

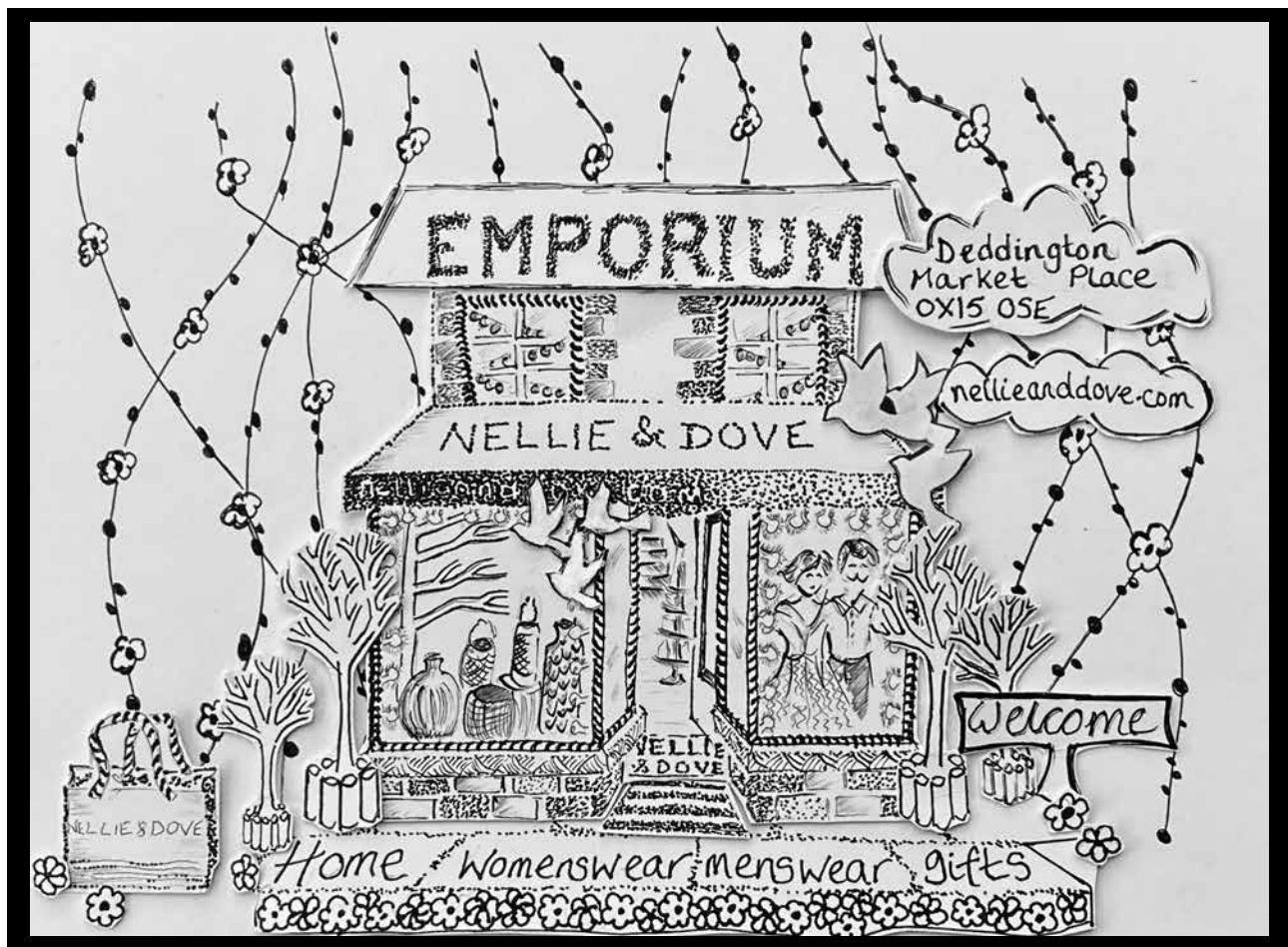
March 2022

# *The* **DEDDINGTON NEWS**



Delivered free to Deddington, Clifton and Hempton





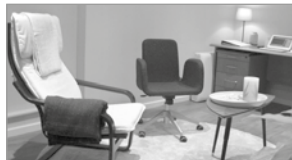
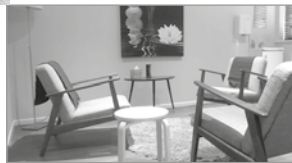
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## The DEDDINGTON NEWS

They are back! Village life is starting to return. The first event is a March panto. *Peter Pan* will run at the Windmill from 24–26 March, see p25. The Four Farms Challenge is back at Castle Grounds on 22 May, see p17, and, put it in your calendar now, the committee is gearing up for Deddington Festival 2022 at the beginning of July, see p18, while I am eagerly awaiting frogspawn in my garden pond.

Please note that, owing to our shift to professional printing, the *DN* is likely to arrive a day or two later than previously and not always before the first of the month. To make sure you don't miss an event scheduled at the beginning of the month please check What's On, not only for the coming month, but also the one after that.

CD

### WHAT'S ON

#### March

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| Tue 1   | Pancakes and Plonk, Parish Church, 6.00pm   |
| Wed 2   | Photographic Society: 'Composition for the Viewer', John Lewis, Adderbury Institute, 7.30pm |
| Wed 9   | Friends of Castle Grounds: AGM, Deddington Arms, 7.30pm                                     |
| Wed 16  | Parish Council Meeting: 7.30pm  |
| Thu 17  | History Society: Tim Healey, 'Drovers' Roads in Oxfordshire', Primary School, 7.30pm        |
| Sat 19  | Craft Fayre: Windmill Centre, 10.00am–1.00pm  |
| Thu 24  | Deddington Players: <i>Peter Pan</i> , Windmill Centre, 7.30pm                              |
| –Fri 25 |   |
| Sat 26  | Deddington Players: <i>Peter Pan</i> , Windmill Centre, 2.30pm and 6.00pm                   |
| Sat 26  | Farmers' Market: Market Place, 9.00am–12.30pm   |
| Sat 26  | Banbury Symphony Orchestra: Parish Church, 7.30pm   |
| Thu 31  | Book Group: Call 01869 338094 for details   |
| Thu 31  | Bookworms: Holly Tree Club, 7.30pm  |

#### April

- |        |  |
|--------|--|
| Wed 6  | Photographic Society: AGM, Adderbury Institute, 7.30pm   |
| Wed 20 | Parish Council Meeting: 7.30pm   |
| Thu 21 | History Society: 'Scandal in Oxfordshire High Society', Julie Ann Godson, Primary School, 7.30pm |
| Sat 23 | Farmers' Market: Market Place, 9.00am–12.30pm  |
| Thu 28 | Book Group: Call 01869 338094 for details  |
| Thu 28 | Bookworms: Holly Tree Club, 6.30pm   |

#### May

- |        |  |
|--------|--|
| Wed 4  | Photographic Society: Steve Wilkins, Adderbury Institute, 7.30pm                                 |
| Thu 19 | History Society: 'The Treatment of COs in Oxfordshire in WWI', Sue Smith, Primary School, 7.30pm |
| Sun 22 | Four Farms Challenge: Castle Grounds, 10.30am  |

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.

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## HOW WE SPEND YOUR MONEY

It's time to talk about money. With fuel prices rocketing and the cost of living rising a tightening of belts is inevitable. On top of that the parish council is planning to raise the precept, the parish's share of council tax. Next year, of the £2,000 or so council tax for a Band D property, £60.61 will go to our parish council – ie, £5.05 per month. Although a relatively small amount, we councillors feel the parish finances need some explaining.

Back in 2015, a parish questionnaire revealed widespread dissatisfaction with local facilities including the Windmill Centre, the play areas and sports provision. Since then, thanks to a very generous donation, assiduous sniffing out of grants and S106 money provided by local housing developers and dipping into PC reserves, we've made huge improvements.

Numerous studies show how crucial outside activity is for youngsters and the new assets have proved a notable success, in particular the Windmill's adventure playground and the MUGA. The Centre itself looks much sprucer and the new inside and outside loos will be widely welcomed.

The downside is that these assets require maintenance and, after 15 to 25 years in the case of the play areas, replacement. Prudent heads on the parish council would like to set up a sinking fund so future council taxpayers are not faced with a colossal bill in a couple of decades. At the moment that's an aspiration. Just to stay where we are needs an increase of around 10% (46p a month for Band D). Under the terms of the original Windmill contract we can only use the PC's capital fund for capital projects – not for running costs and repairs.

