

February 2020

The **DEDDINGTON NEWS**



Delivered free to Deddington, Clifton and Hempton

THE TEAM

YOUR EDITOR THIS MONTH:
CATHERINE DESMOND

MARCH 2020 COPY TO
JILL CHEESEMAM
editor@deddingtonnews.co.uk
by **15 February**

ADVERTISING COPY
by **10 February**

EDITORS

Jill Cheeseman
01869 338609
Catherine Desmond
01869 336211
editor@deddingtonnews.co.uk

MONTHLY ADS & INSERTS

Debbie Grimsley
01869 336110
grimsleyhome@live.co.uk

ANNUAL ADS

Pat Sedgley
01869 338462
annuals@deddingtonnews.co.uk

WHAT'S ON

Alison Day
whatson@deddingtonnews.co.uk

CLUBS

Alison Day
01869 337204
clubs@deddingtonnews.co.uk

PARISH COUNCIL

Jean Rudge
01869 338110
jeanlrudge@gmail.com

PRINTING

Anne Hunsley
01869 338360
annehunsley@msn.com

COLLATING & DISTRIBUTION

Pat Brittain
01869 338685
and teams

TREASURER

Jane Price
01869 337586
treasurer@deddingtonnews.co.uk

COVER

Jane Price

The DEDDINGTON NEWS

Deddington is well served by its volunteers – from parish councillors to the annual panto crew, this publication to sports coaches, the library to care for the elderly. Two organisations are calling for help: our local fire station is in real need of trainee firefighters and the parish's presence on the web will disappear in August unless new editors step forward for Deddington OnLine. And the PC would appreciate help with VE Day planning. **CD**

WHAT'S ON

February

- Mon 3 Holly Tree Club: Coffee Morning, Holly Tree, 10.30am
- Mon 3 Bookworms: Library, 6.30pm
- Wed 5 DOGS: AGM, Deddington Arms, 7.00pm
- Wed 5 Photographic Society: Nathan Berry, 'Landscape Thought Process', Cartwright Hotel, 7.30pm
- Thu 6 Knit and Natter: Holly Tree, 7.00pm
- Tue 11 WI: Pre-booked Fish Supper, Holly Tree, 7.30pm
- Thu 13 Holly Tree Club: Film Night, *The Man Who Sued God*, Holly Tree, 6.30pm
- Wed 19 PC Meeting: Hempton Lounge, Windmill Centre, 7.30pm
- Thu 20 History Society: Chris Day, 'Home of Lost Causes and Forsaken Beliefs? The History of the University of Oxford', Primary School, 7.30pm
- Sat 22 Farmers' Market: Market Place, 9.00am–12.30pm
- Wed 26 Lent Lunch, Parish Church, Noon–1.30pm, all welcome
- Thu 27 Book Group: Contact Sally Lambert 01869 338094 for details
- Sat 29 Gospel Bell and Friends, Parish Church, time to be confirmed

March

- Mon 2 Holly Tree Club: Coffee Morning, Holly Tree, 10.30am
- Mon 2 Bookworms: Library, 6.30pm
- Wed 4 Photographic Society: Cartwright Hotel, 7.30pm
- Thu 5 Knit and Natter: Holly Tree, 7.00pm
- Tue 10 WI: Holly Tree, 7.30pm
- Thu 12 Holly Tree Club: Film Night, Holly Tree, 6.30pm
- Wed 18 PC Meeting: Holly Tree Club, 7.30pm
- Thu 19 History Society: Professor Sir Richard Gardner, 'The History of IVF', Primary School, 7.30pm
- Thu 26 Book Group: Contact Sally Lambert on 01869 338094
- Thu 26 Skittles: Parish Church, 7.00pm
- Sat 28 Farmers' Market: Market Place, 9.00am–12.30pm

Cover

The covers for 2020 document the horticultural year in Deddington's and Hempton's allotments, recorded on repeated visits by Jane Price.

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DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Holly Tree Club, Wednesday 18 December

Present: Councillors Collins, Higham, Oldfield, Robinson, Rogers (Chair), Squires, Swadling and Timms.

Planning

No objection

Land south of Clifton Road: 14 new dwellings including five affordable units. Archaeological investigation revealed nothing of interest and English Heritage sees no serious visual impact at Castle Grounds. Warning signs for motorists and traffic calming measures are requested.

Holly Tree Cottages, Deddington: Erection of two affordable dwellings. Modified re-submission of previous application.

Holly Tree Club, Deddington: Demolition of side addition, alteration and addition to stone barn and erection of two-storey side addition. Modified re-submission of previous application.

Withdrawal

Land to rear of St James' Farm, Clifton.

Environment and Recreation

A quote of £225 + VAT has been received for urgent tree work at the Castle Grounds.

CDC is proposing to create a new wood and will accommodate surplus trees from Deddington.

A Mill Close property owner will re-instate a permanent fence between his land and the Pocket Park by end of March.

Finance and General Purposes

The parish precept was fixed at 10%, an average increase of £4–5 per annum. The increase is needed partly because CDC is withdrawing council tax support. In spite of the increase Environment and Recreation spending will be reduced by £3,214.

An anonymous donor has kindly offered to fund two electric car charging points at the Windmill Centre.

£106 money will be used to provide a noticeboard for Deddington Grange.

Windmill Development Group

The Group is to be re-formed. A business plan and budget have been drawn up. Meanwhile improvements will be made to the toilet block internal doors and the east car park.

£200 was agreed to buy bulbs for the woodland edge at the Windmill Centre where wildflower seed has already been sown.

Neighbourhood Plan

Following the examiner's rejection of the Neighbourhood Plan it was provisionally agreed to appoint a consultant who will address the council's January meeting.

VE/VJ Celebrations

Volunteers are invited to join the working group co-ordinating activities for the celebrations on 8 May (re-scheduled Bank Holiday). If interested contact Cllr. Collins.

These Parish Council notes are the view of our reporter, Jean Rudge, and not the official minutes, which are available at <http://www.deddingtonparishcouncil.org/2019.html>.

Old School Room, Hempton, Wednesday 15 January

Present: Councillors Collins, Cox, Eames, Oldfield, Reeve, Robinson, Rogers (Chair), Swadling, Timms and Watts

Planning

No objection

1 Archway Court, New Street, Deddington: change of use from one-bed first floor flat to additional treatment rooms for dental practice.

Land north of Deddington highway depot: erection of salt barn and wash down facility. a Noise impact assessment requested and confirmation that neighbours' comments from previous application are considered. Could the light be better baffled?

Home Farm Works, Clifton Road, Deddington: retrospective application for continued use of small parking area.

Unit 1, Home Farm Works, Clifton Road, Deddington: continued use for classes.

Environment and Recreation

Dog fouling is still an issue. The Dog Warden will patrol with the intention of issuing fines.

The parish spring clean is on Sunday 16 February meeting at 10.30am at the Town Hall. Volunteers are eagerly sought.

Police will inspect the Windmill car park when possible as a deterrent to drug dealing. The registration numbers of suspicious cars should be reported to the police on 101.

Finance and General Purposes

The annual Parish Meeting will take place at 7.30 pm on 6 May at the Fire Station.

The annual fair will arrive on Wednesday 11 and depart on Sunday 15 November.

Police have been enforcing responsible parking by the school.

Highways and Transport

The junction of the A361 and B4031 (South Newington/Great Tew/Chipping Norton roads) will be closed from 2–4 March between 8.00pm–6.00am while OCC installs road studs.

Residents continue to complain about parking on grass verges. As the land in question belongs to OCC the PC has no jurisdiction. Residents are urged to be considerate and avoid obstructing the vision of other road users and pedestrians, creating slippery conditions and spoiling the aesthetic appeal of the parish.

Disabled parking bays are available to blue badge holders.

Next meeting: 7.30pm, Wednesday 19 February, Hempton Lounge, Windmill Centre.

POSTCARD FROM AMERICA

Speeding, Religion and Homelessness

Heather was feeling particularly smug this week. I was caught by the Greenwood Village police, speeding in my lovely red Dodge Charger.

