

December 2020

The **DEDDINGTON NEWS**



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

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The DEDDINGTON NEWS

This final 2020 issue of *DN* reflects the current state of country – we haven't known until the last minute whether it will be a print issue or online only and, while our stalwart regular contributors are all still here, reports on the parish's usual hive of activity are few and far between.

Given the space left empty by the absence of What's On, the imminence of a curious and uncertain Christmas and no desire to harp further on Covid, other than to be enormously grateful to the parish's wonderful Covid-19 Response Team, it seems reasonable to look back nostalgically to the days when people gathered in unimaginably large groups, indoors no less, to celebrate Christmas.

Amongst his other *Deddington Ditties*, the late John Cheney, long-time Deddington resident, bon viveur, enthusiastic drinker, initiator of Poetry Please upstairs at the Unicorn, subsequently part of the Deddington Festival, and no mean poet himself, penned the following seasonal verse.

Happy Christmas and, I hope, a slightly less constrained new year, when we return in February.

CD

PARTY THOUGHTS

Christmas is coming, the goose is getting fat
To provide Fortnums with foie gras and jolly things like that.

A slab of paté perched upon a rather soggy biscuit
With half an olive stuck on top – I wonder, should I risk it?

Suppose the olive gets detached and falls upon the ground,
I'll tread it in the carpet while no-one's looking round.

The canape is very good, I really mustn't mock it,
I've a good half dozen cocktail sticks embedded in my pocket.
Smoked salmon on brown bread squares is my especial favourite
I chase the platter through the crowd, the first, and last, to savour it.

Ah! Here's the wine man coming round,
I know what he is thinking,
'John's checking on the bottle levels to decide which one he's
drinking'

He's absolutely right, of course, 'I think I'll change to red'
(Five red bottles on the sideboard and the white is nearly dead).

Everybody's talking, what a jolly jamboree!
But after eating garlic sausage no one wants to talk to me.
And now it's hat and coat time as we head into the rain;
If my hostess sees this poem, I won't be asked again.

John Cheney

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

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DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting on 18 November via Skype

Present: Collins, Eames, Higham, Oldfield, O'Neill, Robinson, Rogers (chair), Snashall, Squires, Swadling, Timms, Watts, County Councillor Fatemian, District Councillor Williams, the parish clerk and one member of the public.

County Councillor's report:

Councillor Fatemian has approved the PC's application for funding for Christmas meals and a street light at the entrance to the Daedings. The OCC has no intention of closing the library but the timing of its reopening depends on the lockdown situation.

District Councillor's report: Councillor Williams has approved funds for the Covid Response Team. Cherwell's infection rate is now just below Oxford City's. A Covid-19 testing centre is being opened on 19 November at Woodgreen Leisure Centre.

Finance and General Purposes

Windmill:

Two fast EV charging points will be installed with a donor wishing to contribute to the estimated £4,000 cost.

The PC will reopen discussions with the management committee about installing a gate across the main entrance since a gate to the playing field, as the committee suggested, is inadequate to limit unauthorised access. The management committee has previously been opposed to a main entrance gate.

The PC is recruiting a group of volunteers to manage road closures and oversee Remembrance Day parades. Please contact Jonathan Watts on jonathan-watts.dpc@gmail.com.

Census day will be 21 March next year. Local volunteers may be sought.

Planning

No objection

Tawny Cottage, High Street, Deddington: resubmission for rear extension.

Castle Grounds: tree works, reduction of low branches to enable access by emergency services.

Castle End, Castle Street: tree works.

Church Cottage, Church Street: secondary glazing to front windows.

Manor Farm, Hempton Road: tree works.

Land north of Hempton Road and west of Wimborn Close: resubmission of outline application for 14 additional houses. All comments, including previous ones, will be reviewed. Open space is requested.

Thames Water

Thames Water reported a local landowner to the Environment Agency for causing pollution (soil in run-off water). As noted by the very helpful EA representative, Thames Water is responsible for maintaining the foul water system which should not be affected by surface water. They made modifications to the ditch without the owner's permission and declared the problem solved. However, after the recent heavy rains, surface water run-off is still getting into sewage system. After filing two complaints with Thames Water, the PC is still wait-

ing for a response. The partially blocked pipe outside Home Farm has been reported yet again and two parishioners with ongoing complaints against Thames Water would welcome PC support in further action.

Environment and Recreation

Thanks were expressed to councillors who carried out a litter pick in driving rain in November and to Hempton residents who look after planters and cleaned the road signs.

Highways and Transport

The electric car, parked on double yellow lines on Earls Lane opposite the school entrance while charging, is committing an offence. While the PC is reluctant to discourage use of electric cars, the headteacher supports enforcement and Thames Valley Police will be asked to enforce parking regulations.

The PC has received a 'No HGVs' sign and will request three more from OCC with advice on where to site them along Hopcraft Lane.

A New Street resident will again be asked to remove bollards on the grass verge.

A replacement for the damaged bus stop on Banbury Road has been ordered.

A Grove Court resident contacted the PC about a crossing on High Street. This has been investigated previously and is not possible. The 'elderly people' sign near traffic lights is of little use and the PC will ask OCC to move it closer to The Grove and investigate appropriate road markings there.

The PC will raise with OCC the possibility of a pavement on Earls Lane, up to Pound Court, although this could narrow the road and affect parking for the Health Centre and parents of school children.

Next meeting on 16 December at 7.30pm, probably on Skype.

These Parish Council notes are the view of our reporter, Jill Cheeseman, and not the official minutes. For those, go to <http://www.deddingtonparishcouncil.org/2020.html>.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

On Christmas Day Deddington Church and the Covid Zone Captains will deliver a Christmas lunch of roast turkey with all the trimmings, or a vegetarian alternative, together with a little extra, to the front door of those who might otherwise go without. If you, or anybody you know in our villages, will be alone or, because of the pandemic, will not be able to see friends or family as planned, please let us know. You can tell your Zone Captain (see the latest newsletter) or speak to me on 01869 336880, or, if you prefer, leave names and contact details on a form you will find in the back of church, so that we can contact you.

