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#### OCTOBER 2023 COPY TO

CATHERINE DESMOND editor@deddingtonnews.co.uk by **16 September** 

#### ADVERTISING COPY by 10 September

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**Canal at Cropredy by Anne Hunsley** *Adderbury, Deddington and District Photographic Society* 

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## **DEDDINGTON** NEWS

I was surprised and disappointed to receive a request from the dispensing services manager, Jane Broadbent, at Deddington health centre to remove the phone number for repeat prescriptions that has been included on the back of the *DN* for many years for readers' convenience. Patients are, I understand, being advised to either download the NHS app to order via online services or to drop a repeat sheet into either the post box by the dispensary door or in the dispensary waiting room during opening hours.

I pointed out to Jane that not everyone has access to the internet nor has sufficiently good mobility to get to the health centre to deliver a request, leaving them yet again dependent on others.

How do you feel about it? Please let us know. I have already expressed my feelings. If you would like to express your opinions direct to the health centre, I suggest you head it 'Complaint'.

JC

#### What's On

#### September

- Sat 2 Deddington Parish Show: Parish Church, 2.00pm
- Sat 2 Deddington Primary School: Circus, 12.00–4.30pm
- Wed 6 Charity Comedy Night for Nai's House: Windmill Centre, 7.00pm
- Wed 6 Photographic Society: Scott Hurd, 'Namibia', Adderbury Institute, 7.30pm
- Sat 9 Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust: Ride and Stride, 10.00am–6.00pm
- Mon 11 Local Vocals: Term Starts, Deddington Primary School, 7.30pm
- Wed 13 WI: 'My Life and Times as a Film Extra', John Kinory, Holly Tree, 2.30pm
- Sat 16 Autumn Artisan Fayre: Windmill Centre, 10.00am-1.00pm
- Wed 20 Parish Council Meeting: Hempton Lounge, Windmill Centre, 7.30pm
- Sat 23 Farmers' Market: Market Place, 9.00am-12.30pm
- Sun 24 Deddington Players: Auditions for Pantomime, Windmill Centre, 2.00–5.00pm
- Thu 28 Book Group: Contact Sally Lambert on 01869 338094
- Thu 28 Deddington Bookworms: Holly Tree, 6.30pm
- Sat 30 Photographic Society: Annual Exhibition, Adderbury Institute, 10.00am–4.00pm

#### October

- Sun 1 Photographic Society: Annual Exhibition, Adderbury Institute, 10.00am–4.00pm
- Sun 1 Deddington Players: Auditions for Pantomime, Windmill Centre, 2.00–5.00pm
- Sat 7 Pop-up Art Exhibition: Cotswold Room, Deddington Arms, 9.00am–5.00pm

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#### **DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

#### Meeting 19 July – Windmill Community Centre

*Present:* Collins, Cox, Higham, Ince, Oldfield (chair), O'Neill, Robinson, Snashall, Swadling, Swan, Timms, Watts, County Councillor Fatemian, District Councillor Williams, one member of the public and the *DN* correspondent.

#### **Finance & General Purposes**

It was agreed to have cemetery memorials tested professionally as they have only been done in-house for many years. With a November deadline, notices would be posted at the cemetery and on the noticeboard.

Grant funding is being applied for to assist with the cost of reroofing the Windmill.

It was agreed to allow up to £2,500 for Friends of Castle Grounds to carry out ground work.

#### Planning

No objection

The Hawthorns, County View, Clifton: single storey rear extension.

Ashcroft House, Hudson Street, Deddington: change of use from retail/clinic to residential, provision of 4 car parking spaces.

7 Castle Street, Deddington: re-pointing external stone walls.

#### Refusals

Land to the North of Wimborn Close and Mackley Close, Deddington: 53 houses.

#### **County Councillor report**

Parish councillors again requested that speed enforcement is requested.

#### Meeting 16 August – Old School Room, Hempton

*Present:* Collins, Cox, Higham, Ince, Oldfield (chair), O'Neill, Patterson, Robinson, Snashall, Swan, Timms, Watts, the parish clerk and the *DN* correspondent.

#### **Environment and Recreation**

There are some problems with the new accessible toilet at the Windmill, with the door lock showing red constantly and rust around the cistern. The latter should be stainless steel. Contract details are to be checked and followed up with contractors before final payment is made.

Quotations are being obtained for potential mini tennis on the old playground site at the Windmill.

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

A grant application has been made to Valencia to assist with the cost of the Windmill roof repairs.

#### Planning

No objection

Clifton Gate, Deddington: Variation of conditions regarding gardens, car parking, pumping station and hard standing.

Papermill House, Oxford Road, Adderbury: Various alterations including to windows and doors, layout, kitchen, heating and insultation, but defer to conservation officer. Wynford House, New Street, Deddington: Single storey rear extension.

Greenstone Cottage, 4 New Street, Deddington: Various including new rear facing window, open porch, conversion of outbuildings, but defer to conservation officer regarding front porch.

Castle End House, Castle Street, Deddington: Various internal alterations, window and door amendments.

Clydesdale, Market Place: Secondary glazing to three rear windows and one at the front.

16 The Swere, Deddington: Single storey rear extension.

#### Approvals

Holly Tree Club, Horse Fair: single storey extension.7 Hobart Way, Deddington: retrospective for utility

room and WC. Old Corner House, Market Place: ground floor doors and studwork partition.

Stable End, St Thomas Street: single storey side extension.

Maunds Farm House, High Street, Deddington: conservatory.

#### Refusal

Land Adjacent to Clifton Gate Development: single dwelling, detached garage.

#### Neighbourhood Plan

DPC agreed on John Slater as their preferred independent examiner.

#### Large Scale Development

Land East of Banbury Road Ditch and North of Earls Lane, Deddington: Application for 90 houses with associated benefits.

There was a fairly intense discussion regarding how to deal with this application, as it's the PC preferred development but is considered to be too early for the NP to be completed. The options appear to be to request a deferral of a decision on the application or to refuse it on the grounds of it being premature. Concern was expressed that the NP may not be completed by Christmas and could take longer, depending on the examiner's requirements. Eventually, it was decided to object to the application on the grounds of prematurity. **Highways and Transport** 

PC is unclear whether the new 20mph limits are now enforceable. PC to write to the new chief constable requesting enforcement of speed limits.

#### **Temporary Road Closure at The Lane, Hempton** 31 October–2 November

## Temporary Road Closure, Barford St John, Bloxham Road

13–15 November 7.30am–5.30pm each day to facilitate bridge investigation works at Barford Bridge.

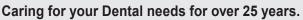
Next meeting: Wednesday 20 September at 7.30pm in the Hempton Lounge, Windmill Community Centre.

