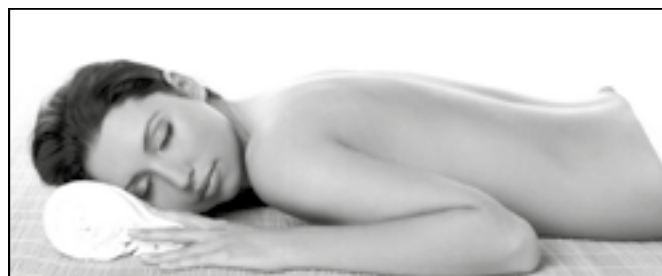
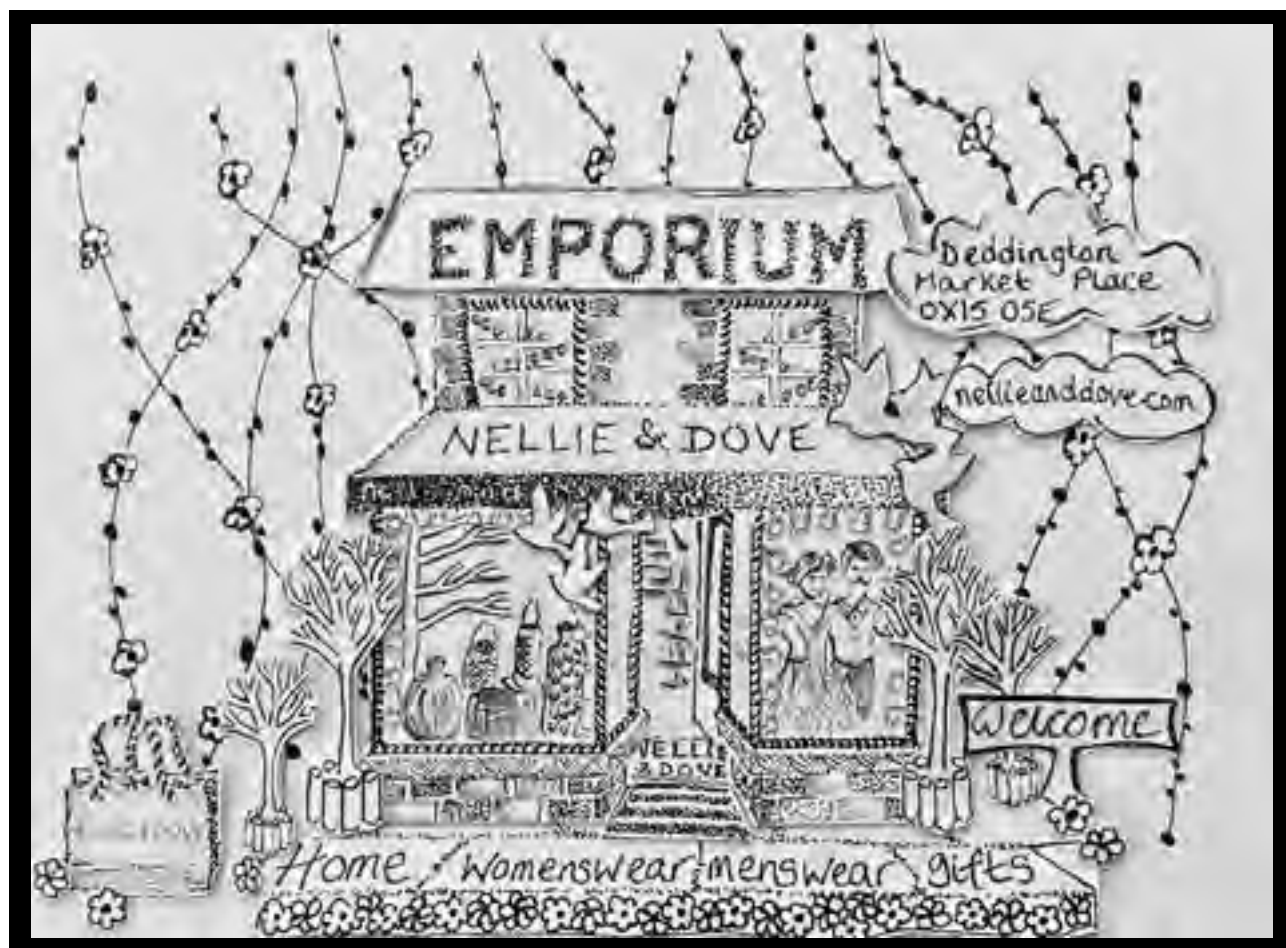


February 2022

The **DEDDINGTON NEWS**



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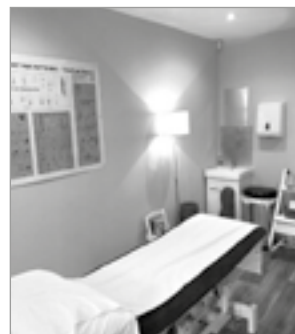
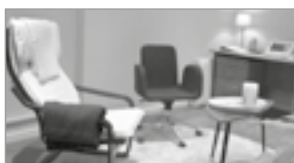
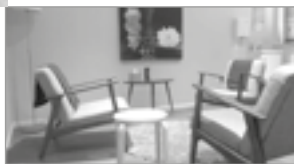
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THE TEAM

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JILL CHEESEMAM

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by **12 FEBRUARY**

ADVERTISING COPY
by **10 FEBRUARY**

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COVER

Stowe Gardens picture by Jane Price, see p5

Find out more about
The Deddington News at:
www.deddington.org.uk/deddington-news/

The DEDDINGTON NEWS

Well, here we are on our big adventure – that's how it feels at the moment anyway. We hope our readers and advertisers will appreciate the difference in quality.

Our thanks to the great team of people who since 1976 have put together every copy of the *DN*, possibly sometimes through gritted teeth. It hasn't all been plain sailing. Sometimes the stapling machines didn't work quite as they should and a hammer had to be taken to the staples, sometimes there were not enough copies of one page in particular. It was a boring job which the collating team managed to turn into a social occasion. Our thanks also to the much smaller team of people who printed the *DN*. This really was a boring job; noisy, sometimes incredibly messy when something got jammed or the Risograph unaccountably stopped working or skipped blank pages which had to be sorted through to replace with printed copies.

Last but not least our thanks to Debbie Grimsley who has managed our monthly advertising and inserts whilst balancing her paid work and family life for 13 years. We must be doing something right because we manage to keep our volunteers for many years. Long may that continue. **JC**

What's On February

- Wed 2 Photographic Society: British Wildlife Adventures, Will Gray, Adderbury Institute, 7.30pm
- Mon 7 Holly Tree Club: Coffee mornings weekly, 10.30am
- Wed 16 Parish Council Meeting: 7.30pm
- Thu 17 History Society: Boudicca's Revolt: The Ups and Downs of Roman Power in Britain, Deddington School, 7.30pm
- Thu 24 Book Group: Contact 01869 338094 for details
- Thu 24 Bookworms: Holly Tree, 7.30pm
- Sat 26 Farmers' Market: Market Place, 9.00am–12.30pm

March

- Wed 2 Photographic Society: Composition for the Viewer, John Lewis, Adderbury Institute, 7.30pm
- Wed 17 Parish Council Meeting: 7.30pm
- Thu 18 History Society: Drovers' Roads in Oxfordshire, Tim Healey, Deddington School, 7.30pm
- Sat 25 Farmers' Market: Market Place, 9.00am–12.30pm
- Thu 31 Book Group: Contact 01869 338094 for details
- Thu 31 Bookworms: Holly Tree, 7.30pm

April

- Wed 6 Photographic Society: AGM, Adderbury Institute, 7.30pm
- Wed 20 Parish Council Meeting: 7.30pm
- Sat 23 Farmers' Market: Market Place, 9.00am–12.30pm

Submission of any article to the *DN* carrying personal information (for example names, locations, pictures) will imply that the person submitting the article has obtained the necessary consent from the individual (or parent / guardian in the case of a minor) / company / organisation for this information to be used both in print and online.

Contributors should be aware that the monthly issues are posted online and therefore any personal contact details given are there in perpetuity.

Disclaimer: The views expressed are not necessarily those of the editors or the committee. Inclusion of an advertisement or insert does not constitute any recommendation or endorsement of the organisations concerned on the part of the Deddington News. The *DN* takes no responsibility and gives no guarantees, warranties or representations, implied or otherwise, for the content or accuracy of these advertisements.

