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MARCH 2023 COPY TO CATHERINE DESMOND editor@deddingtonnews.co.uk by 11 February

ADVERTISING COPY by **10 February**

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

DEDDINGTON NEWS

What generous spirited people there are in Deddington. You will see how much was raised for the Royal British Legion and for the Hope for Ukraine event, not to mention all the many donations that are still being collected for our friends in that war torn country. A significant sum was raised for women and children in Uganda and South Sudan at the Christmas carol singing. Thirteen Christmas lunches were delivered to local residents by a team of five or six people. Alex Moss supervised the cooking and preparation of the food and those who had their festive meals delivered were extremely grateful to everyone involved.

You'll need to read the whole DN to find out how much was raised by these organisations but I can tell you that an incredible £27,000+ was raised for Katharine House Hospice by the impressive Banbury Tractor Run which is now a firm fixture on our local calendar.

JC

What's On February Wed Photographic Society: Photoshop, Mick Brittain, Adderbury 1 Institute, 7.30pm Wed 8 WI: Canals Past and Present, Jenny and Clive Snashall, Holly Tree, 2.30pm Holly Tree Film Club: High Society, Holly Tree, 1.30pm Thu 9 Wed 15 Parish Council Meeting, Old School Room, Hempton, 7.30pm History Society: 'Votes for Women in Oxfordshire', Thu 16 Katharine Bradley, Primary School, 7.30pm Thu 23 Deddington Bookworms: Holly Tree, 6.30pm Thu 23 Book Group: please contact Sally Lambert, 01869 338094, for details 25 Sat Farmers' Market: Market Place, 9.00am-12.30pm March Wed 1 Photographic Society: Portrait Photographer, Scarlet Page, Adderbury Institute, 7.30pm Wed 8 WI: Annual meeting for members only 16 History Society: 'The Roman Villa in Broughton Castle Thu Grounds', Primary School, 7.30pm Thu 9 Holly Tree Film Club: Philomena, Holly Tree, 1.30pm Wed 15 Parish Council Meeting: 7.30pm Deddington Bookworms: Holly Tree, 6.30pm Thu 30 Sat 25 Farmers' Market: Market Place, 9.00am-12.30pm Sat

25 Banbury Symphony Orchestra: Spring Concert, Parish Church, 7.30pm

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DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting held at the Windmill Centre, 21 December Open Forum

Present: Cllrs Collins, Cox, Ince, Higham, Norton, Oldfield (chair), Patterson, Robinson, Snashall, Watts; District Cllr Williams and three members of the public. **Open Forum**

A trustee of the Windmill management committee addressed the PC regarding the roof of the building, stating it is almost 40 years old and has been causing problems for quite a while. The view of the WMC is that it would be advisable to arrange roof repairs now with potentially inflationary increases in the pipeline. PC to decide whether to have repairs done to part of the roof or replace the whole.

The chair of the WMC presented their business plan and budget for 2023. Bookings are back to pre-Covid levels although some groups had folded or left but other new hirers have come in to replace most of them.

Finance & General Purposes

Thanks were expressed to Nicholson's and those councillors who had helped erect and decorate the Christmas tree.

The charge to the funfair is to be reviewed at the January PC meeting.

Planning

No objection

Land Adjacent to Clifton Gate, Clifton Road, Deddington: erection of single dwelling, subject to the oak tree at the north boundary being protected.

Pure Barn, Oxford Road: use of barn for non-agricultural storage, providing consent is not used as an opening to further development and confirmation is obtained regarding safety of metal and concrete structure.

28 Gaveston Gardens: Single storey flat roof extension, side extension and first floor pitched roof over existing double garage.

Refusals

Unit 4, Castle Farm, Clifton.

Large Scale Developments

A public meeting held in the Old School Room, Hempton, was well attended.

Highways and Transport

PC continues to follow up issues at Hempton pinchpoint, writing to local MP, OCC and TVP.

Environment and General Purposes

Offers of sponsorship and quotations have been received on replacement public litter bins.

Equal access toilets at the Windmill have been completed although there is a snagging list to be followed up.

Meeting at the Windmill Centre, 18 January Open Forum

Present: Cllrs Collins, Cox, Ince, Norton, Oldfield (chair), O'Neill, Patterson, Robinson, Snashall, Timms, District Cllr Williams, parish clerk and seven members of the public.

A Barford resident spoke of the petition she is leading to save Mt Pleasant, Hempton, from demolition. The

PC congratulated her on her efforts and will put a link to the petition on its website as individual online signatories are critical.

Deddington RBL chair noted that it will make £200 available from branch funds towards repair of the storage shed at the Holly Tree which it shares with the PC. Several people spoke to the application to build nine houses south of St John's Way, Hempton, both for and against it.

District Councillor Report

Cllr Williams reported that CDC's Local Plan should be decided at its next meeting prior to an eight-week public consultation with final ratification anticipated by the end of summer.

Finance and General Purposes

The 2023–24 budget of £86,258 was passed, including the parish precept which will increase by 8.6%, approximately £65 per household. For a Band D property this is an increase of £5.

The PC will write to OFWAT requesting resolution of the debate between OCC and Thames Water as to who is responsible for the collapsed drain which perennially floods Clifton.

Further tree work and bramble removal will be done at Gaveston Green and a tree survey is to be carried out in May to monitor ash die back.

The PC is pressuring CDC to have Hempton Gate developer, Burringtons, release the outstanding S106 funds, to be used for projects including upgrades at the Windmill Centre, £11,000 for early years, £6,600 for library capacity, £5,800 for play equipment and £4,600 for outdoor sports.

Planning

No objection

Plough House, New Street: front and rear elevation repointing and repairs. Replace windows and install EV charger, internal works, but defer to the conservation officer regarding listed building works.

The Old House, Philcote Street: tree works.

The Little House, Clifton Road: demolition of existing dwelling and erection of replacement with detached car barn, swimming pool and pool house. Approval should be conditional on the inclusion of efficient systems and methods beyond current building legislation and incorporate the highest industry standards to minimise the environmental impact of the building. PC would like included: internal heat recovery system, ground or air source heat pump, solar panels and battery storage of unused generated energy, solar water heating of swimming pool, rainwater harvesting systems, all new materials to be sustainable or sustainably sourced.

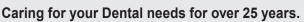
East of Combe Cottage and south of St John's Way, Hempton: outline application for 9 dwellings. Opinion in Hempton was seen as divided and there were no viable planning grounds for opposing the application. The Poundhouse, The Lane, Hempton: demolish wooden outbuilding and erect 2-storey outbuilding with garage and living accommodation above. Clerk *Continued on p29*

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





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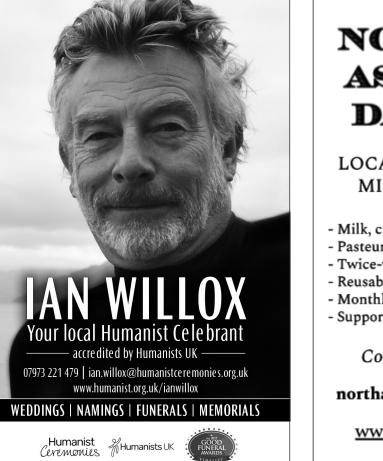
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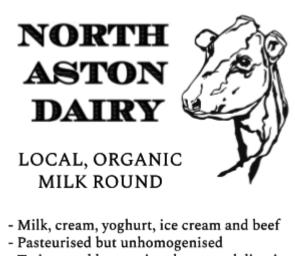
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LAST WORD Alan Humphries 1944–2022

Alan was the eldest child of Percy and Edith, born on 19 April 1944 in Deddington High Street in what was the home of Dr Hugh and Viv O'Donnell. He was followed by the arrival of Albert and his twin, Dorothy, who sadly died in infancy, Bryan, Marilyn and Christine. The family moved to 5 The Paddocks and lived there for many years. He used to catch rabbits, waiting at the edge of the field as the crop was cut and diving on the rabbits. Alan attended the village primary school and the Windmill secondary school. He excelled at mathematics. He started work at the council offices in the village and then worked at Twyford Seeds, Adderbury. He started bar duties at the Royal British Legion just before his eighteenth birthday before joining West Midlands Police and training at Ryton Police College. He was always keen to do overtime so that he could go to Coventry City home games and watch the match. However, pay was poor and he soon returned to the Legion where he honed his skills of serving what many will say was the best pint of Hooky ever.