Revd Annie

FARMERS' MARKET

New Chair

Steve Waterman joined the market committee in 2013 after retiring as bursar at Mansfield College in Oxford. After seven years' valiant service he has decided to retire. He writes:

'Having seen the market in operation as a shopper it seemed a very important village enterprise so I was delighted to be asked to take on the chair of the market committee. The market was already a thriving concern and, thanks to the work of all the volunteers, I have enjoyed seeing it continue to do so well over the last few years, increasing in size and range of products. We now have just over 40 stalls selling genuine local produce, sold by knowledgeable and friendly stallholders. It's a significant social as well as foodie event for the village, and every year we've been able to donate several thousand pounds to local good causes.

Stepping down this year does seem like a second retirement and there is a lot that I'll miss about the market – but not necessarily the getting up at 6.00am on a dark and cold winter's morning!

I have no particular plans for the new retirement but there's always the golf handicap to attend to, walking football (yes, really) and continued attempts to actually grow something edible on the allotment.

I wish my successor Claire every success as the market enters its third decade next year and hope that she gets as much enjoyment and challenge from the experience as I did.'



FOURTH SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH
www.deddington.org.uk

Claire Thwaites visited the market in Deddington three years ago in search of asparagus for her lunch. She bought her asparagus. And a home in the Market Place. She was elected to replace Steve as chair and took up her role on 1 November. She writes:

'My career has been globetrotting the world working for the likes of Apple, Vodafone and the UN. The day job is now running the Government Affairs team at LEGO. However, it's village life in Deddington that most excites me and now the unique opportunity to work with a great and dedicated team to bring about Deddington's monthly market. Getting to know the stallholders is my first mission, as well as ensuring that the market remains firmly rooted in the community, sells local and high-quality products, as well as being an exciting destination to those from further afield.'

We wish Steve every success in his second retirement and welcome Claire's new leadership.

The market is scheduled for Saturday 19 December. Make sure to get your Christmas orders in. Check the market website <http://www.deddingtonfarmersmarket.co.uk/> for stallholder details, location and COVID advice.

Ian Willox
01869 337940

ian.willox@btconnect.com

DEDDINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

We continue to enjoy being back in school, working and learning together again.

As part of our focus on remembrance this year, the children made poppies which are currently being displayed in our classroom windows. There is some beautiful art work to be seen, and we have been reflecting in our classes, remembering all those affected in the past as well as today. On Remembrance Day the Year 6 pupils gathered around the Deddington war memorial, where the crosses which they decorated can now be seen. Some of the children recited war poems as they reflected on this significant day in our history.

At the start of national Anti-Bullying Week on 16 November, we decided to mark Odd Socks Day which celebrates our all being unique. The children loved wearing different socks for such an important cause.



Year 4 children had a topic-based day on Stone Age life and enjoyed making woolly mammoths. Year 5 worked with the Oxford City fire station on an egg drop parachute challenge. Blue Watch at Rewley Road, Oxford, dropped parachutes that had been made at home. The challenge was to make an effective parachute and casing for an egg to ensure it did not break on impact. This was filmed and will soon be possible to watch on our school website.

The children enjoyed this task immensely.

All year groups are now looking ahead to Christmas which will, of course, be different this year. However, we as a school plan to make the most of being with our family and friends both in and around the school community.

Denise Welch
dwel3954@deddington.oxon.sch.uk

POSTCARD FROM AMERICA

Prostate, Election and Trumpism

My trip to the prostate doctor was a major highlight this week. As he reached down to check out my crown jewels I thought he said, 'How is your nation?' It then became apparent that he didn't want my commentary on Boris's latest disaster, he was actually enquiring about my ability to pee.

At least it was easy to hide my embarrassment while bending over for the examination. Getting old sucks.

I had an immense sense of relief once it became clear that Biden had won the election but none of us was prepared for another swerve from the aberration that is Donald J Trump. It appears we can't move on because the ultimate school bully won't concede defeat. Biden won the popular vote by five million, the largest percentage over a sitting President since the '30s but Trump won't leave the playground and is focusing on issuing legal proceedings and spreading lies about the efficacy of postal voting. The problem now is that around 70% of those who voted for him believe this set of lies. Perhaps not strange, since they believed all the other lies.

I can't tell you why anyone would follow this idiot. We have studiously avoided contact with any Trumpistas over the past few weeks. Most people around us laugh at the 'evidence' of election fraud. We have had 'Sharpiegate', a bizarre falsehood about election machines not reading ballots filled in with America's favourite pen. Then there is the video of a bloke carting out a box full of 'Trump votes' from the counting centre; it was actually camera equipment.

The Covid case count where we live is higher than it is in the UK. We have restrictions but they are not as draconian. We can meet with one other family group. I played tennis today in a mask which was a bizarre experience but in other parts of the US people are completely ignoring the situation: their leader recovered from it so it can't be that bad. They ignore the fact that his treatment would cost them over \$400,000 and no insurance company would be covering that cost. Meanwhile Trump has disappeared from view, tweeting in capitals a lot, and encouraging the demonstrations. Today there is fighting on the streets. It's a very worrying sight to see members of 'militia' with automatic weapons strapped to their backs and signs proclaiming 'Stop the steal'. Is this a democracy or a banana republic?

What is next for Trump? A new media empire or maybe another presidential run in 2024? He needs cash desperately and is going to have huge legal problems. Politics has changed, the Grand Old Party is stuck with his base of white uneducated men, more a cult than a movement, based on emotion not fact. With



two Senate races still to be decided in January the Republican old guard have to stick by Trump, no matter how unsavoury this might feel.

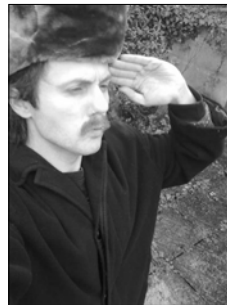
I live in the States but there isn't much United about the place right now. All this behaviour has shaken my belief in the country, but perhaps just as they reach for the Kool-Aid, people will wake up and move on. At least my sleeping has improved. It is only my

prostate that wakes me up, not my hands reaching for Trump's throat.