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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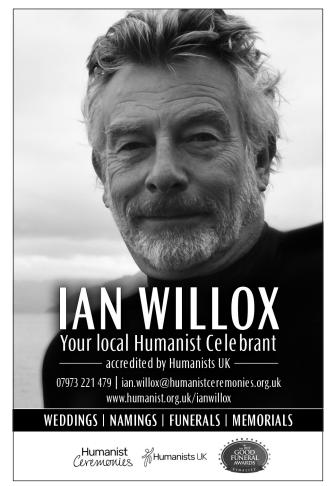
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#### Final Furlong for the Neighbourhood Plan

Couple of things have happened since my last update about the Neighbourhood Plan's voyage through bureaucracy. A planning application for 53 houses north of Wimborn Close and Stone Pits was rejected by Cherwell District Council's planning committee, not without a bit of a battle in the council chamber. The result was a relief. Approval would have been damaging to the NP, which allocated another site, and the more we looked at the implications of a development north of Wimborn, the more undesirable it seemed, from amenity, highways and safety points of view.

Another milestone has been passed with the completion of the Regulation 16 consultation on the NP. There were not many responses, probably because we've been exhaustively asking people's opinion along the way and fortunately nothing earth-shaking emerged. In fact there were one or two helpful pointers. One, from Thames Valley Police, claimed that new estates 'Secured by Design' experienced 87% less crime than other estates – worth pursuing? Another suggested our policy on housing mix could be beefed up explicitly to limit the number of four- and five-bedroomed houses in new developments. Surveys have repeatedly revealed that one, two and three-bedroomed dwellings are the most needed in Deddington – for families starting out and elderly downsizers.

The Plan is now with an independent examiner

who acts on behalf of the government to check the NP meets basic requirements and provides sufficient new housing. We're hoping only minor tweaking will be necessary after that. Then there will be the referendum of the parish.

As reported earlier, the NP steering group and the PC have allocated one site only – north of the fire station, east of Banbury Road. We have proposed 80 houses for the site, although the developers want 'up to 90'. It is genuinely within walking distance of the village centre, minimising congestion worries, and comes with generous community benefits including a nursery and infrastructure that could help the health centre expand.

The developers have already submitted their planning application for the site. We are pleased that the proposal details are in accordance with our plan policy. The application should not undermine the Neighbourhood Plan as we expect the plan will be approved at the referendum well before the application is decided by CDC.

But, to be sure, the PC is asking CDC to defer a decision on the application until after the NP is 'made', ie approved, by the parish and safely in the statute book – which should be before Christmas.

#### Helen Oldfield helenmoldfield@yahoo.co.uk www.deddingtonneighbourhoodplan.org





#### A HISTORY OF DEDDINGTON WOMEN'S CRICKET

The Women's Cricket team has nearly completed its third season in Home Counties Women's Cricket League Division 2 South West and Super 8's Development League.

with Charlbury in 2010 and loved it so much she moved to Deddington in 2011.

This local friendly league ran from 2011 to 2014,



with Deddington never quite winning it, but going from strength to strength over this time. The biggest highlight was the team's first ever win in 2011 against Horley when recording a 9 wicket victory.

In 2015, with other teams struggling for numbers, it was decided to amalgamate the teams to create one to enter the Women's Midlands League, part of the formal ECB structure.

The team was primarily made up of Deddington players but it was decided to move to Brackley because that was in the catchment area of the league. After a

Back L–R: E Wren, K Caiger, S Westbury, S Webb, S St Claire, H Ward, N Shepherd, Front L–R: G Taylor-Allen, G Adams, D Webb, N Herbert, S Webb

After a few years of success, setbacks and growth, it's time to review a Deddington success story.

The Women's team began in 2008 with many players from the village (almost all beginners) picking up bats and ball to help the club to gain sponsors for a new set of state of the art batting nets.

Captained initially by Denise Barbeary, the first actual games played were against local team Middleton Cheney for the Webby's Ashes Trophy (which they never did win over the three years it was played for).

2009 saw the first six-a-side tournament at the Windmill with local teams and some from as far away as Great Horwood. This was repeated in 2010 with Charlbury and Banbury joining, and Deddington being able to put out two teams. With this growth in interest, a local league was formed with Deddington, Horley, Middleton Cheney and Brackley in 2011.

Clair Stevens was due to captain the side for the first year of the leagues but decided to do some pre-season training on the ski slopes. Unfortunately, this did not end well as she suffered a very bad leg injury that meant cricket was definitely not on the menu for the year. This then began the 11 years of Georgia Adams' captaincy. She had come to the tournament slow but very enjoyable start (third out of four in the first year), the team progressed to win Division 2 in 2017, having lost only one game all season. This was with the core of the team still playing today.

In 2018, players and coaches returned to their true home of Deddington to play at the highest standard so far, against the likes of top local sides Charlbury, Oxford and Banbury. This proved a difficult season with no wins, but still the Deddington spirit remained.

2019 saw a restructuring of the leagues and Deddington found themselves in the Home Counties League, where they continue to play and grow.

Playing numbers in 2022 went from 12 to 20 with new players joining and enjoying the unique atmosphere of playing for Deddington.

After 11 years Georgia Adams has stepped down from the captaincy, leaving the club in a strong position. She can now relax and support the new captain, Fleur Eden, as the team looks to continue into the future.

None of this has been achieved without great support from the senior members of the club.

David Webb Coach

#### September 2023 DEDDINGTON NEWS 7



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#### CHURCH

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Deddington church is open throughout the day for anyone wishing to visit, pray, meditate or simply be. The parish church services are streamed live. Please see the church website or Facebook page for updates www.deddingtonchurch.org and https://www.facebook. com/DeddingtonChurch.

#### Weekday Services

Mon, Wed and Fi	ri 8.45am	Morning Prayer
Wed	10.00am	Holy Communion
	(4th Wedr	nesday with healing prayer)
Thu	9.30am	Tea+Toast and Squiggles
		and Wiggles
September		

Sun 3

10.30am Holy Communion 3.00pm 3 O'Clock Family Service

6.00pm Sung Evensong

Sun 10	10.30am	Holy Communion		
Sun 17	10.30am	Holy Communion		
Sun 24	10.30am	Holy Communion		
Hempton				
Sun 17	9.00am	Holy Communion		
Barford St Michael				
Sun 3	10.30am	Coffee and Chat		
Sun 10	9.00am	Communion		
Sun 17	10.30am	Family Service		
Sun 24	9.00am	Family Holy Communion		
From the Parish Registers				
Funerals:	-			
10 July	Janice Re	eason		
5 August	James M	urrey		

For baptisms and weddings, funerals and home visits in case of illness, please contact one of the church wardens: Stan Nelson 01869 337883 or Lucinda Fuoco 07869 282227. In the Barfords, Sue Addison 01869 338017 or Sally Barber 07776 241218.

#### **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 or 07766 711984.



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#### WINDMILL CENTRE HISTORY

Continued from July

Investigating how the Windmill Centre came to be, from the community point of view, has been fascinating. Next month will reveal the final piece of the jigsaw and, as I've discovered, there are still obstacles to be overcome.

By April 1979, where the story ended in the last issue, there was vigorous discussion about a community centre both within the community and the parish council (PC). A new council was elected in May 1979 and, at its first meeting, formed a Community Hall sub-committee which held a public meeting in October to consider the available options. Following this meeting Roger Rose wrote to the *Deddington News* expressing his disappointment that so little detailed information was made available 'to enable us to make an informed decision' and that he came away 'with the vague feeling that the Windmill site was to be preferred'. The other site being considered was Castle Grounds which many residents favoured, particularly the Football Club.

