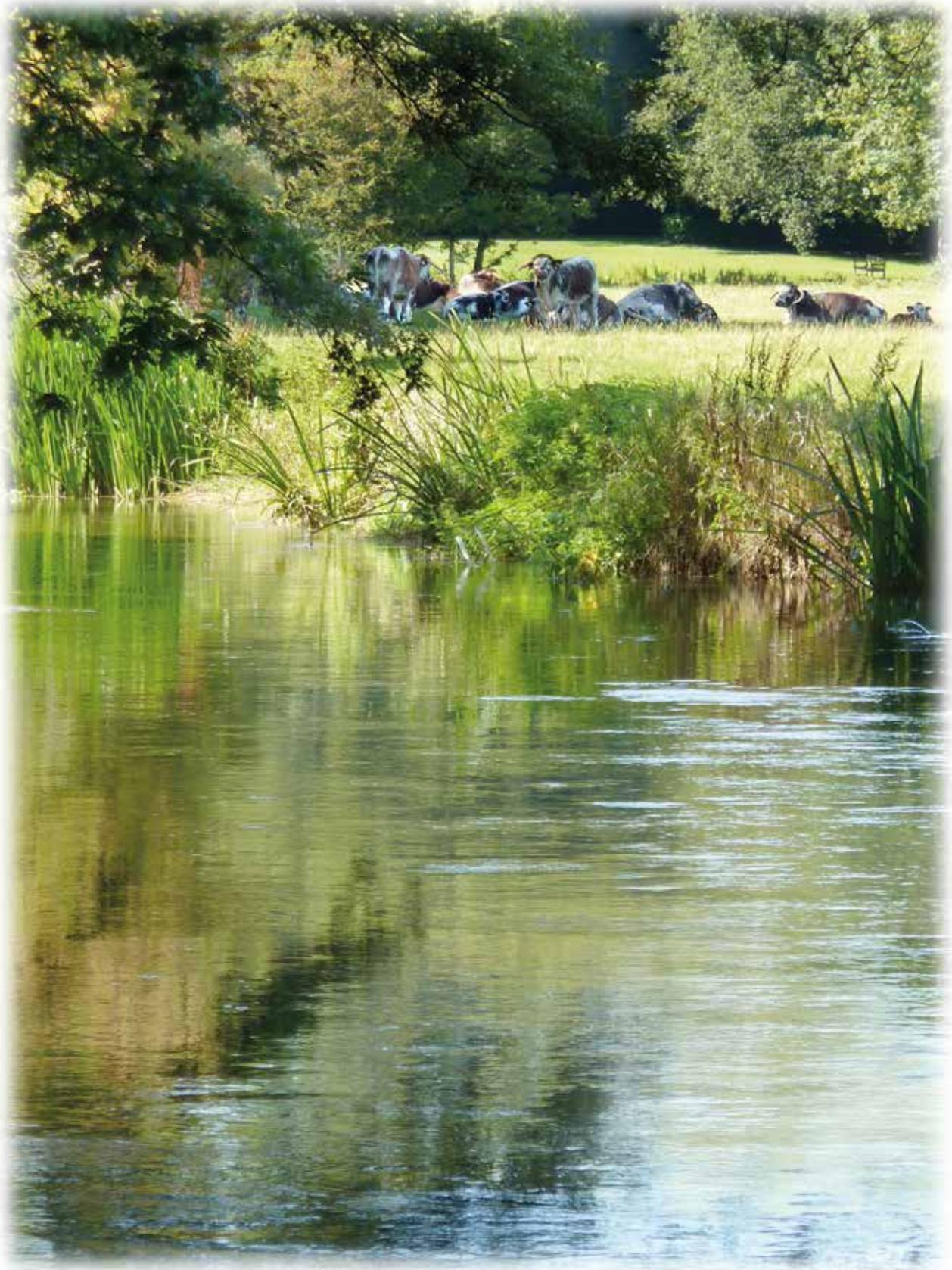
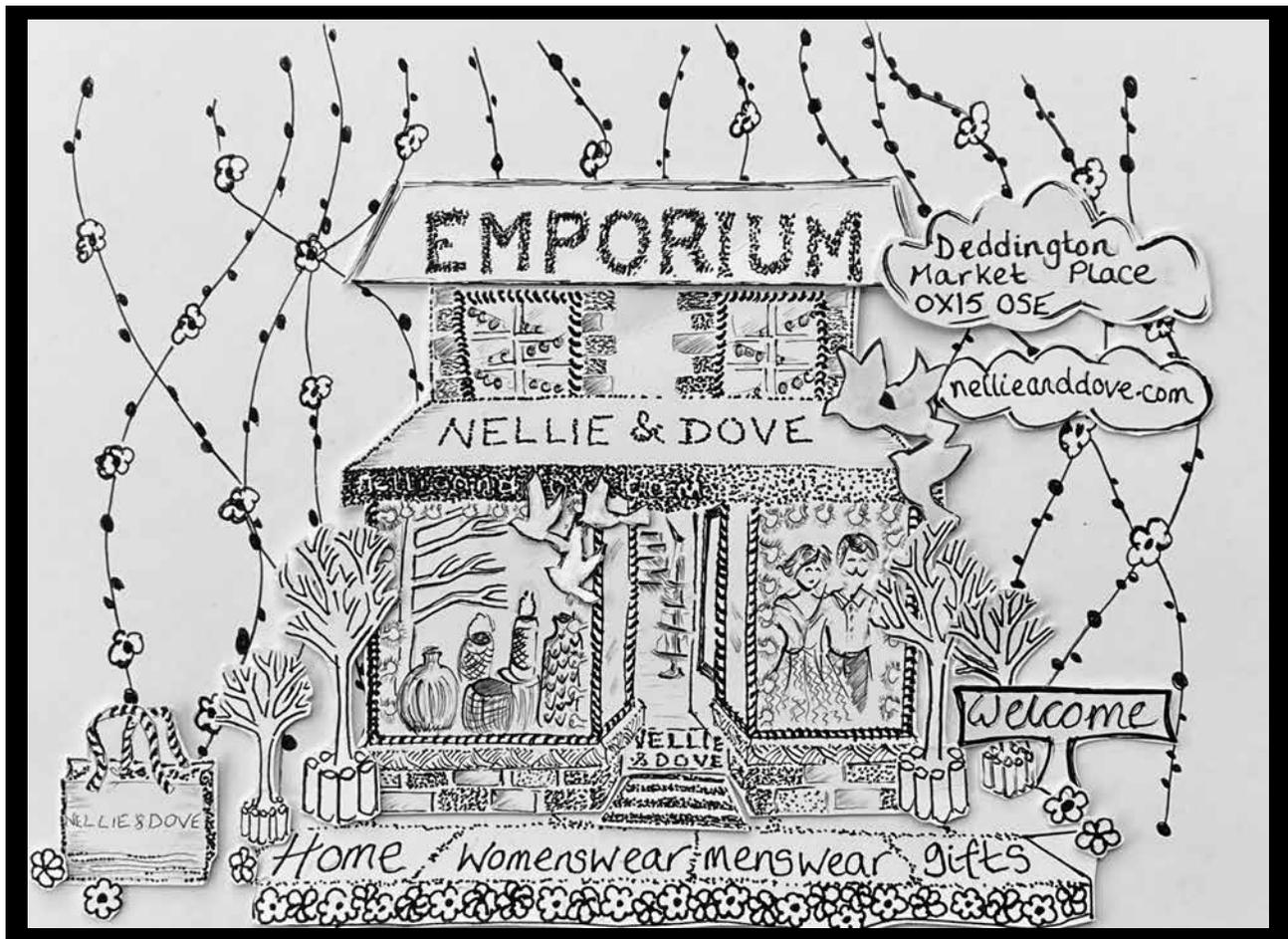


May 2022

# *The* **DEDDINGTON NEWS**



Delivered free to Deddington, Clifton and Hempton



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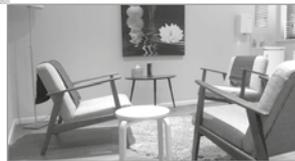
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## THE TEAM

**YOUR EDITOR THIS MONTH:**  
JILL CHEESEMAN

**JUNE 2022 COPY TO**  
JILL CHEESEMAN  
editor@deddingtonnews.co.uk  
by **14 MAY**

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**EDITORS**  
Jill Cheeseman  
01869 338609  
Catherine Desmond  
01869 337657  
editor@deddingtonnews.co.uk

**MONTHLY ADS  
& INSERTS**  
Anne Hunsley  
01869 338360  
monthly@deddingtonnews.co.uk

**ANNUAL ADS**  
Pat Sedgley  
annuals@deddingtonnews.co.uk

**WHAT'S ON**  
Alison Day  
whatson@deddingtonnews.co.uk

**CLUBS**  
Alison Day  
01869 337204  
clubs@deddingtonnews.co.uk

**PARISH COUNCIL**  
Jill Cheeseman  
01869 338609

**DISTRIBUTION**  
Netia Piercy and team  
01869 338191

**TREASURER**  
Jane Price  
01869 337586  
treasurer@deddingtonnews.co.uk

**COVER**  
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## The DEDDINGTON NEWS

Apparently there are some pretty low-key Platinum Jubilee events going on in Deddington. It's a bit of a sad reflection on what we've had in the past, see p6.

