

June 2021

The **DEDDINGTON NEWS**



Delivered free to Deddington, Clifton and Hempton

THE TEAM

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 by **19 JUNE**

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by **10 JUNE**

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COVER

Steve Waterman

The DEDDINGTON NEWS

I'm sure most of you will notice that we're back in the old routine and our printing and collating teams have worked hard to produce this. It was a treat to have the *DN* commercially printed and not have to risk being attacked by staples. We are seriously considering that option as a permanent event so if you have any opinions, we'd be happy to hear them.

I'm pleased to see so many groups and organisations re-starting their usual activities. It would be great if they can continue because the weather's not playing ball. Who wants to sit outside in this? As you can see from What's On below though, events are slow to return. Let's hope this increases over the summer.

DN is looking for someone who might be interested in sitting in on our PC meetings and producing some notes so that local residents know what's going on before the formal minutes are posted on the PC website. If you're interested in what goes on locally, this is a good way to start. You'll know what's happening before anyone else does – it is sometimes quite interesting, entertaining even. It needs to be someone who is not a parish councillor in order that the *DN* can remain independent. Please contact me if you're interested and I'll give you the lowdown.

JC

What's On

June

- Wed 2 Photographic Society: Greenland, a Land of Icebergs and Inuits, see www.addphoto.co.uk for more information
- Tue 22 Windmill Community Centre: AGM, 7.00pm
- Tue 22 DOGS: match against Dorchester-on-Thames DOGS, Kirtlington Golf Club
- Wed 23 Parish Council meeting: Deddington church, 7.30pm
- Thu 24 Book Group: Contact Sally Lambert on 01869 338094 for details
- Sat 26 Farmers' Market: Market Place, 9.00am–12.30pm
- Sat 26 & Open Garden and Tea: Weston House
- Sun 27 Open Garden and Tea: Weston House, Church St, 3.00–5.00pm

July

- Wed 7 Photographic Society: Cartwright Hotel, Aynho, 7.30pm

Steve Waterman's cover image is one of Deddington's well-known retail outlets on the Market Place.

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

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DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

These notes cover several meetings held via Skype

Annual PC Meeting – 28 April

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

Councillor Rogers was re-elected as chair and Councillor Oldfield as vice chair. Working group structures were agreed as before.

Parish Council Meeting – 28 April

Open Forum: There was a request for Four Farms Challenge to be held on Sunday 12 September starting at Castle Grounds.

A representative from the Windmill management committee presented its consultation findings regarding the proposed refurbishment of the toilets at Windmill Community Centre. The majority of the WCC's regular users were in favour of the gender neutral option 2. The other option does not offer enough space for a fully accessible toilet or baby changing facilities.

Finance and General Purposes

There was a long-winded discussion as to when the next PC meeting should be held. It was finally agreed to be on Thursday 6 May via Skype followed by a face-to-face meeting on Wednesday 23 June.

Planning

No objection

Winmour, Philcote Street: replacement of front elevation windows.

Land adjacent to the allotments, Duns Tew Road, Hempton: three bed detached dwelling and associated works. PC will request this is conditional on the footpath being maintained.

Bowler House, New Street: single storey extension.

Wynford House, New Street: conversion of existing external store into garden office.

2 St Thomas Street: replacement of three modern wooden casements.

Manor Farm, Hempton Road: tree works

Objection

5 New Street: retrospective application for replacement of three rear facing windows but defer to the conservation officer.

4 Market Place: illuminated replacement for the Pay-point sign, concern over light pollution.

1 Market Place: replacement of timber sash windows with white uPVC windows.

Community Orchard

An application has been submitted to the Trust for Oxford Environment for funding at Welford's Piece, Clifton. If this is unsuccessful or there is a shortfall, Deddington Environment Network will contact people who indicated their willingness to support this project.

No-Mow-May: a plan of suggested small areas will be provided at the next PC meeting.

Environment & Recreation

The picnic bench at Welford's Piece needs to be

replaced, possibly in conjunction with the community orchard.

Windmill:

The path beyond the MUGA at the Windmill is sinking dangerously and is being investigated. A bin compound has been suggested to the right of the salt bin. The water supply to the bowls tank is currently turned off but will be needed for watering plants. Installation of a bicycle rack has been suggested to avoid bikes being propped against tables. One of the charging points is currently not working.

Roof: quotations are awaited. Contracted work has been completed on the south roof.

Highways & Transport

In spite of the significant donation made by the PC for the Holly Tree refurbishment, the Holly Tree trustees have declined to house the PC's wheelie bins currently by the side of the Town Hall.

A resident of Hempton has complained about the speed and number of large vehicles going through the village. The PC will notify the police and OCC. Speedwatch is now operational again and a van will be in the area.

Annual Parish Meeting – 5 May

Present: Cox, Rogers (chair), Oldfield, O'Neill, Robinson, Snashall, Timms, Watts, and parish clerk.

Annual reports of the PC working groups were provided.

Councillor Rogers thanked fellow parish councillors, and the Covid group and their volunteers particularly, who worked together to get things done during the past year. £24,700 grant funding was obtained to support these efforts. In March 2020 several people came forward to form a support group for anyone who needed it. The group has now been disbanded but could be resurrected if necessary. People liked having the newsletters, particularly in the early stages when the *DN* wasn't able to print. Thanks were expressed to the clerk for putting in many unpaid hours printing the newsletters. Christmas and Easter dinners were provided for anyone who wanted it. It was an excellent team effort.

Parish councillors attend monthly meetings, interim working group meetings, as well as with parishioners, officers, contractors, suppliers, training courses and site visits for no recompense. When necessary they also attend CDC planning meetings and OCC cabinet office. Councillors reviewed 61 planning applications over the year.

Parish Council meeting 6 May

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

Continued on p3

DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Continued from p2

Finance & General Purposes

A risk assessment of face-to-face meetings was agreed.

A recommendation for gender neutral toilets from Windmill Management Committee was agreed.

Assets of Community Value: It was agreed to reapply for Satin Lane allotments.

It was suggested that the WMC be asked to produce a master plan for future developments.

Planning:

No objection

Land adjacent to Calcutt Farm, Duns Tew Road, Hempton: agricultural grain store extension.

Cotswold House, New Street: window replacement and repainting.

Approval

St James Farm, Main Street, Clifton: erection of two dwellings, car parking, gardens.

Withdrawal

Winmour, Philcote Street: replacement of front elevation ground floor windows.

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>

Wildflower areas

There has already been a round of mowing of verges. The following areas were proposed to be left unmowed and to follow with some bulb planting:

Corner of St Thomas Street and Oxford Road towards the old BT exchange, and to the north.

Wide verge between Castle End and entrance to Castle Grounds, would like to avoid mowing apart from mower width if necessary for visibility.

Goose Green planting bulbs in the autumn.

Area by Windmill Street: autumn bulb planting between mature trees followed by no spring mowing next year. Suggested some areas in Clifton and Hempton might be proposed.