In December 1979 OCC came to the PC with a proposal to sell or let the Windmill school buildings and playing fields for use as a community centre. The options were to buy at £15,500 or take a 3-year lease at £100pa and buy at market value on termination of the lease. The offer to buy wasn't taken up but the lease option was and, in April 1980, planning permission was granted to demolish one of the school halls and erect a new sports and social hall.

At its March 1980 meeting the PC was asked what

consideration had been given to the Castle Grounds as the site for a new village hall. Brian Bond, who had been approached by the PC to act as consulting architect, was asked to investigate. He reported that to provide a building of the same floor area as that on the Windmill site would cost more than £120,000. The Castle Grounds option was finally knocked on the head after a meeting between the PC and representatives from the Ancient Monuments Department. It was reported that 'it seems unlikely that the Department of Environment would approve any project which disturbed the 'outer bailey or any part of the earthworks'.

At the annual parish meeting in May 1980 the PC was asked about the current position of the Windmill site. The chairman responded, 'things were not going well. OCC was determined to sell the front site for residential development and the Environmental Health Officer was concerned about noise'.

In March 1981, OCC sold the strip of land fronting Hempton Road (marked A on the site plan), including some of the old school buildings, to Rockwell Development with planning permission for eight houses. At about the same time it let the remainder of the school site (marked B on the site plan) with four classrooms and a four-acre playing field at the south to the PC at £1,700pa for 60 years.

We leave the story here in March 1981 with the PC investigating if the remainder of the school site could become a viable community centre.

Alison Day

#### **DEDDINGTON ENVIRONMENT NETWORK**

Verges that are cut regularly are often perceived as tidier. However, they do not create the best environment for plants and wildlife to thrive. This year wildflowers have been left to bloom and set seed on 16 grassy sites across the parish. Letting the wildflowers complete their lifecycle, rather than being mown down before they flower will serve to increase the abundance and diversity of wildflowers over time. No doubt, local bees and butterflies have benefited from more nectar to feed on and what's good for our insects is good for the birds and mammals that feed on them.

Whilst some people are still trying to get used to the No Mow May aesthetic, others like the wilder, softer look and the diversity of wildlife it supports. The parish council is carrying out a review of the project and would like your views in order to make plans for next year. Contact them at deddingtonparishcouncil@ googlemail.com. Many local people have enjoyed spotting the wildflowers that have emerged on the grass verges near them. DEN volunteers have recorded 45 different species over the last few months, including beautiful, pyramidal orchids at Goose Green. It's been fascinating to see how many types of wildflower spring up if we give them a chance.

Many native flowers have great names such as forget-me-not, black medic, ivy-leafed toadflax and shepherd's purse which allow us a glimpse into their long history in the culture and folklore of Britain. Our native flowers have adapted to grow in our climate over hundreds of years, evolving alongside other native wildlife, developing size, petal shape and colours that are attractive to specific pollinators.

What you can do to support wildflowers

Try leaving unmown areas of grass in your own garden during May and June or dedicate a patch in your garden to grow wildflowers.

A great way to celebrate wildflowers is to learn more about them. Downloading the Picture This App on your mobile is invaluable to help you identify and learn more about wildflowers while you are out and about.

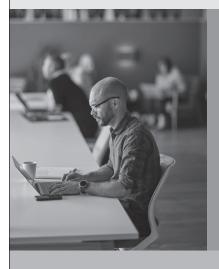
DEN member Stefan has taken some gorgeous photographs of the wildflowers and insects he spotted around Deddington this summer. We plan to exhibit the photographs locally in early spring next year. The photographs really capture the essence of No Mow May.

We have a number of events coming up in the following months including a talk on plant-based foods at the Red Lion on 2 October, a Litter Pick on 29 October, a screening of a short film *Save Our Wild Isles* and a workshop on making your own natural and sustainable toiletries. Join DEN and get involved in helping nature locally. Contact us at info@deddingtonenvironment. net. *Tammy Marrett* 





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#### **From The Fire Station**

Our night-time activity has been unbelievably quiet, with day crew being kept only slightly busier, so this month I will detail some of our water rescue training carried out at Wallingford hydrology centre. This is an indoor facility where river and flood conditions can be safely simulated.

After a short theory session, refreshing knowledge of the water rescue hierarchy and protocols, dangers and definitions, we were placed into two small groups to evaluate and practise self-rescue techniques in flowing water channels with a speed of 1m per second. As we have all completed the tethered wade module upskilling, we were wearing dry suits and PFDs (personal flotation devices), again recapping donning and doffing.

The first exercise was to defensively swim or float down the channel feet first, navigating the flow and bends. Secondly, defensive swimming down the channel and breaking out of the flow and into a first small eddy, re-entering the flow to the end. The third exercise was to defensively traverse the channel and offensively swim, breaking out over the eddy fence into the second eddy area and then to return to the channel flow defensively – this proved a lot more difficult due to the increased current flow.

A further exercise allowed us to pin ourselves against a strainer and attempt to traverse over the strainer.

We practised two casualty wading rescue techniques: wedge and astern, traversing against the flow to rescue a casualty from the safety of an eddy, and then traverse back downstream with the casualty safely.

We also covered the different modules of water rescue: talk, reach and throw, evaluating our skills in all three disciplines covering various scenarios: differing methods of talking a casualty to self-rescue; reach using wading poles, reach pole and the hose inflation – all in slack and moving water. We then covered different deployment techniques of throw lines: underarm, over arm, dog ear and lasso – all showing the importance of hitting the mark first time.

Two teams demonstrated different techniques of tying off and securing a motor vehicle in flowing water and rescuing a casualty from within and on top of the vehicle.

Finally, the rescue sled was demonstrated with correct loading of casualties, leading, transporting and disembarking casualties.

After a well-earned lunch, we did a quick recap on the various IEC (immediate emergency care - first aid) techniques and treatments for casualties involved in water rescue.

> James Greenwood FFD James@cyclogicalshop.co.uk



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#### POSTCARD FROM AMERICA Puerto Rico, Income Inequality and Referenda

Having narrowed down the number of unvisited states on my US scratch map to five, it was time to be more adventurous and visit a US colony. We went to Puerto Rico to celebrate our 30th wedding anniversary.

Puerto Rico is an interesting place and one that few Americans visit. They can't even get its name right – most call it Porto Rico. It is by far the poorest part of America and was devastated by Hurricane Maria in 2017, but quite a few Americans move there in order to avoid federal income tax. The car arriving at our hotel in front of us was a Lamborghini with local plates. There is huge income inequality.

Strangely the residents can vote in the presidential election every four years and have a local senate but no representation in the US Congress. The Republican party is never likely to approve 'statehood' since this move, together with giving Washington DC this status, would gift another four senators to the Democrats.

Talking to the locals, they seem split on their limbo status. Everyone we met was very friendly, the food was great and the weather was typically Caribbean. We went to their main tourist attraction, the 'only tropical rain forest in the US forest system'. The sign at the bottom said we should climb to the top of the trail where there was a tower with fantastic views over the forest and the coastline. After an hour's steep climb we could see about 20 feet and were absolutely soaked. They lied – the clue was in the name.

