

March 2020

The **DEDDINGTON NEWS**



Delivered free to Deddington, Clifton and Hempton

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Jane Price

The DEDDINGTON NEWS

This month's issue is full of reminiscences of Deddington in days gone by: Don Walker's memories have prompted Jan Warner to contact us and write about her memories of Deddington post World War II, and Jo Eames has written a review of *Hostages to Fortune*, which is based in Deddington in the 1930s and comes from a similar perspective to Jan's experiences. I can recommend *Hostages to Fortune* as a delightful read.

JC

What's On

March

Sun 1 Parish Litter Pick: Town Hall, 10.30am

Mon 2 Holly Tree Club: Coffee Morning, Holly Tree, 10.30am

Mon 2 Bookworms: Library, 6.30pm

Wed 4 Photographic Society: Donald MacLellan, 'Challenging Portrait Photography', Cartwright Hotel, 7.30pm

Tue 10 WI: AGM followed by social evening, Holly Tree, 7.30pm

Thu 12 Holly Tree Club: Film Night, *Nothing like a Dame*, Holly Tree, 6.30pm

Thu 12 Revd Stig Graham, 'God in Science', Parish Church, 7.00pm

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

Thu 26 Friends of Castle Grounds: AGM, Deddington Arms, 7.30pm

Sat 28 Farmers' Market: Market Place, 9.00am–12.30pm

Sat 28 Banbury Symphony Orchestra: Holst, Hindemith and Berlioz, Parish Church, 7.00pm

Tue 31 Dr James Kennard, 'God in Music', Parish Church, 7.00pm

April

Wed 1 Photographic Society: AGM, Cartwright Hotel, 7.30pm

Sat 4 Chipping Norton Choral Society: Rossini *Petite Messe Solenne*, Parish Church, time tbc

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

Mon 6 Bookworms: Library, 6.30pm

Tue 7 Friends of Daeda's Wood: AGM at Deddington Arms 7.30pm

Tue 14 WI: Holly Tree, 7.30pm

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

Thu 16 History Society: 'What Did Granny Do in World War I?', Dan Allen, Primary School, 7.30pm

This month's cover is not a Deddington version of the tardis but one of many views at the allotments at Satin Lane. If you've never visited it's well worth a wander round. You don't have to wait until an open day. If you have a hankering to grow your own, contact the parish clerk, Susan Fuller, 01869 337447, deddingtonparishcouncil@googlemail.com.

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Childhood Memories 1947 – Deddington Castle Grounds

In the above year it was decided to level and re-seed and make a new vehicle entrance into Castle Grounds which meant removing an area of the embankment which had been steps. Previously you had to go along the north side, where the access is now along the bottom which brought you to a stone barn where a vintage tractor was stored.

The pedestrian access was steps formed with timber risers and filled behind with hardcore. These were only 75cm wide and were between where the noticeboard is now and the new main entrance.

A committee was formed to organise this work and they thought it would be a good idea to have the school represented with one girl and one boy. I was asked to take on this task. The meetings were held in Mr Walter Sanders' house in Hudson Street.

On entering Castle Grounds to the north side was a wooden building which we called the pavilion but in fact was just a glorified shed painted green with no windows. It had two large top-hung shutters which were quite useful when it rained as you could stand under them to watch the football. The only problem was to hold the shutters open you had to prop them with a piece of timber (no health and safety in those days).

On the south side was the bowling green. The members of the club were known as the Lower Fives, there was also a cricket square which was rolled by a

large horse-drawn roller and also quite a heavy hand roller which needed two men to pull it.

In the mid-1940s the foundations of the old castle were excavated. We used to go and play in them in the evenings as there were no barriers to protect them.

In the south-east corner there was a flower garden set into the bank tended by Mr Edwin Bliss.

VJ Day celebrations were held in Castle Grounds in the form of a sports day.

Castle Grounds were reputed to be one of the finest sportsfields in the county.

Don Walker

roodon@btinternet.com

Don's memories in the February 2020 issue of *DN* have prompted a further contribution relating to the doctors' surgery (see p7) – **JC**.

Oxfordshire County Council will be closing their recycling centres for two days to carry out a deep clean. Local centre closing dates are as follows:

Alkerton (Banbury) – Tues 3 and Wed 4 March

Ardley (Bicester) – Tues 17 and Wed 18 March

Dix Pit (Stanton Harcourt) – Tues 24 and Wed 25 March. Full details can be found at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/wasteclosure including details of your nearest site during closures.

The Lake House Memory Singalong

Thursday 26th March • 10.30am - 12.00pm

Enjoy a morning of musical reminiscence
and feel the uplifting power of music!

Why not book an
appointment to look
around the home for a
short respite break at the
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to find out more



Entry is free and includes complimentary refreshments.

📞 Bookings - 01295 811183

💻 www.osjct.co.uk/lakehouse

🏠 Lake House Care Home, Lake Walk, The Green, Adderbury, OX17 3NG



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

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FARMERS' MARKET

THE EMPTY MONTH

March isn't great for fresh locally grown produce. Spring can still seem a long way away which induces an amount of desperation when you're looking for a recipe idea.

You have been warned.

Back in the 1980s a couple of guys produced a cook book of inspired foolishness. Foolish because every recipe was intended to be cooked under the bonnet of a car. I have not made any of their recipes (being American the mileage is ruinous) and provide this one purely out of academic interest. And I don't own a Porsche. Attempt it at entirely your own risk.

Pat's Provolone Porsche Potatoes

(from *Manifold Destiny* by Chris Maynard and Bill Scheller)

Distance: 55 miles

½lb new potatoes

1 cup milk

1 cup water

2oz aged provolone, grated

Butter

At home, peel potatoes and slice to about ¼ inch thick. Place in a saucepan with the milk and water



and simmer for about 10 minutes. Drain and spread on heavily buttered foil – the number of packages you make is up to you, depending on the characteristics of your engine. We recommend at least two, for optimum heat distribution. Sprinkle potatoes with the grated provolone and dot with butter. Then wrap carefully to seal the contents. Wrap that package with another layer of foil and perhaps a third to avoid any intermingling of cheese and engine. Secure safely. Cook for about one hour/55 miles.

I'm not going to recommend a drink to accompany this. Alcohol and driving don't mix well.

The market is on Saturday 28 March from 9.00am to 12.30pm. The market webpage is www.deddington-farmersmarket.co.uk.

If you can't wait until 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 at: www.market.adderbury.org.

Good shopping!

Ian Willox

01869 337940

ian.willox@btconnect.com



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DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

at the Windmill Centre, on Wednesday 19 February

County Councillor's Report

Proposals for an investment budget include: increased funding for children's and adult social care; £30 million for repairs to roads in the county; £3 million per annum to improve road safety and encourage walking and cycling; promotion of sustainable travel and introduction of LED streetlights.

Planning Applications

No objection

Holly Tree Club, Horse Fair: removal of yew tree.

Leadenporch Farm, Chapmans Lane: temporary steel containers with ground source heat pumps internally installed, prior approval not required.

Mallows, Hopcraft Lane: proposed outbuilding for use as office.

Kempster Place, Philcote St: replacement roof.

Featherton House, Chapel Square: replace UPVC with timber window.

Tennis Courts, Windmill Community Centre: variation of condition to allow more flexible use of floodlights.

Objection

13 Hempton Rd: sub-division of rear garden and erection of new two-bed detached dwelling with gardens and parking. Objection on grounds of over-development and possible damage to major drain.

Deddington Arms, Horsefair: removal of mature cedar.

VE DAY ANNIVERSARY

Bank Holiday Friday 8 May

At 3.00pm in the presence of RBL officers, Branch Standard and members, parish council, vicar and churchwardens, our bugler plays *Reveille* and the Union Flag is hoisted. The bugler plays the Carry On. The vicar will say prayers in remembrance of VE Day 1945 and for peace at all times. A piper plays on the church tower.

