

May 2023

# *The* DEDDINGTON NEWS



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## The DEDDINGTON NEWS

Thanks once again to the parish church and its faithful organisers for arranging another celebration of a national event. This time a coronation party, on Sunday 7 May, free to everyone – but with tickets from Hamptons, Nellie and Dove and The Flower Shop to allow for more accurate catering calculations. Let's hope they are closer than for the 1814 peace celebration when 1,200 sat down on the following day to eat the leftovers (see p5).

CD

### WHAT'S ON May

- Wed 3 Photographic Society: New Zealand, 'The Southern Islands', Colin Lamb, Adderbury Institute, 7.30pm
- Fri 5 Holly Tree Club: King's Coronation Fizz and Afternoon Tea
- Fri 5 Quiz Night: Parish Church, teams of 6, 7.00pm for 7.30pm
- Sat 6 Bell Ringing: Coronation Bell Ringing, 10.00–10.30am
- Sun 7 Coronation Party: Parish Church, 12.30pm–3.30pm, free tickets from Hamptons, Nellie and Dove, The Flower Shop
- Wed 10 WI: Croquet and Coronation Celebration, Hempton, 2.30pm
- Wed 10 Annual Parish Meeting: Hempton Lounge, Windmill Centre, 7.30pm
- Sat 13– Oxfordshire Artweeks: Deddington Arms, 10.00am–
- Sun 21 4.00pm Monday to Friday; 9.00am–4.00pm weekends and St Mary's, Adderbury, 11.00am–6.00pm, (Sun 21st 2.00–5.00pm)
- Sat 13 Bring and Share Lunch: Speaker Dr Helen Cox, 'Rural Health, Malawi', Parish Church
- Sun 14 Concert: Banbury Symphony Orchestra, Parish Church, 4.00pm
- Wed 17 Annual and Parish Council Meeting: Main Hall, Windmill Centre, 7.30pm
- Thu 18 Developers' Public Exhibition: Proposed Site North of Fire Station for 85 Houses, Holly Tree Hall, 4.00–6.00pm
- Thu 18 History Society: 'The Value of Old Photographs to the Historian', Janice Kinory, Primary School, 7.30pm
- Sun 21 Four Farms Challenge: Castle Grounds, 10.30am
- Thu 25 Bookworms: Holly Tree, 6.30pm
- Thu 25 Book Group: Sally Lambert, 01869 338094 for details
- Sat 27 Farmers' Market: Market Place, 9.00am–12.30pm

### June

- Wed 7 Photographic Society: 'Photographing the Beauty of Birds', Robert Harvey, Adderbury Institute, 7.30pm
- Fri 9– Duns Tew Drama Group: *Menage a trois*, Duns Tew Village
- 10 Hall, 7.30pm
- Sun 11 Charity Open Day: Berry's Orchard, Deddington, 11.00am–3.00pm
- Sun 11 DTFC Youth: Presentation day, Windmill Centre, 2.00pm
- Wed 14 WI: 'The Loan Soldier', Bruce Duncan, Holly Tree, 2.30pm
- Thu 15 History Society: The Sex Police! The Church's Fight Against Naughtiness in Tudor and Stuart Villages', Martin Ingram, Primary School, 7.30pm

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## DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

### 19 April at the Old School Room, Hempton

*Present:* Collins, Cox, Ince, Oldfield (chair), O'Neill, Robinson, Snashall, Swadling, Timms, Watts, DC Williams, the parish clerk, four members of the public and the *DN* representative.

Cllr Oldfield advised she has put her name forward to stand in Adderbury for CDC. If elected, she would be unable to continue as chair of the PC.

One councillor reminded the chair and clerk that the damage to the Market Place greens and grass outside the church were to be discussed to try to find a solution. The matter of the posts in the grass verge outside Hobart Way was also raised and should be reported to OCC.

#### Open Forum

A local resident asked how to apply for a footpath to provide access to the houses west of the Duns Tew and Barford roads, as walking to the Old School Room was dangerous. He was advised to produce a map and written request that could be forwarded to OCC.

#### District Council

In the run up to the local elections on Thursday 4 May, no CDC meetings are being held although councillors continue dealing with enquiries. Oxfordshire is again top of the national recycling table, with 58.2% of household waste being recycled, reused or composted.

#### Highways and Transport

Residents are reminded that blue badge holders cannot park anywhere that could cause an obstruction or danger to other road users, specifically bus stop bays, and could risk losing their badge and receiving a penalty fine. The PC will request increased OCC traffic enforcement..

A site meeting was held with OCC, three parish councillors and two residents to discuss solutions to the Hempton pinch point problem. Several options were discussed and will be reviewed by OCC Highways. A Hempton resident, present at this evening's meeting, objected to the proposal for traffic lights at the pinch point. She was advised that all comments had now been passed to OCC and it was out of the PC's hands.

Residents are again urged to use <https://fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk/> to report any highway maintenance issues.

The PC is urgently following up the request for a 'school awareness' sign on the Banbury A4260 on entry to the 30mph limit.

Two temporary road closures were noted: The Lane, Hempton, for essential work by Thames Water 5–7 June; and Milton Road/Barford Road 15 July–16 July.

#### Environment & Recreation

Thanks were expressed to Councillor Timms and the steward for installing the new litter bins, and to sponsors for supporting the project. Three redundant but serviceable bins will be resited on the east side of the village and The Swere.

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

A brown amenity sign for the Windmill will be installed, funded by private donation.

#### Finance & General Purposes

Total funds held £541,425.

It was agreed to spend up to £1,500 on a tree survey. It was also agreed to spend up to £100 on a parish newsletter, to be delivered in May. Two members of the public at the meeting were asked their opinions of the sample: one was enthusiastically in favour, one slightly less so.

The grant for the coronation celebrations has been received and will be distributed to Hempton and Clifton (£200 each) and the remainder will be given to Revd Annie for the church celebration.

#### Planning applications:

##### *No objection*

Crossways, Hempton: re-pointing where necessary.  
Bull Ring Cottage, Bull Ring: demolition of rear flat-roofed garden room, part removal of walls to facilitate new access with vehicle turntable in rear courtyard; deferring to Highways regarding safety on Tays Gateway and to conservation officer regarding a listed building.  
Dragon House, Bull Ring: replacement of two dormer windows on top floor.

##### *Approved*

Holly Tree Cottage, Earls Lane: Certificate of Lawfulness of commencement of planning consent.  
Plummers, 8 Hopcraft Lane: alterations and single storey rear and side extension.  
Stonewall, Castle Street, Deddington: reduce crown of beech tree in rear garden by 2 metres.  
Bramble House, 3 Chapmans Lane: demolition of storage building, erection of side extension to provide carport and workshop.

##### *Withdrawn*

Land south of Council Depot adjacent and west of Banbury Road, Deddington: 135 houses

##### *Refused*

The Swere, Deddington: telecommunications installation of slimline monopole and wrap around cabinet base and ancillary cabinets.

#### Neighbourhood Development Planning

The document will now be submitted to CDC.

#### Large Scale Developments

As noted above, the application for 135 houses has been withdrawn but there could be a subsequent application for a smaller number.

No decision has yet been made on the application for nine houses in Hempton or on the Mount Pleasant application.

**Next meetings: Wednesday 10 May Annual Parish Meeting.** Come and hear what your PC has done in the last year.

**Wednesday 17 May Annual Parish Council Meeting** (election of chair of PC and working groups) followed by the May PC meeting.