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DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Meetings held on 15 December and 19 January

15 December: *Present:* Cllrs Cox, Eames, Oldfield, O'Neill, Robinson, Rogers (Chair), Snashall, Squires, Swadling, Timms, Watts, Cherwell District Cllr Williams, the parish clerk and minutes clerk.

District Councillor's report

Councillor Williams asked Thames Valley Police's Chief Constable at a recent meeting what TVP's stance was on policing any new 20mph speed limits. He stated categorically that they will police the 20mph speed limits in exactly the same way as currently with all other speed restrictions, although he stressed that resources and staff availability were stretched. However, they're anticipating a recruitment drive in the new year.

Finance and General Purposes

The budget and precept will be finalised at the January meeting.

Deddington Fair will run from 17–19 November 2022. It was agreed to proceed with planning permission for the accessible toilets at the Windmill.

It was agreed to allow Hempton Road developers to use the Windmill for parking until their finish date.

Planning

No Objection

Nellie & Dove, The Tchure: retrospective, erection of an awning.

Goose Cottage, The Stile: tree works.

Maunds Farm House, High Street: conservatory replacing the existing lean-to canopy.

Stone Pits, Hempton Road: discharge of conditions (large scale details and boundary treatment), providing the Hempton Road boundary hedge is replaced by new species-rich hedge as per the original application. Land to rear of the Chestnuts, Clifton: discharge of conditions (landscaping plans and details). Landscaping and planting appear to be cohesive and appropriate.

Approvals

Tomwell Farm Cottage, Hempton: single storey extension to rear.

1 Castle Farm Cottages, Earls Lane: two storey rear extension.

Land Adjoining and West of Stonecroft House, Clifton Road, Deddington: variation of Condition 2, erection of seven one- and two-storey age-restricted dwellings for people 60+ years, formation of means of access and associated landscaping and infrastructure. Variation of design layout to accommodate the CDC condition regarding equality act compliance. Each property is now M3 compliant and a maintenance store has been added to the plans.

1 St John's Way, Hempton: certificate of lawfulness of existing use of garage to living space.

Holly Tree Club, Deddington: tree works.

Old Lodge, St Thomas Street: demolition of conservatory and erection of rear extension.

Refusal

The Studio, Hudson Street: continued installation of illuminated sign for 24-hour use and one fascia sign.

19 January: *Present:* Cllrs Collins, Cox, Oldfield, O'Neill, Robinson, Rogers (Chair), Snashall, Squires, Swadling, Timms, Watts, County Cllr Fatemian, District Cllr Williams and one member of the public.

An increase of approximately £5 per household per year in the precept for the next financial year agreed.

Platinum Jubilee: currently no-one is available to organise a village event but some roads likely to organise events. If the PC receives a proposal from a suitable group, it would consider a request for assistance. Thanks were given to Darke & Taylor and everyone who helped with the Christmas tree erection and lighting.

Planning

No objections

Corner House, Hudson Street: relocation of gas meter.

Craxton, Castle End, Castle Street: tree works.

Lottie Cottage, 5 St Thomas Street: removal of existing conservatory and replacement with single storey extension to rear.

3 Castle Street: tree works.

Field Adjacent to 3 Castle End, Castle Street: tree works, providing the owner supports the application.

Leadenporch Farm, Chapman's Lane: ground mounted solar panel system.

Merrybower Cottage, Philcote Street: single storey side extension.

Objections

Charters House, High Street: conservatory replacing existing leanto, insubstantial reasons given, trees' healthy status and semi-prominent position in conservation area.

North East of The Little House, Clifton Road: installation of fixed line broadband 2x11m light poles, an unnecessary eyesore.

Approvals

Goose Cottage, The Stile.

Nellie and Dove, The Tchure.

The Old Manor Farmhouse, Hempton Road.

Holly Tree Club.

Refusals

The Leaden Porch House, New Street.

Large Scale Developments

New footpath – Earls Lane: PC is keen to keep parking spaces that benefit the Health Centre, primary school and farmers' market. Agreed to pursue placement of the footpath as close to the wall as possible in consultation with the landowner with informal parking maintained and tarmacked.

Next meeting Wednesday 16 February in the Windmill Centre main hall.



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DOGS			
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THE HOUNDBERRY <small>inc. vat</small>	£179.88	£273.27	£453.15
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Prices correct as of Oct 2021

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Stowe Gardens

You're having visitors or fancy a family day out? What places of interest would meet expectations? Immediate thoughts are Oxford with its array of museums, handsome churches and university buildings or Blenheim Palace.

What is there beyond that? With that thought in mind, *The Deddington News* is running front covers that are a reminder of other splendid destinations within 30 miles or so. And as everyone likes a dash of water with their views, we have chosen places with at least a splash or two.

First up is Stowe Landscape Gardens, near Buckingham, the 250 acres of which are managed by the National Trust. The view on this month's cover is across the Octagon Lake towards the Gothic Temple. It is one of more than 30 temples and monuments in the grounds. On the small island in the foreground can be seen Lord Chatham's Urn, placed there in 1831 and commemorating William Pitt the Elder, 1st Earl of Chatham.

No history lesson this but enough to say Sir John Vanbrugh (architect of Blenheim Palace), garden designers Charles Bridgman, William Kent, James Gibbs and Lancelot 'Capability' Brown all had a hand

in creating the Georgian magnificence of the grounds which can provide enough exploration for days.

If that last thought takes your fancy, you can actually stay at the Gothic Temple through the Landmark Trust, now its owner.

A couple of James Bond films, *Indiana Jones*, Netflix's *Bridgerton* and the 1998 TV series of *Vanity Fair* have all used Stowe as a location.

Stowe House itself became a school in 1923. Former pupils, Old Stoics, include Richard Branson, Prince Harry's former girlfriend Chelsy Davy, David Niven, Leonard Cheshire, actor Henry Cavill, jazz and blues man George Melly and Olympic athlete Marilyn Okoro among others, including princes, earls and baronets.

The house, owned by the Stowe House Preservation Trust, is open to the public but days and times vary because it is a working building. Find out more at www.stowe.co.uk/house. National Trust members get a discount and there is no charge for children under 16 accompanied by an adult. Entry to the landscape gardens is free to National Trust members.



Behind the Scenes – Fenemores Farms

Fenemore Farms have been a presence at the farmers' market from the beginning when they sold their honey. Twenty years later, they have a wider range of goods on offer although the honey still features. They were able to diversify into meat about three or four years' ago when a couple of other meat suppliers no longer attended. Their initial foray into the market was quite fraught as they had only three days to prepare all they would need. Not knowing how sales would go, they brought modest supplies and sold out within a short time. The farm certainly fulfils the market requirement of being local, just a mile down the road at Clifton. Here the Fenemores farm 500 acres – a mix of arable and livestock – mainly 300 breeding ewes. They also have a share in an organic farm at North Aston with a further 400 ewes.

Although the Clifton farm is not organic, Chris, Naomi and Ben do all they can to take care of the environment. They have been active participants in a government-run higher level environmental scheme that lasted years. Among other things, this has involved planting cover crops for use as green manure so less fertiliser and fewer chemicals are needed, leaving a broad wildflower strip around many fields and planting new seed direct into the soil without ploughing first, which uses less fuel and ensuring more carbon stays



in the soil. When the Fenemores plant their crops, they have begun to space the rows just a little wider – one inch. This means that they can take care of the weeds by using an inter-row harrow rather than chemical weedkiller.

The other side of the farm is, of course, the livestock. There will be a lot of work to do over the coming months as lambing starts the first week in March but, before then, there

are five breeding goats due to kid at the end of January. An ongoing problem is to find decent grazing for the sheep. Much of the farm's pastureland is on the Cherwell floodplain which does its job, meaning that quite often the fields are under water. This results in poor quality grass which, for environmental reasons, cannot be improved. The lambs therefore fatten slowly but this means they are available for a longer period.

Around 100 of the lambs are kept for sale locally with the rest going mainly for export to Portugal. A lot of the work with the animals is carried out fairly close to the public footpath through the farm. Naomi is planning to put more information boards up in the next few months to make it more interesting.

Jenny Snashall
jennysnashall@gmail.com

MODERN HISTORY – PRINTING *THE DEDDINGTON NEWS*

The Deddington News' new format, instead of many A4 sheets stapled at the left, is now printed on A3 paper with the pages folded and stapled through the middle to form an A4 booklet. This is a result of the transition from 'in-house' to outsourced printing. So much for the present; this is about how it was done before.