Alan was a keen sportsman, playing football and cricket for the village. He was an outstanding goalkeeper, possibly from his practice of diving on rabbits in his formative years. He also played snooker, darts and Aunt Sally at the Legion and at the pubs where he was landlord.

He met Avril in the hospital when he was having his appendix removed and they married in 1968. Jackie arrived first followed by twins, Linda and David. Holidays were usually spent at the family owned caravan in Kilgetty, near Tenby, Pembrokeshire.

Whilst at the Legion Club, Alan spent many years as the treasurer of the Oxford and District Club Stewards and enjoyed the associated annual banquets, trips abroad and social events. He was proud of getting the Legion into the *Good Beer Guide*. It was a local social hotspot with live music, annual dinners, children's Christmas party, bingo and Remembrance Sunday all being well attended. Alan ensured the success of the club with his commitment and hard work. He moved to become landlord at the Railway pub in Hook Norton in 1983. Here he ran a bed and breakfast business and a group of guests who returned many times worked for BBC filming a veterinary series, *One by One.* The drinking sessions were legendary.

Alan took three other Hook Norton pubs: the Inn at Greatworth, the Coach and Horses in Banbury, and the Crown and Tuns in the village. Every pub he ran appeared in the *Good Beer Guide*. Many sought his advice when taking on their own pubs. If he did call time with the bell, it was always accompanied with his phrase, 'Come on, you lucky people!'

Alan loved all his grandchildren and took them in turn to one of his favourite destinations, Kissimmee in Florida. He was a thrill-seeker, never frightened to get on any of the rollercoaster rides. His good friends, Bob and Jean, introduced him to the delights of Orlando when they bought a villa there and took him with them. He was like a child rushing to the rides, one of his favourite being the Skycoaster, standing at 300 feet in Old Town.

He also lived in Summertown, Oxford, for many years following his retirement, living close to Bob and Jean. Alan was an integral part of the social days at the housing scheme run by Jean, going for trips to the coast, days on the river and to the Christmas dinner. He helped with lawn mowing, planting and general jobs.

He continued to enjoy holidays with Jackie and his grandchildren and great grandchildren in Solva in 2021 and Westward Ho in 2022, regardless of receiving treatment for cancer of the oesophagus.

In spite of being offered a bungalow at the Holly Tree he was unable to take this up as a result of other life limiting illnesses and was finally cared for at Chacombe Care Home. He had wanted to end his days in Deddington.

The Humphries Family

Friends of the Castle Grounds

Six months ago the Castle Grounds was very dry and like concrete and the grass had turned to straw. Now parts of the Grounds are flooded and very muddy and slippery. Please take care when walking there at the moment. A spring has reappeared at the back of the mound about halfway up the slope with more water on the ground the higher the spring appears. Clockwise from the mound the outer ditch is flooded, but only a few inches deep. The ditch is a winterbourne: a steam that is dry through the summer and fills in the winter, good for a paddle with wellies or paws.

We now have plenty of wheelie bins on site and new sponsored litter bins are on the way. If you see a full litter bin, please put your rubbish in one of the wheelie bins. Plans are in place to enclose the wheelie bins in a wooden screen. If you see anything that needs attention, please contact the parish council, deddingtonparishcouncil@googlemail.com or 01869 337447, or Friends of the Castle Grounds, info@ friendsofcastlegrounds.co.uk.

The Castle Grounds may be very wet and muddy at the moment but the nights are getting shorter and hopefully better weather on the way. Come and enjoy this special site that we are lucky to have in our village.

Carol Garrett cgarrett@btinternet.com Did you follow the yellow brick road? By the time you read this, the Windmill will have hosted one of our biggest annual events – the village panto: three nights and one afternoon of glorious silliness to chase away those January blues. As

usual, the Deddington Players and our management committee are grateful to regular users who had to cancel or reschedule their sessions to accommodate the rehearsals and shows. Thank you.

The new accessible loos – interior and exterior – on the lounge side of the building are finally complete. We have also had most of the interior doors replaced over the Christmas period, a project long overdue. At last we have doors that open and close properly – quite a novelty for our regular users.

Some other projects in the pipeline for 2023 include, in no particular order: a new roof; a refurbished kitchen; redecoration of the main hall; and, possibly, new showers in the changing rooms. In fact, we would



very much like to hear your views on what the priorities should be, both for the building itself and for the outside areas. For example, what would you do with the now defunct play area by the tennis courts? Ideas gratefully received.

Finally, my ever-optimistic invitation to join us: as you know, our Windmill management committee comprises enthusiastic, well-meaning, good-looking volunteers – like me. People come and go and we are always looking to strengthen the team. There must be a few willing volunteers out there. Please contact me for a chat. The Windmill needs you.

In the meantime, visit our website, https://www. thewindmilldeddington.org/ or FaceBook page to check out regular and new groups you could join or how to hire the Windmill for your own meeting, fundraiser or party. All good wishes for 2023.

> Vaughan Jones Chair, Windmill management committee vaughan@englishlanguagematters.com

Celebration of Hope for Ukraine

evening in Deddington church on 19 November to celebrate Hope for Ukraine. Thanks to everyone who attended and to those who contributed their time and expertise to the event.

The evening was a mixture of the history of Ukraine, presentations and Q&A which gave us all an opportunity to learn about the extraordinary efforts local people have made over the past nine months to deliver the aid that has been donated by you, the people of Deddington and surrounding villages to the Ukrainian people – all spearheaded by Finn Watt and his family.

Your fundraising efforts are enabling a convoy of six 4x4 vehicles, leaving Deddington for Ukraine at the end of the month to assist the Ukrainian people distribute aid and get the injured to hospital. We raised well over £2,000 on the night. Thank you to Hook Norton Brewery and Deddington Arms for their generous sponsorship. Finally we thank Vicar Annie and her team who have supported the campaign from the outset.

We are still busy collecting items in the church. Please keep these coming: still urgently needed are tinned food, long-life products including milk, dried foods, canned meat, nuts, high protein foods, baby food, nappies and medicines, as well as sleeping-bags, blankets and torches with batteries. Above the large table for Ukraine in the church Living Room there will be a list of desperately needed larger items such as saws for cutting firewood and generators, as many places are without power. All your donations are delivered on a regular basis by local volunteers to ensure that they get to the Ukrainian people quickly.

Once again thank you so much for your ongoing generous support.

Jenny Soddy jennysoddy@gmail.com 01869 338298

Neighbourhood Plan Update

The deadline for the consultation on the draft Neighbourhood Plan is now past and the steering group is busy reading the responses we've received. Thank you very much all of you who replied. Meanwhile the planning landscape has changed somewhat.

Cherwell District Council has circulated its draft Local Plan, to be approved by the full council next week and then put out for consultation. This has come up with a substantially lower target number of houses to be built in Deddington parish between now and 2040 than we had anticipated – 43 to be precise. If this figure stands, our plan may need some rejigging.

Planning applications for two of the sites offered for allocation in the Neighbourhood Plan have been submitted to CDC. One is for 60 houses on a site that stretches north of Wimborn Close and north of the development being built on the adjoining Stone Pits site. The other is for nine houses on a site south of the Hempton Road, opposite St John's Way, Hempton.

Plenty for us to chew on.

Helen Oldfield helenoldfield.dpc@gmail.com

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

February

	-)	
Mon–Fri	8.45am	Morning Prayer
Wed	10.00am	Holy Communion
Thu	9.30am	Tea + Toast and Squiggles and
		Wiggles
22 Febru	lary Ash We	ednesday
	10.00am	Holy Communion with
		Imposition of Ashes
	7.00pm	Holy Communion with
		Imposition of Ashes
Sun 5	10.30am	Holy Communion
	3.00pm	3 O'Clock Family Service
	6.00pm	Choral Evensong
Sun 12	8.00am	BCP Communion
	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sun 19	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sun 26	10.30am	Holy Communion

Hempton Sun 19 9.00am

Barfords

Sun	12	9.00am	Communion, BSt Michael
Sun	19	10.30am	Family Service, BSt Michael
Sun	26	9.00am	Holy Communion, BSt John

Holy Communion

From the Parish Registers

Funerals:	
13 Dec	Lionel Worrod
7 Jan	Alan Humphries
17 Jan	Gay Brewer

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, lain Gillespie 01869 338367 or Stan Nelson 01869 337883.