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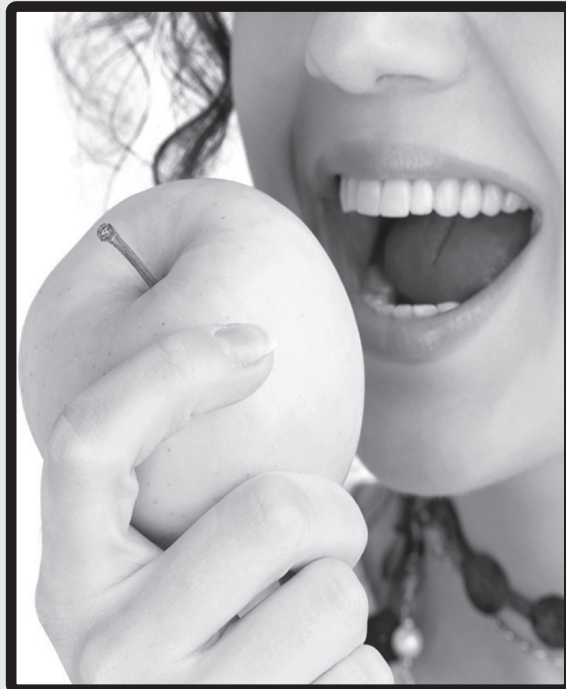
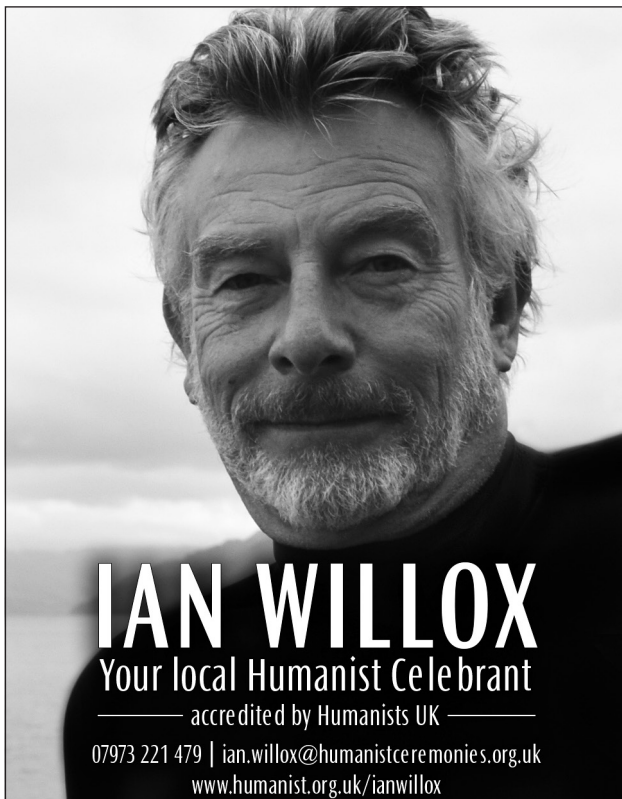
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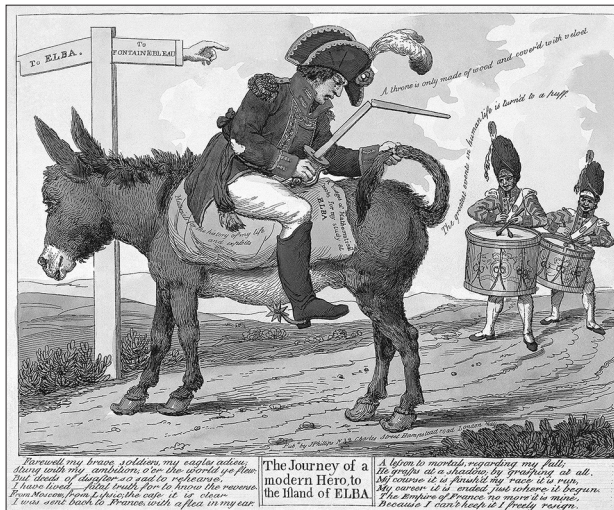


## DEDDINGTON'S BIGGEST EVER STREET PARTY?

It is not known when Deddington's first street party was held but a strong contender to be the largest was the public dinner for the inhabitants of Deddington, Clifton and Hempton on 26 July 1814 to celebrate peace with France, ending 22 years of almost continuous warfare, following Napoleon's defeat at the Battle of Leipzig and consequent abdication.

According to a report in *Jackson's Oxford Journal*, 'about 1600 sat down, in the Market-street, at 38 tables, furnished with a profusion of hot plum puddings, roast and boiled beef, with vegetables, and an abundance of strong ale. After dinner many loyal and appropriate toasts were given, with excellent songs and music. The tables, Town-Hall, and houses round the tables, were decorated with flags, oak, laurel and olive branches, and flowers'.

In the evening various illuminations appeared and there was dancing in the street. Despite the huge attendance, the dinner was over-catered and the following evening over 1,200 inhabitants 'partook at the same tables of a cold repast. The utmost decorum and regularity was observed; joy sat on every countenance,



Engraving published by J. Phillips, No. 32 Charles Street, Hampstead Road, London, 1814

and the mind of every one appeared animated by the same wish, that of making each other happy'.

No-one sitting on one of the long forms in the Market Place that day could have anticipated that, within seven months, Napoleon would have escaped from captivity on Elba, triggering the '100 Days', and culminating in his final defeat by the Duke of Wellington at the Battle of Waterloo.

**David French**

The text below the cartoon reads:

Farewell my brave soldiers, my eagles adieu;  
Stung with my ambition, o'er the world ye flew:  
But deeds of disaster so sad to rehearse  
I have lived — fatal truth for to know the reverse.  
From Moscow to Lipsic; the case it is clear  
I was sent back to France with a flea in my ear.  
A lesson to mortals regarding my fall:  
He grasps at a shadow, by grasping at all.  
My course it is finish'd my race it is run,  
My career it is ended just where it begun  
The Empire of France no more it is mine.  
Because I can't keep it I freely resign.

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## LAST WORD

### Daphne Canning 1925–2023

Daphne Maude Tucker was born on 16 April 1925 in Cricklewood, London, the eldest of four girls born to Vincent and Maude Tucker. She grew up in a happy family and had a very comfortable childhood, in spite of being swept out to sea whilst swimming at Exmouth and falling out of a moving car on a family holiday.

On leaving school in 1940, where she claimed to have been 'quite a duffer', she went to business college for secretarial training. Although disrupted by the bombing, she finished her training and went to work for a firm of solicitors in Lincolns Inn Fields. However, after just one year, aged 17½, she enlisted in December 1942 in the Women's Auxiliary Airforce and was trained as a wireless operator and then a Morse slip reader – quite a specialist trade. Her Kensington billet received a direct hit from one of the first doodlebugs and for many years she was picking out glass splinters from her head.

Eventually her training took her to Chicksands Priory in Bedfordshire, an outstation of Bletchley Park which, in later years, saw her acknowledged as a Bletchley Park veteran, something of which she was immensely proud. Coincidentally, her father was serving at Chicksands at the same time and it was also there that she met my father, Ron. She demonstrated great strong mindedness by absenting herself from duty so that she could spend time with my father before he was shipped off to the Far East which greatly displeased and embarrassed her father, he being an officer on station, but earned her quite a degree of celebrity status from her colleagues and friends.

My father, also a radio operator, didn't get to Japan, his original destination, but ended up in New Delhi where he and Daphne were able, quite illegally, to chat to each other over the airwaves in quiet moments on night shift. He returned in December 1946 and they married the following April in Wembley but settled in my father's home village of Deddington. Over the next four years they produced three boys in fairly quick succession. First came David in 1948, then Paul in 1951 and finally me in 1952. By the time of my arrival they had moved from a tiny cottage in Deddington to a larger house in Banbury where Daphne began her passion for gardening.

We three boys were quite a handful but Daphne was always a strict but fair disciplinarian. Even the beating Paul and I received for destroying the tank of tropical fish was deserved. Once she marched us the mile to town and made us each buy a cane with our own pocket money. I don't remember her employing them but the threat was more than apparent.

Not accepting that perhaps three boys were enough to handle, my parents began fostering children for anything from two to six weeks at a time. I believe this triggered their desire to have a daughter of their own and in March 1958 they adopted Gail who made the family complete. Always a source of pride to Daphne, Gail had been her caring angel these last 10 years or more.

In January 1964 the family moved to a converted stables in Heythrop, an absolute idyll for us, and, at about this time, Stuart came to live with us. Daphne had been friends with his mother and, on her death, thought he should come to us rather than be taken into care. Here Daphne was really able to indulge her passion for gardening as well as starting work as a classroom assistant in the Chipping Norton infant school, a job she enjoyed so much that she stayed on voluntarily for a further year after being made redundant in 1983. Two years after moving here, son Paul was diagnosed with cancer, dying in 1970 at the age of 19.

In 1978, my parents left their beloved house and garden in Heythrop and moved first to Chipping Norton and, seven years later, back to Deddington. In 1995 my father was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease and Daphne became his carer until his death in 2006, by which time she had become virtually housebound. In the middle of 2007, son David was diagnosed with cancer and died the following year at the age of 60. Daphne made her final move, to a smaller house in Adderbury, very close to Gail, shortly after my father's death.

