2020

Please see the enclosed Christmas Card for all December services in the Benefice

Parish Church SS Peter and Paul

Mon–Fri 8.45am Morning Prayer (also on the first Saturday of the month)
 Wed 10.00am Holy Communion (with prayers for healing on the fourth Wednesday of the month)
 6.30pm Evening Prayer
 Thu 10.30am Squiggles & Wiggles, for mums-to-be, parents or childminders of small children
 Sun 5 10.30am Family Service – Epiphany Sunday
 6.00pm Choral Evensong
 Sun 12 8.00am BCP Communion
 10.30am Holy Communion
 Sun 19 10.30am Holy Communion
 Sun 26 10.30am Holy Communion – Informal Said Service

Hempton

Sun 5 9.00am Holy Communion – Epiphany Sunday
 Sun 19 9.00am Holy Communion
 Sun 26 5.00pm Eat, Pray, Live

Barford St Michael

Sun 5 10.30am Epiphany Service
 Sun 19 10.30am Family Service
 Sun 26 9.00am Holy Communion

Barford St John

Sun 12 9.00am Holy Communion

From the Parish Register

Funerals

16 October Shirley Hardacre
 7 November Ivy Busby

For baptisms and weddings, funerals and home visits in case of illness please contact the Vicar, Reverend 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). We also have a curate, Reverend Paula Smith who can be contacted on curate@deddingtonchurch.org.

RC Parish of Hethe

Revd Robert Hughes

01295 720869 or 07766 711969

There is no longer a resident or full-time incumbent at Hethe. A non-resident priest will say one Mass on Sundays at 10.00am.

Mass is said at 9.00am on Sunday at SS Peter and Paul's Anglican church in King's Sutton.

The Vigil Mass at St John's Church, Banbury, is said at 4.00pm on Saturdays to allow worshippers from the villages to attend by public transport. There are also Masses said at 8.45am and 11.15am on Sundays at St John's. Additional services at St Joseph's are on Sundays at 10.00am and 5.30pm.

DEDDINGTON CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

This month has been busy as always. I would like to start by thanking our PTA for putting on a great firework display once again for us to enjoy. Children and adults alike loved the colours, flashes and bangs. The members of the PTA work extremely hard for our school, so thank you very much.

Children in Years 4, 5 and 6 have worked hard this month to prepare for the service of 'Children Singing for Children' at St Mary's Church, Banbury. On 12 November, our pupils sang 'One and a Million' and 'Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious'. The congregation enjoyed the performance by all the schools participating and our children sang and danced well, representing the school beautifully. We would like to thank Alicia Rumsby for her time and expertise in putting this performance together.



On Wednesday 6 November we held our annual 'Pebble Mass' assembly in the school hall. During this assembly, children new to our school community put a pebble into our special jar to show they have joined us here at Deddington. Adults who are an important part of our school and wider community also put a pebble in the jar. This year we even have a pebble for our Pets as Therapy dog. It was enjoyable coming together for a short time.

We will soon be starting work on our Christmas performances. It's difficult to think we are at that time of year once again. We look forward to F1 and F2, KS1 and KS2 performing in Deddington church during early December.

Denise Welch

dwel3954@deddington.oxon.sch.uk

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

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MEMORIES OF DEDDINGTON

Recycling

We hear a lot about recycling nowadays but I remember when virtually everything had more than one use, due to the ingenuity of village people.

Let's look at the places in Deddington where the small number of unrecyclable items would be deposited during the 1950s. These areas were where stone had been excavated from and known locally as the tip. They were very small areas about two metres deep. The first tip was on the west side of the Banbury Road just before the Highways yard. When this was full the next tip was in the small paddock opposite the Windmill Centre. The last one was also up the Hempton Road opposite Tomwell Lane. The trolley, which had sides only fifteen inches high and pulled by a horse, came weekly to pick up anything which could not be reused. This was known locally as the ash cart.

People who burnt wood and possessed a garden would spread the ash for fertiliser but if they burnt coal the ashes would be put through a sieve and the cinders put back on the fire the following day. The slack from the coal would choke the fire as it was too dusty to burn so it would be mixed with cement at a ratio of 16:1 just to hold it together to make a slab about two inches thick. When it had set it was cracked with a hammer then it would burn on the fire.

All jars would be used time and time again for jams or chutneys. Tins with removable lids would be used for nails and screws and so on. A goose wing was used as a hand brush. Boots would be re-heeled with pieces of old car tyre. Used newspaper would be cut into squares and held by a nail fixed on the back of the toilet door ready for use. Newspaper was also used for wrapping up fish and chips. When a pig had been killed the bladder would be used as a football. Empty cotton reels were used for French knitting. Boys' fishing gear comprised a long can with string, a cork and a bent pin and for bait worms from the garden. When jackets were worn out, the cloth would be cut into pieces about two inches long and three-quarter inch wide to make a fireside rug by pegging them to hessian sacks with a special spring pegging needle.

After cornfields had been cut with a binder and the sheaves had been cleared from the field you would see women and children going up and down the field picking up ears of corn. This was known locally as leasing. The corn was used to feed their chickens. Happy memories!

Don Walker

roodon@btinternet.com

Post

Your local
Christmas Cards

20p

For Delivery by
The Scouts

To: Deddington,
Hempton, Clifton
& The Barfords



Post Boxes in,
Eagles Butchers
& Barford P.O.

From December 7th
Last collection Dec 21st

Holiday Cottage



A delightful cottage situated in this pretty village. Sleeps five people, having one single and two double bedrooms. Fully equipped kitchen, enclosed private garden, lounge diner with wood burning stove.

A short walk from the Market Place shops, pubs and restaurants, and close to the open countryside.

Steps Cottage,
St Thomas Street, Deddington OX15 0SY
Tel: 07935 392921

Email: Info@stepsdeddington.co.uk
Website: www.stepsdeddington.co.uk

Friends of the Castle Grounds

There is still a lot of colour to enjoy at the Castle Grounds although the leaves are falling fast. Please take care if you are visiting as everywhere is very muddy and slippery, especially in the moat by the badger setts where the path is eroding. We are in discussions with English Heritage about repairing the path. At the time of writing, two areas further along the path are completely flooded.