Mike Ward

mikew@qsoftware.com

BLISSFUL THINKING



An epic pandemic demanding aid

Makes routine shopping a masquerade

Restricting our contact and social endeavours

Predicted to afflict for what seems like forever

Curtailing pursuits, adventure and leisure

Back to our roots, yet not meant for pleasure

Those life-affirming events postponed

That cannot be replicated alone

The hustle and bustle of a live music night

Muscling your way t'ward the front row delights

When a six foot dope stops in your line of sight

No gaps open up to the left or the right

To beat a retreat is the compromise

No seats so a wall to lean on is wise

Not too close to the merch stall table

And easy access to the latrine if able

Blocked urinals, utterly devoid of bog roll

Head down; you avoid the toilet stall doggerel

Relief then return as the headliners start

The bass to your bones and chords to your heart

Sloshed pints, sticky fingers and circle pits

Blocked sights for phone zombies losing their wits

Myriad carcasses a-swaying and singing

Adrenaline pulsing and eardrums ringing

The band signs off and it's back to the bar

Out into the night to find your car.

Come back soon, live music!

Aaron Bliss

aaronjblissd@hotmail.com

CHURCH

Parish Church SS Peter and Paul

Services continue to be streamed live from Deddington church. If congregational worship is permitted it will be with a reduced capacity due to Covid-19 restrictions. Hygiene and social distancing precautions are in place. The toilets will remain closed until further notice. However, if permitted, the church building will be open on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday 9.15am–5.00pm, Wednesday 10.45am–5.00pm and Sunday 11.45am–5.00pm for private prayer.

The service information below is all provisional. Please see the church website for updates, www.deddingtonchurch.org or FaceBook at <https://www.facebook.com/DeddingtonChurch>

Mon–Fri: 8.45am Morning Prayer
Wed: 10.00am Holy Communion

Services for December 2020

Sun 6 10.30am Holy Communion
Sun 13 9.00am BCP Communion
10.30am Holy Communion
Sun 20 10.30am Holy Communion
Thu 24 *We hope to hold a socially distanced*
6.00pm Crib and Carol Service
11.30pm Midnight Mass
Fri 25 10.30am Holy Communion Christmas Day
Sun 27 10.30am Holy Communion

Services for January 2021

Sun 3 10.30am Holy Communion
Sun 10 9.00am BCP Communion
10.30am Holy Communion
Sun 17 10.30am Holy Communion
Sun 24 10.30am Holy Communion
Sun 31 10.30am Holy Communion

From the Parish Register

Baptism

17 October Timothy Kennard

Wedding

23 October David Rollason and Beverly Joy Jack

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

RC Parish of Hethe

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

NEWS FROM HEMPTON

Thank you, Ingrid, for your labours in keeping *DN* readers informed of events in Hempton over the recent past. You enhanced the village both architecturally and in person.

The newshounds have not sniffed out any titbits for this month's edition. Hempton is a quiet corner of the parish, the more so with the onset of winter. The privations of lockdown, though onerous for some, seem to have had little observable impact save for an increase in the number of delivery vans dicing on the St Johns Way race circuit. The peace is occasionally broken by drivers exchanging opinions on their right of way through the narrow section on the highway. Since Covid interrupted our lives the peloton passes through the village more often and the Deddington footpath seems to be busier, especially with runners.

Please forward any news items by the 10th of the month.

Stuart Oldham

sj_oldham@btinternet.com

CAROLS IN THE MARKET PLACE

As things currently stand, Deddington's annual Christmas Eve carols in the Market Place will not be able to go ahead in their usual format this year. This village tradition has been taking place for many years now with snow, ice and rain unable to stop it and Deddington Brass is determined that the tradition will not be broken in 2020 because of Covid and that it will still take place, albeit in a different format.

The event, like so much else, will have to go online this year and the band is currently working on how best this can be achieved but it is expected that the traditional time of 6.00pm–7.00pm on Christmas Eve will not alter. Please keep an eye on social and local media for further updates during the coming weeks and for information on how you can become involved.

Graham Wallington, Musical Director

Deddington Brass

wallg3948@btinternet.com

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

Follow us on Facebook www.facebook.com/deddingtononline and Twitter @DeddiOnLine

FRIENDS OF DEDDINGTON LIBRARY

Thank you once again to everyone who has bought our 2021 calendar. Sales are going well but because of the latest lockdown we are unable to be at November's farmers' market and possibly the December one as well.

Stocks are running low so don't leave it to the last minute to buy the remaining copies which can be bought from:

Nellie and Dove – click and collect on 01869 336972 or their website info@nellieanddove.co.uk

Julia Cork in Deddington on 07881 438930

Al Collins in Clifton on 07956 878124 and

Janet Watts in Hempton on 07881 438930.

Prices are £10 for A4 size and £7.50 for A5.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank our loyal Friends who contribute either monthly or annually to ensure our library can remain open. On that subject, we do not have a date from Oxfordshire County Council regarding the re-opening of the library but we know they are currently in the process of interviewing potential replacements for our much loved library manager, Stella O'Neill.

Bryn Williams
abw@brynwilliams.com

FRIENDS OF THE CASTLE GROUNDS

What a strange year it has been with so many events cancelled. The Four Farms Run was cancelled twice. It is a lovely event, welcoming so many people to the Castle Grounds and we hope it will take place in the spring. We have been happy to see so many visitors using the grounds during lockdown. Unfortunately we had a few cases of fires and barbecues which are not allowed within the area.

The Castle Grounds look spectacular at this time of year. Enjoy walking through the colourful fallen leaves.

Many places are very muddy under foot so take care whilst visiting, especially the area around the moat where the path is eroding. English Heritage is reviewing plans for its repair. Some remedial work is still being carried out and the grass has been mowed throughout the season.

Thank you to everyone who helps and supports our efforts to maintain this peaceful and beautiful heritage site. Here's looking forward to 2021. We hope the world will return to normal at some point.

Merry Christmas and a happy healthy new year.

Carol Garrett
cgarrett@btinternet.com



Mallams
1788

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

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DEDDINGTON ENVIRONMENT NETWORK

'On the first day of Christmas my true love sent to me' ... um, 'a socially distanced kiss from across the other side of the street.' This Christmas we'll receive nearly 60 million unwanted gifts and on December the 25th we'll waste the equivalent of around four million dinners.

We'll discard 108 million rolls worth of wrapping paper and when it's all over we'll be wondering how best to dispose of seven million real Christmas trees. At the time of writing none of us knows what Christmas 2020 is going to look like but if you are keen to make your festive celebrations more sustainable, you might like to look at some of our favourite ideas below.