However, there's a one day Deddington Festival on 2 July to look forward to with quite a lot crammed in to the one day: an art exhibition, DeddyRocks, Children's Festival and CarFest. See p18 for details. Before that, there's Oxfordshire Artweeks providing just over three weeks of wall-to-wall art of all kinds, some of it within walking distance, see p25. Deddington Players succeeded in getting their act together with Peter Pan and the most charming Captain Hook I've ever seen.

DN has donated profits from advertising revenue to local good causes: £2,000 to Friends of Deddington Church, £400 for the Archive Group, and £600 to Katharine House.

STOP PRESS:

Deddington Town FC won the Lord Jersey Cup for the first time in 115 years. The game was held on Monday 18 April at Ardley United against Graven Hill, and was decided by a winner in stoppage time – a header from Ash Lowe, after a stoical defensive showing from DTFC.

JC

### What's on

#### May

- Wed 4 Photographic Society: Steve Wilkins, Adderbury Institute, 7.30pm  
Fri 6 Karen Sharp Jazz Quartet, Parish Church, 7.00pm  
Wed 11 DOGS: Frilford Heath Golf Club, 11.30am  
Wed 11 WI: Holly Tree Club, 2.30pm  
Sat 14 Deddington Brass: Home from the Sea Concert, Parish Church, 7.30pm  
Sun 15 Annual Parochial Church Meeting: Parish Church, 11.30am  
Wed 18 Parish Council, 7.30pm  
Thu 19 History Society: The Treatment of Conscientious Objectors in Oxfordshire in World War I, Primary School, 7.30pm  
Sat 21–29 Artweeks: North Oxfordshire including pop-up gallery Deddington Arms, 10.00am–5.00pm daily, Sun 10.00am–4.00pm  
Sun 22 Four Farms Challenge: Primary School and PFSU family fun run, Castle Grounds, 10.30am  
Thu 26 Book Group: Contact Sally Lambert on 01869 338094  
Thu 26 Bookworms: Holly Tree Club, 6.30pm  
Sat 28 Farmers' Market: Market Place, 9.00am–12.30pm

#### June

- Wed 1 Holly Tree Club: Jubilee Celebration Party  
Thu 2 Platinum Jubilee: 1950s Themed Quiz Night  
Sat 4 Platinum Jubilee: Street Party, 2.00–5.00pm, free but ticket required for catering purposes  
Wed 8 WI: Holly Tree Club, 2.30pm  
Sat 11 Summer Craft Fayre: Windmill Centre, 10.00am–1.00pm

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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## WELL REMEMBERED JOHN OSBOROUGH 1956–2021

John Osborough died suddenly last summer. He was well-known and loved in Deddington, involving himself in many church activities and was minutes secretary for the parish council in his early days in the village. He could often be seen in the Deddington Arms with his morning coffee and on his favourite bench on the village green.

John, my cousin, was born in 1956, the only son of David and Anne Osborough, in Londonderry, Northern Ireland, where he grew up and went to school. We both remembered Derry fondly, with its steep streets, fine city walls and beautiful river Foyle in the decade before the Troubles.

John and I were only children and during school holidays, when my family always returned to Northern Ireland, we met with other family members and enjoyed ourselves on the sandy beaches of Portrush and day trips to small towns on Lough Swilly in County Donegal, where our family's roots are.

On one such trip, John, then aged about six, announced to my father that he would treat our group of seven to dinner in a local restaurant. Dad gently enquired how much money John had available to spend. 'Sixpence', John announced and my Dad, hiding a smile, said that would be absolutely fine.

John, like so many other children in Northern Ireland, led a very restricted social life during the Troubles. He was quiet natured and enjoyed reading, painting and making models, all hobbies which served him well at this time. He was particularly interested in art, keenly observing architecture, ships and the sea, which featured then, as later, in his talented paintings and drawings. His family moved home twice from the danger of the inner city. His father and grandfather, a Somme veteran, had served in both World Wars. John's father served in Italy and later in India.

In the mid 1970s, John came to England to study

and work first in Bristol and later in Birmingham and we remained in touch over the years. He was widely travelled throughout Europe. His lively interest in literature and the arts sparked a fulfilling friendship with my husband, Gerard, over the last 20 years, particularly during the times he spent with us, when the two of them went to the cinema and for drinks afterwards.

John had varied work experiences. In the early 80s he worked in prosthetics and rehabilitation for the NHS at Selly Oak Hospital, Birmingham, where his gentle approach was appreciated. He worked later for the DHSS in Birmingham for a number of years, leaving to gain a degree in business before returning to Northern Ireland where he worked for the NI Law Centre. His work involved offering free legal advice and support on a range of issues and he enjoyed the work and was popular with his colleagues.

Following bereavements of five close family members, including his parents, John left Northern Ireland and eventually settled in Deddington in 2001. He became an active member of the parish until health issues caused him to step back.

John's showed immense courage in the face of his declining mental and physical health during recent years, particularly his often daily battle with depression. Even the smallest tasks of life are exhausting, and he bravely battled his demons, telling me in phone calls that he was 'just chugging along'. His legacy is his charming, soft-spoken courtesy and kindly disposition. He was a deeply spiritual person who is loved more than he ever knew. May he rest in peace.

John was a resident at the Holly Tree Cottages in Earls Lane. Deddington Housing Association that manages the cottages have recently placed a memorial plaque on 'his' bench on the green.

**Elizabeth Beattie**

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## Rousham House and Gardens

Picture by Jane Price

Rare Longhorn cattle are not the only stars of the remarkable and intriguing gardens at Rousham House. Lily James and Dominic West made the most of the location for *The Pursuit Of Love*, last year's BBC series based on a 1945 novel by Nancy Mitford.

Rousham was also a star of the *Around The World In Eighty Gardens* television series and book in which Monty Don declares that William Kent 'is the great genius of 18-century garden design and Rousham is his masterpiece, one of the greatest gardens in the world'. It has also featured in episodes of ITV's *Lewis* and *Endeavour*.

The gardens, open every day, are totally uncommercialised, lacking as they do a tea-room and shop. Dogs are not allowed and children under 15 need permission to visit.



Enjoy features that would have delighted 18th-century users. There are surprises round every bend or twist in the terrain: the ponds and cascades in Venus's Vale, the Cold Bath, and seven arched Praeneste loggia, Townsend's Building, the Temple of the Mill, and — on the skyline — the sham ruin called The Eyecatcher.

The River Cherwell winds its way through the grounds as you as you wander past the startling set-pieces and through the pleasant glades.

The Jacobean house, built in 1635 by Sir Robert Dormer, is still owned by the same family but is open by appointment only. However, you are invited to stay in the gardens all day and to bring a picnic.

Find out more at <https://rousham.org>.



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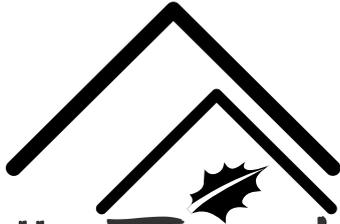
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## POSTCARD FROM AMERICA

After the pain of my knee surgery, now I have the pain of the bills.

The American healthcare system is a horrible mess. I rang the insurance company before going under the knife and no-one was able to tell me what the procedure was going to cost me, I needed a 'procedure code' and no-one could provide that elusive piece of information. Today the bill has arrived for the surgeon. It says his one hour's work is charged at \$5k and his Personal Assistant also cost me \$5k. Then there were 'adjustments', basically discount that the insurance company has negotiated with my man with a knife. In summary, the \$10k charge isn't true, the cost before insurance is really \$6k. This is how the system works. I think most would call it all a con.

By the time I also pay the hospital for their lovely facilities and the man with the drugs, it will have cost me around \$5k. But the service was fantastic. I would thoroughly recommend their lunch menu.

A local family we know well are of Indian origin. Their lovely nine-year old goes to a school where she is the only non-white girl in her class. The kids were pleased in the autumn to be getting back to playing at each others' houses. The girls were playing dress-up when the young one proudly got out her Indian sari to show them. At school the following week, one of the girls told her that she couldn't see her any more because she couldn't play with anyone who didn't believe in Christ. Of course, this attitude was not created by a

nine-year old. Even in liberal Colorado, racism lurks in the corner, unseen.