The current circulation is 1,100 monthly. A typical *DN* had 18 sides of editorial copy each month which is 19,100 sides to be printed. Far too many for a domestic printer, so the *DN* owned its own Risograph printer kept at the Windmill Centre.

When the editors had completed their work it was loaded on to an old Toshiba laptop and handed over to the printing team.

The actual printing was done in the upstairs Studio of the Windmill. The first job was to wheel the printer into position near a couple of power sockets, erect a couple of tables each side of the printer and get out the boxes of paper.

The printer did one side at a time, at about 120 per minute, taking about ten minutes per side, plus the time taken for loading and unloading. The maximum input capacity was 1,000 sheets, so there was a break in each run for more paper to be added. On the output side, the 1,100 sheet stack was either placed back on the input side for the second side to be printed or, when both sides were complete, stacked in the store-room, awaiting the collating team to work its magic and turn the pages into your *DN*. One hundred and

twenty pages per minute is quite a rhythm and, due to the size of the machine, generated quite a noise, enough to make conversation difficult. I did consider some hearing protection. I took in a pair of earbuds once that had been described as 'noise cancelling'; they weren't.

When printing resumed after the first Covid lockdown, we elected to open all the windows. We soon learned to keep the one nearest the printer out tray shut, as any draft spread *DN* pages around.

When the printer was sent a new page from the laptop, it automatically printed a couple of trial sheets. These were checked to ensure we were actually printing the right page, that it was on the reverse of the correct page, and that it was the right way up. Once checked, we dialled in 1,100 and let it run. The printer was generally reliable and rarely misfed pages, but sometimes finished the input stack and indicated it had more to do. This meant that it had taken several pre-printed pages at once and had only printed on one of them. Then the printing team had to check the printed pages and remove those with only one side printed and put them through again. Annoying and very time consuming.

There had been many printers before me when I joined in mid-2018. At that time, as there were several newbies and we were presented with an excellent process manual, written by John Price and Alison Day, guiding us through the correct sequencing of operations and how to manage the printer. It was a great document that definitely got used.

The printing team was organised by Anne Hunzley and she and I did most of the printing over the last years. I certainly enjoyed being a part of the *DN* production team and think Anne and I made a good team running off all those pages on a Monday morning once a month. Thank you Anne.

Paul Drawmer
paul@drawmer.net



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CHURCH

Parish Church SS Peter and Paul

February

Deddington church is open for public worship and services continue to be streamed live. Please see the church website or FaceBook page for updates: www.deddingtonchurch.org and <https://www.facebook.com/DeddingtonChurch>.

Mon-Fri	8.45am	Morning Prayer
Wed	10.00am	Holy Communion
Thu	9.30am	Tea+Toast and Squiggles and Wriggles

Deddington

Sun 6	10.30am	Holy Communion
	3.00pm	3 O'Clock Service, informal family service
	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
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Barfords

Sun 13	9.00am	Holy Communion, BarfordStM
Sun 20	10.30am	Family Service, BarfordStM
Sun 27	9.00am	Holy Communion, BarfordStJ

From the Parish Registers

Baptisms

8 January	Rupert Alan Gabriel South
-----------	---------------------------

Weddings

4 December	Esme Elizabeth Calcutt and Oliver Andrew Hemmings
------------	---

Funerals

20 December	John Cripps
20 December	Alan Hand
21 December	Edna Sewell
21 December	Tony Gray
22 December	Jim Bell

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.

Is 20 Plenty or Unachievable?

You may have seen the 20mph scheme proposed by Oxfordshire County Council: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/roads-and-transport/traffic/requesting-20mph>. Deddington is eligible and our County Councillor will support an application for a 20mph limit for all the roads in the parish except the sections linking the three villages.

Before we commit the parish some points are worth raising. OCC would pay the legal fees for the project but the remaining costs would fall on the parish – for substitute roundels, replacement of speed limits painted on road surfaces, change to the three vehicle-activated illuminated signs in the parish.

Traffic calming measures are not essential for 20mph zones, but it is generally recognised that they work more effectively coupled with chicanes or other calming measures. If it was decided these were necessary, the cost would fall on the parish.

To cover these expenses, which would run into thousands, there are three possibilities: raising the precept (the PC's share of Council Tax) fairly precipitously; dipping into parish reserves; or achieving the funds through S106 contributions made by developers. For example, if speed calming measures were considered desirable in Earls Lane, a development alongside the lane or nearby in Clifton Road might reasonably be expected to pay for them. Likewise the cost of speed calming in Clifton and Hempton could

potentially be tied to new development. However, even if the funds are raised, speed calming measures cannot be guaranteed. There are tortuous procedures to be navigated and there may be objections. Measures that deter traffic in one street can add to the load in another, notably in Deddington village.

Requests for the A4260 to be included in the 20mph zone would be supported by our County Councillor, but speed calming measures might be impracticable on such a road, already subject to hold-ups at the traffic lights. So a decision would need to be made whether the A4260 should be included in the 20mph zone.

Funding for its share of the enterprise, amounting to £8m for the county over three years, has yet to be agreed by OCC, meaning the PC has a few months to consult the community.

What are the pros and cons of a 20mph limit? Some argue that police enforcement of a new limit would be necessary. Others suggest that most drivers are law abiding and many would drop their speed to, say, 25mph, especially if 20mph became normal in built-up areas throughout Oxfordshire.

Look out for a paper survey coming through your door and a link to a Survey Monkey poll which should be available shortly. The PC would like to know what parishioners think about this before committing to a 20mph limit.

Deddington Parish Council

WELL REMEMBERED

JIM BELL 1939–2021

Jim was born on 14 June 1939 at 62 Bailey Road, Cowley, Oxford.

On leaving school he went to work for Pressed Steel in Cowley but quickly realised drilling holes in sheet steel all day wasn't for him. His next job was as a GPO telegram boy which involved driving a small motorbike around Oxford.

Conscription was still in place with young men aged 18 and over being called up for National Service for two years. Jim discovered that if he joined up at 17 and did three years' service he would be classed as a regular which attracted a higher level of pay, so, on 5 February 1957 Jim joined the RAF.

Jim and Barbara were both in the RAF and met whilst stationed at RAF Brampton, Huntingdonshire. They were engaged in 1958 with plans for their wedding during 1961 when they had both completed their service in the RAF.

Following basic training as an airman Jim followed up with training to become an RAF policeman. On leaving the RAF Jim pursued a career in the police force and worked in and around Oxfordshire. He relocated to Deddington in 1981 and transferred to Bicester CID and finally the Serious Crime Squad from where he retired in 1990 after 30 years service.

He wasn't ready for full retirement and became the CEO of the British Microlight Association, based in the Bull Ring, Deddington, a position he held for ten years before retiring in 2000.

He was an active member of his Freemasons Lodge in Banbury where he became secretary, an office he held for many years.

Jim was a long-serving member of the Royal British Legion and secretary of the Deddington Branch from 1982 to 1988. To mark their appreciation of his membership and contribution, the RBL Deddington Standard was in place in the church during his funeral.

Jim suffered bouts of ill-health in his latter years and, at one time, thought he would be on dialysis for three days a week for the rest of his life. Miraculously his kidneys rejuvenated and enabling him to avoid dialysis treatment.

Jim and Barbara were married in Westmoreland in 1961 and had two sons, Andrew and Christopher, and granddaughter, Zulieka. He is survived by Barbara, his wife of 60 years and their sons.

The turnout at Jim's funeral spoke volumes for the impact he made throughout his life and for his involvement in our village and the people he came into contact with, coupled to his Masonic years. His duty to his country and citizens of the United Kingdom as a member of HM RAF and further public service in the police demonstrates Jim's exemplary devotion to helping others and preserving law and order.

Tony Lowe

on behalf of Barbara and family



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Longford Park Community Centre 4.30pm & 6pm Tel: Deanne 07912 748870	Wednesday Ruscote Community Centre 9am Tel: Caroline 07761 753392	Thursday Banbury Rugby Club 9.30am Tel: Mel 07846 346381	Lucy Plackett Centre Adderbury 9.30am Tel: Bex 07999 433493	
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DIAL NONE NONE NONE

Just imagine a storm like Arwen cuts off power to the Deddington area. There is a fire or you are taken ill and need to call 999. But the phone does not work. That's what faces landline phone users within three or four years.