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.

FARMERS' MARKET

Jessica Naish is the green fingers behind Buckingham Flower Farm, the market's fresh flower grower and maker of beautiful wreaths.

After studying printed textile design she found herself looking at wedding flower magazines for her brother's wedding when it occurred to her that floristry was all about design, proportion and texture. She knew about flowers so she opened a small flower shop and learnt on the job, while freelancing for other florists. She knows a thing or two about flowers, having created floral arrangements for weddings and events for nearly 15 years.

About seven years ago she moved to a house with a good sized, but overgrown, garden and was able to transfer her flowers from patio pots to a herbaceous border. In addition, Jessica started growing her own flowers on a larger scale to ensure she could source exactly what she wanted. In 2020 with a pandemic, postponing all weddings, and with time on her hands, she rented a quarter of an acre, bought a polytunnel and started planting. The last two growing seasons have not been easy, suffering heatwaves and drought, an incredible cold snap and a very damp slow start to this year. Some plants have struggled to get going, some have not made it, but the majority have coped incredibly well. It's a very physical job but she loves being outside enjoying the challenges farming brings and the magic of new shoots emerging from her seed trays.

Jessica's future offer is 'The Three B's': Bouquets, Buttonholes and Buckets of mixed blooms for DIY weddinas.

Last year Christmas wreath workshops were popular, as were the pumpkin arrangements at Hallowe'en. As Easter wreath workshops are beginning to grow in popularity and people increasingly want to pick flowers and learn how to arrange them, Jessica will be including this in her business plan. She grows a lot of flowers to dry and has a shed for storing and creating dried flower wreaths and bouquets to sell out of season. She enjoys using British evergreen foliage and berries mixed with her dried flowers for Christmas wreaths, table centres and garlands.

Last year she moved her whole flower farm to a new location at Manor Farm, Buckingham. She now has an acre and has moved over half her stock. The tulips and ranunculus are planted, her new big polytunnel is up, all the perennials are in their new flower beds and small green shoots are appearing. A quarter of an acre is soon to be planted up as a pick your own opportunity and Jessica can't wait to welcome people into the field. As soon as a workshop is built she will be offering workshops and open days. 2023 is going to be wonderful and busy.

> Tei Willox teiwillox@gmail.com

DEDDINGTON ENVIRONMENT NETWORK

In December we looked at how we might insulate our homes to save energy and this month we're considering other ways to cut bills and save fuel. Get an annual boiler service: a healthy boiler will save you money in the long run and check the pressure gauge regularly. If the pressure is too low (anywhere between 1.0 and 2.0 bars is the ideal) the system will be inefficient, and you'll need more energy to heat your home.

Boiler flow temperature determines how hot the water in your radiators is and it might be set too high. You can turn down standard boilers (with separate hot water tanks) to 65 degrees to save money but no lower – you must kill the harmful bacteria in your tap water. Ensure your hot water cylinder is fitted with a thermal jacket – this can reduce heat loss by up to 75%.

With a combi boiler, you can turn down the boiler flow temperature to the radiators to whatever feels comfortable to you, without it affecting your tap water temperature. Check whether the boiler is set to 'preheat'. If you're out a lot or only need hot water a few times a day, it's worth changing this. The hot water will take longer to come out of the taps but it can save a lot of money and energy. Regularly check your radiators for cold patches at the top and listen out for gurgling. This can mean air is trapped inside and they will not be as effective so it's time to 'bleed' them. Curtains and blinds really make a difference to heat loss but do tuck them behind radiators so you don't lose heat via the windows.

Consider investing in heated throws or blankets: they only use about 2p of electricity per hour, ensuring they have a UKCA/CE safety mark or both. If your blankets are too old for these or show signs of damage or loose wires etc, new retailers should now be able to recycle them or go to https://www.electric-blankets. co.uk/www.recyclenow.com for recycling links.

Are you a keen photographer? Send us your photos on the theme of 'Favourite Walks' and the chance to win a copy of Mike Berners-Lee's book *There is No Planet B* in our new monthly photography competition.

Dates and campaigns to look out for this month: Fairtrade Fortnight starts on 23 February and on 24th it's Skip the Straw Day.

If you've got any ideas or tips you'd like to share, please contact us at info@deddingtonenvironment.net or follow us on our new Instagram page, Deddington Environment Network.

Fiona Smith

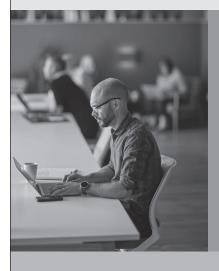




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NEWS FROM HEMPTON

Id Father Time marched inexorably past another milestone and we find ourselves in 2023. Well, that's according to Pope Gregory XIII. His calendar was introduced in 1582 as a correction to Julius Caesar's earlier attempt of 45BC. The Julian calendar assumed a year was exactly 365.25 days long, an overestimate of a little under one day per century and thus a leap year every four years. Gregory corrected the error with an average calendar year 365.2425 days long, more closely approximating the 365.2422-day solar year determined by the Earth's revolution around the sun. Gregory's rule for leap years is now every year exactly divisible by four except for years that are exactly divisible by 100, but these centurial years are leap years if they are exactly divisible by 400. For example, the years 1700, 1800, and 1900 were not leap years, but the year 2000 was.

Gregory changed the calendar because the date of the spring equinox was drifting away from the nominal date of 31 March on the Julian calendar. This date is fundamental to the Christian Church in establishing the date of Easter. To reinstate the association, the reform advanced the date by 10 days: Thursday 4 October 1582 was followed by Friday 15 October 1582. To convert today's Julian date to a Gregorian date, simply add 13 days. If you are still around in 2100 the gap will have increased to 14 days.

Adoption of the Gregorian calendar took place over a period of 300 years from 1582 to 1927. European Catholic nations were the first to adopt the change. Britain transferred in 1752 and Saudi Arabia was the last in 1927. There are numerous alternative calendar systems in use today, some countries using different calendars for civic and religious purposes. It may be 2023 to you but to a Berber its 2973 and to a Burmese it's 1385.

Or is it? Another Julian, physicist Julian Barbour, resident of South Newington, begs to differ. He holds that time is an illusion and merely a human construct, a not uncontested theory which would upset Einstein's space time theory and the fourth dimension.

Consider the earth in a higher or lower orbit above the sun, orbiting the sun more slowly or more quickly or spinning at a different rate. Any of these variations would change the date or the time. What's the time on Pluto? What calendar would you use in interstellar space with no reference point?

One hot topic amongst Hemptonians that hasn't changed in 2023 is that of development. Almost all

voices I've heard are against the proposed development opposite St John's Way. Hempton has changed over whatever we perceive as time. There are no remnants of the inhabitants who made Hempton their home in the thousands of years prior to the 15th century CE. There is a handful of properties still surviving originating from before the civil war and many erected since have disappeared without trace including the Plough Inn. The church was erected on the site of another inn in 1850 and the nonconformist chapel opened in 1840 was in use until the 1950s. It's now a private residence. Imagine the reaction of residents in 1960 when the development of St John's Way was proposed. The road has morphed from dusty summer track and winter quagmire with traffic on foot and ox or horse-powered cart to metalled highway with cars and 40 tonne juggernauts with their speed-crazed drivers. The road seems to be slowly regressing to its ancient state in common with many other public services and amenities, but not the users. We no longer carry water from a well or the roadside standpipe and enjoy electricity and broadband, but not gas.

We value our heritage and would like to see Mount Pleasant restored to a habitable state rather than demolished for financial gain.

You may prefer that time stood still and Hempton was left anchored in the present. Most residents express more practical concerns about development than any leanings towards NIMBYism. Hempton is not a suitable location for expansion. What facilities we have are marginal: poor and unreliable mains water pressure, sewage system at or near capacity, our road layout is an accident waiting to and frequently happening. Other than the church and church hall there are no amenities, a token play area cum dog loo does not cut it, although it may be welcomed by some. Who is going to maintain and repair the proposed recreation areas? That is if they materialise. The developers argue that the extensive amenities in Deddington are within acceptable pedestrian access - baloney. Healthcare and schools capacity aren't considered.

