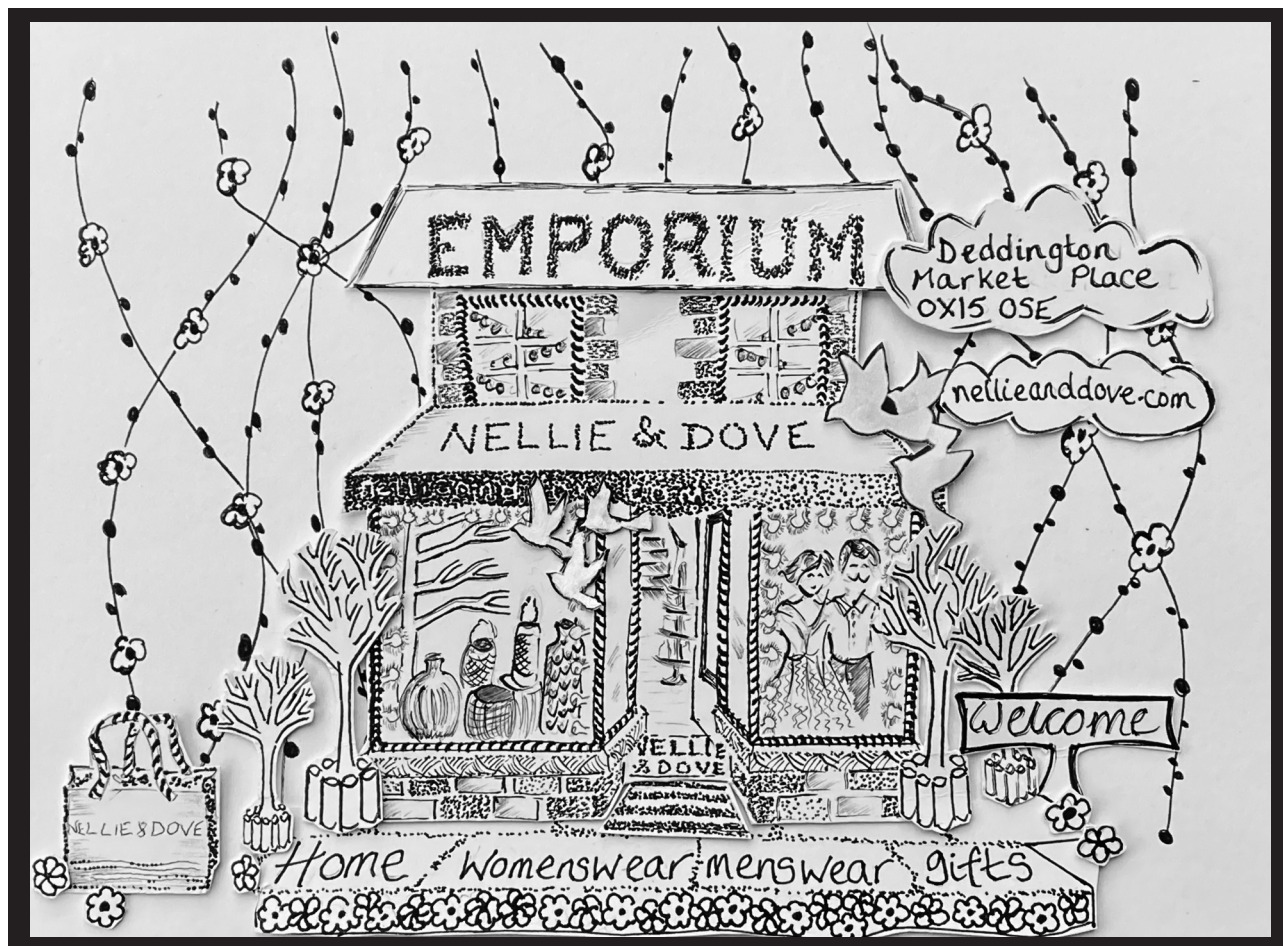


November 2022

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JILL CHEESEMAN

DECEMBER 2022 COPY TO
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by **19 November**

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by **10 NOVEMBER**

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

The DEDDINGTON NEWS

What an amazing community we live in. We have those helping the people of Ukraine in their struggle, pp5 and 17, the church and volunteers providing a warm space for those struggling with bills and the now regular Christmas lunch on offer, p6.

If you haven't caught up with it yet, on top of all the other things that our PC deals with on our behalf, there's an outline planning application for a further 135 houses north of our existing parish boundary, p2. If this goes through, apart from any other effects, it will have quite an impact on DN printing costs.

JC

What's on November

- Wed 2 Photographic Society: The Adderbury Institute, 7.30pm
- Sat 5 Craft Fayre, Windmill Centre, 10.00am–1.00pm
- Sat 5 Deddington PTA Fireworks: Primary School, 6.00pm gates open, blast off 7.00pm
- Sat 5 RBL: Poppy Fundraiser, Falklands Experiences, Parish Church, 6.15pm doors open, 7.15pm
- Sat 5 Neil Skinner's Poppy Week Lighting in church until 13 November
- Wed 9 WI: Sulgrave Manor and the Washington Family, Holly Tree 2.30pm
- Thu 10 Holly Tree Film: *The King's Speech*, Holly Tree, 1.30pm
- Sat 12 Deddington Church Choir: Recital of Music, Reflective Evening of Choral Music for All Saints, All Souls and Remembrancetide, 7.30pm
- Sun 13 Remembrance Sunday: Parade assembles in Bull Ring for March Off 10.15am, 2-minute silence, War Memorial, 11.00am
- Wed 16 Parish Council Meeting, Windmill Centre, 7.30pm
- Thu 17 History Society: 'Corruption, Ceremony and Celebrity: The Honours System', Tom Crook, Primary School 7.30pm
- Sat 19 DEN: Electric Vehicles Open Morning, Holly Tree, 11.00am
- Sat 19 'Ukraine, A Celebration of Hope': Parish Church, 7.30pm
- Sun 20 DEN: Tour of Duns Tew Solar Farm, Hill Farm, 10.30am
- Thu 24 Deddington Bookworms, Holly Tree, 6.30pm
- Thu 24 Book Group: Please contact Sally Lambert, 01869 338094
- Thu 24 RBL: Branch AGM, Deddington Arms, 7.30pm
- Sat 26 Farmers' Market: Market Place, 9.00am–12.30pm
- Sat 26 Photographic Society: Pop-up Shop of Prints and Cards for Katharine House Hospice, Living Room, Parish Church
- Sat 26 Banbury Symphony Orchestra: *Sounds of Autumn*, Parish Church, 7.30pm

December

- Sat 3 Craft Fayre with Santa Claus, Windmill Centre, 10.00am–1.00pm
- Sat 3 Cherwell Choral Society: The Messiah, Parish Church, 7.30pm, tickets www.cherwellchoral.org
- Wed 7 Holly Tree Club, Christmas Lunch, Deddington Arms
- Thu 8 Holly Tree Film: *Elf*, Holly Tree, 1.30pm
- Wed 14 WI: Christmas Lunch for members only

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DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting on 28 September at Old School Room Hempton

Sam Patterson, who lives in Deddington, was co-opted as a councillor. He has a particular interest in the environment and recreation.

Public Forum

Three people spoke to the application to build on land at Hempton Lodge, two prior applications having been refused on appeal.

One person spoke to the issue of signage and continuing problems at the Hempton pinchpoint.

Finance and General Purposes

There will be no increase in allotment rents for 2023. The overall cost of meeting health and safety requirements for the Remembrance Parade is £1,500.

Planning Applications

No objection

Earls Court, Earls Lane, Deddington: Bay window and oak pergola to front and alterations to single storey roof at rear.

Land to rear of the Chestnuts, Clifton: Variation of plans to include solar panels. Request that solar panels be installed with consideration to avoiding 'glare' and not affecting neighbours' enjoyment of their properties.

5 Castle Street, Deddington: Tree works. Already approved by CDC.

Land on A4260: Proposed monopole. Would prefer siting at depot but approve on condition that it is available for use by other signal providers.