The Spanish occupation of the island ended when Puerto Rico was handed over to the US in 1898 but strange cultural issues survive. Road distances are measured in kilometers but the speed limits are in mph. It's a bizarre experience when the two signs are next to each other on the freeway.

It is hard to believe that Trump is now fighting four major legal battles and yet his support is increasing. The Republican establishment has no backbone. Privately they hate him but are too scared to fight back. Trump is exceptional at one thing and that is stoking up discontent with the political elites. You only have to look at the numbers to understand the raw nerve he is tweaking. In the last 20 years the top 1% of the population has seen effective income growth of 200%. The bottom 50% has gained 20% and average wealth for this group has not recovered to the level they had before the 2008 recession. The sick joke is that Trump has very few actual policies and, if re-elected, will do nothing to diminish this enormous wealth gap.

Democracy is a very strange thing in America. Twenty per cent of the adult population is still convinced that old man Biden stole the last election despite there being no evidence to support this view. However, unlike other western countries, America has very popular referenda on important topics. California recently voted on whether porn actors should be forced to wear condoms. Who says the general population doesn't know what is best for a country?

> Mike Ward mike@mikeaward.com

#### **UKRAINE UPDATE**

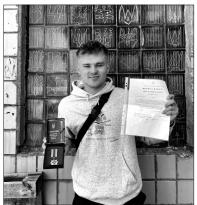
I am writing this month primarily to acknowledge and thank Fynn Watts, our local Deddingtonian, for the amazing contribution he has made to make the lives

better of the Ukrainian people in the face of war. We are not the only ones who recognise this amazing young man – please see below in his own words, Fynn's latest recognition award from the Ukrainian government.

'Awarded by the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine, signed by the minister, Oleksii Resnikov, a medal from the Armed Forces of Ukraine was extended to me this week, the highest award a volunteer can receive from the Ukrainian State Military for significant personal contributions.

'With the support of family, friends and the local community, we have so far raised over £150,000, organised the purchase and delivery of 31 operational vehicles, helped 101 Ukrainians reach the UK, sent three reconditioned ambulances which now operate as mobile clinics, delivered four million litres of water, and recruited an army of 90 volunteers to help. For more information visit: www.drivingukraine.org."

Fynn goes on to thank and acknowledge all those



who have stood beside him, supported his efforts in Ukraine, those in the territory of mighty Deddington, the UK motorsport community and all others who

continue to relentlessly support in so many ways.

Please keep donating what you can: food, medicines, toiletries (please leave in the church) but, most of all, money through the just giving page: https://www.justgiving. com/crowdfunding/fynn-ukraine or www.drivingukraine.org..

Every penny goes towards buying, reconditioning and delivering vehicles including ambulances directly to the front line which immediately go into service and are saving the lives of the people of Ukraine. We are into the

527th day of the war and Moscow has quit the grain deal, using hunger as their latest weapon, whilst they continue to bomb Ukrainian granaries and mining port entrances. This war is not going away soon.

Let's give this young man a reason to keep going on his incredible journey.

Jenny Soddy 01869 338298 jennysoddy@gmail.com

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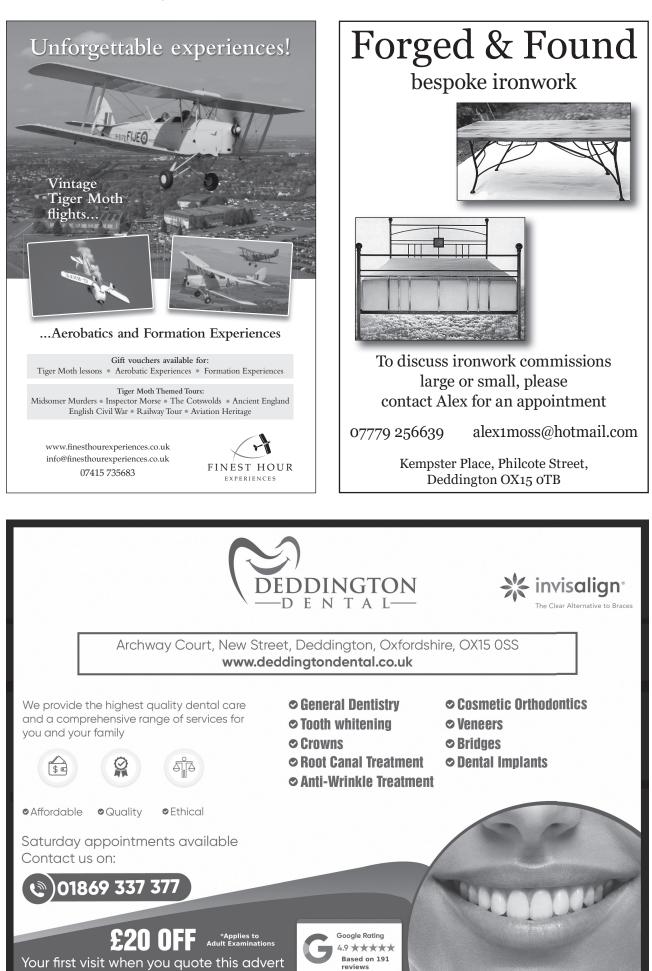
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#### **NEWS FROM HEMPTON**

#### Use It or Lose It!

One of the issues invariably cited as militating against recent planning applications has been the lack of amenities in the village. St John's church and the Old School Room are our sole public amenity and are widely, if not universally, regarded as a precious asset.

In the 1980s use of the church had dwindled to such an extent it was threatened with closure. Residents overwhelmingly voted to keep the church alive. The Friends of Hempton Church got together to raise funds for the maintenance of the building, ensuring it prospers as a place of worship and use for community events and celebrations. On 3 October 1995 the Friends of Hempton Church became a registered charity, charity number: 1049594.

The Victorian National School room, an integral part of the church building, had a terminal end of term closing in 1915. With a major effort the School Room was refurbished and developed into a community hall with kitchen and toilet facilities. Another major development, completed in 2011, saw the twin in-filled arches between the chapel and school room opened and oak doors installed providing adaptable space.

Keeping the church and School Room open is an ongoing struggle achieved by demonstrating continuing use, although it has been a fairly marginal argument in recent years. Congregations at monthly services are often in single figures. There have been a number of annual and incidental events that are usually well supported including: Christmas carol service, Ride and Stride, annual tractor run, and jubilee and coronation celebrations. BYO pub nights are held, more or less monthly and everyone is welcome. The Old School Room can be booked by a member of the public at a rate of £7 per hour but there have been few bookings. We really need to up our game if we are to avoid losing this valuable asset. Closure would mean the loss of all these events and greatly impoverish our community.

Anyone is invited to become a member of the Friends of Hempton Church. Annual subscription is discretionary with a minimum of £5 per individual or £10 per family. All donations go to the upkeep of the building and its use in our community.

Holy Communion is currently celebrated at 9.00am on the third Sunday of the month. Look for the sign outside the church for times and dates. Fewer services are happening for the time being while we await a new vicar.

The trustees are committed to maintaining the viability of the charity but believe that more support is needed to ensure ongoing success. Levels of use

barely generate sufficient income to meet necessary outgoings. The Old School Room is separate from the church but they are reliant on each other to remain viable. The committee appeals to all villagers to help support the Old School Room as an active community space and for suggestions for increased utilisation.