If you send Christmas cards make sure they are made from recycled paper but consider emailing or phoning instead. As to bedecking the halls, Pinterest has great ideas for more sustainable alternatives to conventional Christmas trees and decorating the house. If you buy wrapping-paper make sure it is not coated in plastic but think about using newspaper, pine cones or seed heads and string for a rustic look. Alternatively re-use old wrapping-paper (you can iron most paper on a low heat), sew or stick wallpaper offcuts or strong magazine pages into bags or envelopes which you can hole punch and tie with string or ribbon and re-use multiple times. You could even wrap presents in vintage scarves or fabric.

Although food waste has fallen by seven percent in the last three years we in the UK still throw away a massive 4.5 million tons of edible food a year. It's hard to plan meals not knowing how many people we'll be allowed to meet but, if you have a surplus, remember that a lot can be frozen – hard cheeses, milk and cream all freeze well, as do nuts, bread, flour (it can be used straight from the packet) and cooked pasta, rice and pulses. To reduce food miles and plastic packaging buy as much as you can from local producers and shops that let you refill your own containers.

Consider re-gifting, buying second-hand (it's vintage, darling), making your own gifts or giving 'experiences' or subscriptions to wildlife organisations.

Here are some more eco-friendly gift ideas. For foodies: consumables, palm-oil free, of course; grow your own mushroom kit (the best we've found grows the spores on recycled organic coffee grounds, collected by bike from cafés around Brighton); home-made beeswax wraps made from local beeswax and a bit of coconut oil; a subscription to a local organic vegetable box scheme; plant-based recipe books (second-hand preferably) such as *The Green Roasting Tin* or *The Seasonal Vegan* by Sarah Philpott.

Books, magazines and website subscriptions: *Resurgence and Ecologist*, *Positive News*, *Ethical Consumer*; *Wilding* by Isabella Tree, *How Bad are Bananas?* by Mike Berners-Lee, *Drawdown* by Paul Hawken, *A Life Less Throwaway* by Tara Button; *The Hunt for the Golden Mole* by Richard Girling.

For nature lovers and gardeners: native hardy

plants, ideally cuttings or divisions from your own garden; native trees (a Deddington Pippin apple tree?); solitary bee houses; bird and bat nesting boxes; a book of local walks.

For teens and younger kids: Depop vouchers (like Ebay but for younger fashionistas); vegan, cruelty-free and organic beauty and skincare products – some companies do great gift boxes of samples; compostable phone cases and recycled smart phones or ethical and repairable phones from Fairphone; candle moulds, lead and metal-free wicks and a bottle of their favourite essential oil to make scented candles from left-over wax or beeswax; second-hand toys and games.

Our website has plenty more ideas, as well as instructions for making beeswax wraps and other gifts, and links to websites featuring some of the products mentioned or advice on sustainable living. Find us at info@DeddingtonEnvironment.net

STREET TAG

Street Tag is a new family-friendly game that rewards primary schools, families, individuals and communities for physical activities such as walking, running and cycling.

Get ready to push yourself and start your journey to a healthy lifestyle with Street Tag. For more info on how to play, head to www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/streettag.

Do you need help with cleaning, ironing and similar tasks?



**Contact Dominique on
07964 982883**

*I come highly recommended and can
provide references on request*

£13 per hour

Most areas considered

MORE MEMORIES

Frank Valentine, he was quite stout,
A tailor by trade, there is no doubt
At Chapel each week he could be seen
His house looked over Goose Green.

Alf Stanley, he did work for Hopcrafts,
Made the coffins for folk that popped off,
Taught us each week at Sunday School
Tho' we to him were very cruel.

Eli Walker could be heard
At camp meetings preach the word.
And he loved the hymns to vamp
I knew him well, he was my gramp.

Len Springall used to tie the hay
Tried to tie a rick a day
On his bike he travelled round
Wherever his work could be found.

George Cox he had a pleasant way
Worked on the farm to earn his pay
He'd lay a hedge or build a fence
And cut your hair for just threepence.

Jack Malcher was the butcher man
Carried meat in from the van

He looked so strong or had the knack
The weights he carried on his back.

Stanley Hall a garage had
And with much grief he lost his lad
Ran the buses in fine style
Charged about one pence a mile.

Tom Holiday he had a car
Would taxi people near and far
He drove me on my wedding day
And that is when I went away.

To new folks of Deddington I must be a bore
But it's the older, I really write for
I hope you enjoy your Deddington stay
Just as I did, before going away.

Don Walker

CHRISTMAS CARD DELIVERY

**Deddington Scout Group
regrets it is unable to provide
its usual delivery service**



MARVALOUS HEALTH UK a new Deddington-based nutrition business

We offer a careful selection of superior products that help achieve the best possible quality of life given the high pace and stresses placed on our lives. We have looked far and wide to bring you new ideas and innovations, you can use at home for the first time, that have unique properties and proven benefits to help you lead a healthier life.



Pure Arctic Omega-3 fish oil (Informed Sport approved)
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Excellent for bone strength

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and enter DN20 at checkout.

Marvalous Health UK
5 The Swere, Deddington OX15 0AA.
Call Gavin on 07958 591838
www.marvaloushealth.uk

DOWN ON GEORGE'S FARM

Well, that's another one done and dusted, although 'dusted' may not be the right word after a somewhat difficult summer. The weather gods did play the game when it came to haymaking and harvest and, after a wet autumn we did get a planting window to get the winter-sown wheat in the ground. With the removal of the crop protection products there will be no oil seed rape, something that will hit the production of home grown vegetable oils, leaving us to rely on imports grown with the technology banned in this country.

Rain and flooding have been a constant problem over the last few weeks with the sheep washed off their grazing on a number of occasions. This is nothing new as I have farmed in the valley for over sixty years and we have had flooding most years but not to the extent of the last twelve months.

The river valley is one of the finest feeding valleys in the country but because of the run-off from the many building projects it has now become unsafe grazing, with most of our feeding lambs having to be sold for someone else to finish; something that is anathema for a traditional river valley livestock feeding farm. It is likely that little Bob will be the last working sheepdog to be trained on the farm. He is already working in the pens, riding the quadbike and showing a good 'eye'.

As we crash into the end of the year the ewes have had a good sorting out, with the early lambers inside receiving some extra feed. The rams, after their rampage, are also inside receiving some extra TLC. We



have always brought the sheep inside for the last few weeks before lambing so that a close eye can be kept on them and any problems sorted out, with most lambs being born around dawn. I still do the night rounds but long gone are the days or rather, nights, spent out in the shepherd's hut, doing regular rounds with just the sheepdogs for company and mother's regular relief sustenance arriving both day and night. Today it's all inside but we still get the unwelcome

night-time visitors looking for an easy meal, even in the barn. Mr Winchester has an answer for that problem.