An injured deer was found at the site and it was reported to the RSPCA.

A very interesting site meeting was held with English Heritage last month and we are looking into some of their suggestions.

If anyone has any old photos or memories of the Castle Grounds we would love to hear from you so that we can update our website.

We would like to wish everyone a merry Christmas and a healthy and prosperous new year and are looking forward to 2020. We have many plans in place for Castle Grounds, so help us to maintain this wonderful heritage site.

Carol Garrett
cgarrett@btinternet.com

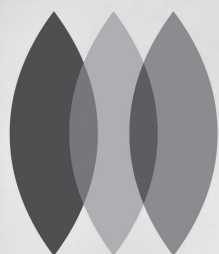
PFSU and Village Nursery

We are looking forward to all our Christmas celebrations. The PFSU will be holding two decorations afternoons on Monday 2 and Wednesday 4 December from 1.30–3.00pm when family members are invited to join their children to get the pre-school ready for Christmas. Nursery will hold a Christmas creative morning on Wednesday 11 December when parents and carers are welcome to join us for some Christmas crafts, a snack and some Christmas songs.

The PFSU and F1 class will be presenting their production, 'A Miracle in Town', on Monday 9 December at 2.00pm at Deddington Church. Our Christmas parties will be held at the PFSU on Wednesday 18 December from 9.30am and at Nursery on Thursday 19 December, from 11.00am–1.00pm.

Finally our Christmas Fayre will be held in Deddington Church on Tuesday 3 December from 7.30–9.30pm. This is open to everyone and we hope to see lots of you there. We would like to remind PFSU parents that the deadline for primary school applications is on 15 January. Lastly, we would like to thank Deddington farmers' market and Deddington Parish Show for their generous donations. Happy Christmas all!

Lucy Squires
 01869 337484



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DOWN ON GEORGE'S FARM

Ho bong, what's next? Snow? After an almost biblical flood, with the river bursting its banks five times in the last three weeks, the last thing I needed was the Clifton correspondent enthusing about the spectacle. All our sheep grazing is now under water and the sheep, including Willy the Pink, are now inside, although Willy is no longer pink, as the rain has washed out his fleece.

With the rest of the farm well sodden, we have no crops in the ground for next harvest, a situation that is not localised but countrywide. We planted our oilseed rape crops at the end of August but, as the environmental lobby has removed the only effective crop protection chemicals from our spray shed, we have no OSR and will not be planting it again, something that will have a devastating effect on our bees and other pollinating insects, to say nothing of our traditional four crop farm rotation. Although we are experiencing a difficult weather event, the Clifton correspondent may like to reflect on his larder shelves. Even his pint in the Duck is dependent on the local harvest, as most of the world's major food-producing areas are experiencing weather problems.

Canada is still trying to finish its harvest in early snow, Australia is on fire, the eastern bloc has shut the export door, India has become a net importer of wheat and China is buying up everything it can get hold of.

We have been members of a crop buying cooperative for many years and normally sell our grain in December and January to clear the decks before lambing. This year all our grain has gone on to boats for export in an attempt to avoid the Brexit tariffs – a crazy situation. Where we farm in north Oxfordshire we are about as far as you can get from the coast, yet all of our grain was trucked to the east coast and loaded on to boats a few weeks ago. I received a phone call from DEFRA to find out how much grain we had on the farm. The answer was none as it had all been exported and it now seems as if this country will become a net importer of grain and other food commodities. With no viable crops in the ground and the sheep under cover, we are in for a long winter, and it seems as if the Old Man will be on double lambing duty as the Boys will be on tractors, attempting to get some crops planted if it ever stops raining.

Old habits die hard. In the days of my youth, I milked the dairy herd of 80 cows, starting at 5.00am each day to catch the milk lorry for a 7.00am pick-up. Although it is many years since I last milked a cow, I am still up and going by five o'clock to catch the daily



rat-run through the village. In those days regulation dress was a DJ and long ball gowns. After a night on the town and a quick cuddle in the student nurses' home car park, I would head home and drive around the lambing sheep flock in my Triumph Vitesse, which I still have, and often ended up catching a ewe to lamb her, still in my DJ. Because Father was a very light sleeper, the trick was to turn off the engine and coast into the farmyard, with a quick dash into my room to change and get on with the milking before the cows started bellowing in the collecting yard.

I always made plenty of noise to let Father know I was on the job. After the milking it was in for a full English breakfast with home-cured bacon. Happy days. The said student nurse and I were married 50 years ago and we moved to Clifton in 1974 with all our goods and chattels in the back of a cattle lorry. Three children and six grandchildren later we are still here.

Otter is a delightful eleven week old black labrador puppy and, as you would expect, he is into everything. I have always kept working farm dogs and now that Otter has had all his vaccinations, he will start his training as a working gundog.

Christmas is coming and the goose is getting fat but in our case it's turkeys. This is yet another small enterprise to stave off the effects of our back-biting political kindergarten. What these politicians need to remember is that, whatever our dietary needs or preferences are, it all has to come from the land, produced by a farmer, and the more land we take out of production to put into so-called greening and public goods, the less land we have to produce the food for the nation and more boats will be needed to chug it in from around the world. Now what was that about global warming?

It doesn't seem possible but the Farm Student has started his last year at university, doing a Higher National Diploma in agriculture, something that I did at the same college 60 years ago. The big question is, will there be a future for him in his chosen career, on a small tenanted family run farm?

It is with some regret that after a particularly vitriolic meeting, with one particular blow-in taking centre stage, I have resigned from all my three parish trustee commitments and have removed all my details from the Charity Commission webpage. Once the Student has returned, I will content myself with young Otter's training and my stamp collection, and drive a tractor and the Green Goddess when needed. Ho hum.