She tells me that I drive too fast. I must explain that I drive very slowly in the neighbourhoods where people actually live, but the majority of the roads are four lanes wide with no bends. I don't think Greenwood Village needs the money; we must have one of the most well-funded police departments in the world. They hang around booking people for not stopping at four-way stops because they have nothing better to do. Why would you have a stop sign in all four directions and a dance while each driver tries to decide who goes next?

The Christmas decorations around here were entertaining. There are people with far too much money, paying contractors to load their 50 foot trees with perfect blinking lights. I put up our cheap Star Wars characters and the neighbours think we are typical English eccentrics. But no-one dares say 'Merry Christmas'; it is always 'Happy Holidays'; very odd since America is a far more overtly Christian place than the UK. We are surrounded by dozens of different places of worship. At the Catholic church our friends had to celebrate the Christmas Eve service in the church basement as there were over 2,000 people for Mass.

The Christian Evangelical movement is not something I came across in England's green and pleasant

land but it is a strong political force here. I've never come to terms with the fact that the movement is largely composed of right wing Republicans, based on their key goal of loading the Supreme Court with very conservative judges so that abortion will eventually be outlawed. I find it very odd that court appointments are political. Surely the law is the law. Apparently it all hangs on how you interpret the constitution.

We went skiing early in December. This is a great place to do it. After getting on the freeway, five minutes from our house, it took an hour and three quarters to get to the exit for Vail. Ten minutes later we were in the hotel enjoying a beer. We could have been on the slopes half an hour later but somehow the bar drew me in. The good news is I didn't kill myself, and the amazing thing was that every time I fell over (which was a lot) a really nice American would stop and help me up. Not like the Alps where they use you as a ski jump.

They are nice people, western Americans, but in a hands-off sort of way. The lady policeman who gave me a speeding ticket was lovely, the guy who went down the slope after my errant ski was great. There's a lot of focus on the family but it goes along with an ostrich approach to difficult issues like homelessness. My daily holiday rant centered around members of affluent communities complaining on social media about homeless people begging outside the supermarket, at Christmas, in sub zero temperatures.

I feel conflicted about the lying politicians, a general lack of the Christian caring that I was brought up with, and an upcoming election costing around \$10 billion. It's a good job we spend our time with some very lovely people – and most of them are American.

Mike Ward

mikew@qsoftware.com

A Friends of Deddington Library Fundraiser



Enjoy a specially selected range
of authentic dishes at our
favourite local Indian restaurant

Bengal Spice, Deddington
Tuesday 25th February 2020
7.30PM
£20 per person

Tickets available at Deddington Library,
email fodlbooks@gmail.com
or call 07986 141 291

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CO-OP

Alerted by retired employee, Thelma Dover of 'Do you have a members card?' fame, *DN* has learned that in December Deddington's Co-op Food beat some 220 other MidCounties stores to become runner-up as the 2019 Store of Excellence. Criteria for judging included such things as staff engagement, store standards, creativity in promoting sales over the holiday period and community involvement.

Congratulations to the friendly staff who keep the shop open for very long hours, regardless of weather conditions that cause everywhere else to close, and valiantly squeeze a wide range of goods in an extremely tight space. (Don't blame them for the peculiar centralised ordering system that has common items disappearing from the shelves for weeks at a time.)

CD

VE DAY PLANS

Victory in Europe Day was the day when peace was declared after the Nazi surrender on 7 May 1945. That was 75 years ago, come 8 May – now the May Day Bank Holiday.

The parish's VE Day 75 committee, as it currently stands, will arrange for a bugler to play the Last Post from the church tower at 3.00pm to announce to one and all that the commemoration has commenced. Everyone, especially those in pubs, will be encouraged to raise a glass and toast all those who made a sacrifice for their country and our future: that sacrifice being either their lives or the lives of loved ones, their emotional and physical wellbeing or their home life, their children's upbringing, being without loved ones and away from home for years. At 7.00pm a piper, also on the church tower, will play a famous refrain before the bellringers peal away with all the other campanologists in the land.

Shortly after the bagpipes there will be a tea party, in a marquee in the Market Place, for those with memories of the war or of VE day and for schoolchildren who can

hear what it was like. This will be followed by sports to recall the sports on the original VE Day. Help is needed for the tea party.

After the tea is finished the marquee will be available for other activities. A period music event and a kids disco are possibilities but we need organisers for these. A road closure could be sought and the Market Place pubs could have benches outside. However volunteers are needed to take this on. Many of us feel it is our last chance to celebrate this momentous occasion with the people who were there, so a little effort seems a small thing to ask. At some point there will also be a church service.

Volunteers should contact me at alanraycollins@gmail.com. Anyone with living memories of VE Day should contact Rob Forsyth through the Deddington British Legion so their stories can be shared with the young generation. Come on – let's do something we can really be proud of.

Alan Collins

alancollins.dpc@gmail.com

NEWS FROM CLIFTON

All of Clifton's 25 Santas have been taken away. Some disposed of, some in safe storage to be re-modelled and released next year. A lot of fun was had making them but we hope far more fun was had by those who saw them. The fate of sledging Santa, sadly stolen, remains unknown. However, the missing sheep was discovered near Milton on the Adderbury-Bloxham road, giving pleasure to a whole new group of people.

In a new departure the Duck has continued its intellectual stretching with a New Year's Eve quiz that filled the time nicely between wanting your first drink of the evening and the Big Ben chimes before the dancing started. Fittingly, the quiz was won by a very long-standing Clifton family. As to the dancing competition, the jury is still out – and hopefully will never come in.

The Clifton floods have preoccupied many residents

and Thames Water has again been flooded with complaints. They seem to think that after listing their unsuccessful counter-measures and stating their hoped-for next steps, it is acceptable to say 'For now, I'll be closing your case. However if you need to speak to me about this matter, please call me on 0800 0093902' Clearly Thames Water's idea of solving a problem doesn't chime with my, and I guess your, idea. So can I ask we keep up the pressure on Thames Water by emailing future complaints, observations and photographs to Customer.Feedback@thameswater.co.uk using the reference number 3343224? My thoughts are with neighbours specifically affected and none more so than Alistair Welford who has been pursuing this for some years now.

Martin Bryce Martindnbryce@gmail.com

WINDMILL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

We've just finished taking down the stage, stacking the chairs and hoovering up the rice. (How much rice does a panto need?) *Robin Hood of Daeda's Wood* was three evenings of glorious silliness. It was great to see the Windmill packed out and everybody having such a good time. Congratulations to everybody involved in the Deddington Players. As ever, we are grateful to all our regular Windmill users for their understanding in swapping or cancelling their bookings to accommodate this hilarious annual community event.

Just like Robin Hood, the Windmill Management Committee is also on the lookout for volunteers to join our band of merry men and women. At the moment, the six of us who make up the committee are enthusiasm rich but time poor. If you are time rich – recently retired maybe – and you wouldn't mind us 'robbing' you

of some of this time to give back to the community, we'd love to hear from you. Hopefully you've already noticed significant improvements at the Windmill. We have plans for a whole lot more. In fact, the next significant improvement will be the soon-to-be-opened Pocket Park, completing the extensive new outside adventure playground for children of all ages.

You can find information about everything that goes on at the Windmill at www.thewindmilldeddington.org or on our Facebook page. To hire a space or make a booking email enquiries@thewindmilldeddington.org or call 07720 834006.