There is no rationale for the proposed nine properties and even less so for the additional 17 in the inevitable second phase of development, other than profit, and government dogma over imposed development quotas. There is a need for affordable housing, in the absolute sense, not the usual relative sense.

> Stuart Oldham sj_oldham@btinternet.com

'Roxy' at the Holly Tree Hall

The film showing at 1.30pm on Thursday 9 February is *High Society*, a 1956 American musical romantic comedy starring Bing Crosby, Grace Kelly, and Frank Sinatra.

Most of you will know 'Who Wants to be a Millionaire?' and several other classic numbers from the show. Come along from 1.00pm for refreshments: £2 buys you tea and biscuits and you can enjoy an afternoon of light-hearted entertainment.

Julia Cork julia.cork@thedha.org

POSTCARD FROM AMERICA

Zoom Calls, Brazil and Ageing Biden

Working life has a new concept: the Zoom shirt. This has come into focus as I have a new boss who is

insisting that we all switch on our cameras during online meetings. He has an obsession that people have been turning up to calls in their pyjamas. I have what Americans call a 'dress shirt' on a hanger behind my office door. It adds 15 seconds to preparation for my 7.00am calls, but at least it means that he doesn't know that I don't wear PJs.



American politics have been chaotic, as usual, with the Republicans making a mess of taking over the House, the lower body within Congress. It took 15 votes for them to agree who their leader would be, with the far right continuously protest voting. It is going to be exciting to see what happens next.

One of their new members lied about his education and invented a work record at Goldman Sachs – almost all his background was a lie. The authorities in his birth country of Brazil want him back to face fraud charges. It makes our fine British parliamentarians look like honest upright citizens. I have to say that I miss Americans asking me about Bonking Boris or the bizarre nature of the Truss regime. Now they are continuously asking me about something that I cannot raise any interest in whatsoever: Harry and Meghan.

I have had great fun this week asking citizens of the greatest democracy in the world whether they see any parallels in Brazilians invading their parliament buildings. Fox News reported that 'Many Democrats compared the incident to the pro-Trump storming of the US Capitol in January 2021.' I like making the EDs (election deniers) squirm by asking which is the third world country.

I know I am an old man. The next step for me is to move on from forgetting my children's names to losing my own mind but, in my defence, I do have five children. The leader of the Free World, Joe Biden, can't even remember where he has left his confidential papers. This time the EDs did remember to lay into the old man but, to be clear, he is running a

country. I am not sure I am running my own life.

When people ask Heather why she is staying in Colorado, she always starts with the weather. She was brought up north of Manchester. The sun seldom shines in Rochdale and there is a lot of fog and drizzle. It's the blue skies we love in Greenwood Village but the Thursday before Christmas it all went horribly wrong. The previous day it was 12C but when we drove to the airport it was minus 26C. We went to Vegas to see Adele. She was great but this was perhaps a stupid idea when 50% of the flights were cancelled on the eve of Christmas as we made our way back, just in time for the celebrations. I did remember the two boys' names but their girlfriends have to put up with being called 'love'.

Yes, unfortunately I am still working. My new boss has a great title: he is the Chief Revenue Officer. He gets up every day at 5.00am and is a lot smarter than me. But at least he didn't see what I wasn't wearing on the 14 calls I had yesterday.

> Mike Ward mike@mikeaward.com

Tales from the Pump

It was eleven in the morning on a cold January day. I'd just finished cleaning the pipes and pumped through the beers when Jack walked into the pub. I pulled a

pint of Hooky, only for Jack to say, 'Not for me Grumpy; I'll have a bottle of the low alcohol beer – I'm having a dry January'. I gave him my best grumpy look and said, 'It's not for you. It's for me. I'm just testing the beers after the pipe-cleaning. Quality control is all part of the job.' I took a deep drink, smacked my lips and said 'Lovely' and took another drink.

Jack eyed my pint wistfully as I poured him his bottle of Adnams Ghostship 0.5%. 'Around 20% of pub goers say they would drink low or no alcohol beer if it was available,' says Jack

as he tentatively sipped his beer – actually that's not bad.' He used his card to pay and glanced at the screen – 'Blimey,' he said, 'shouldn't alcohol free be cheaper, given there's no duty?' I took another sip and said, 'Apparently 85% of pubs now serve low or no alcohol beers so a dry January doesn't mean you have to stay at home and not

meet with your mates at the pub. Most of the costs of production are the same as beer with alcohol and there are additional costs such as alcohol removal or adding flavours to make up for the lack of taste so this cancels out the reduction in duty.'

I finished my Hooky and moved to the next pump to test the beer. 'How is it?' asked Jack watching me knock back a good slurp. 'Cracking', I say, smacking my lips, 'Are you ready for another one of those?'

'Hmm, Hooky bitter is only 3.5% so a few of those during the month is not far from a dryish January. I think you'd better pull me a Hooky bitter, Grumpy!'

Grumplandlord1@gmail.com

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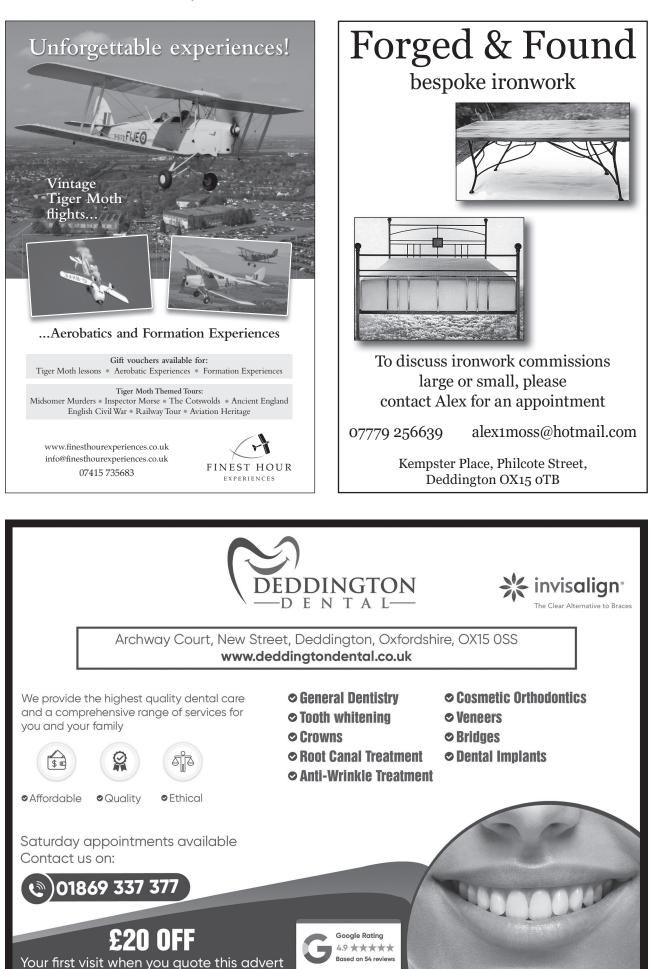
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NEWS FROM CLIFTON

Clifton was beset with sadness at the end of 2022, a year to be consigned for many. I have to report the deaths of three of our beloved neighbours.

The loss of *Diane Cogan* caused such shock and sadness it will be a long time before the trauma recedes for many of us here. Her passing so swiftly, with little knowledge or suffering, does almost nothing to assuage the grief this has caused. Our thoughts and help are offered to Chloe and Matt and more than one local group will mourn her further as her community spirit will be sadly missed.

Derek Bradley also passed away peacefully at his nursing home on New Year's Eve aged 76. A very long term resident of Clifton and one of our farming stock, he leaves Jackie, Teeky, six grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Many will warmly remember community bonfires organised by Derek. His funeral is 10 February at 12.00pm at Banbury Crematorium. Edd Frost and Daughters, www.eddfrostandauters. co.uk, can be contacted for details.

