

June 2023

# *The* **DEDDINGTON NEWS**



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by **10 June**

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## The DEDDINGTON NEWS

You can tell it's moving towards summer because the swifts are back in the village and there's increased pressure on space in the DN, even if we're not certain the weather is improving.

Can I remind organisers again if you have an event, even if the details are still vague, once you have a date, if there's any likelihood that you'll want a valuable advert in the magazine, let us know asap?

We're not averse to including dates in What's On from out of the parish, so long as it doesn't clash with an event here.

JC

### What's On June

- Tues Yoga at the Windmill: 9.00–10.00am, contact Juliette53@btinternet.com, 07703 836856
- Wed 7 Photographic Society: 'Photographing the Beauty of Birds', Robert Harvey, Adderbury Institute, 7.30pm
- Fri 9– Duns Tew Drama Group: *Ménage à Trois*, Duns Tew Village Hall, 7.30pm
- Sat 10
- Sun 11 Berry's Orchard Charity Open Day: 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', Primary School, 7.30pm
- Sat 17 Primary School, PFSU & Nursery: Summer Fête, School Field, 12.00–3.00pm
- Sun 18 Music in Adderbury: Adderbury Ensemble with Viv McClean, Parish Church, 6.00pm
- Wed 21 Parish Council Meeting: Windmill Centre, 7.30pm
- Sat 24 Farmers' Market: Market Place, 9.00am–12.30pm
- Thu 29 Bookworms: Holly Tree, 6.30pm
- Wed 28 Ukraine Visit: Barford St Michael Village Hall 7.30pm
- Thu 29 Book Group: Contact 01869 338094 for details

### July

- Sun 2 Tennis Club: 40th Anniversary Celebration, Windmill Centre
- Wed 5 Photographic Society: 'Photographing the Milky Way from the UK', Adderbury Institute, 7.30pm
- Sat 8 Cherwell Choral Society: 'Americana', Parish Church, 7.30pm
- Wed 12 WI: 'Ladies Can't Climb Ladders', Holly Tree, 2.30pm
- Wed 19 Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm
- Sat 15 Local Vocals: Concert for Katharine House Hospice, Windmill Centre, 7.30pm
- Sun 16 Music in Adderbury: Paddington Trio, Parish Church, 6.00pm
- Sat 22 Farmers' Market: Market Place, 9.00am–12.30pm
- Thu 27 Bookworms: Holly Tree, 6.30pm

Submission of any article to the DN carrying personal information (for example names, locations, pictures) will imply that the person submitting the article has obtained the necessary consent from the individual (or parent / guardian in the case of a minor) / company / organisation for this information to be used both in print and online.

Contributors should be aware that the monthly issues are posted online and therefore any personal contact details given are there in perpetuity.

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## DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

### 17 May at the Windmill Centre

*Present:* Collins, Cox, Ince, Oldfield (chair), O'Neill, Patterson, Robinson, Swadling, Swan, Timms, Watts, the parish clerk, five members of the public and the *DN* correspondent.

#### **Election**

The meeting started with more formalities than usual with the election, unopposed, of Councillors Oldfield and Robinson as chair and vice chair respectively. A passing review of attendance by councillors showed that Councillors Ince, Oldfield and Timms had a 100% record.

#### **Open Forum**

Four Hempton residents spoke voicing their objections to the revised planning application on Mount Pleasant. Their views largely centred around over-development of the site of historic importance (which it is hoped will be a listed property soon), dangerous access on and off the site at an already dangerous point in the village, and destruction of ecology. There was also concern at the potential effect on water supplies and drainage which have been a cause for concern for many years. A Deddington resident objected to reading in the *DN* that he was the subject of a complaint about parking in the layby on Horse Fair. He thought he should have been contacted personally and pointed out how much had changed since he moved there in 1969.

#### **Planning Applications**

##### *No objection*

Maunds Farm House, High Street, Deddington: construction of a conservatory – re-submission of previous application (withdrawn) to infill a U-shaped area at the rear of the property.

British Microlight Association, Bullring: change of use from office to 3 residential apartments and retention of one office on ground floor, to provide 2 x 1 bed and 1 x 2 bed apartments over three floors. Suggested the applicant be asked to consider bicycle storage.

The Cottage, Philcote Street: replace existing shed with new shed. One neighbour objection online, though this is the furthest neighbour from the shed, no other neighbours have commented.

Land to the Rear of the Duke Of Cumberland's Head, Clifton: retrospective change of use of land to accommodate 4 mobile glamping units. No objections locally.

2B Hempton Road Deddington: Single storey rear extension. Small shower/cloakroom extension.

Middle Yard, The Tchure: insertion of 10 roof mounted solar panels to the south facing roof located in a single line, along the eaves of the roofline, made of all black glass, with black busbars on the existing black slate roof.

##### *Objection*

Mount Pleasant, Hempton: outline application for partial demolition and extension to existing dwelling, the erection of 1 new dwelling and conversion of an existing barn to form 1 dwelling – all matters reserved

except for access. DPC previously objected on the grounds of over-development, increased traffic, and the demolition of Mount Pleasant. There are 4 objections online on the revised plans. Still considered to be over-development with three houses plus attendant cars at a dangerous point.

##### *Approvals*

Windmill Centre, Hempton Road: overclad existing roof with galvanised steel sheet.

#### **Neighbourhood Plan**

Councillor Collins reported that Councillor Oldfield has taken over as chair of the group. Now that local elections have taken place, the plan can be submitted, although the final report from AECOM is still awaited.

#### **Large Scale Development**

The PC has written to OCC objecting to the fact that the developers of both Hempton Gate and Clifton Gate, Burringtons, have not yet started the S278 work required [infrastructure requirements agreed as part of planning consent] which should have taken place before any of the properties were occupied. The letter also raised the issue of no S106 money having been paid to CDC and asked whether OCC is intending to adopt the roads on each development.

Two applications are still pending: for 9 houses in Hempton and 60 houses next to Wimborn Close.

#### **Highways and Transport**

The PC will write to OCC asking for a quote for raising the kerb around the Market Place greens to avoid further damage from vehicles parking.

The damaged bollard at Hudson Street has been replaced but still awaiting an extra bollard to prevent the recurrence of this damage.

#### **Environment and Recreation**

There are ongoing discussions regarding the old play area at the Windmill, although a letter of complaint has been received regarding the clearance of undergrowth on the site. What remains will be cleared soon and complainant advised on intentions.

Following a request for a memorial bench in the name of Donald Lane, there was a lengthy discussion on the most appropriate place to be suggested to his family. Deddington Environment Network will be asked for feedback on this year's parish wide No Mow May to inform next year's actions.

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

A RoSPA safety inspection will be undertaken when work on the mound in the adventure playground has been carried out.

It was agreed to spend up to £350 on updating the cemetery records.

It was agreed to investigate the provision of high quality wi-fi in the Market Place to accommodate traders visiting the farmers' market.