George Fenemore
01869 338203

DEDDINGTON CHARITY ESTATES

Arts Bursary

Now that the Charity is in a position to target more of its objectives, the trustees have implemented an arts bursary in conjunction with Deddington CE Primary School. One objective is educational needs and, now that the Charity has been restored to a stable financial position, it has become possible for the award to be made available.

The bursary comprises a regular sum of money given to the school to enable them to employ an art teacher, offering after school art lessons, and includes the purchase of required materials.

A fundamental aspect of education is the opportunity to embrace the arts, be it music, drawing and painting or sculpture. A recent report from the art teacher confirms that it is going very well, with pupils covering design concepts as well as drawing and painting, and using a full range of materials, with some lovely work being produced. These lessons are free of charge to children to whom it will offer most benefit, providing them with extracurricular activities and additionally will benefit some parents with childcare time at no cost.

The trustees are very pleased to assist, not only to forge a closer link with the school but in the provision of further benefit to the Deddington community, an aspect of the Charity the trustees are proud to make.

John Sampson

DOL History Corner

deddingtonhistory.uk

On 13 October this year Cardinal John Henry Newman was canonised by the Roman Catholic Church. When he first came to Deddington to preach on 1 May 1823, he was in the process of defining his personal theology.

On 19 September 1825 he visited Deddington to attend a Church Missionary Society meeting where, as he noted in his diary, he delivered the 'first speech I ever made'.

The Cardinal has since become one of the most influential Christian figures of modern times, helping launch the Oxford Movement which aimed to return the Church of England, which split with Rome in 1534, to the teachings and rituals of early Christianity.

A link to the Deddington History article about Newman can be found on the website's Home Page. The article includes a link to an online copy of the excellent booklet, *Newman at Deddington*, written by Brian Carter.

Rob Forsyth

robert.s.forsyth@gmail.com

01869 338384

DEDINGTON
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Wine Time

There are times, especially over Christmas, when you want to help yourself to a little luxury in a glass. A sweet, rich treat to help you through that tricky time between six and seven o'clock in the evening, or maybe something to keep you company through a long election night? My suggestion is to discover Madeira in all its complex and curious glory. If you are feeling generous it makes a fantastic present for a wine lover or anyone else if you don't know what to give them.



The Portuguese island of Madeira in the Atlantic, about 1000 kilometres from Portugal, developed a unique and wonderful way of preserving and maturing their wines. They fortified (added spirits) to their not very interesting wines to help them travel, then took them on long sea journeys where they were heated, cooled and tossed about in the holds of their ships. The result, they discovered, was delicious and unusual - a fully oxidised fortified wine rich with nutty, figgy and rich caramel flavours. They don't put the wine in ships any more but use the Estufa process which mimics it.

Although there are levels of dryness/sweetness, it is the sweet versions that are most famous and able to provide a special flavour over Christmas. The sweet ones are described as rich or full rich rather than sweet – but it is the same thing. It's very easy to drink and worth remembering that most Madeira is about 20% alcohol so approach it like sherry or port in terms of how much to go for.

Standard Madeira, usually three years old and sweet (although there are also dry and medium versions) is made from the Negramoll grape, also called Tinta Negra, and produces a lovely mellow, sweet caramel and dried fruit flavour. This is the type that can

be used in cooking; try a big splash in the gravy or make into sauce as you would for red wine. Most supermarkets stock this type. Sainsbury's sell an own brand half bottle for £7 and Waitrose sell Blandy's Duke of Clarence Rich Madeira for £13. Blandy's is a famous name in Madeira and worth looking for. Majestic get their standard Madeira from another famous name, Henriques and Henriques, whose three year old rich Madeira which sells for £12. All of these,

in particular the two famous names, are worth trying.

Moving up a whole level, Madeira's four 'noble' grape varieties produce very different and high quality wines, each with a distinctive character. The varieties are Sercial, Verdelho, Bual or Boal, and Malvasia or Malmsey. They go from dry to very sweet in that order. Sercial is dry and high in acid, but has a fabulous almond/sherry flavour. Verdelho can be smoky and is usually medium-dry. However Bual and Malmsey are the two for Christmas which are a sweet/rich indulgence. Boal is a medium sweet wine with raisin flavours and Malmsey is very sweet but not sickly and tastes of dried fruit, caramel and ripe figs.

Wine merchants sell these 'noble' variety Madeiras (Oxford Wine Company and the Wine Society both have a good range), but often not the supermarkets. Expect to pay about £25 for a 50cl bottle for good examples of these four varieties, and wines with greater age will usually be more expensive. Madeira, due to the way it is made, lasts a long time after opening – weeks or even months. So having a glass every night and putting the cork back for over a week or more is not going to see any change in how it tastes. It is an amazing wine in every way.

Charles Elvin

Charles.elvin@bopenword.com

From The Fire Station

It has been a fairly quiet month for Deddington Fire Station, with activity at the start and end of the month but little in between, so our corner of Oxfordshire has been a relatively safe place to be.

The station responded to 10 callouts, comprising three fires, two alarms, two rescues and three standbys.

The first chimney fire of the year occurred and was quickly dealt with, so there was little damage to property. Remember it is advisable to get your chimney swept annually. A pallet or composting toilet fire was reported, via Facebook, and crews were able to locate and put it out rapidly. The final fire call of October ended up as a false alarm, reported with good intent. There was a strong smell of burning from a property.

Crews from Deddington, Banbury and Bicester attended, investigated with thermal imaging cameras to try and source the ignition, ultimately concluding that the smell was due to a faulty electrical appliance. The family had sensibly placed their dog outside in the car before crews attended.

The two rescues listed were for an accident on the M40 and a crane becoming entwined in live power cables – Deddington assisted at the situation with both the police and ambulance services.

For November, the crew will be involved in a scenario training day at Moreton-in-Marsh Training College, we will be attending the school firework display and marching for Remembrance Sunday.

James Greenwood FFd

james@cyclogicalshop.co.uk

LETTERS

FROM CHRIS FENEMORE,
CLIFTON

With regards to the HGVs' weight enforcement item in the November issue of *DN*, it failed to highlight the fact that the 7.5 tonne weight limit through Clifton is Except For Access. I am sure that the majority of heavy vehicles that I see passing through Clifton are delivering and collecting from local businesses.