After this some primary school children and VE Day veterans, both those who served and those with living memory of VE day, will have tea in a marquee in the Market Place with the school children hosting the veterans and having a good old chat. Local singers will reprise the 'Forces Sweetheart', Vera Lynn's, songs of the time. Following this, there will be games and 'sporting competitions' for more children (if 'splat the rat' can be described as sport) and a kids' disco should see us busy until some time after 6.00pm.

At 7.00pm the bells will be rung for 15 minutes or so with other campanologists across the country. A temporary road closure will be sought similar to farmers' market closures.

A separate team of neighbours is planning an evening event with local bands and dancing in the marquee to finish at 10.00pm. Residents of the Market Place are being consulted and their suggestions are keenly anticipated.

Alan Collins

CDC Refused:

Land South of Clifton Road, Deddington: 14 dwellings, because of possible impact on Deddington Castle.

Environment and Recreation

Hempton playground. Plans and quotes are being discussed.

Clifton flooding: the PC will lobby Thames Water and it urges concerned residents to do the same.

DOG FOULING is still an issue. The Dog Warden will continue to patrol with the explicit intention of issuing fines. If dog owners refuse to comply with the regulations, it will be necessary to fence off the play areas at a huge cost to the parish – arguably a five figure sum otherwise dogs may have to be banned completely from the Windmill grounds.

Thanks to the team who helped plant bulbs.

A water supply is to be investigated and costed to enable the old bowls pavilion to be used as a children's party hub. It was agreed that the playing field should only be hired for charity events, not private parties.

Finance and General Purposes

The contribution to the cost of upstairs flooring at the Windmill was increased to £7,865.

A picnic bench is to be purchased for the Pocket Park at a cost of £557.

£990 was agreed for weed control in the parish.

A donation of £200 to Banbury CAB was agreed.

Highways and Transport

Disabled parking bays without a statutory sign are deemed informal and therefore anyone can park in them with or without a blue badge.

Double yellow lines to the east of Chapel Square will not be installed because the cost of £3,000 would have to be borne by the parish.

A meeting will be arranged with OCC to discuss: a street light at the junction of The Daedings and Hempton Road, County Councillor Fatemian offered to match fund this project; OCC view on parking on grass verges, the PC is not in favour of altering grass verges.

Large Scale Developments Working group

It was agreed to appoint a consultant at a cost of £13,750 to help deliver an acceptable Neighbourhood Plan. Until we have this protection the parish is vulnerable to large scale development applications such as an extra ten houses on the agreed site west of Wimborne Close (or up to 150 in exchange for the inclusion of two junior football pitches or the possible development of land to the north of Deddington Grange with a suggested 200 houses. These applications have not been made but opinions have been aired.

Next PC meeting: Wednesday 19 March at 7.30pm in the Holly Tree Club.

These Parish Council notes are the view of our reporter, Jean Rudge, not the official minutes, for which go to <http://www.deddingtonparishcouncil.org/2020.html>.

CHURCH AND CHAPEL March

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)
	12.00pm	Lent Lunch
Thu	9.30am	Tea and Toast
	10.30am	Squiggles & Wiggles for mums-to-be, parents or childminders with children of pre-school age.
Sun 1	10.30am	Family Service – Promises of Lent
	6.00pm	Choral Evensong
Sun 8	8.00am	BCP Communion
	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sun 15	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sun 22	10.30am	Holy Communion – Informal Said Service
Sun 29	10.30am	Holy Communion

Hempton

Sun 1	9.00am	Holy Communion
Sun 15	9.00am	Holy Communion
Sun 22	5.00pm	Eat, Pray, Live

Barford St Michael

Sun 1	10.30am	Non-Communion Service for Lent, Random Acts of Kindness
Sun 15	10.30am	Family Service
Sun 22	9.00am	Holy Communion

Barford St John

Sun 8	9.00am	Holy Communion
Sun 29	9.00am	Holy Communion

From the Parish Registers

Funeral

6 February 2020 – Robin Ward

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

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 7.30am.

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.

Friends of the Castle Grounds

After a wet and windy start to the year Castle Grounds is very muddy and slippery, so some footpaths have been closed for safety reasons. The moat path by the badgers is badly eroded and is unsafe to walk so we are in discussions with English Heritage to resolve this problem. There are also a few trees and branches that have come down in the strong winds and these will be moved. Please take care when you walk in the Castle Grounds for the next few months.

The banks have been mown and we plan to sow wild seeds in this area in the next few weeks.

Bat- and bird-boxes are being sourced, more information when they are ready to go up.

A date for your diary: the Friends of the Castle Grounds AGM will take place on Thursday 26th March at 7.30 in the meeting room at the Deddington Arms. Come and meet us and find out what work was carried last year and our plans for 2020.

Become a member or join the committee and help us maintain this wonderful historic site.

Carol Garrett

cgarrett@btinternet.com

***Hostages to Fortune* – Deddington a Hundred Years Ago**

Twenty years ago I wrote a novel about Menorca. Every year, when I visit the island, something I wrote about has gone or is changed and those lost things exist, then, only in memory – or in the pages of a book.

Expand that timescale to one hundred years and we are beyond living memory. So a few months ago it was intriguing to chance upon a novel set in Deddington between 1917 and the early 1930s. Some people in the village must know of it but no one had mentioned it to me in the nearly twenty years I've lived here.

The book is *Hostages to Fortune* by Elizabeth Cambridge. Intriguingly, this is a pseudonym. Was it frowned upon for a doctor's wife to write novels in the 1930s? For that's who she was – Mrs Barbara Hodges, wife of Dr Hodges, whose home and practice were set up in a house then called The Blocks, now Featherton House.

It is an autobiographical novel about a family established towards the end of the Great War. The writing is clear and beautiful, opening with the birth of Catherine's eldest daughter, a scene we rarely witness first-hand in fiction, surprisingly perhaps, when it is pivotal to so many lives. Here, it sets the author's agenda, which is to give us a rare and moving longitudinal study of motherhood. The innate differences in personality between the three children are finely drawn, as is the hard-wired (and timeless) maternal anxiety over how to help each child thrive. For a Deddingtonian, however, the book holds another interest. How have we changed? And how have we not?

Our first glimpse of Deddington is in the winter of 1917. 'Against a close-packed sky of grey cloud... a church tower stood up like a hill. Square, massive, broad-shouldered, the great bulk of ironstone dominated the cottages round the Market Place. It stood under its crown of pinnacles like a king.' No change there.

The husband, William, is the son of a previous village doctor and he finds Deddington familiar and comforting after the horrors of the Royal Army Medical Corps on the Western Front, from which he has just been invalided home. Catherine, though, is from the West Country and struggles to fit in. Slowly, she comes to a sense of the Deddington character: 'The village had a local reputation for independence and self-sufficiency, and had been stigmatised in the past as backward and drunken, a reproach no longer deserved. William, in his boyhood, had once counted 15 public houses. Catherine found the people likeable, once you knew them. They were loyal to their families, thrifty and swift to repay a kindness ... The people had a hard, sardonic humour, apt to find the one word which would bite most deeply into the memory, a sane humour, natural to the rational, slow-moving tempo of the village.' Has anything changed?

Yes, actually. 'Children abounded. On Saturdays the Market Place was rowdy with shrill voices and

tackety boots. There was a special season for peg-tops, dreaded by motorists. One week the street and square would be full of rapt performers forgetful of anything but the spinning top, the next the season of hopscotch would have come, and a little later that of marbles. The games were always played in the same order and never at the same time. Juvenile cricket occupied the square opposite Catherine's house in the summer. In the winter they made slides down the northerly road in front of the police station, or went tobogganing on home-made sleds.'