A number of other areas were identified for possible bulb planting, such as outside the library, school and fire station. This would be dependent on funding.

Next meeting at 7.30pm on 23 June in the church

The Market – Behind the Scenes

Claire Thwaites, chair of the farmers' market management group, could possibly be called 'the new kid on the block', having only been in post for a few months. With any new position, there is an immense amount to learn, often in a short space of time especially, you would think, with the added complications of a pandemic to contend with. Ironically, though, Claire says that COVID has actually made her task a little easier. The gap between markets gave just a little breathing space. As is the case with many other organisations, committee meetings have been held online and she is full of praise for her fellow committee members who, like her, are volunteers and have been willing to help her get to grips with the task.

One of the most important challenges for Claire has been to get to know the stallholders without whom, of course, there would be no market. There are some longstanding traders who have been at the market since its beginning 20 years ago and others for whom market trading is new. Stallholders come and go and some have left as online trading has now become their main focus. Their absence means that there is a chance to welcome new faces and to evolve – something that Claire is keen to do - and there is never a shortage of new businesses wanting to become part of the market.



There is, however, more to it than just turning up on a Saturday and starting to sell. Applications have to be made to the committee which then carefully considers them. Geographical guidelines have to be met and important issues around labelling, pricing and health and safety need to be taken into consideration. The balance of different stalls is also important.

Perhaps the least onerous part of the committee's job, if they are dealing with an application from a food stall, is the taste test. The produce needs to taste good and standards must be maintained if customers are to keep coming back. Tasting proved an interesting exercise during lockdown but one of the committee members managed to package up the products and deliver them for the other members to sample and come to a decision. Once accepted, stallholders have a three month trial period and, if all goes well, are then encouraged to commit to 12 months' attendance.

As we emerge from lockdown into, we hope, a more normal world, Claire is looking forward to the future. She has been able to visit other markets to see how they do things and to glean some new ideas. She intends to build on the continuing success of the market, making sure that none of its unique and lovely atmosphere is lost.

Jenny Snashall
jennysnashall@gmail.com

WELL REMEMBERED

Philip Allan 1944–2021

Philip was born in West Kirby, the Wirral, the second of four children. He was educated at Shrewsbury School from where he gained a place at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, reading firstly PPE, changing to history. He became president of his college's debating society. Debating, discussion or arguing a point, especially in the field of politics were activities that engaged him all his life. Very recently he was totally engaged with and delighted by a discussion with his 20 year old granddaughter on the effects of pollution and climate change on the environment. After university he moved to London to the publishing company, Thomas Nelson, working for their academic division as commissioning editor in social science for four years. While living in London he met and married his wife, Suzanne, in 1970.

Given what was the success rate demanded of him in his role with Thomas Nelson, he reckoned he could set up his own company out of London. The couple bought 'The Cottage' next to the Red Lion pub and, in 1973, Philip set up Philip Allan Publishers. His colleague in production at Nelson's moved with him and he had the backing of two eminent professors of economics who wrote the first two books published under his company's imprint. The first book was published a week after the couple's first baby, Edward, arrived. Ash, Tom and Will followed, so the couple was fully stretched in the early years of the company.

For the first ten years the company struggled with a perennial cash flow problem until Philip started to publish educational magazines; the book list was sold to Simon & Schuster International in 1989. Ten years later the company acquired Updates Ltd, an educational conference provider. Trading now as Philip Allan Updates, the company expanded into textbooks for A-level and GCSE, as well as publishing magazines, running student conferences and teacher training courses, employing 50 people. In the mid-1980s the company bought Wells House, Deddington Sale Room and Forrester's Hall (which, before it was used for selling second-hand furniture

was the village cinema) to accommodate the increasing number of people employed by the company.

After 33 years of building up and running his company Philip sold the business in 2006 to Hodder Headline. Hodder maintained the imprint and allowed Philip to retain his office overlooking the Market Place, but once they decided to move the company to Banbury in 2015 it was time to redevelop the buildings for domestic use.

After selling the company Philip turned his business expertise to help other start-up companies. His main focus in 'retirement' though was charitable work. The contribution he made at the Cheshire Foundation at Greenhill House, Adderbury, took a new direction with the establishment of Ryder-Cheshire volunteers. The charity operated across several counties in the Midlands, helping disabled people participate in leisure and learning activities. He worked for the charity as treasurer and chairman from 2003-2016. From his days helping at Greenhill House he is remembered for taking residents out for a spin in his Z3 sports car.

Philip also helped as treasurer for two Deddington charities: Friends of Deddington Church and The Holly Tree Club.

As a family, we took up sailing when our sons were young, graduating to yachting, which activity he enjoyed until 2020, when both ill-health and Covid stopped it.

Very many thanks for the cards and letters we have received. They were a great comfort. Philip's courage and enterprise is evident and many are aware also of his innate kindness and generosity of spirit. We miss him greatly.

The Allan family

NB We are holding a memorial service for Philip at the church of St Peter and St Paul, Deddington, on 24 June at 2.00pm. We hope all Covid restrictions will be lifted by 21 June but, should this not be the case, there will be a video link for the service streamed from the church. Please keep an eye on the media and the church website.,

DL History Corner

deddingtonhistory.uk

David French and John Plumbe, both members of the Parish Archive Group, have been painstakingly carrying out online research into the history of 18th–20th century newspapers in Deddington, Oxford and Banbury, together with documenting multiple references to the parish in them. The earliest is an article dated 25 August 1753 from *Jackson's Oxford Journal*, an advertisement for *The Election Magazine* or *The Oxfordshire*

Register whose contents included a piece of political satire, 'The Deddington Blues, Or, the RUMP Rumped'.

The most recent references are from *The Banbury Guardian* and *The Banbury Advertiser* reporting that Privates Horace French and Robin Hall were serving in Malaya in 1950 on National Service and that Robin Hall had been killed in action. In between there is a wealth of fascinating topics. The result of all this hard work, titled 'Newspaper References in Previous Centuries', can be found at bit.ly/3hdy9f8.

Rob Forsyth

robert.s.forsyth@gmail.com

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

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CHURCH

Parish Church SS Peter and Paul

June

Deddington church is open for public worship and services continue to be streamed live. Regretfully the toilets will remain closed until further notice. Please see the church website www.deddingtonchurch.org or Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/DeddingtonChurch> for updates.

Mon–Fri: 8.45am Morning Prayer
 Wed: 10.00am Holy Communion
 Sun 6 10.30am Holy Communion
 6.00pm Choral Evensong
 Sun 13 8.00am BCP Communion
 10.30am Holy Communion
 Sun 20 10.30am Holy Communion
 Sun 27 10.30am Holy Communion

Hempton

Sun 20 9.00am Holy Communion

Barfords

Sun 13 9.00am Communion, BStM
 Sun 20 10.30am Family Service, BStM
 Sun 27 9.00am Holy Communion, BStJ

From the Parish Register

Funerals

14 April Philip Allan
 14 April Philip Dodd

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.