**Next meeting Wednesday 21 June at the Windmill Centre at 7.30pm.**

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>



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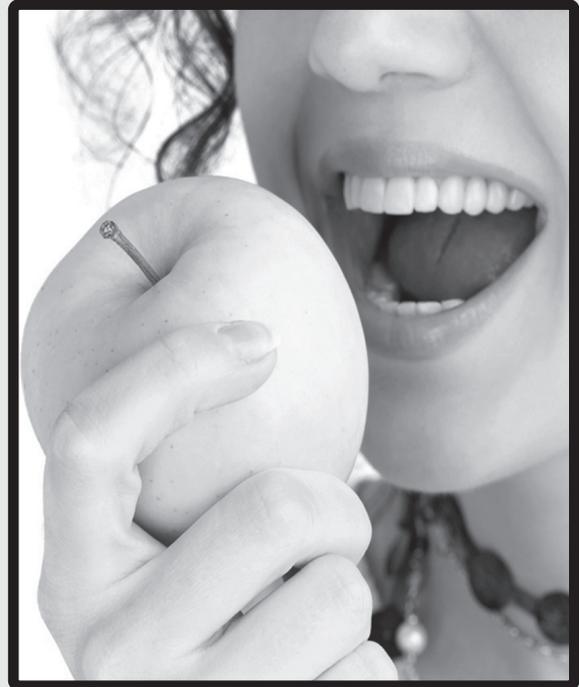
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## CHURCH

### Parish Church SS Peter and Paul

#### June

'As many of you know, I will be leaving the Deddington Benefice, to live closer to my family in Peterborough. I have very much enjoyed serving here for the last eight years – it has hardly been uneventful. This, of course, means that the benefice will be going into a period of vacancy from 12 June. We are blessed to have three retired clergy who will continue to take some services and be available for pastoral care. Please check the website, [www.deddingtonchurch.org](http://www.deddingtonchurch.org), for any updates or for contact details.' Revd Annie

Deddington church is open throughout the day for anyone wishing to visit, pray, meditate or simply be. Church services are streamed live.

We are also on FaceBook, <https://www.facebook.com/DeddingtonChurch>.

Mon–Fri: 8.45am	Morning Prayer
Wed: 10.00am	Holy Communion
Thu 9.30–11.30am	Tea + Toast and Squiggles and Wiggles
Sun 4 10.30am	Holy Communion
3.00pm	Family Service – Farewell to Revd Annie, visit to Horse/Donkey Sanctuary
6.00pm	Evensong

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

Sun 11 8.00am	BCP Communion
10.30am	Holy Communion – Farewell to Revd Annie
Sun 18 10.30am	Holy Communion
Sun 24 10.30am	Holy Communion

#### Hempton

Sun 18 9.00am	Holy Communion
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#### Barford St Michael

Sun 4 10.30am	Coffee and Chat
Sun 11 9.00am	Communion
Sun 18 10.30am	Family Service
Sun 24 9.00am	Family Holy Communion

#### From the Parish Registers

<i>Baptisms:</i>	
23 April	Tommy Mark Wincott
<i>Funerals:</i>	
18 April	Mary Stephanie Higham
4 May	Linsey Smith

### RC Parish of Hethe

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## BLISSFUL THINKING



There's a psychological term, false memory, where a person's recollection of events has either been confused with a dream or whose mind has embellished the real aspects with fabricated features. This is why sometimes even eyewitness testimony of crimes can be untrustworthy. But if somebody were to reminisce over an event I was

at, and I didn't recognise what they were describing, I would assume I had misremembered rather than them.

Which brings me to my latest Chat GPT conversation. The following was generated by our artificial friend, about the village in which I've lived since birth:

'For those who are looking for a more whimsical experience, Deddington's famous 'Crocodile House' is a must-visit. This unusual building, located on Horse Fair, is adorned with a pair of larger-than-life crocodile statues, which peer down at passers-by with mischie-

vous grins. No one is quite sure why the crocodiles are there, but they have become something of a local legend, and are beloved by residents and visitors alike. From the old-fashioned phone box that's been converted into a lending library to the statue of a giant hare that adorns the village square, Deddington is a place where the unexpected is always just around the corner.'

Just where have these grinning crocodiles and giant hare, been hiding all my life? I would imagine I'd have noticed a pair of crocodile statues on a street I pass most days, particularly when they were 'larger than life' and a 'local legend'. For fear of looking a fool, I've been scouring my brain for instances where I may have spotted this giant hare statue but not registered it, like it just blended into the background as an unworthy piffle. Is this how AI will destroy us? By making us doubt the very nature of reality until we lose our collective minds? No wonder nobody smiles on Horse Fair.

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

## Notes from a Minimalist Gardener

As surely as the sun continues to rise and the world to turn, our life conditions change and affect our gardening choices. Like many in Deddington, I am fortunate to enjoy the pleasures of a garden which gives me instant peace and relaxation as I walk out of my back door. A large part of that pleasure derives from examining the progress of plants, trees and shrubs – and for much of the year, returning indoors with at least a small amount of produce. I now live alone and the grandchildren who used to revel in digging up and scrubbing potatoes, or selecting beans, peas and sweetcorn for an exciting lunch, have grown up. Their desires and needs have changed along with mine and, while I still enjoy catering for visiting family and friends, I need to be careful not to grow more than I can realistically consume or store. And I need to be sure, as my energy levels diminish, that I can carry out (with help as needed) the work of maintaining a garden.

Over the last couple of years, changes have been made in garden design and items selected for planting to reflect these life changes. While I still grow fruit and several different vegetables, the irreducible minimum of my vegetable needs and desires is a range of herbs and leaf vegetables. These can be grown in pots or prepared beds. As revealed by the entries to our annual Parish Show, there are many keen and accomplished gardeners in Deddington. While I would hate anyone to think I was masquerading as one such, I try here to note the practical and pleasurable advantages of some of my top choices, all of which are easy to

grow. Many gardeners will have their own favourites with similar attributes.

Fresh lettuce in the form of cut and come again salad leaves grows quickly and provides a quick and long-lasting salad or sandwich ingredient. Particularly tasty in salads is American land cress, developed as an alternative to watercress which tends to flower and go to seed rather rapidly. I particularly enjoy cutting some for an egg and cress sandwich. Rocket and small spinach leaves are also nice salad and sandwich additions. Rocket grows particularly vigorously and survives cold temperatures. The same can be said for sorrel.

Varieties of spinach and lettuce which take longer to develop but are larger and more prolific are hearty varieties such as Little Gem and perpetual spinach. The perpetual spinach planted last spring survived winter and is now producing enough for a couple of meals just as the last batch from the freezer was consumed.

A final comment on the advantages of growing leaf vegetables. Very often it is difficult to buy leaf vegetables in the desired quantity. Prepacked bags commonly contain too much or too little. This is particularly true of land cress or watercress as a sandwich ingredient. A little goes a long way and the pleasure of walking up the garden to cut a small amount for that egg and cress sandwich is hard to beat. What is left on the plant stays fresh and multiplies. Less packaging and food waste has to be good.

**Lesley Milroy**  
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## A Night by the Fire Northern Ireland May 1977

I was on secondment to the Ulster Defence Regiment to a battalion based in Dungannon, Co Tyrone. It was a time when there was trouble with the IRA and Protestant extremists had upped the ante and were causing trouble of their own. Roads were being blocked by tractors and farm equipment. In the towns, yobbos erected road blocks, burned buses and made a general nuisance of themselves.

My job was to train members of the battalion in minor tactics and weapon handling. However, my Commanding Officer (CO) suggested that I accompany him and the second in command (2i/c) on their rounds one evening, visiting patrols in our area of operations. The 2i/c, being local, knew the area well and advised us on all things Ulster: tribal areas, ne'er-do-wells, their haunts and so on. His fund of knowledge was a great asset.

Originally I was to accompany just the CO and the 2i/c but, when I got into the back of the Austin car expecting a comfortable ride, I found a rather large major and a Signals officer already ensconced. Suddenly the prospects of a three to four-hour trip filled me with dread, especially as I knew they were all smokers and I wasn't. To add to the discomfort, I always carried a submachine gun when on such jaunts – well, you never know, it might come in handy. All the others carried pistols that would have been as much use as a wet lettuce if we ran into any trouble.