Sadly, apart from sledging, these seasonal games have died out and gangs of children no longer maraud through the village. This change started long before the advent of screens. The author describes cramped cottages with scarcely room for a woman to work, so that children, and many more of them then, were of necessity swept out to play all day. But perhaps the biggest change in the way we live happened in the 1920s:

'The white roads, cambered for horse traffic, and worn into wheel tracks on each side had vanished altogether. The wide, black, tyre-polished roads, filmed with oil, were changing the face of the country. Trees Catherine and William had grown to love and look for were cut down... cars came through all day long, and all of them left something, more or less unsavoury, on the wayside grass. One by one the woods to which Catherine had taken her children were scattered with litter, sprouted noticeboards and went out of bounds. The streams below the bridges on the main road were fouled with tins and torn paper. The kingfisher, who had always lived below the first of them, moved his quarters.'

As we face the challenge of undoing the damage caused by our reliance on the internal combustion engine and our lazy pollution of the natural world, *Hostages to Fortune* is a poignant account of a lost world that once existed right here.

The book is published by Persephone Books (persephonebooks.co.uk, 02072 429292) and costs £13 by mail order. Nicola Beauman, who owns Persephone, will waive the usual postage charge if you order by phone and mention your Deddington connection. Her shop in Lamb's Conduit Street is a wonderful place, worth a visit if you are near Bloomsbury. She specialises in re-publishing 'forgotten' novels mainly by 20th century writers.

Jo Eames

Jo.Eames@peachpubs.com

Parish litter-pick on
Sunday 1 March
at **10.30am**
meeting at the Town Hall

MORE MEMORIES OF DEDDINGTON

We moved to Deddington in the spring 1946 just before the introduction of the NHS, when my father, Dr Charles Wollaston, joined Dr George Hodges' practice. We were supposed to live in Ilbury House, the former home of Dr Jones, but it had been used as a billet during the war and was in a poor state of repair. While work was being carried out we stayed at the Holcombe Hotel and I went to school at Miss Melson's a few doors down from the hotel. She had a conservatory at the back where she sent pupils who misbehaved.

The surgery was at the rear of 'The Blocks', now Featherton House, a property owned by the Cooper family. They had a governess, Miss Marlowe, for their three children, Nicholas, Deborah and Prudence, and I joined them in their school room at the front of the house overlooking the Clifton road.

Dr Basil Lee-Woolf joined the practice in April 1947, followed by Dr Michael McCabe who moved into the Mount on the retirement of Dr Hodges when my father became senior partner.

Deddington surgery served 36 villages in north Oxfordshire and Northamptonshire with small satellite surgeries in other villages including Middle Barton. My father's trusty Rover had a hard life traversing farm tracks and unmade roads. He used to leave home before eight most mornings to make visits before surgery.

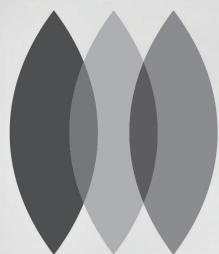
The 1947 winter was particularly difficult as

Deddington was virtually cut off and I can remember my father fixing chains to the car wheels so he could make his calls. The road to Banbury was completely blocked and a large group of Italian prisoners of war dug out a single track. I was in one of the first cars to go down the hill and remember it was like going down a blue tunnel with the men in greatcoats lining the road at the bottom.

Dr Watson and his wife then came to Deddington and stayed with us in Ilbury House while they looked for a home. They brought with them a very pregnant cat (my mother was not a cat lover) which produced seven kittens. I am afraid they were all drowned except one which I was allowed to keep. Unfortunately I was at boarding-school and when I came home for the holidays it had disappeared.

My father's secretary, Connie Wing, was the schoolmaster's wife and I used to stay with them and their daughter, Pamela, when my parents went away. My father had a rather unpleasant miniature poodle called Boodles which went in the car with him on his rounds. No one, not even Mrs Wing, could get near the car when the dog was guarding the drugs.

Various locums came and went, Dr Newborne arrived in 1954 and Dr Unsworth joined the practice. The surgery moved to Osborne House and we left Ilbury in 1955 to live in Bloxham. My father retired in the early 1970s and died in 1994. **Jane Warner née Wollaston**



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POSTCARD FROM AMERICA

Grumpy, Rain, Conspiracies and Malls

I just told a friend that I was getting grumpy in my old age. Heather said 'Getting?'.

I know I am old because I now have three grandchildren. My oldest lives in Copenhagen and supports Liverpool, but he is a lovely young man. We used to call him Fat Jack (it was true), but now he is slender and speaks perfect Danish and laughs at his mother's attempts at the language. He calls me Grumpy as well.

The last two weeks have been another of our whistle-stop tours of Europe. Being here during these storms has reminded me why I left in the first place. Mind you, there is a foot of snow outside our house in Colorado, it was 22C the day we left, and went down to -18C the day after. I really ought to live in Hawaii; believe me that place is truly paradise.

The other thing I don't miss is the traffic. Has the number of white vans really increased that much? In Colorado there aren't any vans, all the tradesmen have trucks. This type of vehicle doesn't really exist in the UK, particularly not the big F350s you see in our area, six-litre engines, and an unhealthy attitude to petrol consumption.

To many Americans, this climate change thing is a big conspiracy, even intelligent people I know believe it is a hoax. It's not just the hoaxter-in-chief in the BWH (big White House), who doesn't believe in science. The best conspiracy theory I saw this month was on a social media site called NextDoor. If you enjoy the peculiarities of human existence, this is the site for you – you can see what your neighbours are thinking. Last week a man posted a question about an increase in bird activity in the area and another gentleman replied that the extra birds were actually government bugs watching all of us. I didn't know whether to laugh or cry. The moderator took it down as the replies from both sides were becoming quite abusive.

In Colorado people really can't drive properly. In London people will let you out of a side street, whereas in Greenwood Village they will speed up rather than let you in. Once they get behind the wheel the phone comes out and that exterior politeness which is such an American thing simply disappears. Traffic accidents are the major cause of death for young people in America. A total of nearly 40,000 citizens every year die on the roads. In the UK the figure is fewer than 2,000. Even adjusted for the large distances involved, the US death rate is more than double the UK's.

This week's shock from the BWH was that the President thinks the justice system is there to settle his personal vendettas. I can't imagine Boris telling the CPS that the sentence they are proposing for one of his dodgy (and guilty) mates is too strict. The American constitution is certainly creaking. Many people use it to justify their actions but this President certainly doesn't care.

I seem to remember Einstein declared that repeating mistakes was a sign of insanity (or something like that). Last month I lost my car at the shopping mall for the second time. I really must work out how that facility in Google Maps works but in the mean time I am not only old and grumpy, but also going senile.

Mike Ward

Mikew@qsoftware.com

Tales from the Pump

Do you remember when pub landlords used to shout 'Time Gentlemen Please' at closing time – usually 10.30pm? This usually resulted in a rush to buy a final drink to be nurtured until you were finally chucked out. Now that pubs are open all day and certainly not the preserve of only blokes this shout is heard no more.

One part of pub trade that hasn't changed is the drop in sales in January probably made worse these days with the Woke generation promoting dry January. I would have thought with the rotten weather and short daylight a visit to the pub for a bit of cheer was essential. One bit of good news published in January by the Office of National Statistics was that for the first time in ten years the number of UK pubs in the year ending March 2019 actual increased by 320 versus the previous year's decline of 732.

However, the profile of pubs is changing to bigger units with good food and some with accommodation whilst the number of smaller pubs is still declining. Was it only forty years ago when none of the pubs in Deddington served food except for Fred's lunch-time made-to-order sandwiches at the Unicorn? Once when they were going away Fred and Val asked a solicitor friend to look after the pub for them. He decided to introduce a range of prepared lunch-time food offerings. This ambitious chap had a bit of a stammer and when a customer asked if he could eat his shop pie with his pint he was told 'OK, b-b-but I will have t-to charge you p-porkage'. Of course the pie would not have had VAT applied whereas the pub food would. In many countries the VAT on pub and restaurant food is at a lower rate than normal recognising the unfair disparity with retailers who sell VAT-free ready-meals, some advertised as 'gastro-pub' food.