She was a WI member, a leader in the Girl Guides and, we discovered recently, a member of the Civil Defence Corps. Her life was orientated to helping children but it was not without great sorrow, borne with great stoicism and fortitude, assisted by her very strong faith. As she often said in her later years, 'Well, there we are, that's it then'.

**Nigel Canning**

*A recorded interview with Daphne about her wartime work can be found as part of the Bletchley Park history project at <https://audioboom.com/posts/7831866-e121-oral-history-special-no-5>.*

CD

## Deddington Charity Estates

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This long-established village charity is seeking new Trustees.

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Their duties encompass maintenance of the Town Hall, running the four Alms houses in Church Street and responsibility for the Pest House field. The charity provides housing for beneficiaries and educational benefits not covered by the local authority.

Our history can be viewed at by going to Deddington Online and searching for 'Deddington Charity Estates history'.

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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. Deddington church services are streamed live. Please see the church website or FaceBook page for updates: [www.deddingtonchurch.org](http://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

Sat 3 1.00pm Bring & share lunch, Dr Helen Cox, 'Rural health, Malawi'  
Sun 7 10.30am Holy Communion Celebration of the Coronation

Sun 14 8.00am BCP Communion  
10.30am Holy Communion: Preacher, Canon Tony Cox, 'Christian Aid'

Sun 21 10.30am Holy Communion  
Sun 28 10.30am Holy Communion

### Hempton

Sun 21 9.00am Holy Communion

### Barfords

Sun 4 9.00am Communion, St Michael  
Sun 21 10.30am Family Service, St Michael  
Sun 28 9.00am Holy Communion, St John

### From the Parish Registers

#### Baptisms

April 8 Archie Honess, Connie Honess

#### Funerals

14 March Daphne Canning  
21 March Peter Turner  
31 March Stanley Adkins

For baptisms and weddings, funerals and home visits in case of illness please contact the Vicar, Reverend Annie Goldthorp at [vicar@deddingtonchurch.org](mailto:vicar@deddingtonchurch.org) or on 01869 336880. If Annie is not available, then please contact one of the church wardens, Iain 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. Tel: 01295 720869 and 07766 711984.

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## POSTCARD FROM AMERICA

### Airport Theories, Stormy Daniels and School Searches

How do you tell an American male from a pure Englishman like me? It's simple, you look at the teeth. On average, an Englishman spends £200 per annum on his teeth while in the US the figure is over £800. I certainly don't see any poor dentists around here.

I do like a good conspiracy theory, so long as it doesn't involve a man with orange hair. On our trip through Denver airport this month, to and from the lovely confines of Coronado Island in California, I was reminded of one of the best. Apparently, there are secret tunnels underneath the airport which lead to a hidden world where the elite of America will congregate when the end of the world is nigh. What you will have noticed, if you have ever been through Denver, is a huge statue of a mustang as you drive up to the terminal. It is cursed since it fell on its creator and killed him. It has shiny red eyes. It's a horse, not a car.

Many in America appear to believe that there is a conspiracy AGAINST Trump which is a bizarre turn of events. This month he was charged with election fraud, not for telling the Secretary of State in Georgia to 'find a few votes', but for paying hush money to an 'adult film star'. All the focus is on whether the payments were falsified in his accounts and whether this was against election law. Somehow both sides are missing the point: the President of the US had sex with this lady and paid her off. The white Christian right, who are so strong a part of US politics, continue to support him.

We had the neighbourhood round for drinks last week and I enjoyed listening to them all ripping into Trump. His one supporter in the room tried hard to support him but it is very hard to find a logical reason why anyone would want the creep in the room with

them, let alone want to elect him as President. But he is still the favourite within the Republican party for their nomination for next year's the election. I'd say he was unelectable, but in this strange land you can't rule it out.

Also last month there was news of a school shooting 10 miles away from us in Denver. These events are commonplace now. There have been 146 mass shootings so far this year but I was shocked to discover that this particular shooter was a 17 year old kid who was searched every day because they were worried he would bring a gun to school. He managed to wound two school administrators in the process. Apparently, the answer is to put policemen into the schools. The kids marched on the state legislator demanding proper action but, as usual, the adults did nothing. I am told 25% of schools now have metal detectors.

The neighbours in the house next to us didn't come to our gathering. They never appear. I've seen them once in the last six months. My theory is that they are in witness protection, placed here by the FBI. They were probably engaged in writing the inscriptions on the floor of Denver Airport's great hall. It says 'Au Ag', which apparently is the abbreviation for the deadly toxin in which will be used by the Illuminati in their genocide. I prefer this version to the one that says that gold and silver mining was a very important part of Colorado's past but I certainly think my neighbours are involved. They have shiny teeth, and his eyes glowed red the last time I saw him.

**Mike Ward**

***mike.ward@pathlock.com***

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## FROM THE FIRE STATION

Well, it's been a little quiet at the station this month with only eight calls recorded, mainly for alarms which proved false. We did, however, enjoy an evening by the river in Somerton, simulating a search and rescue for missing persons. Upstream haste teams, in full dry suits were tasked with searching both sides of the river in failing light, using torches and thermal imaging cameras to locate possible casualties, whilst, downstream, spotters rigged a temporary dam to catch any individuals floating past, using the hose inflation kit.

We were also called out in the small hours of the morning to our first chimney fire of the year, requiring removal of the chimney inspection cover and glowing ash and embers, before climbing the roof to inspect the chimney and rodding the whole flue. Fortunately, the chimney was fully lined and there was no fire spread into the loft space or roof beams.

For your diary, we have a charity event coming up: Sunday 21 May is running time with the Four Farms Challenge.

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

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## BLISSFUL THINKING

I'm quite enjoying this tumultuous weather, even if it does tend to precipitate the odd change of clothes. At the time of writing, wet and wild is the week rather than the weekend, and an intermittent storm is the norm. Nothing prompts slumber so much as the lashing at the windows and nothing prompts terror as much as the aquaplane from the puddle you never saw coming.

Defy these April showers, come on, soon it'll be May where we'll hail the new monarch, whose reign will be consecrated, no doubt in the midst of a ceremonial downpour (maybe safer streaming it all). Standing high on the hill is the place to be to savour being drenched when the clouds burst and sends rivulets gushing down to the Clifton Everglades. So, I used the sky water rather than ChatGPT this month, because I didn't trust AI to cram in a deluge of synonyms for wet weather, without using the actual word, as a human being could. Go on, read it back aloud and count, I dare you. We'll miss them all in the summer's drought!

**Aaron Bliss**

***aaronjbliss@hotmail.com***





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## FROM THE DEDDINGTON NEWS ARCHIVE – CORONATION 1953

*The Deddington News obviously did not cover the last coronation in 1953 but, in 1977, the Silver Jubilee year, it solicited memories of Queen Elizabeth II's coronation and Percy Walker responded with recollections of the event organised in The Paddocks.*

### Coronation 1953

'In the February issue of *Deddington News* you asked for recollections of the Coronation in 1953. This will be a day which I shall never forget as it was one of the wettest and coldest days of the year. It is nice to see the enthusiasm shown in Deddington for the Jubilee, more so than for the Coronation as, if I remember right, there was only a stand-up meal in the Primary School. As I was living in the Paddocks at the time, I was approached by our small community to see if we could arrange our own celebrations and a committee was formed.

We envisaged we should need about £150 which was a considerable amount in those days. We had a great deal of pleasure in raising this money by Whist Drives and collections in Mr Sanders' hall. Because the English weather is so unpredictable we booked the hall for our Coronation Tea in case it was a bad day, and as it turned out we needed it! All the food was given by the tenants and this meal will never be forgotten by all who partook of it.

Despite the weather we had a Fancy Dress parade before the meal for children and adults, which was well patronised, and each child received a Coronation mug. Sports for all ages took place on the following Saturday afternoon, besides a walking football match for men, which was much enjoyed. If any man ran at



*Michael Harper crowning Elizabeth Boyd*

all he was disqualified. At that time there were no bungalows at the Paddocks and that piece of ground was where we held our sports and games. Besides these events we had a knock-out darts competition which carried on for several weeks. Usually man and wife were partners whether they could play or not. There was a barrel of beer in one of the passageways for refreshments.

There was also a Garden competition for the best front garden in The Paddocks. This was won by Mr Frank Tarling. A very successful firework display took place on the Saturday evening. When we finally settled up our account we had 3/6d over and that was sent to the National Children's Homes.