Mallams

1788

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DEDDINGTON ENVIRONMENT NETWORK

Did you know that Bike Week is running from 30 May to 5 June? Cycling increased by more than 45% in 2020 and, although the roads are much busier than they were last March, we all know that there are many health benefits to be had from getting on our bikes, as well as saving energy and reducing carbon emissions. Cyclinguk.org is running a virtual '7 days of cycling' challenge. Check out their website if you would like to take part.

ENERGY – Project Leo is finally up and running and is looking for 15 homeowners in the Deddington and Duns Tew areas who are thinking of installing or already have a heat pump, to take part in a pioneering trial. This initiative is aimed at accelerating the decarbonisation of heating in rural communities. Benefits to participants would include a free Cosy Homes whole house plan and paying project management fees for the heat pump installation. In addition, Project Leo may be able to provide a modest income as it looks at how homeowners can be rewarded for providing flexibility. If you are interested, please get in touch at lowcarbonhub.org/heatpumptrial.

RESOURCES – Many of us have hung on to our old appliances, remembering the adage, Reduce, Re-Use, Recycle, but new research indicates that, from a cost and carbon-saving point of view, we may be better off buying newer, more energy efficient machines, particularly, it seems, when it comes to fridge/freezers that are more than 10 years old. Obviously, if we do decide to replace our appliances, we need to make sure they are disposed of responsibly. Cherwell District Council will collect empty and clean fridges and freezers for a small fee, plus a remarkable range of other household items, or you can take them to your local household-waste recycling centre. How we use our appliance will also affect energy consumption and ideally, we should place our fridges or freezers in rooms that are kept below 19C, at least 10cm away from a wall. We should defrost freezers every 6–12 months and check the seals regularly, replacing them if they are worn out. Making sure we only put food that has been properly cooled in the fridge will also save energy.

BIODIVERSITY TIPS – Faced with an exceptionally cold spring, many gardeners have delayed their trips to garden centres to buy the colourful, long-flowering annuals beloved by so many, but nature charities warn that most annuals are utterly useless for pollinators, having been bred for flower size and colour rather than pollen-producing anthers. Consider planting a range of pollinator-friendly perennials or biennials instead which are not only far less work than annuals but ultimately save you money and cut down on plastic as well. A variety is always best, as different plants attract different insects depending on the shape of the flower. For instance only bumblebees with long-tongues are attracted to foxgloves while single roses and heleniums attract short-tongued bees and hoverflies. Some

other plants to consider are comfrey, hardy geraniums such as Rozanne, nepeta/catmint, plume thistle, lavender, agastache, marjoram and thyme. Wildflowers are attractive to insects so, if you don't have room for a full-on wildflower meadow, you might want to plant patches of native flowers, some of which, like viper's bugloss, are very attractive or allow nettles to grow at the back of a border. Combined, our gardens cover nearly half a million hectares of the UK. Imagine how many species we could support if we all switched to using fewer or no pesticides and pollinator-friendly plants.

Most compost that you buy in garden centres still contains peat, despite government targets to achieve 100% peat-free status by 2030. If it doesn't say peat free on the bag, then it isn't. Peat bogs are rich habitats for rare and vulnerable natural species. Peat extraction not only wipes out entire eco-systems but also releases huge amounts of carbon into the atmosphere. The following local garden centres stock peat free compost: Nicholson's Nursery, North Aston; Bunker's Hill Nursery, Kidlington; Applegarth Nurseries, Chipping Norton; as do Hilliers and Homebase in Banbury and most of these will deliver. Please contact me if you know of any others. If you want to buy in bulk, which ultimately cuts down on plastic, there are several companies online which offer this service including Earth-cycle.co.uk which offers a wide range of peat free products, some of which is produced on their own organic farms. Some local farms, including Clifton Home Farm, offer farmyard manure. CDC offers free compost from time to time and it is worth keeping an eye on the local press or their website for this.

SWIFT WALK – Join us for a 'Swift Walk' around Deddington. Learn more about this fascinating bird and where it lives around Deddington with local enthusiast Chris Mason. The walk will take place on 23 June at 7.30pm. Places are limited so please get in touch to secure your spot.

If you have any ideas or comments or some spare time to help out here at DEN, please contact us at.

Nick and Fiona Smith
info@deddingtonenvironment.net
www.deddingtonenvironment.net

Deddington PFSU and Village Nursery

After an 'interesting' year, it is hard to believe that June sees us in our final few weeks of term before the summer holiday. We will be busy preparing our preschool children for the move to school and the older Nursery children for their move to preschool in September.

We hope to hold sports days but what form these take will depend on the regulations in place at the time. Don't forget to book your places at summer holiday club which will run for the weeks beginning 26 July and 2 August. We are expecting there to be lots of demand for places.

Lucy Squires 01869 337484

TALES FROM THE PUMP



The good thing about pub conversations is they seem to flit around from one subject to another without anybody really noticing or caring. The pub was nice and warm with the fires roaring away and we were once again enjoying the sound of clinking glasses and a bit of a chat. The boys (bit of an exaggeration as average age is around 65) were sitting in the window alcove looking at the rain sweeping down outside.

'A couple of weeks ago you'd have been out there, Grumpy bringing us our beers', says Fred. 'Funny thing nicknames', says Frank, 'I mean Grumpy is more a statement of fact, but the funny nicknames seem to have disappeared these days.' Ian chips in, 'Like

Baxter Campbell – we called him Soupy at school and Alan at the Legion was Charlbury because his Dad lived there, or that Yank who used to come in the pub, Black John – that would cause a riot these days but we had loads of Johns and he didn't mind. Even Little John didn't have a problem. Folk seem to get upset really easy these days.'

'They call them "profile user names" on dating apps', says Roger ignoring the looks of incredulity around the table. 'It's really important to pick the right one to get the best responses. 'What's yours?' says Dave, "Minesapint" should work.'

'It's a bit like the controversy about VAT on confectionery, biscuits and cakes', says Les (a pretty obvious forced change of subject I thought.) 'Morrisons have just lost a court case asking for the VAT back on date bars. They maintained they weren't confectionery, more like biscuits which don't carry VAT. As if biscuits are essential! If they added VAT to all the non-essential essentials in supermarkets, they could reduce the VAT on beer.'

As I collected their empties to go back to the bar for refills I told Les, 'I've got a great nickname for you, "Dream On".'

Grumpy Landlord

Grumpylandlord1@gmail.com


REMEMBRANCE DAY

Calling all clubs, parishioners, family and friends: In November we will be remembering all those who suffered and sacrificed their lives for our freedom and the world we know today. Every year many Deddington organisations parade through the village, watched by significant numbers of people, paying their respects at the war memorial, then onwards to the church. Following the remembrance service the parade returns to the Bull Ring saluting the Union Flag, Memorial Garden and RBL Branch President on the green outside the Co-op.