3 Daeda's View, Deddington: Single storey rear extension.

Rose Dene, New Street: Replacement of existing rear windows, doors and associated works and replacement of ground floor rear single storey flat roof.

1 Police Houses, Hempton Road: Certificate of lawfulness of proposed development for a single storey rear extension.

Old Corner House, Market Place: Change of use back to residential dwelling. This is a listed building but change of use does not impinge at this stage.

Deddington Manor, New Street: Replacement of brick extension to rear, enclosure of open porch and internal alterations to a Grade II Listed building. Defer to the conservation officer.

Unit 4, Castle Farm, Clifton: Change of use of office to single 2 bed dwelling with no works required.

4 Hopcraft Lane: Additional ground floor window in extension and rooflight in oak frame garage roof at rear of property.

Castle View, Goose Green: Tree works.

1 The Daedings: Erection of one 2-bed dwelling with parking area. This property had planning approval, now lapsed, for a very similar house. Would ask applicant to consider replacing lost trees or donating trees to the Woodlands planting schemes locally. Would also request replacement parking space be in place prior to beginning the build, as in previously granted application.

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

Rejections

Land at Hempton Lodge, Snakehill Lane, Hempton: erection of a single storey self-build dwelling. Over development, infill, and lack of amenity to the occupants and neighbouring properties.

Highways and Transport

A questionnaire will be circulated seeking opinion on whether to institute 20mph limits. OCC will cover the costs of signage.

Environment and Recreation

The scheme to replace old and unsightly litter bins across the parish is underway with local businesses and organisations being invited to sponsor a bin by the end of November, leaving the PC to cover the estimated £1,000 cost of installation, anticipated in early 2023.

A contractor has been hired to remove the worst of the brambles in Gaveston Green.

Meeting on 12 October at the Windmill

Finance and General Purposes

Broken glass in the Hempton Road bus shelter will be replaced.

The PC determined that it is unable to operate a warm place haven for residents unable to heat their homes. However, it noted that the church proposes operating such a space in the church and suggested that the church apply to OCC for a grant in support.

Planning Applications

No objection

St James Farm, Main Street, Clifton: Erection of two dwellings with gardens, parking areas.

The Swere, Deddington: Conversion of roof space to create 1 bedroom with en suite, installation of roof lights front and rear.

Land Adjacent to Allotments off Duns Tew Road, Hempton: Matters regarding appearance, landscape and scale.

Flux Drive, Deddington: Conversion of garage to habitable accommodation.

Castle Barns, Castle Street, Deddington: Tree works. The Bothy, The Grove: Front porch, glazed courtyard roof and new windows.

Large Scale Developments Working Group

Bloor Homes has made an outline planning request to develop the plot on Banbury Road north of the Grange. It proposes erecting 135 houses on approximately four and a half hectares of the nine hectare plot at a density of 31 per hectare, more usually 20–25. The remaining 9 hectares would be 'naturalistic' parkland. Forty-seven units would be affordable housing, twenty-five percent of which would be for sale and seventy percent rented social housing. The PC will make a decision at its next meeting when the results of the housing survey should be available.

Highways and Transport

The licence for tables and planters on the highway outside the Unicorn has expired. No response has been received from CDC to the PC's request that it



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Prices correct as of Oct 2021

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PARISH COUNCIL NOTES*Continued from p2*

is not renewed. As the licence has expired the tables and planters now constitute unsafe structures and obstruction of the highway. Residents can request their removal as such on the FixMyStreet, fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk.

Environment and Recreation

A list of areas to be left uncut for No Mow May was adopted, subject to agreement from interested parties on Castle Grounds and Welford's Piece.

Next meeting: 16 November at the Windmill Centre at 7.30pm.

'Roxy' at the Holly Tree Hall

The next film to be shown by Age UK will be on 10 November at 1.30pm at the Holly Tree Hall.

The King's Speech

This is a feel good biopic about how King George VI, the father of Queen Elizabeth II, tries to overcome his stammering problem with the help of speech therapist, Lionel Logue, and makes himself worthy to lead his country through World War II.

All over 50s are welcome to attend. Just £2 for an afternoon's entertainment including a cuppa and biscuits ... bargain.

Julia Cork, julia.cork@thedha.org

UKRAINE UPDATE

Many of us will be up to date with the developing horror of Russia's war on Ukraine. Whilst it is reported in graphic detail in the news we don't know what it is really like to live in Ukraine. However, we do know that there is still the ongoing need for provisions such as medical supplies, plasters, bandages, women's sanitary products, food and, going into the winter months, warm clothes, blankets, yoga mats (for sleeping). Thanks to all of you, the Ukrainian people are feeling the benefits of your generosity. Thanks, of course, also for your donations to: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/fynn-ukraine?fs=e&s=cl>

We are now appealing to send Christmas shoe boxes to Ukrainian children, particularly orphans, who have been affected by the war. Items such as picture books, toys, games, cards, puzzles as well as toiletries. Again appealing to your generosity could you please

leave these items on the table in the Living Room in the church, to be collected and taken to Debenhams for the boxes to be assembled and filled before being driven to Ukraine. More details of this appeal and suggested items will be on notice boards, shop windows, Deddington Church and surrounding villages.

Finally, on Saturday 19 November in the parish church at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start, we invite you to Ukraine – A Celebration of Hope, an informative evening giving you the opportunity to speak with and ask questions of our local heroes who have been hands on and who will share their stories with us.

Jenny Soddy

01869 338298

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CHURCH

Parish Church SS Peter and Paul

Deddington church is open throughout the day for anyone wishing to visit, pray, meditate or simply be.

To help those who might be struggling with the rising cost of heating this winter, the church will be open (and warm) from 10.00–4.00pm every Monday from 7 November. There will be hot drinks available throughout the day and as well as a light hot lunch for which there is no charge, so please feel free to drop in during the day if you would like to.

Along the same lines and with the cost of living rising so quickly, we will also be hosting Christmas lunch in church. It will be warm and friendly with roast turkey and all the trimmings – vegetarian options will also be available, and again there will be no charge. To reserve a place please email bookings@deddingtonchurch.org or call 01869 336880.

Deddington church services are streamed live. Please see the church website or FaceBook page for updates, www.deddingtonchurch.org and <https://www.facebook.com/DeddingtonChurch>.

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

For baptisms and weddings, funerals and home visits in case of illness, please contact the Vicar, Reverend Annie Goldthorp at vicar@deddingtonchurch.org or on 01869 336880. If Annie is not available, then please contact one of the church wardens, Iain Gillespie (01869 338367) or Stan Nelson (01869 337883).

November

Sun 6 10.30am Holy Communion
3.00pm 3 O'Clock Family Service
6.00pm All Souls service
Sun 13 8.00am BCP Communion
10.45am Service of Remembrance, (parade starts from the Bull Ring)
Sun 20 10.30am Holy Communion
Sun 27 10.30am Holy Communion

Hempton

Sun 20 9.00am Holy Communion

Barfords

Sun 13 9.00am Remembrance Service, BStMichael
Sun 20 10.30am Family Service, BStMichael
Sun 27 9.00am Holy Communion, BStJohn

From the Parish Registers

Weddings

8 Oct Karen Louise Gardner and Adam James Perry

Funerals

30 Sept Thomas Laird Johnstone
4 Oct Brian Fuller
13 Oct Margery Hawes

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.

Let it Snow, Let it Snow, Let it Snow ...

We have a great team of volunteer snow wardens on standby to keep the pavements across the parish clear of ice and snow in the winter months. But perhaps some of the team won't mind me saying quite a few are getting on a bit, and we're looking for more – and younger – volunteers to join the team.

OCC looks after gritting the main roads and we're fortunate in having the Council Highways Depot on our doorstep. But it's down to us to clear the pavements and doorsteps of neighbours unable to wield a shovel for themselves.

The scheme is a great way of getting communities working together during bad weather. We also encourage businesses who want to do their bit to clear snow from around their places of work.

The parish council's job is to liaise with OCC and CDC and, more important at a local level, to organise our team of community snow wardens and provide them with the necessary equipment: salt spreaders, shovels, hi-vis jackets, gloves and details of where to find the kit. We have 14 salt bins across the parish

which are topped up every year. Instructions will be given on the most timely and effective operation.