It is all part of phasing out nationally the copper, public switched telephone network (PSTN) in favour of fibre voice over internet protocol (VoIP) and it is already encroaching on the Deddington area. BT calls its version Digital Voice. The government wants BT and Openreach to link fibre to 20 million homes by 2025 and 25 million by 2026 as landline phones join computers on the fibre broadband system.

At present, during a power cut, the copper lines are powered via the exchange, so you can continue to make phone calls. However, fibre optic cables do not carry electricity, so your phone will not work unless you have your own power provided by rechargeable battery back-up — more of that later.

There are other things that will be different. All numbers you call will need to be prefixed with the area code, so no dropping the 01869 to call a friend in the parish.

Your answer machine may become unexpectedly quiet. That is because BT's Digital Voice comes with the 1571 voicemail service which may cut in before your own answer machine.

That is easily solved. Make sure your answer machine kicks in on six rings and then phone 1571 and work through the automated options of low, medium and long to set the BT system to cut in at the maximum number of rings. Digital Voice also boasts call waiting and call divert.

Less easily solved is what to do in an emergency. You could turn to a mobile phone if you have one, it is charged and reception is good, or there are still phone boxes.

David Rogers, chairman of Deddington Parish Council, has been watching the roll-out of fibre since trialling began here in 2013 and has concerns. He says: 'When we won the Fibre Only Exchange pilot I thought we'd lose copper much sooner. Very glad we haven't and it is something we have discussed with Openreach. I've repeatedly mentioned the large proportion of elderly residents we have, the poor mobile reception and the preponderance of ironstone houses that sap wi-fi- and mobile communications.'

Watchdog Ofcom was concerned too. That is where battery back-ups come into play. Originally Ofcom argued that for safety's sake battery back-ups that lasted four hours should be provided with fibre-only phone connections. By December 2011 that was cut to one hour and in 2018 the provision was dropped. One hour was based on the assumption that power cuts are rarely longer than 45 minutes and most people have mobiles. Try telling that to the people of Hempton who were cut off overnight by a hedge trimmer last year or

to victims of Storm Arwen. Landline and broadband providers are supposedly responsible for extra protections to keep customers safe. Hence, as the fibre rolls out, BT should make one-hour back-ups available to the vulnerable and those who wish to buy them, though non-BT back-ups are commercially available.

People with personal emergency alarms will need to check with their provider. Alarms using an analogue signal should be able to get an adapter. Alarms using SIM cards to connect to the mobile phone network should be fine because they are not dependent on landline connections unless they are reliant on wi-fi calling. The same applies to house alarms connected to the phone system.

There is little doubt that the ageing PSTN system is expensive to maintain. The fibre system is faster and less enticing to thieves. And why run copper and fibre with their different demands on maintenance?

The speed benefits are greatest for broadband. However, it is claimed that the phone service will be more reliable. Clearer calls, the ability to make multiple calls simultaneously and the possibility of accessing your landline in other locations are put forward as benefits. VoIP calls should be cheaper, particularly over long distances: calls to the US costing costs around 55p a minute could become as cheap as 1.5p a minute.

The changeover is not automatic. When imminent, you should be contacted. BT and Openreach suggest it will all be very simple, though some older phones might need an adapter or even replacing but most should continue working. You may need a new socket or have to update your router. Reassuring words tell us the worst that can happen is that Openreach has to upgrade your connection to fibre by replacing over-ground or underground cables.

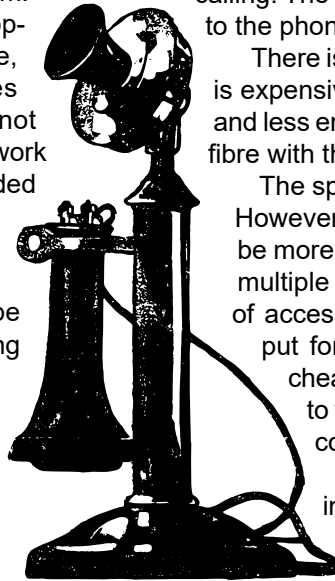
Mr Rogers is more specific: 'There are cost implications. For example, if you have older handsets, an additional bell ringer — these will have to be replaced or modified with some bespoke device. The wiring within a property is the responsibility of the homeowner and BT will not touch it (anymore).'

'The effect of the change-over will be most heavily felt by those who only have a copper connection and maybe another wired extension within their home. They'll face a new technology, a router being installed requiring a mains connection, a new handset (or two) to learn. That'll not be welcome for the less affluent and for the tech averse.'

'I've also pointed out that these battery back-ups are based around rechargeable batteries which have a finite life. People will not know that their battery back-up has failed until they need to use it in an emergency and have no communications.'

'The effects of Storm Arwen were a wake-up call for the government and the Rural Services Network is actively campaigning for better, more reliable telecommunications in the future.'

John Price



NEWS FROM HEMPTON

Back in December the village WhatsApp lit up; the hunt was in the village. I assumed they were dashing over open fields close to the village but realised they were actually 'in the village' when I espied one of the hounds enthusiastically sniffing around in my garden. Finding nothing worth tearing to bits it joined other members of the pack in a neighbour's garden before tearing off, summoned by the hunter's horn.

Their presence caused considerable consternation amongst residents fearful for the lives of pet cats and of distress caused to dogs, horses and livestock. Those on the hunt offered no apology for their invasion. When complaints were raised with the organisers they were apologetic and claimed they had not planned to venture into this locale. Given they cannot lawfully chase wild animals for pleasure, it seems odd that they would stray so far from any drag trail they were meant to follow. Presumably the hounds' olfactory prowess was not up to scratch, resulting in their wandering from the intended course. Maybe not all the hounds were paying attention at the pre-hunt briefing when told not to follow the scent of other creatures or had misplaced their copy of the Hunting Act 2004.

I imagine equine cross-country is exhilarating and have no issue with that. Controlling vermin and pests in the countryside is necessary but not by ritually tearing beasts limb from limb.

I'm told that my attitude to all things Christmas makes Scrooge look positively joyous. Bah humbug and all that. There was one celebration I thought meaningful: the village Christmas tree this year was hung with baubles commemorating relatives and friends. A poignant idea compared to modern rather frivolous consumerist custom.

Evergreen foliage was revered as a symbol of everlasting life in Egypt, China and by the Hebrews in pre-historic times. The Vikings and Saxons worshipped trees which were symbolic in rites celebrating the winter solstice. Tree worship among pagan Europeans survived their conversion to Christianity. Anglo Saxon Christian missionary, St Boniface, is alleged to have cut down Donar's Oak, a sacred tree of the Germanic pagans and to have fashioned a church from the wood of the tree.

The modern Christmas tree is thought to have originated in 16th century early modern Germany. It is related to the 'tree of paradise', featured as a prop in medieval mystery plays, performed on 24 December, commemorating Adam and Eve. The tree was decorated with apples and communion wafers, the former with obvious connotations and the wafer with the Eucharist. Decorated trees were taken into the home with all manner of decorative adornments being adopted, including replacement of apples by glass balls. In some areas of Germany the tree was re-named as a Christbaum, or 'Christ tree'. In the early 19th century

decorated trees became particularly popular with the nobility. First introduced into Britain by German born, Queen Charlotte, the custom only became common outside the Royal household following the marriage of Queen Victoria to her German-born cousin, Albert, in 1841 and became widely adopted by middle-class followers of fashion. Queen Victoria was also alleged to have introduced the practice of topping the tree with an angel, representing the Angel Gabriel of the nativity as an alternative to the Star of Bethlehem. Other tree toppers are available.



In last month's *DN* I noted the passage of anarchic motor-bikers blithely ignoring the Highway Code as they passed through the Hempton narrow. Early on a Sunday morning on my way to Hook Norton for my Covid booster, I witnessed exactly the same misdemeanour perpetrated by a group of cyclists. A vehicle with obvious right of way (that is, having almost passed through the narrow) was forced to stop lest it crush a group of cyclists riding three or four abreast as they entered the narrow.

If the builders want the ton of soil and gravel my car was plastered with after wading past the Windmill Centre, they can send a tipper truck. Rural roads are always muddy in winter but I've not cleaned my car with a shovel before.