Sidney Drinkwater: if Sid wasn't the oldest resident, he was, I'm sure the longest living in the village. He was 89 when he died on 26 December. His mother ran the village shop opposite the Duke of Cumberland's Head and closed around the late 1960s. His father, Frank, seen in Deddington Online Gallery pictures, died in 1956. Not long after that Sidney bought a van in which he visited local villages twice a week selling vegetables and fruit. His brother, Leslie, served in WWII in the RAF. His cousin, Rosemary Taylor, lived in Church Street, Deddington, until her death late last year. Many people will remember Rosemary who worked in Wells' shop in the Market Place until its closure around 1980.

Sidney lost his sight in one eye as a boy in an accident with a model aircraft. He was interested in anything mechanical, especially if it had an engine and wheels. He used to make and fly model aircraft and had a small tool shed which he kept immaculately.

Many knew Sid even though his nature was very much to keep himself to himself but, when he did ask for help, it was often so he could 'do the right thing'. Helping others, he was far more outgoing, showing a strong sense of the Clifton community. He was welcoming to his new neighbours, often lending tools for any job he saw being attempted.

While the Santa numbers might have been slightly down this year, the level of humour was well up on previous years. Clifton-sur-Mer featured for non-linguists and a Santa robber was pointed at by a 'breakdancing' brother. Many others lifted the mood and cycling clubs and driving instructors alike continue to make us a target destination in December.

Any news I would like to know.

Martin Bryce martingdnbryce@gmail.com

BLISSFUL THINKING



I hope you all had an enjoyable solstice and Yule. Or should I say I hope Yule had an enjoyable solstice and Christmas? It was a season where the great and good gathered gaily at the Holly Tree Club for the annual Deddington quiz like witches at black masses, where the compère beyond compare, Jack Davies, was legendarily late. Rumour has it that

even the wally who writes Gonzo-style whimsy in the *Deddington News* compiled one of the more fiendish rounds on parish trivia. Despite coming within just four points of victory, said columnist resolved not to trash the place and accepted defeat rather more magnanimously than on the rare occasions he had tasted it when managing many of the attendees, most of them Deddington Town Reserve double-winning alumni.

We might never have seen Jase Timms in a bisht robe, but then that iconic team was never about ostentation, but collective glory bedecked in the finest Dutch orange, claimed with the proverbial knife between the teeth. A room full of champions it might have been, but only Luc Thornton claimed the parish knowledge bragging rights when the beer settled. Until next time ...

> Aaron Bliss aaronjbliss@hotmail.com

From The Fire Station



The winter months have seen a steady number of callouts, responding to 30 incidents in November and December, a mixture of standbys, alarms, fires and RTC.

It has been a busy time with training: Barney Neal has passed his 'Safe to Ride' and is now qual-

ified to attend incidents; Steve Baker has passed his Immediate Emergency Care and Louis Martin is now a BA (breathing apparatus) wearer.

Many of the crew members took part in Movember and we are very grateful for all the sponsorship received. An impressive amount was raised which will go to some great charities. We were also delighted to have come fifth on the Fire & Rescue UK leader board out of 96 teams taking part.

This year is the 80th anniversary of the Firefighters Charity and plans are in progress for a number of fundraising events, in addition to the annual Four Farms Challenge, organised to raise monies for the charity along with the primary school, nursery and PFSU. This year's event is scheduled to take place on Sunday 21 May.

Oxfordshire County Council's www.365alive.co.uk website provides information for home and road safety and much more.

YOUR OPINION MATTERS

Rural Services Network and Citizens Advice are running a rural households cost of living survey to understand more about rural household budgets at a difficult time for many. Results from the survey will help us to engage more effectively with government departments, MPs and other policy makers.

The survey can be found at the following link: https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Rural_House-holds_Cost-of-Living

It has also featured on the following social media channels:

Facebook

Rural Services Network& Citizens... – Rural Services Network | Facebook

Twitter

RSN Online on Twitter: '@RSNonline & @CitizensAdvice Rural Issues Group have launched a rural cost of living household survey. Research has shown that those living in rural areas face extra costs & we now want to explore the impacts for households #ruralcostoflivingcrisis https://t.co/JmZNfIVnlb https://t. co/Zadlro6ORs / Twitter

LinkedIn

Rural Services Network on LinkedIn: #ruralcostoflivingcrisis #ruralfairfunding

The survey closes on 31 March.

DEDDINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL



We had a busy end to last term with all our Christmas performances taking place successfully in church. This term has started on a quieter note. The children are working on their new topics. Year 5 will be doing 'Bikeability' sessions this term to help them develop their cycling skills, increase

their confidence as cyclists and in identifying risks on the roads.

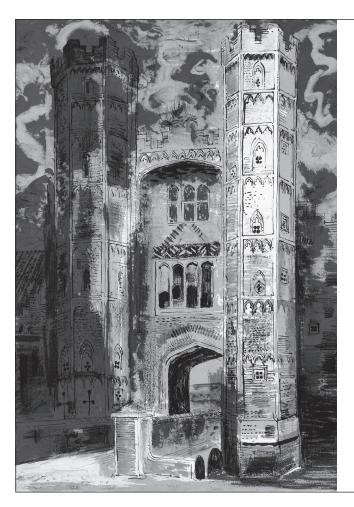
Another exciting trip taking place for the Year 6s this term is their Junior Citizen experience. This is the first time the children have been able to do this since the pandemic. It is such a worthwhile morning for them as it increases their awareness of the wider environment, plus the dangers they may encounter in everyday life.

All KS2 children will be taking part in Sports Hall Athletics festivals and tournaments during term 3. Year 3 children have started their weekly swimming lessons.

As you can see, this term may be short at just five weeks, but they are packed full of trips, events and a variety of new learning experiences.

Let us hope now that the winter continues to be relatively mild in the weeks ahead.

Denise Welch dwel3954@deddington.oxon.sch.uk



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We offer friendly, flexible term-time wraparound care for 2-4 year olds, including an 8-9am Breakfast Club and 3-6pm After School Club. Holiday club sessions are available during the Easter and Summer holidays. Please get in touch for more details. "I can't recommend the settings highly enough. The support is second to none. The staff are all dedicated to providing the highest quality service and do so with compassion and professionalism."





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FROM MICHAEL LIEBRECHT,

Thank you very much to the great crowd who joined Deddington Brass

for carols on Christmas Eve, sang

in excellent voice and with plenty

of gusto. The Band really enjoyed

playing and your very kind donations

of over £545 will be gratefully passed

on to Watoto, https://www.watoto.

DEDDINGTON BRASS

FROM STAN HORLOCK, DEDDINGTON *Cherwell Strollers*

We are a walking football club with A and B teams in the Thames Valley League at Bisham Abbey, Marlow, run by Bucks & Berks FA. We also enter teams into various tournaments in surrounding counties.

Walking football at representative level is competitive and challenging.

The standard of teams has improved considerably and the amount of skill displayed by some of the players is outstanding. As some of our players are getting older, we are recruiting players of a good standard with a view to representing the club in competitions. We are particularly short of players in the 50–58 age range.

We train at the Dewey Sports Centre, Bloxham, on Sundays at 10.30am, although this moves to a midweek evening in the summer.

If you are interested, please contact me at stan@ thehorlocks.com or 07889 315069. www.cherwell-strollers.co.uk.

FROM ROB FORSYTH, DEDDINGTON ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Thanks to the continuing generosity of Deddington people, a total of £4,835 was raised for the Poppy Appeal in 2022 from the October market stall, the Falklands Remembered event, the Church's Remembrance Sunday collection, personal donations and Poppy Tin collections. Thank you to all who have contributed in these financially straitened times. A breakdown of the total can be found on the branch Facebook account, Deddington RBL. Our monthly report containing advance notice of our next fundraising event is in the Calling All Clubs section of this issue.

FROM SUZANNE ALLAN, DEDDINGTON

On Radio 4's 'This Cultural Life' this week, film director, Sam Mendes, bemoaned the fact that audience numbers in cinemas were dwindling. My Australian grandfather owned a string of theatres and cinemas emanating from the Sydney area in the 1930s and 1940s. So my mother had 'going to the flicks' in her DNA. In Britain on a dreary wet Saturday afternoon there was only one option, 'Let's see what's on at the cinema'. As a family we rushed off to 'the flicks'. When I was young, I saw plenty of Ealing comedies.