Vaughan Jones

vaughan@englishlanguagematters.com

CHURCH AND CHAPEL

February

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 9.30am Tea and Toast before Squiggles and Wiggles
 10.30am Squiggles & Wiggles for mums-to-be, parents or childminders for pre-school age children
 Sun 2 10.30am Family Service
 6.00pm Choral Evensong
 Sun 9 8.00am BCP Communion
 10.30am Holy Communion
 Sun 16 10.30am Holy Communion
 Sun 23 10.30am Informal Said Communion Service

Hempton

Sun 2 9.00am Holy Communion
 Sun 16 9.00am Holy Communion
 Sun 23 5.00pm Eat, Pray, Live

Barford St Michael

Sun 2 10.30am Theme Based Service
 Sun 16 10.30am Family Service
 Sun 23 9.00am Holy Communion

Barford St John

Sun 9 9.00am Holy Communion

From the Parish Register

Weddings

14 December Georgina Hayden and John Davies

Funerals

12 December Stewart Crichton

17 December Roy Evans

15 January Derek Cheeseman

For baptisms and weddings, funerals and home visits in case of illness, please contact the Vicar at vicar@deddingtonchurch.org or on 01869 336880. If Annie is not available, please contact one of the church wardens, Iain Gillespie (01869 338367) or Dave Hughes (01869 347294). We also have a curate, Revd Paula Smith, who can be contacted at 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 8.00am.

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 Masses said at 8.45am and 11.15am on Sundays at St John's. There are also services at St Joseph's on Sundays at 10.00am and 5.30pm.

MEMORIES

Before the NHS

Deddington surgery was held at Featherton House before it became a nursing home. The waiting room had two bench seats and was only large enough for ten people. There was no appointment system in those days: you just showed up and waited your turn. When you had seen the doctor, on your way out, you just shouted, 'Next one please'.

The first doctor I remember was Dr Jones who visited me when I had pneumonia at the age of five while we were living at 5 Hempton Road. One Saturday afternoon I had a fall and cut my head badly. My father went to Dr Hodges who lived at the Mount. The doctor said 'Take him to the surgery. I will be there in a few minutes', which he was and stitched my wound. The other doctor there was Dr Holloway who was very well respected but had to go for military service and did not come back to the surgery after the war. There was also Dr le Wolfe who very much liked a tippie.

The practice included a dispensary, run by Miss Legge who was very kind to children. When they required medication she would always give them a small bottle for their dolls, (coloured water, I suppose). Later the dispensary was moved to the chemist's in the High Street, run by a Mr Stockford.

The surgery then moved to Osborne House in the High Street. Dr Unsworth, one of the doctors there, was tragically killed in a road accident. The dispenser was Mrs Wing, the school master's wife.

Nurse Fox who lived in Nurse's Cottage in the Market Place was the district nurse and she also treated minor injuries from her home.

We are so fortunate to have the excellent health centre we have today.

Don Walker
roodon@btinternet.com

DEDDINGTON ONLINE NEEDS NEW EDITORS

In 2019 Deddington OnLine (DOL) had a major re-vamp – it's lighter and brighter and now in user-friendly WordPress – but all the essential information about life in our corner of paradise is still there. That content needs to stay available into the future but it's time for its two editors, Rob Forsyth and Mary Robinson, to step back and let someone younger take over.

DOL has actually been around for more than 20 years. It was started in 1997 as a Millennium project by Charles Newey and Colin Robinson, both no longer with us, and was one of the first community websites around. Since then it's had a few format changes but, as many more groups now have their own website, DOL content has changed. It's now leaner and trimmer, bringing together, under one umbrella, information on community, clubs and societies, issues of *Deddington News*, What's On and Directory. Deddington History has been separated off and will stay an archive of information, but not be updated and the Gallery, with its images of Deddington past and present, can also be hived off.

So what's involved as an editor? An annual check of Directory contact details and Community and Clubs and Societies information (there's nothing worse than out of date information); posting the latest issue of *DN*; and anything else that takes your fancy ... it's no big deal.

If you're interested, please contact either Rob Forsyth, robert.s.forsyth@gmail.com, 01869 338384, or Mary Robinson, robimary@gmail.com, who are happy to chat further. If no one steps up to the DOL plate, it will close down later this year.

Mary Robinson

As noted above, Mary Robinson and I are retiring as co-editors of Deddington OnLine at the end of July since the History section, with more than 1,000 pages and multiple hyperlinks is too big to convert to the new WordPress program the History site will become 'read only' from August.

The picture section, the Gallery, is an important historical record which can be edited by anyone with the computer skills to manage and upload images and write text without needing familiarity with WordPress. If you're interested in being a Gallery editor please contact Mary Robinson or myself.

Having been the editor for over 20 years, I will be a little sad to stop recording the fascinating history of this parish but perhaps some other interested – and younger – soul might be inspired to start a new history website. There is never a shortage of material I can assure them. However, as long as I am compos, and with the kind permission of the *DN* editors, History Corner will continue.

Rob Forsyth


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WELL REMEMBERED

Derek F Cheeseman 21 May 1929–11 December 2019

Derek was born in New Malden, Surrey. His mother, Daisy, and father, Thomas, a silk buyer, already had a son, Mike, born 14 months earlier. Unfortunately their father died in Como, Italy, when Derek was only 21 months old.

The two boys were sent, age six and seven, to Bal-lards, near Croydon, which became the Royal Russell School, a boarding school established as a charitable institution for 'orphans of warehousemen, clerks and drapers' livery companies'. Derek spent many happy years there taking part in every sport possible, especially swimming. He had a penchant for languages and sciences and stayed on to do his Highers, now A levels, but as there were no dedicated teachers available so he was not very successful.

During the Second World War, the family moved to Macclesfield after the family business warehouse burnt down. Derek and his brother loved spending their school holidays cycling all over the area and in August 1945, even cycled 20 miles to Old Trafford to see the fifth Ashes Victory Test. They left their bikes on the verge outside – and at the end of the day's play, they were still there.

He did his National Service, joining the Wiltshire regiment on April Fool's Day 1949. He enjoyed his time in the army as a corporal and typically engaged in any sporting activity available in order to avoid doing anything more arduous. In particular, he boxed and, needless to say, played cricket, alongside Ken Barrington.

After National Service he joined the Royal Insurance in Fleet Street where he made many lifelong friends. His weekends were spent playing cricket for Malden Wanderers, followed by Wigmore, and hockey in the winter for Spencer.

After being taken ill in 1964, he transferred to the Royal Insurance branch in Banbury. He immediately joined Banbury Cricket and Hockey Clubs and also, slightly bizarrely as he was not known for his singing ability, Banbury Operatic Society.

He played cricket every summer weekend and on occasional weekdays when he could. Cricket and hockey were a big part of Derek's life and he loved going on cricket tours with Banbury and later with Barclays as well as to Clacton with the Hockey Club.

In 1972 he left the Royal Insurance after accepting a job as area manager for Barclays Insurance in Oxford. The following year he moved to Deddington with Jill and Claire. Rachel was born in 1975, followed by Will in 1980.

Derek started coaching the under 13 cricket team which included Will and some of his school mates. This continued well beyond Will playing in the under 16s side and progressing to the men's team. As an active chairman of the club for many seasons, Derek organised advertising for the fixture card and did a skydive for his 80th birthday to raise funds for the Club and Dogs for Good. Latterly he was President of the Club.

The Cheeseman Family

NEWS FROM HEMPTON

Firstly, thank you to everyone who supported Hempton Bazaar in December, donating prizes, gifts, cakes, selling and buying raffle tickets, and helping on the run up to and during the day when we raised a massive £1,281. It couldn't be done without you all.

'Eat, Pray, Live!' will be on Sunday 23 February at 5.00pm and every fourth Sunday in the month. Jo from Ease Massage Therapies in St John's Way is doing Baby Massage in Deddington on Wednesdays at 10.00am. If anyone is interested, please contact her on 07751 684693 or jo@easemassagetherapies.co.uk.

As I'm sure you know by now, Pub Night is every second Friday in the month in the Old School Room at 7.30pm. Bring your own drinks, snacks and £1 per person to cover costs.

There is going to be some sort of dinner or barbecue in the Old School Room in the coming months, so please keep an eye out for the details.

If you have anything you would like to put into the DN, please let me know before the 10th of each month. It would be nice to have a few more things added to the column. Thank you.