As I have said we have had somewhat of a watery end to the year, the meadows are yet again under water and will be of little use to the sheep until well into the spring. While we can do nothing about the rain that falls, the real problem is the pressure on the river valley unmitigated by any requirement for flood control or wildlife holding ponds, something that would be of benefit to the local environment.

Apart from a few small groups of fieldfare and redwings stopping off to feed up on the hedgerow berries before moving on south to warmer climes, our winter visitors to the meadows have been very slow in coming although we still see the large flocks of starlings performing their aerial displays each evening before going to spend the night in the local woods: a magical sight.

George Fenemore
01869 338203

TALES FROM THE PUMP

'Time, gentlemen, please', was the shout from the bar in the old days. Not only did this reflect the assumption that all the customers were men but that visits to the pub had to be controlled to certain times as set down by the powers that be. As Tim Martin of JD Wetherspoon pointed out, afternoon closing of pubs between 3.00pm and 6.00pm was imposed in the First World War to encourage munitions workers to return to their factories – and only abolished in 1986. Could the imposition of the 10.00pm curfew on pubs and restaurants be with us until 2090?

At the time of writing we are in the middle of our second lockdown. It seems that the government believes that pubs haven't changed since the old days – easy to target because they are full of blokes up to nefarious deeds rather than the well-controlled fun places for all to meet, eat, drink and enjoy the escape from day-to-day hassle. So, despite the supervised social distancing, table-service and super hygiene, it's the pubs that need to shut their doors, thus encouraging private parties with no supervision.



Moving on (yes please, you say) the time may well be up for no-alcohol Guinness – four years in development but withdrawn shortly after launch. Let's hope it stays that way. What good is a beautiful creamy pint of Guinness without the zest from the alcohol? Alcohol helps preserve the beer and its flavour – the stronger the beer the longer it lasts which is why you only find stronger real ales in Wetherspoons airport pubs which are more difficult to service. I remember stocking draught no-alcohol lager a few years back. It needed to last a long time because nobody drank it – it tasted pretty bad to start with

and really bad after only a few days.

I've now given two name-checks to Wetherspoons which makes me even more grumpy than usual so I'll call time. Hope we are open for Christmas and we have some really good news in 2021.

Grumpy Landlord
Grumpylandlord1@gmail.com

WINE TIME

It makes wines for all seasons. It's grown everywhere and gives a range of flavours from asparagus, nettles, cut grass and cats' pee on a gooseberry bush, to luscious apricot, melon and peach. Sauvignon Blanc can be loved as a party favourite or loathed for being a single flavour amplified too far. As a grape variety on its own it is capable of an extraordinary range, some of which many drinkers might not even be aware. When blended with other varieties, usually Semillon, it is found in dry white Bordeaux and luscious sweet Sauternes where it gives glorious fruity aromas and much needed acidic balance.

Some say it only started to be really noticed after 1973 when the first Sauvignon Blanc vines were planted in New Zealand. For others, it achieved fame and supremacy in 1985 when Cloudy Bay from NZ released their first vintage in a famously calculated and controlled way, limiting even ancient wine merchants to a few cases at a time. However, its home is the Loire valley in France where it originated back in 1534 and it is the grape which makes Sancerre and Pouilly-Fumé so wonderful, as well as their lesser known neighbours Reuilly, Quincy, and Menetou-Salon. These are cheaper but just as good as their more famous cousins. Such is its age, Sauvignon Blanc is one of the 'parents' of Cabernet Sauvignon, when it crossed spontaneously with Cabernet Franc several hundred years ago. You now find it planted all over the world. In addition to the places already mentioned you will find excellent examples, either blended or not, from Italy, Spain, USA, Australia, South Africa and Chile.

To give yourself an idea of the range possible from one grape variety, both Sauvignon Blanc but in totally different styles and flavour profiles, try a Sancerre side by side with a New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc. Majestic sells Villa Maria 'Cellar Selection' Sauvignon



Blanc 2019, Marlborough, at £12.99 (a quality NZ gooseberry and passion fruit-style Sauvignon) and Domain Fouassier from Sancerre at £16.99, a very good example of a richer style with peach and melon flavours.

A different but no less interesting comparison comes when you put a blended Sauvignon next to a single grape wine from the same region. If you are interested in doing this, dry, white, Bordeaux is the place to go. For a wine made with Sauvignon Blanc blended with Semillon try Château Thieuley Blanc, 2019, from the Wine Society at £9.95. Compare it to a dry white wine which is pure Sauvignon, such as Château Doisy-Daëne Sec, Bordeaux 2019, at £20 also from the Wine Society. (The Château is famous for its sweet wines). Dry white Bordeaux is, in general, very under-rated given the region's strong association with reds. As a result, these lovely, easy drinking, but high quality, wines can be found at under £10 in many places.

Wandering further afield, Chile produces excellent versions and Waitrose has a small but very good selection, all priced around £10. In the USA it is often called 'Fumé Blanc' and will usually have an oaked flavour especially if from California. These are very good, but so different from their brothers from New Zealand it is hard to believe they are the same grape variety. If you go for South African versions you will return to the crisp asparagus, gooseberry and cut grass flavours. You can find decent versions in Sainsbury's, such as their own Taste the Difference at £6.95, and in other supermarkets at under £10. Enjoy the amazing world that is Sauvignon Blanc.

Charles Elvin

Charles.elvin@btopenworld.com

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY



The last minute restrictions of lockdown meant that Remembrance Sunday had to be marked in quite different ways this year. There was insufficient time to make the necessary arrangements to allow the public to attend the war memorial for the two minute silence and congregations

were not allowed for church services.

David Field tolled a single bell for the 11 o'clock two minute silence so that it could be heard across the village. Following the silence, the RBL Branch President and Chairman and the PC Chairman placed wreaths to join all the other organisations' wreaths already placed on the memorial.

In the church, Revd Annie Goldthorp and Canon Christopher Hall conducted a live streamed Remembrance Service in front of the memorial plaque and battlefield crosses. The reading of the names of the fallen, the Ode, Last Post, the silence and the Kohima Epitaph were all part of the Service. The RBL Branch Standard was on display and dipped by the Vicar during the silence.