**Percy Walker'**

*There are photos of the coronation on Deddington OnLine which indicate that there were at least three parties, a general one - apparently not rated very highly by Mr Walker, one in The Paddocks and one at the British Legion. They can be found at <https://www.deddingtonhistory.uk/villagecelebrations/1953coronationofqueenelizabethii>.*

*The Mr Sanders mentioned is probably Walter Sanders (d1971) who ran a wholesale confectionery business and sold ice creams on the side. His son, Clive, later developed this side of the business, dropping confectionery and opening an ice cream parlour on the premises in New Street, where the new Wellness Clinic now is. It seems Walter turned the upstairs into a hall suitable for meetings, wedding receptions, private parties and dances.*

**Alison Day**



130 locals + 3 professional comedians + 1 bar + 1 fish and chip van = a riotously funny evening. It was enjoyed by everyone who came and raised nearly £900 for Nai's House, a suicide prevention and mental health support charity based in Bicester. Well done, Deddington, Hempton and Clifton. Based on this resounding success we have already scheduled another comedy night at the Windmill for Wednesday, 6 September. Save the date. More information nearer the time, but anybody called John gets in free. (That's a joke, by the way – and meaningless to anybody who didn't come to the comedy night.)

We are sorry to say that the wonderful Nick and James of Bloom Coffee Roasters can't do their Saturday coffees at the Lookout this year. If anybody else thinks they could run a pop-up café on our site, please get in touch. I am sure the parents of children playing in the park would be enormously grateful. One dad

told me last year that his Saturday morning coffee at the Windmill was a 'lifesaver'.

On the upside, we welcome new members Geoff and Elli to our management committee. My desperate plea for volunteers in a previous *DN* actually worked. We still have a vacancy for somebody to help us with marketing though. Is there anybody out there – just a couple of hours a week?

On the upside, April has seen three new groups start at the Windmill: Baby College, yoga with Juliette and fitness training with Sam. If you are interested in these or any of the other regular groups running sessions at the Windmill, visit our website [www.thewindmillededdington.org](http://www.thewindmillededdington.org) or our FaceBook page for more information.

Finally, a formal announcement that we will be holding our AGM on Wednesday 24 May at 7:00pm in the Windmill. You are all welcome, although I should probably point out that there will be no bar, no comedians and very few jokes.

**Vaughan Jones**

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



## NEWS FROM HEMPTON

Hempton litter pickers were at it again on Sunday 2 April. Despite the litterati's best efforts to bury the village in junk food wrappers and other discarded items, we are ready to enjoy spring unencumbered.

Though there are said to be others hanging out in older properties or galloping invisibly about on horseback, Hempton has at least one reported ghost. It is said to have been experienced as an invisible, malevolent presence pushing cyclists off their bike whilst passing through the village. I have not encountered this phenomenon but have frequently experienced the even more malevolent force of potholes and road users passing through the village emulating the antics of our poltergeist.

We have, according to one report, been visited by, and I quote, 'professional ghost hunters' who, I assume, thought trespassing in pursuit of ghosts to be perfectly acceptable. Whether invited or not, they were spotted, 'investigating' Mount Pleasant, by a late night dog walker. Apparently their pseudo-scientific detective work uncloaked the existence of at least five spirits shackled up in the premises. Now there's an idea for a sitcom – oh, already done. I expect the owners, the Royal National Institute of Blind People, to be a bit miffed as it must be rather tricky collecting the rent. Inflation might also cause an issue. Evidence for the existence of these spooks is said to have been based upon spikes in readings from some hi-tech device or other, the proof lying in the twitch of a meter, temperature variation or change in impedance, or, maybe, they just said boo to the investigators.

You may have detected a hint of cynicism. Well, the five have not submitted a comment on the proposed development of nine dwellings under their noses, nor did they make their presence known at the recent council meeting. Being long standing residents, they are bound to oppose the proposal, therefore, applying slightly more logic than that demonstrated by the investigators, they clearly cannot exist.

I always try to extend the level of courtesy expected by equestrian road users, making my presence known when approaching from behind, allowing as much space as possible and moderating my speed. Whilst toiling uphill on a local single track road on my bike recently I became aware of a vehicle approaching from behind. The note of its engine remained constant as it roared up behind me maintaining a rapid rate of progress. I could have occupied the centre of the road avoiding the moonscape of craters at the verge, but kept as close to the side as reasonably possible, allowing space for the vehicle to overtake. The 7.5 tonne box van passed within inches of my elbow, forcing me to ride over a heavily cratered road surface and only narrowly avoiding being thrown, bucking bronco style, under the wheels of the truck. Plastered over the tail gate of the truck was the message 'Caution – Horses in Transit'. I assume there were no horses in the truck, judged by the speed with which it bounced over the potholes and negotiated blind bends. Or perhaps they liked their nags shaken and stirred. So much for reciprocity!

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

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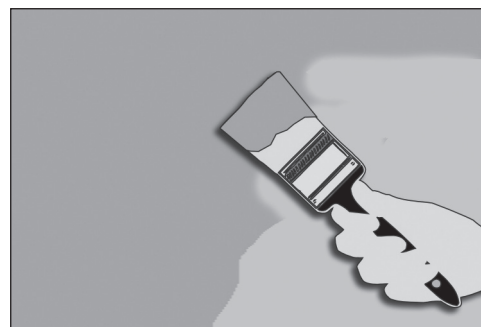
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## FARMERS' MARKET

Regulars at the market will have come across Ellie's Kitchen, otherwise Elissavet Stagoni, whose menu always includes a variety of savoury and sweet Greek pies baked with love in the same way as Ellie's grandmother used to back home. That's interesting in itself because Ellie's background is a village in Greek Thrace where her grandma used to make pies from fresh cheese (feta) she made herself from milk collected from her own animals and then baked in a stone oven in the garden. No rural idyll, of course, but a lot of hard work with women's roles clearly confined to the kitchen, farm, garden and to child-rearing. That said, there were benefits, both nutritional and emotional, in the lives of these women which Ellie herself realised when she had a son of her own to bring up.

Based almost entirely on fresh seasonal produce, lots of home-grown vegetables, herbs and fruit, plus cheese and meat from farmyard reared animals, cooking could be translated from an everyday necessity into something more akin to an art form. In a small society where everybody was related to everyone else, a cook's passion to create something delicious or even sublime from basic ingredients became an opportunity to receive compliments and admiration. A queen of the kitchen was somebody who, for instance, could do something special with an aubergine – the queen of Greek cuisine. Inevitably as a youngster, or even as a student, Ellie didn't pay much attention to the creation of the perfect moussaka, or even better, *imam bayildi*, a mouth-watering Ottoman-derived dish of aubergine stuffed with garlic, onions and tomatoes. Years later, however, when she embarked on Ellie's Kitchen and began offering cooking demonstrations in both Greece and England – where she has been living with her family for the last decade – it was to her super-cook mum and the elderly aunties of her community that she turned for advice.

Greek food, of course, isn't all the same. Just as Italian risotto – one of Ellie's favourite non-Greek foods – is essentially north Italian and reflected in different more localised recipes – so too, Greek cuisine will often differ between mainland and island, the harsh, mountainous north or sun-drenched, orange-filled Crete. That said, long-standing Byzantine and then Ottoman influences have created a certain homogeneity in Greek tastes. We mentioned the aubergine as a universal point of reference. In Thrace, especially for holidays, they often make a rolled phyllo mixture of almonds and walnuts drenched in honey, aromatic spices and lemon, called *saragli*. But then *saragli* is just a Greek mainland variant of baklava, beloved of all sweet-toothed Aegean and Levantine peoples. So too, Ellie, who like-minded sweet toothed customers will also know through her scrumptious portakalopita (orange pie). If only she could produce more of it, alongside her tiropitas (cheese pies), spanakopitas (spinach pies) and gluten-free kolokithopitas (courgette and feta frittatas). Next up on her wish-list for the future – a bigger oven!

If you'd like to know more about Ellie's kitchen go to <http://www.elliesgreekkitchen.co.uk>.

## NEWS FROM CLIFTON

It's all going down in Clifton ... and by that we mean the old barns, a long-held reminder of Clifton's agricultural heritage where, among other things, an old cart in Welford livery stood quietly with a certain dignity. However, the loss of these barns isn't too terrible as they were scruffy and the new accommodation being built will bring in new neighbours to join our lively community. There is one concern that an old tree or two might be lost. These trees do not have a tree preservation order and perhaps this should be a reminder to anyone who thinks there is a tree of outstanding value to the community or vista to apply to CDC for its listing. Clifton only has one tree listed – room for more.