Stuart Oldham

sj_oldham@btinternet.com



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NEWS FROM CLIFTON

One of DD's questions at a recent quiz was what was the only number one song in the UK written by Bob Dylan. A wrong answer was *Blowing in the Wind* by Peter, Paul and Mary. I mention this because our new Book Club member is Peter so that, if added to Paul, means we only need a Mary. This again highlights how the ladies still shun the ever-expanding Book Club, which is a shame. However, speaking of the ladies some of us are delighted to see the Clifton Ladies Sports Club rallying round our neighbours by taking them for a few days in the West Country. Shares in Prosecco vintners has done very well.

Peter is from Surrey and has recently moved to Lower Larkrise with Karen. They have now renamed their house, much to the delight of some who objected to the presumption of the previous owners. We have confirmation that what was thought to be the Baskerville hound visiting the garden of our tame sceptic is, in fact, the fabulous Mr Fox, so relief all round.

Book Club recently benefited from Duck staff member Tom F's prestigious historic knowledge as he quizzed a member who volunteered a Second World

War fact in conversation. This led to a fascinating discussion about the Wannsee Conference that showed how this young man really is a master of the history of this terrible conflict. If you don't know about the Wannsee Conference, the most evil and manipulative conference in human history, you really need to come along and find out.

The Santas made yet another tourist trap appearance, with some made anew and some just being brought out again, but it matters not. The number remained stable at 23 but with one being placed pretty much out of a hospital ward (with the essential help of neighbours of course). The fire fighters were my favourite.

The New Year saw the return of the Duck's quiz and a new menu, although that's not required on quiz night as the menu is Japanese. *South Today* recently made much of a white deer seen in Hampshire but one of our more regular walkers is very sure he's seen one in our environs. Have you seen it? If so please let me know.

Martin Bryce
martinbryce@gmail.com

PRIMARY SCHOOL



We had a good end to Term 2 when all school groups were able to perform their Christmas shows in church. A lot of work was put in to make these safe for everyone. Audiences enjoyed the performances and they certainly made everyone feel more festive. It was wonderful to be able to do

the shows after last year when recordings had to be made of performances.

Our annual Santa run took place in the last week of term, enjoyed by all year groups. The choir sang Christmas carols with residents of Featherton House in the home's car park.

This term has only just begun but already our Year 6 pupils have been to Yenworthy. The weather was cold and quite challenging at times, with snow falling on the last day. They had a fantastic experience though, climbing sand dunes, doing a night walk, a rope course, orienteering and much more. This is the first time our Year 6 children have been able to go on their residential for two years which made it an even more special adventure.

Swimming and hockey lessons have resumed for Years 4 and 5, with fitness and exercise remaining a key part in the life of our pupils. Year 3 will begin swimming at the start of February. Years 5 and 6 children have several sporting events to look forward to this term when they are due to compete against other schools, depending on Covid.

We are looking forward to longer days and seeing the bulbs and plants beginning to grow around the school grounds.

Denise Welch
dwel3954@deddington.oxon.sch.uk

History Corner

www.deddingtonhistory.uk

Just before the Remembrance Sunday services last year, Vicar Annie was contacted by a Mrs Ruth O'Quigley from Ireland who explained that she was the granddaughter of Arthur Hancox, the eldest of the three brothers killed in WWI.

She wanted to know whether, and how, she could view the Remembrance Service online. Ruth was therefore able to hear me speak before the service started to explain that one of the 'Silent Soldiers' sitting at a table in the north aisle was wearing a Scout neckerchief in memory of Rufus Hancox (killed in action in 1916) who had been a Scout.

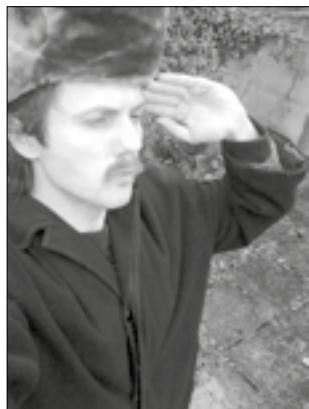
In consequence, I am now in regular contact with Ruth and her son Ronan and, between us, we are compiling an article from their extensive archives about her family and all four brothers.

Their father, David, was the head wood carver and carpenter for Franklins of Deddington. He kept a notebook which contains a wealth of information about his family and the work carried out by Franklins.

From this we now know that it was their father, not their brother, who went to the WWI battlefields to look for their graves and brought home the two crosses he found. To read about the family, including the contents of David's notebook, go to www.deddingtonhistory.uk and click on the link to the Hancox family under New Articles.

Rob Forsyth
robert.s.forsyth@gmail.com

BLISSFUL THINKING



They say it takes 10,000 hours to master a skill, but there are some rare activities you can master from the very first attempt. The first time I was invited to play Texas Hold 'Em poker, for instance, I actually won the pool, despite being the only novice at the table. Needless to say, I retired afterwards, gloriously undefeated.

You might be aware I used to play for (and manage) Deddington Town Reserves but, now and again, I'd be involved with the First Team so they could have a 'line monkey'. On one occasion, though I forget for which team, I was called in as an emergency referee, as I was injured and nobody else was available other than players. Fancying myself as the altruistic sort, I strapped on my body armour and stepped into the breach, trying to avoid contentious decisions to avoid appearance of conflicts of interest. I needn't have bothered.

It goes against every natural instinct for me to preach deference to authority figures but anyone who has ever gobbled-off at a match official should be forced to referee an amateur game themselves so the boot is on the other foot. I got sworn at for giving obvious decisions, I got sworn at for not making decisions, I got sworn at for not keeping up with play, I got sworn at for getting in the way. My first and only experience taught me all I needed to know about refereeing.

Which segues nicely into the final experience of conducting an online quiz which I spent all day working on a while back. It's exhausting but satisfying watching your creation play out amid a group of your peers, so a high-five goes out to former DTFC stalwart Jack Davies for organising an excellent Zoom quiz over the Christmas period (despite having Covid), solely on the subject of Deddington. He lives it; he loves it. As do we all. Happy New Year!

Aaron Bliss
aaronjbliss@hotmail.com

TALES FROM THE PUMP

'Congratulations, Grumpy,' said Jane, as she wandered up to the bar, 'and a Sauvignon Blanc please.' 'Why the congrats?' asked Jack, as he sipped his pint on his corner stool. 'Didn't you hear? Grumpy won the Grumpiest Pub Landlord of the Year Award for 2021,' said Jane. 'It must have been stiff competition last year with pub landlords trying to manage lockdowns and Covid problems. How did you win, Grumpy?'

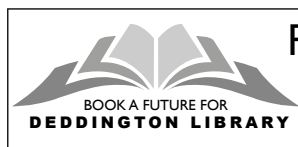


'Not easy,' I shrugged as I handed Jane her wine. 'Apparently there are three factors that go into winning. Firstly, there needs to be a groundswell of opinion. I must have received quite a few nominations from you lot. Secondly, consistency – it's important to be always grumpy. Some mornings I wake up feeling full of bonhomie but I make sure that by the time the pub opens I'm my usual grumpy self. Some people come for miles to be moaned at and I don't want to disappoint them. Thirdly – no favourites. I need to be equally grumpy with everyone. People get jealous if I'm particularly grumpy towards someone in particular. That's a tough one, given some of the plonkers who come in here. Anyway you lot probably wouldn't admit it but you feel comfortable with me being grumpy all the time. It's not possible to be continually smiley – and if I was cheerful one day and grumpy the next you would get really twitchy.

'Another thing, let's say you wanted to complain about something – say Jack thinks his beer isn't quite right and I'm laughing and smiling at him rather than taking him seriously, albeit in my grumpy fashion, then he would get really upset.'

'And what did you win?' asked Jack, as he pushed his empty glass over for another pint of Hooky. 'Not a lot,' I grumped. 'A sign saying Grumpiest Landlord 2021 and a pewter tankard with a hole in the bottom – guaranteed to keep me grumpy.'

Grumpylandlord1@gmail.com



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I hope everyone had a relaxing and enjoyable Christmas break and that 2022 will be a better year than last.

We would like to thank everyone who bought our library calendar last year. Sales were good considering it was another compromised year due to the dreaded virus.

Once again our sponsors did us proud, as did those who entered our photo competition with many new

entrants providing some stunning images. Last, but definitely not least, a big thank you to Helen Spencer at Nellie & Dove and to Chris and Naomi Fenemore at the farm shop who helped us immeasurably with sales. Their combined efforts helped to reach new customers. Thank you all.

Bryn Williams
abw@brynwilliams.com



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FROM BARBARA BELL
DEDDINGTON

I would like to thank everyone in the village and beyond for the beautiful cards, letters and phone calls. Your support has been and continues to be magnificent. Thank you all from the bottom of my heart. A special thank you to the Revd Annie Goldthorp for the help she gave me in giving Jim the perfect funeral service.