In the cramped conditions my submachine gun behaved badly, constantly prodding the major in the ribs, which didn't improve his humour. The only relief came when we were able to get out of the car to stretch our legs and talk to our patrols.

It was a dreadful night. Three hours in a steamed-up Austin, complete with a thick fog of cigarette smoke, seemingly going round in circles, made worse by the moans and complaints of the two in the back with me, and it was teeming with rain. The only saving grace was that I was about to leave the Army and this would be my last 'Tour de Force'.

Through the haze of cigarette smoke and misted windows, there appeared a glow to our front. The glow transformed into a fire as we drew nearer. Great excitement, some activity at last ... was this to be the highlight of the evening? It certainly was.

We discovered that it was a pub on fire — called The Stagger Inn. The fire by now had a good hold and had engulfed the back of the building. Scrambling out of the car, we were joined by a couple of NCOs from

a unit, also based in Dungannon, who told us that the pub was on fire. My CO asked if the Royal Ulster Constabulary and the fire brigade had been called. 'Yes,' he was told. The CO asked why some soldiers accompanying the NCOs were chasing a group of screaming girls. The NCOs said that they were clearing the civilians from the area: 'We think there might be a bomb against the front door.'

The CO thought about this, then said, 'You had better get those girls to safety.' Exit NCOs to chase after the soldiers who were still chasing the girls.

By now the crew from the Austin were crouched in a muddy ditch watching the proceedings and the CO was looking through his bins at a large green box by the front door of the pub. 'Brave fellow,' said the large major. 'Dead on,' said the Signals officer. 'You're wanted,' said the 2i/c, prodding me in the ribs. I slithered along the ditch to where the CO was gazing at the box by the door. 'There's the bomb. Can you hit it from here with that thing?' referring to my submachine gun. Me: 'Possibly.' The bomb was about 70 to 80 yards away. 'Good,' said the CO. 'Get on with it. I will spot your shots.' 'Wonderful,' thinks I, 'just what I want. I could be leaving the Army with a bang.'

So I did as I had been asked and started to shoot at the green box. I could see bits of the box flying in all directions and what seemed to be

a pink substance coming out of it. I asked if I should stop as it was well hit. 'Give it a few more, that pink stuff coming out of it must be Semtex.' That being the pink-coloured explosive made by the Czechs, popular with the IRA because it was far more effective than their home-made mix.

Soon I had fired all my cartridges. 'Got any more?' said the CO. 'No,' said I, though in fact I had another magazine but I wasn't going to waste it. Who knew what other excitement might crop up? By now we were being cheered on by all and sundry. The CO had a sense of humour failure and told them all to 'Get away'. To me he said: 'Come on, let's look at your handiwork.'

As we approached the door and the tattered box the CO said, 'There you are, I told you it was Semtex.'

Although the box content was certainly pink, it didn't look like explosives to me. As we got nearer, a piece of paper with Andrex on it caught my eye. My last shots, and for that matter, the only shots fired in anger on my Ulster tour, had demolished the pub's weekly supply of lavatory paper.



*Smile please*

## Farmers' Market

North Aston Farms is an organic and regenerative farm just south of Deddington Brook, east of the main road to Oxford. The farm is home to North Aston Dairy, which we run with a small team. Between us, we milk 16 cows every morning and evening and then pasteurise and bottle most of it, turning the remainder into natural set yoghurt and ice cream. We also retail a small amount of pasture-fed beef, lamb and rosé veal grown on the farm. All our dairy produce is sold to the local community mainly via our weekly delivery rounds in Deddington, Somerton, the Astons, the Heyfords, Duns Tew and Wolvercote. We also have a place on the farm for customers to collect pre-ordered produce. Since 1998, the farm has also been the home of North Aston Organics, a small-scale vegetable grower and box scheme, although this is run independently.

At North Aston Farms, we are firmly committed to growing nourishing and nutrient-dense food in a way that not only sustains the land but heals and improves it. Farmed 'conventionally' for several decades, the land saw a drastic decline in its wildlife population which led to the decision in the 1980s to transition the entire farm back to an organic, nature-friendly system. Ever since, we've been working tirelessly to restore the diversity of flora and fauna and plant miles of native hedgerows and trees around the farm. We have been certified fully organic by the Soil Association since 1992.

In 2022, we began our journey into regenerative farming, actively rejuvenating our soils and pastures, sequestering atmospheric carbon back into the ground and helping to restore defunct water and nutrient cycles. The first step was our move to adaptive multi-paddock grazing of our beef and dairy cattle. Our new system means that our cows are moved to fresh pasture every day and the land behind them is left to recover for many months before the cattle return. This allows plants and soil life to flourish while capturing and storing a vast amount of carbon from the atmosphere and giving the wildlife on the farm a far richer grassland ecosystem in which to live and breed.

Every Tuesday early morning we deliver our products and some from other local artisan producers to around 60 customers in Deddington.

We sell online through our new website for collection from the farm or delivery within 15 miles on orders above £40. We have a stall at the Deddington farmers' market each month and we also supply a few local independent farm shops and produce stores.

Want to visit the farm? Check out the Events page on our website where we will be posting about forthcoming events such as watch-a-milking evenings, farm volunteer days, and seasonal feasts. We would love to see you there.

**North Aston Farms**

<https://www.northastonfarms.co.uk/>

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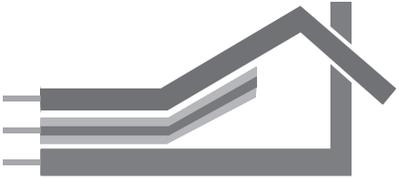
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## Windmill Centre History

Recently a Deddington resident expressed surprise at learning there was once a Windmill School, so we decided to delve into Windmill history. If you were a pupil or have any memories of, or information on, the Windmill School please get in touch.

According to the *Victoria County History*, a windmill on the site now known as the Windmill Centre, was pulled down in 1840. By 1881 there were two rows of cottages there which appeared on OS maps in 1902 and 1925. Don Walker, a long time Deddington resident, remembers them being very

cold and no one complained when they were pulled down. He remembers this as around the time The Paddocks was built, soon after the end of WWII.

In 1951 a secondary modern school was built on the site. Its headmaster was George Wing, who had come to the village at the beginning of the war as part of a school evacuated from Fulham. He stayed in Deddington, first as headmaster of the Deddington School, before moving with the upper age groups to the new Windmill School, and leaving the existing school as a church primary school. The new school had between 240 and 250 pupils, including children from Steeple Aston, Milton and Adderbury. With the rise of comprehensive schools, in preference to secondary moderns, the Windmill School was closed in 1971 and its pupils transferred to the newly built Warriner School in Bloxham. One resident remembers that children continued to be transported back to Deddington from Warriner for woodwork, metalwork and domestic science classes and the farm unit continued to be run from Deddington for several years. It is likely that, after that stopped, the campus was left empty.

I have been unable to find out what happened to the site after that until an advertisement for adult education classes being offered by Deddington Adult Education Committee in the Windmill School building appeared in the first *Deddington News* in September 1976. They included bridge, interior design, German conversation, pottery, first aid and yoga. A crèche was run there at one stage to enable young mothers to go to the classes. There was also a macramé class and cookery, while Susan Taylor ran dance classes



Front row, L-R: Miss Williams, George Wing, Mr Carpenter, Bob Stevens (Deputy Head), Mr Murray who ran the farm unit

there, after leaving the British Legion Club on High Street.