Don't be deterred from shifting snow yourself for fear of legal repercussions. According to the government website, 'There's no law stopping you from clearing snow and ice on the pavement outside your home or from public spaces. It's unlikely you'll be sued or held legally responsible for any injuries on the path if you have cleared it carefully.'

If you are interested in helping our community – and your neighbours – please contact the parish co-ordinator of the scheme, Clive Snashall, at clivesnashall.dpc@gmail.com, or the parish clerk on 01869 3337447 (answering machine outside clerk's working hours). Clive is drawing up a list of snow

wardens in each of the three villages and checking we have all the right kit available.

When we last appealed for help across the community to set up the Covid Emergency Team, the response was brilliant. Let's do it again.

Mary Robinson 07841 938439
maryrobinson.dpc@gmail.com



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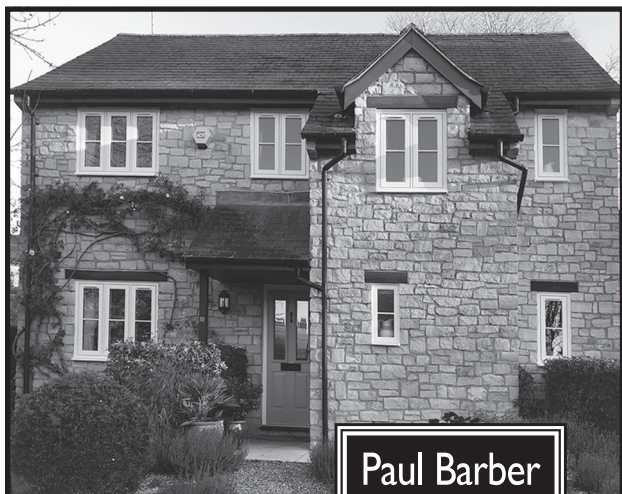
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LAST WORD

Mamoun Hassan 1937–2022

Mamoun and his brother were born in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, to Dr Hamid Hassan and his wife, Fatma. In 1949 the family moved to London, settling in St John's Wood, north London, where Mamoun and his brother went to King Alfred School. Despite a passionate interest in the arts, he studied electrical engineering at University College London, but was soon spending more time with friends at the Slade School of Art. Within two years he was working as an assistant editor for a documentary film company and later at the BBC, having found his true vocation. He began his directing career making documentaries and short films, winning best short film award at the 1965 Oberhausen International Short Film Festival.

In 1971 Mamoun became the first head of the British Film Institute Production Board. One of the first scripts he selected for production, Bill Douglas's *My Childhood*, won the Silver Lion at the 1972 Venice Film Festival, which encouraged the BFI to move into producing feature films.

He met Moya Gillespie in November 1963; they married in 1966 and their sons Sherief and Anies were born in London in 1969 and 1972. In 1973 they bought High Ridge, High Street, Deddington, where they lived before setting out for Lebanon in 1974 where Mamoun headed the Film Branch of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian refugees. His film, *Some of the Palestinians*, made there during the civil war, won an outstanding film award at the 1976 London Film Festival.

Returning to the UK in 1976, Mamoun set up and headed the directing department at the National Film and Television School at Beaconsfield. Three years later he was appointed Managing Director of the National

Film Finance Corporation, being instrumental in the making of such films as *Babylon*, *Gregory's Girl* and *When the Wind Blows*. His subsequent career included producing *No Surrender* (1985) from a script by Alan Bleasdale, directed by Peter K Smith, developing his *Movie Masterclass* series for Channel 4 and becoming Dean of Editing at the *Escuela Internacional de Cine y TV* in Cuba, while continuing to produce, write and edit. He went on to co-produce, co-write and co-edit with the Chilean director Andres Wood the award-winning film *Machuca* (2004). In collaboration with Wood, Mamoun wrote the script of *La Buena Vida* (The Good Life, 2008) which in its turn won many awards, including a prestigious Spanish Goya. Mamoun and Wood were still talking about work before Mamoun died. Film and film-making was Mamoun's passion to the very end.

Mamoun's work life in the UK after returning from Lebanon and Jordan was based first in Beaconsfield and later in London, but he and Moya had already decided to bring up their sons in the country and moved the family back to Deddington in 1976, while Mamoun commuted to work. The weekends in Deddington were devoted to family and friends. Long walks, swimming at Spiceball, playing tennis, digging the garden and an allotment were additional seasonal pleasures – but especially the wonderfully varied walks around Deddington, whatever the weather.

Mamoun and Moya reluctantly down-sized from their much-loved house and garden in Deddington to their flat in London in 2013, where Mamoun died suddenly on 29 July 2022 – getting ready to go for his daily walk on Hampstead Heath.

Moya, Sherief and Anies

Tales from the Pump

'That beer looks a bit insipid', said Rupert, gazing critically at me pulling the pump. 'It's water, you daft pillock – I'm just flushing the pipes out after cleaning.' 'Gotcha,' he said. 'Now, if the Guinness line is ready, pour me a lovely creamy pint.' I began pouring his pint as he went on, 'I see Tim Martin, boss of Wetherpoons, is sounding off again. He's slating the government for allowing supermarkets to have a VAT advantage over pubs. Surely Grumpy, the VAT on alcoholic drinks is the same for pubs and supermarkets?' I gently finished pouring his Guinness with a lovely shamrock which Rupert didn't even glance at as he took a deep drink and smacked his lips. 'I think he is referring to all VAT in supermarkets. For instance he thinks supermarkets subsidise their drink prices by not having to charge VAT on foods such as ready-meals which also offer an alternative to eating out at the pub where we have to charge VAT.'



'He also said that between June and September 150 pubs were converted into homes or offices compared with 200 for the whole previous six months. A momentous challenge, he called it, to bring customers back after they stayed at home during lockdown.

He said pubs have to find ways of winning customers back after they'd started drinking supermarket beer when pubs were closed.' Rupert was obviously enjoying his Guinness as he tipped the glass and nodded to the pump and I began to pour his second pint. 'I can't buy Guinness like this from supermarkets,' Rupert went on, 'and the pub offers a lot more than just a good pint. Pubs are a great place for all these new people coming into the village to meet and make friends as well as enjoy your scintillating conversation, Grumpy.'

I handed over his new pint of Guinness. He glanced at it. 'Where's the shamrock?' he moaned.

Grumpylandlord1@gmail.com

POSTCARD FROM AMERICA

Mt Rushmore, Democracy, Crazy Horse and the Road Trip

As we strode up to Mount Rushmore, I asked Heather who the heads were on the mountain. Heather replied 'I recognise George, but where are John, Paul and Ringo?' For locals, this trip is some kind of pilgrimage but, as a foreigner, I found the experience remarkably underwhelming. Then we drove 15 miles down the road to another mountain carving, this time of a Native Indian called Crazy Horse. In 1947, the local Lakota tribe commissioned a Boston-born Pole to carve a memorial to all the local tribes. He spent the rest of his life on it, but when he died in 1982 he had still not finished the 80 foot high head. His kids and grandkids have finished the head and are now working on his horse. They reckon they might finish it in 2045. It's a very moving story and an interesting contrast between white presidents and the native peoples who have been killed in vast numbers and pushed out of their homelands into barren land with no facilities.

The beginning of November brings on what are called the midterms. In the Land of the Free they elect a President every four years and, in the intervening two years, they spend another few \$100m on the democratic process. All the members of the House of Representatives, the lower house, are up for re-election, as are around a third of the Senate. This time around, it is more fraught than ever because the electoral system is under attack. A large proportion of the adult population, despite no evidence at all, believes the last election was 'stolen' from Trump. Two years later the Republican party nominations are dominated

by 'stop the steal' candidates and the party is stuffing these people into poll management positions. Nineteen states have enacted legislation that restricts voting, something that will certainly adversely affect poor and black voters. The real problem is that, whichever side loses will likely challenge the results and, in this country, there are lots of people with guns who think they should force through their viewpoint.