I still love going to the cinema; but theatre and cinema outings are much more fun in the company of others and I wonder if there is anybody out there who would be interested in forming a cinema group/ club with me?

There is a plethora of interesting films coming out this season, among them both Sam Mendes's and Steven Spielberg's autobiographical films, *Empire of Light* and *The Fabelmans* respectively. If you are interested, please contact me on 01869 338528.



LETTERS

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

> com. Many thanks again to all who helped set up and run things, to our compère, Annie, and, as ever, to Deddington church but also to The Marlstone for the loan of much equipment. We wish everyone a happy 2023.

> Deddington Brass is always on the lookout to welcome new players, whether experienced, picking up again after a break of even many years or as beginners. If you would like to join or give it a go, the Band has a number of instruments it can lend out to members to get going. Practices are on Monday evenings at 7.15pm in Deddington church. Contact details can be found on Deddington Online at https:// www.deddington.org.uk/directory/arts-crafts-music/.

> FROM JOHN HARRIS, WALKING IN OXFORDSHIRE With spring on its way we start to think about getting out to walk in the countryside again, but where to find new and interesting walks?

> Walking in Oxfordshire, https://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/oxfordshire, has lots of walks to download and print free. It also has books of walks, details of walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

> Walking in Oxfordshire, part of the Walking in England website, has brought everything together so that, whether you are walking from home or away, you will be able to find a suitable walk.

> With walks from half a mile to twelve plus miles and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy. So home or away, check out the websites and get walking: www.walkinginengland.co.uk; john@walkinginengland.co.uk.

FROM BARRIE SMITH, 1 GAVESTON GARDENS. DEDDINGTON

Dear members of our special Deddington community, the Harvard Krokodiloes will again be visiting after a break during the Covid pandemic. The Kroks are Harvard University's premier a capella singing group. Over the years they have sung for heads of state, royalty and famous sporting celebrities. They will be visiting again this year 7–10 August. Traditionally Deddington residents have opened their homes to them, providing accommodation and bed and breakfast. If you would like to host some of these young men, please let me know. My contact details are: 01869 337813, smithinsight@btinternet.com.

CALLING ALL CLUBS=

Deddington History Society

At our November meeting Tom Crook from Oxford Brookes University took us on an historical tour of the British Honours system. Honours began in 1066 when William the Conqueror appointed barons to help him rule England. There have been changes to the system, the first being in the 16th century when King Edward moved from a process built on feudal security to one based on political power and public service. The authority for granting honours remained with the monarch until the early 20th century authority became shared between the monarch and the government. Tom also spoke about some of the scandals that have besmirched the honours system, mentioning Lloyd George, Harold Wilson and Tony Blair as well as Harold Macmillan and Margaret Thatcher. It is difficult to find evidence of abuse, but, as stated in Robert Peston's book on the honours system, 'it is fine to sell honours providing you are not found out'.

Barrie Smith

Anyone who thought that the battle of Cropredy Bridge was a mere skirmish or side-show of the Civil War would have been disabused by December's speaker, Stephen Barker, a military heritage adviser who specialises in the English Civil War, gave a stimulating and informative talk on the context, conduct and aftermath of the battle. During spring 1644, to draw enemy pressure away from Oxford, King Charles I's army moved northwards pursued by the Parliamentarians led by Sir William Waller. A stand-off at Crouch Hill, Banbury, led the Royalists to regroup at Grimsbury before proceeding northwards towards Cropredy.

The conflict began when the Parliamentarians, seeing that that some Royalist soldiers were straggling, staged a pincer attack. The King turned back to assist them and further Royalist counter-attacks forced the outmatched Parliamentarians back across Cropredy Bridge. By the evening the two armies faced each other across the River Cherwell. A peace offer by Charles was declined and fearing Parliamentary reinforcements, the Royalists headed for Evesham, the King having spent the night after the battle at Deddington. About 9,000 cavalry and infantry on each side took part but there are no reliable estimates of the numbers killed or wounded. Waller's army became demoralised and there were desertions and mutinies. Realising that soldiers such as these could never succeed, the Parliamentarians eventually formed the New Model Army, the first full-time professional army in English history, later to be led to victory by Oliver Cromwell. So the battle of Cropredy Bridge was arguably one of the turning points of the Civil War.

Our next meeting is on Thursday 16 February when Katherine Bradley will speak on 'Votes for Women in Oxfordshire'; the following meeting on Thursday 16 March Keith Westcott's subject is 'The Roman Villa in Broughton Castle Grounds'.

Julian Dipper

Photographic Society

We were treated to an encyclopaedic view of wildflowers, trees and fungi by Colin Lamb in his talk about the 'Art of Plant Photography'. Using depth of field to achieve separation between the subject and the background Colin showed a range of images exploring different aspects and directions to create an interesting image. Leaf litter can look untidy when photographing trees but gives texture and context for the time of year. Black and white images can work well despite the temptation to show off the beautiful colours with all things wild. Nature is an amazing image-maker if you look carefully and explore. Colin enjoys this genre and it is clear from his wonderful images that he has mastered it as a subject.

We welcomed the new year with a look back at our favourite images from 2022. They ranged from landscape to studio portraits, with street, architectural, wildlife and action shots all covered. It was interesting to hear the memories the shots evoked. It was a veritable tour around the world. I urge you to look at the photographs, featured on our website. We also welcomed five guests to our first meeting of the year and hope we can encourage them to become members.

Our next evening with a guest speaker, Scarlet Page, an accomplished portrait photographer, is on Wednesday 1 March at 7.30pm. Before then Mick Brittain is talking about Photoshop and how that influences his photography on Wednesday 1 February at 7.30pm, both at The Adderbury Institute.

> Anne Hunsley www.addphoto.co.uk

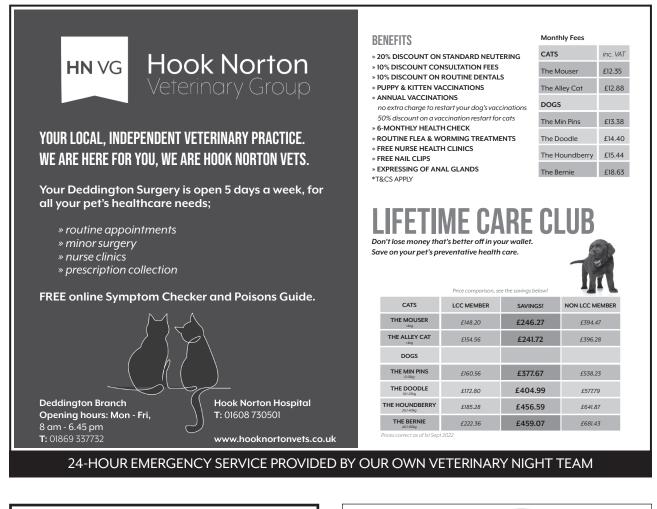
Royal British Legion

The funeral of former club steward, Alan Humphries, took place in Deddington on 7 January. Rev Annie Goldthorp conducted the service and recounted the family's memories of Alan. Club members will know he undoubtedly served the very best Hooky in Oxfordshire.

Poppy Appeal funds raised in 2022 from the October farmers' market, the 'Falklands Remembered 40 Years On' event, the church collection on Remembrance Sunday, individual donations and poppy tins amounted to a total of £4,835. In these financially straitened times, we are very grateful for the continuing generosity of Deddington people. Full details are on the branch Facebook page.

Following the success of our two successive annual Poppy Week events in the church, we will be holding another one this year on Thursday 2 November at which two former Special Air Service (SAS) and Special Boat Service (SBS) soldiers will talk about their personal experiences. The recent BBC series *Rogue Heroes* recounted the scarcely believable origin and exploits of these two secretive units in WWII.

> Rob Forsyth, Chairman 01869 338384







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Continued from p22

CALLING ALL CLUBS Deddington Bookworms

Our last book of 2022 was *A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman and what a book to finish the year with. Backman was a Swedish blogger and *A Man Called Ove* (it's pronounced 'Oo-vuh') was his debut novel, published in Sweden in 2012 and translated into English in 2013. It has since been made into the obligatory film, twice, but the 2022 version starring Tom Hanks, is set in Pennsylvania and Ove is renamed Otto to fit in with the American setting. Americanism at its best: I suggest sticking to the book.