A piece in the April 1978 *DN*, written by local residents, Chris Isaac and Andrew Macgregor, asked the question, 'The Windmill School – What's Happening to It?' They pointed out that 'many villages and small towns in Oxfordshire would give their eye-teeth to have a beautiful sports field, changing facilities, a large hall, nine rooms available for all sorts of activities, toilets, parking facilities, all with heating and lighting'. They went on to detail meetings between the Adult Ed-

ucation Committee, Oxfordshire County Council and representatives of groups using the hall; the arguments for closing the site were strong. It seems further negotiations took place between OCC and a local committee to discuss alternatives. One outcome put forward was 'that the County Council would let Deddington lease the site and its building for a nominal rent. If that happened, all the facilities would be at the disposal of the village. But would they be used? If Deddington wants to keep the Windmill School and use it as a community centre, there will have to be a real drive to start developing it, or it will be lost forever'.

A letter from Lewis Foreman in the May 1978 issue of the *DN* pointed out that it is not sufficient to acquire a centre but there must also be some guarantee that it will be 'regularly and substantially patronised'. The letter concluded that a referendum was required to find out 'whether the desire is really there'. The idea of a referendum was raised with the parish council and, according to the *DN*'s parish council notes of their May meeting, more information was required before they 'took this step', especially as there was some uncertainty over the county council's plans for the Windmill site.

What happened next in the Windmill Centre story? Read the July *DN*.

Sources: *A History of the County of Oxford*, vol. 11; *Discovering Deddington*, Deddington Map Group; *Deddington News* archive; History of the Windmill Centre, Deddington, Mary Robinson; Deddington Online.

**Alison Day**

## POSTCARD FROM AMERICA

### Contrasts, Politicians, Money and Football

Our recent trip back to the UK had a specific purpose. We were all going to a football match. I am sure some of you will not understand my obsession with Leicester City but it is tribal. This is what my boys and I do together and this was perhaps the last chance to rope in my daughter and actually cheer on our Premier League team. We didn't win; there were tears.

Trips like this always make me think of contrasts between the UK and the US. My US newsfeed told me that gun deaths amongst children had risen by 50% over two years but in the UK the most important issue seemed to be the Coronation of Charles III. Many of my friends in the UK complained about the quality and the efficacy of the BBC news coverage but, in the US, Fox News was forced to give a company that makes voting machines \$750m because they lied about the last Presidential election result. Yet it is still the most watched cable news network. Be careful what you wish for.

US TV is in most aspects very diverse. For instance, last month I accidentally tuned in to a cornhole championship. That's the game that Americans obsess about playing in car parks before football games. It involves bean bags and holes in a piece of wood. This big game was followed by a polo match between US and UK which I am glad to report the UK won. Perhaps that is a reason to keep this elitist sport going. There isn't much that the UK can win at anymore.

There is also a huge contrast amongst the politi-

cians. For instance, Sunak is 43 and Starmer is 60. The US election next year looks like it will be fought between an 80 year old Biden and Trump who will be 78. It remains to be seen how many of his myriad legal cases he will have lost by then. Right now he is simply guilty of sexual assault. We all distrust politicians but surely this is a new low.

Perhaps the biggest contrast is in terms of money. Certainly America is much more divided economically but, during Covid, a very strange thing happened. Somewhat accidentally, some socialist policies were rolled out. More than 15 million more people were enrolled in healthcare insurance and child poverty was potentially reduced by 40%. These programmes are finishing now and divergence will grow once more. The difference in salary between a typical American CEO and one of his employees is now 670-1. In the UK this contrast is 63-1.

On both sides of the pond parents worry about their children's education but, in places like Texas, they focus on banning books with gay people in them and have introduced lessons on how to tie a tourniquet in case your best mate gets shot in class.

So why do I stay living in the US? Our lovely community here is similar to Deddington in many ways. We look after each other. A visit back to the homeland is a joy but I needed to get back to the Colorado sunshine. The rain and grey in the UK really made me unhappy, nearly as much as my team getting relegated.

**Mike Ward** [mike@mikeaward.com](mailto:mike@mikeaward.com)



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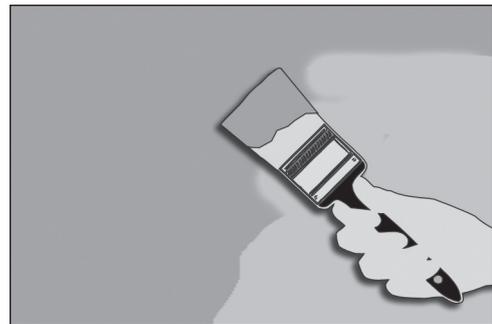
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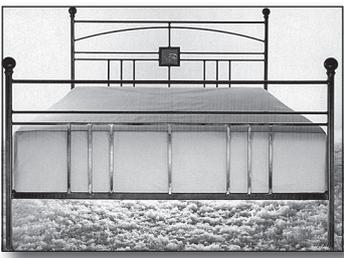
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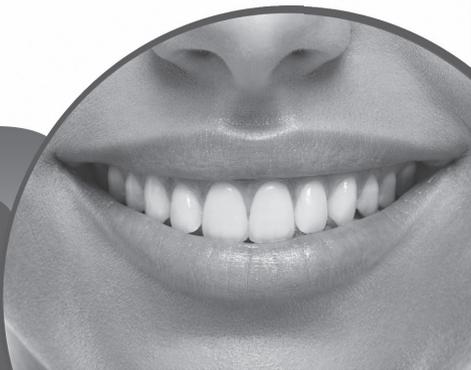


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## LETTERS

FROM KEITH RITCHIE,  
DEDDINGTON

Just a passing observation. We have just had two bank holidays in rapid succession, one on 1 May and another on 8 May.

Walking round the village on the evening of both days, of the four pubs/hotels in Deddington three were tightly closed for both evenings.

When I first arrived in Deddington, some years ago, all would have been noisily packed on a bank holiday. My question is, where has everyone gone? Is everyone at home watching Netflix or is it the prospect of having to pay five pounds for a pint of beer that is off-putting?



Please address all letters to:  
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37 THE DAEDINGS, DEDDINGTON  
editor@deddingtonnews.co.uk  
and include your name and address  
even if they are not for publication

FROM CAROLINE, HEATHER,  
OLIVIA AND PAT

A huge thank you to everyone who supported the Coronation Party last Sunday. It was great to see so many people of all ages enjoying the afternoon. Our thanks also to all the volunteers who helped in setting up and clearing up on the Saturday and Sunday, everyone who made the delicious cupcakes, those who organised the children's activities and the willing band organising the food and drink.

## DEDDINGTON ENVIRONMENT NETWORK

This month we are celebrating bees and other pollinators. Last year conservation charity, Buglife, reported a 65% decline in the number of insects splattered on people's number plates compared to a similar study in 2004. While this may be good news for our car windscreens and cyclists – I'll never forget getting a fly in my eye cycling along a tree-lined lane 20 years ago when I foolishly thought I wouldn't need my sunglasses – it's really bad news for pollinators. Three-quarters of crops grown by humans depend on insects for pollination. Current advice on what can be done to help improve insect populations is 1. decrease pesticide use in farming, public and private spaces (in 2013 the French government set a target of reducing pesticide use in farming by 50%, and in 2017 a study reported that there had been very little effect on productivity yields across arable farms despite a beneficial rise in insect numbers); 2. protect, enhance and link wildlife hotspots; and 3. make our gardens and our food and farming practices more wildlife-friendly and sustainable.