A major expenditure is hedge trimming and cutting grass on the parish's verges, recreation areas and green spaces. Despite grants from OCC, English Heritage for part of Castle Grounds and the fees paid by the sport clubs, our costs are around £13,000 a year even though a fair amount of work is carried out by our on-staff stewards.

There are other factors here: government contributions to district and county councils have been slashed over the years and, despite the best efforts of our county councillor, the parish council has felt obliged to plug some of the resulting gaps. For example, OCC halved its verge-cutting grant. In response to heart-felt demands from walkers and cyclists, the PC now pays for an extra cut of the footpaths to Clifton and Hempton when they get too overgrown for safety.

We've had some catching-up to do to bring our precept up to levels comparable with other Oxfordshire parishes. Deddington acquired a large amount of capital in the 1980s with the sale of the Windmill school's playing fields, now Mill Close. In a time of stratospheric interest rates, this meant that for a while the PC council levied little or no precept. That has changed as interest rates dropped to less than 1% for the super safe funds in which parish councils are allowed to invest and we've spent part of the capital on the requested



improvements at the Windmill Centre.

Some of the funds earmarked are not improvements but necessity – £40,000 for remedying the problem with the Windmill Centre roof, with further investigations ongoing. Another £35,000 is pencilled in to resurface the all-weather court. Players' fees mostly cover the ad hoc maintenance but a major refit is required shortly.

Parish funds were boosted by some £350,000 from the Royal British Legion when their hall was sold five years ago. This was particularly useful as it can be spent on repairs and maintenance, unlike our capital fund. £100,000 was given to the Holly Tree Club, the only organisation to which the PC could give such a large donation because it provides a meeting place for the community.

The PC cannot legally make donations to outside organisations totalling more than £14k per year. Grants have gone to youth groups, Covid support, the food bank, Allotment Society, Deddington Online amongst others.

Tree care is budgeted at £5,000 next year and includes an element of catch-up. Previous councils were loath to spend anything at all. (Some councillors are still proudly of that mind.) We have 54 ashes on PC land, several already infected with ash dieback. Control, including felling, will be needed to slow contagion and maintain public safety and we have always assumed there'd be a riot if we tried to save the £1,100 that the Christmas tree costs each year.

We will have to pay £1,000 for the Remembrance Day Parade. The RBL took a financial hit after an accident at a parade a few years back and has passed responsibility for the required safety measures, to local communities, here the parish council. Costs include insurance, road closures and trained stewards. The parade is important for its own sake and one of the few occasions when the Deddington community comes together.

Dog waste collections cost a surprising £2,500 per year – another necessity if we don't want fouled pavements and footpaths. Then there's the £30,000 needed to keep the whole show on the road: back office costs including insurance, phone bills, IT expense, staff, training, administration of the cemetery, allotments management, play area, safety monitoring, auditing of accounts, and so the list goes on. If you'd like further information go to the Deddington Parish Council website and click into the annual accounts.

This is where we are. Please send me any comments you may have on what we are proposing. If you think the present council is too stingy or too profligate you will have the chance to boot us out in the May elections – that is, if others step forward to serve and assuming the current 14 councillors are willing to stand again.

**Helen Oldfield**  
***[helenoldfield.dpc@gmail.com](mailto:helenoldfield.dpc@gmail.com)***





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## DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

### *Windmill Community Centre on Wednesday 16 February*

*Present:* Cllrs Collins, Cox, Eames, Higham, Oldfield (chair), Reeve, Robinson, Snashall, Swadling, Timms, Cherwell District Cllr Williams, the parish clerk, minutes clerk and two members of the public.

#### **Open Forum**

Two members of the churchyard mowing team spoke about the dog excrement situation in the churchyards, pointing out the health hazard to themselves and visitors, making the point that it is consecrated ground, with young families often visiting to lay flowers on graves.

#### **Finance and General Purposes**

A poster will be displayed around the parish explaining how the parish precept is spent. Details on pg ????

#### **Planning**

##### *No Objection*

Windmill Centre: alterations to accommodate new Equality Act compliant toilets, one internally and one externally accessible.

The Studio, Hudson Street: non-illuminated signage Field View, The Lane, Hempton: removal of conservatory and replacement with single storey extension and additional windows.

#### **Neighbourhood Planning**

A grant of £5,000 has been obtained towards the cost of the process. A document is nearly ready for release and should be available soon.

#### **Large Scale Development**

Parish council representatives met a representative from OCC on site to discuss the proposed footpath to run along Earls Lane from the junction of Clifton Road to Pound Court as a condition of the planning consent for the Clifton Road development. The PC is concerned not to lose the casual parking area which is of use particularly to people visiting the Health Centre and parents dropping off and collecting school children. OCC advised the cost of a path next to the wall with an external strip of tarmac for cars would be prohibitive. It was unclear where the conservation area ends.

#### **Highways and Transport**

There is concern about the growing number of A-boards and large posters on and near the traffic light posts. Whilst the PC has agreed to turn a blind eye to A-boards as long as they do not obstruct footpaths and the highway, they agreed to request delegated power from OCC to take action against any further posters potentially causing distraction or obstruction near the traffic lights in particular. Parishioners can report unauthorised signs or other highways concerns on [fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk](http://fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk).

It was confirmed that the owners of the Unicorn can legally keep picnic benches in the parking spaces outside until September.

The clerk and councillors will keep under review the damage to kerbs outside the cemetery, which have been repaired and damaged again by large vehicles turning there.

In the absence of Councillor Rogers and County

Councillor Fatemian, discussion of the proposed 20mph limit in the parish was deferred to next month.

The PC has replied to an OCC transport consultation that aspires to replace or remove one out of every four current car trips in Oxfordshire. Whilst the PC strongly supports local connectivity and largely agrees with the targets, although considering them over-optimistic, it feels the plan reflects an urban perspective and ignores the plight of villages with currently little or no bus services. OCC considers the Park & Ride system to be a great success but the PC points out that, while it is successful in reducing congestion and pollution in the city centre, it has not had a positive effect on link roads from villages to Oxford. Connections between bus and rail stations are poor with quite long walks from the bus terminus in Banbury and from the S4 in Oxford.

#### **Environment & Recreation**

To avoid the high cost of contractors removing brambles at Gaveston Green, some parish councillors are volunteering to carry out the work in autumn with the possible assistance of local residents.

It was agreed to install a dog waste bin inside the west gate of the churchyard with access on to the Bull Ring and signs asking dog owners to clear up after their dogs.

It was agreed to install a Portaloo at the Windmill from Easter until the new external toilet is available for use.

**Next Meeting Wednesday 16 March at 7.30pm in the church, tbc.**

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

## TRUSTEES WANTED

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The application deadline is 31 March but we are happy to receive expressions of interest on an ongoing basis.

For further information, please contact our Branch Secretary Dorian Grier, [dorian.cpre@gmail.com](mailto:dorian.cpre@gmail.com), 01491 612079 and our website is [www.cpreoxon.org.uk](http://www.cpreoxon.org.uk).

## NEWS FROM CLIFTON

Oh, dear, dear! Tales of a white deer in the magnificent herd to be seen off Tithe Lane can now be confirmed by a photo (well, two actually) sent by friends of this correspondent. At least four are thought to be part of this herd, regularly seen gambolling across the fields. It's a good test for more sophisticated photographers and I'm sure many will give it a go.

Another successful Duck quiz saw Steve 2 captain his team as new winners, showing great general knowledge but a freaky understanding of chocolate bars. The Chinese food was also top drawer. Steve 2 is now a regular at a swollen Book Club but there are still vacancies, especially for village newcomers to give them a chance to meet neighbours and catch up on all the news.

Book Club is planning another tour in March, this time three nights in Devon with plenty of walking and beer drinking planned. Accommodation is almost free, like most book club tours, courtesy of our property magnate and much fun is planned. Do you feel you might be missing out yet?

The Clifton Ladies membership continues to climb with 14 turning out for a session of one-handed weightlifting and cultured conversation. All this sophistication and not a book in sight. More members are still welcome. Many walkers of the Clifton Loop have been delighted to see the new kids on the block. Seven XY chromosomes and an XX were delivered and it was reported one of the boys was named Billy but as there is no Stetson or any six-shooters this correspondent doesn't believe it, but the mummy goats are doing well.