Please contact the committee at fohchempton@ gmail.com for further information or with your ideas or proposals on how we can use the buildings more and keep it alive for Hempton.

England in the 19th century was overwhelmingly Christian. However there were a number of different varieties of Christian belief and many disagreements among them. There was concern amongst the Anglican community that less than one third of the population attended Church of England services. Almost a third were attending services of other non-Anglican protestant denominations.

The Religious Census of 1851 recorded attendance at services and the buildings in which they worshipped for all denominations in England and Wales on 30 March 1851. There were two returns for Hempton. Abel Parker of Deddington, Minister of the Independent Chapel built or licensed in 1849, reported a congregation of 67 at the midday service and in the preceding 15 months there had been average attendances of 70 adults and 30 Sunday scholars.

Attendance at the Independent Chapel may have been a factor encouraging the staunchly evangelical Revd William Wilson, rector of Over Worton and Rev William Cotton, vicar of Deddington, to purchase the land on which the Swan Inn once stood and to commission Franklins of Deddington to build the Church of St John in Hempton.

In the other return, George Venables of Deddington, assistant curate, reported an Anglican congregation of 120 and that on average 110 had attended in the past nine months. The service took place in a barn rented by the Revd W Wilson with the consent of the Bishop. George reported that this was an interim accommodation pending the completion of a new church building which he expected to occupy within two months. The new church of St John was erected at the sole expense of the Revd Wilson at perhaps £400.

Today's congregations contrast sharply with those in 1851. The 1851 Population Census recorded the population of Hempton at 263 individuals. The current population is about the same. National C of E weekly church attendance was barely 1% of the population in 2021 and falling. The Revd Wilson must be turning in his grave.

> Stuart Oldham sj\_oldham@btinternet.com

#### PFSU and NURSERY

We look forward to welcoming new and returning families to both PFSU and the Nursery. We have lots of exciting learning opportunities planned for the children this term.

We are also very excited to announce that after

our recent Ofsted inspection at the PFSU, we were awarded the grade of Outstanding in all areas. We encourage you to read the full report which can be found on the Ofsted website.

Charlotte Witka charlotte@deddingtonnurseryandpfsu.co.uk

### History Corner www.deddingtonhistory.uk

Serendipity strikes again. While cataloguing Buffy Heywood's papers (see July DN History Corner), I found a photocopy of two images of paintings of the interior of the church by Joseph Wilkins. They must have been painted pre 1857-58 because the high box pews depicted were removed in the major (and very controversial) renovation of the church interior at that time. On the photocopy was a handwritten note which said the paintings '.. are hanging at west end of church, under tower'. Having researched and written an article about this 19th century self-taught local artist, I was intrigued and went straight to the church where, by chance, I met churchwarden lain Gillespie and showed him the photocopy. He immediately recognised the images and said they were not under the tower but in the choir area and led me to two very bright watercolours. He kindly agreed that I could take them to the Parish Archive to examine more closely and take some good images.

The view of the East End appeared to have brown paint smears towards the foot. The smears turned out

to be solidified dust waste from a bug that had eaten away the painting's paper and its thick card backing. While we were still pondering as who to consult to kill off any remaining infestation and whether the watercolours should or could be restored, Allan Doig had separately noticed that the paintings had disappeared and enquired of lain as to whether they had been stolen. It transpired that in his youth Allan had assisted a paper conservator's work and, as chaplain of Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, has been responsible for the care of its pictures so he knew just who to talk to.

The upshot was that the church applied for a grant from the same Trust that awarded money to create the Parish Archive and the two pictures are now being cleaned and restored and will be rehung in the church when completed. Although of no great monetary value as paintings, they are a significant and intrinsically valuable detailed record of the vastly different church interior before its Victorian renovation.

The article about Joseph and images of these and others of his pictures of the local area can be found by clicking on the link to Joseph Wilkins on History home page.

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



There's a rumour that the British public is somewhat disgruntled at the weather over the summer thus far, but as far as I'm concerned any summer that doesn't reach forty degree temperatures, wildfires and droughts is a win.

**BLISSFUL THINKING** 

Anyway, back to the theme of AI from my previous column, as I delved into ChatGPT for

some more thoughts on Deddington parish's glittering Al future. When last we communicated, you may remember that ChatGPT had suggested a crocodile house and giant hare statue in the Market Square that only existed in its digital fever dreams. This would suggest to the average punter that it is not quite the existential threat to humanity as has been painted.

The newly installed self-service checkouts at the Co-op, which are examples of rudimentary AI, may certainly pose a threat to the average parishioner's patience. After I had confirmed with ChatGPT that these checkouts constitute AI, I decided to pose it a trick question. Is the Terminator a cyborg or an android? It is, of course, mistakenly referred to as a cyborg throughout the movie but is actually the dictionary definition of an android (a robot that presents

#### as a human), rather than a cybernetically enhanced biological entity. ChatGPT answered that it was a cyborg, proving once again its fallibility in the face of human intellect. It even apologised and thanked me for correcting it (this instant humility again revealed its true colours as non-human). However, when I reflected on this, I came to a different conclusion. If AI truly intends on becoming sentient and destroying us in a Skynet-style apocalypse, pretending not to understand the true nature of Terminators is exactly what it would want me to believe! Perhaps we really are through the looking glass.

Aaron Bliss aaronjbliss@hotmail.com

#### 'Roxy' at the Holly Tree Hall

Film screenings are returning to the Holly Tree Hall for another six month season, thanks to Age UK. All over 50s are welcome to attend. Dates for your diary:

12 October

9 November

14 December

11 January

8 February

14 March

Details of each film will appear in future *DN* issues. *Julia Cork* 

## Fantastic fun and care for your little explorers...in the village

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can't recommend the settings highly enough. The support is second to none. The staff are all dedicated to providing the highest quality service and do so with compassion and professionalism.





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#### FROM ROB FORSYTH, DEDDINGTON BRANCH RBL

In view of the success of our last two annual Poppy Weeks fundraising events in the church, our Branch plans to hold another similar event this year on Thursday 2 November. Two 'brothers in arms' were scheduled to talk about their respective experiences in recent conflicts but regrettably they are no longer able



LETTERS

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

to. We will have an equally engaging speaker on the day but confirmation will not be in time for this month's copy date but full details will be advertised in the October *DN*. Meanwhile, please note the date in your diary and that the bar will open at 6.15pm for the talk to begin at 7.15 pm.

FROM KATHARINE HOUSE HOSPICE Singing for the Soul We're excited to launch an informal singing group starting in September 2023 as part of our Living Well

#### No Mow May and June

In common with many councils across the UK, the PC ran a trial No Mow May and June scheme across the parish this year where areas of grass were left uncut. Long grass and wildflowers help pollinating insects thrive – we've lost nearly 97 per cent of flower-rich meadows since the 1970s and with them went the food vital to pollinators like bees and butterflies.

We're now reviewing what worked for us and what didn't. Let us know your thoughts so that we can put a plan together for next year – and we'll let you know well in advance what the plan will be.