We were lucky to have a member of BBOWT (Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust) come and give a talk on wildflowers and the advantages of No Mow May and June for wildlife at the Deddington Arms last month but, if you missed it, you can head to their website, look at Buglife or head to the Wildlife Trusts website for an in-depth report entitled 'Insect Declines and Why They Matter'.

Pollinators need nectar for energy and pollen for protein for their young and, according to Gardener's World, the following are some of the best plants to grow to help them: those with a single flower like cosmos and dahlias (double flowers make it hard for insects to access the centre of the flower); purple flowers such

as lavender, alliums, buddleia and catmint; tubular flowers such as foxgloves, honeysuckle, penstemons and snap dragons.

Winter honeysuckle and winter clematis provide nectar and pollen for early insects, while bluebells, fruit tree blossom, forget-me-nots, primroses, and crocuses are rich sources as we head into spring. Good plants for summer include campanula, geraniums, potentilla, comfrey, borage, cornflowers, delphiniums, hollyhocks, most flowering herbs, asters, ivy, verbenas, and sedums. We've been adding more and more of these to our garden each year and last year were amazed to see how many insects the borage and cornflowers attracted. In the last few years people have realised that moths (both night and daytime varieties) play a vital role in pollination and the night-flyers are particularly attracted by pale, evening-scented flowers such as jasmines, tobacco plants, night-scented stocks and evening primrose.

There's an interesting programme of events coming this month including the popular Swift Walk on Wednesday 21 June at 7.30pm starting in the Market Place in Deddington. The Fenemore Farm tour in Clifton and a visit to the Cassington Food Digester will be taking place in the middle of the month – look out for more information on our website and posters around the village. Bird lovers might be interested in a talk by Tim Birkhead, professor at Sheffield University, on his latest book *Birds and Us* on Friday 9 June at 7.30pm, Wootton Village Hall (book at [www.wootontalks.co.uk](http://www.wootontalks.co.uk)).

We'd love to hear what you are doing to help our pollinators plus any other ideas you may have. Please contact us on [info@deddingtonenvironment.net](mailto:info@deddingtonenvironment.net).

**Fiona Smith**

## PFSU and Nursery

Please come and support Deddington Nursery & PFSU at Deddington Primary School summer fête on Saturday 17 June 12.00–3.00pm where we will have our hook-a-duck game. There will be plenty of games

and activities for all the family plus a bar and barbecue run by the School PTA. See you there.

**Charlotte Witka**  
**PFSU Deputy Manager**

## DEDDINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

We have been having an eventful and exciting time here at school since our last report.

We are very proud that one of our Year 2 children was the winner of a national charity competition to design a book cover to celebrate King Charles III's Coronation. Arthur May-Coates won some great prizes, including a collection of classic children's books, colouring pens and pencils, and a notebook with his design on. This was organised by Scrivens Opticians & Hearing Care for the World Book Day. Children were asked to send in their royal-themed entries with all proceeds from the £1 entry fee going to the Alzheimer's Society. We are delighted that Arthur was the winner.

Our Year 4 pupils travelled to Hill End, a multi-purpose and residential centre near Oxford. Over two days, they enjoyed shelter-building in teams, learning how to make fire with flint and steel (and toasting marshmallows over the fires they made), pond-dipping to find lots of different pond-life including a great crested newt. They learned about natural camouflaging as

well as seeing slow-worms and grass snakes in their natural habitats. During the evenings they enjoyed a sensory walk and singing and games around the campfire.

On Friday 12 May the children wore red, white and blue clothes and brought a snack for the afternoon session. Each class teacher organised a fun activity for their class, as a way of remembering the Coronation. Towards the end of the day, the school assembled on the top field to witness the planting of a tree, donated by our PTA. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in the PTA. Parents were invited to the celebration assembly and many came and enjoyed it.

We are looking forward to beginning rehearsals for our end of year musical performance, organised and produced by Alicia Rumsby and Seb Heffer. Watch this space for information regarding tickets later in the term.

**Denise Welch**

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



The trouble with me writing this nearly three weeks before you read it, is that something I think is going to happen at the Windmill ... er ... might not. With that caveat, what I *think* you'll find from the end of May onwards is a new pop-up café at the Lookout on Saturdays and potentially Tuesdays after school. This is great news for everyone – particularly parents of young children playing in the park, not to mention the cricketers, tennis players and dog walkers. A local resident, who is new to the village, has agreed to take it on. We wish her every success.

In passing, I should remind you that the Lookout can also be hired in its own right, together with the all-weather court or the adventure playground, or simply the Windmill park in general. It makes a great

base for a smaller outdoor kids' party. With the trestle tables and benches you can lay out a birthday tea for up to 16 or so children. Hiring rates are on our website.

Bigger parties are better accommodated in the Main Hall. A joint 60th party was recently held there for over 80 people. A licensed bar, outside caterers and a live band were organised and a cracking time was had by all, apparently. (I wasn't invited.) The hirer, who had used the hall once before, was very impressed by all the improvements, especially the toilets.

As I think I've already mentioned, we hope to continue improvements this year with plans to revamp the kitchen and redecorate the hall.

Three big public events are coming up in the Main Hall: Deddington Summer Artisan Craft Fayre on 10 June, Deddington Town FC Youth Presentation Day on 11 June and the Primary School Summer Production 12–14 July. For information about these events or any of the regular groups and societies that meet at the Windmill, please visit our website, [www.thewindmilleddington.org](http://www.thewindmilleddington.org), or FaceBook page. Have a great summer.

**Vaughan Jones**

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

## From The Fire Station

Back in the 80s, a bonkers Icelandic singer named Bjork produced a fabulous single, *It's Oh So Quiet*, and it has certainly felt that way at the station. We have had more shouts than I thought, nine, but nothing sticks in the mind – I am sure we have spent more time training than doing.

Steve and Corrie have now both passed their LGV driving and will soon be looking towards getting their blue light training completed which will allow them both to drive to emergency call-outs. Louis has passed his BA and both CJ and Barney continue to attend further RTC, IEC and water rescue courses.

Our watch manager, Chris Fenemore, recently received his much deserved 20 year good conduct long service award at Blenheim Palace – and it is with sadness that we bid Adam Franklin a fond farewell as he explores pastures new with his young family.

We had a fantastic response to the Fire Fighters Charity car wash and raised just under £1,000. We're hoping the sun gods will shine on the Four Farms Challenge this month.

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## Friends of the Castle Grounds

Beware, the Blandford Fly has arrived locally for its annual visit. They can cause really nasty bites. They especially like bare feet and ankles.

Recently we have had some of the larger logs chipped and spread around the Grounds, leaving smaller logs to encourage wildlife and fun for the children visiting.

The No Mow May map is now on Deddington On-Line, <https://www.deddington.org.uk/>.

With the recent wet weather the Castle Grounds is still very muddy and slippery underfoot, especially around the moat by the badgers' sett where the path is eroding.

We have had contact from a volunteer to help us with the upkeep of the Grounds. If you feel you can help, please contact us.

We hope the willow screening around the bins will be completed soon. There are now plenty of bins on site but, if they are full, please take your rubbish home with you. The bluebells and the wildflower areas are flourishing. As the drier weather arrives, please come and enjoy the tranquil and beautiful site that we are so lucky to have in the village.

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

## Deddington Library

My name is Gail Cripps and from 1 June I will become your new library manager. I have covered the library for many years and look forward to serving the local community. Please come and say hello and a warm welcome to all library readers.