Both events, conducted without public attendance, were all the more poignant for those of us privileged to carry them out. We can only say we are sensible of and very grateful for the understanding shown by everyone in staying safe by staying away.

Reverend Annie

Rob Forsyth

David Rogers

LETTERS

FROM JOHN, ANNE AND
STEPHANIE PAULL

John, Anne and Stephanie would like to thank all those in Deddington and the surrounding villages who sent lovely cards, flowers and kind words and for the delicious food parcels that were sent. They were all very gratefully appreciated.

Also thank you to Robbie Dwyer, captain of Deddington Town Football Club and fellow players for the minute's silence in honour of Richard and to all those who lined the village green at Adderbury to see Richard go by. Thank you all.

A special thank you to all his pals for being there while Richard was so ill, for which we shall always be grateful.

FROM SARAH LIEBRECHT,
DEDDINGTON

Thank you to everyone who took part in this year's Ride and Stride, walking, cycling and welcoming visitors.



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

Together we raised £1,175. Half of this will go to help churches in need throughout Oxfordshire and the other half to our church in Deddington.

Look for details of next year's event on the second Saturday in September.

FROM JANE GREEN, DEDDINGTON
Christmas cards are on sale in the church in aid of Embrace the Middle East, a British

charity sending funds to charities in the Middle East caring for the poor, disabled and refugees. Payment details are provided.

HELEN SPENCER, DEDDINGTON

Merry Christmas, everyone and a huge thank you to all the locals for supporting our independent parish businesses during 2020. It's been a really challenging year that has re-booted the world and many of us are re-thinking what is important in life. Thanks to your support, we've survived and look forward to greeting you in 2021..

NEWS FROM CLIFTON

Well, we all believe this corner of heaven down the hill is special and somewhat removed from the dullness of other people's lives but I must gravely report that the plague has made it down here. One of the superstars of Deddington's Monday night 5-a-side crew has tested positive. However, due to the excellent way this event is managed by Lower Larkrise's very own football organising supremo, TS, in line with the Windmill committee's Covid-19 precautions, and followed by an in-depth conversation with NHS England, no other participants had to self-isolate, despite warnings being broadcast on the Covid app, almost immediately followed by 'no action required' messages.

The fact that no other player got within three yards of the afflicted, due to his skill level, did help. Sadly, however, if you live with the superstar then your contagion is virtually guaranteed for the whole family, so Book Club has rallied round to supply groceries, leaving our very own Covid heroes, Tei and Ian, to deal with other less fortunate sufferers, although it must be said finding flat leaf parsley instead of curly leaf parsley left the staff of a local supermarket scrabbling around in the back. This correspondent understands two of our senior and much valued neighbours have also succumbed. We wish them a very speedy recovery.

On a recent stroll round the Clifton loop a collection of big old turkeys was seen, one of which had clearly watched the film *Chicken Run*, sitting proudly on top of the fence penning his compatriots in. After some 'encouragement' he tried to fly the second fence to freedom but only showed why the film stars needed to make a flying machine as he/she ended up still contained, but socially distanced, flying like a stone.

It did, however, lead to Chris's first order for the big day from one of the walkers.

Book Club had to be pulled forward 24 hours to beat the new lockdown but had to cope with a near sell-out for the Duck's Japanese evening. As a result it started in the garden until tables were cleared. When they had been, the duck pizza was served (a Book Club favourite) and we could survey the current and past Candleford residents who came to seek oriental delights. This event saw the last of the Book Club puppies join us in the pub, much to the delight of the women (and the puppy owner showing him off to said women). Pepper, who visited last Book Club, disappeared at the point the company became poorer (or more likely the crisps ran out, as your company is never enough to keep anyone *Ed*). A frantic search was undertaken by many, only for Paul, the 'owner' to go home with his tail between his legs to meet Pepper with a 'where have you been' look on her muzzle. Clearly a homer to give any pigeon a run for their money.

Sadly Chris was unable to attend this Book Club for his inauguration session before the current shutdown as he had 'thespian taxi duties' and, as the emergency Book Club beer stocks have been exhausted, the next meeting will be well into the glide slope to Christmas.

This period will of course see the return of the Santas which will almost certainly be Covid safe. Some of us can't wait.

And finally, a big Lower Larkrise welcome to Felice Rae. The Clifton Ladies book club beckons to you ...

Martin Bryce
martinbryce@gmail.com

What a bittersweet month November has been. Bitter due to Lockdown: The Sequel and a second closure of the Windmill – just as we were getting used to living with the restrictions. (Am I the only one to be mystified

by the government's decision to ban grassroots sport in this second lockdown while allowing, say, school PE lessons to continue?) Sweet, because we now have the promise of a vaccine and, according to some experts, something approaching normal life by spring 2021.

As I intimated last month, maybe this is a good time to brainstorm other ways in which the Windmill might serve our community. What other purposes could we use our facilities for? What should a community centre like ours offer in a post-Covid world? Do get in touch with your ideas. We'd love to hear from you. (By the way, I always encourage people to get in touch, but nobody ever does. Go on... surprise me!)

Finally, I must thank our regular users for their understanding in these difficult times. We hate having to close our facilities, but I'm afraid we have no choice. If you are reading a printed version of this, then it means the Windmill is open again and the hard-working and dedicated DN team have managed to print and collate



the December edition. Very good news!

As always, for further information and updates on what is (or isn't) going on at the Windmill, please check our website at www.thewindmill-deddington.org or look us up

on Facebook. Stay well everyone and have a very happy Christmas.

Vaughan Jones

vaughan@englishlanguagematters.com

HEMPTON COMMON LANDS CHARITY

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

Grants are usually in amounts up to £100 but the trustees might consider making a larger grant if funds are available.

Applications must be made in writing to the vicar and more details are available on our website, www.hemptoncharity.org.

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FROM THE FIRE STATION



We find ourselves back under lockdown and things have immediately quietened down – so perhaps people are listening.

Just six shouts this month: five standbys and one fire call. Deddington and four other crews attended a local house fire. The seat of the fire had been extinguished by the time Deddington arrived and the crew became involved in smoke clearing from all the rooms of the house.

Eagle-eyed observers will have noticed the new automatic doors that have now been installed at the station which is also in the process of getting updated shower and toilet facilities.