This is a moving occasion bringing all ages together to remember and one which must continue and not be forgotten.

This year will be slightly different due to local authority regulations concerning health and safety. We need to run this event ourselves which means applying for a road closure through the village and controlling each closure point into the village for the period of the parade. In order to do this we need some volunteers to marshal these posts, around 16 in total. We would be very grateful for any members of the marching organisations, friends, family or local parishioners to come forward and help with the marshalling so that this great event can continue. I am sure we have all been touched and can relate to personal or family stories of war of some kind in our lives and it is a great opportunity to pay our respects and honour those who gave their lives for our freedom.


It will take a couple of hours on Remembrance day. If anybody feels able to help, please contact us at deddingtonparishcouncil@googlemail.com, 01869 337447, or jonathanwatts.dpc@gmail.com, 07818697752, by 16 June.

Bee Beautiful 

Beauty Therapy

Bee Beautiful is a home based salon in the heart of Deddington, Oxfordshire. We have a relaxing environment, where all your beauty needs can be met. We pride ourselves on using the highest quality professional brands, friendly chat and the up most customer service to give you the best beauty experience possible.

Treatments we offer...

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• Nails	• Lash Lift
• Toes	• Tinting
• Massage & Facials	• Spray Tans 

Please visit our website to see a full list of our services and to book an appointment today - alternatively, please feel free to contact us by email or telephone to book your appointment:

✉ hello@bee-beautiful.co.uk 🌐 www.bee-beautiful.co.uk

☎ 07769 112418 📍 2 Murdock Close, Deddington, OX15 0UL

NEWS FROM HEMPTON

The parish council is proposing to enhance our environment by creating areas of wildflowers and bulb planting at suitable locations around the village. If any resident has a site in mind that they would like to propose, please contact the parish clerk at deddingtonparishcouncil@googlemail.com or Jonathan Watts. Bear in mind that sight lines at the crossroads and at driveways should be kept clear.

The 2011 Census recorded 264 members of 107 households resident in Hempton. In contrast, the 1851 census recorded some 263 individuals in 49 households residing in the village. Of these, 68 declared their occupation as agricultural labourer. Much has been said of the bleak existence and hardships endured by the labourer in Victorian times. Circumstances varied, being generally worse in the southern and eastern counties of England and in areas of more labour intensive arable farming. The situation of those living in Hempton is uncertain but generally living conditions for this class of worker and their families in Victorian times were poor and often desperate.

Until the late 18th century, agricultural workers lived by subsistence farming and craftwork using what excess they produced to barter or sell at market for needs they could not meet themselves. By the middle of the 19th century farming had become largely commercial, craft production was being replaced by cheaper mass-produced goods and the labourer was working for wages to provide for his needs. This change had a marked impact on the security of the labourer who was paid for a day's labour. Most were hired on annual or day labourer terms and endured periods when little or no work was available. Bad weather prevented work in the fields; in winter there was insufficient work to maintain year round employment. Injury or ill-health would result in periods of unemployment.

Wages averaged only nine shillings per week but varied both locally and regionally. Bolstered by piecework, average earnings were 13 shillings per week. This was barely above subsistence level and frequently below. The work was hard manual labour, outdoors in all weather, six to six in summer and dawn to dusk in winter, six days a week plus three to four hours on Sunday. Family income was commonly supplemented by paid work and smallholding undertaken by wives in addition to running the home. Children worked in the fields from as young as 7, missing an education. Holidays were more or less confined to Good Friday, Shrove Tuesday and Christmas Day. More skilled or specialised workers, such as thatchers or waggoners, held a higher status and earned higher rates of pay.

Those falling on hard times relied on friendly societies and charity or, at worst, were forced to apply for Poor Relief or the workhouse to survive. Single labourers would not qualify and would be the first laid-off in winter, encouraging young men to marry and have a family in order to access support. The

alternative was begging unless a charitable farmer or landlord took pity.

We often see the period portrayed as a rural idyll, pretty cottages with roses round the doorway. Accommodation for labourers was usually grim. Buildings were poorly built of low quality materials and badly maintained. They were often damp, many with earth floors that ranged between a quagmire and a dust bowl. Typically only two rooms accommodated the whole family. One hearth served all heating and cooking purposes, lighting by candle and no running water or sanitation. Diet was limited and monotonous with bread as the staple. Ale was provided in the field and was an important dietary supplement.

There were attempts to form unions to fight for representation and action to alleviate hardships and poverty. Some landlords and farmers responded with sympathy but many did not, responding with lockouts, blackleg labour and evictions of union supporters. These movements had little overall impact and it wasn't until the 20th century that unions achieved any real progress. In some areas there were riots in protest at the hardships endured. Conviction for rioting could result in hanging or penal transport to the colonies.

Wages and conditions gradually improved in the latter 19th century but the plight of landlord, farmer and labourer did not improve. Repeal of the Corn Laws by 1846 did not have its full impact until the latter part of the century with the introduction of cheaper reliable shipping and rail transport leading to imports of cheap wheat. Mechanisation continued reducing the need for labour. Cheaper foreign imports had an impact on farm profitability, leading to many going out of business. Catastrophic seasons also marked the period of depression. Many gave up the land and migrated to towns and cities or emigrated looking for work and a better future.

Hopefully, the labourers of Hempton avoided the worst privations of the era and enjoyed happier though probably hard times.

Stuart Oldham
sj_oldham@btinternet.com

Friends of Deddington Library

The photo entries are mounting up and the quality once again this year is excellent. Please continue sending in your competition entries.

The weather hasn't been kind in recent weeks with heavy rain and high winds but we're now well into spring and the opportunities it presents for capturing some beautiful parish scenes. We are also looking for more identifiable village scenes while you're out and about. Keep on snapping and thank you for your contributions.

Bryn Williams
abw@brynwilliams.com

Holly Tree Club

Grateful thanks to all who returned the paper questionnaire or completed the online Survey Monkey. We had a huge response and will be able to take the very useful data harvested forward to help us apply for grants and to deliver the next phase of the proposed works.

As with all building/renovation projects there are surprises ... and I really did think we had already had them all as the works were coming to an end. The underpinning of the north wall was complete, decorating nearly finished and the driveway and car park had been scraped off, hard-cored and gravelled ... just a few snagging jobs in the hall left to do. This was until Southern Gas Network (SGN) contractors arrived and refused to install the mains gas across the Banbury Road, which is where their surveyor said it had to go, and not up the driveway from Horse Fair and across the car park to provide gas for not only the hall but for the proposed new Holly Tree cottages too.