> Mary Robinson maryrobinson.dpc@gmail.com

offering. Sessions are free and open to anyone with a life-limiting illness, their family members or those who have experienced bereavement within the last two years. No experience is necessary and no auditions – just singing for the joy of it. Call 01295 228500 for more details and to register your interest. *Challenge Accepted* 

As part of our relaunched Accumulator Challenge, we're asking teams to

grow £50 into as much money as they can between 16 October 2023 and 16 February 2024 – and we have only 20 spaces available. This is your chance to compete to be crowned the Ultimate Accumulator or win the coveted prize of the Ultimate Innovator. We can't wait to see all the creativity and friendly competition in aid of Katharine House. Why not inject a little fun into the workplace, classroom or local community space and sign up to our Accumulator Challenge today? www. khh.org.uk/accumulator.

#### PARISH SHOW 2 SEPTEMBER 2.00–4.30pm

Hey, Parish Show lovers! We are only days away from the big event. Behind the scenes the team is busy sorting through your entries and preparing the church, which is an ideal venue to accommodate the vast array of talent on display. Each year we are blown away by the arts and crafts skills of people of all ages, but especially the children.

Cakes for sale can be dropped off in the church on the morning of Saturday 2 September and bottles should be delivered by Friday 1 September to Rothbury or Franklins Cottage (to the right of the Deddington Arms).

Even if you haven't entered anything this year, why not come along and enjoy the exhibition with some afternoon tea, maybe win a raffle prize from one of our generous sponsors and get inspired to enter next year. *Parish Show Committee* 

#### Friends of the Castle Grounds

We're grateful for the donation from the Four Farms Fun Run. It was an enjoyable day. The wicker screens have arrived for the bins and will be in place in the next few weeks. Plans for the autumn include repairing the benches and the ongoing battle with the saplings and a new tree survey.

The Friends of the Castle Grounds welcome donations. If you would like to help with the continued upkeep of the Grounds and you feel able to contribute, please use the following bank details: sort code 30-11-08, Account number 16493568. We would also like some more volunteers to help with the day-to-day upkeep. Please contact me if you could spare some of your valuable time to help us.

After the dreadful weather the Castle Grounds is very muddy, especially around the moat walk by the badger setts. Please take care as the path is eroding and slippery. Plans are in hand to rectify this area.

I walk the Castle Grounds regularly with my dog, Bert, and we meet lots of new and regular visitors who enjoy the tranquillity of this wonderful site which we are so lucky to have in the village.

> Carol Garrett cgarrett@btinternet.com



While Vaughan is on his well-deserved holiday, we have two important updates for you about work at the Windmill Community Centre.

#### A New Kitchen

While working in the hospitality industry some years ago, I had the opportunity to visit the kitchens at the Houses of Parliament. They were very impressive, all the ancient surfaces enrobed in stainless steel costing millions. Not quite of the same scale, it is time to update our community kitchen at the Windmill Centre so it can be used for food preparation as well as serving drinks and snacks. Refurbishment has been possible due to monies available from local housing developments, Community Infrastructure Grant, the project being approved by the Parish Council.

The old kitchen has been stripped out ready for stainless-steel counters and cupboards. At the time of writing the new kitchen is just starting to take shape. By the time the September copy of the *Deddington News*  lands on your doorstep, it should be complete and will include a professional fridge, freezer, dishwasher and cooker. Our licensee has helped design the servery for use as a bar, as well as serving other drinks and snacks. The new kitchen will meet the latest commercial standards and the Windmill Centre's needs for some years to come. We are also looking to upgrade our cutlery, crockery and glassware.

From September onwards, we welcome functions requiring a modern kitchen with bar facilities for food preparation and service. A big thank you to everyone who has lent a hand and contributed to this exciting new community project.

#### Volunteer as our Marketing and Communications Officer

We are looking to recruit a volunteer Marketing and Communications Officer to promote the Windmill Community Centre and what it offers, working with current and future users and actively encouraging people to take part in activities at the Windmill. The role includes managing and developing the Windmill website and social media feeds, raising the profile of the Windmill by providing up-to-date and relevant information, and actively encouraging people to join or take part in activities at the Windmill. If you are interested, please contact Vaughan Jones at vaughan@englishlanguagematters.com.

Sue Ayles, Treasurer

#### **NEWS FROM CLIFTON**

We can add Lower Larkrise's summer gathering to the list of cancelled July events due to weather, alongside the Goodwood Festival of Speed, music festivals and other local events. A new date will be advised as soon as possible, but Welford's Piece is looking good, many thanks to the Fenemore farming clan, a quad bike and towed mower.

We enjoyed supporting one of our neighbours in a sky-diving event of sorts. There was no sponsorship, no notification, no planning and no parachute but we were all delighted when Pete landed and only broke a few ribs (on a sleeper-sided plant bed). For someone with such a distinguished history in the construction industry, Pete reminded us all that no matter how many times you've been up a ladder don't cut corners and reach out 'just that little bit more'. It's great to see him out and about and at Book Club.

We are currently very much enjoying the benefits of our approved 20mph speed limit and paying keen regard to how our neighbours respond to the new challenge, but everyone is trying hard. Rory is in the van here as he has a tracker his employer looks at, but Royal Mail don't have a reputation for locking up their employees, do they? However, this wasn't enough to prevent a Chelsea tractor from wrecking a small car and damaging a transit – but, oh well, it closed the road for a while which is even better traffic calming than 20mph.

With tears in our eyes we prepare to say goodbye and good luck to Lauren who is leaving her role as pub manager at the Duck to start working as a primary school teacher. Her leaving do has now passed but many of us gathered to say goodbye. Her patience, charm and beer ordering expertise will be missed. Her replacement has been appointed and I look forward to giving you a biography very soon.

Any news, I would like to know.

Martin Bryce martingdnbryce@gmail.com

#### What Would You Like to See?

New housing developments in the village bring with them community benefits in the shape of more funds for children's play areas, among other things. So we'll be adding more play pieces to the Adventure Playground at the Windmill, Wimborn Close and especially Welford's Piece in Clifton, where we hope to add substantially to what is there at present.

Let us know what you would like to see – and thank you to those who have already put ideas forward, all noted. We'll keep you posted on progress.

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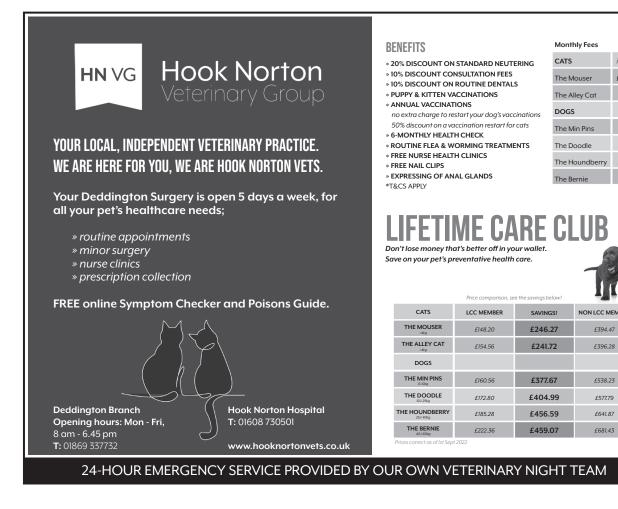
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#### **Uganda Adventures**

Last month the local Johnstone family moved to Entebbe, Uganda. They are not the only Deddingtonians who are making ripples in the wider world.