The book follows Ove's story from childhood to death but not in the conventional order. Each chapter reveals another layer and you find yourself sympathising with this curmudgeon of a man. I would say we all know an 'Ove', I certainly recognised some of his traits. This made me smile, whilst other parts made me grimace with frustration. However, by the final chapter I was hooked and ended up in tears, not the only Bookworm affected like this.

The first couple of chapters are a bit slow and I did wonder if something had been lost in translation but I was wrong. I persevered and am glad I did. This is one of the best books I have read in a long time; a heart-warming story about love, grief and loss whilst touching on themes of community and friendship.

We start the new year reading *A Humble Companion* by Laurie Graham.

Deddingtonbookworms@gmail.com

Holly Tree Club

Our Christmas lunch on 7 December at the Deddington Arms was a lovely gathering, putting everyone in a festive mood.

Many thanks to the wonderful local businesses who generously donated prizes for the raffle: the Deddington Arms, Nellie and Dove, Eagles, the Co-op, Medipill, the Flower Shop and Polka Dots, and to the committee and club members who also contributed.

> Julia Cork Julia.cork@thedha.org

Deddington Players

It's all over for another season. We hope you enjoyed *The Wizard of Oz,* whether you were in the audience, helping backstage or on the stage. The pantomime always has a great community feeling and offers welcome fun and silliness in cold, dark January. The good news is that we hope to put on a one night only performance later in the year: something a bit different from panto. Watch this space for details or follow our Deddington Players Facebook page. If you've been inspired to join us, please contact me.

Suzie Upson suzieupson@mac.com

SPORT-

Deddington Cricket Club

The new season might seem a long way off but planning for the summer is well underway. After two successive years of promotion, the first team will play

Local Vocals

Thank you to all those who came to our friends and family evening in December. It was our first performance in two years and there were a few nerves, but we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and hope you did too. This term we have welcomed a few new, and not so new, faces and are revisiting *Fields of Gold* and *Bohemian Rhapsody* along with our new song, *Is this the way to Amarillo*, which for me conjures up images of Peter Kay and Ronnie Corbett. It's certainly a feel-good tune.

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

Alison Grieve

Book Group

Our last choice of 2022 was *A Tidy Ending* by Joanna Cannon. Set in a provincial town where a serial killer is at large, this is a murder mystery with elements of black comedy. The narrator is Linda, a socially awkward woman who has an envious fascination for the details of other people's lives. Her own life is over-shadowed by a dark episode in her childhood, a critical mother and an unsatisfactory husband. Linda's sharp-eyed depiction of events and characters is intriguing and often wryly amusing. However, all is often not as it seems. After a rather slow start, the book turns into an enjoyable page turner with a surprising twist.

We welcome new members. Our next meeting is on Thursday, 23 February 2023. Please contact Sally Lambert on 01869 338094 for more details.

Sian Waterman

WI

Our speaker this month was Jane Abbott who owns alpacas which she uses to produce fibre. The alpaca is a member of the camel family, native to Peru, Bolivia and Chile. Its fur is very soft and is usually called fibre to distinguish it from wool as it is much finer and softer than any wool and contains no lanolin. Incas used the fibre but it was held in such high regard that only the royal family was able to wear the fleece. The Spanish invasion almost wiped out the species as they were hunted for their meat. Now there are 3.5–4 million animals worldwide.

Alpacas are shorn once a year and each animal yields between one and two kilogrammes of fibre. The colours range from cream through fawn to brown and black. Jane mostly uses their fibre to produce felted objects of which she had a wide range including a very lifelike 40cm tall hare. It was a most enjoyable talk and generated many questions

Moira Byast deddingtonwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk

in the thin air of Tier 5 of the Cherwell Cricket League, so new kit is being bought and bats are being oiled in anticipation. The seconds remain in Tier 8 and will be facing some familiar foes come the summer. Indoor

SPORT-

games have featured for both the men and women over the autumn to keep reflexes keen and indoor nets began in late January and will move outdoors in April.

Work will start soon on the wicket, with feeding and weeding and some gentle cutting and rolling to begin the preparation for matches. The fixtures lists are out and on the club website and we are planning some warm-up games leading into the first league matches in early May.

Anyone interested in playing this year and attending indoor nets and pre-season training, or interested in umpiring or scoring, please contact me.

> Simon Oldfield 07771 997358 simon.oldfield0@gmail.com

Deddington Town Football Club

First Team results

19.11.22	Banbury Athletic (a)	(CUP)	L 0–7
26.11.22	Graven Hill FC (h)	L 1–2	Briggs
3.12.22	Wroxton Sports (h)	(CUP)	L 0–2
7.01.23	Middleton Cheney	(CUP)	W 2–1
Reserve	Team results		
19.11.22	Arncott Athletic (a)	L 1–2	Davies (Joe)
26.11.22	Longford Pk Res (a)	L 1–2	Bird
7 01 23	Hardwick Sports Rev	s (h)	$(CUP) \mid 1_7$

7.01.23 Hardwick Sports Res (h) (CUP) L 1–7 It would take a better man than me to soft-soap this month's results, so I won't even try. Things are looking grim for both sides and we need all hands to the pump and all feet to the grass. So, dear reader, you must brave the inclement weather and scream our heroes to greater heights or all may be lost. Lady Luck and her rowdy hen party are invited to the Windmill Centre playing field every weekend from now on, free bar.

Aaron Bliss 07909 64288

Deddington Town Youth Teams

The Under 16s playing, in the Witney and District Youth League, had a 4–0 away win at Tysoe United, followed by a 3–0 defeat in the county cup to Hinksey Park and a 2–0 defeat to Kingston Colts. The Under 14s had a 2–4 home defeat to Bloxham followed by a 6–1 defeat at Brackley Athletic but better news in January with a 2–3 away win at Yarnton Blues. The Under 13s, playing in the Oxfordshire Youth Invitation B League, had a 4–1 defeat to Cholsey, a 0–1 home defeat to Wallingford and 1–3 home defeat to Garden City to prop up the table. The Under 12s, playing in the C League, had a 4–1 win at Witney Vikings, an 8–2 win against Aston with five goals for Zac Godfrey, a 6–2 win

Continued from p25

in the cup against Farringdon Town with a hat-trick for Zac Godfrey, and a 4–2 win over Easington. The team is top of the league winning all eight league games.

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 our local community. If you have the skills and want to give a few hours back for the club, please contact me for an informal chat about the roles.

If you want to get involved with the club as a volunteer, you can help in coaching, safeguarding, on the day match support, pitch improvement work and with marketing and fundraising. If you are interested, then 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

Tennis Club

If you're inspired by the coverage of the Australian Open, why not dust off your racquet and come and play at your local club? You can play tennis all year round, although there was very little play in December due to the frost, followed by the rain. Our teams have managed a few matches so far this season and are doing well but a lot have had to be rescheduled, which means we are hoping for good weather for the whole of February and March so we can catch up.

During the Christmas period we managed to hold a festive club session – by some miracle a fine Tuesday morning coincided with frost-free courts. There was a lot of social play and members enjoyed mince pies and mulled wine. Thanks to Anne Pearson for organising.

As well as our teams and our social tennis, we run adult and junior coaching programmes all winter, weather permitting, for all ages and all levels. If you'd like to know more about coaching, please email Paul Taylor on paultaylortennis@hotmail.co.uk.

Finally, if you just want to book a court and play, courts can be booked by anyone via the club website. For information about social tennis, box leagues, adult teams, to book a court or to become a member of the club, please check out our website, www.deddingtontennis.com.

Becky Jones

YOUTH-

1st Barford and Deddington Rainbows

Do these sound like your goals for 2023?

- 1) Be an inspiration for girls
- 2) Work with great people
- 3) Build skills for life
- 4) Make a difference in the community

We have some great teams running Guides and Brownies in Deddington. Now, we're looking for a team of people to restart the Barford and Deddington Rainbow group for girls aged four to seven years old. Could you get together with a couple of friends and get the group going again? You don't need to have any experience as support and training will be given. You just need to enjoy working with girls and want to spend time laughing, playing and being inspired by them. If you want to make a difference to your community,

David Walton

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YOUTH-

join us today by volunteering to help girls reach their full potential. To find out more, look at https://www. girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/ or contact us.