Our farm is one of three on this road that all have their commodities transported on and off their farms by LGVs/HGVs, to be processed into food and then transported by LGVs/HGVs back to the shops, So please bear this in mind before there's an HGV witch hunt.

FROM CHRISTOPHER HALL,
DEDDINGTON

Deddington Fairtraders was started in 2002 by Canon Hugh Marshall with a stall in the church when the farmers' market began. In the 17 years since then it has taken over £106,000 – 'Fighting Poverty through Trade'. Reluctantly the present team has decided to close its stall in the new year unless more active volunteers are keen to keep it going. If that means you, please contact Viviane Hall on 01869 338225 or vmhall1990@gmail.com for more information.

FROM PERRY HATWELL, DEDDINGTON FAIR

I just want to make you aware of a problem we had on Saturday night. As we were leaving the market square with the dodgems ride we had a serious issue where one of the trailer axles came loose, making the ride



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

immovable and leaning at a dangerous angle. We had no choice but to fix this situation immediately as it posed a danger to ourselves and anyone passing by. To do this we had to wait while someone went back to our yard to gather winching and jacking and other equipment. As a result of this it was necessary to work into the night far later than the expected time, and

although we worked as quietly as we could some noise was unavoidable. Everything was eventually made safe and returned to the yard without further incident.

We would like to extend our heartfelt apology to any local residents who may have been disturbed during this time. I can assure you that this was a one-off incident that was out of our control and could not have been foreseen, and was dealt with in the quickest and quietest possible way. I really am sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused.

FROM CAROLE AND BILL JENKINS, BRIDGEND

I have just come across the article on the Deddington jugs [see *DN* June 2014, p7]. I live at Claypits Pottery. My husband's great uncle married Evan Jones' daughter, Susan, which is why we're interested. We too are puzzled and wonder if you can tell us why the Ashmolean was interested. Do you know if they are currently displayed?

Regarding the last paragraph of the article, Claypits is not, nor ever has been known as Ewenny Pottery. There are two potteries in Ewenny on opposite sides of the road. We currently lease Claypits to Leonard Edger, who has his own website and the pottery opposite is Ewenny Pottery. It would mean a lot to us if this could be amended.

NEWS FROM HEMPTON

We have the annual Christmas Hempton Bazaar on 7 December from 11.00am until 1.30pm. We still need good quality unwanted gifts, raffle prizes, bottles and cakes for the stalls please. Raffle tickets are available, so if you can help sell them, please come forward or contact 01869 337135.

'Eat, Pray, Live!' Is every fourth Sunday but there won't be one in December. It will start again in January.

As I'm sure you know, Pub Night is every second Friday in the month in the Old School Room at 7.30pm. Bring your own drinks, snacks and a £1 per person to cover the cost of the room. It's a great way of meeting your neighbours..

I would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy 2020.

If you have anything to put in our write-up, please let me know by the 10th of each month. Thank you.

Ingrid Robey 07973 632448
Ingoflamingo16@yahoo.co.uk

DOLLY & THE IVYS

Following last year's success, Dolly Mavies returns with her evening of live Christmas entertainment featuring local musicians, mulled wine and merriment. Book your tickets in advance to make sure you don't miss out! Tickets available from the website.

DEDDINGTON CHURCH
FRIDAY 20 DECEMBER
TICKETS £10

WWW.DOLLYMAVIES.COM

POSTCARD FROM AMERICA



Veterans, Impeachment and Conspiracies

In America everyone is either related to a veteran or knows a veteran. There are 20 million of these fine people but when I first started travelling in the US, I didn't

understand the way the population treats people who have served in the military. I boarded a plane and discovered this gentleman in a uniform in my allocated seat and fairly politely asked him to move. I then suffered two hours of tutting and icy stares. I still don't know what I was supposed to do, apart from the usual 'Thank you for your service', followed by 'Now get out of my seat.'

It's a busy time for us outcasts from Brexit here in the land of sanity that is America. Another school shooting, another series of insulting Trump Tweets. Sometimes it gets difficult to understand the people I live with. For the third occasion in modern times a US President is facing an impeachment enquiry. As I watched some coverage today of a career diplomat testifying, Trump was Tweeting insults about her. Is this kind of behavior now acceptable from the leader of the free world?

The impeachment procedure is a very odd one. Trying to get the President of the Ukraine to help in the 2020 US election certainly isn't the worse Trump behaviour we have seen. Looking back to the Clinton impeachment in 1998, was lying about his affair with

his intern better or worse? As happened 21 years ago, his party is gathering around Trump and trying to put up layers of defence. This is varying from 'He didn't do it,' despite written and verbal evidence to the contrary, to 'Everyone does it.' Trump's personal defence is that he believes that it wasn't Russia that interfered in the last election, it was Ukraine. I do know people who are certain that Man never went to the moon but, luckily, they aren't a heartbeat from the nuclear button.

A recent poll discovered that 47% of Americans struggle to determine whether information is true, something I completely concur with. The same poll indicated that Democrats are more likely to say they rely on scientists and academics to sort this issue, whilst Republicans are more likely to trust what they hear from President Trump. For those of you who are unhappy with the BBC, take care what you wish for.

Where is this going to end? Democracy is based on the willingness of the loser to accept the result. Trump supporters are now adopting his persecution complex and the end result could be very bad news indeed.

Some readers will be aware that my sister-in-law is a major in the UK army. I love her and worried about her when she was serving in Afghanistan but I would never dream of thanking her for her service. I also never thanked her for flooding our kitchen when she lived with us in Cotswold House. There is something in the American psyche that wants to conquer countries and send its troops out to die in pointless wars. This is one thing I believe Trump has right. We just don't understand and learn from history. Or even science these days.

Mike Ward

Mikew@qsoftware.com

BLISSFUL THINKING

The future is about to arrive. A new decade that we can finally confidently name, after the nonsense of the noughties and what I liked to call the 'noughteens': the not-so-roaring twenties! Looking forward to contemporary versions of flappers, speak-easies and great Depressions. No, better scratch that last one.