Lastly, my thanks to Edd Frost and Daughters who took care of me throughout the whole process of arranging the funeral.

FROM CHRISTOPHER HALL, DEDDINGTON

Deddington Fair Traders are happy to report that during 2021 they sold £2,200 worth of Traidcraft goods. Doing so helped members of forty-four primary producer co-operatives and suppliers across the world. A surplus of £350 was generated in the process; this was returned to Traidcraft Exchange, the sister charity devoted to empowering the producers of the wide range of goods marketed by Traidcraft. Thanks to our regular customers and some new ones, this was achieved in spite of lockdowns and no more stall at the farmers' market. The annual Fairtrade Fortnight is 21 February–6 March. The Traidcraft Spring catalogue is promised during February; catalogues and order forms are available in the church porch. The whole Traidcraft range can be seen on www.traidcraftshop.co.uk. Viviane Hall (338225) is always happy to take orders which saves individuals paying mail order postage.



FROM THE ANNE ROBSON TRUST
The Trust is a pre-bereavement charity that passionately believes that no-one should die alone. We work alongside NHS hospitals to train Butterfly Volunteers, who sit with end-of-life patients in order to provide company and comfort to people in their last days and hours of life. However, due to Covid restrictions, volunteers were forced to withdraw from hospitals so, in

response, we decided to set up a free, national helpline so that we could continue to offer comfort and support where needed. As restrictions have lifted volunteers are gradually returning to hospitals and, in addition, the introduction of the helpline is proving to be a valuable resource for anyone to access support from the comfort of their own home. The free Anne Robson Helpline is confidential, 0808 801 0688 and open Mon–Fri (12.00–6.00pm). If you or someone close to you is dying, we are here for you.

At the Anne Robson Trust we believe that everyone deserves support and having somewhere to turn to if they or a loved one is dying. We know that facing the end of life can leave you isolated and alone.

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This time last year we were in Covid lockdown at the Windmill – not even a ‘work event’ to keep us entertained. Looking back to previous years, my first piece in the new year has always featured comments on the village panto – a delightful few days of silliness that we all look forward to in January. Deddington Players began their rehearsals for this year’s show well before Christmas, but then the dastardly Omicron came on from stage left and Peter Pan soon became Peter Pandemic. Boo Hiss! As I write this, the panto is postponed, but there are high hopes that we can find an alternative date. Watch this space.

Meanwhile, the programme of building improvements continues as a ground floor storage cupboard

and the old football store are currently being converted into what will become the Parish Room – a small meeting room and dedicated space to house the Parish Archive. Two more significant projects are planned in 2022 – the long-awaited refurbishment of the downstairs loos (April) and a small extension on the Hempton Lounge side of the building to house a new disabled loo and much-needed external loo (summer).

As you can imagine, the Windmill doesn’t run itself. I like to think of our management committee as a motivated, unpaid group of supporters, or MUGS for short. But on a serious note, at the start of this new year, why not consider joining us and doing your bit for the community. You would be very welcome.

Remember you can find information about everything that goes on at the Windmill at www.thewindmillededdington.org or on our Facebook page. If you want to enquire about hiring a space or make a booking you can email enquiries@thewindmillededdington.org or call us on 07720 834006. Happy New Year to you and we look forward to seeing you soon.

Vaughan Jones

vaughan@englishlanguagematters.com

DEDDINGTON ENVIRONMENT NETWORK

Last year was busy and exciting for us and we would like to share some highlights.

In October 50 villagers gathered to plant 15 fruit trees and hundreds of bulbs at Welford's Piece in Clifton.

We are organising a trip to Beckley Community Orchard on Sunday 13 February followed by lunch at the Community Pub and ending with a guided tour of Otmoor Bird Reserve. Let us know if you would like



Planting at Welford's Piece

The refill station has continued to provide customers with a range of household products at the farmers' market and, so far, has helped customers save over 1,000 750ml plastic bottles. We have also worked with the Barford Environment Network to bring the products to Barford Market each month.

We've organised talks from experts including a swift walk around the village in June to observe and learn more about the life and habitats of these endangered birds and a wildlife gardening talk from Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust.

Our first pub meet took place in December and we were thrilled to share ideas with each other and with visitors from the Duns Tew environment group.

In May the Parish Council left four grass areas unmowed in a move to boost local biodiversity as part of No Mow May. We carried out surveys to assess what was growing amongst the grass.

In October we hosted a group of Spanish environmentalists walking to Glasgow to spread the word about the importance of the COP26 talks.

Over the year we have supported the Low Carbon Hub by promoting energy audits for local householders as part of the Cosy Homes initiative.

2022 EVENTS

Looking forward, we have a range of planned events.

to join all or any of the day's events.

We are planning a trial Porch Pick-Up in the spring: an opportunity to share your unwanted items with the community and pick up any pre-loved items from your neighbour's porch in return.

In the summer we are planning to help promote the Fenemores' much-loved farm walk, and also to organise another swift walk and facilitate a visit to Duns Tew solar farm.

Other ideas are a wildlife photography workshop, a talk about help to support hedgehog populations, plus other wildlife gardening talks and a cider-making workshop with Berry Orchards.

Thank you to everyone for your support, particularly our loyal customers at the farmers' market. Please let us know any ideas you have that we might be able to help with, or any comments on our proposed events for this year. We are always looking for new volunteers to work with us, and in particular would love some IT help, so please get in touch if you have any time to spare, even if it's only a couple of hours a month, or if you would like to receive more information about us and our events by signing up to our newsletter.

Nick and Fiona Smith
info@deddingtonenvironment.net
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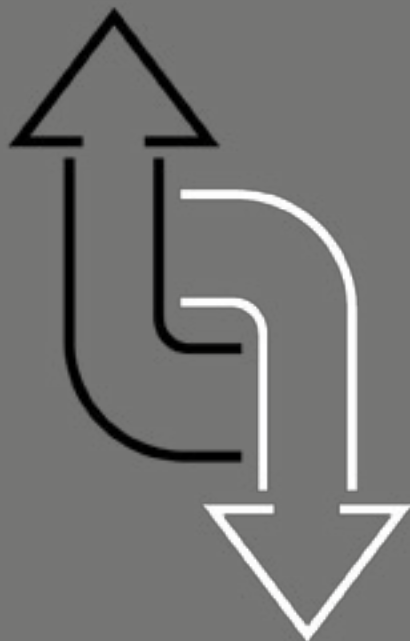
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Holly Tree Club

On 2 December, nearly 40 club members met at the Deddington Arms for an excellent Christmas lunch. The food and service were wonderful and everyone had a great time. Many thanks to those who contributed raffle prizes: the Deddington Arms, Eagles, the Co-op, the Flower Shop and members of the committee. Winners were delighted with their gifts. It was lovely to have a chance to meet socially and celebrate Christmas at the end of another challenging year. Coffee mornings resumed on Monday 3 January and the attendance has been excellent. Unfortunately, due to the increase in local Covid infections, it was felt necessary to postpone outings for a while. We hope these can resume soon.

Age Concern has notified us that they are not able to host group activities at present, so no news on the film nights returning yet I'm afraid.

Plans for the lunch club are ongoing, although we have postponed any start date for the time being. More news soon we hope.

We hope that infection numbers improve to enable us to plan more outings and events in future months.

Julia Cork

FROM THE FIRE STATION

We have been busy as always attending 13 callouts for the month, consisting of fires, RTCs and standbys.

Our most local callout was to an electrical fire at the Red Lion between Christmas and New Year. On arrival, we were faced with an arcing mains supply and a small fire from the supply before it reached the fuse box. The owner, Gary, had fortunately seen the sparks and prevented it from spreading to the accommodation above using fire extinguishers but, with no obvious way of turning off the supply, Deddington crews used CO² extinguishers and a thermal imaging camera to keep the fire from reigniting while the electricity company was contacted to make the area safe. After 40 minutes of the fire continually flaring up, a small explosion resulted in the cables blowing themselves out and tripping out the main feed.

The engineer was able to test the mains feed and was then able to switch off the substation feed to allow work to be carried out to allow the supply to be reconnected and cables replaced. Unfortunately part of the village was briefly without power, but by our evening reinspection, all power was restored. We checked the electrical box area and accommodation to ensure there was no further fire spread and fitted an extra smoke alarm. What could have been a more serious event was prevented by swift action from Gary, aided by it happening early evening rather than in the small hours.