Training courses are still going ahead, albeit in a slightly modified format to try and minimise any contamination since doing everything with a 2m gap is extremely difficult.

With no parade on Sunday 8 November, Deddington firefighters paid their respects outside the station at 11.00am and were joined by Charlie Greenwood, resplendent in his Scout uniform.

We are always looking for recruits. Anyone interested in joining the crew should contact me or come to the station on Tuesday between 7.00 and 9.00pm.

James Greenwood, FFD

james@cyclogicalshop.co.uk

SNOW WARDENS

Looking Ahead to Winter

The parish council runs a snow wardens scheme and we are looking for more volunteers.

We are seeking people who would be interested in helping to keep the key pavements across the parish clear and assist the vulnerable and elderly by clearing paths to their doors.

OCC currently grits the Hempton to Clifton Road and High Street and New Street but has no plans to clear pavements or other roads.

The parish council is aware that many of you look out for your neighbours when the weather is poor but we have a list of those who would be reassured to know that there is someone who might clear their front path. If we could work together to keep as many pavements as possible clear it would be a great benefit to our community.

It seems that many people believe that, if they clear snow or ice from outside their property or from the public footpath, they could be sued if a member of the public were to slip on the area cleared. It is OCC's view that, if people clear ice or snow from a public footpath in a safe and correct manner, as outlined in the government's Snow Code, it is very difficult to envisage circumstances where a court would award damages against them if someone slipped.

Working together we can make a real difference to the safety and wellbeing of residents in our community this winter.

If you are interested in becoming one of Deddington's snow wardens please contact David Rogers david@blueskyday.biz, 01869 337065.

DEDDINGTON PFSU AND VILLAGE NURSERY

Christmas is coming and, provided circumstances permit, the nursery and preschool children will be enjoying many of their usual Christmas activities this year, albeit in a slightly altered form. We have already started rehearsals for our Christmas performances, songs at the Nursery and a simple nativity with the preschool children. In both cases these will be recorded and sent to parents to view at home. We intend to hold Christmas party activities at both settings and there will be the usual fun of making decorations, crafts and cards.

In the busyness of Christmas we would like to remind all our preschool parents that applications for primary school for next September (that is children who were born between 1 September 2016 and 31 August 2017) must be made to Oxfordshire County Council by 15 January 2021 or you risk missing out on a place at your preferred school. Finally, despite these unusual times, we hope you all have the best Christmas possible.

Lucy Squires 01869 337484

CALLING ALL CLUBS

Adderbury, Deddington and District Photographic Society

Ordinarily, I would be pointing you in the direction of our annual exhibition held at the Adderbury Institute and Deddington Church. Instead, I thoroughly recommend you visit our website, after 18 November, to view an impressive selection of images selected by our members to show the range and depth of photography that they enjoy and excel at. Do take the time to have a virtual visit.

This month our visual treat was delivered by Vince Harris, ARPS. A Nostalgic Journey to Ghana was an evening of images from 2004 on Vince's return to his previous home, where he had taught in the 60s. The photographs were taken using film and had a soft quality that added to the atmosphere and clarity of the observations. He gave us a glimpse of a simpler way of life showing the housing, work, and youth of villages he visited. Vince explained that he always approached the chief of the village first, giving him a 'magical' Polaroid image of himself, before exploring the area further. Many of the images were pleasing but thought-provoking because of the cultural differences. Vince's nugget of advice was 'get close, then get closer still'. Do seek out, on www.vinceharris.me.uk, his image of Abosomfie at Boduase, Ashanti Region, was the runner-up in a 2006 National Geographic competition. In a country of contrasts, Vince illustrated the many castles along the Gold Coast of Ghana where wealth had been previously established through the gold mines and slavery.

Our next Zoom meeting is on 2 December at 7.30pm presented by Kieran Metcalfe – Chasing the Light. If you would like to join us, please visit our website to find contacts and details. We can't wait until we can all meet again but, in the meantime, Zoom keeps us going.

Anne Hunsley

www.addphoto.co.uk

Book Group

We enjoyed reading *Olive Kitteridge* by the American author, Elizabeth Strout. Set in a coastal town in Maine, this is not a novel but a collection of short stories portraying the lives of individuals in the small community. The author has a clear and flowing style which draws the reader in to the narrative, as do the convincing descriptions of relationships and places. While Olive is the principal character in many of the stories, she appears as a minor character or just a fleeting presence in others. A complicated and flawed person, whose anger creates difficulties for her gentle husband and her son, she is also surprisingly empathetic at times. There is a sad element to the stories, which often depict people confronting issues such as betrayal, ageing, loneliness or loss. However, there is a scattering of lighter moments and a little optimism.

Our next book is *Unless* by Carol Shields. Please contact Sally Lambert on 01869 338094 for more information.

Sian Waterman

Deddington Bookworms

Our last book, *The Wonder*, by Emma Donoghue, had mixed reviews. Set shortly after the Crimean war, a 'Nightingale' nurse travels to the Irish Midlands to take up a two-week, well paid, job. She is tasked with watching Anna, a young girl who is defying nature and staying alive despite a four month fast. Anna and her family are receiving global religious, medical and media interest.

The landscape, weather and living conditions are bleak and we agreed that the quality of Donoghue's writing spoke so graphically that it was easy to believe we could almost smell the peat bogs. For some Bookworms this bleakness was too much and they struggled to finish it. One talked about not being drawn to period literature which may have affected her reaction. However, on finishing the book she was glad to have persevered.

Some really enjoyed the book, finding it multi-layered, providing a social view of Ireland shortly after the potato famine, exploring the relationship of religion, guilt and shame. It kept the reader interested in finding out why Anna wasn't eating and what might happen.

Overall we found it a well written book of a social time and place with an interesting story, but be prepared for some bleakness.

Bookworms

Deddington Library

Deddington Players

We're so sad not to be bringing the village a pantomime this year. It was a really good one too. Happily, it will keep until next season and will be all the more spectacular for it.

We have been exploring ways to bring a little Deddington Players joy into local lives. After much discussion, we concluded that live performances even outside, were not an option. Don't be downhearted though, our writers have come up with some fabulous festive surprises to bring a smile to your faces via the safe medium of video. Keep an eye out for them on the Deddington Players and Community Facebook pages and enjoy a little Deddy Players magic from the comfort of your own homes. We'll see you next year ... oh yes, we will!