Last month I had a dose of American history as the theatres re-opened and the musical, *Hamilton*, arrived in Denver. It is an interesting piece that tells the story of a man who had been forgotten in the story of American independence. At the end he dies in a very upper-class English way, defending his honour and getting shot in a duel. My favourite character is George III who appears as an ineffectual fop but he gets one of the best songs. It is a very strong piece of musical theatre that weaves in echoes of the black experience in America; the songs are largely hip-hop. And the audience was all white.

But there are other areas of history that Middle America wants to sweep under the carpet. Some states are now banning books about slavery. American exceptionalism is back. Following the Black Lives Matters protests, many white right-wing groups are pushing back. Colorado is a liberal state but things are moving rapidly in some of the conservative states. You would never think in this day that it could happen but book burning is real again in 2022.

America is a country that chooses which parts of its history to embrace and which to deny. Spring is here in Colorado and, as Heather pushes me around in my bath-chair, I will try to enjoy it.

**Mike Ward**  
*mikew@qsoftware.com*

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## JUBILEES OF THE PAST

### Didn't we do well?

Bryn Williams' call in last month's *DN* for pictures of former Jubilee celebrations in Deddington sent me, first, to the DOL Gallery where there are loads of photos of former jollities, <https://www.deddington.org.uk/gallery/index.php/Jub-for-DOL>. For me, the 1977 Silver Jubilee stood out as a brilliant example of Deddington at its community best. A trawl through back numbers of *DN* filled in the details and I'm sure there are many of you still around who remember the occasion well.

Two things stood out: first, that the whole parish was involved in the celebrations. The planning for the early June event had started the previous November with a vast committee led by the much-loved postmaster and then chairman of the parish council, Ken Garrett. Parish-wide clubs and organisations, church and chapel, PC and school were all in there.

The second takeaway from the *DN* reports

was that the celebration was funded primarily by parishioners themselves, not grants and hand-outs. There were miles of pennies in the Red Lion and Unicorn, on the Town Hall steps and in Hempton; collecting tins in shops; a football match between girls in football boots versus boys in wellies; a sponsored darts match in the Crown & Tuns and sports Pub Superstars in the Kings Arms (now the DeddiArms). £500 was raised – just over £2,700 in today's money.

A run-up fund raiser took place on May Day in the Market Place when the Carnival Queen and Princess (Debbie Churchill and Wendy Daniel) were chosen by the pub landlords. Primary school children solemnly performed traditional maypole and country dancing, the Adderbury Morris Men did their stuff and the honourable tradition of dwyle flunking was less solemnly performed. I still have no idea what was going on apart from men in white smocks with string round their trousers dancing round in a circle and drinking beer from a chamber pot – you need to see the pics in the Gallery to believe it.

The week-long celebration started on Saturday with a not quite full peal of church bells, followed by an inter-denominational nationwide church service in the scented surroundings of a flower festival. The Monday fête in the grounds of Castle House was somewhat marred by rain but spirits remained undimmed.

The highlight of the main day was undoubtedly the huge procession of floats around the centre of Deddington, from Earl's Lane to Castle Street, Hopcraft Lane, Goose Green, Philcote Street and back to the Market Place. Hempton Road couldn't be included as the police wouldn't allow the merry band to cross the main road. A strutting Beefeater and the trumpets and drums of the Banbury Army Cadets led vintage cars carrying the Jubilee Queen and Princess. The local steam traction engine and fire engine (up-to-date version) followed, then flatbed trucks carrying themed

tableaux: the PTA bemoaned education cuts, the WI played Queen Vic and her court, Bill Drake was the seigneur of Deddington Castle, complete with retinue; the Football Club waved their trophies from a milk float; the school provided Jolly Jack Tars and Britannia, and Deddington



*Photo credit: Colin Robinson*

Ladies flashed a leg as St Trinian's.

In the afternoon the Market Place hosted a children's tea party with each under 11-year old receiving a commemoration mug. Does anyone still have one of those? The Caledonian Pipe Band marched and played – until the rendition of the rebel *Over the Sea to Skye* drove the chronicler of the time to the pub to join the serious drinkers. Evening dancing in the Market Place and a disco in the Bullring rounded off the day, with the jollities finishing with clay pigeon shooting and a pig roast at Home Farm in Clifton the following Saturday. What a week. 'We must do it again' was heard over and over – and we did, with the 1981 Carnival, but we've done nothing on that scale since. Perhaps we were starved of good community gatherings in 1977? Perhaps tastes have changed? Certainly elf'n'safety restrictions wouldn't allow people to stand on open flatbed trucks, as then. It was good local, communal, amateur fun – and a good time was had by all.

What of the idea that Deddington should go back to being called a town? Well, apart from a pretty unsuccessful phone-in on Radio Oxford and a talk on 'Deddington, Town of the Future?' nothing more was heard. And my Hook Norton beer mat on a gilt belt mayoral chain made an appearance only at fancy dress parties.

*Mary Robinson robimary@gmail.com*



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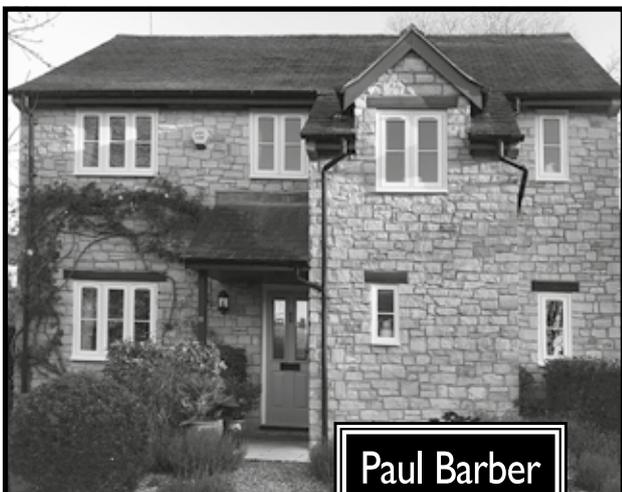
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## CHURCH

### Parish Church SS Peter and Paul

#### MAY

In addition to our services being open for public worship, Deddington church is open throughout the day for anyone wishing to visit, pray, meditate or simply be. Deddington church services are streamed live. Please see the church website [www.deddingtonchurch.org](http://www.deddingtonchurch.org) or FaceBook page <https://www.facebook.com/DeddingtonChurch> for updates.

Mon–Fri	8.45am	Morning Prayer
Wed	10.00am	Holy Communion
Thu	9.30am	Tea + Toast and Squiggles and Wiggles
Sun 1	10.30am	Holy Communion
	3.00pm	3 O’Clock Service (informal)
	6.00pm	Choral Evensong
Sun 8	8.00am	BCP Communion
	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sun 15	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sun 22	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sun 29	10.30am	Holy Communion

#### Hempton

Sun 15 9.00am Holy Communion

#### Barford St Michael

Sun 8 9.00am Communion

Sun 15 10.30am Family Service

#### Barford St John

Sun 22 9.00am Holy Communion

#### From the Parish Registers

#### Baptisms:

3 April Ísalind Esja Hallgrimsdottir White  
Valkyrja Saga Hallgrimsdottir White

#### Funerals:

19 March Michael George Gibbs

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 please contact one of the church wardens, Iain Gillespie (01869 338367) or Meriel Flux (01869 338901).

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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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The Deddington Arms Hotel, Cotswold Meeting Room, Horsefair, Deddington, OX15 0SH. Monday 9th May at 7 pm.

The Parish Rooms, Church Street, Bloxham, OX15 4RA. Monday, 6th May at 7 pm.

Refreshments will be provided. Parking is available in Deddington Market Place. Limited parking is available at Bloxham Surgery.

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## CONCEDING THE OBVIOUS IN UKRAINE

When Mikhail Gorbachev became President of the Soviet Union in 1988, there were a number of US non-governmental organisations that wanted to explore the possibilities of a more open and peaceful relationship with our long-time adversary. This was how I came to serve on a bilateral delegation to the USSR, focusing on environmental protection as a common cause for a more peaceful world. It was through sheer circumstance then that I happened to be in Moscow when the government was falling and the first cautious steps toward independence were taken by the former Soviet republics. In those heady early days, everything was on the table and there was an unmistakable atmosphere of goodwill. Even my KGB minder knew that I knew who he was and made no pretense otherwise. With their economy in freefall they were open to any realistic alternative that would keep a looming chaos or even anarchy at bay. They were also broadly supportive of new policies that might finally address serious and large scale environmental damage that occurred under 70 years of Communist rule.