A bit of a drains drama from County View as a sewage blocker was blamed by Thames Water from page four of the TW book of excuses, flooded our little bit of Yorkshire. However, until they sort the drains in Main Street this correspondent is not believing these excuses at all. And lastly 'BeMine Natural Skin Care' run by one of the Clifton Ladies just finished an excellent spell at the Milton Keynes' John Lewis. This is why we have the fastest growing economy in the G7.

**Martin Bryce**

[martinbryce@gmail.com](mailto:martinbryce@gmail.com)

## PFSU AND VILLAGE NURSERY

The first term of 2022 has already flown by and it has been a busy one. The Nursery children have been finding out about 'people who help us'. It has been a treat to welcome a nurse, the police, and the fire service to the Nursery, to find out first-hand about the work they do. At the PFSU we celebrated the start of the Year of the Tiger with Chinese music, snacks, lion and dragon dances, red lanterns, money envelopes, and tiger puppets made from wooden spoons. We have also been thinking about animals and had a visit from the vet as well as talking about our own pets. Thank you to all our visitors who have given up their time to support our children. It has been wonderful to welcome you back. A belated thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas raffle which raised a much appreciated £700.

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## CHURCH Parish Church SS Peter and Paul March

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

Wed 2 10.00am Ash Wednesday Holy Communion with imposition of ashes  
7.00pm Holy Communion with imposition of ashes

Sun 6 10.30am Holy Communion  
3.00pm 3 O'Clock Service (informal)  
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 Comunion

### Barfords

Sun 13 9.00am Communion, St Michael

Sun 27 9.00am Holy Communion, St John

Sun 27 10.30am Family Service, St Michael (NOTE: change of date, for this month only)

### From the Parish Registers

#### Baptisms

23 January Thomas Braddock

#### Funeral

1 February Terry Clinch

For baptisms and weddings, funerals and home visits in case of illness please contact the Vicar, Reverend Annie Goldthorp at [vicar@deddingtonchurch.org](mailto:vicar@deddingtonchurch.org) or on 01869 336880. If Annie is not available, then please contact a church warden, 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.

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## POSTCARD FROM AMERICA

### *Nextdoor, HOA and Insurrection*

The world is on the brink of war and the big conversation on the local social network is about the local dollar store moving to a \$1.25 pricing policy.

I have to say I have a certain morbid fascination with NextDoor. I don't think this community website has made much progress in the shire, but it fills me with endless hours of fun. The best post a while ago was from a woman who was convinced her cat had been 'entertained' by a coyote. She was concerned as to what the babies would look like. I guess it is my usual sense of innate superiority, but I just love to read about stupid people.

The other local news is that Heather has joined the board of our local Home Owners Association. You would have thought she had got her fill of such things following her time on the Deddington Parish Council. She went in expecting a scene from the Vicar of Dibley but has never confirmed whether it met those high expectations.

The Beacon Hill HOA is an older crowd and, since we live in a very small neighborhood of 26 houses, everyone knows each other. The HOA works in a similar way to a parish council. There are important issues to discuss, like garden maintenance and snow clearance, and there are the crazy ones like dogs. Our previous next-door neighbour was obsessed with not letting dogs on the tennis courts. We live on a desert plain a mile above sea level and every year the drought is getting worse. At every annual meeting I like to sug-

gest we reduce the use of the automatic sprinklers and then sit back and watch the uproar. They are almost all very lovely people but infeasibly green grass is very important to them, no matter what the cost.

Most Americans have a strange obsession about the Queen. I don't know how many times I have been asked what I think about the TV series *The Crown*. The last few weeks the main topic has been 'Partygate' but it doesn't seem very serious to most Americans. By comparison, the Republican party this week voted to censure two of its members in Congress who dared to investigate the invasion of Congress on 6 January last year. A mob of armed right wing lunatics invade the centre of government, and one of the two parties calls it 'legitimate political discourse'. The rule of law is being disputed by the party that historically would have been associated with law and order, its members happy to ignore the fact that ten people died, and the role that Trump played in telling the crowd to 'fight like hell'.

It is, as usual, strange times in America and some undoubtedly find it odd that I still love the place. I have started planning my dream retirement trip driving coast to coast, in an RV (recreational vehicle) if I can manage to persuade Heather by putting a Marriott sign on the outside. We certainly won't be doing it in an electric vehicle. I am thinking of creating a map of all the gas stations I have walked to after I ran out of petrol. It would be a much worse problem if I had an electric car.

**Mike Ward**

[mikew@qsoftware.com](mailto:mikew@qsoftware.com)



# Slimming World

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<b>Longford Park Community Centre</b> 4.30pm & 6pm Tel: Deanne 07912 748870	<b>Wednesday</b> <b>Ruscote Community Centre</b> 9am Tel: Caroline 07761 753392	<b>Thursday</b> <b>Banbury Rugby Club</b> 9.30am Tel: Mel 07846 346381	<b>Lucy Plackett Centre</b> Adderbury 9.30am Tel: Bex 07999 433493	
<b>Tuesday</b> <b>Ruscote Community Centre</b> 9am, 5.30pm & 7pm Tel: Caroline 07761 753392	<b>St Josephs Catholic Church</b> 5.30pm Tel: Janice 07787 396942	<b>Banbury Cricket Club</b> Whitepost Road 7.30pm Tel: Jo 07986 496459		



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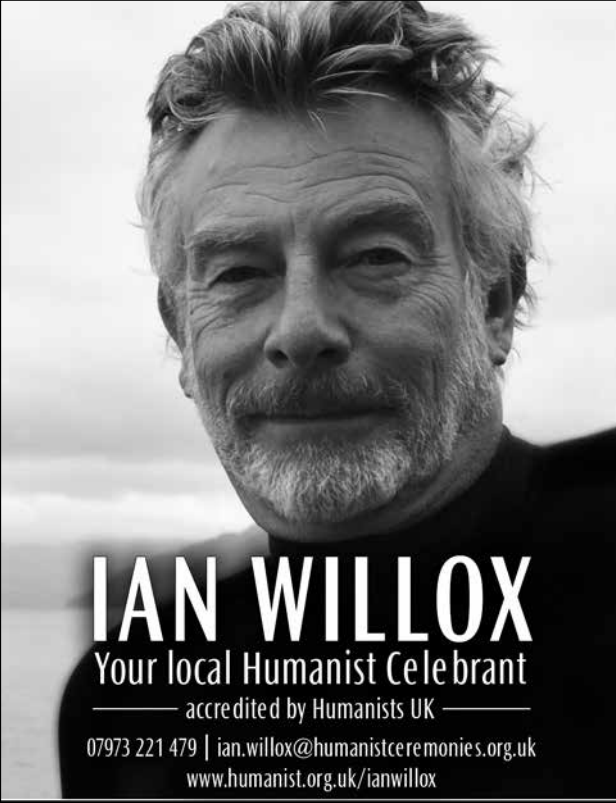
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## WELL REMEMBERED

### Terry Clinch 1936–2022

Terry was born in London and grew up there during the Second World War, spending nights in an Anderson shelter in the garden during air raids and going out afterwards to check the neighbourhood for damaged houses and hunting shrapnel and spent bullet casings after watching aerial dogfights.

As a young man he did his two years National Service. On a couple of occasions he had to cut the grass with a pair of nail scissors but was excused guard duty in exchange for playing the piano in the officer's mess. There was always a pint on the piano.

After his National Service Dad started as an apprentice at BMK Carpets in Scotland but soon moved to a job with Crossley carpets in Croydon, much closer to home and his girlfriend, Shirley. His boss, seeing Dad was good with customers sent him out to visit customers, wearing a bowler hat, no less. He was very successful as a rep; asked why his monthly expenses were so high, having spent £38 (this was the late 60s) on lunch and a few drinks after playing golf with two customers Dad said, 'Have you looked at the order I received?'. It was for 45 rolls of carpet, worth around £13,000. The account manager did not bother Dad again.

In the mid 70s Dad moved to Abingdon Carpets, a new manufacturer, where he continued his successful career and built a large customer base. In spite of being a top salesman he was made redundant when the firm restructured. Dad dusted himself off and, within a couple of years, at the age of 55, started his own company, Simply Rugs. He rapidly acquired a loyal customer base who considered Terry as a friend. Not

only would his customers be shown rugs but eventually there was wine on offer too.