The noughteens have seen a lot of change in our inestimable parish. We've lost some legends and gained some more. We were the first part of the country to receive super-fast fibre broadband. We launched our own online radio station, Deddington OnAir, which still exists as an online community resource. The farmers' market and Deddington Festival went from strength to strength. There were a lot of battles during the decade: the notorious 'battleship grey' paintwork debacle at the Unicorn, the Neighbourhood Plan which may or not be ignored by local authorities, the sad closure



of the Royal British Legion Club, and the near-closure of the library. The Duke of Cumberland's head was lost, but then gloriously recovered to be presumably returned to his body, as it is now simply known as 'The Duke'.

Of course some things will never change with the seasons or centuries seemingly: vehicles will always speed through Hempton and clog up Deddington while rain lashes down on Deddington and clogs up Clifton. History comes across as a dilettante but, in the bigger picture, is clearly an obsessive compulsive; running the same comedies and tragedies with different casts and props, and the odd scene re-written. The stakes are high this coming decade but, whatever unfolds, the parish will still be standing this time in 2029, ready to regale us with new episodes.

Aaron Bliss

aaronjbliss@hotmail.com

CALLING ALL CLUBS

RBL Branch

Remembrance Sunday The weather was extremely kind as were the Churchwardens who laid carpets for us in the lane, so our feet were only a little bit muddy; and many thanks to the those who work so hard to make the parade and service go smoothly. A small group of members assembled on Monday 11 November at the war memorial to observe the two minute silence on the actual day.

AGM and Christmas Dinner Reminder The AGM is at 7.00pm on Friday 6 December in the upper boardroom at the Deddington Arms. Dinner follows. Members have received booking forms and menu choices for dinner: Please complete these so that we can inform the Deddington Arms.

Burns Supper 23 January Tickets for this RBL fundraising event are on sale. Please support it and bring as many friends as you wish. Details have been emailed to all members.

Rob Forsyth , Chairman
01869 338384

robert.s.forsyth@gmail.com

Deddington Bookworms

In November the read was *New Boy* by Tracy Chevalier (of *Girl with A Pearl Earring* fame). This is one of a series retelling Shakespeare's plays and is a modern take on *Othello*.

Chevalier has chosen to set her story in the 1970s Washington, DC, an appropriate time and place for the issues highlighted by the tale. Political correctness had not filtered down into the community. Racism was still rife, even in the 6th grade classroom and playground. A new boy, Osei, faces all the usual uncertainties of finding where he fits in but is also the only black child in the school. The tensions caused by issues of jealousy, identity, race and betrayal are sensitively described. In essentials it is faithful to the original text and well worth reading. Some of the group intend reading Shakespeare's play following their enjoyment of this modern reworking. The issues raised are as relevant today as they were then. Our next book is *Case Histories* by Kate Atkinson.

Deddington Library
01869 338391

Knit and Natter Group

We are a small and friendly group who would welcome a few more members.

We meet on the first Thursday of each month at 7.00pm in the Holly Tree Club and for two hours knit (or crochet), relax and chat with no interruptions. There is plenty of help, encouragement and enthusiasm for those wishing to learn and those who would like to expand their skills. We all have different projects on the go, some are quick, some slower, some are large, and some are small. It really is a matter of doing what you fancy.

We pay £3 a session to cover the cost of hall hire, coffee and cake. The first taster is session free. So, if you love knitting and would like to join us, please contact Cheryl on 07789 966486 for more information or just drop in to the Holly Tree when we next meet on Thursday 5 December.

Book Group

Our book for October was *This Is Going to Hurt* by Adam Kay. Written in the form of diary entries, this is an account of the ten years the author spent working as a junior NHS doctor, mostly in obstetrics and gynaecology. The resulting anecdotes cover the whole range between hilarious and desperately sad. Kay stresses the demands and exhausting hours, yet his decision to walk away from the work was not caused by these but by the trauma of a tragic case. Despite occasionally finding it rather repetitive, most of us enjoyed the book. It confirmed our admiration and sympathy for those working in an institution which faces so many challenges.

Our next meeting is on Thursday 30 January. Please contact Sally Lambert on 01869 338094 for details.

Sian Waterman

Continued on p14

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CALLING ALL CLUBS

Continued from p13

Local Vocals Community Choir

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

What an exciting term this is turning out to be. By the end of November many of us will have joined two more experienced choirs to sing three Christmas songs at the Ashmolean and Chastleton House – one of them in Latin. For our final few weeks we will be concentrating on this term's full repertoire for our family and friends evening on 9 December which will also be our final session of 2019. We will start again on 6 January. To find out more about our choir and contact us please visit our website www.localvocalscc.co.uk.

Alison Grieve

Deddington Players

Get your tickets to this season's Deddington Players traditional family pantomime, *Robin Hood*. Join Robin and his band of Merry Men as they rob from the rich, give to the poor, and rescue the fair Maid Marian from the clutches of the evil Sheriff of Deddington. We have four performances at the Windmill on 16 January at 7.30pm, 17 January at 7.30pm, 18 January at 2.30pm and 6.30pm. Get the dates in your diaries and enjoy a hilarious night out. Tickets are £6 for adults, £5 concessions, £4 per child. Online tickets are available from early December at www.ticketsource.co.uk/deddington-players. The local ticket outlet is the Flower Shop from 6 January, cash only. Follow our Facebook page for the latest information and backstage gossip.

Suzie Upson

Photographic Society

Our November presentation, 'Achieving an Associateship of the AFIAP', was given by Robert Bracher ARPS AFIAP. Bob's love of photography started when he was a boy. He joined the RAF and the early 80s found him in Chepstow, where he joined their photographic club. After achieving his LRPS he moved to Solihull. There he joined the Knowle Camera Club but drifted away as his growing family took up more of his time. Bob developed a passion for making photobooks, family albums, using his images to share amongst family and friends.