One of the things I love about America is the road trip. I was brought up in England, with the horror of a family trip to Skegness or maybe Cromer. We used to think the journey was interminable, four hours in the car to cover maybe 100 miles. 'Are we there yet?' It is very different here. On our drive back from South Dakota, we covered 500 miles in eight hours. I livened this up with my usual gas supply problem. We were heading through the Black Hills at a leisurely 85mph when Heather pointed out that the fuel gauge was red. The 32 miles to the nearest garage was quite stressful and Heather hasn't forgiven me a week later.

As we move into another election cycle, who knows whether Trump will end up in jail or back in the White House in two years' time. The good news is that I can report that there is no sign of his head on Mt Rushmore but unfortunately the Beatles aren't in residence either. I had to Google the answer: alongside George Washington, are Jefferson, Roosevelt and Lincoln. Rich white men on the shrine to democracy. I wonder what they would think of Trump.

Mike Ward, mike.ward@pathlock.com



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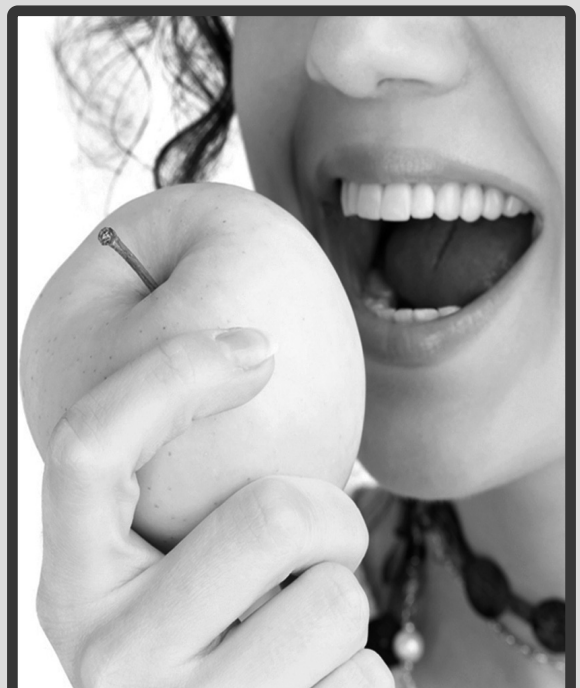
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Neighbourhood Plan Latest

We on the Deddington Neighbourhood Plan steering group want to thank wholeheartedly the hundreds of parishioners who replied to the survey we circulated recently. The complete results, including the voting on potential sites for development, the verdict on proposed policies and a vast array of comments, will be published this month on the Neighbourhood Plan website.

Based on the votes awarded to each of the 14 sites offered for development, we have drawn up a shortlist. These are being narrowed down further to identify our proposed sites for allocation – to be ratified by the parish council. Hot on the heels of that, we'll be putting the final touches to a draft neighbourhood plan which will include updated policies, together with the allocated sites, for the next round of consultation.

In the meantime, a planning application for one of the 14 sites listed in our survey has been submitted to CDC. This is for 135 houses on an area of land north of Deddington Grange and west of the A4260. You can find details of the application (22/02992/OUT) on the CDC planning portal. The outline plan proposes that the housing be built on 4.35 hectares of the site, with the remaining 9 hectares, mostly sloping downhill, offered for naturalistic parkland, tree planting and a play area. The plan includes a plot for a new nursery at the south east corner of the site. The parish council will be deciding whether to recommend rejection or support for the application at its 16 November meeting.

The application has already provoked a fair number of comments on the Deddington Community Facebook noticeboard and, at the time of writing, more than 60 responses from the public on the CDC planning portal. Nearly all of them are hostile. Concerns are raised about the ability of Deddington Primary School and the health centre to accommodate a new influx of

residents, about wildlife, an expanding boundary of the parish and about the additional traffic and parking attendant on new development.

Interestingly many of the comments on the CDC portal come from Banbury and, in particular, the residents of the newish Longford Park estate. They mostly complain about the poor state of the roads on Longford Park, querying how CDC can contemplate new developments when this estate, they say, is still in a shambolic state.

Whatever the force of these arguments, some of the issues noted here are not strictly speaking planning considerations when it comes to CDC making their decision on the latest large-scale application for Deddington. Others are highly pertinent.

A couple of things need to be borne in mind battling a path through this jungle. The housing need survey carried out for the NP steering group by AECOM (an independent consultancy company sponsored by the government) arrived at a figure of 126 new dwellings that will be required in Deddington up to the year 2040. Notionally the current developments on the Hempton and Clifton Roads could be deducted from that.

Secondly, there is the reality that new housing in Deddington, as in the rest of the district, is inevitable, such is the obligation on CDC from the government (and it's no good saying at this point – what government?). If the NP steering group and the parish council don't allocate sites for development, CDC will. The question is – where? It's at this point your voting in the NP survey, our further research into favoured sites, and the steel in our collective backbones come into play. Watch this space.

Helen Oldfield
helenoldfield.dpc@gmail.com
deddingtonneighbourhoodplan.org

NEWS FROM CLIFTON

Excitement in our corner of heaven as Deddington folk, in the shape of Deddington Environment Network, seek to plant wildflowers in our midst at Welford's Piece. There will be a meeting when this has gone to press where the idea will be discussed with residents who expressed an interest. If, however, you were missed in the call for input and you have a view, then please get in touch with me or through your village parish councillors, Mark Swadling, Jill Norton or Alan Collins please.

The last quiz night at the Duck was a roaring success where the food was Jamaican. 'The best chicken I ever ate' was Aric's verdict and everyone else eating it. The beef and vegetarian diners thought theirs excellent as well.

The quiz was won by two points by a team from Chapel Close who played a blinder, beating Aric's rabble into second place – but they took home the beer prize. The next quiz is 16 November so get your

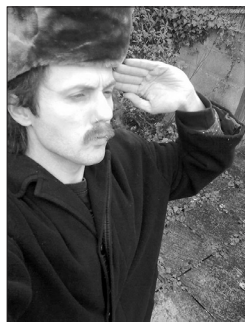
team together. While there you might wish to sign up for the New Year's Eve 80s night. What could possibly go wrong? The Duck is also hosting a box for any 20mph survey results that need to be returned and, for that, I thank the pub.

Discussion was long and loud at Book Club as a member plans to have south-facing solar panels installed. At these times of rocketing fuel costs, this seems a sensible measure. Some here have had them for a while and are keen to spread the message, so if you fancy doing your bit for global warming, come along to Book Club. If you need help planning your retirement, come to Book Club. If you like beer, interesting conversation, or a review of Scottish football ... well, you get the idea.

Apart from this, we're a bit low on news down here, so if you have any let me know.

Martin Bryce
martindnbryce@gmail.com

BLISSFUL THINKING



Some years feel like hang-gliding over a summer meadow. This year has felt more like wading through a flooded corridor.

Still, now we're into the season of pumpkin spice, unexpected eye level sunlight while driving and skies straight from a Degas pastel. Most importantly, no torturous humidity and sleepless nights for a few blissful months. It's a strange phenomenon how the denouement of summer segues to Christmas almost overnight, with the only tangible change being the hours of darkness.

This liminality could be applied to the state of the world order too. It feels as if we've been in an interregnum period for quite some time. The old world is dying, but the new world struggles to be born. Hopefully we can stave off the monsters and emerge into a spring of optimism again. Until then, we strap on our winter finery and fill up on festive accoutrements from the farmers' market, because this winter will be one to remember I'm certain.

Aaron Bliss
aaronjbliss@hotmail.com

DEDDINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

What beautiful weather we have had since the beginning of term. The autumn sun has enabled the children to take part in outdoor PE sessions.

In September, we enjoyed our harvest celebration in church and the children brought in lovely gifts for people less fortunate than themselves.

Some children in Years 3 and 4 took part in a football tournament this term, competing against other local primary schools. They loved this opportunity and played well with great team spirit.

Year 6 pupils have been playing hockey at Bloxham School and Year 4 children have been swimming one afternoon a week. The whole school also took part in a cross-country run on our top field, so all in all, we are keeping fit.