## UKRAINE UPDATE

Having now entered the second year of this awful war, there is no indication that it might end soon. Therefore the need to keep it in the forefront of our minds is paramount. Contributions are still being delivered to and collected from Deddington church – food, medicines, sanitary products are all desperately needed so please keep donating.

Over the past few months several vehicles, 4x4s, ambulances and rapid response vehicles, desperately required by the Ukrainians on the frontline, have been acquired, refurbished and delivered, thanks to the dedicated work of the team at Greatworth Classics led by Angus Watt and the Deddington/Ukraine local supporters. As I write this, another convoy of vehicles is being prepared for their journey to Ukraine and will be leaving Deddington at the end of this month. The costs of these activities is considerable and has been partly met by your donations via the Just Giving page set up by Fynn Watt back in March 2022. However, we need these generous donations to continue in order to maintain the effort which is making such a difference to the people of Ukraine. Please give a donation to: [www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/fynn-ukraine](http://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/fynn-ukraine).

### Recognition from the Royal Family

The Queen Consort chose Fynn as one of 500 Coronation Champions to be honoured by inviting him to the Coronation Concert at Windsor Castle to celebrate this well deserved achievement. Fynn commented, 'This recognition truly belongs to us all.'

**Jenny Soddy, [jennysoddy@gmail.com](mailto:jennysoddy@gmail.com)  
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Thank you to **HALL PERSONAL TRAINING** for their fundraising support this year. Their Deddington studio is open daily plus Saturday mornings, specialising in one-to-one and small group personal training. Their private studio offers a huge selection of free weights, cardio equipment but above all, fosters a fantastic community. For more information contact:  
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## NEWS FROM HEMPTON

Royalists congregated at the Old School Room on Sunday 7 May to party and celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III. The weather played ball contributing to a good turnout and a great time. The Old School Room coffers were swelled by £200, proceeds of the raffle.

In conjunction with the celebrations, a Community Time Capsule is being assembled. A Coronation biscuit tin will be walled up in the Old School Room to be opened 50 years hence. Villagers are invited to contribute but bear in mind it will all need to fit in a relatively small biscuit tin so low bulk items please. Offerings are not prescribed and could be any item of contemporary, social or personal significance that would be relevant or of interest to the community in 50 years' time. Photos of family or characters in or of a village setting, posters advertising local events, drawings, poems, written thoughts or messages, a child's message to their future self, a favourite recipe, stamps, wrappers from your favourite food or confection ... You get the idea. Forward your input to Janet Watts, The Finches, Old Plough Walk, or to Jo Churchyard 11 St John's Way.

Hempton is not a pedestrian friendly village. Those who venture on that part of the roadway sporting a footpath (on the north side from the crossroads to St John's Way) risk the onslaught of increasing volumes of every type of vehicle, including 44 tonne juggernauts. Those passing through the restriction are precariously close to vehicles. But for my quick reactions, I would have been decapitated by the wing mirror of a speeding truck and nearly furrowed by a tractor carrying a plough.

Those who live on the south side of the road or beyond the extent of the pathway on the north must either join and dodge the traffic, invariably speeding along the roadway, or traverse grassed verges to a point where the sightline allows sufficient visibility of oncoming traffic to render somewhat less risky what would otherwise be a suicidal undertaking. Those attempting to traverse the grass incline on the corner of the Duns Tew and main road junction must risk further dangers. The 'temporary' (an OCC Highways definition) Narrow Bridge Restriction sign obscures much of the sightline to the west, thus rendering what was the safest point to cross the road much less so. Inclines, grass and rain don't mix; or rather they do,

to result in a further hazard that has embarrassed a number of residents who lost their footing ending up on their rears. Often a subject of misplaced humour, accidents of this nature frequently result in fractured wrists or hips, not to mention a laundry bill. Children and senior villagers are at particular risk of a calamitous outcome.

If you would like to support representations to OCC Highways department requesting improvements to Hempton pathways, send your details and views on the issue to David Morris, who is coordinating a petition ([david.morris259@btinternet.com](mailto:david.morris259@btinternet.com)).

Whilst on a recent bike ride, I was surprised by a sudden movement in the hedgerow at my left elbow. A projectile darted out over the road behind me and drew alongside in a flash at shoulder height. Accelerating, it darted ahead and across my path, its form glowing brightly iridescent copper in the late spring sunshine. I caught a glimpse of a beady eye surveying my presence and a deadly hooked beak, before it lifted sufficiently to clear the hedgerow and disappear into the landscape beyond. My ornithological knowledge is sadly lacking, but following perusal of my edition of *Birds of Britain and Europe*, I concluded my fleeting companion was an adult male kestrel. Usually observed hovering geostationary searching for prey, it was an unusually close encounter. A rare sighting around Hempton, perhaps they don't like sharing territory with the buzzards and kites.

Unlike the peregrine which loves to dive from above, kestrels can often be found hunting along the sides of roads and motorways. It is able to see near ultraviolet light, allowing it to detect the urine trails around rodent burrows as they shine in an ultraviolet colour in the sunlight. Another favourite (but less conspicuous) hunting technique is to perch a bit above the ground cover, surveying the area. When the bird spots prey animals moving by, it will pounce on them. They also prowl a patch of hunting ground in a ground-hugging flight, ambushing prey as they happen across it.

The name 'kestrel' is derived from the French *crécerelle* which is diminutive for *crécelle* (a ratchet or rotary rattle), which also referred to a bell or clapper used by lepers to announce their presence. How the French translates to describe a bird, I've no idea.

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

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## Help Stop Food Waste! St Peter and St Paul's Pantry Stall

**D**id you know that twice a week, there is a table set up just inside the entrance to the church, giving away food that is on, or just over its expiry date? Free.

The lovely staff at Eagles food store donate produce they cannot legally sell beyond close of business which could otherwise end up in the bin. It is fine to eat, just soon.

The stall is open from 5.30pm every Tuesday and Thursday, for about half an hour or so.

The small team of volunteers which manages this initiative would really appreciate some more people to help if anyone felt they could come forward on a regular or occasional basis.

Come to the church any Tuesday or Thursday and find out more about how it works.



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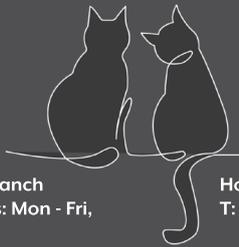
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THE DOODLE <small>10-25kg</small>	£172.80	<b>£404.99</b>	£577.79
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# DH History Corner

www.deddingtonhistory.uk

Two new articles feature on the website this month, both concerning castles which seem to have been much in the news recently.

The first is about Castle House which has long been a notable absentee from the History pages except for occasional references. I was spurred into action (not for the first time) by a Facebook post by Julie Godson, local author. 'On 20 April 1938 at Deddington Castle House the last remaining belongings of the recently-deceased Auriol, Viscountess Ipswich, (*pictured*) were auctioned off. They included a Lancaster (*sic*) saloon car (1932), a horse trailer box, new in 1937, and a Boulton & Paul revolving garden house. Deddington Castle House, which is Grade II\* listed, was built on the site of a 13th-century manor house,



with the building as it stands now mostly dating to around 1654. It was fully restored in 1894 and an extension was added a few years later, but many 17th century features were saved.' So I gathered together, from all the sources I could find, the history of the house in the words of the various authors – including Julie's.

The other article is appropriately the history of the owners of Castle View on Goose Green, published courtesy of Gregor and Katrina Brown, the current owners. In its early years it was one of six properties owned by William Williams in that area of the village. Both articles can, as usual, be found by accessing the History home page, [www.deddingtonhistory.uk](http://www.deddingtonhistory.uk), and clicking on the links under New Articles.