Having spoken of the lively community, I was devastated to learn the March Duck quiz was cancelled especially as the organisers had moved it from the third Wednesday so Councillor Collins could have taken part – and who doesn't like beating him in a quiz? There is no new date yet; we're awaiting the quiz meister to stop cruising – ocean holidays, that is.

Finally, some of us are impressed at the skills of the pilot who landed a WWII operational aeroplane in the garden of the Duck. It's a Taylorcraft Auster, used for communication and reconnaissance and, although perhaps not quite ready to fly out again, is an interesting addition to any garden that offers views not only of the glorious countryside but also Airstreams and Winnebagos.

Any news, [martingdnbryce@gmail.com](mailto:martingdnbryce@gmail.com) would like to know.

**Martin Bryce**



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## LAST WORD

### Mary 'Stephanie' Higham 1920–2023

Stephanie was born on 29 October 1920 in London and spent her early years travelling with her parents and siblings between postings until her father left the Army in 1929 when the family moved to Vienna due to her mother's poor health. Stephanie spent the years between 1929 and 1938 between Austria and Rome, becoming fluent in German and learning both Italian and French. In 1935 her father left the family and bought a farm in the New Forest whilst Stephanie and her brother and sister stayed with their mother in Europe.

In 1939, with war looming, her mother relocated to Lewes and Stephanie returned to secretarial college in London but lasted only a term as, due to her disrupted schooling, she could not spell. In August she was in Hungary when war broke out and had to wait for a route home as the French closed the frontier near Geneva for a week. Her money ran out and she had to apply to the British consulate for a loan before boarding the last train allowed to cross France to the Channel ports. It was an uncomfortable journey in a sealed train as the French were worried about German spies. Arriving home, Stephanie dutifully did the expected thing and went to Lewes to look after her mother.

She was rescued by the start of conscription for women and answered the appeal for German-speakers to join the Wrens. Training was at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich, where the recruits slept in the cellar because of the air raids. She was stationed for six months on the Norfolk coast and then in Kent where she translated German Navy communications. In 1942 she was sent to Naval HQ at Dover which she found much more interesting as they could see what the British ships were doing. At this point German guns could fire across the Channel and hit Dover and on one occasion a piece of shrapnel penetrated the air raid shelter just above the Wrens' heads.

Six months later she was moved to Portsmouth HQ for two years where, as part of Y station, she was one of a team sending information through to Bletchley Park. When off duty she was able to hitchhike in uniform to her father's farm in the New Forest. In 1944 when their staff was doubled they knew the invasion was about to happen. The night before D-day she went on duty with Portsmouth harbour full of ships and when she left the underground bunker next morning the harbour was empty. She spent D-Day listening for German communications and heard some battery commanders although the Germans largely kept wireless silence.

In August 1944 she went to an officer training course and was posted as Third Officer to Greenock, as Admiralty Berthing Officer for three months and then to Western Approaches C-in-C HQ, Liverpool, as Assistant Duty Staff Officer. She always said the only place in Liverpool she could get a decent meal was the Adelphi Hotel. As the advancing Allies captured military documents, Stephanie moved to a special translation unit in London and, in 1945, was one of a very small number of Wrens offered the opportunity to

go to Germany as an interpreter where she spent six happy and spoilt months being entertained by British Army officers.

After being demobbed she worked as a Thomas Cook rep in Lucerne for the summer season, subsequently working the summers in Switzerland, Austria and Italy, and spending the winters in the New Forest and skiing in Austria. Whilst working for Frames Tours, she met Walter Higham who she married in December 1959. They opened The English Tearoom in San Remo, Italy, where Stephanie had a flat and friends. Their son, Stephen, was born there in October 1960. They ran the tearoom successfully for five years, catering to British holidaymakers who needed a proper cuppa, before relocating to England in 1965, living in Verwood and then Petersfield.

In both places Stephanie was involved in the Royal British Legion, as chair of the women's section and then started a total of ten weekly lunch clubs and two carers' support groups, as well as being the WRVS District organiser for East Hants. She was also heavily involved in the Fundraising Committee for the local Sue Ryder Home, Bordean House, near Petersfield.

In 2000, at the age of 80, Stephanie moved to Deddington to be nearer to Stephen, Janet, Louisa and Penny. Stephanie found making new friends quite easy, despite being a shy person, thanks to the friendliness of the members of the Bridge Club and Banbury U3A. She started Italian and Spanish language groups, joined the French groups and continued to travel. She remained active in the Association of WRENS, was involved in the WI, volunteered with both the WRVS Books on Wheels service and the National Trust at Upton House and joined two Fine Arts Societies.

She celebrated her 100th birthday at home in 2020 despite having broken her leg six months earlier. She also managed to celebrate her 101st birthday with a pub lunch before breaking her leg again, which resulted in a final move to a nursing home where she remained, still participating in her language groups via Zoom until shortly before she died. She will be very much missed by her family and the friends she made – one of the last of a remarkable generation.

*The Higham Family*

### DEDDINGTON PARISH SHOW

This year's Parish Show is on Saturday 2 September and will include the usual sections – cookery, flowers, vegetables, fruit, art, crafts, photography and children's classes. We have also introduced a new entry in the cookery section – homemade pork pie.

This annual event provides an opportunity for parish residents of all ages to share their skills with profits donated to village organisations, so please support the Show to make the event even more successful. Entry forms will be available from June.

**Sue Shelley**  
sue.shelley@yahoo.co.uk



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## LETTERS

FROM WILLIAM WASHINGTON,  
HEMPTON

Well, I had an interesting encounter today with two separate busybodies. I was picking daffodils as I do every year to put on my parents' grave. A male in an Evoque had the audacity to tell me I was not entitled to pick them. After I'd told him his fortune and he'd had the sense to clear off, a woman drove past shouting abuse from a red Polo.

I can only assume they are interlopers to the village and have no clue about village life and history.

My father planted both the horse chestnut trees and the daffodils either side of Hempton. If I want to pick what are essentially his daffodils to put on his grave I will as I have done every year since his death.

May I suggest people mind their own business



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

until they know the facts. I am supplying my telephone number so if anyone would like to discuss this further they can! 07736 016161.

FROM ALISON DAY, DEDDINGTON  
At the March farmers' market I was approached by a very polite Scout who told me about the Scout group's hedgehog survey in Deddington. Sadly, I wasn't able to tell him of any sightings but I was given a flyer and asked if I would pass the information on to my neighbours.

Since then I have seen two hedgehogs ambling about on a neighbour's lawn (they are not keen on my garden as I have dogs) and I have let the Scout group know the date, time and place. I also added the information to Hedgehog Street. This is easy to do via their website, <https://www.hedgehogstreet.org>.

## JEN'S HEARTBREAKING CHOICE

In Malawi Jen is heart-broken; she cannot now pay her child's school fees. Cyclone Freddy, the worst ever, lasting 34 days, has destroyed her pea crop. It displaced over 508,000 people and killed 894. The cyclone also increased the threat of cholera and malaria. Christian Aid immediately worked with its local partners to help, distributing emergency food, mosquito nets and water to displaced families.

On Saturday 13 May Dr Helen Cox, who worked in Malawi for many years, will give a talk in the church about rural health and palliative care, as background to the effects of the cyclone, after a Bring & Share

lunch from 1.00pm.

In Ukraine over the past year Christian Aid has been able to deliver £10m of emergency assistance to 770,000 people affected by the war. As well as the sharp increase in the cost of fuel, the war caused the major loss of Ukrainian grain exports; both have hit the poorest countries like Malawi even harder than the better off.

Please contribute, using the red envelope enclosed in this issue. Hamptons will receive them for the whole of May or you can give online.

**Christopher Hall** [achall@globalnet](mailto:achall@globalnet)

## DEDDINGTON ENVIRONMENT NETWORK

The parish council is joining Plantlife's nationwide No Mow May campaign to encourage everyone not to mow their lawns and let bee-friendly wildflowers grow instead for the months of May and June. The number of people not mowing is increasing each year and 2021 saw a record number of bee orchids, snake's-head fritillaries and eyebrights.

Research has found that simple changes in mowing, like keeping two lengths of grass and allowing some areas to remain completely uncut, can result in enough nectar for ten times more bees and other pollinators and also helps tackle pollution and lock carbon into the ground.