Mary Brodey and Mandy Skuce Girlguiding Deddington District Commissioners deddingtondistrict@oxfordshiregirlguiding.org.uk

1st Deddington Guides

In the lead up to Christmas we planted bulbs for the library courtyard garden and for neighbours living alone. We rounded off the term with our Christmas party and celebrated gaining Mixology and First Aid badges.

It's great to be back this term having lots of fun and games and welcoming three new Guides. We've started planning activities and are looking forward to some visiting robots. It sounds exciting; we'll let you know how we get on.

Maggie Rampley 07957 600755 and Marian Trinder 07786 001641

1st Deddington Scout Group

Cubs

December was an exciting time for Cubs with Christmas looming. We focused one meeting on present wrapping. Following an artful demonstration by Baloo, Cubs had a go at wrapping a small box and a folded item of clothing. It was surprising how well they did, and it's hoped that they might have helped wrap presents before Christmas and that the session gave them appreciation for the enormous workload that Santa's elves bear at such a busy time. We finished off our

PARISH COUNCIL Notes Continued from p2

to obtain an extension from CDC as it appears neighbours have not yet had an opportunity to comment.

Land to north of Wimborn and Mackley Close: outline application for up to 60 houses, postponed at least until February meeting.

Comment postponed

Holly Trees, Earls Lane: First floor extension above existing garage, two storey extension to side, single storey extension to rear and loft conversion. Clerk to obtain an extension from CDC on this application as CDC has not issued any neighbour publicity at time of report as this is a substantial change to the original building and may significantly affect neighbours. The determination date is the beginning of March.

Environment and Recreation

A quote of £1,500, for 14 new litter bins was accepted. The outside toilets will be open year round.

The joint PC/RBL storage shed at the Holly Tree will be repaired rather than replaced.

Proposals for use of S106 Stone Pits funds include Windmill over roof to resolve ongoing leak problems, £25,000 for kitchen renovation and new mats for the AWC. Of the £4,600 allocated for outdoor sports £2,000 is proposed for higher roofs for the cricket nets. **Next meeting Wednesday 15 February at 7.30pm in the Old School Room, Hempton** year with a Christmas party where we played games and ate seasonal food and snacks provided by Cubs' families. We had a great time, ate loads, made a mess and went home stuffed.

Paul Honess deddingtoncubs@gmail.com

Continued from p26

Scouts

Well, that's Christmas over with. Now it's time to fill those Thursday winter evenings with useful and sometimes silly topics. This term it's hedgehogs, parish council, wallpapering, plumbing, Japan and pest control; most of these are useful but we can make anything silly.

We finished last term with an evening making 'racing bugs' from small mobile phone motors and toothbrushes, which made frantic, mad little vehicles. We followed that with one of our traditional Christmas parties – a Ninja Night. The Scouts came dressed in black, made blowpipes and throwing stars before taking part in Ninja-style tests and exercises. Parents be warned – they may run amok if given a straw at McDonalds.

Pete Churchyard deddingtonscouts@gmail.com

Many thanks to everyone who used the Scout Post for their cards. You were, as always, very generous. This year part of the collection will go towards our toilet-twinning fundraising.

Jo Churchyard deddingtongsl@gmail.com

SPARE?



Deddington PC is looking for ideas for the old play area near the tennis courts at the Windmill. We'll be using community benefit funds from Hobart Way, so it has to qualify as outdoor sports of some sort.

There's not enough room for padel or pickleball, a skate park or swimming pool, but what about a climbing boulder? Any other ideas? Please send any (sensible) ideas to me.

Mary Robinson maryrobinson.dpc@gmail.com.

LAST WORD

This has been produced with the cooperation of Mr Choudhury's family on the anniversary of his death. Hamid Choudhury 1958–2022

Hamid Choudhury was born in 1958 in East Pakistan, now Bangladesh, to Abdul Hakim Choudhury and his wife, Renn. He was the oldest of six children: three brothers and two sisters. His father travelled between East Pakistan and the UK where he worked in various places including London, which he found 'too busy', Sheffield, and Loughborough. Eventually he found work with Vauxhall Motors and settled in Luton, moving the family there from Bangladesh in 1981.

On arrival the 23-year old Hamid started in the restaurant business in London before moving to Surrey where he opened his first restaurant, Shapla, and made friends, first with Tony Meo, the English snooker champion, and then with Enam Ali, the leading figure

in the UK's curry industry. In the late 1980s he married Zeba and moved to St Neots, where he opened another restaurant, also named Shapla, the national flower of Bangladesh. Finally, he settled in Luton where his children, a daughter and two sons, grew up.

For eight or nine years he left the restaurant business until, in 2003, he again opened a restaurant, this time in Witney. Driving through Deddington he spotted a property for sale on New Street belonging to John and Thelma Huntley which he transformed into Bengal Spice.

Mr Choudhury was a great benefactor in the locality for the many years he ran Bengal Spice, supporting local groups in their fundraising efforts.

WHAT A CRACKER OF A PANTO!

Deddington Players excelled themselves with their *Wizard of Oz* panto this year. In fact I'd go so far as to say this was the best panto I've seen yet. We came away buzzing and smiling from ear to ear. It was a really joyous tonic for a cold and frosty evening.

The show opened with a bang after the violin-

ists and flautist intro with the huge cast all singing *Walking on Sunshine*.

Ella Upson (Dorothy) exudes confidence with an amazing stage presence. Her solo towards the end (although a slightly misplaced ballad; it would have been better earlier) was just beautiful.



L–R Ella Upson (Dorothy), Mollie Hamblet-Bowes (Jim Pansy), Jen Toll (Lion), Isla Turburfield (Toto)

The main characters, Scarecrow (Vivi Watt), Tin Woodman (Neil Levene), his amusing wife, Tin Lizzy (Kate Oldroyd) and the cowardly Lion (Jen Toll) gave a lot of laughs and acted as if they were born to be on the stage. They held on through the occasional misplaced sound effect (first night issues) and didn't miss a beat of dialogue through the audience laughter, particularly through the Lion farts and perfectly chosen lyrics from various songs that accompanied these outbursts, such as *Don't Stand so Close to Me*. Isla Turburfield (Toto) was excellent as the ill-fated dog who suffered random near-death incidents, being repeatedly squashed but reincarnated to everyone's joy.

The Aussie King and Queen had some great Aussie slang in their script but could also have done with a mike or being forward on stage as some of their lines were lost. Milo Harbottle (Bruno) was amusing, constantly shouting at the Lion.

The Wizard (Lily Johnson) was cleverly projected onto the proscenium as an apparition speaking to us from above. Of course audience parcipation and laughter was generated by the hilarious Steve Moss (Wilma Cockburn) and Carrick Cameron (Aunt Em) who delivered terrific panto innuendos throughout. Aunt Em was particularly quick thinking in ad libbing to prompt some other players with their temporarily forgotten lines to the amusement of the audience and some cast members.

Inspired bits to mention were the humorous crows, the timing of the Guardian of the Gates and the disintegrating Wicked Witch at the end. Kudos to the sound crew who had a difficult job with all the timed cues and did a sterling job, keeping their cool with the song that refused to start – twice. Special mention goes to the costume designers and make-up artists. If you missed the panto this year, you missed a blinder! It was brilliant from start to finish and was a super evening out for the whole family. Remember to book these guys into your diaries next year.

One of the highlights for me was the entrance of the Winged Monkeys to the music of *The Sugar Plum Fairy*, perfectly chosen with the smiling faces of the children who clearly enjoyed themselves. They were swiftly followed by the ever-brilliant Suzie Upson (Wicked Witch of the West) who generated plenty of boos and hisses.

However, she was

upstaged by the brilliantly funny Harry

Tong (Boner) who,

with few words, man-

aged to generate

many laughs with his perfectly timed

hand movements, twiddling fingers and

facial expressions

that exuded confi-

dence and character

that for me was the

star of the show.



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