Deddington crews have a packed month with several training scenario days, sessions and exercises – from single to six pump mock incidents. Congratulations to Emma Flint for passing her LGV driving course and she now has her 'Blue Light' training in March which will allow her to drive to and from emergencies.

James Greenwood FFD
james@cyclogicalshop.co.uk

Friends of the Castle Grounds

Work is continuing at Castle Grounds. The war against saplings continues. Sapling poles are perfect for supports on allotments or gardens. The side branches will need lopping off so please help yourselves.

The wildflower corner has been cleared to give the seeds a chance to grow in the spring. The path repair is ongoing. The bird-boxes have arrived and will be installed in the next few weeks. The bramble thickets have been cut back revealing a large bag of rubbish. Please dispose of your rubbish in the bins provided or, better still, take it home with you.

The Four Farms Run is now scheduled for Sunday 22 May. We look forward to seeing the runners and spectators enjoying the wonderful open area.

The Castle Grounds is still very muddy underfoot so take care when you visit this spectacular heritage site.

Carol Garrett
cgarrett@btinternet.com

DEDDINGTON HOUSING ASSOCIATION

The Deddington Housing Association (DHA) management committee is a small group of committed volunteer trustees that manages and oversees the upkeep of the five Holly Tree properties in Earls Lane.

The properties are for the benefit of the 'aged and/or physically disabled persons in necessitous circumstances within the parish of Deddington upon terms appropriate to their means'. We urgently need a volunteer to lead on Health and Safety. The ideal person will have some experience or a good working knowledge and understanding in this field. The role involves keeping our H&S register up to date, inspecting the site and cottages (on an occasional/rota basis) for potential hazards and areas of concern and reporting them to the committee in order that remedial work can be arranged.

Volunteers must be computer literate, on email and use Skype or other virtual means of meeting. This isn't an onerous role and is not expected to take more than a couple of hours per month but is hugely important to us and, particularly, our residents.

Please contact Stella O'Neill at chair@thedha.org in the first instance.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

We very much enjoyed playing carols on Christmas Eve and were surprised and impressed at how many people turned out to sing with great heart on a really wet and inclement night.

Thank you very much for joining us. Your donations amounting to £385 will be passed on to Watoto, <https://www.watoto.com>. Many thanks to everyone who helped set up and run things and especially to Deddington Church for the loan of much equipment. We wish everyone a happy 2022.

Michael Liebrecht
on behalf of Deddington Brass

POSTCARD FROM AMERICA

Denver, Music and Civil War

When we moved to Denver nine years ago our dear friends in the parish bought us membership of the Denver Art Museum. They were worried that we were moving to a cultural wasteland but they really didn't need to be concerned. There are plenty of restaurants, bars and a fantastic music scene in Colorado. The largest venue, Fiddlers Green, is a mile from our house. We can get to Red Rocks in 30 minutes. If you love live music you need to come and visit this amazing place. And apart from the music, there are always the legal drugs. As Heather always says, 'It smells like Colorado spirit'.

I remember Big John saying to me after the last US election that it was the end of Trump. Unfortunately, that was never true and we are now approaching his resurrection. Losing the election has not lessened his cult following. Over 25% of the population believe that the election was stolen. Trump being pushed off social media has improved my life – I don't have to cope with the noise every day, but the lies and the conspiracy theories are getting worse.

My inability to predict election results is legendary but after the rather amateur coup attempt on 6 January last year, in my view things are building up to another Civil War. Trump told his followers to go and 'fight like hell' but the strange motley crew that invaded the Congress building failed to overturn the result. Meanwhile some of his advisors were trying to persuade him to use the army to overturn the will of the people. Luckily all of that failed, but now there is a much more significant attempt to subvert the democratic process, by restricting voting rights and taking local control of elections. Many states are moving to political control

of the certification of elections which could have a dramatic effect in the mid-terms in November.

I have worked in IT for 48 years. I know a little bit about the huge benefits of technology. I once wrote a computer program (it didn't work). But we have truly entered the 'Dis-Information Age'. If you want to believe something you will find 'evidence' online to support your fantasy.

Many are QAnon supporters who believe that a deep state cabal of liberal paedophiles is behind The Steal and that Trump has been sent by God to take them down. Yes, there are millions of crazy people in America and most of them have guns.

It must be said that many believers are the forgotten ordinary folk who have been left behind by the political and financial elite, but many are intelligent middle-class Republicans who want to believe a lie, and they are in charge of the machine that is hurtling to the cliff edge. If you want to understand it, listen to the BBC Sounds podcast 'the Coming Storm'. It is very scary.

Last month a new friend asked me what instrument I played. With my love of music he presumed I was once in a band. This took me back more than 50 years to my final year school concert. I was the singer in the band. Unfortunately, they decided to go instrumental the week before the headlining gig. Don't take my word as any kind of gospel – I've obviously never been a winner. There is nothing to see over here in the Un-united States of America.

Mike Ward

mikew@qsoftware.com

CALLING ALL CLUBS

Photographic Society

Carol Henson, from Northamptonshire, was invited by her brother to photograph his band and it started a passion for standing in a music pit to capture a moment at gigs and festivals. We learnt that the most important pieces of equipment were good noise cancelling ear-plugs as well as a fast lens and a camera that works well with low light. Carol now has her own media company to gain access to the front row enabling her to get those special action shots. Musicians can play to the camera whilst others totally ignore it. It sounded like challenging work; bands and artists always want to see the results and have the editorial decision for circulation. Few pay for the images even if they use them for PR later, but it was obviously fun.

Our first speaker in 2022 was the entertaining Chris Floyd who gave us an insight into 'Celebrity Portraits'. Chris's passion for photography began as a teenager, loving the darkroom processes and using a Pentax inherited from his father. Beginning as an assistant, Chris's first solo job was in Manchester meeting Noel Gallagher. The subsequent image of the new band, Oasis, outside Main Road was printed in *Select* magazine. Chris has travelled the world photographing

entertainers, actors, politicians and artists and it would be easier to list those people who have not been in front of his lens. However, preferring to photograph the world 100-metre record holder, Asafa Powell, he passed on meeting and photographing the upcoming sprinter, Usain Bolt – the one that got away. Many of Chris's portraits have a theme of blue and red, colours that are a signature for him.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 2 February at 7.30pm when Will Gray will talk about 'British Wildlife Adventures'. We meet in the Adderbury Institute and follow Covid guidelines. You are welcome to join us. See our website for more details.

Anne Hunsley

www.addphoto.co.uk

Deddington and District History Society

Just before Christmas, we had an unusual and entertaining talk by Alastair Lack, a local historian and Oxford guide on 'Oxford and Inspector Morse'. Not only did he point out which colleges were represented in the series; he explained the ways the production team worked and how they managed location shooting. He was full of appreciation for the professional

Continued on p27

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Company No: 4874588, Ofsted No: EY330043
Charity No: 1100275



CALLING ALL CLUBS

Continued from p26

skills of John Thaw and Kevin Whateley, having been a by-stander at some of the shoots. He was less complimentary about the Jaguar, which apparently broke down frequently.

After kicking off the New Year with Ciaran Walsh's talk on the Otmoor Riots, we welcome Steve Kershaw on Thursday 17 February to talk on 'Boudicca's Revolt: The Ups and Downs of Roman Power in Britain'. Many will know Steve as a fellow Deddingtonian who plays a mean double bass in a modern jazz combo. He is also a classicist who lectures at Oxford University and, as an expert on Greek and Roman civilisation, on cruises in the Mediterranean. Boudicca is the most widely known revolting Briton but was she the only one? Come along to the school to find out.

Finally, a brief plug for Tim Healey's talk on 18 March, entitled 'Drovers' Roads in Oxfordshire'. If any of you walk and have come across small clumps of Scots pines and wondered how and why they got there ... come to this talk.

Gareth Richard
garethrichard@btinternet.com

Royal British Legion Deddington Branch

It is with great sadness that I report the death on 24 November of Jim Bell, a long-standing member of our branch and its secretary from 1982–88. His funeral on 23 December was attended by a large congregation of friends and former workmates from the police, British Microlight Association and Freemasons – of which he was secretary of his lodge for over 18 years.

I was unable to attend but our secretary, Tony Lowe, formally represented the branch and our standard was displayed. Tony delivered a tribute to Jim's life, an edited version of which is in this edition. Our condolences have been conveyed to his wife Barbara.