We moved to Deddington in 1982 when Monty Spencer quickly inducted him into village life at the Unicorn. Before we knew it he was on the school PTA, raising funds, not least selling the horses as well as getting sponsors and prizes for the famous 'Let's Go to the Races' evenings. He joined the Cricket Club, loving the Sunday afternoon games and the occasional beer afterwards, and joining the committee to raise funds.

He twice chaired the parish council, getting a fair deal on the sale of the Windmill School to developers and acquiring Deddington's coat of arms. He served on the Windmill committee, then the Holly Tree Club, the Monday Morning Club, Friends of the Castle Grounds, Daeda's Wood and Deddington Farmers Market. I did see him occasionally.

My dad was diagnosed with dementia, a truly awful disease, in January 2019. Every time I saw him, I lost a little bit more of him and could see the frustration in his eyes. My mother also has dementia and in March 2021 I took the heart-breaking decision to take them from their home in Deddington and put them into a care home. My Dad passed away aged 86.

Terry loved the village, the people and village life and spent 40 years making Deddington a better place. He also loved his dogs and could often be seen walking around the Castle Grounds or through the village with them.

**Simon Clinch**

## FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

With the Queen's Platinum Jubilee this year we thought a 'celebration' theme for the calendar would be fun and different from previous versions. Let's show the world how Deddington celebrates, from times past as well as this most historic year for our monarchy, when Union Jack bunting will be draped over our lovely village buildings and street parties in full flow. Get your cameras clicking and capture all the action as it happens. Remember we want to include the village too, buildings and recognisable scenery will be lovely as well.

Meanwhile, anyone with good quality photos of past village celebrations is welcome to enter too. Let's see what you've got stored away in your dusty photo albums, they could make cameo appearances in this calendar as well as shots taken this year.

Please send in your digital entries as usual to me at the email below. If you have some great shots, even prints from previous celebrations, take a photo of them on your phone and send to me. We can then scan them in high resolution if they are suitable. Thank you.

**Bryn Williams**  
[abw@brynwilliams.com](mailto:abw@brynwilliams.com)

## DEDDINGTON LIBRARY

January and February were busy, in terms of welcoming in some great new stock. I was delighted to see one customer borrow three books she had personally recommended to me in 2021 – books which, at that time, were not part of our collection. It seemed fitting that she should be the first person to enjoy them.

Whilst we cannot buy every recommendation, we value and encourage such conversations to ensure that our books reflect the tastes and interests of library users as much as possible. Here is a small selection of books new to our shelves: *Jerusalem*, Ottolenghi; *Surrounded by Idiots*, Erikson; *The Salt Path*, Winn; *Notes from a Small Island*, Bryson; *Dead Scared*, Bolton; *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Girl*, Perry; *A Keeper*, Norton; *The Lives of Lucian Freud*, Weaver and some wonderful vintage Colin Dexter, Agatha Christie and Martin Amis.

Junior Fiction now includes *Maggie Blue and the Dark World* by Anna Goodall, *The Girl who Speaks Bear* by Sophie Anderson and *Pigs Might Fly* by Dick King-Smith while three further Philip Pullman stories from the *Sally Lockhart* mystery series have been added to our Teen section.

**Louise Willis, Library Manager**

## SWINBROOK

The ford in the small village of Swinbrook, just about two miles from Burford, provides a splash of water for this month's cover. The village, an idyllic place to visit, can seem untouched by time, with beautiful Cotswold stone cottages and grand homes. Outstanding is the church of St Mary, perched on a rise near the River Windrush. It was used in the 2016 film *Bridget Jones's Baby* for a christening scene and the village has also played a part in *Downton Abbey*. Inside are six memorials to the Fettiplaces, a wealthy family who held the manor of Swinbrook in the 17th century. These unusual memorials consist of two sets of three reclining figures, stacked as though on two triple bunk beds.

One of St Mary's windows contains remarkable medieval images of angels with almost cartoonish facial



expressions. They are remnants of medieval stained glass salvaged by the then vicar after being shattered by a German parachute landmine dropped in September 1940.

Outside can be found the graves of four of the Mitford sisters: headstones to Nancy, Unity and Diana are near the porch while a fourth sister and their parents are buried elsewhere in the churchyard. Inside the church there is a plaque to their brother, Tom, killed in March 1945 in Burma. Their

childhood home was Asthall Manor, just a mile away.

Also to be found close by is the 2009 headstone of Alexander Mosley, grandson of Diana and Sir Oswald Mosley, and son of Max Mosley, the motorsport chief, who died in May 2021.

**John Price**

## TALES FROM THE PUMP

Giles is a bit of a financial whizz kid and is always keen to give me a lesson on the economy as he sips his pint of Guinness. 'Loads of people use beer prices as their measure of inflation', he said, 'and to be honest they are not far wrong. Although a significant part of the pricing is taxation, the price of this pint of Guinness reflects cost increases the same as other product categories – raw materials, labour, distribution, energy all of which are increasing'.

'It said in the paper the other day that the £7 pint is already hitting some London pubs,' I moaned. 'It also said that last year pub beer sales were down 1.1 billion pints or £4.5 billion versus 2019. So with pubs emerging from Covid struggling with debt, and drinkers only slowly returning to the pub, these price increases could be the death knell for many pubs.'

'The other key factor about inflation,' Giles went on ignoring my moaning, 'it's a direct result of the £400 billion pumped into the economy by the Bank of England to get us through the lock-downs. This was an artificial expansion of the cash economy not



related to rises in productivity so, whereas normally price increases in one sector are compensated for by decreases in another, now there is more cash chasing fewer goods resulting in price increases everywhere with no compensatory factors.'

Giles drained his pint and nodded to the Guinness tap. I began the measured process of pouring his second pint and asked, 'So how can we get this cash overload sorted now it's out there?'

Giles eyed his pouring pint thoughtfully. 'The Treasury will say the government debt has to be paid off through taxation but I would say the size of government needs to be drastically reduced – there will still be a need for more taxation but fewer government departments to finance.'

Then Fred walked into the pub, 'A pint of Hooky please, Grumpy – and for God's sake you two, cheer up.'

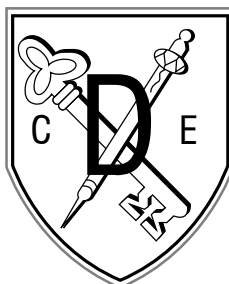
**Grumpy Landlord**

**[grumpylandlord1@gmail.com](mailto:grumpylandlord1@gmail.com)**

## DEDDINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

It is hard to believe we are fast approaching the half term holiday. As usual, this term has been extremely busy. The Year 4 class thoroughly enjoyed their trip to the Oxford Story Museum. Since then their enjoyment in writing has increased, partly due to the motivation brought about by their visit, but also because of their development as authors from writing in lessons.

A group of Year 6 pupils enjoyed a morning at the Warriner School where they took part in orienteering activities. The skills gained from their journey to Yenworthy earlier this term put them in great stead for this event. They followed various courses and solved a challenge



at the end of the session. It was a worthwhile and enjoyable morning for everyone.

Sixteen pupils from Year 5 had a great experience doing a 'Play in a Day' at Tudor Hall. The whole school was able to attend church on 2 February for the Candlemas service led by Revd Annie. It was wonderful to be able to join together in the church once again.

We are now looking forward to World Book Day on Thursday 3 March and Fair-trade fortnight, which takes place during the half-term break and the following week.

**Denise Welch**

**[dwel3954@deddington.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:dwel3954@deddington.oxon.sch.uk)**

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March should see the completion of our new Parish Room – a small meeting room and dedicated space to house the Parish Archive. Next month work will start on the long-awaited downstairs loo refurbishment, followed by a small extension on the Hempton Lounge side of the building to house a new disabled loo and much needed external loo ... that's a lot of new lavatories.

This programme of continual improvements is designed to make the Windmill as good a community asset as it can be, with a variety of different lettable spaces for local clubs and organisations to 'do their thing'. On that note, while we have a wide-ranging mixture of established groups – anything from badminton to baby massage, kickboxing to kids' tennis, dog training to Deddington Players – we always want more. Are you the person in the village who could start something new at the Windmill? How about a table tennis club – the Main Hall or the Hempton Lounge would



be perfect for that. Line dancing perhaps? Circuit training? Fitness for seniors? Mindfulness for beginners? What about Scrabble sessions? A chess club? A film society? Flower arranging? I'll stop there ... the

point is, if you would like to start something new in Deddington, we have the facilities and would love to help you. Do get in touch.