The first challenge in any path to prosperity was that the boundary between their civilian and military sectors was indistinct. I still have a memento of that reality in the form of a peace medallion made from the verified destruction of an SS4 nuclear missile under the Strategic Arms Limitations Treaty. Symbolic, to be sure, but these souvenirs were hardly going to become the building blocks for a new Russian economy. Even then it was becoming clear that their immediate way forward would be as an extractive economy, enabled by their vast and valuable stores of natural resources plus the industries tied to extraction. While the ensuing years were at best an era of misrule, I remained hopeful that some new leader would emerge to help Russia follow in the footsteps of many former satellites and make the transition to a modern state welcome in the world economy. When at last Putin came to power, I thought at least he might be competent and sought the opinion of a now deceased Russian official well familiar with his KGB background. His usual jovial demeanour evaporated and in a most serious tone he said, 'You do not understand. He is not educated. He was trained. Like a dog. To bite, to bite, to bite!'

So, if there was less hope for the future of the Russian Republic, there was an abundance of hope for the many former Soviet Republics which were beginning to prosper and were demonstrably glad to have the Soviet era behind them. One memorable occasion for that hope was a meeting with an official from the Ukrainian Ministry of Agriculture. We were discussing sustainable agriculture, a topic of great interest to his government, especially in the aftermath of the Chernobyl accident. I had brought with me a book on



the subject, donated by the Rodale Institute, arguably America's foremost authority on organic farming. The detailed illustrations and charts documented years of market success with organic cereal grains.

Clearly my Ukrainian friend had never seen anything like it and when I presented it to him as a gift he was overcome with emotion and could only hold his hand to his heart in a gesture of deep thanks. I recall thinking that if a book on farming could move him to tears, he must love the soil and therefore his country very much. I wondered at the time if there were more like him in Ukraine, if only because of this attachment to the land. Even their pre-Soviet and present day flag attests to that with its striped colours representing a blue sky over a golden field of wheat. Today, Ukraine is a leader in organic farming and I can only wish the book may have helped them in those early days.

As to really why Putin invaded his peaceful neighbour, we might be tempted to echo all the pundits and armchair psychoanalysts who say he pines for a return to Soviet days, or that he has an irrational fear of encirclement by NATO, or that he covets warm water ports in the Black Sea. It may be for all these reasons and more, or as Dr Watson once said to Sherlock Holmes, 'There are no limits to the possibilities of monomania'.

Or let us surmise there is one more reason, and a good one at that. Ukraine has the richest soil in Europe and it's not for nothing it was once known as its breadbasket. Between them, Russia and Ukraine are among the world's largest exporters of cereal grains and fertiliser. Surely the Russian strategists (if there are any) have figured out there may be alternatives to oil and gas but not food. Maybe these same strategists understand that a key fertiliser (synthetic nitrogen from natural gas) supports half the human population on this planet. Maybe too, some in Putin's circle know that this war is happening at the worst possible time, in that agriculture is in alarming decline in many other parts of the globe, mostly because of decades-long and worsening drought. It could be they're aware of the soybean barges aground in the once mighty Parana River in South America. Thanks to continuing deforestation in the Amazon, the shortfall in Parana's water supply downstream may be permanent. Maybe they know about the groundwater depletion in southern Spain, where Europe gets lots of its fruit and vegetables. Maybe they've heard of the 'Dry Corridor' which is now used to describe the water shortfall of desperate farmers in Central America. Then there's the food crisis in East Africa and Iraq. Lots of maybes, I know, and maybe I'm giving these imaginary strategists too much credit. It could be it's merely the intersection of stupidity with dumb luck that makes global food security a factor in Putin's war. But I doubt that very much.

**Dan Desmond**  
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## NEWS FROM CLIFTON

Book Club raised a baby wetting head as Chris told us of his first grandson born recently. We look forward to the years of coaching his football team all over again. He has experience as he'll bore any of you with his 'coaching a Chelsea captain' story. It's a good 'un.

Our Yorkshire-born Essex boy is preparing himself for a cochlear implant to cure his current bout of deafness. This is a cruel blow as he has been recovering from other health challenges these last many weeks. We wish him all the best for a speedy recovery.

The tee-off for the Clifton Open golf championship will have happened by the time you read this and we will know if the Cat made the cut. Your correspondent will have a grandstand view of this sporting highlight being organised by our Quizmaster 'Sherman', the day before he reprises that role at a Thai food flavoured event at the Duck. The glory of wining has recently been shared far more widely, so I'd encourage even more people to come along. It's a good night with good food and all for £12.

Consternation still persists at a mid-month sighting of the Air Ambulance in our midst. No details have emerged, despite enquiries, and we hope, if it wasn't an exercise, that the patient is recovering well.

Further evidence of the white deer in our herd has reached this correspondent in the last few weeks. The corpse of one of them on the Clifton Road should serve as a reminder of the hazards of travelling this road at a speed from which you cannot brake to a halt if something unexpected should appear. Readers need

to be aware that the sudden arrival of a fully grown deer weighing in at 100kg or more should not be considered unexpected. This correspondent's new awareness of the herd's spring feeding grounds should lead to high quality images any day soon.

Lastly there was amusement at Book Club recently at the news that Cllr Collins will be cast off the parish council due to administrative incompetence. Sadly too few other residents have stepped up to take his place and do a better job of running your parish, which is a shame.

The usual appeal still stands – to me please.

**Martin Bryce**  
*[martindnbryce@gmail.com](mailto:martindnbryce@gmail.com)*

## NOT SO BLISSFUL THINKING

Having had to write off a car and now a laptop, contracted Covid, a stomach ulcer and sprained both wrists at the same time, I hope you can forgive my lack of positive influence this month, as 2022 heaps insult onto injury, which is certainly not just confined to my own misfortunes, if you catch my drift.

I wish you all a peaceful and ailment-free Easter with no crossed swords or wires, and perhaps we'll roll the proverbial stone away and come out the other side as new men (and women).

**Aaron Bliss**  
*[aaronjbliss@hotmail.com](mailto:aaronjbliss@hotmail.com)*



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## History Corner www.deddingtonhistory.uk

### BADGER

*Badger's story came to light during a talk to the History Society about Oxfordshire Drovers. Badger was born in Deddington in 1869 and can be found in the 1901 census with his mother Sarah and younger brothers living on The Style [sic]. He is described, somewhat insensitively, as 'feeble minded' and died in 1926.*

*The story was written by Jack Callow of Souldern as one of 28 stories in his book 'Linger-a-While' and is reproduced here and on our History website by kind permission of the editor of Souldern's village website, www.souldern.org/history/linger-a-while-1989, where Badger's other stories can be found.*

'Badger (George Page) was the last real drover in this area. He just drove cattle, no other work. My, when it was a warm day you kept the windward side of Badger. For a ½d (a ha'penny) he would shed his coats, waistcoats, pullovers, jackets – all nine or ten or more! Badger carried his wardrobe on him, summer and winter, it kept the sun off and the cold out – so he said.

He walked miles with a good stick and his tin tea can, from farm to market, or market to farm, driving cattle – a short thick set man, always a smile and a cheery word. Oft times George, the Badger, drove cattle for my father. When he came to the farm to fetch or bring the cattle, he had a handout – a can of tea; bread and jam; bread and bacon; bread and cheese or cake and pudding. If it was morning and he was going to market, tea and bread and bacon and a few coppers, anything from 3d to 5d, no more. If late morning it was half a loaf and a chunk of cheese and a bit of pudding – if it was a big bit of pudding he

would throw the bread away and keep the cheese for a day when there was no work. It was easy to get a stale loaf from the Deddington bakers and he was a Deddington man by birth.

He lived in a farm shed, at the end of the lane that passed Doctor Turner's house in Deddington. If it was late afternoon and Badger had driven cattle to market for someone and then driven a herd of cattle back to our farm, it could be five or six o'clock in the evening. His day would start at seven am. Often he had walked forty miles or more, Badger would say:

"Once you got the cattle going, after the first mile or two, it wasn't so bad. At the start with the cattle that had never been off the farm, you had to go back and across the road to get them going. They would turn back and twist to go back home and into any hole in the hedge or an open gate, they got through. You must keep them bunched up tight and be close up to them. If they looked at a turning or a gate you hustle them along giving them no chance."

In the evening Badger's face would be red with exertion of the drive and he would welcome his can filled, his bread and jam and cake that he collected from the kitchen door. He never stood around, he would go away across a field or two, then sit down and have his food and 'copper up' as he called – counting his pennies. Then off to his home he would go, unless Dad had a drive for him the next day, or a neighbouring farmer. Badger would then kennel up in a shed or a barn, if not under a hedge or a tree, ready for an early start the next morning.'