After many conversations and much head scratching, SGN decided they could bring the supply this way after all ... digging up all our lovely new gravel. We

were not happy to say the least but had no choice. Work was going well until the digger driver felt something 'not quite right' underneath his bucket. When he investigated, he found his bucket had just scraped the top off a disused well, which his digger was somewhat precariously hanging over the top of! This stopped work again, of course, while they got another team out to cap off the well and rerouted the gas trench a safe distance around it. Amazingly, the contractors put back all the new gravel perfectly and it looks like it has never been touched. Hopefully there will be no more little surprises.

Horse Fair will now be dug up during half-term week to put the gas across the road to the Club. All this has delayed completion by a month.

Meanwhile, we are arranging curtain cleaning and re-hanging, getting the hall professionally Covid deep cleaned, retrieving the furniture from storage and updating our bookings policy, hall user agreements and so forth to ensure we comply with Covid safety policy and best practice when we do open, which we hope will be towards the end of June. This will depend on a number of things, not least, being allowed to by the government as, at the time of writing, there is some doubt that the restrictions will be fully relaxed on 21 June, due to the Indian variant of Coronavirus.

Revd Annie Goldthorp, Chair

FRIENDS OF DAEDA'S WOOD

The recent heavy rain has worked wonders at the Wood ... the bluebells look well-established this year. It's amazing how much they have spread. At the time of planting the bulbs alongside the main ride, probably ten years ago, the area covered was relatively small. Now we see clumps all across the Wood. It should be noted that they are English bluebells which are slender and droop their heads. The sort I have in my garden are Spanish and have an erect nature. The Woodland Trust was insistent that, to preserve the integrity of the Wood, the garden species should not be planted. As mentioned last month, regarding ash dieback disease, it is also important not to import planting material from our own gardens into the Wood.

On a really positive note... the profusion of blackthorn blossom along the wildflower meadow augers well for a harvest of plump juicy sloes in the autumn. The saying goes that you pick them after the first frost. If you then pop them into the freezer you can make your sloe gin at any time. The advantage of freezing is that they burst their skins upon thawing ... which means you don't need to prick each one (as my ancient recipe book bade me do).

Occasionally some damage to the Wood's signage etc becomes apparent as you walk around and on behalf of the Woodland Trust I'd like to thank the kind people who bring such matters to our attention.

Our Wood is in its 25th anniversary year and is looking magnificent ... well used and cared for.

For more information about the Friends of Daeda's Wood please contact me.

Annette Murphy, Chair
murphyannette74@gmail.com

OPEN GARDEN AND TEA

In aid of Embrace the Middle East

Weston House, Deddington
 (corner of Church Street
 and Castle Street)

**Saturday, 26 June &
 Sunday 27 June**

3 – 5pm

Entry £5

Cuppa & Cake £2



EMBRACE
 the Middle East

*A British charity
 fighting poverty
 and injustice in
 the Middle East*

POSTCARD FROM AMERICA

Pandemic, Exceptionalism and Wolves

It's official, Colorado has declared that the pandemic is over. This is despite there being 1,300 cases locally yesterday and the staggering number of deaths in India. America thinks it has been the best at handling the pandemic and what happens in foreign countries is largely irrelevant. Exceptionalism lives on.

There are no local limitations on restaurants or bars and the vaccinated don't even have to wear a mask apart from in one or two settings. The problem with this is that, after a fantastic start, the number of people being vaccinated daily has dropped significantly. As I start to mingle again, how do I know who are the sane ones? Around 25% of the adult population says they will not take the vaccination. The herd is so reticent that the state of Ohio is entering everyone who gets a jab into a lottery. The winner gets \$1m.

On the East Coast a pipeline supplying petrol to a huge area got hacked, which meant they couldn't pump oil. This kind of attack is rampant around the world. It just makes me worry about how secure the 55 nuclear plants in America are from cyber-attack. The good news is that the local population as always found a solution to potential fuel shortages: queue for a couple of hours, fill up your car with 'gas' and then fill up a few plastic bags up as well. What could possibly go wrong?

Meanwhile the politicians in Washington are trying to set up some kind of official investigation into what happened on 6 January. The 'parliament' building, the

Capitol, was invaded by hooligans resulting in five deaths and over 140 injuries to policemen but some are now reinventing the plot. Recent comments from members of the Grand Old Party include 'the insurrectionists were not Trump supporters but impersonators sent by the Far Left,' 'there have been things worse than people without any firearms coming into a building.' I can feel Lincoln rotating.

Perhaps my biggest upset of the month is not with politicians who will say anything to get elected, there isn't too much new in that. The relationship that the US population has with animals is bizarre. Most of the houses in our neighborhood have a dog, even I got conned into that one. But in California a candidate for governor turns up at a rally with a grizzly bear on a chain. And then I read about hunters in Idaho who are aiming to kill 90% of their wolves. Do they not know that wolves are the forefathers of all dogs?

I'm off down the pub to celebrate my team winning the FA cup. When my grandad first took me to Leicester City's very dilapidated ground in 1963, I was completely drawn into the experience, the crowd, and the sense of belonging to a tribe. I never thought we would win anything but, if you believe, maybe it will happen – so long as you have owners who understand the community that is football and don't start to think you are more super than the supporters. There is no room for exceptionalism in football. Cheers.

Mike Ward

Mikew@qsoftware.com

BLISSFUL THINKING



Maybe it's the nitrogen dioxide in the air or the microplastics in my gut, but I try to maintain a forlorn optimism that the Brave New World we are steadily emerging into can still ameliorate the drastic domino effects that will inevitably result from our current trajectory.

Despite it being highly unlikely that Jurassic plankton would have had the sentience to comprehend what humans would do with their long-decayed remains, there is definitely something absurdist about long dead organisms wreaking revenge from beyond the grave on a world they never made. Hopefully the organisms to follow us use our detritus in a slightly more responsible manner.

Speaking of responsible, by the time this is published I will have been inoculated against the plague. Hurrah! Stay safe everyone.

Aaron Bliss

aaronjbliss@hotmail.com

From the Fire Station



Could it get any quieter at the station? Four shouts and four standbys are all we have been actively required for. But we have been able to do some drilling at station, albeit with reduced numbers attending. Chris Fene-more and Andy Hayward have been putting us

through our paces with both BA and RTC drills, actively hiding casualties to hone both our search and observation skills and our extraction techniques when up against the clock.

We are pleased to report that both Garin Wilby and Louis Martin have passed their 'on the run' and will hopefully both have had a shout by the time you read this, and Corrie King passed her RTC initial training.

In summary, the fire station has found itself reassuringly, but somewhat frustratingly, quiet.

James Greenwood FFD

james@cyclogicalshop.co.uk

LETTERS

FROM REVD ANNIE GOLDTHORP

Our church building stands magnificently at the heart of the village as it has done in one form or another for nearly nine centuries. Who knows how many Christenings, weddings and funerals it has witnessed, along with other services, when people from the village come together in joy, sorrow and celebration? It is also a working building which is home to the craft stalls of the farmers' market (returning in June), part of the Deddington Festival and any number of concerts and performances in every type of musical genre.