An idea for our new Chancellor's budget: 'Time Gentlemen Please', for VAT on food in pubs and restaurants.



Grumpy Landlord

Grumpylandlord1@gmail.com

HOLLY TREE CLUB

A huge transformation of the parking area took place towards the end of February. First the potholes were filled and then the area was gravelled: it looks so much better. Club members will see for themselves on Monday 2 March at 10.30am at their monthly coffee morning.

On 10 February 21 members enjoyed their annual lunch at Robbins Nest restaurant and are already looking forward to outings in April, June, August and November. Dates and venues will be published shortly.

Our film on 12 March is *Nothing Like a Dame* starring Judi Dench, Maggie Smith, Eileen Atkins, and Joan Plowright reminiscing about their careers.

Anyone aged 55 and over is welcome to film evening – 6.30pm at the Holly Tree Club.

Please note there will be no film in April but on Thursday 14 May the film will be *The Fisherman's Friends* which could not be shown in January, after a last minute hitch with the projector.

For all Club enquiries please contact me. For booking enquiries, please contact Hugh Blythe on 07907 020486 or Bookings@TheHollyTreeClub.org.

Diana Marshall
01869 337761

info@TheHollyTreeClub.org

DAEDA'S WOOD

With the change in the weather the wood is taking on its spring colours. The AGM of the Friends will be on Tuesday 7 April at the Deddington Arms at 7.30pm. On the agenda will be a discussion of the future of the Friends so if you want to join in the discussion it's necessary to join (£5).

The present committee is likely to be dissolved, for a variety of reasons. This is a chance for people with enthusiasm and vision to step up to maintain the viability of the Friends. Little physical work is necessary on the part of the Friends as the Woodland Trust uses contractors to manage the wood now that the trees have reached their present maturity.

It would be of great service if this local and national asset, the first of the 'Millennium Woods on your Doorstep' was to continue to be publicised and promoted in the *Deddington News*. The present committee and other interested parties are intending to celebrate the 25th anniversary of its inception in 2021 by producing a revised Diary of Daeda's Wood.

Please contact me to become a Friend or if you would like further information.

Annette Murphy
07562 755015

murphyannette74@gmail.com

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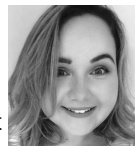
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DOWN ON GEORGE'S FARM

After the mother of all back-ends, the river finally went back into the confines of its banks at the start of January, but it will be well in to the spring before the meadows can be restocked as they have been under water since the end of October with the ewes on full winter rations. The sheep came inside some six weeks earlier than expected so we are running short of winter feed and have had to buy in hay for them but they are looking good and the scan is showing 180% lamb drop, with a start date of the third week of February, so Willy the Pink (the escaping ram) and his pals did a very good job.

We are now in uncharted territory although with any luck, by the time this hits the doormat, we will have some of next harvest's crops in the ground. As I put finger to keyboard we have no viable crops. However, it seems we are not alone as Defra estimates suggest that up to 45% of winter-grown cereal crops have not been planted due to water-logged soils. We are told by the experts that the safe planting date for the winter wheat seed we have in the barn is mid-February but, as winter wheat needs frost to vernalise it, we could be in for a difficult time, and perhaps it will be better left in the bag until next year. Seed for spring planting is in very short supply.

With the politicians back in the classroom and no effective opposition, it is full steam ahead for Armageddon down on the farm. As yet we have no idea as to just what form the trade deals with the EU or any other nations in the world will be and it seems as if farming will be a long way down the list of priorities, just as long as food is cheap wherever it comes from.

As we crash into spring it is the traditional time of the year for the arrival of new life with calves and lambs being born. Although I have nothing against the vegan/anti-meat lobby I often wonder if they really know just what they are campaigning for, many say they are doing it to save the environment and reduce global warming, but a quick look down the ever-increasing vegan cooks' columns in the daily press reveals that most of the vegan diet is imported from other parts of the world by lorry, boat or plane, so how is that helping with global warming? In the same daily press there are many adverts, from the large supermarkets extolling their new vegan meals. In truth these conglomerates have sifted out a profit from the gullibility of a well-fed population. If, after the dust of Brexit has settled, there is no trade for my livestock we will not keep them. There is usually an alternative to every situation, as with the recent flooding. Over the last few months we have monitored the river flow and the progress of the floodwater. It would not take more than a few days' work with a tracked 360 degree digger to dry out two-thirds of our meadowland and put it under the plough but it would mean the loss of our traditional wildflower hay meadows. With no livestock we would not need

to make hay or graze the grass and Jake (the hooligan sheep dog) could put up his feet and become a tractor dog.

As we stand at the start of the second decade of the century I must face the fact that it may well be my last behind the tractor steering-wheel, as the bright shiny new things in the barn are all GPS guided. My tractor is a 25+ years old John Deere which has become something of a novelty for the Farm Student as he likes to drive it on various tractor runs to raise funds for local charities. He has done two this year already, so all is not lost for the youth of today. I do have an older tractor – a 1956 International 141. This was the first tractor I bought when we came to Clifton. I needed a tractor fitted with a front loader and went to a farm sale where one was advertised. I realised that it was the same tractor that I had helped rebuild in the 1960s as an agricultural engineering student at the old Banbury Tech College, so she was coming home with me. She has been parked up in the barn for some years as her engine needs to be topped and tailed – something for my retirement. It will be a bit of a culture shock for the Farm Student to drive a tractor with no cab and a crash gear box.

The milder weather of late has woken up the bees and when they can they are bringing in pollen from the alder and hazel catkins but will still need some extra feeding with sugar syrup to keep them going. This is something that will need to be kept up well into the spring as we have lost all our oil seed rape crops to the cabbage stem beetle and there will be no early pollen or nectar for them to go at. We could be in for a lean honey year, something that could be a good start for the Student as he takes over the bees from the Old Man.

As I have mentioned before I have a 16-week old Labrador puppy Otter (Fred the Shred). He almost didn't make his 17 weeks as he shredded the post, including a large cheque for the sale of the cull ewes but I could not be cross with him for long.

I confess this is a rehash of an article I did for the February *Four Shires* magazine but as the magazine closed its pages with the January edition, it did not get into print, so I have dropped it on the *DN* editors to sort out. I had written for the *Four Shires* since it first started and for its fore-runner *The Banbury Fair*, I have also put offerings in the *DN* ever since it was printed on a Gestetner machine in the 1980s. I remember Norman Stone, the editor at the time, asking the PC of which I was chairman, for financial help to purchase printing equipment. Some councillors were against the request but were out-voted. The only way I could get around the regulations was to make it a perpetual loan with a penny a year interest and look what we have today, a much sought after village magazine.

George Fenemore
01869 338203

LETTERS

FROM MICHAEL LIEBRECHT
DEDDINGTON

Thank you very much to everyone who came to the carols in the Market Place on Christmas Eve. You gave a total of some £800 for Katharine House Hospice. I am grateful once again for the support of contributions, equipment, facilities from so many – particularly this year from the Calcutts, the Crown and Tuns, the Co-op, Nellie & Dove and Wychwood Art Gallery – as well as to the many kind individuals for all their time and effort and Deddington Brass for turning out to accompany us.

FROM KEN WILKINSON, DEDDINGTON

The Deddington Art Group (DAG) meets at the Holly Tree every Thursday. We are a life-drawing group. Our models are excellent and the sessions are untutored. Tables and chairs are provided but you need to bring your own easel as required. Parking is free in the grounds of the Holly Tree OX15 0SH.