*Don Walker, whose memories have always been a valuable source for this website, remembers his father telling him that Badger slept rough in a barn on Chapman's Lane.*

**Rob Forsyth**  
robert.s.forsyth@gmail.com

## TALES FROM THE PUMP

Giles was sitting at the bar enjoying his second pint. 'Do you remember sitting here in October 2019 and spouting on about Public Health England?' I asked. 'You said PHE was a waste of space and should be concentrating on viruses and contagious diseases, not spending valuable resources on lifestyle issues like alcohol consumption and sugar intake.'

'Not exactly my words,' said Giles, 'but about right. And look what happened. Covid came along and PHE had not prepared for a major pandemic.' He took a nice slurp of Hooky and went on, 'The public health movement had developed an anti-business agenda that linked diseases to modern consumerism. They were too busy telling us not to drink more than 14 units of alcohol a week and not to eat sweeties. And when lockdown came, it was a great opportunity to shut down those hated bars and nightclubs. It wasn't PHE who had the wherewithal to get us out of this mess – in the end it was the drive and commitment of the private sector that developed the vaccine in record time and master-minded the rollout.'

Liz was sitting at the other end of the bar quietly savouring her gin and tonic. 'Yes Giles,' she inter-

jected, 'but at least the government have taken heed and scrapped Public Health England.' Giles eyed her quizzically. 'Yes, and replaced it with the UK Health Security Agency as the nation's public health body. New name but unless they incorporate economists and people from the world of business in the organisation we could end up with the same philosophy spearheaded by a group of narrow-minded public health zealots.'

Giles pushed his empty glass over for a refill. 'Another couple of units of Hooky please, Grumpy, and I'll have a packet of junk food sea salt crisps whilst you are about it.'

**Grumpy Landlord**  
Grumpylandlord1@gmail.com

## FARMERS MARKET

One of the jewels in the Deddington crown is undoubtedly Deddington farmers' market. Few people give thought to the way it appears each month as if by magic. Step forward our construction crew and take a bow, for without them there would be no market. This team arrives in the Market Place at 7.00am each month to put together the stalls before most of them head

*Continued on p17*

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## NEWS FROM HEMPTON

It would seem that insomnia is a useful credential for aspiring astronomers. One such afflicted in Hempton observed the passage of a very bright meteor through the open curtains of his bedroom window at 3.40am on 9 April. Its bright green glow lit the sky like a full moon. Blue-green luminescence usually indicates the presence of magnesium, suggesting it was a small metallic meteorite or a piece of space debris; rocky meteorites are generally much larger. An estimated 25 million meteoroids, micrometeoroids and other space debris enter the Earth's atmosphere each day, or about 15,000 tonnes of material a year.

If anyone should happen across a gangly, wrinkly, individual with big eyes and fingertips that glow in the dark, possibly peering out of the basket of a baker's delivery bike, don't fret. He only wants to borrow your phone to phone home (watch out for the inter-galactic roaming charges).

The Old School Room was the venue of a village social gathering and bun fight on Good Friday. Local artisan bakes including sourdough hot cross buns and tea and coffee were on offer. Children were put to work creating a stained glass Easter picture to decorate the church windows.

Speculation about white marks on Snake Hill was resolved when the perpetrators declared they were directions for the village Easter egg hunt. Egg hunts became an Easter tradition in 16th-century Germany. Martin Luther held egg hunts at the church for his congregation, where women and children searched for eggs the men had hidden around the property. This practice is symbolic of the women who discovered that the tomb was empty after the resurrection.

Now we are in BST and spring has sprung, I am treated to the dawn chorus through my open bedroom

### FARMERS MARKET *Continued from p14*

to the Deddington Arms for a cooked breakfast and gossip, returning at 12.30pm to remove and stow it away ready for the next market.

The team has been together for years but due to people moving we need more volunteers. We do not expect them to be at each market but if you do three or more you and your family will be invited to our September barbecue, as thanks for your support.

All are welcome to give it a try before committing. If you are new to the village, it's a good way of meeting people and finding out more about the area. If you are interested please email Gilly, [construction@deddingtonfarmersmarket.co.uk](mailto:construction@deddingtonfarmersmarket.co.uk).

On a different note, a sad goodbye. Too late for the last *DN*, we discovered that Anne and Carl Gross, aka the Green Grossers, had decided to retire. They had been with us for 22 years, since the very first day. During this time, they have worked on their allotment to grow produce to sell, raising thousands of pounds in support of a Thai orphanage. We'd like to thank them for their cheery presence and commitment. They will be greatly missed.

**Tei Willox [teiwilox@gmail.com](mailto:teiwilox@gmail.com)**

window. The solo efforts of blackbirds, robins, skylarks or thrushes are often first on stage. The purpose of their song is to establish and defend territory and to attract a mate. Singing uses a lot of energy and the fittest and best fed have the strongest voices, a hot tip for females looking to select from the best in the gene pool.

One discordant voice that jars like a heavy metal band against a pastoral symphony is that of the wood pigeon. Their endless, monotonous, coo-coo-coo-coo drowns out the other choristers, especially when they perch on the roof above my window. I'm not a conspiracist but these flying rats have got it in for me. They spend large parts of the day perched on my fence, roof, power line and pole, trees and shrubs, using my garden as an open public loo. They sit on the apex of my roof and hang their nether regions over the edge thus achieving maximum terminal velocity for deposits which splatter over my patio. If not removed quickly the deposits dry and adhere like the proverbial to a blanket. They also seem to enjoy depositing their mess in the bird bath, though this does not seem to deter other feathered guests from performing their ablutions.

Speaking of poo, the human not pigeon variety, the sewer carrying waste from the northwest of the village, opposite the Barford Road, burst releasing raw sewage. The effluent sadly claimed the lives of a number of sheep and lambs and was a potential hazard to pets and wildlife.

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



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Deddington Festival will make a triumphant return this July after a Covid-induced break. This year's festival will be small but perfectly formed, concentrating all the fun into just one day.

Saturday 2 July is the big day when family favourites, the Children's Festival, CarFest and Deddy Rocks make a comeback along with the ever-popular Art Exhibition.

This year's Children's Festival will offer bookable workshops with a local children's author; an award-winning forest school; Mini Professors Oxford; mosaic making; poetry; and, of course, a chocolate workshop. There will also be a host of free activities for you to enjoy, plus face-painting and our fabulous Children's Café. The fun will kick off at 11.00am and continue until 2.00pm in Deddington parish church.

Deddy CarFest roars into action at midday with a high-octane collection of vehicles. Book a ride in the car of your dreams and wander around our static

## PETER PAN

'They're back with a vengeance', in this case the vengeance of Captain Hook in Deddington Players' hilarious pantomime version of the classic stage show, scripted by Carrick Cameron and Steve Moss. After a Covid enforced absence in 2021 it was a delight to be able to laugh out loud at the familiar jokes, boo-



hiss at the villainous Hook, played with great panache by Jen Toll and sing along with some marvellous musical numbers.

We enjoyed Lost Boys of all shapes and sizes, an itinerant group of hippies, villainous pirates, mermaids, a ticking crocodile that chased Captain Hook around the stage and eventually off the end of the gangplank to his doom and, naturally, a stage horse. The Dames,

display during an afternoon designed to celebrate all things automotive – old, young, slow, and fast.

Perennial favourite, Deddy Rocks, will take to the stage in the Market Place at 2.00pm. This year's headliners will be four piece tribute band, Queen II, who faithfully recreate the energy, excitement and emotion of a classic Queen concert. They will be joined by three other Festival favourites, details of which will follow soon.

Just a short walk away at the Holly Tree in Horsefair the Art Exhibition and sale will be showcasing the impressive talents of local artists, potters and sculptors from 10.00am–5.00pm. Applications from artists are currently being sought, so please contact Steve Waterman at [swatermanbt5@btinternet.com](mailto:swatermanbt5@btinternet.com) for information and an entry form.

Throughout the day, food and drink will be served in the Market Place. The committee is very excited about what's on offer and hopes that you will be too. It has been such a long time since we were able to come together and celebrate as a community which makes this year's Festival feel very special, and we are committed to making it a fantastic day out for all the family. We hope to see you there

Tickets to the various events will go on sale soon. Follow Deddington Festival on Facebook to keep in touch with our latest news and to book those all-important tickets.

**Elli Ince**

Mrs Darling and Nana the nanny, behaved as outrageously as ever. Peter Pan was suitably fearless and accompanied by his accident-prone shadow, the mischievous Tinkerbell. All ended well (surprise, surprise) when Peter and his motley crew rescued Wendy and her brothers and saw off the dastardly Hook and his pirates.