Remember you can find information about everything that goes on at the Windmill at [www.thewindmilleddington.org](http://www.thewindmilleddington.org) or on our Facebook page. If you want to enquire about hiring a space or make a booking you can email [enquiries@thewindmilleddington.org](mailto:enquiries@thewindmilleddington.org) or call us on 07720 834006. Last but not least, the village Panto is back on. (Oh yes it is!) Performances of *Peter Pan* will take place 24–26 March at the Windmill and tickets are available online.

**Vaughan Jones**

[vaughan@englishlanguagematters.com](mailto:vaughan@englishlanguagematters.com)

## BLISSFUL THINKING



Since writing last, the invisible plague visited my door, during a time when my supply chain of goat's blood had been inconceivably held up at customs. Fortunately my conscripted antibodies had been put through their paces in three separate training drills and applied their learning efficiently.

It felt like mild flu symptoms that passed in a few days. The wonders of modern medicine distributed freely by a health service that ensured people like me, who would have perished if born prior to its inception with my many childhood hospital visits,

can continue to blight, I mean improve, society with my continued presence. Sadly, after the relatively trivial restriction of personal freedom that came with Covid isolation, came the much more aggravating restriction of personal freedom that came with my automobile incurring costs well beyond its future value. So 2022 has not been a vintage year thus far, but there's still much left to screw up yet because, as the old adage goes, behind every cynic is a disappointed idealist. If you are directly behind someone, you can always whisper positive affirmations in their ear.

**Aaron Bliss**

[aaronjbliss@hotmail.com](mailto:aaronjbliss@hotmail.com)

## TIME TO GET WALKING AGAIN

At this time of year we start to think about the mud drying up and getting out to walk in the beautiful English countryside again, but where to find new and interesting walks?

There is a lot of walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Oxfordshire, [www.walkinginengland.co.uk/oxfordshire](http://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/oxfordshire), part of the Walking in England website, brings it together in one place. It has hundreds of walks to download and to print, free, with walks from half a mile to more than twelve miles, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, so everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

It also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group the information is there in one place. So check out the website and get walking.

**John Harris**

[john@walkinginengland.co.uk](mailto:john@walkinginengland.co.uk)

## DEDDINGTON FOUR FARMS CHALLENGE

Affectionately abbreviated to the 'Four Farms', the challenge has been running (no pun intended) since 2014 and its fun, frolics and farmyard muck was much missed in 2020 and 2021. After its two year absence the challenge is back on Saturday 22 May.

It is a local charity, split equally between the Deddington Fire Service, PTA and PFSU. The fun-run offers a 5k and 10k option, together with family entertainment into the early afternoon. Local 'celebrity' coffee, Buzzy Beans, will be there and there will be a barbecue, bar, snack and tuck stalls, alongside young children's entertainment.

We have new sponsors, an injection of energy with new members behind its organisation and plenty of fresh blood which has arrived in the parish and beyond during the 'Covid years'. The updated website is now up and running and entries are already being taken on [www.fourfarmschallenge.run](http://www.fourfarmschallenge.run).

**Sophie McCarthy**

[sophieemcc@gmail.com](mailto:sophieemcc@gmail.com)

## WE'RE BACK – DEDDINGTON FESTIVAL 2022 IS ON!

We are excited to announce that, for the first time since 2019, the Deddington Festival will be back again, for one day only, on Saturday 2 July.

We are bringing back some of your favourite events so that the whole family can come along and enjoy a wonderful day of music, arts and culture. The ever-popular Children's Festival will kick off the day, followed by the high octane Deddy Carfest and moving into an evening of top class music at Deddy Rocks. An art exhibition, showcasing our local talent, will also be running throughout the day so get creating. To top it off there will be delicious food and drink available.



Put Saturday, 2 July, into your diaries and come along for an amazing day out!

Watch out for further news of the Deddington Festival in subsequent issues and follow us on Facebook to keep up to date.

Also, if you like organising and running events we're looking for volunteers to join the festival committee. please email me for details of how you can get involved.

**Elli Ince**

***mrs.elli.ince@gmail.com***

## DEDDINGTON HOUSING ASSOCIATION

The Deddington Housing Association management committee is a small group of volunteer trustees who manage and oversee the upkeep of the five Holly Tree properties in Earls Lane, Deddington. 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 will shortly have a fully refurbished one-bedroom bungalow available to let. It is anticipated that this will be available in early April 2022. Expressions

of interest can be registered, in the first instance, via email to [chair@thedha.org](mailto:chair@thedha.org) or by post to Stella O'Neill, DHA Chair, c/o College Farm Cottage, 5 Hopcraft Lane, Deddington, Oxon OX15 0TD. The closing date is mid-day Saturday 5 March 2022. Those whose expression of interest proves they meet the charity criteria will be sent a full application form for completion, following which, shortlisting, interview and appointment will be carried out.

***Stella O'Neill, Chair***



**Friends of Deddington Library**

# PHOTO COMPETITION

Winning entries will be featured in the 2023 Deddington Parish Calendar!

Once again, we are inviting you to enter your photos celebrating Deddington, Clifton and Hempton.

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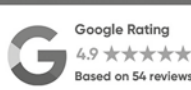
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## LETTERS

FROM JEAN RUDGE,  
DEDDINGTON

It is with great sadness and regret that the committee of Deddington Day Centre (aka Windmill Thursday Club) has to announce its permanent closure. We are proud to have served the community for over twenty years, providing an entertaining day out with a hot meal for elderly, frail or vulnerable members of Deddington and surrounding villages. Over the years we have had hundreds of clients, some of them dating back to the very beginning and still with us. Everyone involved, including staff and volunteers, enjoyed the day and much fun was had. It was also good to know that family and carers had a day of respite with peace of mind and we have received many appreciative comments. One of our favourites was 'It's like having another family.'

We have weathered many crises, including the withdrawal of funding from OCC but Covid was a final challenge we could not meet. We would like to offer our sincere thanks to everyone who has supported us over the years – charitable organisations, parish councils, local organisations and many individuals, including our volunteers past and present, without whom the Centre could not have functioned. All financial assets have been transferred to other, similar charities, so the good work will continue, but, sadly without us.

FROM THE CHURCHYARD MOWING TEAM

Unfortunately, we are experiencing a large increase in the amount of dog mess to be found around the upper and lower churchyards. Not only is this unpleasant to see but it is a health hazard. It does not seem right that our volunteer mowing team has to clear the mess before mowing can commence.

Please may we respectfully remind dog walkers that the churchyards are visited by all and to be mindful that they are consecrated areas.

FROM A HEMPTON RESIDENT  
(Name And Address Supplied)

Following John Price's article in February's *DN* regarding BT Digital Voice, I thought readers might be interested in my recent appalling experience when I decided to have it installed. I opted for an alternative to Digital Voice, which turned out to be unavailable. I was given an installation date so took an unpaid day off only to find the engineers were only doing the outside work and I would be contacted by BT to make an appointment for the internal work. They made an appointment for a couple of weeks later which I only discovered when I happened to look at my account, for which again I had to take an unpaid day off. When the engineer arrived he told me I had to have Digital Voice as the other option had been withdrawn.

After he completed the installation the broadband worked but not the telephone and he told me it could take up to 24 hours for it to do so. I actually had no

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

telephone service at all for three weeks and no incoming service for a further five weeks. I lost count of the number of mobile calls, texts and emails both sent and received to and from BT. It was finally resolved when I made a formal complaint to the CEO but only by having a new number, with the work entailed in informing all my contacts of the change.

BT gave me an insulting amount of compensation which the ombudsman rated as more than fair, although certainly not in my eyes. Anyone considering having this service installed should think long and hard about it, especially if running a business from home. It could ruin them.

FROM AGE UK OXFORDSHIRE

Age UK Oxfordshire has launched a new scams prevention and support programme for older people in Oxfordshire. We are able to offer group talks to raise awareness of scams and also one-to-one sessions for those who have been affected by scams.

Sophisticated scams have been increasing during the pandemic with criminals devising more ways to target those they believe to be vulnerable. This means it's more vital to support those who may be at greater risk.

We're pleased to be launching the Age UK Scams Prevention and Support Programme in the Oxfordshire area. Scams can have a devastating effect on older victims – in England and Wales an older person becomes a victim of fraud every 40 seconds, which is over 800,000 older people every year. This shows just how important this programme is to try and keep older people in Oxfordshire as safe as possible when it comes to financial crime.