The group has been in existence for approximately thirty years, always meeting in Deddington. Numbers attending have varied over the years but we're down to about ten at the moment and would welcome newcomers. Experience is immaterial; we're all at different levels. There's a lot of mutual support and discussion at coffee breaks etc.

From Thursday 5 March we shall be meeting for one session per day from 10.00am until 1.00pm and the charge will be £15 Pay on the day rather than a block booking. Please contact me 01869 337256 or Roger Shapley 01295 730466.

FROM JANE GREEN, DEDDINGTON

Do opera and ballet fans know they can see live performances filmed from the Royal Opera House at many Odeon cinemas, including Oxford's, about once a month? For £20 (£18 concessions) you really feel you are in the stalls at Covent Garden as you watch those red-shaded lights dim and the curtain go up. In addition there are interesting interviews in the Intervals. *Swan Lake* will be shown on 1 April and *Cavalleria Rusticana* and *I Pagliacci* on 21 April.

FROM GEOFF TODD, DEDDINGTON

75th Anniversary Commemorations

Reading about preparations to mark the for 75 Anniversary of the end of the Second World War mentioned in *Deddington News* made my wife Joan and I cast our minds back to 1995 and what happened here to commemorate the 50th anniversary.



Since moving to Deddington we had always welcomed seeing the tower of St Peter and St Paul as we returned home from trips away. Many of these trips were to France where we always appreciated seeing various buildings, even in small villages, illuminated at night. This made us think, 'Wouldn't it be nice to see the church tower lit up when returning to the village at night?'

As I was on the Parish Council, I put forward the idea to illuminate the tower of our parish church and after discussion this was agreed.

This original idea was expanded to include the commemoration of the 50 Anniversary of the war's end, which was being encouraged by the District Council. The late Monty Spencer had first suggested this to the Parish Council in the summer of 1994. Another resident, the late Hugh Spottiswoode, requested that the Far-east Campaign also be remembered. An additional idea was to celebrate the foundation of the United Nations. As only three sides of the tower were to be lit, it was decided to dedicate one to each occasion remembering Victory Europe (VE) and Japan (VJ) Days and the founding of the United Nations, all in 1945.

Having been elected chairman of the Parish Council in May 1995 I had the honour of switching on the lights on 20 August that year following a special service conducted by the late Revd Ken Reeves.

Since then residents returning to the village have been able to see their destination from afar both day and night.

SPRING DELIVERS

Smiles to pinched faces, eyes down on gloved hands
Shoulders hunched close against still chilly breeze
Starbursts of primrose up-light hawthorn hedges
And hyacinth flags claim colour on greening.

Tsunami of blossom quivers rainbow web strands
Silent sap surges redress naked trees
Twig-mesh in brick chimneys fields eggs laid on ledges
Birdsongs at six dismiss hibernal dreaming.

We give in to impulse, become pilgrims in bands
Seeking fresh journeys where warmth invites ease
Renewing friendships, exploring life's edges –
Spring peels back inertia, hints of summer's hot seaming.

Maureen Dew

WINE TIME

There is nothing quite as wonderful as sitting outside a restaurant in Italy, basking in the evening's warmth, and looking out over the rolling Tuscan hills. As you wait for the antipasto, you break open the fresh bread and reach for the glass of bright red wine that has just been poured for you. If you have chosen well, you will be greeted with a big hit of rich sweet or sour cherries, ripe cranberries, redcurrants, and herbs – classic Sangiovese. Like many Italian wines it loves being with food. Sangiovese grapes have been planted in the USA, Australia, South Africa, Argentina, and even Greece. However, Italy is where it excels and Tuscany is its true home. It's also where the wine can still be nearly undrinkable if made for volume rather than quality. The areas in Tuscany to try are Chianti, Montalcino, and Montepulciano.

Chianti (from the hills between Florence and Siena) is probably the best-known Italian red wine. There are various sub-regions but the one to start with is Chianti Classico (Chianti Rufina makes good wines too). The 'Black Rooster' emblem on the bottle indicates you are buying genuine, regulated, Classico. Chianti only needs to be 80% Sangiovese with the rest being other local grapes (such as Canaiolo or Colorino), although Cabernet Sauvignon or Merlot can be used.

There are hundreds of Chiantis on the market so try ones you have never heard of as they are often very good. Slurp sells Barone Ricasoli Brolio Chianti Classico 2017 for £15. Barone Ricasoli Brolio is one of the best names in Chianti. Sainsbury's own label Classico sells for £9 and they sell Rocca Guicciarda

Chianti Classico Riserva, also by Ricasoli, for £15. Waitrose has a good Chianti selection, not all Classico, ranging from £7 to £40. Try their Monte Majone Chianti Classico at £12. The Wine Society has a wide range – try Chianti Classico, Fontodi 2016 at £19.

Montalcino, south of Chianti and Siena, is famous for Brunello di Montalcino which is expensive but can be extraordinary. It has to be 100% Sangiovese which gives a deeper, richer, and more complex wine. The most famous name is Bondi Santi and the Wine Society charges an eye-watering £120 for Brunello di Montalcino, Biondi-Santi 2012 ... for lottery winners. Slurp sells a Brunello (San Felice Campogiovanni Brunello di Montalcino 2014) for £40. However, Rosso di Montalcino (often called 'baby Brunello') is affordable and great quality. The Wine Society sells Rosso di Montalcino, Canalicchio di Sopra 2017 for £19.

Not far from Montalcino, south-east of Chianti, is the village of Montepulciano – famous for *Vino Nobile di Montepulciano*. Don't confuse this region, which primarily uses the Sangiovese grape, with the grape variety called 'Montepulciano' grown in central Italy and producing Montepulciano d'Abruzzo. *Vino Nobile* must have a minimum of 70% Sangiovese and has a 'baby' version called Rosso di Montepulciano. Expect to pay between £15 and £30 for a *Vino Nobile* and about £10 for the Rosso. They are not widely stocked other than by smaller wine merchants and have improved a lot in recent years so is worth trying when you stumble across them. Top producers are Poliziano, La Braccesca, Avignonesi, Salchetto, Dei, and Boscarelli.

Charles Elvin

Charles.elvin@btopenworld.com

FROM THE FIRE STATION

It is fair to say that this month has not been the busiest for Deddington's crew, with only eight shouts attended, divisible as follows: four stand-bys, two fire calls, one alarm call and one first response.

The two fire calls were for an HGV that appeared to be on fire outside Banbury but, on arrival, further investigations showed that the brakes were overheating and were sticking on, generating an appreciable amount of smoke. The second fire call was some pallets alight in a Banbury car park, which were quickly dealt with. Whilst returning from this shout, the crew saw a gentleman who had collapsed on the footpath and stopped to help – allowing the crew to put into practice their Immediate Emergency Care (IEC) paramedic training.

Apart from active firefighting, the whole crew has been busy with training modules, both refresher courses and continued development. Chris Fenemore and George Williamson attended a Health and safety at work seminar, Adrian Spilsbury completed his FF development and is now fully competent. Emma Flint and Adrian Spilsbury are busy studying for their Breathing

Apparatus Team Leader qualification. Chris Fenemore passed his Incident Command assessment gaining a two-year pass. New recruit Ollie Malpass has been undergoing various development tests and is starting his two weeks' basic training early next month, whilst James Greenwood has completed his IEC practical and is currently studying for his IEC theory and Breathing Apparatus practical.

Several crew members have been visiting members of the community to install smoke alarms and offer fire safety advice, mainly for the elderly and vulnerable, but this service is open to all residents within the area.

The station had its annual inspection, whereby the whole station and appliance are looked over, training records examined and drills observed by both the station manager and regional manager. Thankfully, all was in order and the station, watch manager and personnel were praised for their high standards and cleanliness.