The director, Elli Ince, once again created a great show with wonderful performances from adults and children alike. The singing and choreography of a cast of 41, three-quarters of whom were schoolchildren, was outstanding and the technical, back-stage and front-of-house staff worked miracles to create a spectacular pantomime.

I look forward to *The Wizard of Oz* in 2023.

**Adrian Brett**



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## LETTERS

FROM CHRISTOPHER HALL AND  
DIANA MARSHALL  
*CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2022*

Jessica's family in Zimbabwe already suffers aching hunger because of the climate crisis. We know the war in Ukraine is driving up food prices here; it is doing the same for vulnerable families like Jessica's. Christian Aid has already distributed 28 tonnes of food and essentials for refugees from the war. Christian Aid now needs us to turn hunger into hope for Jessica. Thanks to the *DN* team a Christian Aid Week envelope is again reaching every home. Deddington has an enviable reputation for raising more than £2,000 in Christian Aid Week each year. We made it last year with the help of GiftAid and £1,065 given online. Each envelope has this weblink, <https://bit.ly/DtonCAW2022>, as well as a QR code giving direct access to the Deddington CAW online giving page. Though envelopes will not be collected, they can still be dropped off at



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

Hamptons, the Duke at Clifton, or to homes displaying the Christian Aid poster. Together this year, may we set a new record for our generosity, even beyond our £2,000 target?

FROM JUNE IVORY, EXMOUTH,  
DEVON

*George Fenemore:* Thank you for taking time to write of your farming life over many years: sheep, bees, curlews in the valley, weather, all the

joys of working the land, plus reminding us of all the dreaded paperwork that sits alongside!

I'm sure I am speaking for many who have thoroughly loved and been fascinated with your articles which will be sadly missed.

*Stephen Waterman:* Your watercolours have brought much lovely colour, joy and enhancement to the covers of the Deddington News. Thank you so much, they have been very much appreciated.

## DEDDINGTON LIBRARY

Would you like to borrow library books but are unable to visit the library for any reason? If you find it difficult to get to a library, the Home Library Service may be able to help.

The Service is run by Oxfordshire County Council. With the help of volunteers, it looks after and delivers books and audio-visual items to those who struggle to physically visit a library due to their personal circumstances. The service is completely free of charge to customers and there is no charge for requests or late returns. It can be used on a short-term basis following illness or hospitalisation. Those with carer responsibilities are also welcome to apply.

### *How it works*

Contact us to discuss the kind of books, large or

regular print, DVDs, audio books on CD, music CDs or DVDs, that you like to read or enjoy. We can then arrange for a library volunteer to deliver these to you in your home. Our volunteers are DBS checked, wear an identification badge and provide a helpful and friendly service. Whenever possible, we try to arrange for the same volunteer to visit you each time. Your library materials will be delivered and collected every three weeks.

### *How to register*

To register for this service or for further information, call Deddington library on 01869 338391 or telephone the Home Library Service on 01865 810259 or email [homelibraryservice@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:homelibraryservice@oxfordshire.gov.uk).

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After two long years of Covid restrictions, it was wonderful to see the Windmill full again for three consecutive nights as the Deddington Players put on their postponed panto, *Peter Pan* (that's a lot of 'p's) at the end of March. As always, some fabulous singing, great performances and much hilarity all round. I know the Players are grateful to all the other Windmill users who rescheduled or cancelled their bookings so that the shows could go on. We sincerely hope they will be able to return to their traditional January slot next year.

I can't believe it's finally happening: a new, fully refurbished, downstairs lavatory block at the Windmill. Clean, modern and much less smelly. I won't say refurbishing the toilets was the only reason I took on the role as chair of the Windmill management committee – that

would be really sad – but it was definitely up there as a top priority. The works should be completed by the end of this month and we appreciate your understanding during this time. The upstairs lavatories in the building are still operational and we have arranged for three Portaloos – including one disabled access – to be located just in front of the Pocket Park.

The very popular Bloom Coffee Roasters have restarted serving their wonderful coffee at the Lookout on Saturdays and, as the football season comes to an end, the Cricket Club takes over the playing field and is looking forward to a long and successful summer. Why not come along and support them, or, even better, join and play? Remember you can find information about the Cricket Club or any of the other clubs and groups at the Windmill at [www.thewindmillededdington.org](http://www.thewindmillededdington.org) or on our Facebook page.

If you want to enquire about hiring a space or make a booking email [enquiries@thewindmillededdington.org](mailto:enquiries@thewindmillededdington.org) or call us on 07720 834006.

**Vaughan Jones**  
[vaughan@englishlanguagematters.com](mailto:vaughan@englishlanguagematters.com)

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## DEDDINGTON ENVIRONMENT NETWORK

Can you imagine entering the local supermarket to find three-quarters of the shelves empty? These stark images were shown nearly 10 years ago by supermarket, Wholefoods, to illustrate what their shelves would look like if bees disappeared.

Think about the fact that we have pollinators to thank for every third mouthful of food we eat and that, according to WWF, pollinators are worth a staggering £690 million a year to the UK economy

Pardon the pun but in the past we've become familiar with the buzz about bees, how important they are and due to factors such as habitat loss, pesticide use and climate change they are in decline. However discussion has expanded to include more pollinators – butterflies, moths, insects and beetles. Insect populations worldwide are plummeting, with over 40% declining and a third endangered; some suggest that a quarter of insects could be wiped out within a decade (source: Biological Conservation Journal review of 75 studies worldwide).

Now the gardening season is in full swing it's time to do what we can for the pollinators that are so critical to life and the food that we eat. Here are some things that we can do to make a difference:

Bee Friendly planting – we've mentioned it in previous DEN articles. However, a good reminder when

you're buying plants is to think diversity.

Growing more flowers is a great start but think about planting a range of colours, shapes and sizes – different varieties attract different insects. Also consider plants that flower at various times throughout the season, extending the beauty of the garden and supporting pollinators.

Leave a section untended to grow wild: even a small patch can make a difference. If you want to go one step further buy or build your own 'bug hotel' (there are various 'how to' guides on the web).

Cut the grass less often. Even if you can't fully embrace 'No Mow May' consider longer intervals in between mowing – the insects will love you for it.

Carefully consider the use of pesticides. With organic gardening techniques being mainstream, there is a wealth of knowledge about alternative solutions.

And finally, if you see a bee in need, help it. In the summer months, tired bees can be common. The RSPB recommends placing the bee on a flower which looks to have lots of pollen. Bees usually rest for around 30mins. If this method fails and the bee doesn't revive you can try offering it a solution of two teaspoons sugar to one teaspoon of water but never honey.

**Nicki Burgess**

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## Friends of Daeda's Wood

All signs of flooding have now gone – in fact, deep fissures are now appearing. It was cheering to see bluebells and aconites in abundance, together with fresh green buds on willows.

I have noticed a few tasks which could be done by volunteers so if you'd like to get involved for a couple of hours please contact me.

**Annette Murphy, Chair**  
[murphyannette74@gmail.com](mailto:murphyannette74@gmail.com)



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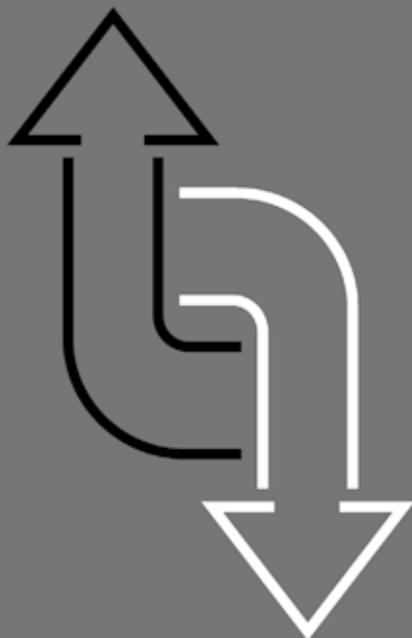
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## Friends of Castle Grounds

Castle Grounds has had its first mow of the year and is looking good but it hasn't taken long for the mole hills to reappear. Some kind villager has filled in the pot holes with hard core and made a very good job of it. Thank you whoever you are.

Some branches still remain on the paths and these will be chipped and used to dry out some of the wet areas. The badger path is still dangerous and slippery. Historic England will be contacted with view to finally solving to this ongoing problem.

Plans are underway for our stall at the Four Farms Challenge. It will include old photographs, maps and information about the Castle Grounds, so pop by and have a chat. I took a trip to the Castle Grounds on Good Friday with my new border collie puppy which we both really enjoyed. The Grounds looked glorious in the beautiful sunshine and it was good to see so many people walking there.

Please take your litter home with you if the bins are looking full and enjoy this wonderful heritage site which the village is so lucky to have.