On Sunday 2 April 35 volunteers from Hempton, Clifton and Deddington took part in a parish litter pick. CDC and the PC provided equipment, although some keen Wombles brought their own. They collected more than 30 bags of rubbish and recycling, including a tent, a combustion engine, a lawn mower, a car bumper, a dog bed, a window, a multitude of food and drink containers, as well as numerous plastic cable ties.

The crew reported it felt very satisfying to be doing something to help and it was much more enjoyable than they expected. Thank you to everyone who took part; we really made a difference. If you'd like to get

involved in the next litter pick, scheduled for November, or if you have some spare time to do some impromptu picking and would like to borrow some pickers and high-vis vests in the meantime, please get in touch

With the fashion industry being responsible for 10% of annual global carbon emissions and 1kg of harmful chemicals being used for every 1kg of clothing made, it is hard to know how to buy sustainably-produced clothes for growing children. There were a few companies, trying to make a difference at last month's fair in the church.

Jess Stanley from Clifton has just started the Carousel Club on Instagram, where customers can buy a 'new to them' item and, in turn, sell good quality clothes their children have outgrown. Merry-Go-Round Preloved will post out boxes of five to six good quality pieces that you can later sell back to them. Ducky Zebra works with a certified factory in India to make organic gender-neutral kids' clothing with features like turn-up cuffs to allow for growth. Old clothes are given to the Oxford Baby Bank for re-use, with a 15% discount to spend on new clothing.

**Fiona Smith**  
[info@deddingtonenvironment.net](mailto:info@deddingtonenvironment.net)



## ANOTHER LOAD OF OLD RUBBISH

I hope you've all duly admired the new litter bins around the parish – 14 splendid new bins sponsored by local businesses and organisations: Spencer Builders, who have sponsored nine; Nellie & Dove; Weston, Murray, Moore; Deddington Arms; Deddington Festival and Friends of Castle Grounds.

We are immensely grateful to those who stepped up to help improve our local environment. We have three old bins still in good nick ready to be re-sited, at the east end of the village which is less well served than the west.

On the perennial subject of dogs, there are still a persistent few who think they can let their dogs run free to poo anywhere they like, including on the playing

fields and in the children's play areas.

What do they think happens to the steaming pile of poo – does the Poo Fairy magically turn up and make it disappear? No, the organisers of children's football have to scour the pitches before matches and the stewards have to pick it up before it gets in the mowers and strimmers. It's dirty, disgusting and dangerous to children. It's also illegal, so beware a hefty fine from the Dog Warden if you are spotted. Most of you are responsible and respectful. As usual it's the lazy few who give dog owners a bad press.

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

## FRIENDS OF DEDDINGTON LIBRARY

We are in urgent need of a new treasurer. This isn't an onerous role, just a couple of hours a month and a bi-monthly committee meeting. The accounts are kept on a spreadsheet so anyone with a reasonable knowledge of Excel and bank reconciliation will be welcome. This is a fundamental operation within the Friends group; attention to detail, accuracy and honesty are essential. For more information please email [fodlbooks@gmail.com](mailto:fodlbooks@gmail.com).

Our 2024 calendar photo competition is well underway and already receiving entries. Now that the weather is finally improving and the evenings are getting lighter, there are more opportunities to get out and

capture some of those stunning scenes in and around our parish. Please send your images as JPEG files, landscape format and, ideally, 5Mb or larger to me.

The Friends produce a welcome pack for people moving into the parish which includes really useful information on where to find what in the parish and, of course, library related information that we can't wait to share with newcomers. If you have new neighbours or know someone who has, please contact Meriel at [liquorishflux@gmail.com](mailto:liquorishflux@gmail.com) to get a welcome pack delivered to your new friends.

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

## DH History Corner

[www.deddingtonhistory.uk](http://www.deddingtonhistory.uk)

Jim Yerbury (1926–2016) grew up in Deddington in the 1930s. His memories of that time give a fascinating childhood glimpse into the period between the two World Wars. He clearly recalls names of school teachers, shop keepers and local dignitaries and where everyone lived. The arrival of Cokey Smith's Fair was a big event, as was seeing horses and ponies tethered in the Horsefair, pigs being slaughtered up The Grove, watching the Fire Brigade's monthly exercises in the Market Place with their 'Merryweather Steamer' fire engine, or seeing the R101 pass overhead. (More can be found about George 'Cokey' Smith and his wife, Agnes, on the History website.) Jim also tells that both his father and grandfather were chimney sweeps. Thanks to Julie Ann Godson, author of *On This Day in Oxfordshire*, we now know that Jim's great grandfather, Alfred Edwin, started the business having been a chimney boy and the subject of a court case in 1880 aged 9. The links to Jim's eleven pages of reminiscences and Julie Ann's fascinating article about Alfred Edwin and how chimney boys were exploited can be found at <https://www.deddingtonhistory.uk/people/indexxyz/jimyerbury>.

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



**Friends of Deddington Library**

# PHOTO COMPETITION

**Winning entries will be featured in the 2024 Deddington Parish Calendar!**

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

All ages and abilities welcome!  
Images must be landscape format, files must be minimum 5Mb, 300dpi and saved as high quality JPGs.

Deadline for entries is Friday 4th August 2023  
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For more details, please visit  
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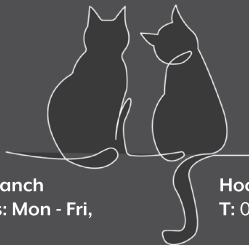
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DOGS			
THE MIN PINS <i>&lt;10kg</i>	£160.56	<b>£377.67</b>	£538.23
THE DOODLE <i>10.1-20kg</i>	£172.80	<b>£404.99</b>	£577.79
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## CALLING ALL CLUBS

### Photographic Society

The AGM took up the first part of our April club night. Martyn Pearse retired as chair and Miggy Wild was elected to this position. Andrew Dayer was voted in as secretary and Nick Hardwick and Colin Lamb continue as treasurer and programme secretary respectively. Martyn Pearse thanked the working committee, Meriel Flux, Lindsey Smith, Neil Grantham, Courtney Killpack and Anne Hunsley, for their help for the last year. They have been instrumental in keeping the Society moving forward. Martyn Pearse concluded his chairman's report with, 'I leave confident in the knowledge that the society has a highly capable committee that will continue all the good works to ensure the continued success of the Photographic Society.' Thank you, Martyn, for all your work on the committee over the last ten years.

The second part of club night was a well fought 'What is it?' quiz, guessing a collection of images taken in close-up and their full-size answers, leaving a winning team of four with Easter chocolate as a prize. This is possibly one of the quietest moments we have had in our club nights together. Well, chocolate was up for winning!

As part of our Society calendar, we enjoy photo-shoots and workshops. Last month we enjoyed a light photoshoot organised at Deddington church.

At our club night on 3 May we have Colin Lamb, presenting his recently taken images from his visit to New Zealand. There is also a slideshow of members' images on the theme of 'Discovery'. On 5 May we are visiting the Old Dairy Farm, Cropredy, and a visit to Slimbridge Wetland Centre is in the works.

We welcome new members to our Society nights on the first Wednesday of each month. See our website for further information.

**Courtney Killpack [www.addphoto.co.uk](http://www.addphoto.co.uk)**

### Royal British Legion

John Pearson of Hempton Road, Deddington, has kindly volunteered to join our committee and take on the role of membership secretary. He will be in touch with members to provide his contact details in due course.

There are no specific activities designated by RBL for branches to undertake at the forthcoming coronation of King Charles and Queen Camilla but the Union Flag will be flown for the day on our flagpole on the green.

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

### WI

At this month's meeting we enjoyed a talk by David Baskerville on the helicopter emergency medical service (HEMS) for the Thames Valley. It is a large territory with each sub-area based on a hospital. The most northerly one is at Milton Keynes and our local one at the John Radcliffe in Oxford, an internationally known centre of excellence.

The first surprise in this very interesting talk was

that the helicopter is not primarily a patient transport vehicle. It delivers the staff and the hospital equipment to the scene of an incident. This gives hospital quality care at the incident and is supported by specially equipped paramedic cars for accessible incidents, with transport provided by ambulance, apart from the exceptional cases where accessibility is a problem. The doctors are not employed directly by the helicopter service but leased from their base hospital. Regular training helps to deliver a fast, efficient service to the whole of the Thames Valley.