**Rob Forsyth**  
*editor@deddingtonhistory.uk*

## NEWS FROM CLIFTON

We managed more than one Coronation bunting flying event here where the north west and the south east of the village met in two separate events. This cut down the travelling to eat, drink and barbecue the Sunday away and gave a chance for the non-Book Clubbers and Clifton ladies to meet their neighbours and get to see what madness is on offer. Many thanks to the organisers and galley slaves (SE had three slaves to four barbecues, one was vegan, banging out chow in record time. Drone flying returned in the south east (after a recent dunking) where some of the very much younger neighbours got to experience the thrill of aviation with no damage being done.

This was such a success that some neighbours are planning a whole village effort for the summer. In these challenging times the event does require you to bring your own food, drink, chairs and gazebos but fun, chats and games will be organised in a uniting event that will further cement Clifton's reputation as Club Clifton ... I suspect the organisers are from the north west. The spectacular will be on 8 July at 3.00pm at Welford's Piece. Be there, one and all, or miss out.

Book Club has been a little quiet recently with some notable distractions of the football, family and cruising nature (big boating and not the 'other') ... This means many people are missing fascinating conversations about PHEVs [*plug-in hybrid electric vehicles*], solar panels, methods of modular modern building construc-

tion holding this country back, and the travails of the Tractor Boys and the Seagulls (and the Christian called Walton being a focus). So if your Thursday evenings are lacking education, fascinating chats, neighbourly interaction, gossip (let's not deny it) or just beer, pop along at 20:00 (for the ex military types) and join in. All are welcome.

**Martin Bryce**  
*martindnbryce@gmail.com*

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## CALLING ALL CLUBS

### Deddington and District History Society

At our April meeting, Carol Anderson told us of the 16 women in Ascott-Under-Wychwood who were imprisoned for preventing two non-union farm labourers from going to work. Their action was in support of Joseph Arch's Agricultural Labourers Union which was demanding an increase in farm workers' wages from 10s to 12s and then to 14s.

With the support of their union, farm labourers in the Wychwood village asked for a 2s rise in their wages from their employer, Robert Hambridge. He refused, so the labourers went on strike supported by the sixteen women. The women were tried and convicted under the Criminal Law Amendment Act of 1871 and sentenced to jail with hard labour. Their imprisonment led to riots and protests in their support.

Thanks no doubt to the union, questions were asked in parliament, criticising the magistrates' action. The women received support from several major newspapers, including *The Times* and were released.

Arguments about the appropriateness of the magistrates' decision continued in the press and amongst magistrates and landowners. An open-air meeting was held in Chipping Norton attracting a crowd of around 3,000 and later a large trade union rally was held in Hyde Park.

The events leading to the imprisonment of the Ascott Martyrs reflected the injustices of rural life in Victorian Society. The demands for liberty and rights for the rural poor might have appeared 'unseemly and outrageous' to farmers and landowners but were fundamental to the emergence of full citizenship for the mass of the population of England.

**Barrie Smith**  
[smithinsight@btinternet.com](mailto:smithinsight@btinternet.com)

### Craft Group

Over the last few months, the Craft Group has been pleased to welcome new members. Welcome to you all. Our mini workshops are run by a group member each month and have shown off a great variety of skills. A recent one was a challenge to make a cactus out of scraps of fabric; a range of cactuses appeared and not a single repetition. A few of the group attended Birmingham craft exhibition and purchased a pattern for a quilted jacket for the group. So far, four members have started on this project. Some of the group are going to the Malvern quilt show so no doubt they will find something to inspire the rest of us.

We welcome all crafters and enjoy sharing our skills and projects with each other, so if you like crafting, come and join us. We meet every Tuesday from 2.00pm-4.30pm in the Holly Tree Club.

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

### Deddington Bookworms

*The Darling Buds of May* by HE Bates was first published in 1958 and became the first of a series of five books about the Larkins, a rural family from Kent, and is a quintessential feel-good country romp. It will have

you falling wholeheartedly in love with the Larkin family and their carefree way of life.

We all relished reading Bates' ability to paint a picture with his descriptions, even if most of us had read the book in our youth. Perfect. Our next book is by Gillian Hornby – *All Together Now*.

**Deddingtonbookworms@gmail.com**

### The Holly Tree Club

The AGM was held on Monday 24 April. Due to the increase in membership, the Club is grateful for the use of the church. Thank you Annie. Thank you to all who attended and to Cotswold Baking for the delicious cakes.

On Friday 5 May, members attended the Club's Coronation party, a wonderful festive afternoon in the beautifully decorated hall, with afternoon tea on vintage china, fizz, a right royal quiz, spot prizes and a lot of conversation and laughter. What a great way to start the celebratory weekend.

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

### Photographic Society

At our May club night, we had the pleasure of hearing about and viewing the fantastic images of programme secretary Colin's recent New Zealand holiday.

His trip centred around South Island where he began his tour with his wife in Christchurch and they made their way down the country, experiencing whale and dolphin watching, encounters with albatross, as well as travelling the coastal path to Blenheim for seal watching. They stopped off at a few well-known NZ wineries for liquid refreshments on the way. His tour included Punakaiki, well known for pancake rock formations and blowholes, and on to Doubtful Sound for wildlife watching.

At our club nights we have a slideshow of members' images on a theme and the title for the June meeting is 'Street Scenes and Back Alleys'. Our speaker is Robert Harvey on 'Photographing the Beauty of Birds'.

We welcome new members to our society nights on the first Wednesday of each month. Website and contact for further information: [addphoto.co.uk](http://addphoto.co.uk).

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

### Book Group

We enjoyed *Lessons in Chemistry*, the debut novel by American writer, Bonnie Garmus. Set in the 1950s and early 1960s, its theme is the limitations placed on women due to the cultural norms of the time. The central character is brilliant scientist, Elizabeth Zott, whose career is wrecked by misogyny, jealousy and sexual harassment. A chance meeting leads to a job presenting TV cookery programmes where Elizabeth's uncompromising scientific approach has an unexpected effect on her audience.

The brisk pace and wit make it a compelling read and the dramatic ups and downs of Elizabeth's life had us gripped from the outset. It is a quirky and

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## CALLING ALL CLUBS

*Continued from p26*

sometimes fanciful tale. Unconventional Elizabeth is surrounded by a cast of colourful characters, many of them abhorrent but some lovable, including her precocious daughter and a dog with an impressive vocabulary. We had a couple of caveats; firstly, that the number of ghastly men was possibly an over-representation and another that the story seemed to flag slightly towards the end. However, this didn't dim our enthusiasm for the book. It was a cheering reminder of how much has changed for women today, even if there is still some way to go.

Our next meeting is on Thursday 29 June. Please contact Sally Lambert on 01869 338094 for more details.

**The Book Group**

## Local Vocals Community Choir

Roll up! Roll up! We are raising funds for Katharine House Hospice at our first ever public concert on Saturday 15 July. Tickets £3 (cash only) can be purchased from Steve Miller Hair or from one of our members from 1 June. The concert starts at 7.30pm with the bar open beforehand. Please come to support your community choir and KHH. We will be selling raffle tickets and if anyone would like to donate a prize, please get in touch. We will be joined by another choir from Faringdon for an eclectic selection of songs and are hard at work refining our sound – a baptism of fire for our new members.