After achieving his ARPS in 2009, Bob thought he would try for the AFIAP. He told us he found it harder to fill in the form than to take the photo. He explained the prescribed requirements: Federation Internationale de l'Art Photographique is the world governing body of International Photography Exhibitions, referred to as Salons. You must have at least 40 acceptances in international exhibitions with a minimum of 15 different images; these must have come from 15 different Salons with FIAP Patronage in eight different countries; four of the 15 images must have gained one acceptance as a print. A tall order, but Bob was awarded his Associateship.

He showed us a host of stunning images, including those of his ARPS panel. With Bob's enthusiasm, humour and beautiful photography, this was a wonderful presentation.

Wendy Meagher

01869 336216

www.addphoto.co.uk

Women's Institute

At our meeting on 12 November we were entertained by 'Paul the Pud' of Cotswold Baking, a small local company which specialises in anything sweet, from cakes and cookies to elaborate desserts and special occasion cakes. His previous life has taken him from the RAF to pub management to founding and running his own baking company. He supplies many shops, coffee shops and garden centres in the Cotswold area. At our meeting he created a croquembouche from making the choux pastry before stuffing ready-made profiteroles and mounting them, using liquid caramel as glue, into the traditional cone shape. This is a very popular wedding cake today and has a long history as a celebration cake. His talk was both entertaining and informative and very much enjoyed by the WI members.

Moiria Byast

Deddington and District History Society

Our December meeting, on Thursday 19 December, will feature our popular Christmas social event, the annual quiz. The Society's famous mulled wine will promote jollity and build confidence for the cunningly devised quiz, guaranteed yet again to test your local knowledge. This enjoyable event always has a happy buzz to it, so come along to meet old friends and new, perhaps learning something while at the same time impressing us with your expertise. There might even be prizes.

On Thursday 16 January Stephen Wass will tell us about 'Old Mettle', a celebrated Banbury character of the first half of the 19th century. Stephen, archaeologist, historian and folklorist, is an engaging speaker whose lectures we have enjoyed before. A few years ago he took us on a memorable tour of the water gardens at Farnborough House which he has been excavating.

Our meetings take place in the primary school and start at 7.30pm. All are welcome. Enquiries to Barrie Smith, Chairman: smithinsight@btinternet.com, 01869 337813.

Chris Day

SPORT

Tennis Club

The winter season has started well for the tennis club, in spite of some terrible weather in the last few weeks.

Continued on p15

SPORT*Continued from p14*

On 8 November, at the Oxfordshire Junior Tennis Awards, two of our young players, Ben Jones and Sonia Chiorean, won awards in the Most Improved Club Player category. This was the third year these awards have taken place – they are to recognise players excelling at national, county, school and club level. It was amazing to see two Deddington juniors recognised from across the whole county. Congratulations to both of them and we have high hopes for another successful year for them.

At county level, Kathryn Hampshire has been selected to play for the Oxfordshire Ladies team, and our coach, Paul Taylor, has been appointed Ladies team captain. We are very proud of them and wish them every success in their forthcoming competitions.

Locally our adult teams are doing well. Both the men's and women's team are currently top in their respective leagues in the Oxfordshire Babolat Winter Leagues, the ladies in Division 3 and the men in Division 7.

A reminder that our social events and coaching run all year round so if you would like to come along and

play, please contact us via our website, www.deddingtontennis.com/.

Ed Toll**Deddington Town Football Club***First Team*

26.10.19 Bloxham (h) W 2–1

Reserve Team:

19.10.19 Hardwick Sports Res (h) L 1–4

26.10.19 Banbury Athletic Res (a) W 3–2

09.11.19 Brill United 1st (a) L 0–3

A very quiet month for the First Team, with only one match, successfully navigated against Bloxham, but a new, old, young face in the hypothetical dugout, as star player Joe Thornton joins Matt Garstin as co-player-manager. The Reserves continue to struggle but notched a crucial win to lift them clear of the dregs of the division. All to play for as the decade comes to a conclusion. Merry Christmas and a happy New Year from all at DTFC.

Aaron Bliss
07909 642882

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

The Home Help badge was successfully completed and I expect they are now all domestic darlings – we live in hope. We followed this with a celebration of the Day of the Dead, skeleton pictures, illuminated skulls and Mexican games plus some excellent homemade cakes and biscuits supplied by the Cubs.

For Remembrance Day we gave the Cubs the full evacuee experience, the Blitz, spotting enemy aircraft, rationing and Woolton Pie.

Next – Vikings in all their goriness.

Jo Churchyard
deddingtoncubs@gmail.com

Scouts

As the fair was in town the Scouts devoted an evening to inventing some fairground games, everything from Hit the Swinging Cork (impossible), Chopstick Ball Grab (less so), Gutter Ball (clever) to the very popular Chuck a Ball at Tristan. They also celebrated the Day of the Dead, with face painting, games, nachos, 'cocktails' and a 'spooky' skull trail.

We looked at the Home front for Remembrance Day as for Cubs but with an added section on war propaganda posters.

Next – Vikings plus – don't be alarmed – there could be a ship-burning!

Peter Churchyard
deddingtonscouts@gmail.com

Explorers

Since the last update the Unit has continued mak-

ing craft items to sell at the November market in Deddington Church. This is all part of the fundraising for the charity, Street Child United. Some of us are also going to sleep out at Northamptonshire Cricket Club to raise awareness of the plight of children who have no permanent home. If you feel able to sponsor the Unit please email the Spartans. As the cold and sleeping outside are not on the comfort radar we'd be really grateful if you could give any extra support for this amazing cause – www.streetchildunited.org.

Members of the Unit have also been out and about doing a wide game in the village, laser tag at Horley and taking part in the Remembrance service.

Coming up we have a bowling evening at Bicester with the rest of the District Units.

Thanks to everyone for the great turnout for Remembrance Day Parade – always proud of you all.

Scout Christmas post boxes will soon be out – let them deliver your local cards in the parish and the Barfords, only 20p per card, last collection 21 December.

If you are interested in joining the Unit contact, any of the leaders.