Suzie Upson

SPORT

Deddington Tennis Club

Unfortunately, since our last entry for the *DN*, the lockdown has resumed and we have had to close the

SPORT*Continued from p14*

Tennis Club. At the time of writing, we don't know what will happen in December but we will be following the guidelines from the LTA, our national governing body. We very much hope that tennis will be permitted again when lockdown is eased. Please keep an eye on our website which will be updated as soon as we know when reopening is permitted. It will also detail any necessary restrictions in place to keep everyone safe.

We'd like to thank everyone for their support this year through all the disruptions, closures and changes of rules for playing tennis. We really hope 2021 will allow us to offer our usual coaching, social play and matches for a much greater proportion of the year.

In the meantime, if you would like information about coaching, please contact Paul, our Head Coach, on paultaylor@btinternet.com. For further information about any of our other activities, to become a member or to book a court, please go to our website www.deddingtontennis.com

We hope to be able to welcome you back to the club, at a safe 2m distance of course, very soon.

Becky Jones

Deddington Town Football Club*First Team results:*

17.10.20 Bloxham (a) L 1-2

Reserve Team results:

17.10.20 Brill United (h) L 3-5

24.10.20 Longford Park (a) D 2-2

31.10.20 Steeple Aston (h) D 2-2

Now that the second lockdown has been implemented, there's a lot of confusion about whether grassroots football will be able to end this season, but for now let's retain some hope. We all know that the First Team's affectionate nickname is the *Humbugs*, but from now I shall also occasionally venture to refer to the Reserves as the *Latics*, since they are now Deddington Athletic. These terms shall henceforth be used interchangeably, and I encourage fans to shout for the *Humbugs* or the *Latics* respectively – if we are ever allowed to watch live amateur sport again. Anyway, the *Latics* recovered from a sequence of defeats to nab a couple of 2-2 draws, leaving them hovering in midtable at the hiatus point. Merry Christmas and a Covid-free New Year to all, from DTFC.

Aaron Bliss
07909 642882

Deddington Town FC Youth

All our teams play in the Witney and District Youth League. Government guidance to the FA was to stop all grassroots football during Lockdown 2. So once again, football has been put on hold but we hope we can get back for three weeks before Christmas with the country in a safer place with lower infection rates.

The Under 14s had an agonising defeat on penalties to Chadlington in the cup. After the game ended

5-5, they lost 6-5 on penalties. The Under 12s have not had any fixtures since the last report.

Under 7s – kit sponsor

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

25 years of Deddington Town FC youth football

The 2020/21 season will see us celebrate 25 years of youth football at Deddington Town Football Club. We are planning an event in the summer 2021. If you are a past player or coach and want to get involved, please drop me an email – carsykes@btinternet.com

Get involved

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

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

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

Unfortunately, we will not be able to run the Scout Christmas post this year due to Covid restrictions.

Thanks to all the Cubs and Scouts who found a way to commemorate Remembrance Day. There were some wonderfully imaginative displays of poppies and many of us donned our uniforms to stand outside for the two-minute silence.

Jo Churchyard
deddingtoncubs@gmail.com
Peter Churchyard
deddingtonscouts@gmail.com

Explorers

As we said last month, we have been hearing about the developments with the Street Child United charity we support. The stories from various young people put into perspective how lucky we are at the moment. Our intention is to try and get from Deddington to Doha virtually where the next World Cup is to be played. Watch out for our inventiveness.

The Community Action Trust Group who are assisting old people's homes and orphanages in Zimbabwe, specifically in Bulawayo, have now put our donations into a container. We will update you with any news as we receive it.

To take our minds off Covid-19 we have embarked on the Creative Arts Badge. The challenge? To take photos of things that mean happiness to us. We are also entering the Rotary photographic competition

YOUTH ————— *Continued from p15*
for the best wildlife photo. We had an amazing Zoom meeting with the Scouter who runs the Scoutadelic YouTube channel and FaceBook page. There was lots of discussion as to how to create videos, followed by drawing a picture of ourselves and labelling five things we think are positive features. Really good for mental health.

Finally, the last event has been a debate on whether or not school uniform is a good idea. Many really good reasons on both sides but the decision was a resounding 'no'. If you are interested in joining the Unit contact any of the leaders at spartansexplorers@gmail.com

Janet Duxbury
spartansexplorers@gmail.com

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History Corner

www.deddingtonhistory.uk

Moir Byast was recently invited to tell some of the Deddington ghost stories she has heard over the years on Radio Oxford for a special Halloween programme. These are just two of the several she recounted: The Old Vicarage is supposedly haunted by the ghost of Revd Maurice Frost. The poltergeist here does not like visitors and disturbs the beds, fortunately before they are occupied, and alters the clocks. The second is a mysterious ladies' maid, who brushes your hair if you sit at a certain dressing table in the house, but is only felt, not seen. Then there is the kitchen maid in a Victorian house, who washes up any crockery left unwashed overnight. Useful rather than alarming. These and other stories can be heard or read at: <http://www.deddingtonhistory.uk/ghosts>. If you have any other ghost stories please let me know.

Rob Forsyth
History Editor
robert.s.forsyth@gmail.com

HOLLY TREE CLUB

Our plans are coming together for the renovations to the hall. By the time you read this we should have quotes from contractors for phase 1 works to begin in the new year. Phase 1 deals with the essential work, including roof, electrics, damp proofing and heating. Meanwhile, we will be fundraising for phase 2 which includes an extension for new cloakrooms and kitchen.

We also hope to restart our outings next spring or early summer, so if members have any ideas of where they would like to go on outings or visits please let a committee member know.

The committee has also been discussing holding weekly drop in coffee mornings once we are able to reopen the hall again, instead of just once a month, giving members more frequent opportunities to socialise with friends. We'd love members' feedback on this.

It's usual in December to give members final information about our annual Christmas lunch, but, as I'm sure you're all too well aware, we won't be able to hold one this year – but all is not lost: we've decided to hold a 'Christmas' lunch next spring or summer 2021. We might not be able to have it now but it doesn't mean we can't have it at all.

As soon as we have clarity over the Covid-19 situation in the new year and when we feel it's safe to start planning this, we'll let you know. So don't put your Santa hats away too soon, you'll need them again sooner than you think.

In the meantime, let me to wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy new year from the trustees and management team of your Holly Tree Club.

Revd Annie Goldthorp, Chair
Holly Tree Management Committee