James Greenwood, FFd

James@cyclogicalshop.co.uk



Management Committee

As we emerge from a very wet and windy winter, it's wonderful to have the Pocket Park open (see below). This great new outdoor facility complements the ever-growing number of indoor activities at the Windmill for younger families in the parish. The long-running Baby and Toddler Group, with its large collection of indoor toys, still meets in the main hall every Friday morning and would love to see you. More recently-established groups include Little Olives baby massage, which meets on Thursday mornings upstairs in the Deddington Studio; One Fit Mama, who runs fitness classes on Monday mornings in the main hall; and the impressive Trainmaster who come once or twice a month and cover the hall floor with track for toddlers to play trains. Toot toot!

Right, that's enough about children for now, here's something for the adults. We are in the process of remodelling the Clifton Room as a furnished meeting space for up to ten people. We've redecorated, bought new tables and chairs and state-of-the-art AV equipment. You won't recognise it. With free wi-fi, ample parking, kitchen facilities and competitive community rates it'll be the ideal place for local businesses and organisations to hold meetings, run seminars or do presentations. Check it out.

What else? Oh yes, in our continuing efforts to improve and update the building we are putting in a new wooden floor in the Deddington Studio, buying new curtains for the Hempton lounge and servicing all the main internal doors. A refurbished toilet block will be our next major project.

As I mention every time, we are always on the lookout for willing volunteers to join our management committee. We are particularly interested to hear from anybody who would like to help us with our marketing. Please contact me.

Finally, remember that you can find information about everything that goes on at the Windmill at www.thewindmilleddington.org or on our Facebook page. If you want to enquire about hiring a space or make a booking you can email enquiries@thewindmilleddington.org or call us on 07720 834006. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Vaughan Jones

vaughan@englishlanguagematters.com

More Developments at the Windmill

The Pocket Park opened at the beginning of February on the site of the old under 6 play area at the back

of the Windmill next to the adventure playground. It's not quite finished yet, but enough for the littlies to go in and enjoy.

The old faded plastic play equipment has been replaced by a striking new timber multi-play piece to encourage climbing, balancing and sliding. It even has its own Windmill-shaped Wendy house. Because of the endless recent rain, some of the wood is slippery, so be aware. Extra grips will be added when the rain stops ...

You'll also find play panels, animal-shaped springers, and MagPosts to examine bugs, beetles and creepy crawlies, and a shelter. We've made the park as natural as possible with the addition of a willow tunnel, a native hedge and fragrant shrubs. The willow tunnel will be protected by Heras fencing until it is established.

There's more temporary fencing where a Mill Close resident still has to replace the section of wooden fence which he removed. He has agreed to do this by the end of March when we have to sign off the project for contractual reasons.

Still to come: dual rubbish bins to encourage recycling, a picnic table, hedgehog hotel, bird boxes (courtesy of the Brownies), more shrubs to provide a buffer zone between the park and nearby houses, and a site map and information board to acknowledge the generous grant aid and donations which have enabled us to make all the recent and long-overdue improvements to our children's play facilities.

A down note: the roundabout in the adventure playground isn't working properly, there's a horrible grinding noise and it doesn't run true. Yet another battle with that contractor, I'm afraid.

Mary Robinson

robimary@gmail.com

NEWS FROM HEMPTON

Well that's February over in a flash and spring is on its way.

Congratulations to Ted and Gemma on their new arrival in January. We hope you're not having too many sleepless nights.

Pub Night is every second Friday of the month in the Old School Room at 7.30pm. Bring your own drinks, snacks and £1 per person to cover the costs of the Room. It's a great way to meet new and old residents of the village.

'Eat, Pray, Live!' will be on Sunday 24 March at 5.00pm and every fourth Sunday in the month.

If you have anything you would like to include in the *Deddington News*, please let me know before the tenth of each month. It would be nice to have a few more things added to the column. Thank you.

Ingrid Robey

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07973 632448

BLISSFUL THINKING

The Great Storm of 1987 was so powerful it shut down parts of the national grid and toppled around fifteen million trees in the country. It's hard to consider a tempest of quite that magnitude today, but Storms Ciara and Dennis have ensured that, while storms may not be quite what they used to be, they seem to strike more often and still leave swathes of destruction in their wake. I remember being around 14 or 15 down in the Market Place (having just emerged from the Coop or newsagents, I forget which) with my swag of most likely heavily processed junk, on a reasonably ordinary half-term weekday afternoon, and chatting with a friend in the Town Hall undercroft while eagerly savouring said rubbish.

As our conversation drifted along aimlessly and amiably, the sky blackened without warning, and the kind of viscous paint-slop sized drops of rain that always precede a coming deluge struck the tarmac ominously. My friend and I looked at each other knowingly, our eyes asking the question and answering without speech; *let's hold our position, it'll spit itself out in no time*. Within three or four minutes, we watched the roads go from crisp and dry to the drains choking from the volume of precipitation cascading into them. We were wrong and were marooned there for nearly twenty minutes before the miniature rainstorm spent itself out. I think it was probably then that I first comprehended that extreme weather was not some distant danger from movies set in the tropics and it could plausibly happen anywhere, at any point in the world, just in some places far more often and more violently than others.

Aaron Bliss

aaronjbliss@hotmail.com

Deddington CE Primary School

During this term we have had some great educational and memorable times.

Year 4 had a Greek day which took place in our school hall. The visitor who led the day was knowledgeable of the ancient Greeks and made the day educational, and entertaining for our pupils. Year 1 went on a trip to Banbury museum, learning about Victorian toys, and linked to their topic in Term 3. Ten pupils went on an orchestra day with Mrs Barber.

In sport, we have had a focus on athletic events this term, especially for Years 5 and 6 pupils. The Warriner School hosted partnership events in their sports hall and the children enjoyed taking part and competing against other schools.

The School Council organised a sponsored reading day and the children did well reading in class. The purpose was to raise money to buy more books for the children to enjoy. Thank you to everyone who sponsored the children; we are collecting the money to calculate the final amount raised.

NEWS FROM CLIFTON

There was some consternation at Book Club over the future of the Duck and our continued venue. A general reflection of the 'use it or lose it' maxim abounded after an unfounded rumour was spread by a nameless Book Club member – well, he isn't nameless of course, but I'm just not naming him. There is a concern that many of those concerned some four or five years ago haven't been seen much in the pub on a regular basis. The Book Club will certainly try harder.

Sadly there were only five teams entered (4–6 members per team) in January's quiz (but February's is now full) where the only Lower Larkrise team, called Pretty Vacant Andre with Bev and Mark Ryland and three other ladies unknown to this correspondent (because hardly anyone tells him of stuff he ain't at) swept the board and in true Lower Larkrise fashion donated their winnings to Katharine House Hospice. Thanks to quiz meister Dave Darst for this account. Food for the next quiz is British but getting a team in takes charm and local knowledge. If you can't wait Dave has other quiz engagements in other hostelries in Candleford.

Many emails are flying about between residents and Thames Water about the shocking state of the storm water drains that cause such flooding in Drovers Lane that Lower Larkrise's sewerage works can become non-operational due to contaminants (soil from the fields) entering the intakes. This means that the chemistry in the works fails and raw sewerage has to be tankered away multiple times each day instead of the three times a week the design was originally for.

This HGV traffic has caused a lot of damage to the surface of Drovers Lane and Chapel Close as regularly notified by Alistair Welford to Thames Water over many years. This has been ignored by this private and foreign-owned company and led on Valentine's day to a lorry breaking through the storm drain and leaving a deep hole that is a major hazard to horses and other animals as well as us walking folk. Beware. At 4.10pm, just before storm Dennis arrived all the drains in Clifton failed. Drovers Lane had six inch deep floodwater and the third tanker in 45 minutes attended the sewerage works and came all the way from Essex. So much for the carbon footprint of my poo. Thames Water is offering a site visit next month to explain their plans. Some of us can't wait.