Contact: 0345 450 1276. [https://www.ageuk.org.uk/globalassets/age-uk/documents/information-guides/ageukig05\\_avoiding\\_scams\\_inf.pdf](https://www.ageuk.org.uk/globalassets/age-uk/documents/information-guides/ageukig05_avoiding_scams_inf.pdf) [https://www.ageuk.org.uk/globalassets/age-uk/documents/information-guides/ageukig01\\_staying\\_safe\\_inf.pdf](https://www.ageuk.org.uk/globalassets/age-uk/documents/information-guides/ageukig01_staying_safe_inf.pdf).

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## NEWS FROM HEMPTON

Congratulations to the Hempton Halfwits; they proved to be anything but, winning the 8 February Unicorn Inn quiz.

Gardens are waking up early this year with bulbs pushing out their tender green leaves. The local deer or rabbit population has also noticed this seasonal delicacy on the menu. They don't eat snowdrops or daffodils because they are toxic, but will munch your tulips and lilies down to the ground. I have swathes of bluebells which have been decimated. I believe muntjak deer are partial to bluebell leaves. Memo to self, fix the fence!

A neighbour has also had trouble with the local fauna. Itinerant mice took up residence in their car. A worrying development as they like destroying upholstery for nesting material or chewing through electrical wiring. They were politely invited to get lost by employment of peppermint oil to deter them and humane traps laced with bait. They ignored the peppermint, or wore gas masks, and made off with the bait, grateful for a free supply of M&Ms and peanut butter (chunky by preference), whilst avoiding incarceration. Regrettably, a last desperate, less polite solution was needed. I wonder if they were related to Frankie and Benjy? They, too, may have been searching for the answer to the ultimate question. If you see the Vagon Constructor Fleet, call Jeff Bezos; you need to get off the planet, pronto. No, it wasn't a Ford Prefect they infested.

Whilst strolling along Summer Ley and Snake Hill I noticed a continuous series of little mounds of white powder on the edge of the pathway. They were spaced regularly at about 10 metre intervals. Where there was an alternative pathway a narrow line of powder replaced the mound. Half way up the steep rise on Snake Hill, opposite the badger set, powder was laid

in an X. I later saw similar marks in Barford St Michael.

There are countless posts online by intrigued observers of the phenomenon, imagining all manner of explanations from thieves marking houses, scent trails for hunting dogs, markers for terrorists, poison laid for pets or wildlife, to cocaine dropped by drug dealers. The answer is more mundane as any enthusiastic trail runner will know and is the trail left by 'Hash House Harriers' or 'Hashers', a worldwide network of runners, established in 1938, who take part in non-competitive events which often include socialising at local pubs. They use flour to mark the route because it's cheap, washed away easily by rain, friendly to flora and fauna and highly visible in all but snow or on chalk.

Hashing originated in what is now Malaysia. A group of British colonials got together to organise a regular paper chase. The title 'Hash House Harriers' is derived from a slang expression for the local canteen they patronised which served mediocre food, 'hash' being slang for bad food. In 1962 a second chapter or 'kennel' was founded in Singapore.

The phenomenon has since spread worldwide and there are now variations on the original theme including bike hashes, river or snorkel hashes, snowshoe and ski 'skashes', special competitive events such as hash-a-thons, tour-duh-hash, sash challenges and tri-hash-thon combining run, swim and bike hashes. In 1987, Donna Rhinehart, a spectator, wearing a red dress, at a Long Beach hash grew bored and joined in. Red Dress runs round the globe now raise millions for charity. The Snake Hill trail may have been laid by North Oxfordshire Social Hash (NOSH) but there are a number of possible kennels in the area.

**Stuart Oldham**

**[sj\\_oldham@btinternet.com](mailto:sj_oldham@btinternet.com)**

The winter months have been a good time to tackle my pending tray. An article about the *Hancox Family* is now

available on the History website. A photograph from circa 1887 of the village football team with David Hancox in it made me wonder when Deddington Football Club was formed. The answer lay in a newspaper cutting provided by John Plumbe with the intriguing information that it was the Cricket Club that formed it in 1886 in order to continue their gatherings through the winter for both sporting and social activities – the latter being 'convivial suppers' with singing afterwards. Arthur Hancox married Mary Ann Bliss in 1909 so



**History Corner**  
[www.deddingtonhistory.uk](http://www.deddingtonhistory.uk)

research into the Bliss Family inevitably followed. I have also written up the story of the Bull Family who lived in our house

(the Stile House) and whose son Ronald was killed in action just days before the WWI Armistice. Amongst this fascinating research I discovered the *1939 Register of Households* compiled at the start of WWII. In the absence of a 1931 census, which was destroyed by fire, I commend it as a very useful genealogical source. All the above can be found under the heading of *New Articles* at [www.deddingtonhistory.uk](http://www.deddingtonhistory.uk)

**Rob Forsyth**

**[robert.s.forsyth@gmail.com](mailto:robert.s.forsyth@gmail.com)**

## CALLING KEEN GARDENERS

Katharine House Hospice is recruiting gardeners to sign up for its popular Open Gardens scheme this summer and help raise much needed funds for its specialist palliative care provided to area adults with life-limiting conditions.

Residents in local villages open their gardens to

the public who either buy tickets or make a donation.

To volunteer or to find out more about the Open Gardens scheme, contact Sandra Price on [GetInvolved@khh.org.uk](mailto:GetInvolved@khh.org.uk) or visit the KHH website at [khh.org.uk/gardens](http://khh.org.uk/gardens).



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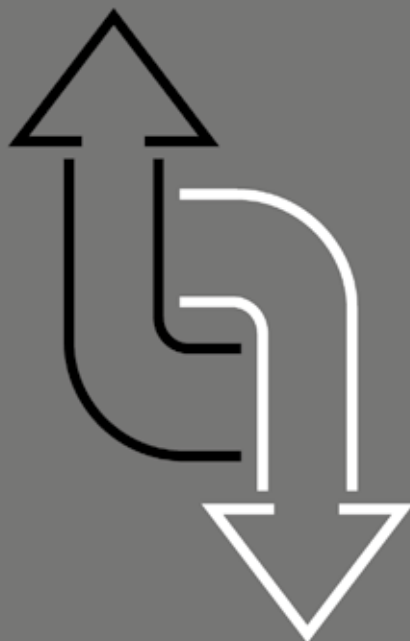
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## CALLING ALL CLUBS

### Photographic Society

What an inspiring evening the club had listening to Will Gray talk about 'British Wildlife Adventures'. Will is an award-winning photographer of over 30 years. He gave us a pictorial tour of Scotland and information on how to deal with problems from salt spray on the camera and exposure issues to set-ups with hides. He emphasised that practise and taking considered images is the way to hone your craft. Firing off hundreds of shots without being patient and moving up, down and around to find that pleasing composition will prove fruitless, especially when wildlife do not do what you expect. Will also presented some of his less successful shots to show how he worked to find the ideal whilst out in the field.

There are so many nature reserves and wildlife areas that can be found just a few miles from any major motorway or city that any photographer should find time to try to capture wildlife. However, please remember to respect the creature and its habitat. I recommend Will's wonderful website where you will find not only his great images but also details of his book *Family Wildlife Adventures* that gives ideas on where to stay for wildlife exploration.

Our next talk is by John Lewis on 'Composition for the Viewer' on Wednesday 2 March at 7.30pm at the Adderbury Institute. Please check our website for any changes.

**Anne Hunsley** [www.addphoto.co.uk](http://www.addphoto.co.uk)

### Local Vocals Community Choir

We're carrying out an experiment this term. For the first time we have both the words and the music. The consensus seems to be that this is helpful, even for those who don't read music, as you can at least see if the note goes up or down. We're also delighted to have a couple of new members to swell the alto and baritone sections. Next term we'll choose a new song put forward by members which will add to our growing repertoire. Not sure my Stormzy choice will get many votes!

We meet on Mondays at 7.30pm during term time in the primary school hall.

To find out more about our choir (including our Covid protocols) or to contact us please go to our website [www.localvocalscc.co.uk](http://www.localvocalscc.co.uk)

**Alison Grieve**

### Deddington Players

The show WILL go on! We are delighted to say that our pantomime, *Peter Pan*, will now be performed on 24–26 March. Join Wendy, Peter, Tinkerbell and the gang as they go on an adventure in Neverland and escape the dastardly clutches of Captain Hook and his band of not-so-scary pirates. There are new friends along the way, rousing tunes and loads of laughs and silliness. And don't forget the tick, tick, tock of that croc.