These last 12 months have hit us hard. The revenue we would normally expect to see generated from such events has obviously not been forthcoming because of the pandemic, adding to the financial burden we were already carrying. We have three major issues to address and so we need your help.

The south porch roof (main entrance) is in a very poor state and in urgent need of repair. Thanks to the Holly Tree refurbishment, we were able to buy a number of the matching slates but the structure of the roof itself needs major work.

The organ is also in serious need of repair. We have sought advice and it will be more cost effective to repair the current organ rather than replace it with an electronic version which would cost around £37,000. We already have some money in the organ fund, (you might remember, a few of us abseiled off the church tower to raise money for it), but we are still a long way off what we need. The organ itself is a fine example but unfortunately not of enough historical importance for us to easily obtain a grant.

The lighting in church is also in need of refurbishment. We are able in the short term to replace existing bulbs with LED lights that are appropriate to an historic building but to really enhance it for worship, concerts and other events, a more modern system needs to be put in place.

In order to achieve all of this, we need to raise £40,000. If you feel that you could make a donation, then that would be wonderful – you can even be specific about which project you wish the money to go to. You can do that by going to the fundraising part of our website www.deddingtonchurch.org or talk either to Iain Gillespie, our treasurer, or me. We would also really value somebody coming forward who might help us with the fundraising itself – perhaps you have already had experience in this. If so, we would love to hear from you.

FROM SUSIE CARRDUS, DEDDINGTON

Hooray for last month's news that splendid generous public-spirited Jean Welford has given the go-ahead for Welford's Piece in Clifton to accommodate a com-



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

munity orchard. Many of us look forward to supporting that project with funds and work.

Next – what about a site for Deddington, this village which so recently was ringed with orchards, as maps and house-names attest? I heard an idea from a friend which deserves consideration by all residents, and it is this:

After so many years, the edict has gone out permitting development on the Poplars field along the Clifton Road. There is a large portion of that field which the developer says will be 'rough cut' as a meadow. Better by far that it should become a good big space for our own community orchard. And it might actually be a worthwhile 'Heritage Benefit' – that chilling travesty of language – by which the developer could give something back to the village and put his money where his mouth is. We could call it Odo's Orchard, in honour of the glorious Castle Grounds behind it, the site granted by William 1st as a base to his half-brother Bishop Odo.

And here's another supporting reason: in 2066 there will be vast nationwide millennial commemorations of the victorious Norman invasion, which will also mark Deddington Castle's millennium; and where better to celebrate it than in our very own Castle Grounds? By that time the apple and pear trees will be big enough to let us toast (or curse) William the Conqueror's actions in village-made cider and mead. Come on, true citizens of Deddington – let the planting commence.

FROM BRYN WILLIAMS, CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who kindly voted for me in the recent local elections. It is a great honour and privilege to represent our community and I always do my best to give everyone a 'voice' at Cherwell District Council. The past 18 months have been some of the bleakest in recent history, during which we have seen some breathtaking acts of selflessness, charity and community spirit in the face of adversity. I look forward to the return of normality and the opportunity to once again meet face-to-face with you all.

FROM JULIA BENNING, COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER, CPRE, cpreoxon.org.uk

This summer will establish the direction of Oxfordshire for the next generation. The Oxfordshire Plan 2050 will define the development strategy for the county for the next three decades, including both the quality and quantity of housing and the broad locations for growth.

Continued on p12



Everybody's back – or nearly everybody. It's been a long time, but we welcome all our regular groups back to the Windmill and say hi to some new ones too. It's an impressive list: art classes, baby and toddler group, baby massage, badminton, Beavers, bootcamp group fitness, Brownies, cricket, Cubs, dance, dog training, Explorers, football, garden design, Guides, keep fit, mini movers, netball, panto, Pilates, Scouts, sound bath meditation, tennis, Trainmaster, yoga, Zumba and more coming. It's all going on at the Windmill. Even this august journal that you are currently reading is printed and collated there. If any of these activities appeal to you, then you'll find more information on our website at www.thewindmilleddington.org or on our FB page.

For the moment, it's uncertain whether we'll get to step 4 on the government's road map out of lockdown so we can't take any bookings for children's parties or other one-off events. We'll let you know as soon as that changes. We must ask you to continue wearing face masks in communal areas, washing hands and social distancing, as well as scanning the QR code for NHS test and trace when you enter the building. Let's continue to help keep each other safe.

I'll finish with two announcements:

1. The Windmill AGM will be held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 22 June. Venue details will be published on our website nearer the time.
2. We are recruiting a cleaner. Early mornings. Ten hours per week. If you are interested, please contact me.

Vaughan Jones, Chair
vaughan@englishlanguagematters.com

LETTERS

Continued from p11

Time to take action

This is our best, and possibly only, opportunity to influence development in Oxfordshire over the next 30 years – don't miss it. Waiting until actual planning applications come forward is too late – we need your help engaging now as policy is formed, so that we can give our countryside the best chance for the future.

CPRE Oxfordshire has prepared an Oxfordshire Plan 2050 briefing, to help you engage and get involved in planning the future of Oxfordshire. Download a copy from our website here <https://tinyurl.com/sm5dw2dk>.

Around the Windmill Park

First the bad news: a bit of completely mindless vandalism at the new MUGA. I just don't get it, it's not as if it's in protest at it being locked and for hire only. It's there for kids to use – free, any time – so why try to trash it? Boredom? Or am I missing something?

Dens have been appearing in the copse – that's great, but please, parents, make sure they aren't dangerous. We had to dismantle a couple recently as they had nails sticking out just at a child's eye height. The woodland isn't managed in any way, so it's used at your – and your children's – own risk.

The wildflower patch beyond the multi-play piece has been stunning. The farmers' market gave us funds to sow woodland edge wildflower seeds last year – and they have been just glorious, a real joy to see.

It's been great to see the adventure playground and Pocket Park enjoyed so much during these months of social restrictions. We were all looking forward to being 'back to normal' in the near future but suddenly that seems to be in doubt. It's disappointing, but we've come so far in keeping people safe that we can't blow it now. We were hoping to have the water fountain installed, but ...

We carry out regular checks on play equipment, looking for anything that is damaged, broken or vandalised, but please, if you see anything dodgy, let the parish clerk know on 01869 337447 or deddington-parishcouncil@googlemail.com. This is your park and we want it to work for you – safely.

Mary Robinson
robimary@gmail.com

DEDDINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL



This term has already led to much excitement amongst the children and staff due to our after school sessions of musical theatre and Adam Bradley's football club being able to take place again. With equal excitement, the children in KS2 are once more enjoying tennis lessons at the Windmill, swimming at Bloxham pool and hockey lessons on the Bloxham School pitches.

Children across the school continue to enjoy their work back with their teachers and peers. Our F1 class has based much of this term's work on *The Gruffalo* by Julia Donaldson, even doing some baking and making their own Gruffalo crumble.