It is with regret that we heard of the deaths of two past members of the WI, Stephanie Higham and Daphne Harper, and we would like to pass on our condolences to their families.

**Moirá Byast**

**[deddingtonwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk](mailto:deddingtonwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk)**

### Deddington Bookworms

Our latest book was *And the Mountains Echoed* by Khaled Hosseini. Most of the Bookworms were newcomers to Khalid Hosseini's novels, and most were enraptured by this, his third novel. His novels are concerned with family relationships and this one is no exception, beginning with an adoring brother's love for his baby sister. As the story expands, wider family relationships and their circumstances come into play. It is obvious, when reading Hosseini's biographical details, that he has drawn heavily on his own dislocation from his homeland of Afghanistan.

The strong point of the novel is its vivid descriptions of Afghan life and culture and the stark difference between the harsh and strictly religious life of the poor in provincial areas compared to those of a citizen living in the morally relaxed and wealthy capital, Kabul, in the early 1950s at the start of the story. The Bookworms agreed its weakness was that the generational expansion of the tale meant that the later characters lost form and the novel cohesiveness.

Our next book is *The Darling Buds of May* by H E Bates.

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

### Book Group

This month we revisited a classic, *A Room with a View*, by E M Forster. Written in 1908, it combines romance, witty social comedy and a story of exposure to new values. When the heroine, Lucy Honeychurch, visits Italy with her prim cousin as a chaperone, she meets the free-thinking Mr Emerson and his son, George. Her experiences in the vibrant atmosphere of Florence are unsettling. She is both excited and alarmed by the idea of a life without the constraints imposed by a repressed Edwardian society. On her return to England, Lucy agrees to marry the snobbish Cecil Vyse but finds herself increasingly torn between traditional expectations for a woman of her class and a yearning for self-expression and true love.

The writing is excellent, with vividly drawn characters and settings. However, the style is rather dated for



## CALLING ALL CLUBS

modern readers and the action is often slow-moving. A few in our group decided that it really wasn't for them. However, most enjoyed it, particularly the ironic observation of characters and conventions.

We welcome new members. Our next meeting is on Thursday, 25 May. Please contact Sally Lambert on 01869 338094 for more details.

**The Book Group**

### Local Vocals – Community Choir

Exciting news! We are holding our first ever concert on Saturday 15 July at the Windmill Centre with proceeds going towards Katharine House Hospice. We will be joined by our choir leader's other choir from Faringdon.

## SPORT

### Deddington Original Golf Society (DOGS)

Our first excursion of 2023 is to Northants Harlestone Golf Club on Monday 15 May. The cost for DOGS members is £55.00 and £60 for guests, which includes a bacon roll with coffee or tea on arrival. We look forward to the pleasure of your company. To book your place please email Tony Lowe at dogs\_golf23@gmail.com.

**Tony Lowe**

### Deddington Town Football Club

#### First Team results

11.3.23	Longford Park FC (h)	W 3–2 Devine, Hardy, Jones
18.3.23	Bodicote Sports (h)	W 3–2 Rogers, Radcliffe (2)
10.4.23	K Sutton (CUP final)	W 5–4 (AET) Davies J, Radcliffe, Jackson, Thornton J (2)

#### Reserve Team results

11.3.23	Longford Park Res (a)	L 1–3 Pascoe
18.3.23	WIS Reserves (a)	W 5–4 Isham, Lewis (2), Watts, Gabrielli
25.3.23	Arncott Athletic (h)	L 1–3 Isham
1.4.23	Bodicote Spts Res (h)	L 0–3
4.4.23	Chesterton Res (h)	L 0–3
8.4.23	Bishops Itchington	W 3–1 Kaye, Thornton J (2)

It's not an exaggeration to call the last month one of the most incredible in the club's history. Check out the Humbugs' record; they strung together a couple of 3-2 victories to leave them in a healthy position in the Premier Division, before a Lord Jersey Cup final that had to be seen to be believed. This is the trophy they were defending, and they were 4-0 down at half-time. Seriously. The second half saw a goal in response but they then went down to ten men, just to prove their mettle. A comeback that will live long in folklore saw Deddington Town find the three goals needed to take the game to extra time, before completing a supreme comeback to retain the trophy against all odds. Anyone who wants further details on this astounding victory should contact DTFC number one fan and field cor-

Please come along and support us and KHH. More details in next month's DN.

During the Easter break we enjoyed a social gathering. Before Covid we used to hang around after choir and get to know each other over a coffee and a few biscuits. It was great to have a good natter again and talk to people we don't normally sit next to. Another one is planned for this term.

We meet on Mondays at 7.30pm during term time in Deddington primary school hall. To find out more about our choir or to contact us please go to our website [www.localvocalscc.co.uk](http://www.localvocalscc.co.uk)

**Alison Grieve**

respondent, Matt Boteler.

Speaking of retaining trophies, at the time of writing, the Reserves are in the final of the Geoff Wilson cup again, the trophy they've held since 2021 (no tournament was played last season), as well as finally getting a superb victory in the league against high flying Bishops Itchington to lift them off the bottom of the league pyramid. I like to think my false despondency of the last couple of months somehow spurred this gallant crusade by our indefatigable warriors, but let's be honest: it's in the Deddington DNA. Now bring home the bacon, you Latics!

**Aaron Bliss 07909 642882**

### Deddington Town FC Youth

The Under 16s playing in the Witney and District Youth League had a 0–3 win away at Chadlington in the cup, followed by a 2–1 defeat in the cup to Brackley Athletic. The Under 14s had a 4–1 win over Hook Norton with two goals for Theo Flint. The Under 13s, playing in the Oxfordshire Youth Invitation C League, had a 3–2 home win over Heyford Park, followed by a 1–5 away win at Grove Challengers to remain top of the league and undefeated. The Under 12s, playing in the U12 B League, had a 1–3 home defeat to Yarnton, followed by a 0–2 away win at Ardley United and narrow 4–3 home win over Chadlington with a hat-trick for Zac Godfrey.

#### Volunteer positions vacant

We have an opportunity for an Assistant Club Welfare Officer to support our safeguarding and respect work at the club and also a Marketing and Communications Officer to promote the club. If you have relevant skills and want to give a few hours to the club, please get in touch with Roger Sykes for an informal chat about the roles.

#### Presentation Day

We are getting ready to celebrate our players, coaches and parents at our annual presentation day at the Windmill on Sunday 11 June from 2.00pm. If you are a local business which would like to sponsor one of our four awards, or would like to provide a raffle prize for us, then please get in touch with me on [carsykes@btinternet.com](mailto:carsykes@btinternet.com)

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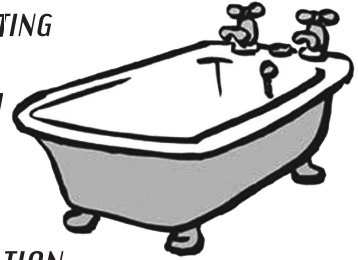
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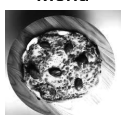
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& Cake



Children's  
Menu



Lunch



Dinner



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## SPORT

*Continued from p26*

on-the-day match support, pitch improvement, and with marketing and fundraising. If interested, then please contact me. Further information is on our website [www.deddingtontownfc/](http://www.deddingtontownfc/) and on Facebook [www.facebook.com/DeddingtonTownFc](https://www.facebook.com/DeddingtonTownFc).

**Roger Sykes 07899 914425**

### Tennis Club

The winter season proved very successful for many of our teams. Fixtures came out late for various reasons so, at the time of writing, a couple of the teams still have matches to play, but it's a good moment to summarise the season's results.

We have three weekend teams. Our mixed team in the Banbury league played its first season in division one, having moved up last year, and managed to finish fourth. The men's and ladies' teams, who play county wide in the Dunlop league, were particularly successful. Both were both runners-up in their current divisions, meaning the men move up to division 4 next year, and the ladies move from division one to the premiership. Congratulations to the ladies for this achievement and special mention to the captain, Sally Wetten.

We have four teams playing in the Banbury Floodlit leagues. Our D team is holding its own in division 4, while the C team moved up to division 3 last year but will be back competing with the D team next winter. The B team had some great wins and will more than likely finish third in division 2, while our A team came top of division 1. Again, another great achievement and the first time Deddington has come top of the table. Well done to all the team players, and special mention to Kathryn Hampshire, A team captain.