Rob Forsyth Chairman
robert.s.forsyth@gmail.co

Local Vocals Community Choir

We meet on Mondays at 7.30pm during term time in the Primary School hall. We got off to a cracking start this term with two new songs and one we are revisiting. It is so good to be experiencing the buzz of a Monday evening again. We continue to practise our Covid safety measures, including having the windows open so layers are a must this term. You are welcome to come along for a free first session to see if this is for you. No experience is required and there is no need to be able to read music.

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

Alison Grieve

Book Group

Our last book of 2021 was the novel *Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell. This is a fictional portrait of the marriage of William Shakespeare to Anne (here called Agnes) Hathaway, their family life and the sad death of their son Hamnet. Unusually, the focus is not on William, who appears as a secondary character, frequently absent in London, and not even named in the text. The heart of the story is Agnes, an unconventional and insightful woman, unschooled but possessing an extensive knowledge of medicinal herbs.

We thought this was an excellent book, absorbing and beautifully written. There is a convincing view of 16th century life, including the lingering threat of the plague, and the vivid details give a sense of being there. There is an authentic feel to the ups and downs of family relationships and the bond between Hamnet and his twin sister. His death is heart-breaking and followed by powerful depictions of grief and adjustment to devastating loss. However, this is not a depressing book, as Maggie O'Farrell's writing makes it an illuminating and moving read.

Please contact Sally Lambert on 01869 338094 for details of our next meeting.

Sian Waterman

Bookworms

Our latest book was *Educated* by Tara Westover. It gives a moving and powerful account of the author's upbringing in a Mormon family living in rural Idaho. Her parents kept the family isolated from the federal government, so Tara was home schooled, had no birth certificate until nine years old, and no medical records. Her father became more and more radical, making extensive preparations for the End of Days while her mother became an unofficial midwife and herbalist, eventually developing a thriving business. However, Tara wanted to escape from this sometimes brutal environment and education became her salvation. Through her grit and determination she won a place at university and gained further awards which enabled her to continue her studies, including a place at Trinity College, Cambridge, as a Gates Scholar.

Everyone agreed that *Educated* is a very well-written book where Tara Westover's intellect shines through. It raised many interesting and thought-provoking themes for discussion including the conflict between family ties and the desire to escape, a mother who could not acknowledge the cruelty her son inflicted on his siblings as well as others, and the recognition of feminist ideals.

Janet Macey
01869 336156

SPORT

Deddington Town Youth Teams

The Under 15s playing in the WDYFL B League ended the autumn league in third place. They started the spring league with an entertaining 4–4 draw with Witney Vikings with James Marrett scoring twice. The

Under 13s started their campaign in the C League with a 2–4 home defeat to Tysoe United. The Under 12s playing in the Oxfordshire Youth Football League finished the autumn D league top of the table and

Continued on p30

SPORT

unbeaten, and so are promoted to the C league and won their first game of the season with a 9–1 win over Hinksey Park.

Pitch improvements at the Windmill

Through our successful funding application to the Football Foundation for pitch improvements, we enter our second year of work. We received our assessment report in December and will work with Deddington Cricket Club, the Windmill Management Committee and Deddington PC to explore options to act on the recommendations and put in place regular pitch maintenance.

Roger Sykes, Development Officer and U7/U6 Coach, 07899 914425

Deddington Town Football Club*First Team results:*

13.11.21	Wroxton Sports (a)	L 2–3
27.11.21	Longford Park (a)	L 1–2
11.12.21	Bodicote Sports (h)	L 2–4

Reserve Team results:

13.11.21	M Cheney Reserves (a)	L 2–3
27.11.21	Bicester Athletic (h)	L 2–3
08.01.22	Broughton & NN (h)	L 1–2

Not a lot of winter cheer at DTFC as both teams lost all matches at the end of the year. Granted, there was a lot of fixture disruption but a clean sweep of defeats means both teams sit second bottom and are in mild peril unless they get their act together sharpish. Let's hope they can keep their sheets a little cleaner in 2022.

Aaron Bliss 07909 642882

Deddington Tennis Club

If the Australian Open is inspiring you, let us tell you about the tennis that is going on more locally.

Firstly, team tennis: in winter we have four teams playing in the Banbury tennis leagues, a men's and a women's team in the Oxfordshire Dunlop and a men's and a mixed in the Oxfordshire Midweek league, a new competition for the club. I'm happy to report that, at this point, all the teams are near the top of their divisions.

In the Banbury Floodlit leagues, a win on 12 January at home to Hook Norton put the A team into second place in the top division. The B team won away to Byfield and is top of division 3. The C team is currently second in division 4. After four matches, the Weekend mixed team is top of division 2. In the Oxfordshire Dunlop league, the men's team is top of division 6 and the ladies top of division 2. Our Midweek league men's team is doing well in second place in division 2. Slightly less good news for the mixed Midweek team which is seventh. Well done to everyone who has played and contributed to these impressive results, and thanks to the captains for all the work that goes into getting a team together. With the usual issues of illness, injury, weather and other commitments, it's particularly impressive that a relatively small club like ours is managing to field this many teams with such a high degree of success.

Secondly, social tennis: the club has social ses-

Continued from p29

sions running four times a week. On Tuesdays from 10.15am, Wednesdays from 6.00pm and Sundays 11.00am–1.00pm. You can just turn up and play. On Thursdays there is an All Play All format starting at 1.00pm and for this you need to sign up in advance for a place. Details are on the website.

Thirdly, coaching: we run adult and junior coaching programmes all winter, weather permitting, for all ages and all levels. If you'd like to know more about it, please email Paul Taylor on paultaylortennis@hotmail.co.uk.

Finally, courts can be booked by members or non-members via the club website. For more information please check out our website www.deddingtontennis.com

Becky Jones

www.deddingtontennis.com

Deddington Cricket Club

The Ashes may be staying down under again and frost is on the ground, but there is plenty of news to share. On Friday 19 November around 30 members gathered for our annual awards event. By then, modest exploits from the summer had grown into epic performances, worthy of a Coleridge poem. Thankfully our trusty scorer, Harry Romain, provides all the stats to keep everyone honest. The winners were: First team Batting Paul Smith; First Team Bowling Rob Barton; Second Team Batting Simon Oldfield; Second Team Bowling Josh Phillips; Newcomer Alex Bull; Young Player Tom Smith; Most Improved Player Richard Holmes; Clubman Wayne Dibsdall; Jedi Moment Matt Carpenter; The Dave Barnhill Pants Sam Smith; Players' Player Rob Barton; Women's Squad Batting Kate Williamson; Women's Bowling Georgia Adams; Women's Players' Player Fleur Eden. Congratulations to all winners and others who came close. In other news, the Club has entered the Oxfordshire Indoor Cricket League for the first time. The 10-overs innings, six-a-side tournament runs from mid-November to late January. Not a game for the faint-hearted or those with slow reactions, the team has acquitted itself well and has been improving each week and is hoping for a top five position. In February indoor nets are due to start on Sunday afternoons at Sibford School until we can get outside again in April. Anyone interested in joining our nets sessions should contact me.

The Club has ordered a set of mobile covers for the cricket square, thanks largely to the generosity of Hamptons estate agents, financial advisors Weston Murray and Moore, and Burrington Estates. No doubt we shall get plenty of use come the summer and it will enable us to further improve the quality of the pitches. The new season starts on Sunday 1 May with the Women starting their Super 8s games in the Home Counties League and the Saturday Cherwell League matches starting on 7 May. The Firsts will be playing a number of new teams after gaining promotion to Tier 6, while the Seconds remain in Tier 8.

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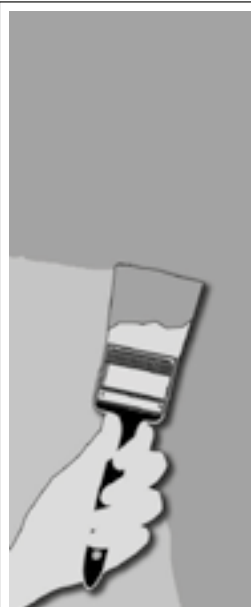
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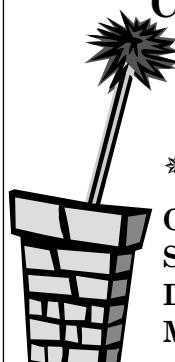
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DEDDINGTON CHURCHES See section inside