Early in October, Year 3 welcomed someone from Hands On Heritage Oxfordshire to share artefacts and knowledge about life from the Stone Age to the Iron Age. They were able to look at objects from each era, such as stone spear heads, and also acted out some aspects of life in the past. It was a great experience for them, bringing the past to life.

Finally, we have an extra message today from our PTA: Deddington Primary School teachers and parents invite you to join them for a night of fireworks on the school field on Saturday 5 November. Access is from Earls Lane and the event starts at 6.00pm, with blast off scheduled for 7.00pm. Everyone is welcome. We hope to see as many of you there as possible.

Denise Welch
dwel3954@deddington.oxon.sch.uk



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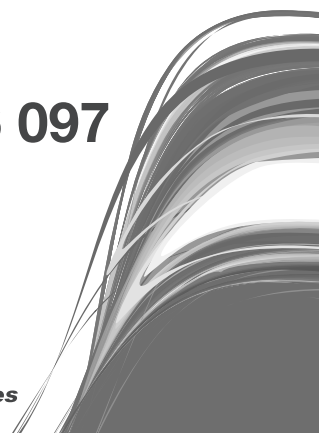
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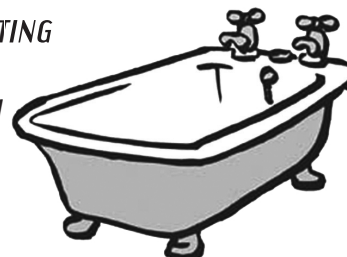
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Delivering Ambulances to Ukraine



I set off for Ukraine with Al Kitchen and Vaughan Jones, two friends I thought I knew. I didn't. I do now and they will be friends for life. We joined three lads: Fynn Watt, Harry Turburfield and Sam Lowe, two I've known for many years. All will make this world a better place.

My pre-conception before the journey began was that we would have three long days with many miles of boredom, evenings filled with food, beer and laughter and a single day of risk. I couldn't have been further from the truth. There wasn't a second of boredom and, alas, there were no evenings to relax, with every meal taken in petrol stations. As a team we attacked this gruelling, 1,700 mile drive with relentless determination. The cross-vehicle walkie-talkie-fuelled banter at times had me in pain with laughter but, with every mile, the gravity and reality of our task loomed.

The morning arrived when we would cross the border. This was the day the banter paused. This was the day we would deliver three resilient, old ambulances that were wanted to serve again.

At breakfast that morning we did what we promised before we left Deddington and gave everyone the option to stand down, but six hands were raised without a second's hesitation. So off we set to stop one: medical supplies. The Canadians' house had been turned into an operation centre with every room stacked with kit for the front line. As we loaded the ambulances, we realised we were also transporting body bags.

The border crossing was nothing other than tedious, wasted hours with paperwork repeatedly done. Then we drove towards Lviv through beautiful countryside, with checkpoints and machine gun positions the only reminder that this is a country at war. We unloaded the first drop off in a backstreet warehouse where an elderly man hugged each of us. No English was spoken yet we shared just a tiny bit of his pain.

Then we went to the paint shop to meet the men who would respray the ambulances and drive them to the front line. The camaraderie between us was instant and deep – the first time together, yet across the hundreds of miles we'd driven we were united.

They insisted that we took dinner with them and, as we ate borscht and drank beer, we laughed, yet their lost friends showed in their eyes.

Then it was time to head back to the border. Already evening, we knew the transfer in the Ford Transit would be long and uncomfortable but we welcomed it. We were heading to safety and home. However, the minibus which was to be our route home had been turned into a van, all seats removed, serving a better purpose.

It was now 10pm and there was no way for us to leave Lviv, until Julia, a young Ukrainian woman and friend of the 'paint shop crew', who we had met only that evening, handed us her car keys, no provisos, no conditions, simply 'You stand with us, my car is the least I can offer.'

At 5.30 that next morning we arrived in her car at our hotel in Krakow, exhausted but totally safe, for a few hours' sleep before our flight back to our loved ones. We missed breakfast but gladly settled for a hot drink. The waitress appeared with our coffees, scrambled eggs and we ate well. When we thanked her, she just said 'I'm Ukrainian. Thank you all.'

The friends I travelled with and the many incredible young people I met this week will make this world a better place. Sadly, some may die trying.

Craig Milner

If you would like to hear more about this trip as well as other local initiatives to help the people of Ukraine, then join us at 7.30pm on Saturday 19 November in Deddington church. Ukraine – A Celebration of Hope is an informative evening with presentations, interviews and video accounts.

LETTERS

FROM MICHAEL LIEBRECHT,
DEDDINGTON

To all who attended the music, tea and apple crumble afternoon with Deddington Brass on 17 September, very many thanks, both for coming and for generous donations. £250 is a great contribution towards new music to add to the repertoire, equipment or instruments.



Somehow we got a summer's day in mid-September which was a real treat. My thanks also to all who helped so much with the day – prepping, cooking, brewing and serving – and to the band for getting together on a Saturday afternoon.

NEWS FROM HEMPTON

The annual Hempton Pumpkin Trail is planned to take place on Sunday 30 and Monday 31 October. Every resident is invited to the Old School Room on Sunday 30 between 3.00pm and 7.00pm for an autumn celebration. Drinks and autumnal treats will be on offer and there will be fun activities for juniors. Pumpkin Trail maps can be purchased at the Old School Room on Sunday.

Returning home from a bike ride, I arrived at the junction at the head of the Barford road and stopped to give way to two fellow velocipedists passing through the village on the main road. They were deeply involved in an animated discussion about something. They were so distracted that shortly after I fell in behind them they very nearly had a rare twin collision with a vehicle parked outside St John's. As they belatedly realised, one rider managed to swerve around the parked vehicle narrowly avoiding a collision with an oncoming truck. The other managed to stop short of a collision but failed to unclip from his pedals and found himself recumbent in the road. Spurred on by embarrassment he quickly remounted and the two of them pedalled off rapidly in the direction of Deddington.

A number of fellow cyclists have admitted to crashing into a parked vehicle. Whether their attention was distracted or they were head down with exhaustion, it is not a practice I recommend. I admit to having fallen foul of this faux pas myself. It was sheer stupidity, watching the road passing under the bottom bracket

where the pedals are attached. The event took place many years ago in my youth. Thus sensitised to the damage, injury and humiliation incurred, not to mention the ire of the vehicle owner, I have managed to avoid repeating the same lapse of awareness.

The least enthusiastic participants in this practice tend to be vehicle owners especially when the perpetrator hot-biked it, hoping nobody witnessed the event. The impression of an ugly mush in cycling helmet imprinted in the bonnet or boot and the impression of a Continental Gator Skin (that's a bike tyre) in their pristine bumper does little to enhance the value of a vehicle or the mood of the owner.

Cars in relative terms are a soft target; other vehicles usually visit significantly more severe consequences on the cyclist than even the vehicle owner. Disappearing under the bodywork of an HGV is not much fun but perhaps worse still is a skip. I have witnessed a cyclist taking on a skip and I believe the cyclist involved would agree with my assessment. The skip is designed to separate the rider from his/her machine and inflict greater damage to both bike and rider. The only positive outcome is that the skip provides a convenient receptacle for the remains of the bicycle and the rider. Top tip: watch where you are going.

The colonisation of the British Isles continues apace this autumn with literally millions if not billions of potential immigrants helicoptering over the countryside. I refer of course to the sycamore. A native of central, eastern and southern Europe, the species is thought to have been introduced here by the Romans or possibly in the Tudor period around 1500 and became naturalised by the mid 1800s. In common with my apple tree and the horse chestnuts flanking the approaches to Hempton, they have produced an especially heavy crop of fruits this year.

In open countryside and woodland they provide a cornucopia for wildlife. In more confined, residential settings they are a menace. I have spent the last 37 years fending off the white fly a neighbour's tree attracts; a corner of my garden including my apple tree is drenched in the sap and honeydew released by the tree and the aphids. I spend half of each year clearing up and disposing of fallen leaves or flowers and the other half uprooting seedlings. I lost any sight of the late afternoon and evening summer sun in my garden years ago as this prolific weed grows another 1–2 metres each year.