There's no rest though; summer fixtures are now starting. We run teams at all levels in the summer, so if you're interested in playing, please get in touch. Another thing happening this summer – the tennis club turns 40. We are planning an anniversary celebration in July. If you have links to the club and would like to come along, even if you're no longer a member, we'd

love to hear from you. There will be more information in next month's *DN*.

We also offer social tennis and coaching. If you just want to book a court and play, courts can be booked by members or non-members. If you'd like to know more about coaching, please email Paul Taylor on [paultaylortennis@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:paultaylortennis@hotmail.co.uk). For information about social tennis, box leagues, to book a court or to become a member of the club, please check out our website, [www.deddingtontennis.com](http://www.deddingtontennis.com).

**Becky Jones**

### Deddington Cricket Club

You don't need me to tell you that it has been wet in the last six weeks and that has made preparations for the cricket season quite a challenge, particularly compared to the last two years when we have had dry and warm early springs. Something like three times the expected rainfall has meant rolling has had to be very limited, but better to play catch-up than damage the grass.

Off the pitch preparations are going well. We had a working party on Good Friday to set things up and outdoor training started on 13 April. It has been good to see some new players, men and women, arriving at the club and we are looking forward to seeing them in action once we get some games going. There are a number of warm-up matches during April before the League matches start in May. We are also looking forward to welcoming 32 children to our 8-week long All Stars programme starting on 5 May.

Anyone interested in coming to training at the Windmill, men on Wednesdays and Thursdays at 6.00pm and women on Fridays at 6.30pm, please come along or contact me for more details. Similarly, anyone interested in becoming an umpire, scorer, or a groundskeeper, we would love to hear from you.

Thanks, as ever to our shirt sponsor, the Red Lion, Deddington, and all our sponsors and friends for their continued support.

**Simon Oldfield [simon.oldfield0@gmail.com](mailto:simon.oldfield0@gmail.com)**

## YOUTH

### 1st Deddington Scout Group

The Scout Group held its AGM on 23 March at the Windmill Centre. These are excerpts from the minutes.

**Cubs**  
In the last year we held two camps: a one-nighter and a two-nighter, both at Horley campsite. There is a District Cub camp planned for the weekend of the 19-21 May. I am working towards getting my 'Nights Away' permit to reduce the pressure on Jo to attend camp. While Horley is a beautiful site, activities there are limited so we may need to look for a different site to get access to some more challenging activities.

We are delighted to note that we have two Cubs who have met the requirements to be awarded their Chief Scout's Silver Award. Several others are close to completing their requirements.

We enjoyed an evening at Orinoco in Banbury where Cubs worked on making bug hotels out of

repurposed materials. The resulting large hotel was presented to Deddington primary school at its Friday celebration assembly and will be placed in their extended wild/forest school area.

We will also be starting a new Facebook page for members so that parents can see what their Cubs get up to and are looking forward to the warmer weather and lighter evenings so that we can move activities outdoors again.

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

### Scouts

We currently have 15 Scouts in the troop. One has earned his Chief Scout Gold Award.

Over the past 12 months we have taken part in a wide range of activities, including a 24-hour hike and camp expedition to Horley, a 2-night summer camp also at Horley and many evenings spent at Daeda's



## YOUTH

Wood cooking on open fires and shelter-building as part of the Survival Badge. Other activities included swimming, making whistles, an evening dedicated to Japan and a Ninja-themed Christmas party as well as attending parades for St George's Day and Remembrance Sunday.

Our fundraising for the charity, Toilet Twinning, raised enough for five toilets in Central Southern Africa.

The Scouts recently elected a Scout Council to give them greater involvement in how the troop operates.

**Pete Churchyard**  
**deddingtonscouts@gmail.com**

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## DEDDINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Last term flew by so quickly. It is hard to believe we have celebrated Easter and summer is on its way.

Early in March we had exciting news when a Year 5 pupil applied for new young trees from the Woodland Trust to be planted in our school grounds. Our pack of trees included the millionth tree planted by the Trust which brought the BBC to school to film the planting for an episode of *Countryfile* broadcast on Easter Sunday. John Craven joined the filming which took place on our top field and we will all remember the day for a long time. We are grateful to the pupil for her efforts in making this happen.

The F1 children made Easter gardens in our quiet area, bringing flowers, plants, branches and stones from home, adding crosses to recognise its significance in the Easter story. The Year 1 children held an art exhibition in their classroom with parents and carers invited to celebrate their talents. Year 5 benefited from an excellent science day at Tudor Hall. Year 3 pupils enjoyed swimming lessons every Thursday afternoon and their water skills improved greatly. In short, Term 4 life in our school was as varied and exciting as always.

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

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## SUPPORT FOR MENTAL HEALTH

Are you feeling anxious, isolated or experiencing low mood? As Oxfordshire Mind's Well-being Worker in Primary Care, I offer social prescribing support for patients registered at Deddington Health Centre.

I am at Deddington Health Centre every Tuesday, with in-person appointments from 9:30am to 3:30pm. I provide telephone support during the rest of the week. To book an appointment, call Oxfordshire Mind on 01865 247788. Staff will take details and notify me to contact you within a couple of days to confirm the appointment. If you're registered at Deddington Health Centre, an in-person appointment is likely to be available within a week or two. Alternatively, we can arrange for a telephone appointment to take place within a few days.

**Peter Ryan**  
**info@oxfordshiremind.org.uk**

*Continued from p29*

## 1st Deddington Guides

The latter part of the spring term was taken up with rehearsing and organising our annual charity entertainment when the Guides put on a variety of acts for their families. Some of the girls created dance routines, others performed their own music and we had a display of football skills. Running throughout were spoof TV shows which were a lot of fun. We also held a raffle and, together with a cake stall and kind donations, raised £70. The Guides voted for two charities to share the money – Katharine House Hospice and Banbury Young Homeless Project. Thank you for your support and very well done, Guides

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

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## FRIENDS OF THE CASTLE GROUNDS

There are still two large logs at the entrance of the moat which is water-logged, muddy and slippery. Be careful if you are walking here. Come to the Castle Grounds and admire our new sponsored waste bin. We now have plenty of bins for rubbish, but if you do find them full, please take your rubbish home. Plans are in place for willow screening around the bins.

The first mow is due next week, making the Grounds easier to walk. An area of grass about 120x60 yards by Eddie's bench has been designated for No Mow May although there will be a mown pathway around it. There will be a photo of the area on our Facebook page and Deddington OnLine.

We have contacted the Bat Man about putting up the bat boxes and will have an information stand and a game for the children at the Four Farms Challenge on Sunday 21 May.

The committee meets monthly and we are always looking for new members to bring fresh ideas for the future of the Castle Grounds. We would also welcome volunteers to help us with the upkeep of this heritage site. With better weather on the way, come and enjoy this peaceful area.

**Carol Garrett**  
**cgarrett@btinternet.com**

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## PFSU AND NURSERY

Thank you to the Crown and Tuns for their continued support and to everyone who supported our Easter trail in April. We raised £459.

Come and see us at our next fundraiser, the Deddington Four Farms Challenge, on Sunday 21 May. There will be lots of children's activities, including a fun run word scramble, children's outdoor yoga, woodland medal making and face painting.

**Charlotte Witka**  
**charlotte@deddingtonnurseryandpfsu.co.uk**



## BED & BREAKFAST



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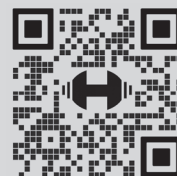
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Repeat prescriptions	01869 338847
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Foscote (Private)	01295 252281
Horton General	0300 304 7777
John Radcliffe	0300 304 7777
Manor (Nuffield Health, Private)	01865 987292
Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre	0300 304 7777
Katharine House Hospice	01295 811866
NHS Non emergency	111
PARISH CLERK	01869 337447
(Monday 9.00am–12.30pm, Wednesday 9.00–5.00pm, Thursday 9.00–12.30pm)	
POLICE (non-emergency, 24 hrs)	101
PRIMARY SCHOOL (C of E)	01869 338430
PFSU	01869 337484
VILLAGE NURSERY	01869 337383

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Water leak	0800 714 614
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WINDMILL CENTRE	07720 834006
OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL	01865 792422 or 01865 816000

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DEDDINGTON CLUBS & SOCIETIES: The full list of contacts is available on Deddington OnLine at <https://www.deddington.org.uk/directory/clubs-societies/>

DEDDINGTON CHURCHES See section inside



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