As usual if you have more news then send it to me.

Martin Bryce

Martindnbryce@gmail.com

We had story-telling sessions between classes to tie in with National Storytelling Week. For sure, the children have earned a relaxing half term break and we are looking forward to a warm, spring.

Denise Welch

dwel3954@deddington.oxon.sch

RBL Branch Report – Poppy Appeal County Award

For the first time in its long history, the Deddington branch has won the County Cup awarded annually to the branch with the biggest percentage increase in donations to the Poppy Appeal. Determined not to be downhearted by the closure of our Club, we nearly doubled last year's £5.3k total. While the whole committee worked extremely hard for this, particular congratulations must go to Norman West, treasurer and Poppy Appeal Organiser for the last 40 years, and Martin Hovard who has now taken over from him.

The Branch Open Social Evening will now be held on the evening of 30 May because the church is not available on suitable dates in April. A Commonwealth War Graves Commission speaker will tell us of their history and the outstanding work they carry out to maintain 1.4m war graves in 23,000 locations worldwide. This is most appropriate because our church holds what we believe to be the largest collection of WWI grave markers in the UK and there are five CWGC graves in the churchyard. The evening will be free and open to any member of the public who wishes to attend. Other North Oxfordshire branches will also be invited.

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

PFSU and Village Nursery

The school year is flying by. Last term the pre-school children were busy finding out about animals. We would like to thank everyone who brought their pets in to meet us and also Kathryn the vet who came in to tell us all about her job. We also learnt about Chinese New Year and would like to thank the May Fu II restaurant for once again welcoming us in to see their new year decorations. We enjoyed the Chinese food that we took back to school. The Nursery children spent the term doing lots of activities based on their favourite stories, sampled Chinese food, and made Valentine cards and gifts to take home. Coming up in the new term, the Nursery children will be learning about minibeasts and the PFSU children will be talking about transport. We will also be celebrating Mother's Day. Look out for details of some special events for mums.

Lucy Squires
01869 337484

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Looking Back with Hindsight, an Anthology of Lessons Learnt, Edited by Sylvie Nickels, until recently a Deddington resident

This is an eclectic collection of stories with huge variety, from a simple funny story of falling into the canal in Banbury to an epic climbing accident tragedy in the Himalayas. I am sure that the reader also learns a great deal about human nature.

It is a rich collection gathered from many a good storyteller. There are stories of personal and brave revelations, from childhood pain to marital breakdown, with subsequent heart-warming learning leading to happier times. There are fictional stories, ones that keep you hooked until the twist at the end and ones of calculating, slow burn revenge. There are memories, humorous ones, like the man who baffled African customs by wearing his kilt, and gentle humour, like the old lady conning newcomers to invite her to tea. There are memories of wartime horror, tragedy and deprivation tempered by small touching kindnesses. The book includes fascinating travelogues wrapped around interesting human stories and some which show off-beat imagination that set your mind whirling.

The stories evoke many different feelings that linger in the memory. A very enjoyable read.

Mary Chaunt

The Sanders Family

The 'For Sale' sign on May Fu II is another step in the history of a premises which long-time Deddington folk will always associate with the Sanders family.

Originally it was part of The Priory next door and contained a 'museum of antiquities' owned by Duffel Faulkner (d1871) an amateur collector. A few of his fossils and carvings can still be seen in the walls of the cycle and chemist shops on Hudson Street. Fred Sanders, a woodcarver employed by the Wedgwood pottery family to carve a bust of Josiah, arrived here in 1903. He served in the Ox & Bucks in WWI.

After the war he and his wife Annie opened a confectionary shop which was carried on by their son Walter who extended its reach with a horse-drawn van and then a petrol driven one costing £30.0s.10d. He delivered papers and sundries, helped by his wife Mollie, Bill Malcher and the Irving brothers. In WWII Walter served in the Royal Observer Corps and Mollie housed refugees in the room above the shop. In due course their son Clive took over and remodelled the shop into an ice-cream parlour favoured by local US service people and more so by Deddington children and quite a few parents. The indomitable Mollie lived until 2005 aged 102. The property then changed hands with the Priory becoming a separate house and the shop first becoming a Mexican restaurant and then the present Chinese restaurant. Clive now lives in Banbury. More can be read about his family at <http://www.deddingtonhistory.uk/people/indexs/sandersfamily>.

Rob Forsyth
robert.s.forsyth@gmail.com

CALLING ALL CLUBS

Photographic Society

Our February presentation by Nathan Barry, entitled 'Landscape Thought Process', was an engrossing wander through the creative process to achieve a stunning landscape photograph. Nathan uses the local area for inspiration but ventures to Snowdonia, the Dorset coast and the Lake District. So why landscape? He explained how calming he found this genre, how challenging it was to capture a view to treasure and the delight of discovering nature even on the wettest, most dull day.

Planning was the foundation for a good photograph; from ensuring a comprehensive kit-bag was always in the car to researching the destination for practical considerations such as distances to walk, the terrain and weather. By taking care of the practical stuff it allowed him more time to think and find synergy with his surroundings thus maximising the results.

Whilst displaying some stunning photographs Nathan discussed the process he employed to compose and refine a shot, with the emphasis being on 'less is more', by minimising the number of elements in a picture as well as considering the colour palette he wished to achieve. He advocated moving around rather than zooming when composing a shot and to look behind you because the better image might be there.

Nathan finally demonstrated what post-production magic he used to enhance the final picture by showing

us before and after shots. Members felt that 'a cracking presentation' should be followed by a Nathan-run landscape workshop.

Donald MacLellan will talk about portrait photography on Wednesday 4 March at 7.30pm at the Cartwright Hotel, Aynho – everyone is welcome.

Anne Hunsley

www.addphoto.co.uk

Deddington Bookworms

Our latest book, *The Small Hand* by Susan Hill was a slim but powerful ghostly tale which we all enjoyed. *The Woman in Black's* author tells the story of Adam Snow, an antiquarian bookseller who finds the derelict White House as he tries to make his way home to London one night. While walking through the overgrown gardens he feels a small hand slip into his own – and yet there is no child there.

Drawn into investigating the history of the house, he finds himself suffering from panic attacks as well as feeling the small hand again in different locations. The suspense is built slowly with atmospheric story-telling set in dark forests in France and historic Oxford, as it comes to a dramatic conclusion.

Our next book is *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine* by Gail Honeyman.

Deddington Library 01869 338391

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Time to talk?

Then come along to Age UK Oxfordshire's late spring bereavement support group in Tackley Methodist Church every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month from 1.30 to 3pm.

It is a free, relaxed meeting over coffee and cake for anyone over 55 years and living in Oxfordshire. Whether bereaved two months ago or two years ago, you are welcome. It is about listening, talking and supporting each other to cope and get on with life after loss. Meet others who understand.

We discuss the reality of life without a loved one and try to help each other. We also share happy memories, laugh and make friends.

Just come along or phone Joan who runs the Tackley and Chipping Norton group on **07827 235 453**. Or visit www.ageuk.org.uk/oxfordshire/latespring.

There are also groups in Witney, Chipping Norton, Charlbury, Burford, Banbury, Kidlington and Bicester.

 **Oxfordshire**
ageUK

CALLING ALL CLUBS

Continued from p16

Local Vocals – Community Choir

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

The laughter continues as we try our hardest to master new harmonies but what a sense of achievement when we get there. We are being given the opportunity to join a 'flash mob' that will happen in Oxford in the summer – very exciting but also daunting as we'll need to remember all the words as well as the notes. To the men out there – we currently have a dedicated (and slightly naughty) bass section but they would really like to see more men in the choir so come along and try us out – no experience required. To find out more about our choir and to contact us please go to our website www.localvocalscc.co.uk.