Stuart Oldham, sj_oldham@btinternet.com



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LAST WORD

BRIAN FULLER 1937–2022

Brian was born on 6 April 1937 in Deddington. However, it was recorded, by an act of skulduggery, accident or bribe, as 5 April, benefiting the family by his being born in the previous tax year.

His parents were Charles and Ada who had bought Earls Farm on a handshake a year before and walked their livestock on the main roads from Priors Hardwick. He had a big sister, Mary, and later a little sister, Rosemary.

Brian went to Deddington Primary School and he would recount a school trip he had taken to the Rollright Stones, walking to Ayhno station, catching the train to Great Rollright, walking to the Stones, having a picnic and then returning to school – an exhausting day but he loved it. Brian would also tell of waving to Churchill from the school playground as he was being driven by.

Brian also went to school at Muggy Mellors in Banbury and then to Bloxham School. He excelled at boxing and was happy to report that Bloxham had once beaten the boys from Eton.

Brian was not only born into farming but he found his vocation and a beautiful 'office' to toil in. As a youngster he was responsible for looking after the shire horses, Bonnie, Nobby, Dolly and Blackbird, and when the family found horse shoes, he could tell whose it was by the wear. As a teenager he started mowing the Castle Grounds, something he did for more than 50 years.

He was very practical and built a cow feeder with diagonal openings when he saw the cows bringing out the hay when stepping back. If they had to turn their head, they would not do this. He never patented the idea but it is now the industry standard. He was a true custodian of the land. Anyone old enough to remember Green Hedges Lane in the 1970s will recall a muddy deeply gouged lane. Over the years he filled and refilled the holes as they reappeared, and mowed and maintained the farm's hedges.

He had an affinity with animals particularly all the dogs he loved as a reassuring presence around his livestock. He could calm the meanest dog and animals gravitated towards him.

He met Audrey at a dance in Wardington and knew that night that he would marry her. She took a little more convincing but they went on to be happily married for almost 64 years, creating a formidable partnership. They both worked incredibly hard: Brian on the farm and Audrey setting up a B&B and taking to the role of farmer's wife with aplomb, even when being elbowed out of bed to take her turn during lambing season.

Brian supplemented his poor farming wages by entering ploughing matches and hedge-laying competitions. He once won £5, almost a month's wages.

In 1955, Brian joined the retained Fire Service. Loud sirens rang through the village, waking all residents with the call to attend. He was a leading fireman when he retired after 30 years' service. He loved the camaraderie and the training meant he was fantastic in a crisis, once having successfully performed CPR in front of the whole family.

He was a member of the Parish Council for many years. He was a man of action; hosting the village bonfire night, getting cars out of ditches, clearing snow, mowing, restoring lanes, planting trees and using farm vehicles for all manner of parades.

After their children, Andrew, Roy and Susan, had flown the nest, their life took off with Brian taking flying lessons, playing golf and bridge and taking many wonderful, memorable holidays together.

In 2000 Brian was diagnosed with prostate cancer and initially given 6–18 months. With some amazing care from Audrey, the NHS and his incredible *joie de vivre* he lived another twenty years.

Anyone who knew Brian would know him for his legendary chat. A friend remarked, after noticing the time it had taken for him to buy something from the Co-op, 'If Brian met a talking pig, he would ask how it was.' Thereafter, if he had taken some time, the question was always posed, 'How was the pig?'

He will be remembered for being unassuming, empathetic, great in a crisis, steadfast in himself, a workhorse who was never backward in coming forward. He loved gently and consistently, loved to laugh and spend time with people and have a drink.

Susan Fuller

DH History Corner

www.deddingtonhistory.uk

Mount Pleasant, Hempton

At the July parish council meeting, Dr Tracey Parker of Hempton gave a short presentation in which she drew attention to a planning application to demolish this house on the south east corner of the pinch point to build three new houses on the land. Dr Parker asked the PC to oppose the application on the basis that the house had a history stretching back several hundred years. Alerted by this, and armed with Dr Parker's research, I delved deeper and found that it dated from at least Civil War days and had been continuously occupied until the 1980s by the Hollier family who were

strong supporters of the Royalist cause. We know this because Edward Hollier signed the Protestation Return in 1642 declaring loyalty to the King, along with all the men in Deddington (three pages of them) who did likewise.

I also contacted a John Hollier in Australia, descendant of the Hempton Holliers. He was able to confirm many of the facts. The article recording all this – and referring to King Charles' overnight stay in the parish – can be found at www.deddingtonhistory.uk/buildings/privatehouses/mountpleasant,hempton. A summary of the key historical facts was sent to CDC planning and, in consequence, it is hoped that Mount Pleasant will not be demolished but be restored and integrated in a sympathetic manner as part of a new plan. **Rob Forsyth, editor@deddingtonhistory.uk**

Deddington Town Hall

Vandalised Again

The trustees of the Charities Estates have spent a considerable sum over more than ten years, without recourse to seeking public funds, to preserve and conserve the town hall for future generations.

At present we are part way through the final phase to preserve the undercroft with its medieval beams and 19th century Grade II listed brick floor. We hope to retain this as an open space. Contrary to general understanding, the area is private property and is used, with our permission, by the public. We have been advised that structurally the whole building would benefit from total enclosure which we hope to avoid.

Sadly vandals have painted the brick floor using material which is difficult to remove. Deddington bricks are no longer made and vandalism has increased the cost and difficulty of restoring the floor.

We are most fortunate in retaining the outline of an original market hall with distinct medieval features. Many have deteriorated over the centuries and have been rebuilt, usually in local stone or brick. The trustees are proud to be associated with such a fine historic building dating back to circa 1609.

John Sampson

COVER PICTURE

Oxford University Parks

Picture by Alison Day

Charles II is said to have walked his dog there and so could you. We are writing of Oxford University Parks, the subject of this month's cover.

First on people's list of to be Oxford colleges and our 2022 look within 30 miles finishes at this overlooked oa-



most local places to visit has with its spires, museums. But at destinations of Deddington calm and often sis within the city.

University Parks, bordered by the River Cherwell to the north-east and next to the Science Area, are 70 acres bought in 1850s by Oxford University from Merton College and laid out for sport and recreation in 1864.

Open every day except Christmas Eve, the parks boast walks, a large collection of trees including seven giant sequoias planted in about 1888, the cricket ground and pavilion used by the Oxford University Cricket Club since 1881, a pond with water lilies and a small island created in 1925 and the elegant High Bridge, usually called Rainbow Bridge, because of its shape.

Go to www.parks.ox.ac.uk/home for more information and an excellent visitors' map.

John Price

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The first half's performance is by piano and vocal duo, Jess and Ben Waddilove. The second half of the evening features Gracenotes, a 4 piece 'A Capella' group of singers who will perform a selection of traditional and contemporary songs.

Tickets are £50 each. A Friends and Family ticket for groups of 4 is available at a discounted price of £160 (£40 a ticket). All tickets include delicious canapés served upon arrival plus guests can enjoy a complimentary welcome glass of fizz, Buck's fizz or a soft drink courtesy of Zurich Community Trust. The bar will be open during the interval.

Tickets available from our website.

For more info contact Verity Fifer, Head of Fundraising
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From The Fire Station

A week ago our call-out total was stuck in single figures – very low when compared with the last three months of more than 100 shouts. However, this last week has resulted in a number of serious fires and incidents, boosting our total to 19 call-outs.

The start of the month saw us respond to a rare incident, although one we are constantly asked about – have you ever rescued a cat up a tree? So we can now all say yes, we have (some of our crew have been waiting 15 years for this one).

The cat, Clyde, had been a fair way up a lovely mature oak for most of the day. Access was limited in the owner's garden, meaning we had to approach from a neighbouring property and erect the 13.5m ladder to allow access to Clyde. The form of the tree and branch positioning meant that a standard ladder pitch couldn't be achieved, needing some creative firecraft amongst the crew.

After several aborted goes, the ladder was extended to the branch below Clyde, only for him to climb up further. Eventually he came back down and two firefighters in working-at-heights gear scaled the ladder equipped with treats and a large net. After 10 minutes of cajoling, FF Louis Martin's Dr Dolittle skills paid off and Clyde was brought down to the great relief of the owners, placed in a bag and passed over the fence.