Janet Duxbury
spartansexplorers@gmail.com
www.deddingtonscouts.org.uk/explorers.html

1st Deddington Guides

A large group of Deddington Guides spent an amazing week in Switzerland. They travelled by coach to Adelboden with other Guides from the Banbury Area. They have talked excitedly about the new friends they made from other units as well meeting Guides and Scouts from other countries. Switzerland's stunning

Continued on p16

YOUTH*Continued from p15*

scenery was much appreciated and they loved visiting the mountains and waterfalls.

The Guides visited our chalet – a fantastic world centre, high in the mountains. The opportunity to see the local woodcarver at work and purchase badges is always a must for all Guiding visitors. Another popular trip was to a chocolate factory with a chance to taste and buy gifts for home. Tobogganing on a rail track was voted the best outing of all in spite of a few tumbles. What a great trip.

The annual outing to the Big Gig, this year in Sheffield, was loved by the girls. Again, we travelled by coach with sister Guides from Banbury. This is a huge pop concert with well-known artists and only for Guides – thousands of them. They arrived home very tired and hoarse but very happy.

Back in the meetings we spent time in patrols, planning and tackling their own activities. We are getting better at identifying natural wonders, including nuts, seeds and fruits, trees and birds and sharing wildlife sightings and experiences.

The Guides had a great time producing mini sandwiches and snacks that were healthy and well presented. The menus and presentations were superb – Swizzy Sandwiches and snazzy snacks. There are definitely some entrepreneurs in our midst.

We gave a nod to Hallowe'en – only homemade costumes were allowed. All a bit of fun followed by apple bobbing and the ever-popular mummy game – when it's a race to wrap your team member in loo roll from toe to top first. This always leads to a second game – snowball fight with the paper used.

To follow we talked about All Saints Day and British patron saints and what forces for good they are.

Lastly a wonderful turnout for the Remembrance Day parade – all the Guides looked very smart and our colour parties and wreath and cross layers did us proud. Well done Guides.

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NEWS FROM CLIFTON

Once again the Duck has continued its intellectual stretching of Candleford, Lower Larkrise and outsiders' mental capacities with their quiz, won by a Candleford team featuring 'the Major' and our clerk. Well done them, as we all enjoyed food of a French flavour this time. Last month's featured 'yoof' returned to the family fold but could only manage a runner-up position while the team he abandoned came third. This really is a competition open to all so you may fancy 4 December at the next quiz or trying your luck on New Year's Eve where a quiz will compliment fine food and dancing.

Because of the excellent prominence given in this organ to the contact address for Clifton flooding concerns, the recent heavy rainfall saw villagers taking and sharing photos of the gushing drain covers and the raging river flooding Drovers Lane, putting the sewerage works at threat of flooding and therefore spilling its contents into the Cherwell. The addresses shared here were bombarded with complaints and photographs leading to a more rapid response from Thames Water, who have full responsibility for all drain

and sewerage infrastructure in Clifton, somewhat unusually. Sadly the attendance of Thames Water employees led to a laughable response, saying the drains are not blocked, but as Thames Water later admitted in a message following this debacle to this correspondent, 'This is caused by heavy rainfall and our sewers aren't able to cope with the amount of rain flowing through them so they begin to overflow ... and we're looking into ways to prevent this from happening, I can assure you – Emily'.

We must keep up this pressure on Thames Water so they promote the Clifton drain capacity increase issue up their capital projects list. Well done to all correspondents and especially Alistair Welford who has been campaigning on this and spending his own money for many years now for all our benefit.

As usual if you have any real news then I'd like to hear from you.

Martin Bryce

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Holly Tree Club

Our recent trip to Millets Farm, Abingdon, was enjoyed by everyone who attended. The next outing will be lunch at Robbins Nest, date to be confirmed.

For Thursday 12 December, the film is a seasonal one, *Holiday Inn*, starring the Fred Astaire and Bing Crosby with music by Irving Berlin – a must-see Christmas film. Do join us. We're kicking off the new year with the fantastic *Fisherman's Friends*, a film based on the true story of a group of ten 'shanty-singing' fishermen

from Port Isaac, Cornwall. There is beautiful scenery, humour and great music. Don't miss it on Thursday 9 January. There is no need to be a member or to book to see the film, just come along. All over 55s will be made welcome. £2 including refreshments on the night.

We are looking forward to our Christmas lunch at the Deddington Arms on Tuesday 3 December.

Continued on p17

DEDDINGTON LIBRARY

It's almost impossible to grasp that yet another year is about to draw to a close.

Our library continues to thrive and we must work harder than ever at finding ways to meet the constantly evolving needs of our community. This ongoing work has fallen on our team of casual staff who have been drafted in to cover my long-term sickness absence and our wonderful team of volunteers in recent months. You have all been incredible in stepping up to ensure the library continues to be run very well in my absence. I'm sure I've not been missed at all.

We are grateful to our community volunteers who turn up every week to support the day-to-day running of the library and helping with fundraising and other tasks too; they have become stalwarts of our library over the last few years and I'm certain we couldn't manage without any of you.

Thanks to our Home Library Service which continues to thrive. Our volunteers regularly take books to the elderly and housebound in the parish and the wider community. This service is invaluable to the housebound.

Thanks also to our Rhymetime volunteers who deliver a weekly session of rhymes to under 5s, to our Friends group who are very supportive of me and the library, working tirelessly to raise funds to maintain the service, and to the myriad of other volunteers who support us in many ways throughout the year. We are extraordinarily lucky to have you all. Thank you.

Our last Rhymetime session before Christmas will be at 2.30pm on Monday 16 December, so come and join in with our lively Christmas themed session. We restart on Monday 13 January.

On a personal note, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your kindness during my recent illness. I've been overwhelmed with get well cards, notes, and messages passed on by others; so many get well good wishes I am humbled and very grateful for them all. Thank you so much.

On behalf of Linden, Gail, Joelle, Hazel and me and the library's group of dedicated and hardworking volunteers, we wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.