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**

## SPORT

### Deddington Town Football Club

#### *First Team results*

29.04.23 Hardwick Sports Club (a) W 4–2

#### *Reserve Team results*

14.04.23 Hardwick SC Res (CUP) L 0–7

25.04.23 Chesterton Res (a) L 0–5

29.04.23 Kings Sutton Res (a) L 0–2

The Humbugs clearly revelled in the glow of their cup triumph, vanquishing Hardwick in their last game to finish level on points with their victims. With a cup on the mantelpiece and a comfortable midtable finish, the First Team can enjoy a summer of adulation and free drinks from Deddington citizens. Sadly, the Latics proverbially soiled the bedsheets in the Geoff Wilson Cup final, going down by a score that the vidprinter would have had to spell out in brackets. But I'm not going to encourage Deddingtonians to hurl rotting fruit at them for this, as getting to a final in consecutive years takes some doing. I am, however, advising rotting fruit may be appropriate for the Reserves losing the final two league games of the season without scoring, leading to the eternal shame of a Deddington side finishing rock bottom of the entire Banbury District and Lord Jersey league pyramid. Still, gentle viewer, you have been treated to a season of triumph and disaster like no other. It's only like this with DTFC. Be sure to stick around for the next chapter in September.

**Aaron Bliss 07909 642882**

### Deddington Town FC Youth

#### *Football for Girls*

DTFC has secured funding to be an FA Wildcats centre for girls. We will start in early August and, in the first instance, will run to the end of the year at the Windmill on Friday evenings between 5.30–6.30pm. This will be for girls in Reception, Years 1 and 2 next year. Wildcats is non-competitive football for girls who want to give it a go for the first time or want to play with other girls of their own age. The focus is about having fun and meeting new friends. Be inspired by the Lionesses in 2022. If you want to help shape the continued development of girls and women's football, then watch the BBC programme on iPlayer, *England's*

*Next Lionesses* presented by Jill Scott.

#### *Become a Deddington Wildcats coach*

DTFC will support volunteers to become football coaches and get you started on your football journey. We particularly want to recruit female coaches to work with the girls. If you are interested and want to find out more, please email me.

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

**Roger Sykes 07899 914425**  
**[carsykes@btinternet.com](mailto:carsykes@btinternet.com)**

### Deddington Cricket Club

Our plans for match practice before the start of league games in May proved fruitless due to the month of rain. At least it has been the same for all teams in the area. All three of our warm-up games were cancelled, as were all the first week's league games across Oxfordshire on Coronation day.

Training has also been a victim of the weather, so it has been a slow and unsteady start to the season. At least our super new roller covers, acquired last year with the generosity of sponsors, Hampton Estate Agents, financial advisors Weston Murray and Moore and Burrington Estates, have been put to good use. Unfortunately, they don't cover the whole pitch and outfield and this is what we have needed of late.

The first All Stars session was able to go ahead on 5 May with 32 children getting some hands-on cricket skills training from a bevy of helpers from both adult sections of the club. The sessions continue for another seven weeks, by which time I'm sure we will have seen some sun.

Our women started their Super 8s competition on 14 May. This consists of 5 three-way matches across the area to decide which teams get to the playoffs and finals day in late June. Again, their preparations have been disrupted, but spirits are high and they are hoping to repeat their endeavours of 2021 when they reached the finals.

Thanks to the local businesses for supporting the Club through advertising in our fixture booklet and to

## SPORT

our vice presidents for their support. We hope to see many of them at the Windmill soon.

If anyone is interested in joining or supporting the Club, please visit our website, [www.deddingtoncricket.co.uk](http://www.deddingtoncricket.co.uk), for more information and contact details.

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

### Tennis Club

As mentioned in last month's *DN*, this year marks forty years of club level tennis in Deddington. Our three courts were opened on 1 April 1983 and since then the club has gone from strength to strength.

There is an anniversary celebration on Sunday 2 July. There will be a social tennis session at the club, open to current and former members (and to prospective members if anyone would like to come and play). We'll follow this with afternoon tea in the lounge at the Windmill. If you're interested in coming, please contact me for details. We'd particularly like to hear from anyone who used to play here or was involved in the setting up of the club.

Despite the weather, our summer season is now

## YOUTH

### 1st Deddington Guides

Almost the entire unit joined in the Division event held at the Warriner School grounds, celebrating guiding in Cherwell and St George's day. There were some amazing activities to try, free ice-cream and a chance to meet other Guides.

We've taken part in a quiz around the village, wide games, including tracking and scout's pace and remembering important messages. There have been various forms of camp preparation and our first cook-out of the year. Thank you to the Fenemore family for their kind hospitality.

We had a lovely residential weekend at Oxfordshire's Guide House, Beckley, with beautiful surroundings and a well provisioned hall. We had a lot of fun with indoor and outdoor activities and challenges. Our favourite was being taught how to make a trebuchet by the county pioneering team. Once each team had mastered the knots and skills and the machine was ready, we had great fun firing wet teabags at each other until everyone was pretty wet and brown. We're looking forward to more outdoor activities as the term progresses.

**Maggie Rampley 07957 600755**

### 1st Deddington Brownies

Brownies are doing lots of outdoor activities this term. We held coronation games with Steeple Aston Brownies and attended the Cherwell Division fun day at the Warriner. Den building and geocaching are also on our itinerary. We are excited to be having our first residential since before Covid, going to Youlbury Scout Camp for adventurous activities and probably very little sleep.

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

*Continued from p29*

under way with our teams, adult and junior coaching, box leagues and social sessions all up and running.

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 become a member of the club, please check out our website [www.deddingtontennis.com](http://www.deddingtontennis.com).

**Becky Jones**  
[becky@englishlanguagematters.com](mailto:becky@englishlanguagematters.com)

### Deddington Original Golf Society (DOGS)

Our first excursion of 2023 to Northants Harlestone GC will have taken place by the time you read this. Report to follow.

Our next visit is to Badgemore Park on Wednesday 14 June; first tee is at 11.00am with traditional bacon roll and tea or coffee on arrival and a light lunch on completion of the golf. The cost per DOGS member is £60 and guests £65, including food. Please do your best to support this day out. Guests are most welcome.

To book your place please contact me.

**Tony Lowe [dogsgolf23@gmail.com](mailto:dogsgolf23@gmail.com)**

### 1st Deddington Scout Group

#### Cubs

Following the Easter holidays, we have finally been able to get outside, playing games like capture the flag – a favourite with the Cubs.

Some important dates fell during the last month – St George's Day and the Coronation. Activities for St George's Day centred around the creation of puppets of George, the dragon and St George's horse. Four groups worked to create their puppets and the following week the Cubs wrote scripts and performed a short play; some were more violent in their endings and others more romantic. A surprising number of dragons survived to fight another day. Cubs and Scouts paraded from the Windmill Centre to the Market Place (making as much noise as they could with pans and whistles) where they renewed their promises on the green. For the Coronation, Cubs made Union Jack poppers using balloons and toilet roll middles which were filled with 'leaf' confetti – less mess.

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

#### Scouts

Just before Easter, we took the Scouts bowling; there's nothing like chucking a huge ball at some sticks to burn up some energy. On that note, they also went for a rather soggy hike and made short films to illustrate the Countryside Code, definitely not for public viewing.

Plumbing came next, with a visit from Ian Anthistle who showed them how to change a tap washer, bend some pipe and suck their breath in through their teeth while shaking their heads. They also learned how to change a car tyre, thanks to my car having a puncture – great timing.

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

## BED & BREAKFAST



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Katharine House Hospice	01295 811866
NHS Non emergency	111
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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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