Whilst the rescue was occurring, the children watching were given a tour of the fire truck to take their minds off events.

With autumn now officially here, please remember to sweep your chimneys before lighting your fires and take extra care with low sun during those commuting runs.

And finally, a big welcome to CJ Harber who joins us as our latest recruit.

FF James Greenwood
james@cyclogicalshop.co.uk

PFSU and Village Nursery

The first school term of the year has raced by. During the half-term break we held our Hallowe'en pumpkin trail around the village. Thank you to everyone who supported it.

In October we held a well-attended parents evening at the PFSU which included playing some of the phonics and numeracy games that our children enjoy. We hope you found it interesting. The Nursery children enjoyed a dress-up week for Hallowe'en. This term both settings will be thinking about celebrations which will include fireworks night, Diwali and Christmas.

Applications for primary school for next September open on 1 November. If your child turns four by 31 August 2023, don't forget to make yours. We welcome Tina to the Pre-School staff team.

Lucy Squires
01869 337484

FRIENDS OF DAEDA'S WOOD

The team which monitors the bat boxes found extensive use by natterer bats during the summer. One box contained about 16.

The boxes will not be checked again until spring as it often happens that females have mated but do not begin gestation until the weather gets warmer. Disturbing them before the gestation period begins can cause this not to occur.

Some visitors to the Wood had reported to me some fallen branches close to the road and also some obstructing the main rides. The Woodland Trust has now dealt with these. It is a Woodland Trust policy not to tidy up brushwood but to leave it to provide a home for bugs. Sometimes this means that smaller paths are not easily navigable but this is a small price to pay, I am sure most visitors would agree, for preserving the integrity of the woodland as a haven for wildlife.

Annette Murphy, Chair
murphyannette74@gmail.com



Over the past few years, managing our ambitious improvement plans at the Windmill has often felt like one step forwards, two steps back. We begin a project to improve something only to find that two other things need repairing.

The new accessible loo block on the Hempton lounge side of the building is a case in point. The existing sewage pipes were not where the plans suggested they would be. Consequently, the builders had to dig up more of our driveway than they were expecting to, causing more disruption and delay, and leaving us with a wonky drive, which they now have to come back and fix. Don't get me started! Despite these setbacks, and with the support of the parish council and our indefatigable treasurer's ability to root out grants and other available funding sources, we plough on and try to get things done. By the time you read this, I very much hope the new loos will be complete and we will be onto our next project – updating and replacing the interior doors, a complete kitchen refit and improvements to the Lookout, to name but three in no particular order. I can't imagine what fun and games lie in wait for us this time.

If you are wondering who 'us' is, the Windmill management committee is a team of well-meaning volunteers who run your community centre. Would you like to join us? We are always looking out for new people and now is an exciting time to become part of our team. Email me if you are interested. I can definitely find you a job.

Vaughan Jones, Chair
vaughan@englishlanguagematters.com

CALLING ALL CLUBS

Deddington Bookworms

Our book this month was *The Salt Path* by Raynor Winn, a first novel for Raynor, which details how her life was plunged into the depths of despair. However, this despair became the impetus for finding inner strength and determination.

Raynor and her husband, Moth, find themselves homeless after a financial investment went badly wrong. Inspired by Mark Wallington's book, *500-mile Walkies*, they take on the Southwest Coast path carrying their new home on their backs. The story is all the more remarkable as Moth was diagnosed with a terminal illness within two weeks of learning of their impending homelessness.

All the Bookworms read and enjoyed the book. Raynor describes the countryside and the wildlife well and the insights of how other people react to them are both entertaining and thought provoking. Sometimes the reader is left with more questions than answers, particularly regarding the way they became homeless and their complete lack of funds. Overall, this is a positive read, with the moral of the story being that no matter how hard it gets, don't give up.

Our next book is *Dear Mrs Bird* by AJ Pearce.

Deddingtonbookworms@gmail.com

WI

On the hottest day of the year in August, teams from the WI took part in a Deddington village walking treasure hunt. You either knew the village well or got to know a lot more about it. It was good fun, but you needed your wits about you to follow the clues. Two teams managed to finish with the heat too much for some. But we all enjoyed a cream tea afterwards.

The speaker at our September meeting was Diana Marshall who spoke about the Independent Monitoring Board (IMB) of the prison service. Staffed by volunteers, their role is to monitor all aspects of prison life. It involves inspecting buildings, talking to prisoners and addressing their concerns and observing meetings. They are entirely independent and no formal qualifications are required, but an open mind and good communication skills are needed. I don't think anyone in the audience was aware of the IMB but its work is important for both inmates and staff.

At a completely different meeting in October, we played bingo. It was a change from our usual meetings and good fun. The prizes were hampers of donated food and we finished with afternoon tea. Thanks to the committee who arranged it all.

Moir Byast

deddingtonwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk

Photographic Society

Terry Pollard, a longstanding member of Kidlington Camera club, came to show us a collection of images from his trip to New Zealand in 2019 when he travelled from the top of the North Island to the toe of South Island.

His preference is landscape photography and New Zealand offered extensive opportunities for him to capture the changing topography. There were photographs ranging from mud pots and geysers, gushing waterfalls, national parks including volcanoes, interesting rock formations, lush forests and even a 90-mile beach. He trekked the McKinnon Pass on the popular tourist trail on Milford Sound climbing to an altitude of approximately 1,150m, taking in dramatic scenery whilst photographing his ascent and descent which would test many a walker. His final collection was of sculptural icebergs floating in the most beautiful blue waters and petrified trees.

Our monthly topic slideshow of our own images was on the theme of vibrant colours and the variety of photographs based on our members' interpretation is always interesting. From colourful cotton reels and garden flowers to neon signed rides and technical studio work. They all demonstrated once again the talent of our members. Next month we are taking images with the theme 'i'.

Our next talk is on Wednesday 2 November at 7.30pm at the Adderbury Institute. More details on our website.

Anne Hunsley

www.addphoto.co.uk

Holly Tree Club

The Holly Tree Club is thriving with a quite large membership now. As well as the weekly coffee mornings on Mondays and lunches on the first and third Wednesdays, we plan an outing to Blue Diamond, the Bicester Garden Centre and associated other retail outlets, on 23 November, using OurBus Bartons, and a Christmas lunch at the Deddington Arms on 7 December. Further details and sign-up sheets will be circulated shortly.

Julia Cork

Julia.cork@thedha.org

Local Vocals Community Choir

Mondays at 7.30pm during term time. Deddington Primary School Hall.

Much like a serious gym session, we always start our choir rehearsals with a warm-up, both physical and vocal. After a few stretches, limb shakes and gurning, we move on to breathing and scales to the sounds of la, me, doh or other noises that change each week. Finally, we sing a few warm-up songs that often culminate in singing in the round, where we are split into three or four groups and try not to lose sight of what we are meant to be singing in our group. There is a definite sense of achievement when we nail it.


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

Alison Grieve

Royal British Legion


Tickets for our 5 November Poppy event 'Remembering the Falklands 40 Years On' in the church are selling well. We look forward to a very interesting evening

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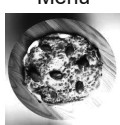

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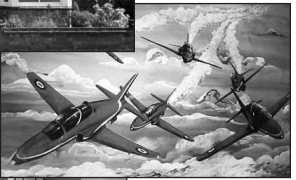

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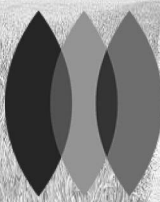
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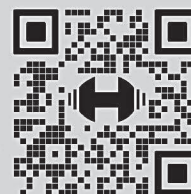
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Deddington Partnership Foundation Stage Unit
Earls Lane, Deddington, OX15 0TJ
Company No: 4874588, Ofsted No: EY330043
Charity No: 1100275



CALLING ALL CLUBS

Continued from p26

when Neil Skinner's amazing lighting scheme will be first on show for the period of Poppy week.

I am sad to report the death of member Margery Hawes in her 99th year at Featherton House. She served in WWII as a sergeant in the WAAF. In its closing stages she was based in Belgium tracking V2 rockets fired from Peenemunde.