Ingrid Robey 07973 632448
Ingoflamingo16@yahoo.co.uk

BLISSFUL THINKING

The new decade began with the sad acceptance of the demise of my Renault Clio which had been falling to pieces like a leper for the last three years at least. Despite my not having to drive to work, the French workmanship didn't even make the 20-year mark. The driver's side door handle had long since come away in my hands, the speedometer had not functioned for some time, and the milometer falsely registered about five miles per year. The radio reset after the battery conked out, never to be heard again, the internal heating packed in and the cooling reservoir had to be refilled for every journey as a consequence of the head gasket's terminal decline. Finally, as a coup de grace on my journey to exchange it for a new vehicle, the bonnet refused to open, even with a crowbar for coercion. Fortunately it didn't matter and I got it to the dealer without the aid of a recovery truck.

Even in these days of climate emergency and filthy air, second-hand hybrids are lamentably still out of reach of most of us without incurring debt but, by the time the 2030s arrive, I imagine that electric charging points will be as conspicuous as phone boxes were, even in Deddington. Sadly, compulsory solar panels and rainwater toilets will probably not be...c'est la vie.

Aaron Bliss aaronbliss@hotmail.com

DOWN ON GEORGE'S FARM

Ho, when will it end? No, not the everlasting Brexit saga, which will last for another two years, but the rain. The farm has been waterlogged since the end of October and, as I put this together, the river has burst its banks yet again.

While we can do nothing about the amount of rain that falls, the biggest problem we face is the run off from the ever-increasing number of new builds taking place along the river and it will get even worse as planning permission has been given for a thousand new builds at Saltway in Banbury, sitting above the river catchment.

As a result, the ewe flock came in some six weeks earlier than expected, having been washed off their grazing. Although we made enough hay to see the flock through a normal winter, we have had to buy in extra and now face a spring with little safe grazing for the ewes and lambs. The unthinkable question has been asked in the farm office – should we sell a large part of the flock with lambs at foot? We have a few weeks before that decision must be faced.

With no autumn crops in the waterlogged ground, which is unable to carry any machinery, and the safe date for planting winter crops fast approaching, as well as a national shortage of spring seed, another word has been heard in the farm office – 'fallow'. For the uninitiated this simply means fields are left with no crops on them – so no harvest but also no expensive inputs to grow them. The fields will be cultivated with the non-chemical 'steel option' to control weeds which will affect our many ground-nesting, arable land birds and mammals throughout the summer (if we get one).

The Green Goddess will still come out to play as we have a number of fields planted in green cover crops of mustard. Before the start of lambing these will be taken off with the flail mower and direct-drilled into spring barley. As always with this farming life anything can change and by the time this hits the doormat I could be grumbling that it's too dry, but I somehow doubt it.

It seems as if climate change is all down to flatulent cattle but cattle and humans are both mammals and, as such, both produce greenhouse gases. The human population of this country outnumbers the bovine population many times over, a rather uncomfortable fact for our environmental activists both young and old.

As we wade our way into spring many new forms of life are appearing on the farm with calves and lambs being born, something that I have been involved with for the last sixty years. I learnt the skills of an ovine/bovine/equine midwife from my father and the local vet. I have birthed all the usual farm animals – my first ewe, when I was 12 and my first cow at age 14 at 2.00am. I was told by the vet to 'Get your shirt off, boy, and get stuck in'. It was a mis-presentation with a leg back. After some manipulation, a healthy heifer calf was born. She was always something of a favourite of mine and I milked her for many years. On my nightly

rounds of the livestock barns she was always the first for a nose scratch and a few treats.

At home we had a hunter broodmare called Meg. It did not matter where she was on the farm, she would always get out and come home to foal but would not do so unless one of us was in the foaling box with her. But I have only ever 'kidded' one goat. This was after moving to Clifton. We had had a lot of snow and the roads were blocked. I received a call from the local vet to say he could not get through and could I go down to Clifton Mill and see what I could do. So off I went through the snow drifts with my lambing box. It was a breech birth and the nanny had all but given up. However, after a shot of adrenalin and a relaxant a good doe kid was born.

Although I have nothing against the vegan and anti-meat lobby I often wonder if they know just what they wish for as a quick look through a vegan recipe book reveals that most of their diet is imported. How is that helping with the effects of global warming?

Otter, (Fred the Shed), my young Labrador puppy, is working well and retrieving to both left and right. I have not yet introduced him to the gun but his hunting instincts are well in place, although he does get a bit perplexed when the rabbit he is working disappears down its hole and the squirrel disappears up tree and I get the look of, 'Now where did that go, Dad?'

George Fenemore 01869 338203

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WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE – OR MAYBE NOT

As the world's climate continues to change, we see an impact not only on weather extremes but on resources essential to civilisation itself. Among these, water is foremost. Dealing with our local water issues (a bit too much of late) illustrates how regional differences in resource availability might affect our thinking. I suspect few of us in Deddington are concerned about running out of water and many are well aware of the toll that flooded pastures has taken on local farmers.

Elsewhere on the planet we all share, there are those who are running out of water and their situation could affect us in unanticipated ways. For example, in the US Central Plains, states overuse and a drier climate have put strains on the vast underground Ogallala Aquifer. It supplies irrigation water to eight of those states, which in turn supply one sixth of the world's cereal grains. Ogallala is beginning to run dry and any country that is less than self-sufficient in grain production will, in years to come, be affected by the plight of faraway farmers in Kansas.

We have an aquifer at Middle Yard that, thankfully, is not yet depleting. We can see it looking down the ancient well in the garden. The water table is about six metres below grade and in wet weather or dry appears to remain at the same level. The well itself is constructed of local stone and has likely been there for at least two centuries. Rainwater accumulating in adjacent soil can easily percolate into the well but,

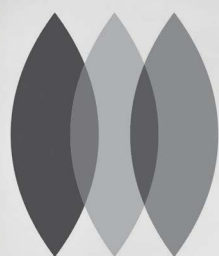
as the level never rises, surely is moving on through porous rock underground to some point of discharge. Fortunately, the garden soil has been enriched by many decades of organic gardening by former owners and soil like this can hold 20 times its weight of water, so even in heavy rainfall the well would not be taking in surplus moisture all at once.

This is all to the good as the plans call for harvesting and storing rainwater, now a necessity because new builds cannot discharge storm water into the sewer system, as is common with older houses. To accomplish this we're using a newer kind of gutter consisting of a continuous, seamless length of heavy gauge aluminium extruded through a roll form on the installer's truck. This ensures an unimpeded flow to a soakaway, a deep pit filled with what looks like giant milk crates. The crates absorb water rapidly and allow it to find its way slowly into the surrounding soil and thence to the aquifer. Before it gets to the soakaway, we will intercept some of the rainwater to store in an above ground reservoir for irrigating the garden in dry weather. When full it will overflow to the soakaway.

At least that's the plan. If local weather devolves to Noah's Flood, all bets are off. Meanwhile we've covered the well to prevent the neighbour's curious cat from becoming the stuff of nursery rhymes.

Dan Desmond

dessr@outlook.com



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ROBIN HOOD OF DAEDA'S WOOD



Nearly 50 years ago when I was on a local paper, a fellow cub reporter was sent to review the Northwood and Ruislip am-dram panto. Unwisely, she complained that Cinderella was a little too senior. Of course we wouldn't raise an eyebrow at a 50-year old principal girl now, but this lady, doyenne of the players and the lead in every show, was outraged and threatened to sue.

No such problems with *Robin Hood of Daeda's Wood* which is entirely age appropriate – especially the 'small platoon' of juvenile sheriff's men who at one point emerge from the capacious skirt of Sister Mat-tick's nun's habit ('a terrible habit to get into').

It was Deddington appropriate too. I guess the writers, Carrick Cameron and Steve Moss (aka Anita Man and the sheriff) were given the brief to make the script local and to cram in as many jokes as possible, to the point of inserting mini-scenes simply for the sake of a gag. Witness the gratuitous entrance of the pantomime Trojan horse (that nefarious duo Martin Squires and Jonathan Watts) – cue a crack about a 'hoarse laugh'.