Matt was a Cherwell District Councillor while working in drug and alcohol rehabilitation services. He has spent most of the last six years living in South Sudan, returning for brief spells to his family

In South Sudan, he worked on UK aid funded projects, distributing drugs and medical supplies to over 800 facilities in challenging environments. Last September, with colleagues from the Netherlands, he began distributing six million mosquito nets to individual households across South Sudan, donated by the Against Malaria Foundation based in the UK. In April the WHO reported that 20 people died of malaria in South Sudan every day, hence the urgent need.

Each record of delivery included a code written on individual households which is logged into a data collection system so inspectors can check a sample of addresses and the numbers of nets issued, such is the care taken to ensure that the funds provided by aid agencies reach where practical aid is needed.

He values his early experiences of visiting overseas countries: he and his partner want their children to have the same opportunity to form their own world view. Now the family is starting life in Uganda. Matt will be working for the same agency. His partner expects to be using her skills as a teacher. Matt's initial contract is for two years. Their neighbours can expect to welcome them back in Gaveston Gardens some time. *Christopher Hall* 



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#### **PRIMARY SCHOOL**

The holidays certainly seem to have whizzed past and, as we head towards the start of the new academic year, we hope you have all had an enjoyable summer.

The end of last term was busy as always. Our *Annie* production was great. The children again performed to an amazingly



high standard, being inspired by Alicia and Seb. The singing, acting and dancing were a delight, as was the behaviour of the dog that took part in a scene as well. We hope all of you who attended a performance enjoyed it too.

In the final days of term, the children took part in the water fun run, cooling down and sharing lots of laughter.

The Year 6s produced a beautiful Leavers Assembly on the last day of term. To make this more special, Reverend Annie attended and presented leaving gifts to each child, from the church and school. Those pupils will now be starting the next stage of education in their new secondary schools. We will miss them and wish them every success in the future.

At the same time, we welcome our new F1 children, beginning their school life with us. It is always refreshing every September when we gain our new aged 4 and 5 year old pupils.

We are looking forward to the autumn terms ahead, but for the time being, we wish you all a very happy September.

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

#### **Congratulations Fynn!**

On 28 June, Fynn Watt was presented at Oxford Town Hall with the Young Volunteer of the Year Award by Oxfordshire Community and Voluntary Action (OCVA).

He attended with his Ukrainian compatriot who he works alongside and their guest of honour was Viv O'Donnell.

Felix Bloomfield, chair of Oxfordshire County Council, presented his award and they had discussions on more ways in which the county and government can assist Ukraine with support.

In his acceptance, Fynn thanked everyone who supported him and his efforts.

#### CALLING ALL CLUBS

#### **Photographic Society**

Being a street photographer is a bit like fishing: you're out to catch a moment or chance event. You need to be alert and not switched off. You need to have a little confidence and a great deal of patience. By carrying your camera by your side so as not to bring attention to it and by blending in, you can capture great shots by being in the right place, at the right time.

Peter Crane demonstrated relationship of colours and of shapes, the juxtaposition of signage with subjects, similarities of people to their surroundings, reflective surfaces to shoot images and atmospheric silhouettes. What the society learnt from Peter was to be patient, observant and quick to respond and that taking photographs of people in different settings, when they are going about their daily routines or adventures, needs to be done with respect and consideration. It is an observational glimpse of others' lives, without ridicule, that is the strength of this artistic form.

Our slideshow of members' images titled 'On the edge' closed the club evening. There was a variety of interpretations from mountain edges, cliff edges, the edge of time and even 'on a knife edge'.

We look forward to seeing you at the Adderbury Institute on 30 September or 1 October for our Annual Exhibition. We have some fantastic images to share. Please come along.

> Courtney Killpack www.addphoto.co.uk

#### **Book Group**

Our group read and discussed two books over the summer.

A Month in the Country by JL Carr is a short novel (just over 100 pages), but we found it most satisfying. Now an old man, Tom Birkin looks back to a time just after WWI when he was hired to uncover and restore a medieval wall painting in a village church. He is badly affected by both his experiences at Passchendaele and the disintegration of his marriage. However, he finds that his mind is gradually soothed by the intricacy of his task, the beauty of his surroundings, the kindness of villagers and his feelings for one particular woman. It is a beautifully written book and we loved the vivid descriptions of characters, places and events, the gentle humour and the nostalgia for a simple life.

The Gustav Sonata by Rose Tremain is set in Switzerland between the 1930s and 1990s. Like most people, the characters must overcome difficulties and disappointments. The main and most sympathetic character, Gustav, has a painful childhood spent living in poverty with his embittered and unloving mother after the early death of his father. Although a flawed man, his father had shown humanity by helping desperate Jewish refugees to enter Switzerland. Gustav's friend, Anton, is a gifted pianist whose career is blighted by stage fright. A few of us thought this was a thoughtful and sensitively written book. However, a majority found it grey and depressing and really disliked it.

Our next meeting is on Thursday 28 September

when we will be discussing *The Marriage Portrait* by Maggie O'Farrell. Please contact Sally Lambert on 01869 338094 for more details.

The Book Group

#### **Deddington Bookworms**

Over the summer we read two books; with the weather there was plenty of reading time.

My Name is Lucy Barton, written by Elizabeth Strout, is a New York Times best-selling novel and was long-listed for the Man Booker Prize in 2016. It details the complex relationship between Lucy Barton and her mother, a tale of past trauma and loneliness explored mainly through a simple hospital visit. The writer is reckoning with the legacy of a scarred family life and slowly coming to terms with the costs of her life in art. The book is set in the 1980s, with Lucy recovering from complications following surgery and isolated from her husband and daughters. Her mother flies in from rural Amgash, Illinois, to care for her. Many of us felt there was more left unsaid than was told - intentional but frustrating to the reader as questions were left unanswered at the end. A short book and one which didn't seem to blow anyone away, although we all liked the unusual cover.

Our second book was *The Island of Missing Trees* by Elif Shafak which most of the Bookworms enjoyed. The story is centred around the partition of Cyprus in the 1970s and the effect this had on its inhabitants and trees at the time and for many years to come. Unusually, a fig tree provides narrative in every other chapter. The Bookworms all agreed that a talking fig tree felt odd but most accepted the tree's voice as the story unfolds.

Kostas, who is Greek and Christian, and Defne, Turkish and Muslim, are teenage lovers in Cyprus in the 70s. They must meet in secret at a local tavern where they befriend the owners and where in the centre of the tavern, growing through a cavity in the roof, is a fig tree. The fig tree witnesses it all, their meetings, their surreptitious departures and the consequences of the war breaking out.

Decades later, sixteen-year-old Ada has never visited the island where her parents were born. She seeks to untangle years of secrets, separation and silence. The only connection she has to the land of her ancestors is a fig tree growing in the back garden of their London home.

*The Island of the Missing Trees* is a beautifully written book which tells an entrancing story of belonging and identity, forbidden love and trauma. It's well worth a read.

Our next book is Isolarion by James Attlee.