On Remembrance Sunday the parade will assemble in the Bull Ring at 10.15am and march off in time to observe the two-minute silence at 11.00am at the war memorial. This will be followed by a service in the church. Parade will then march past the memorial garden on the green where the President of the Branch, accompanied by the vicar and chair of the PC, will take the salute.

Our Branch Annual General Meeting is at 7.00pm on Thursday 24 November in the Lower Boardroom, Deddington Arms.

Rob Forsyth, Chairman
01869 338384

Book Group

In September we read *The Promise* by South African author, Damon Galgut. Set during the years of transition from apartheid to democracy, the political and social deficiencies are mirrored in the conduct of a prosperous but flawed white family. The youngest child, Amor, claims to have heard her father promise her dying mother that he will give their long-serving black maid the deeds to the basic house which she inhabits. Over the next 30 years the promise is refused or ignored by all except Amor, leading to dark consequences.

This is a powerful novel, dealing with themes of racism, guilt, greed and corruption. Most of the main and subsidiary characters are pretty unlikeable and some of us were put off by this. However, we agreed that Galgut's dynamic style of writing suited his critical and satirical view of the situation.

Our next meeting is on Thursday 24 November. Please contact Sally Lambert on 01869 338094 for details.

Sian Waterman

SPORT

Deddington Town Football Club

First Team results

17.9.22	Wroxton Sports (a)	L 0-6
24.9.22	Hanwell Ath (a) (CUP)	W 8-1
1.10.22	Kings Sutton (h)	L 1-5
8.10.22	Longford Park FC (a)	D 1-1

Reserve Team results

17.9.22	Hanwell Ath 1st (h)	L 1-2 Foster
24.9.22	Chesterton Res	Deddington Forfeit
1.10.22	K Sutton Res (a) (CUP)	W 5-1 Cook, Davies (Joe), Foster, Hardy, Kellar
8.10.22	Bodicote Sports Res (h)	D 1-1

It would take a better correspondent than me to sugar-coat this month of action. For the Humbugs and the Latics, with all the caveats about sluggish starts out of the way, it's been about as successful as a Liz Truss press conference. Both have recorded stonking cup victories but served up thin gruel for their bread and butter. But, let's stay positive because DTFC have triumph through adversity in their blood. There are rumours that it is only effectively activated when exposed to vociferous encouragement from the sidelines though, so you know what you must do, dear reader.

Aaron Bliss 07909 64288)

Tennis Club

It seems late to be reporting results for the summer leagues in the November *DN* but the leagues only finished at the end of September. This year all our teams have done very well.

We had four teams in the Banbury Town Summer Midweek Leagues. Our A team played in division 2 and were runners-up, winning 8 of their 12 matches. Our B team were the winners of division 3, winning all 12 of

their matches. The C team were in the same division as B and came fifth of eight, avoiding relegation. The D team in division 4 finished fourth, winning five of ten matches. It was an excellent season overall.

In the Dunlop Leagues, which are played at weekends, we also did well. Our Men's A team was third in division 8, winning five out of seven matches. Our Women's A team came top of division 4, undefeated all season in their seven matches. The Mixed A team, which was a new team this summer, were runners-up in division 8, also winning all seven matches and just one point behind the winners.

In the Juniors, our under 16 team won their National League summer division, unbeaten in three matches.

Thank you to everyone who played and especially to all the captains who work so hard to get teams out and without whom these results would not have been possible. The winter season is getting underway, so we hope to have positive results to report in the spring.

In April it will be forty years since the Tennis Club started. Would any founder members please get in touch?

For more information about how to become a member, hire a court, book coaching, join the junior programme, please refer to our website <http://www.deddingtontennis.com/>

Becky Jones

Deddington Town Youth Teams

The Under 16s playing in the Witney and District Youth League have won their past two matches – a 13-0 win at SWIS when eight different players scored with Toby Dickson-Smith getting a hat-trick and a 1-0 win over Bampton Town that means they sit mid-table in

SPORT

Continued from p29

the league. The Under 13s playing in the Oxfordshire Youth Invitation League currently sit bottom of the B League after recent results – a 3–3 draw with Bure Park, and 5–3 defeat at Radley Youth. The Under 12s playing in the Witney and District Youth League Under 12 C League sit top of the table, winning their first three games including a 7–1 win away at Aston Youth with a hat-trick for Vinnie Holiday, a 10–2 win over Banbury Irish with hat-tricks for Zac Godfrey and Thomas Johnson and a 7–1 win over Stonesfield in the Cup with a hat-trick for Zac Godfrey.

Volunteer positions available – play your part

We have an opportunity for a Club Welfare Officer

to support our safeguarding and respect work at the club and a Marketing and Communications Officer to promote the club in the community. If you have the skills and want to give a few hours to the club, please contact me for an informal chat about the roles.

Get involved in volunteering

If you are interested, please do not hesitate to get in touch. Further information about the club is on our website www.deddingtontownfc/ or visit us on Facebook www.facebook.com/DeddingtonTownFc

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

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1st Deddington Scout Group

Cubs

It has been an exciting start to the new year for Cubs. We have been joined by three new members, including our first girl for a couple of years. Don't forget that girls can be Cubs too and it's great to have diversity in our pack.

A major event in mid-September was a two-night camp. Twelve of our Cubs joined other packs at the Scout campsite at Horley. There were also several Beaver Scout lodges there so the place was busy with young campers. Cubs got involved in several fun activities: frisbee golf, rocket making (and launching), and a blindfold trail. One evening we played a wide game in the woods in the dark and another evening we had a great time around the campfire singing songs and toasting marshmallows – always a firm favourite. Spending time at camp provides a fun context for Cubs to further develop their independence as well as some practical skills. It was particularly pleasing to see some of our Cubs volunteer to clean up the communal dining area.

Since camp we have had sessions stringing and playing conkers: some of you may remember playing that in your youth? We have also done some work on lashing, all interspersed with a selection of fun games.

**Paul Honess
deddingtoncubs@gmail.com**

Scouts

With thoughts of the Queen, we took the opportunity to remind ourselves of our Scouting values: integrity, respect, care, beliefs and co-operation, using games and activities. Yes, one of those did include wearing a Morrison's paper carrier over their heads.

An evening of small fire lighting followed, some can do it, some can't, so more practise is needed.

Then, inspired by those scary films of the 60s and 70s, they made some brilliant public information films on the subjects of healthy eating, smoking, sleep and alcohol.

We made whistles from drinks cans – impressively loud (apologies to the dog class in the hall) and a few

of us litter picked on the Hempton Road. Prize for the weirdest pick to Ralph – a pair of pants.

**Pete Churchyard
deddingtonscouts@gmail.com**

1st Deddington Guides

Welcome to all our new Guides who made their promise this term. Congratulations to our newly elected patrol leaders and their chosen seconds, too. We spent some time beforehand, discussing the qualities of a good leader and the fairest way to vote.

Our hobbies evening was very successful with each Guide demonstrating or talking about her interests. We have some very talented artists and musicians among us. We also discovered a wide range of hobbies from dancing to snorkelling and skiing.

Messy painting was very popular, as were toasting marshmallows, games in the dark and knotting.

Through various activities Guides learned about the natural world around them and how to cope and help in various emergencies that we hope will stand them in good stead for the future.

The Guides are working on two chosen badges – Mixology, great fun involving creating new smoothies and planning parties, and First Aid. So by the end of term they should be able to live up to our Be Prepared motto.

All girls 10 and over are very welcome to come along and have a taster of what we're all about.

**Maggie Rampley 07957 600755
and Marian Trinder 07786 001641**

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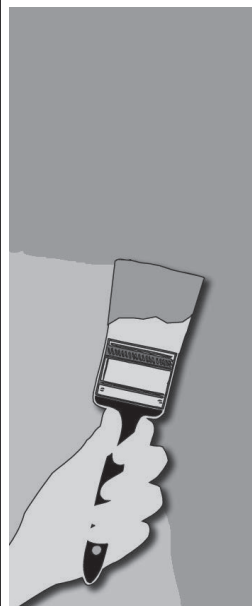
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