Some of the jokes were pretty risqué, which naturally went over the heads of the parents in the audience. Many were topical – Brexit, Prince Harry, plus running gags like Robin's shocking marksmanship with bow and arrow, and knowing asides. *Town crier*: 'If you two (Robin and the sheriff) kill each other in the prologue we won't have much of a panto.' *Shirley Nott*: 'We probably won't anyway.'

The Robin Hood story fits Deddington's geography very well. Daeda's Wood replaces Sherwood Forest complete with chestnuts, oaks and a 'lava-tree' – ouch. It also provided a historical explanation of our venerable landmark. 'They've blown up Deddington Castle. There's only a lump of grass there now.'

Everybody likes the politics of Robin Hood – robbing the rich to give to the poor. Other plot twists were pleasing too: a heinous plan to burn down Daeda's Wood to smoke out Robin and his Merry Men, and an original love triangle, Robin, Marian and the sheriff's raffish henchman, Hugh Jarrow (Annie Rose Jones).

The story begins traditionally with Robin returning from the Crusades to rescue his true love, Maid Mar-

ian, from the clutches of the Sheriff of Deddington. Robin rounds up a band of outlaws – Merry Men, all in green save for a notably camp Will Scarlett (Kate Oldroyd, decked out in shocking pink – 'I wouldn't be seen dead in green. Not in these shoes.')

There was music – flutes, recorders, guitar – and wonderful dancing. The songs seemed classy to me, perhaps because they were sufficiently vintage for me to recognise them: *Staying Alive* in Bee Gees get-up, the Doors' *Light My Fire*, a show-stopping YMCA and a virtuoso full-cast rendition of *Proud Mary*. The show was blessed with two leads with beautiful singing voices – Jemima Scott and Elize Anderson as Marian and Robin – who were both touching, funny and admirably confident.

A cast of *Star Wars* proportions meant a generous doubling up of key roles – two lascivious dames (what can you say about the hilarious double act of Carrick Cameron and Kelly Scott?); a good fairy and Batman (Trina Murray-Hundley and the vicar, Annie Goldthorp) to ensure all ends happily; a town crier (James Reeve waggling his backside to ring his bell) teamed with a narrator who put him straight about what was actually going on (Vivi Watt); an enjoyably evil sheriff plus a wicked witch (Vaughan Jones as Fanny Phelan, cackling good fun and barely recognisable).

Lots of name checks here – also harking back to local paper days when the editor told us that every name sells a paper. Yes, the *Deddington News* comes free but old habits die hard. As the brilliant director, Elli Ince, said at curtain fall, this was the community. Huge kudos to Elli Ince, producer Martin Squires, and their colleagues for marshalling the vast numbers – on-stage, backstage and front of stage – so seamlessly.

I could go on about the marvellous set, great costumes and inspired choreography. I thought this was the most successful Deddington panto yet. OK, I haven't seen them all but I hope you'll forgive a little hyperbole about a thoroughly enjoyable, feel good evening.

Helen Oldfield

helenmoldfield@yahoo.co.uk

LETTERS

FROM JILL CHEESEMAN,
DEDDINGTON

My sincere thanks to everyone who has sent messages, letters and cards of condolence, both the handwritten variety and on Facebook. Claire, Rachel, Will and I have been heartened by the beautiful expressions of sympathy, love and respect for Derek. Thanks to all those who came to the service in the church. It was amazing to see so many people there and I'm sorry that there were some I didn't manage to speak to. We are extremely fortunate to live in the community of Deddington.

FROM HELEN OLDFIELD, DEDDINGTON

Huge thanks to the very honest unknown person who found an envelope containing €200 that I dropped in the Windmill car park as I left the panto on Saturday and who passed it on to the producer. It was returned to me on Sunday morning before I even realised it was missing. Wow, what a relief.

DAVID ROGERS, CHAIR, PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council was very grateful for a recent invitation by the Deddington fire crew to glimpse life at the fire station.



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

After a warm welcome the reality of a firefighter's routine was brought into sharp focus as the crew received a call-out to an accident on the M40. I felt humbled to be present when our team of retained firefighters – who are also our friends, neighbours and colleagues – changed from an affable assembly to a disciplined team off to deal with whatever fate had in store. We are well served by them and I thank them for willingly putting themselves forward to offer their time to protect us all.

Deddington hosts a modern, well-equipped and well-maintained fire engine and is crewed by a friendly, enthusiastic and professional team. As with all organisations there is a turnover of personnel and currently the Deddington crew has vacancies for additional trainee firefighters. The Station Officer, Chris Fenemore, is planning an open day in the spring. If you are looking for something different to do or seeking a new challenge, then have a chat with Chris.

Take a look at the opportunity that becoming a retained firefighter might provide.

If you want to find out a bit more in the meantime, check here <https://www.deddington.org.uk/community/fire-service/> or follow them on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/Deddingtonfire/>.

Holiday Cottage



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WINE TIME

Just don't tell the Chinese! There's a wine region the majority of whose wines go amazingly well with Chinese food – and almost all other Asian and Oriental food. It is one of those places wine lovers talk about in reverential tones – but hope no one is really listening, as they want to keep it to themselves. It is the extraordinary Alsace region.

Bounced between Germany and France throughout its history, it can have a bit of an identity problem. The bottles tend to be of the long fluted German style, making them frustrating to store. The labels often look Germanic with hard to read cursive script, and the grape varieties, with the prevalence of Riesling and Gewürztraminer, hint at German connections – although Pinot Gris and Pinot Blanc are also significant. Now it is firmly part of France with a style and appeal all its own. It produces good Pinot Noir (often served slightly chilled in Alsace) and Cremant d'Alsace, a great fizz at half the price of Champagne. However, its superstars are the whites which make up around 90% of the region's vines.

The trick to Alsace is to know the grape varieties as well as the names of quality producers. If you like lychee, rose-tea and flowery aromatic wines then start with Gewürztraminer. Pinot Gris from Alsace is often as floral but with rich honeysuckle, combined with ripe pear, apple and mango flavours. The Rieslings here are fruity and rich with citrus, apples and peaches. These flavours are why even dry Alsace wines go fantastically well with Chinese and other Asian food – off-dry or slightly sweet ones go even better in my opinion. When buying look at the wine merchant's sweetness guide as it is not always obvious from the bottle. Alsace wines can 'smell sweet' when they are dry in terms of levels of sugar, so when tasting for the first time they can seem sweeter than you expect. Names worth looking for are Hugel, Trimbach, Schlumberger, Weinbach, Zind-Humbrecht, and Cave de Turckheim. Of course, there are many other quality producers.

Suggestions at sensible prices for Gewürztraminer include both Sainsbury's and Tesco's own brand versions (their 'Taste the Difference' and 'Finest' ranges) at around £10. Although not the pinnacle of quality they are good introductions to Gewürztraminer's unique and fabulous flavours. The Wine Society has a great range and their Exhibition Alsace Gewürztraminer at £16 is worth trying, as is their Cave de Turckheim at £11. Waitrose sells a Cave de Turckheim Gewürztraminer for around £11.

Pinot Gris is less easily found and usually more expensive – expect to pay £20 or more for a bottle but, again, the Wine Society and Waitrose both have good examples – try any of their selections. Top end Alsace Pinot Gris, often sweet, can be one of the most complex and wonderful wines you can buy. For dry Alsace Riesling, which can be pricey, try Trimbach Riesling Reserve 2017 (Wine Society £18). Finally, you will see Vin D'Alsace, which is a blend of grapes and

can be a good and cheaper way to explore Alsace rather than the single grape variety wines. So, give Alsace a go next time you choose Chinese, Indian, Thai, Indonesia, Malaysian or even Japanese for dinner. They match beautifully.

Charles Elvin

Charles.elvin@btopenworld.com

DEDDINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

We are off to a good start for the new term and back in our stride, learning and enjoying school life.

Last term was extremely busy, as it always is at that time of year. In mid-December our kitchen staff provided us a great Christmas lunch, crackers and all, and we would like to thank them very much.