Performances at the Windmill are: Thursday 24 March 7.30pm, Friday 25 March 7.30pm and Saturday 26 March 2.30pm and 6.30pm. Tickets are £4/child, £5/

concessions, £6/adult on sale now at [www.ticketsource.co.uk/deddington-players](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/deddington-players) and you can follow all the pre-show fun at rehearsals on our Facebook page, @DeddingtonPlayers. We would like to say a huge thank you to all our fellow Windmill users who have kindly accommodated our rescheduled dates and to the Windmill Management Team for their hard work in supporting our new dates. We are very grateful and hope you enjoy the show.

**Suzie Upson** [suzieupson@mac.com](mailto:suzieupson@mac.com)

### Book Group

*Dark Fire* is the second in CJ Sansom's series of mysteries set in the reign of Henry VIII and featuring the lawyer, Matthew Shardlake. In this novel Shardlake has two cases to solve; the first, a girl charged with murdering her young cousin. She refuses to plead her innocence and faces a terrible death but Shardlake obtains a temporary reprieve in exchange for undertaking a task for Thomas Cromwell. He must find the secret formula for Greek Fire, the substance with which the Byzantines destroyed the Arab navies.

Overall, we found the book an enjoyable and intriguing page-turner, although some of us felt it was over long and needed some editing. The characters are well drawn, whether fictional or real historical figures. The initially spiky relationship between the cultured hunchback, Shardlake, and his brash young assistant, Barak, develops convincingly. Sansom's impressive knowledge of the period enables him to create a multi-layered and atmospheric picture of politics, religious upheavals and other aspects of society in Tudor England.

Our next meeting is on Thursday 31 March. Please contact Sally Lambert on 01869 338094 for details.

**Sian Waterman**

### Bookworms

At our last meeting we discussed *Flight* by Isabel Ashdown, a book that did not live up to its promising reviews.

Similar to our previous read, *Missing Rose*, the story is of secrets and lies. Wren and Rob have a seemingly happy marriage made complete with the arrival of a new baby, Phoebe. However, one day Wren leaves both Rob and the baby with no explanation or details of her whereabouts. Over 20 years, life goes on with Rob finding happiness with their best friend Laura, raising Phoebe between them.

Laura eventually tracks Wren down in North Cornwall, where she has been living in seclusion for the past 20 years. Parts are thought provoking, touching on post-natal depression and the effects of guilt held for many years. It was an easy but frustrating read.

This month we are reading *The Horseman* by Tim Pears. We have a couple of places if anyone would like to join us. We meet on the last Thursday of each month. Please feel free to contact me for more information.

**Janet Macey** 01869 336156

## CALLING ALL CLUBS

Continued from p25

### Royal British Legion Deddington Branch

There has been little activity but I can report on two positive things. The new metal frame around the War Memorial base has held the Remembrance Sunday wreaths firmly in place throughout the winter weather. Secondly, Deddington Town Football Club Veterans (aka DUST VETS) held a Christmas raffle that resulted in £560 being donated to the Poppy Appeal fund. A big thank you to the 'old boys.'

**Rob Forsyth** [robert.s.forsyth@gmail.com](mailto:robert.s.forsyth@gmail.com)

## SPORT

### Deddington Town Football Club

#### First Team

2.01.22	Arncott Athletic (h) (CUP)	W 11-0
29.01.22	Kings Sutton (a)	W 3-1
05.02.22	Wroxton Sports FC (h)	W 4-2

#### Reserve Team

29.01.22	Steeple Aston 1st (h)	D 2-2
05.02.22	Steeple Aston 1st (a) (CUP)	L 0-3

This was a much better month from the First Team despite a plethora of postponements and cancellations. Opening with an annihilation of Arncott, the Humbugs put on a swashbuckling display, cracking in double figures as an unplayable Joe Thornton snaffled five goals. Back-to-back victories in the league have taken them clear of the dregs and looking up for the remainder of the season. The Latics have not done quite so well. Although they picked up a valuable point in the league grudge match against Steeple Aston, they conspired to lose the reverse cup fixture in dismal fashion. Of course, there's much to play for, mostly rearranged fixtures, so how the season finale plays out is anyone's guess at this point.

**Aaron Bliss** 07909 642882

### Deddington Town Youth Teams

The Under 15s, playing in the WDYFL B Spring League, have had a mixed set of results – a 2-3 away victory at Bampton Town, with two goals for James Marrett; a 1-3 home defeat to Carterton, a 3-6 away victory at Chadlington with five goals for Ben Jones, and a narrow 2-3 home defeat to Combe after leading 2-0 at half-time. The Under 13s, also playing in the WDYFL C Spring League, have been on a good run – an 0-8 away victory at Witney Vikings with a hat-trick for Theo Flint, followed by a 1-1 draw at home to Banbury Irish, 2-2 away draw at Banbury United Spencer, and 1-1 draw with Bloxham. The Under 12s, playing in the Oxfordshire Youth Football League, had an 0-6 away victory at Abingdon Youth, followed by an 0-4 away victory at Rose Hill. In the Under 12 Cup, the game against Didcot Town ended 2-2 but Deddington made it through 3-2 on penalties into the next round.

We are planning our Youth Presentation Day on Sunday 12 June 2022 from 1.30pm at the Windmill Centre. We are looking for local companies to sponsor the event – trophies, event programme, raffle prizes, or the event overall. If you are interested email

[carsykes@btinternet.com](mailto:carsykes@btinternet.com) for further information.

Further information about the club is on our website, [www.deddingtontownfc.com](http://www.deddingtontownfc.com). Or visit us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/DeddingtonTownFc](https://www.facebook.com/DeddingtonTownFc)

**Roger Sykes** 07899 914425

### Deddington Tennis Club

As we start seeing signs of spring, maybe you're thinking about dusting off your racket and getting back on the tennis court. Playing tennis means different things to different people and there are lots of things on offer at the club to suit all requirements.

If you're interested in competing, we have teams playing midweek and weekend leagues, as reported last month. We also run a friendly Box League competition with one round a month. Our juniors have teams competing at various age groups in the Oxfordshire League.

For many people, tennis is a social occasion as well as good exercise. The club has social sessions running four times a week: Tuesday morning from 10.15am, Wednesday evening from 6.00pm and Sunday morning 11.00am-1.00pm. You can just turn up and play. On Thursday afternoon there is an All Play All format starting at 1.00pm. For this one you need to sign up.

Maybe you haven't picked up a racket for quite some time and would like some coaching to get you back into tennis. We run adult and junior group and individual coaching all year round, weather permitting, for all ages and all levels. If you'd like to know more, please email Paul Taylor on [paultaylortennis@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:paultaylortennis@hotmail.co.uk).

For information about all our activities please check our website, [www.deddingtontennis.com](http://www.deddingtontennis.com).

**Becky Jones** [www.deddingtontennis.com](http://www.deddingtontennis.com)

## YOUTH

### 1st Deddington Scout Group


#### Cubs

This month Cubs have enjoyed finishing some of their Pioneer badge activities, involving learning knots and lashings. We have also had activities focused on road safety; learning the Green Cross Code, how to behave safely as a car passenger or driver, and studying different road signs and types of road crossings.

We had a special evening learning about Chinese New Year. We are lucky enough to have a Cub in our pack with Chinese heritage who taught us to say Happy New Year in Mandarin, how to make paper decorations, and shared some Chinese food with us. Thank you to Will and his family for sharing a bit of their culture with us. Also thanks Popular Chinese Takeaway for donating fortune cookies for the Cubs. We played great team games related to the Chinese Zodiac and used chopsticks to lift individual peas between bowls with lots of noise and lots of fun. In the run-up to half term we are looking forward to visiting Deddington Fire station and we are grateful to the



Continued on p29

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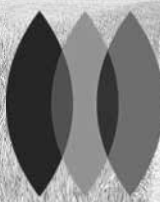
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**YOUTH** ————— *Continued from p26*  
local Fire Service for accommodating our visit to this important community service.

**Paul Honess** [deddingtoncubs@gmail.com](mailto:deddingtoncubs@gmail.com)

#### Scouts

Global issues and the world outside Deddington have been the Scouts' focus recently: finding out where things are manufactured and why, looking at the possibility of international harmony through sporting events (the jury's still out) and natural disasters. Did you know there's a 'top ten' of disasters based on loss of life? We divided the Scouts up, gave them a disaster to investigate, after which they presented a news report. Then, for a little light relief, they played a game called Diseases and Antidotes – much more fun than it sounds.