**Carol Garrett**  
cgarrett@btinternet.com

## DEDDINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

The end of the spring term was busy but, as always, most enjoyable. The children loved the 'Easter Bunny Hop Run' around the school grounds.

We held a most successful Scholastic book fair and managed to raise around £400 for new books. Thank you to everyone who came into school and bought for our pupils to read at home. Next term the staff and children will have the job of choosing books to buy for our classes and Secret Reading Garden. We would like to thank our PTA for organising an Easter cake sale after school. Thanks to everyone who supported this event.

We were very fortunate to have a visit from 'Dr Bike' in the last week of term. 'Dr Bike' is a County Council initiative for fixing and servicing bikes. The visit here was part of the programme's trial in a school setting. Many children brought their bikes to be fixed with the work taking place in a van outside the school throughout the day. It also raised awareness of the need to ensure that children's bikes are well maintained and safe to use.

**Denise Welch**  
dwel3954@deddington.oxon.sch.uk

## FROM THE FIRE STATION

After an exceptionally busy start to the year, this month has been a little quieter, with 11 shouts in total, including stand-bys, traffic accidents, fire and alarm calls.

Emma Flint has passed her emergency vehicle driving course and is now a full Blue Light driver and has chauffeured us to several emergencies. Having an extra driver will definitely allow us greater flexibility with crewing.

The whole station is very pleased to announce that Deddington has won Station of the Year for 2022. Last year we were nominated but were pipped at the post by Rewley Road. So, to win this year is something very special. It has been a total team effort but the station couldn't have achieved this without leadership and guidance from our sterling Watch Manager, Chris Fenemore.

The still cool evenings and the propensity for nesting jackdaws in the area means that there have been several avoidable chimney fires. Please check your chimneys for dropped twigs and blocked cones before lighting your fire.

**James Greenwood FFd**  
james@cyclogicalshop.co.uk

## ARTWEEKS

Oxfordshire Artweeks celebrates its 40th anniversary this year. From 7–29 May artists are opening their studios and putting on group exhibitions across the county, covering the gamut of artistic expression from painting and sculpture to jewellery, textiles, glass, ceramics and more. The county is split into three areas, full details of which can be found at [www.artweeks.org](http://www.artweeks.org).

A number of artists will gather in a single village, making access to a variety of disciplines easy. Apart from seeing a range of art and crafts, following the Artweeks signs round villages to individual studios and village halls provides an intimate view of places not normally available. 21–29 May is allocated to North and West Oxfordshire. During this week, our local Stroke of a Brush has another pop-up gallery with other exhibitors at the Deddington Arms 10.00am–5.00pm daily and 10.00am–4.00pm on Sunday.

Copies of the glossy brochure with details of each exhibitor are available from the library. It is a great day out and not expensive – if one can avoid falling in love with some pieces. If the impulse to buy is overwhelming one can always start Christmas shopping early.

**CD**

## Deddington Brass

Deddington Brass will be giving a concert in Deddington church on Saturday 14 May at 7.30pm, after too long away on the stormy waters of the pandemic.

We have a wide-ranging programme, comprising some well-known favourites and newer pieces to go with them, which we hope will be entertaining for all ages and musical tastes. We are planning an informal atmosphere with seating arranged in small groups

so that the audience can remain as families or social bubbles if preferred.

The event is not ticketed, so there is no need to book in advance. There will be a retiring collection in aid of Deddington church and Watoto Childcare Ministries. Refreshments will be served all evening. Doors open at 7.00 pm.

**Michael Liebrecht**  
liebrecht@1gc.com

## PFSU and Village Nursery

During April we celebrated Mothers' Day by making cards and gifts for our mums. At Nursery it was lovely to welcome mothers for coffee, cake and a play in the garden on a sunny day.

Children in both settings have taken part in Easter egg hunts, the chocolate being very popular. At Nursery the children recorded some Easter songs and had an Easter bonnet competition. We also enjoyed a visit from a tractor and some lambs.

Pre-School children have resumed their much-missed weekly visits to Deddington library.

Don't forget to join us for the Four Farms Challenge on Sunday 22 May. Further information is available on [www.fourfarmschallenge.run](http://www.fourfarmschallenge.run).

**Lucy Squires 1869 337484**

## PARISH COUNCIL

There will be no parish council election on 5 May as only 11 nominations were received for the 14 places, so the PC wants to co-opt three more parishioners to bring the council up to the full number. Please contact Susan Fuller, clerk, on 01869 337447, [deddington-parishcouncil@googlemail.com](mailto:deddington-parishcouncil@googlemail.com) if you are interested.

**Mary Robinson**

## CALLING ALL CLUBS

### Deddington and District History Society

On 17 March, Tim Healey gave us an intriguing talk on 'Drovers' Roads in Oxfordshire and Beyond'. He pointed out that driving animals from one place to another has been going on since farming began, much of it moving cattle, sheep and geese from one pasture to another or to market in nearby towns. In the late Middle Ages, Welsh cattle, famed for the quality of their meat, were driven from mid-Wales to naval bases on the south coast and to wherever the king was entertaining. The high point of these long droves was the first half of the 19th century when the fast rise in the population and the move to cities required a steady supply of meat. A complicating factor came as attempts were made during this period to improve the terrible quality of roads by setting up turnpike trusts which recouped their costs through tolls. Every animal, vehicle or person had to pay these. The drovers' solution was to seek lesser tracks which had not been turnpiked.

Droving was well organised and profitable, at least for the organisers and relied heavily on trust. Welsh farmers brought their animals to muster points and agreed their pay for the drovers. Having previously grazed on the sparse mountain grass, the cattle could enjoy the lush grass on the roadside and arrived fatter at their destination. The drovers were hardy, sleeping in the open or in barns. For London the destination was Barnet and at that point Smithfield drovers took over. The Welsh drovers would be paid off and head for home, the leaders carrying large sums of money, a temptation for footpads and highwaymen. To avoid this, some money was left with innkeepers and it was from this that Lloyd's Bank started.

Droving left marks on the landscape: at high points on a drove road, Scots pines were planted as

## LOCAL SCAM ALERT!

There have been many scam emails, texts, and phone calls recently and, unfortunately, several people in this village have lost a considerable amount of money. Some of these scams are highly sophisticated, purporting to be from your bank or the police about supposedly fraudulent use of your credit card or requiring you to stay on the line while transfer details are checked.

People who thought they were fairly savvy are left feeling stupid and questioning their own judgement. It is a particular problem for those living on their own, especially the elderly.

AgeUK's scams advisor, Mandy Massam, who spoke recently at the Holly Tree Club, is available for one-to-one confidential phone calls with anyone who has been scammed, received something they are unsure about or just needs advice as to what to do to avoid being scammed. Her number is 07469 697009. There is more general information on AgeUK Oxfordshire's scams prevention and support programme website <https://tinyurl.com/53azss5z> which includes a comprehensive guide to scams of all sorts at <https://tinyurl.com/3pxwksr2>.

**CD**

waymarks and enterprising landowners would extend verges onto their land so that the drove could stay overnight and be charged. Some farmers allowed the drove into their fields and charged 1d a night for two cows. This explains the Halfpenny Greens that you find as small settlements.

With the development of the railway network, there was no need for long droves and the lorry finally brought droving to an end. However, Tim had a photo, taken in the late 1950s, of a herd of cattle leaving Oxford along the Abingdon Road. Altogether a very interesting and fun talk.

**Gareth Richard**

**[Gareth.richard@btinternet.com](mailto:Gareth.richard@btinternet.com)**

### Photographic Society

It was great to hold an AGM in person. Our AGM gave us an opportunity to show our three favourite images from the last year. The variety of shots was impressive and it was encouraging to see members submitting pictures that were not necessarily their usual style.

It is great to welcome visitors who might want to become members so here are some of the things we get up to. We hold a presentation evening on the first Wednesday of the month where we have a guest speaker. During the evening there is time to look at images submitted to fit a topic title; next month is 'Show an Emotion'. We also venture out on photoshoots such as bluebell woods, Broughton Castle, and the National Memorial Arboretum. We are looking forward to a visit to Slimbridge Wetland Centre.

Membership includes workshop evenings that have included technical sessions on depth of field, macro focus stacking and a session on lighting with a model. The Society aims to add to skills and improve

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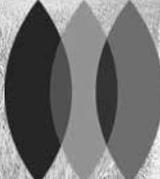
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## CALLING ALL CLUBS

*Continued from p26*

techniques in a fun and non-competitive atmosphere.

So, why not join us one month and see if it might be a hobby you could develop (pun intended). You don't need lots of expensive equipment: phones these days take splendid images.

Our next speaker is Steve Williams on photographing sport on Wednesday 4 May at 7.30pm at the Adderbury Institute. Please check our website for more details.