Our Christmas performances took place in Deddington church and we would like to thank Revd Annie for her support. F1 and F2 put on a nativity play, singing and dancing in wonderful costumes. 'Hosanna Rock' involved the whole of KS1, as well as small group and solo parts, sung very sweetly. The narrators were equally excellent in telling the Christmas story. KS2 presented their songs and storytelling in the early evening to an appreciative audience, many of whom commented on the high standard of performance. We are very proud of the children who took part in these festive shows.

The Christmas Fayre was both enjoyable and successful yet again, taking place after school during the penultimate week of the term. The children made items to sell, from wrapping paper to hot chocolate sachets with reindeer faces, fudge, mince pies, glass lanterns with candles inside, and Christmas decorations.

Congratulations to our Year 5 and 6 girls who took part in the Oxfordshire cross country finals where they came joint sixth out of all of the schools in the county.

Denise Welch

dwel3954@deddington.oxon.sch.uk

PFSU AND VILLAGE NURSERY

This term the pre-school children are finding out about animals. We will be welcoming lots of friendly pets and inviting a vet to tell us about their job. At Nursery we are enjoying the stories of the Gruffalo and Each Peach Pear Plum and have created a Gruffalo cave to play in. We will also be finding out about Chinese New Year. It seems some time ago now but we'd like to thank everyone who supported our Christmas celebrations, particularly the Christmas Fayre in Deddington Church which raised over £2,400. Our next fund-raising event will be a table top sale in the Primary School hall on Sunday 9 February from 9.00am–noon.

Lucy Squires 337484

CALLING ALL CLUBS

Women's Institute

On 10 December a large party met at the Duke at Clifton for our Christmas lunch. We were made very welcome, the inviting table set with crackers and decorations and the excellent meal enhanced by the good service.

Our first meeting of the year was well attended, especially considering the dreadful blustery weather that evening. We enjoyed a talk by Pamela Hayton on 'How to Avoid the Scammers'. Pamela works for NatWest as their community banker with special responsibility for disseminating information on the many scams so prevalent in this digital age. She gave us valuable tips and examples of how the public can be easily duped and lose many thousands of pounds to criminal gangs who can appear very professional and believable. Scams are carried out phone, email, post and at the front door. If you feel you've been scammed, you can report it to Action Fraud on 03001 232040 and Pam is happy to be contacted for further information at pamela.hayton@natwest.com. Afterwards we welcomed a new member while enjoying home-made refreshments and chatter.

If you would like to join our friendly bunch, please contact Jen Cox on 01869 337015 or Jenny Cross, Secretary on 01869 337613. We meet in the Holly Tree Club on the second Tuesday of the month.

Moir a Byast
Sue Lane

Photographic Society

Last December we welcomed Peter Greenway talking about 'A Personal Wander Through the Technology Used in My Photography'. Peter's love of photography started as a child when his mother gave him an old Box Brownie. He practices night, historical, landscape and quirky photography but avoids anything to do with fur or feathers. He is a CACC judge, holds PAGB and RPS Licentiate, works as a volunteer photographer for the National Trust and contributes to the Archangel Image Library for fiction books.

Peter offered insights into opportunities opened up by the development of smartphone apps, software packages and hardware technology for digital photography. He demonstrated techniques and recommended apps that improve everything from preparing for a shoot to publishing images. Peter described the 'end-to-end' procedure that he follows from selecting equipment to publication.

In January, Andreas Klatt, chairman of the Royal Photographic Society Visual Art Group and a member of our Photographic Society, talked about his approach to working towards his RPS Distinctions – LRPS (Licentiate), ARPS (Associate), and FRPS (Fellowship).

To achieve a Licentiate, a cohesive panel of ten photos, making the '11th image', is presented. Andreas asked the audience to select 10 prints from

a set of 30 that he might have used, bearing in mind three key items – symmetry, knowing how your camera works and purpose or direction of flow. He then set out his final panel which had taken him two years to choose and advised not to stint on print quality. For his Associateship panel Andreas based his work on what he termed 'architecture to the glory of God', fifteen images taken in the Middle East, accompanied by a statement of intent.

Nathan Barry will talk about the 'Landscape Thought Process' on Wednesday 5 February at 7.30pm in the Cartwright Hotel, Aynho – everyone is welcome.

Wendy Meagher 01869 336216
www.addphoto.co.uk

Royal British Legion Branch

A members' social meeting will be held on an evening in April in the church to which families and friends as well as potential members will all be welcome. There will be a guest speaker and an open discussion on what sort of activities members would like the branch to organise. Suggestions will canvassed by email before the meeting. More details next month.

The Poppy Appeal last November raised £4,800 and we very much hope to increase it during the coming year by further donations and fundraising.

Most people are now aware that the May Bank Holiday has been changed to 8 May and there will be events across the nation to mark the signing of the Armistice at 3.00pm in 1945. A VE75 committee, chaired by Alan Collins on behalf of the PC, is co-ordinating Deddington's activities. Volunteers are needed. Please see page 4.

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

Local Vocals – Community Choir

A lot of people have commented that it's good to be back singing together again and this term sees us tackling three new songs, *California Dreamin'*, *Too Much Love Will Kill You* and *I Am a River*, a mix of popular, ballad and folk. Each term our choir leader, Cat, tries to bring new challenges and this term we are now singing in four parts. We meet on Mondays during term time in the primary school hall.

To find out more or contact us please go to our website www.localvocalscc.co.uk.

Alison Grieve

Book Group

At our last meeting we discussed Ernest Hemingway's classic *A Farewell to Arms*, set on the Italian front during WWI. The novel was first published in 1929 and is a first-person account by an American volunteer ambulance driver, Frederic Henry. It portrays both the reality of warfare and Henry's passionate love affair

CALLING ALL CLUBS

with Catherine Barclay, a British nurse who cares for him after he is wounded. Although the novel is not autobiographical, it was inspired by Hemingway's own experience as an ambulance driver during the war.

His celebrated punchy style results in vivid descriptions of fighting in mountainous terrain, desperate retreat and brutal executions. In contrast there are many gentle and peaceful episodes when the two lovers are far from the battlegrounds. However, we found the depiction of this relationship marred by frequent long and rather inane conversations. Some who had read the book previously felt less enthusiastic this time but all agreed that we were pleased to have read it.

Our next meeting is on 27 February. Please contact Sally Lambert on 01869 338094 for more information.

Sian Waterman

Deddington Players

It's all over for another year. Robin Hood and his Merry Men have defeated the dastardly Sheriff of Deddington, the dames have put away their rouge and lipstick, and Marian and Robin have ridden off into the sunset on the panto horse. We hope you enjoyed this season's rip-roaring *Robin Hood of Daeda's Wood*, as much as we enjoyed putting it on. Once again, we had record audience numbers of more than 750 people with both Saturday performances sold out. We also broke

records on the stage with over 50 cast members and extra backstage help. If you took part or you watched a performance, thank you. If you've been inspired to get involved in future productions contact Suzie on 07717 205051. Follow the Deddington Players' Facebook page for news about our next show.

Suzie Upson

Deddington Bookworms

Our latest books have been quite different but both enjoyable in their own ways.

Kate Atkinson's *Case Histories* is set in Cambridge and opens with three separate case histories. Olivia, three years old, disappears from the tent in the garden where she is sleeping with one of her sisters, in the early hours of a hot, summer's morning. Laura, an eighteen-year-old student is murdered at her solicitor father's office and a struggling mother loses her temper with her husband and reaches for an axe. Some years later, Jackson Brodie, an ex-policeman turned private detective, becomes involved with the three cases and gradually begins to work out what happened. He is not without his own family tragedies which adds a poignancy to the cases being investigated. There are moments of sadness and grief but also of humour as the book progresses through twists and turns and sub-plots to its ending. The group found it a compelling

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CALLING ALL CLUBS *Continued from p14*

read and those who had not read Kate Atkinson before certainly felt they would like to read more of her work.