Alison Grieve

Book Group

Our January book was *Hag-Seed* by Margaret Atwood. This is one of a series published in 2016 to mark the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death and is a re-imagining of *The Tempest*, set in a modern and very different context.

Felix is treacherously deposed as director of a prestigious drama festival. He retires to an isolated cottage to lick his wounds, sharing his life only with the memory of his dead daughter Miranda. An offer of work, teaching theatre studies to inmates in a local prison, gives him the opportunity to present a performance of *The Tempest* and to wreak an ingenious revenge on those who betrayed him. This play-within-a-play device allows Atwood to mirror the characters and themes of Shakespeare's original in the modern retelling.

Our group discussion revealed a divergence of opinion on the merits of the book. For about half of us it was a lively, compelling and enjoyable read. Others thought the narrative often became over-complicated and therefore felt something of a chore.

Our next meeting is on 26 March. Please contact Sally Lambert on 01869 338094 for more information.

Sian Waterman

Women's Institute

A very different meeting at Deddington WI: eighteen members sat down to a fish and chip supper, cooked by the mobile van in the Holly Tree car park. It was piping hot, crisp and very much enjoyed. We finished the evening with an entertaining quiz with a 'fishy round'. The appropriate names for the quiz teams made for a lot of laughter. Also appropriately, the winning team's prize was some smoked salmon.

We would like to thank Julia and Stella for providing a very different evening and the committee for their help.

Moira Byast

Deddington and District History Society

Our March meeting on Thursday 19th will feature a

talk by Professor Sir Richard Gardner on 'The History of IVF'. Professor Gardner is a leading embryologist and geneticist, and a Fellow of the Royal Society. For thirty years until his retirement in 2008, he held a Royal Society Research Professorship at the University of Oxford. Among his major contributions to embryology has been the elimination of multiple births. This will be a rare opportunity to hear about the history of this extraordinary scientific success story from a pioneer in the field. Surely not to be missed.

Our meetings take place in the primary school hall and start at 7.30pm. All are welcome.

Enquiries to Barrie Smith, Chairman: smithinsight@btinternet.com, 01869 337813.

Chris Day

SPORT

Deddington Original Golf Society (DOGS)

The AGM held at the Deddington Arms on 5 February was well attended. Chair Lyn Talbot summarised 2019 as an enjoyable DOGS year with all events well attended. The Arthur Kennedy Memorial Trophy was awarded to Barry Pawley and Dave White for their equally good performances in 2019. Dates for our golfing days in 2020 were announced as: Robin Hood Golf Club, Solihull 15 May; Leamington County, 5 June; our match against Dorchester DOGS, 30 June; Belton Woods Tour, 19 July; Cotswold Golf Club and barbecue, 28 August and Frilford Heath, 14 September. Please contact me if you wish to come along as a guest to any of the golf days or to join the society.

Nigel Oddy, Secretary
nigeloddy@yahoo.com

Deddington Town Football Club

First Team results:

18.1.20	Brill United (a) (CUP)	W 2–1 Hall, Thornton L
25.1.20	FC Swis (a) (CUP)	W 2–1 Thornton J (2)
8.2.20	Bodicote Sports (a)	W 3–1

Reserve Team results:

25.1.20	Banbury Sports Res (a)	W 2–1
1.2.20	Hanwell Athletic 1st (a)	D 2–2 Pascoe, Weir
8.2.20	Sinclair Utd Res (h)	L 0–1

An excellent month was had by both sides, meaning a thoroughly optimistic decade so far. The Firsts made progress in two cups, despite a couple of red cards in the FC Swis victory. The Reserves picked up some valuable points, whilst only losing narrowly to league leaders Sinclair, meaning they sit snugly in mid-table. The Firsts are a little behind the chasing pack but just a good run from being right in contention for the Championship crown. They'll have a sizeable clutch of postponed games in which to build up momentum at least.

Aaron Bliss 07909 642882

SPORT --- Continued from p17

Deddington Town Youth Teams

The U16s had a heavy 0–15 home defeat to Chipping Norton Swifts, 8–0 away defeat at Freeland, and 9–1 defeat at Brackley. The U13s now playing in the Spring B League had a 3–6 home defeat to Faringdon with two goals for Ben Jones, followed by a 4–3 win at Freeland, and 5–1 win over Grendon Rangers with a hat-trick for Ben Jones. The U12s had a 2–5 home defeat to Bloxham, followed by a 3–0 win over Chadlington. All the younger teams continue to progress well (U11s, U10s, U9s, U8s) and are starting to plan ahead for the 2020/21 season.

Presentation day

Our annual youth presentation day will take place at The Windmill on 7 June from 2.00–5.30pm. This is an opportunity to celebrate the success of players, coaches and other volunteers. We will be producing a presentation day programme and have opportunities for local business to take out an advert in the programme. There will be stalls, a bar and food available at the event. Put the date in your diary now. If you want to take out an advert in the programme or sponsor the trophies, then contact me.

Roger Sykes, 01869 337034

Development Officer and U7/U6 Coach

YOUTH ---

1st Deddington Scout Group

Scouts

This term we're trying to finish some of the Challenge badges. For the Creative the Scouts have designed posters advertising scouting and written and performed their own short plays. Included in these were executions, confused super-heroes, an equally confused leprechaun and a chocolate fountain. Surrealism is alive and well in Deddington.

Peter Churchyard

deddingtonscouts@gmail.com

Beavers

After the re-launch of the Deddington Beavers Colony in January it's great to see that the Beavers have lost none of their enthusiasm. So far, they have worked towards their Communicator Activity badge, learning to dial a phone number and spell their name using Morse code, and their Cook Activity badge, understanding cooking safety before they make pancakes. March will involve activities for St David's Day and St Patrick's Day as well as Commonwealth Day, all of which works towards their International Activity Badge. Well done Beavers.

Hal Eriksen

Beaver Scout Leader 07970 874647

Cubs

We started the new year with the Navigator Badge. The Cubs made their way round a virtual map and solved a

mystery at the same time using a great program called Map Detectives. We learned grid references, map symbols and what we would need to take on a hike.

Our resident Minecraft expert (it's all Greek to me) came to speak to them about their passion for the game and they all received an unofficial badge for their efforts.

Jo Churchyard

deddingtoncubs@gmail.com

Explorers

2020 started with us going to Barford village hall and making our own escape rooms. Happy to report that everyone got out although we may need to tweak some of the clues as they were a bit obscure and left people in a cave. We followed this by some practical skills on knotting and lashings as part of the Pioneer badge. Team-building saw some of these skills put into practice making a bridge to hold cups of water. Some were better than others.

Then off to an international competition as we took part in the Jambowlree. The re-vamped Banbury Bowl is great and everyone is improving. With the nights becoming lighter we will be outside more frequently, barring more storms.

Everyone who went, enjoyed the panto very much – thank you Deddington Players.

Janet Duxbury

spartansexplorers@gmail.com

1st Deddington Guides

Our new younger members are flourishing in their own patrol, showing themselves capable of planning and organising their activities. Their most popular was making slime then 'mocktails'.

Everyone else has been busy too, and we have had lots of activities and discussions around issues such as diversity, the environment, and topical news items. Our Young Leaders have done well organising games and challenges. We have begun to work on our end of term entertainment for charity and are looking forward to celebrating pancake day. We hope to meet Guides, Brownies and Rainbows from neighbouring villages to celebrate Thinking Day together during the half term break.

Maggie Rampley, 07957 600755

Marian Trinder, mariantrinder@gmail.com

1st Deddington Brownies

We started this term with a pyjama party and two of our newest Brownies made their promises. We have been learning about birds, making bird feeders and bird boxes. Thank you to Deddington Parish Council for a grant towards materials for this and to Trevor Wilson for his time making the kits and helping the girls build the bird boxes. We now have 23 to put up around the Windmill site.

Fern Stringer deddingtonbrownies@gmail.com