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

### Bookworms

*Tuesdays with Morrie* is a book about death – not the most enticing subject but most of the Bookworms found this book by Mitch Albom a beautiful and moving read. It is a memoir of the conversations between Professor Morrie Schwartz and Mitch, a former pupil. Morrie is dying from the degenerative disease amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). Morrie and Mitch meet again after many years when Mitch hears about Morrie's illness. The relationship is obviously special; they meet on a Tuesday, just as they had in college, and Mitch records their conversations to form this memoir.

This is not a morbid book but it stays with you, a book that encourages the reader to reflect. As Morrie talks, he tells how he has learnt from his life and how he deals with facing death.

Although some Bookworms found the tone of the narration very 'American', the majority would recommend it. Our next book is *Hot Milk* by Deborah Levy.

**Janet Macey**  
**01869 336156**

### Book Group

In 1617, a violent storm resulted in the death of 40 fishermen from the remote island of Vardo, home to both Norwegian and non-Christian Sami people. Bereaved but resolute, the women learned to fish and took on other traditionally male tasks. The passing of a new anti-sorcery law a few years later led to fervent witch-hunts and the 1621 Vardo witch trials.

Karen Millward Hargrave's novel, *The Mercies*, is a fictional take on this history and is not always easy reading. The solidarity of the women in the face of harsh circumstances is heartening, as is the gentle relationship between one of the islanders and the abused wife of the new commissioner/witch finder.

## SPORT

### Deddington Town Youth Teams

The Under 15s had a heavy 10–1 defeat at Brackley Athletic, followed by a 5–2 victory at home to Chadlington with a hat-trick for Leo Sansom, and a 3–0 away win at Easington. The Under 13s had a 0–3 home defeat to local rivals Bloxham, followed by an 8–1 victory with two goals each for Fraser Honeyman and Oscar Robertson. The Under 12s had a 6–1 win at Ducklington, followed by a 3–2 defeat at Ducklington the following week. They were back to winning ways

However, zealotry soon spreads fear and suspicion through the community, culminating in harrowing scenes. Our opinions of the book varied from hearty dislike to finding it a well-written and gripping account.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, 26 May. Please contact Sally Lambert on 01869 338094 for details.

**Sian Waterman**

### Local Vocals – Community Choir

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

We will be back singing from 9 May. If you'd like to enjoy the buzz that singing provides, please come along and try us free for one session. No previous experience is required and no ability to read music expected.

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

**Alison Grieve**

### Women's Institute

Having been in suspension for a year, Deddington WI has been reborn. The format has changed and the WI now meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 2.30pm and not in the evening as before.

It was a pleasure to meet new members and we hope they will enjoy their time with the WI. For our inaugural meeting we were joined by county advisor, Kay Shortland, who helped us to make candles and brought a very good carrot cake. We enjoyed this together with a cup of tea and cakes made by our new committee members.

At the end of the meeting, we each received a gift of an Easter chick or an Easter basket complete with an Easter egg – a lovely end to our first meeting.

New members are very welcome.

**Moiria Byast**  
**[Magicandmischief05@gmail.com](mailto:Magicandmischief05@gmail.com)**

### Craft Club

The Craft Club has reconvened and is once again meeting weekly on Tuesday afternoons, 2.00pm–4.30pm at the Holly Tree Club.

If you enjoy sewing and nattering, please come and join us.

**Meriel Flux [liquorishflux@gmail.com](mailto:liquorishflux@gmail.com)**

with a 4–1 win over Didcot Town. Congratulations to the Under 10s who made it through to the Under 10 Cup Final after a win in the semi-final after extra time and penalties. They will play Witney Vikings in the final on 8 May.

### Presentation day

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

**SPORT***Continued from p29*

event overall. A sponsorship pack is available on the club website. If you are interested email carsykes@btinternet.com for further information.

**Roger Sykes 07899 914425**

**Deddington Town Football Club***First Team results:*

19.03.22 Bloxham (h) W 3–1 Thornton J (2), Atherton  
 26.03.22 SWIS FC (a) (CUP) W 2–0 Hall, Thornton J  
 02.04.22 Longford Park FC (CUP) W 1–0  
 09.04.22 Bodicote Sports (CUP) W 3–1

*Reserve Team results:*

19.03.22 Wroxton Sp Res (a) Forfeit  
 26.03.22 Arccott Athletic (a) (CUP) W 2–1 Phillips, Wakelin  
 02.04.22 K Sutton Res (a) (CUP) L 1–6  
 09.04.22 Bicester Athl (a) (CUP) L 3–4

Joe Thornton has continued to score goals during the Humbugs' victorious four matches of the month, with three wins coming in cup competitions, putting the First Team in reach of those hallowed silver pots

come season's end. The Latics are sadly struggling a lot. They did manage a victory in the cup after a galling forfeit to Wroxton but then contrived to lose 6–1 to Kings Sutton, with their cause not helped much by a red card. The only good news really is that there is at least one team performing worse than the Latics in Division Two: Arccott, who the Reserves beat in the cup for their only triumph. Consider this a call to arms – the Latics need YOU behind them in the run in to salvage their season.

**Aaron Bliss 07909 642882**

**Deddington Original Golf Society**

Our first DOGS Day takes place at Frilford Heath on Wednesday 11 May. Frilford Heath Golf Club has three 18-hole courses and we will be playing the Green course suitable for all handicaps. Soup and sandwiches at 11.30am will be followed by golf and prize giving.

All members are welcome and any golfers who would like to come along as a guest, please email me and we will make you welcome.

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

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

Cubs enjoyed our visit to the Deddington Panto. It was a late night for the boys but we think they added a little something to the atmosphere.

Some Cubs have been throwing themselves into their Personal Challenge badge, in a variety of ways. We ended the term by completing the Emergency Aid (level 2) badge and were lucky to be joined one evening by a Cub's mother who is an Advanced Nurse Practitioner, who guided the Cubs through minor emergencies and helped us revise 999 calls and dealing with someone who is unconscious.

We have a breather over Easter before our exciting summer programme.

**Paul Honess  
 deddingtoncubs@gmail.com**

*Scouts*

The Scouts enjoyed their trip to the Deddington Players' production, although I'm not sure if they attend for the cultural engagement or the free sweets.

We ended the term with an evening of *Taskmaster*-type challenges, everything from balancing a square thing on a round thing, throwing a teabag into a mug, to snuffing out a candle with a cork tied to your trousers. We've also made plans for the Jubilee, an evening of 70-second games and some ideas to help the community.

Well done to the Scouts who helped with the 'Loo Roll Challenge' at the market. We raised £67 towards our target for Toilet Twinning. The total of rolls in the bag was 476 and the prize was won with a guess of 480. Thanks to everyone who had a go.

**Pete Churchyard  
 deddingtonscouts@gmail.com**

**1st Deddington Guides**

In February we held a promise ceremony for 11 Guides and four young leaders by torchlight, in 2C – one to remember. Our patrols have worked on their chosen activities. We celebrated World Thinking Day with some international themed activities.

Groups of Guides have taken on the challenge of the climbing wall, and some went to Cadbury's World. Shrove Tuesday pancakes and decorating cream crackers were popular events.

We were proud of our colour party Guides on Mothering Sunday – they took the collection and distributed gifts to all the mothers.

Our fire-lighting practice was followed by toasting marshmallows ready for our first cook-out. We held an end of term quiz around the village and an Easter egg challenge, plus a sale and raffle, raising £150 for the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts in their work in Poland helping youngsters in the Ukraine. They demonstrated teamwork, customer service skills and caring for others. Thank you too for your support.

We look forward to outdoor meetings when we can and hope we can camp again.

**Maggie Rampley  
 07957 6007550**

**1st Deddington Brownies**

Brownies are completing their Innovation Badge and learning some new games. The last meeting of term involved a visit from Paul Reis of South Central Ambulance Service: the girls learnt about the ambulance service and first aid. Next term we are back outdoors for hot chocolate marshmallows, wide games and den building.

**Fern Stringer  
 deddingtonbrownies@gmail.com**

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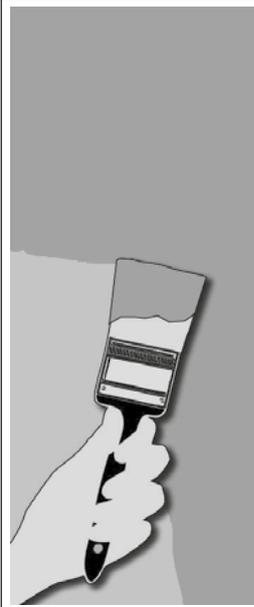
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 DEDDINGTON CHURCHES See section inside