Move Along Please takes us on a journey with Mark Mason from Land's End to John O'Groats by local bus. Taking 11 days to travel through the middle of England and Scotland, covering 1,100 miles and travelling on 46 buses, the author relates facts and myths of the countryside he travels through. Although generally accepted as an entertaining read some Bookworms found the multitude of facts, both in the text and footnotes, a bit too much. Spending most of his journey listening to, rather than taking part in, conversations the author picks up on the differences, not only between England and Scotland, but between counties and even towns, in a humorous way. Worth a read if you like travel and buses.

Deddington Library
01869 338391

Deddington and District History Society

The filthy evening of 16 January did not deter a good number of members and visitors from coming to hear Stephen Wass tell us about 'Old Mettle' (real name William Castle), a celebrated Banbury character. William, born in Adderbury in 1792, suffered two early disadvantages: he seems to have been born with some sort of defect and the family was left destitute when William's father died in 1798. Stephen thinks the defect might have been Moebius Syndrome (look it up).

His was not the sort of life, sadly, that would leave much evidence behind but William turned himself into something memorable. He moved to Banbury where, dressed in a tattered and disreputable Oxford academic cap and gown, he created a street reputation as a sort of professional fool and mischief-maker, repeatedly standing as a fake candidate in parliamentary elections and turning them into rowdy, even riotous, affairs.

To make some sort of a living he combined scrounging with making and selling matches, casual work on canal boats, helping the sexton in Banbury churchyard and hiring himself out to Morris dancing teams as their professional fool. In 1841 he began to suffer from fits and died of apoplexy in June. His belongings were found to comprise a heap of straw and various odds and ends. Stephen finished by emphasising another of this extraordinary man's characteristics, his generosity: whenever he had a few coins he would pass one on to a fellow struggler.

At our next meeting on Thursday 20 February at 7.30pm in the primary school, past chairman Chris Day will speak on 'Home of Lost Causes and Forsaken Beliefs? The History of the University of Oxford'. Lots of good knockabout material, along with much interesting history. For information contact Barrie Smith, at smithinsight@btinternet.com or on 01869 337813.

Chris Day

SPORT

Deddington Original Golf Society

I think the 'original' in Deddington Original Golf Society was included more to achieve the acronym than to lay claim to any sort of priority and I know we have DOBS (Deddington Old Boys Golfers) also in the village. Perhaps we can arrange a match this year – could be fun. DOGS completed 2019 with 88 paid-up members (only a tanner a year) and look forward to our usual programme of golfing days out, away tour, and social events in 2020. The DOGS AGM is at the Deddington Arms on Wednesday 5 February at 7.00pm.

Nigel Oddy

Deddington Town Football Club

First Team results

30.11.19	Bodicote Sports (h)	W 4–1
11.01.20	Charlton & District (a)	W 4–0

Reserve Team results

23.11.19	Banbury Athletic 1st (h)	W 2–1
30.11.19	Bodicote Sports Reserves (a) (CUP)	L 0–2
07.12.19	Bicester Hallions Reserves (h)	W walkover
14.12.19	Charlton District 2nd (a)	L 2–3
11.01.20	Bishops Itchington Reserves (h)	W 2–1

An excellent Christmas and New Year period for both sides, as we welcome a new decade in DTFC's illustrious history while working off the turkey. The Thornton brothers contributed to two resounding victories in the First Team's only two games over the festive period. They sit relatively pretty in striking distance of the top guns of the division but with the threat of catastrophic fixture pile-up caused by the myriad postponements looming large since October.

The Reserves have turned their season around, no less, with half their matches resulting in victory, though one of these was a walkover. Whether or not it was a result of a stronger squad being available, with the First Team mostly out of action or not, the Reserves have shown great pride and fight in climbing away from the relegation morass. Sadly though, they were eliminated from the Geoff Wilson cup by those dastardly bar stewards, Bodicote Sports. Here's hoping for a new decade of success.

Aaron Bliss 07909 642882

Youth Section

The U16s playing in a strong league lost 7–2 to Chipping Norton Swifts in the Cup. In the league they lost to Ducklington and Carterton but put in a fine performance against Chipping Norton Swifts losing narrowly 1–2. The U13s had a mesmerising 5–4 win over Freeland (a hat-trick for Ben Jones and a brace for Leo Sansom), but this was followed by heavy defeats to Kingston, in a return fixture at Freeland and at local rivals, Hook Norton. The U12s have been on

SPORT ————— *Continued from p15*

good form – a 1–1 draw with Moreton Rangers, wins over Middleton Cheney and Banbury Irish, but a 3–1 defeat to table-topping Brackley Town. The fine run continued with a 5–0 win at Banbury United in early January. The U7s and U6s enjoyed a mini-tournament with four children teams and two adult teams. The adult teams finished at the bottom of the league and need much work to improve their skills.

A big thank you to Bengal Spice which is sponsoring the U11s shirts for the rest of the season – their support over many years is greatly appreciated.

If you want to get involved with the club as player, volunteer, sponsor or fundraiser, please get in touch. Further information about the club is on our website www.deddingtontownfc/ and on Facebook www.facebook.com/DeddingtonTownFc.

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

YOUTH —————**1st Deddington Scout Group**

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Scout Christmas Post with special thanks to Eagles and Barford Post Office. We raised £160 towards the insurance for our camping equipment.

Beavers

Deddington Beaver Colony now has a new leadership team and in 2020 we look forward to continuing working towards Activity badges, Challenge awards and ultimately the Chief Scout's Bronze award as well as preparing Beavers for their move up to Cubs.

**Hal Eriksen, Beaver Scout Leader
deddingtonscouts.org.uk**

Cubs

We ended the year with a re-enactment, one of my favourites, Vikings. The Cubs worked very hard making spectacular shields and helmets while learning about all things Viking; where they came from, their belief system (very complex and arboreal), how they travelled and their choice of away day mayhem destinations. All this plus a battle, a Valkyrie and sagas around a campfire with themed snacks. Our last night coincided with the Tractor Run so we all watched with delight from the car park.

**Jo Churchyard
deddingtoncubs@gmail.com**

Scouts

Even more Vikings – just bigger, noisier and dafter. Their shields ranged in size from truck wheel to small side plate and the added yellow wool on the helmets made them look like characters from the Muppets. The

YOUTH ————— *Continued*

battle with foam pipe lagging was particularly vicious with most of them ending the evening in Valhalla. After refreshments and family tales (we know all your secrets now) the dead king was carried in triumph to the car park and his burning ship floated away on the big puddle. See our website www.deddingtonscouts.org.uk for some great pictures.

**Peter Churchyard
deddingtonscouts@gmail.com**

Explorers

We have had a really busy couple of months, mainly involving helping others but always with an element of fun thrown in to keep us sane. At the end of November, we had a stall in the church for our Street Child United fundraising – www.streetchildunited.org – and slept out on the coldest night of the year to raise awareness of what some young people and adults go through every single night. It certainly made us think how fortunate we are. We've been blown away by your support, being able to donate £1,080.

We had a bowling evening at Bicester with the rest of the District Units, spent an evening putting up the Tractor Run signs for RC Baker in support of Katharine House Hospice which raised £10,395 and then helped with the bucket collection in Deddington raising an amazing £701.

Now to 2020. We've had the big after-Christmas quiz and are about to do our own Escape Rooms. If you are interested in joining the Unit contact any of the leaders.

**Janet Duxbury
spartansexplorers@gmail.com**

1st Deddington Guides

After the excitement of our own Christmas party which included favourite games like musical chairs and pass the parcel with amazing fruit, chocolate and ice cream mocktails, we tried to do a good turn. Some of the Guides and Brownies and their leaders gave up time to help at the residents' Christmas party at Wardington House Nursing Home. They helped serve tea, sang and played carols and Christmas music, generally helping the party go with a swing. Afterwards the girls enjoyed a tour of the nursing home and learnt a little about caring for the frail and elderly.

This term we've started off with lots of ideas for the future, Patrols planning their own activities and exploring ideas around the fact that we are all different but can all live well together.

All girls over ten are welcome to join us on Tuesdays 7.00–9.00pm at the Windmill Centre.