We have recently invested in a cross-curricular orienteering active learning package which has been set up around our grounds. It was funded by our sports premium money with the aim of having a positive, sustainable impact on our children. It promises to be an excellent resource from which our pupils will benefit, enriching our already strong PE curriculum and map referencing skills, as well as supporting active maths and literacy lessons.

Continued on p13

WELL REMEMBERED

Major Anthony Louis Mifsud Bective 1921 –2021

The Major died recently in a local nursing home having reached his one hundredth year. He was The Major to the many who knew and appreciated him. His title was the result of being from the world of Intelligence where ranks and titles are somewhat meaningless.

He never name-dropped but was an aide, confidant, advisor and sometimes friend to some of the well-known figures of the twentieth century. Some of his photographs, both attributed and photographer unknown, grace the history books. He was also a linguist with honorary degrees, musician and a talented photographer.

He was born in Gibraltar to influential Spanish and British parents who wanted him to be British. After a stunning childhood befriended by Heile Selassie, and a stint in the Foreign Legion, he went to Oxford and then Trinity College Dublin where, amongst other things, he was excommunicated from the Catholic Church for choosing the 'wrong' university. I mention this because in the late forties, out of the blue, he was invited to Rome where he was greeted with warmth by the Pope, who then reconciled him with a Cardinal whose escape from projected death at the hands of never-named baddies he facilitated. The Pope then presented him with a Papal knighthood.

He was an active participant in acknowledged and unacknowledged military and political events in Europe, Africa and the Far and Near East, as well as little things to him, like being a works driver and



navigator in The Mille Miglia. He was a warm and amusing raconteur, generous and involving in conversation, hugely knowledgeable but never flaunting his understanding.

There were events he would never talk of and was appalled when, a few years ago, a reporter tracked him to Deddington, wanting to do a story on him which he definitely refused. There was never any judgement of others based on wealth, education, occupation, or creed, purely on attributes as a person. He met and married his first wife Judith, a linguist, at Trinity College Dublin. He met his second wife, who

was from Beijing, in Hong Kong.

He is remembered with much smiling affection by many, including his daughter Wendy, her partner Chris, son Anthony, two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, and Maria, his dear Austrian friend. He wished to be cremated and a memorial gathering will be held later this year.

Wendy Meagher

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Continued from p12

It was with great excitement this term when, to mark and develop our understanding of Ascension Day, one child from each class released an environmentally friendly balloon into the air, with a prayer for our world attached to each one. You may also like to have a look on the school website <https://www.deddington-primarieschool.co.uk/> to see our Butterflies of Hope, which were displayed in church over Easter and are now displayed around the school. They are beautiful.

Finally, as you can probably imagine, our passion for learning continues to be evident in everything we do within the school and local community. Long may this remain in the weeks and months ahead as lockdown continues to ease.

Denise Welch
dwel3954@deddington.oxon.sch.uk



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CALLING ALL CLUBS

Photographic Society

We enjoyed a fascinating evening with Tony Bramley FRPS, who runs the Light Academy in Essex. The talk about 'Inspiration' was thought provoking and provided a different vision of what to use as a starting point for taking an image and how it can be difficult to find a unique viewpoint. Tony revealed that art and artists, magazines such as *Vogue* and other photographers inspire his body of work. He also explored cinematography as an inspiration, in particular films such as *Lawrence of Arabia* and *Blade Runner*. Tony encouraged us to get out of our comfort zone and try something new, to go back and do it again, to stop being a perfectionist and simplify a shot. He prefers to emphasize the elements of line, colour, texture, shape, form and space and the principles of balance, movement, proportion and repetition. He finished with the idea that a shot is for you; it is only a picture and to photograph the ordinary and make it look extraordinary.

Tony kindly appraised the inspiration behind photographs submitted by members. Lindsey Smith explained her landscape was inspired by a recent talk about shooting at sunset; she looked behind her and created a beautiful image. Miggy Wild was inspired by Gladys Knight at a concert and produced a superb portrait of her favourite singer. John Cavana explained his view of the Vasco de Gama bridge in Portugal had been on his list of shots to capture and the sky and foreground were a bonus in the image. Colin Lamb had wanted to portray 'travel' and felt the pile of suitcases on display at the Quainton Railway Centre was a unique view.

At our next meeting on 2 June at 7.30pm, Richard and Janet Burden will talk about *Greenland: a Land of Icebergs and Inuits*. If all goes well, we are hoping to meet in person in July. So, watch this space. You are welcome to join us.

Anne Hunsley
www.addphoto.co.uk

Royal British Legion

On 15 May the president, in the presence of the branch committee, vicar and parish council chairman, laid a wreath at the war memorial in a simple ceremony to mark the founding of the British Legion on this day in 1921. The Royal Charter was granted in 1971 on its 50th anniversary.

To mark this centenary year, the branch is joining with the church in a project to have the war memorial professionally cleaned and restored and provide an improved appearance to the grass edging and the gravel around it, which Johnsons of Deddington have very generously offered to donate. We also wish to replace the existing flagpole with a purpose-made one in sections for easier storage.

Rob Forsyth, Chairman
01869 338384

Deddington Bookworms

My Name is Leon by Kit De Waal is set in 1981, around the time of the royal wedding and the Brixton riots. The story is narrated by Leon, a nine-year-old boy living with his single mother and his baby brother, Jake. As his mother finds it increasingly difficult to cope, Leon and Jake are taken into care. They are fostered by Maureen, a colourful character, who has to watch in horror as baby Jake is adopted, thus separating the brothers. Sadly, this scenario was all too common at that time.

Leon finds it difficult to express his feelings to all the well-meaning adults who surround him and he misses his mother and his little brother dreadfully. He starts to hatch a plan for reuniting his family. When his social worker gives him a BMX bike, he finds a bit of freedom. Pretending he is meeting friends in the park he gradually explores further afield. One day he finds himself at the local allotments and meets some of the men who tend them. These relationships turn out to be a lifeline for Leon.

The references to life in the early 80s are amusing, reminding the reader when *The Dukes of Hazzard* was first on TV and Curly Wurlys were much bigger than they are now.

This novel is both heart-breaking and heart-warming at the same time. All the Bookworms thoroughly enjoyed it and recommend it. If Leon had been present (and if we were not on Zoom) he would have been hugged many times. The BBC must agree with our verdict as they have started to film an adaptation of the book. Keep an eye open for it. If it's as good as the book it will be worth watching.

Our next book is *Property: A Collection* by Lionel Shriver

Deddington Library 01869 338391

Deddington Playgroup

Join us for playtime, music, arts and crafts. Snacks for the children and tea, coffee and a treat for the grownups. Every Friday from 10.00am to midday at the Windmill Centre, Deddington. £3.50 per family, pay via card on arrival.