Stella O'Neill, Library Manager
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Grumpy Landlord

'It says here in the paper', says Fred as he turns the pages in my *Telegraph*, generously supplied free to customers, 'that two thousand eight hundred and sixty-eight stores closed in the first half of 2019 – a five year high.' Fred pushes his glass over the bar for his second pint and says 'Of course, it's all down to internet shopping, isn't it?'

As I pulled his pint I said, 'Largely, yes, and the internet has a tremendous impact on our lives, not just shopping online killing the High Street. When did you last write a letter to anyone? People are working from home or even the pub and conferencing online. We never get any decent arguments in the pub any more – as soon as there's a debate over something like who won the FA Cup in 1969 someone ends it by Googling the facts.' (Manchester City – I just Googled it.)

Fred joins in: 'What about all these dating sites – no more going along to the sports clubs or the pub to find a mate – it's all done on Grindr.'



'Tinder actually,' I corrected him, 'but on the other hand ...'

'And what about telling jokes in the pub – all disappeared since they are ten-a-penny on WhatsApp every day and seen by everybody?'

'By the way Fred, 'did I tell you what happened yesterday? A head rolled into the bar. I said Good Heavens, what happened to you? He said I sold all my body parts to feed my gambling addiction. I told him to quit whilst he was ahead.'

Fred takes good slug of his ale and says 'On the other hand perhaps there has been some good outcomes from the internet if that's the quality of joke we are missing.' Feeling a bit miffed I told him I was considering cancelling the free *Telegraph* now all the newspapers were online.

Seasonal greetings to all (humbug).

Grumpy Landlord
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Holly Tree Club *Continued from p16*

Don't forget our Monday morning coffee club for the over 55s is held on the first Monday of the month at 10.30am. Do join us, you would be made most welcome.

My thanks to our committee for all their hard work with the Holly Tree this year. I'd also like to wish them, our members and supporters a very happy Christmas and a peaceful, healthy New Year.

For all Club enquiries, please contact Diana Marshall on 01869 337761 or email info@TheHollyTreeClub.org. For booking enquiries, please contact Hugh Blythe on 07907 020486 or Bookings@TheHollyTreeClub.org.

Rev Annie Goldthorp, Chair

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

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GREEN MAN

Oh, the Weather Outside is Frightful

The hit song, *Let it Snow!* first debuted in 1945 and, as one of my earliest musical memories, it sets the mood for explaining how we plan to stay warm at our new house, Middle Yard. I'll begin by pointing out how we won't stay warm. One of the limitations of building a home in a Conservation Area is that, even though we have over 80 square metres of south-facing roof, we are unlikely be permitted to install renewable solar thermal or solar electric technology on it. Were it possible, our energy carbon footprint would be close to zero. If by chance the prospect of a changing climate affects future policies, we've left in place the means to heat the house entirely with renewables; the roof can easily support the weight of the equipment and any necessary plumbing, heating and electrical connections are conveniently nearby inside a south wall storage cupboard. I'm beginning to think that the essence of a climate adaptive house is to make it easy for future occupants to adapt as opportunities arise. In that sense, Middle Yard is a blank canvas.

So if we are to use a fossil fuel like natural gas, the obvious first step is not to need much heat by insulating well and installing triple-glazed windows. What's not so obvious are ways to make the already efficient gas boiler even more efficient by using an outside temperature sensor to prevent it from overheating on mild winter days. This is important because downstairs the underfloor heating pipes are embedded in 12 tons of insulated concrete and once it gets too warm it will stay that way. Next, every room in the house has its own thermostat so that we can heat each space to suit the needs of occupants, eg visiting barefoot toddlers or elderly occupants who (ahem) have misplaced their slippers. The boiler has a few other tricks up its flue like the ability to run on bottled or biogas and to talk to us over the internet. For that matter, so can the thermostats and heating circuits, but having so far avoided participation in social media, I am disinclined to form a relationship with them either. The final gizmo to limit fossil fuel use will be a small external heat pump for use on days when all we want is to take the morning chill off. This will supply warm air through a wall outlet in the snug and could easily run on solar energy, provided the head gardener would allow some photovoltaics in her domain.

Of necessity, energy efficient houses are relatively airtight and this means we will need to have a supply of fresh, conditioned air when the weather is frightful. New houses of this kind normally use a centralised duct system to distribute air to various parts of the house. The key component in these designs is an outdoor to indoor air heat exchanger. When warm stale air is exhausted from the house the heat exchanger warms the cold incoming air so there are no cold draughts and up to 95% of the heat is retained. We've chosen a less complex and expensive design that uses

several small ductless through-the-wall units. Upstairs they will function like a set of lungs for the house with one breathing in and the other breathing out. These small devices have low voltage motors that in future could be operated with a single solar PV panel. They also have heat exchangers inside and are very easy to maintain.

Downstairs there is a specialised unit for recovering kitchen air while elsewhere there are larger in-wall units for those nights when it's really cold. All this is augmented with some well-engineered bathroom extractor fans that can be operated from a wall switch but that will also turn on automatically if indoor humidity levels get too high. This will keep mould and other moisture-loving pathogens at bay. In the absence of winter weather we'll use old fashioned window latches to moderate air quality.

For a long time now we've heard from people in the building industry that energy efficiency is expensive. It can be, but needn't be. The solution is to decide at the initial design phase what it is that we value most. In our case, we decided we could live without a fireplace, a fancy kitchen and certain aspects of building bling. Not the best strategy for resale value but then that was never the objective.

So there you have it, a house built of 190 million year old Jurassic stone that purports to stay warm, cool, dry and well-watered for a bit longer. Intuitively I know we haven't thought of everything but it isn't for want of trying.

Dan Desmond
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HGVs and Weight Restriction Enforcement

We have been receiving more complaints about HGVs breaching weight limits on the roads across the parish. The police and Trading Standards Service can enforce weight restriction orders and, in Oxfordshire, routine inspections are made across the county to ensure that vehicles are not breaking these orders.

However, if you witness a breach please report this online at <https://service.oxfordshire.gov.uk/report-highwaysbreach>.

David Rogers, Chair
Deddington Parish Council

[See Chris Fenemore, Letters p11 – Ed]

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