**Maggie Rampley, 07957 600755
Marian Trinder, 01869 340806
mariantrinder@gmail.com
Tilly Neal, 07557 095681
tillyneal1@hotmail.com**

DEDDINGTON FARMERS' MARKET

Keep Warm

The wintry weeks of February can seem endless (well, at least a day longer than last year) and a time for soups, stews and comfort food. The Welsh cawl is a very comforting stew-like soup, ideal for this time of year but pretty near impossible to make quickly or in small quantities. However, if you lack time and you're not feeding umpteen hungry farmhands, this recipe from Laura Mason's *Farmhouse Cookery* might work for you.

FAST CAWL serves 4

100-120g salty bacon, *pancetta* or *guanciale*, cut into matchsticks

200g potatoes, peeled or scraped and cut into 1cm dice

1 small white turnip, peeled and cut into 1cm dice

2 leeks (white part only), sliced

850ml water

1 dessertspoon fine oatmeal

200g white cabbage, finely chopped or frozen peas or broad beans

2 tablespoons fresh parsley, chopped

Salt and pepper

Cheshire cheese, grated (optional)

Cook the bacon gently at the bottom of the soup pan until the fat begins to run. Add potatoes, turnip, leeks and water. Simmer gently until vegetables are soft. Stir in oatmeal, then add cabbage, peas, broad beans and parsley. Cook for about ten minutes more. Check seasoning and serve in deep bowls. Some grated Cheshire cheese can be added to top each bowlful.

This dish cries out for good bread and good butter to accompany it. A glass of red wine, though utterly inappropriate for a farmhouse dish like this, works rather well. 'Mwynhewch eich bwyd!'

The market is on Saturday 22 February from 9.00am–12.30pm with details on www.deddington-farmersmarket.co.uk.

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. Details at: www.market.adderbury.org.

Good shopping!

Ian Willox 01869 337940
ian.willox@btconnect.com

TALES FROM THE PUMP

I get used to my customers stating the obvious so when Mike said 'Well, here we are in 2020 then', I just gave him my best withering look. 'For the first time this century we can refer to the twenties – the century we are actually in', he went on, 'and it's a leap year of course'.

By this time I'm losing the will to live so I suggest he has another pint just to change the subject. He nods but carries on, 'Of course there's twenty-twenty cricket now and we still have twenty-twenty vision'. What do you mean 'still have', I asked. 'Well twenty-twenty vision is what a normal person can see from 20 feet but since we've adopted the metric system it should really be 6.096–6.096 vision'.

'Hasn't really got the same ring about it', I said, handing over his pint of Butcombe. 'Anyway we haven't gone completely metric – still a pint isn't it?' 'If you say so', Mike says, eyeing his pint with an inch head suspiciously, 'Of course Brexit now gives the UK the opportunity to go back to imperial measures. Why

do we order beer in pints and wine in metric? Bit like measuring our car's efficiency in miles per gallon whilst buying petrol in litres, and when did you last hear the midwife telling the proud new mum she has a 3.63kg bouncing baby boy!'

Now Mike's on a roll. 'You know I have an allotment – councils measure them in square poles which are fractions of an acre, and fruit and veg in the shops are priced as kilos but many people still like to order in pounds and ounces. And of course we report temperature in Celsius rather than Fahrenheit and rainfall in millimetres but wind speed in miles per hour'.

I just know that Mike is going to move on to currency next and he doesn't let me down. 'Let me tell you about the logic behind our old currency', he starts but I break in, 'Sorry to interrupt, Mike, but you owe me four pounds four shillings for that pint, and a happy 2020 to you'.

Grumpy Landlord
Grumpylandlord1@gmail.com

HELP WITH HOME REPAIRS

There are services and funds available to help people (owners and private tenants) stay independent, safe and well in their homes, and Oxfordshire County Council has developed a referral service to help residents or carers access the right organisations in their area, to get the help they need.

The type of help that can be provided is services

such as installing new boilers, repairs to boilers, loft or cavity wall insulation, access to a local and trustworthy repairs service and general advice on how to stay safe, well and affordably warm in your home.

For more information or to make a referral visit www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/homerepairs.

FROM THE FIRE STATION

The station was relatively quiet at the end of the year with only ten call-outs: two traffic collisions, three stand-bys at other stations and five fires – two car fires, a caravan fire, a retail unit in Banbury, and our second chimney fire of the year. Quick thinking by the owner saw him douse the fire grate with water allowing a cloud of steam to rise up the chimney and cool the burning soot. Firefighters were able to take the hot embers outside, use the thermal imaging camera to check the chimney breast and flue for any hot spots and rod the chimney to remove the smouldering soot.

Home owners will be pleased to know that the first thing we do, before any soot comes down the chimney, is place protective runners from the front door to the fire and put down blankets to protect carpets from dirty boots and black soot. Thirty minutes later the chimney was safe and the fire out, with a promise from the owners to get their chimney swept as soon as possible.

Over the Christmas holidays it is always difficult to balance providing as much cover as possible and spending time with your family – especially if many of them travel halfway round the world to see you. Everyone gives up extra time as happened with the Boxing Day call out to a collision just outside Brackley, involving three cars with a person trapped inside. Upon our arrival the full-time Brackley crew, police and ambulance service were in attendance. The weather wasn't helping as it was tipping down with rain. Of the three cars, the classic convertible had come off worst (a lack of crumple zones and less regulation in the early 70s). The passenger was trapped inside with back and upper leg pain. As firefighters, passenger

extraction was our top priority while the ambulance crew were striving to make the passenger comfortable and stable enough to allow them to be extracted from the car. As it was a convertible, the roof was immediately folded down, the rear seat squab removed and a spinal board placed between the passenger and seat. As the seats were non-adjustable buckets, the rear of the seat trim was removed, the seat back cut with a mini hydraulic cutter whilst the passenger's back was being supported and the board gently lowered from vertical to nearly horizontal.

At this point, care of the passenger's was handed over to the fire service to allow extraction from the vehicle. With a senior firefighter at the head end and directing the procedure, four other firefighters worked to pull the passenger gradually up onto the board, gently strap them down and lift them out over the boot onto the waiting gurney. The spinal board was then removed and the casualty's care handed back to the ambulance service.

The priority in all rescues is the casualty and for them to be on the way to hospital as quickly as possible, preferably within the 'golden hour' – achieved comfortably on this occasion. As soon as the casualty was being treated in the ambulance, clear-up began; tools and debris away, recovery trucks in and road opened again. Not the best Christmas for the drivers and passengers involved but every job a firefighter does truly makes a difference.

FFd James Greenwood
james@cyclogicalshop.co.uk

HOLLY TREE CLUB

While not wishing to recap December's activities, we would like to thank the Deddington Arms for a lovely Christmas lunch.

A couple of parish notices. Please put all tables and chairs away once your group has finished. If we have to employ someone to rearrange the room between sessions our hire rates will have to increase. We apologise for the state of the car park – we are working on it and hopefully by the time you get this the matter will have been resolved.

Our next outing will be lunch at Robbins Nest on Monday 10 February. We need a final head count by Monday 3 February.

We're looking forward to our next film on Thursday 13 February; *The Man Who Sued God*, a theological rom-com with a courtroom drama thrown in. Starring Billy Connolly as Steve Myers, a lawyer who abandoned his career to pursue a quiet life as a fisherman. A bolt of lightning destroys his boat and the incident isn't covered by insurance as it's deemed an 'act of God'. So, Steve Myers sues God, who is represented in court by religious leaders who have to prove God's

existence or pay up. No need to be a member or to book to see the film, just come along, all over 55s will be made very welcome. £2 including refreshments on the night.

Don't forget our Monday morning coffee club for the over 55s is held on the first Monday of the month at 10.30am in the Holly Tree Club. Do join us.

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.

Revd Annie Goldthorp

MONTHLY ADVERTISING RATES

1/6 page (820mm x 820mm) £15 per month

1/4 page (1250mm tall x 820mm wide) £20 per month

1/2 page (1250mm tall x 1700mm wide) £40 per month

Contact: Debbie Grimsley, grimsleyhome@live.co.uk, 07765 243748

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