The next topic was for the International Badge – we picked Switzerland from a selection of countries after Toblerone was mentioned. They learned to say, 'Where are the toilets, please?', in French, German, Italian and Romansh which links nicely with our toilet-twinning fundraising topic. A quiz, a game of ice hockey and boulder throwing (a national sport apparently) rounded off the evening.

**Pete Churchyard**  
[deddingtonscouts@gmail.com](mailto:deddingtonscouts@gmail.com)

As you might notice, after 22 years, I've stepped away from running the Cub Pack and have handed it over to Paul. I have enjoyed every moment of being Akela and I thank all the parents who (probably unwisely) allowed me access to their children. Don't worry they'll get over it in the end, the nightmares can't last forever! I haven't left the group completely; I'm still interfering at Scouts (although I like to think of it as helping) and have taken over the role of Group Scout Leader.

I hope Paul has as much fun as I've had and the Cub Pack continues to thrive. Thanks again to all the parents and carers who have helped me over the years, I couldn't have done it without you.

**Jo Churchyard.**

#### 1st Deddington Brownies

This month we have been working on our Innovation badge and perfecting our sewing skills. We are planning a big Promise ceremony for just before half-term for the Brownies who have joined us since September.

**Fern Stringer**  
[deddingtonbrownies@gmail.com](mailto:deddingtonbrownies@gmail.com)

#### DEDDINGTON ENVIRONMENT NETWORK

With Easter approaching, we thought we'd look at how we can help to make chocolate a more environmentally and ethically sustainable treat. Experts estimate that chocolate ranks just below red meat in terms of eco-unfriendly foods. Why is that?

Cacao beans (which are roasted before being turned into chocolate) like the humid, shady climate conditions found around the equator. One of the main problems is deforestation - the cutting down of older trees for new mono-crop plantations. In the Ivory Coast, the largest exporter, 80% of traditional forest has been lost to cacao farming in the last 50 years, leading to the release of carbon-dioxide and driving global warming, and loss of crucial biodiversity. Shade-loving cacao plants can still fruit in full sun but at a much lower yield and they need much more water, pesticides, and herbicides to thrive. This is quite enough to give chocolate a bad name but, additionally, ¾ of chocolate eaten in this country is milk chocolate which is likely to be made with refined sugar (another monocrop), unsustainable palm-oil and methane-producing cows' milk. That's before we even start to look at the manufacturing processes and transportation.

There is hope. New techniques in cacao farming including planting under the shade of existing hardwood trees, with other crops as well as new pruning and harvesting techniques have helped maximised cropping and reduced rainforest destruction.

What steps can we take to help? Choose dark chocolate over milk or choose vegan milk chocolate. Be aware of excess packaging – avoid small packets, Easter Eggs wrapped in foil and packaged in plastic. Consider buying bars not eggs. Look out for Rainforest Alliance/UTZ certified brands. Check labels for ingredients and try to avoid palm oil. Recent changes have meant that only 20% of ingredients must now be Fairtrade to receive Fairtrade status, so Direct Trade is even better to avoid links with child and slave labour.

Some of the best eco-friendly and ethical brands: Seed and Bean, Divine, Love Cocoa, Traidcraft, Moo Free, Cocoa Loco, Tony's Chocolonely, Booja Booja, Montezuma's and Hotel Chocolat. Some to avoid are Mondelez/Cadbury, Mars, Ferrero Rocher, Thorntons, Green & Black and Nestle.

Join our next Litter Pick on Sunday 13 March at 3.00pm. Bags and pickers supplied. Email [info@deddingtonenvironment.net](mailto:info@deddingtonenvironment.net) if you can join us.

**Fiona Smith**  
[fionasmith1969@gmail.com](mailto:fionasmith1969@gmail.com)

#### FRIENDS OF CASTLE GROUNDS

The late Terry Clinch was a former chairman of the Friends of Castle Grounds where he was well known for his consummate fundraising and energy during his time with the Friends.

Hopefully the bird boxes will be put in place on 17 February when tree works are carried out. Plans are in place for the wall on the south east corner and the chain fence in the south west corner to be repaired in the near future.

The AGM will take place on Wednesday 9 March at the Deddington Arms meeting room at 7.30. Please come and find out the work that has been carried out this year and the plans for the future. We are always looking for new committee members to help us to maintain this historic and wonderful site.

**Carol Garrett**  
[cgarrett@btinternet.com](mailto:cgarrett@btinternet.com)

## HOLLY TREE CLUB

It's lovely to see the coffee mornings continuing to be well supported but, due to the Covid infection risk, outings remain suspended. We hope to resume them around Easter when, with the hope of better weather, there will be more interest in going out and a greater variety of suitable places to visit. There is no news yet about film nights returning, although we are constantly in touch with Age UK about this. We are beginning to plan a Holly Tree Club celebration for members, commemorating the Queen's platinum jubilee. It will be 'Afternoon Tea with Fizz' on Wednesday 1 June, allowing the bank holiday weekend dates to be left free to attend any other events.

Since so many people are being targeted by scams these days we are investigating the possibility of hav-



ing an informational talk at a future coffee morning. Meanwhile we suggest that anyone contacted by telephone and unsure whether the call is genuine should hang up immediately and then call a family member or friend to check the line is clear and not still connected to the scammers. They tend to hold on and wait for you to phone your bank to check that your account is secure and get your account details that way. Never phone your bank straight away; always wait at least 10 minutes before following up with any call to a bank. Never give personal details, regardless of how much information they seem to know about you already. However plausible the caller seems to be, they are probably not genuine. These are very clever criminals!

**Julia Cork** [Julia.cork@thedha.org](mailto:Julia.cork@thedha.org)

## FROM THE FIRE STATION

An exceptionally busy month for the fire station, with just over 20 call-outs consisting of eight fires, four rescues, four alarms, four standbys and one hazardous materials incident.

Training has been intense with two exercises taking place at the Horton Hospital and Moreton-in-Marsh Fire College. A third training scenario had to be cancelled as crews were busy with a real life incident.

Garin Wilby, Adam Perry and Corrie King all passed their BA theory exam and Ben Fenemore is now a fully trained BA leader. The nurse school had a visit from the fire station. The children inspected the truck and were allowed to have



a go shooting water from the firehose reel – too much amusement.

Although we are not currently recruiting, the recruitment truck has been resident at the station to raise awareness of the fire service and all it provides for the community.

As always, please be mindful of the continued low sun and frosty mornings when driving and, as home fires are still welcome in the evening, please inspect your chimneys and get them swept if necessary.

**James Greenwood FFD**  
[James@cyclogicalshop.co.uk](mailto:James@cyclogicalshop.co.uk)

## NO MOW MAY – AND JUNE?

The Parish Council is considering a suggestion that we don't cut the green spaces and roadside verges around the parish during May – and possibly June – this year. It's good for the environment in general and it especially encourages pollinating bees and plantlife. Examples are Goose Green, Gaveston Green and the Windmill Street and Hempton greens. And extending the 'no cuts' into June would give plants like orchids time to set seed. The contractor will leave a mown strip around the edges so the grass doesn't flop on to the road.

Exceptions will be the sports pitches, play areas, cemetery and any stretch of verge where road safety demands good sight lines. And the Castle Grounds for dog walkers, and the Four Farms Challenge set for 22 May.

We probably won't save any money this year but if it is popular, it could be built into the next mowing contract from 2023.

Is this a good idea?

**Mary Robinson**  
[Maryrobinson.dpc@gmail.com](mailto:Maryrobinson.dpc@gmail.com)

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**Maureen Dew**

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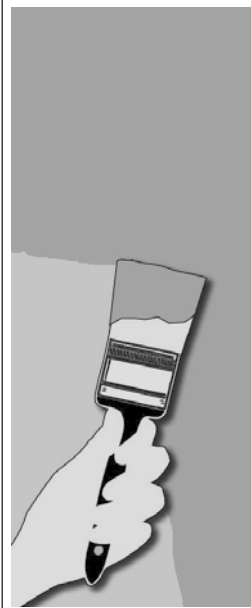
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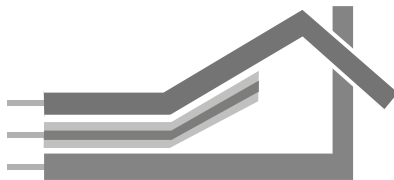
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DEDDINGTON CHURCHES See section inside