Deddingtonbabyandtoddler@gmail.com
07776130244

Book Group

Our latest book is a murder mystery set in a small French town. *Death in the Dordogne* is the first in a very successful series written by Martin Walker, a former journalist who now divides his time between France and Washington.

The hero of all the mysteries is Bruno, the town's chief of police, a man with a complex past who has earned the respect of the commune by his warm-hearted devotion to its citizens. In this volume normal life in the town is shattered when an elderly resident is brutal-

CALLING ALL CLUBS

Continued from p14

ly murdered and the resulting investigation throws up bitter and unresolved issues. Well-researched aspects of WW2 and the Algerian war are woven into the plot, adding some depth to an otherwise light read.

Martin Walker has an obvious love of the Dordogne area and paints a very attractive picture of its scenery, people, food and culture – and indeed of Bruno himself.

A few of us thought this a little too idyllic, detrimental to the pace and interest of the plot. However, others were very enthusiastic, praising the atmosphere created by vivid descriptions and looking forward to reading other books in the series.

Our next choice is *Venice* by Jan Morris. Please contact Sally Lambert on 01869 338094 for more information.

SPORT

Deddington Tennis Club

Deddington Tennis Club is open and enjoying its highest ever membership numbers – thanks to everyone who has continued to support the club over the last 15 months through all the interruptions. We are delighted that things are returning to something closer to normal. If only we could say the same about the weather ...

With the continued relaxation of restrictions, we are now able to reintroduce 'turn up and play' social tennis sessions. These run on Tuesdays from 10.15am, Wednesdays from 6.00pm and on Sundays from 11.00am–1.00pm.

We will continue to run one All-Play-All session a week where eight players prebook a space to play a round robin event – this is on Thursday afternoon. Many thanks to Nick Adams for setting up and running these sessions over the last couple of months. They have been very popular and being a part of the *WhatsApp* groups created to organise them has been an entertainment in itself.

If you're interested in playing in any of the club sessions, or you'd like information about coaching or booking a court, check out details on the website where you can also find information about membership.

Guidelines are still in place for playing tennis safely and we ask that players respect social distancing and use hand sanitiser before and after playing.

Becky Jones

www.deddingtontennis.com

Deddington Town Youth Teams

The Under 14s had a 4–2 home defeat to Witney Vikings, followed by a 2–1 defeat at Brackley Athletic. However, results improved later in the month with a 2–1 victory over Chadlington and a 4–1 win at Combe with Theo Hinkson scoring two goals. The Under 12s had a 1–1 draw at Easington Sports and narrow 2–1 defeats to Faringdon Town and Football Bart Academy, then a thumping 9–0 away victory at Stonesfield Strikers with four goals for Theo Flint and a hat-trick for James Demirtges.

The Under 8s and Under 10s continue to play

matches through June and then the club will start to prepare for the 2021–22 season over the summer months.

We have opportunities for new players to join our Under 8 team (this will be the Under 9s for the new season). Children should currently be in Year 3 to join the team. Next season training will be on Tuesday evenings on the all-weather court at the Windmill Centre, Deddington, with matches on Saturday mornings at Christopher Rawlins School, Adderbury. If you are interested please contact Scott Lomas, Under 8 Manager, loamscott88@gmail.com or 07308 305719 for more information. You would be able to come along to a taster session during June.

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.com or visit us on Facebook www.facebook.com/DeddingtonTownFc.

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

Deddington Original Golf Society (DOGS)

Following our first event of 2021 at Leamington Spa Golf Club on 4 June – results to follow we hold our annual match against the DOGS of Dorchester-on-Thames on 22 June at Kirtlington Golf Club. Captain Keith Spengler is hoping to extend Deddington's winning run in this annual event.

We have welcomed new golfers recently taking the pack to more than eighty members. Please contact me if you would like to join or just try us for a day out.

**Nigel Oddy, Secretary
nigeloddy@yahoo.com**

YOUTH

1st Deddington Scout Group

Cubs and Scouts

By the time you read this the Cubs and Scouts will have started meeting face-to-face, outside only at first and exclusively at the Windmill Centre. A lot of planning has been done to make sure we can meet safely and still have fun.

We're looking forward to being able to branch out to Daeda's Wood and other exotic locations (well, let's face it, everywhere is exotic at the moment) soon.

Jo Churchyard

deddingtoncubs@gmail.com

Peter Churchyard

deddingtonscouts@gmail.com

Explorers

Fantastic news. We're now back to F2F scouting. It was wonderful to see one another at last. To ease ourselves into the swing of things we did a Zoom meeting to try and recognise chocolate bars by their cut-in-half

photos and the first meeting back guessed the bars by tasting. We then rated them - Snickers came out on top. Looking forward to this new normal.

If you're interested in joining the unit, please email us.

Janet Duxbury

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1st Deddington Brownies

Since Easter, Brownies have been meeting face-to-face. Having spent so much time indoors on Zoom this winter, we are making the most of the great outdoors. Activities have included a walk from the Windmill park to Barford Park, making s'mores and den-building in Daeda's wood. It's great to meet up in person again.

Fern Stringer

1st Deddington Guides

We're back! Hurray! It's lovely to be together again meeting out-of-doors, which we love. We've welcomed seven new members who've been patiently waiting to come along.

The quiz trail round the Market Place kept us puzzled and was great fun. Our first cookout of the year ... ah, the smell of the wood smoke ... was a real success. Not too many burnt sausages. Our thanks to the Fenemore family. Thanks also to Brian and Janet Bond for allowing us to explore the woods and try our hand at building shelters ... there were some amazing creations. The hike from Adderbury to Deddington via the Paper Mill gave us all a chance to wear off some energy and appreciate the lovely countryside around us.

This is our favourite term ... out and about each Tuesday. Girls over 10 come along and see what we get up to.

Maggie Rampley

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or Marian Trinder

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In celebration of our pubs re-opening, a contribution from the late lamented John Cheney.

FRIDAY PILGRIMAGE

From Featherton, through Chapel Square,

Twenty minutes I'll be there.

Leave the market to the North

Slowly, steady, I plod forth.

Gently go past Finishing Touch

I've no need to use them much

Wobble along Hudson Street,

On my poor slow-moving feet.

Otmoors there for gun and rod,

Fifteen minutes, on I plod.

Hair Razers on the right I see:

Don't trim my eyebrows, Melanie!

Now down New Street, straight the way

Past May Fu's Chinese take away.

And terrace houses, very nice

Lead me on to Bengal Spice:

A rather pleasant smell of curry

Wafts the air, but I must hurry –

Just three minutes to the sign

'The Crown and Tuns' and then some wine

BUT ... It's not to be as I supposed

I try the door. The pub is CLOSED.

I stand there, freezing in the cold,

And then a light! Lo and behold,

Footsteps sounding through the bar,

And suddenly the door's ajar.

Anton, expecting quite a queue,

Peers out and mutters 'Oh, it's you'

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