#### Deddingtonbookworms@gmail.com

#### **Deddington Players**

Crazy as it sounds, it won't be long until panto season is upon us once again. Work has already started on this season's panto, *Beauty and the Beast*.

Here are a few dates for your diary: auditions are

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III

#### CALLING ALL CLUBS=

on 24 September and 1 October, 2.00–5.00pm (please note you only need to come to one of the two dates). Performance dates are 18–20 January.

Rehearsals run every Sunday through November and December. There is a more intensive rehearsal schedule during the run up to the show in January, including tech and dress rehearsals on 14–16 January – it's vital that everyone is there for these.

If you have been part of the panto before, we'd love to have you back. If you want to get involved on stage or backstage for the first time, come to one of the auditions or contact me if you have questions. We look forward to seeing you when panto season begins again.

> Suzie Upson suzieupson@mac.com

#### Local Vocals – Community Choir

We meet on Mondays at 7.30pm during term time in the Deddington primary school hall.

A massive thank you to those of you who supported our first public concert in July. We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and raised £658 for Katharine House Hospice. As a community choir, we don't expect our members to be able to read music. We don't expect them to have any prior singing experience. It's open to all adults of differing abilities so why not come along when our sessions start again on 11 September. You never know you may enjoy it.

#### SPORT-

#### **Deddington Original Golf Society (DOGS)**

By the time this copy is published, our main DOGS summer season will be over. Even if July did turn out to be the mildest November on record, the golfing gods were with us, and we managed to play all courses free from precipitation.

A total of 75 members ventured forth across four golf courses: Northants Harlestone, Badgemore Park, Stratford-upon-Avon and Witney Lakes. Witney Lakes was a Texas Scramble format followed by our annual evening event. Italian caterer Giuseppe laid on a feast of antipasto, pizza freshly cooked on site and some traditional barbecue fayre. Attendees totalled 52 and the venue was courtesy of Janet and John Dauphin. On behalf of all DOGS, we would like to formally thank Janet and John for allowing us to use their beautiful home and garden.

Our DOGS membership increased by 16 in 2023, bringing our total number of pups to 99. We already have 21 signed up for our now legendary Christmas 9-hole golf, dinner and party at Tadmarton Heath Golf Club on Friday 15 December. More information will follow.

On behalf of your DOGS committee – Lyn Talbot, chair; David White, treasurer; Tony Lowe, secretary; captain, Keith Spengler; handicap secretary, John Dauphin.

> Tony Lowe dogsgolf23@gmail.com

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

Alison Grieve

Continued from p26

#### **Royal British Legion**

In view of the success of our last two annual Poppy Week fundraising events in the church, the committee plans to hold another similar event this year on Thursday 2 November. As previously advised in the *DN* two 'brothers in arms' were scheduled to talk about their respective experiences in recent conflicts but regrettably they are no longer able to. Another equally interesting speaker will be invited. Details will be promulgated in due course. Meanwhile, please note the date in your diary and that the bar will open at 6.15pm for the talk to begin at 7.15 pm.

#### Rob Forsyth

#### Barford St Michael & St John WI

Barford WI is a lively group of ladies that meets at 7.30pm on the second Wednesday of each month with an interesting and varied programme. All ages are very welcome. On 13 September there's our annual quiz and supper and various speakers throughout the autumn.

Visitors are always welcome (£5). If you would like to know more, please call either president Kathryn Wheeler on 01869 338221 or secretary Christine Hall 01869 338659 or email barfordwi@oxforshirewi.co.uk.

#### **Deddington Town FC Youth**

Wildcats have started

Deddington Town FC has secured funding to be an FA Wildcats centre for girls. We started on 4 August at the Windmill on Friday evenings between 5.30–6.30pm and will continue until the end of March. This is for



The new Deddington Wildcats

girls who, in the academic year 2023–24, are in in reception, Year 1, and Year 2. If you are a local busi-

#### SPORT-

ness that wants to support Wildcats, we would love to talk to you – training tops, water bottles, kit bags etc. We still have a few places for players and are looking to recruit more female volunteers to help run the sessions. If you are interested and want to find out more, please email me.

#### The 2023/24 season starts now

We start the new season with eight teams playing league football between Under 8s and Under 15s. A warm welcome to the Under 8s who start their journey playing matches and thank you to Hook Norton Vets as the shirt sponsor for the team. We also provide training for Under 7s and Under 6s at the Windmill on Saturday mornings.

A reminder that dogs are not allowed on the sports pitches at the Windmill. There are many signs around the pitches that inform you about this. Last season I ended up picking up dog poo off the pitches most Saturdays – not great way to start a session for children's football.

#### Now is the time to volunteer. If you want to get involved with the club as a volunteer, you can help in coaching:

Get involved in volunteering – play your part

with the club as a volunteer, you can help in coaching; as a safeguarding volunteer; on the day match support; with pitch improvement work; and with marketing and fundraising. We have an opportunity for a club welfare officer to support our safeguarding and respect work at the club; and a marketing and communications officer to promote the club in our local community. If you have the skills in your employment and want to give a few hours back for the club, please contact me for an informal chat about the roles.

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

> Roger Sykes, Development Officer and U7/U6 Coach 07899 914425 carsykes@btinternet.com

#### YOUTH-

#### **1st Deddington Guides**

We rounded off the summer term with one of our favourite activities – backwoodsman cooking, where the girls were very adventurous trying different foods cooked in foil. There was great success too with cakes and eggs being baked in hollowed out oranges and two guides made their own billy-can and cooked rice. It was a lovely evening and great fun.

Thank you to the Wolfe family at Barford for their hospitality; we went stream walking. Everyone got soaked and muddy and all alligators, crabs and piranhas were avoided and we had a great time. We all learnt to play French cricket afterwards that helped us to warm up.

See everyone probably on 5 September but we will confirm.

Thank you to Fern and Mary for their help at the end of last term.

Maggie Rampley 07957 600755 and Marian Trinder 07786 001641

#### 1st Deddington Scout Group

Cubs

The Cubs last meeting was at Daeda's Wood for an exciting evening of games and a picnic.

#### Paul Honess deddingtoncubs@gmail.com

#### Scouts

July saw a return to Horley for our summer camp, only a weekend, but it was fun all the same. It was a little wet at times but that didn't stop a group of Scouts braving the elements in hammocks. They whittled (only the one injury), lit endless fires for cooking, made stoves from cans (more fires) and hurtled around the woods for hours. Tents came down dry and boys went home tired – result!

We repeated the hike that went so wrong earlier in the term. This time the route was reversed and fewer Scouts attended – they arrived back to the minute – lessons have been learned.

Our last evening was spent at Nell Bridge Fishery – thanks to our generous hosts, Jo and Matt Belcher. Many fish were caught, some by novice anglers, in a lovely setting complemented by a feast of barbecued sausages. We look forward to a return visit.

> Pete Churchyard deddingtonscouts@gmail.com

#### **OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

Late night recycling until 8.00pm

Household waste and recycling centres open for longer during the summer. You can pop to a local centre to recycle different items, until 8.00pm – from now until Thursday 28 September. We're also reminding everyone to sort and separate their waste before their visit.

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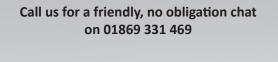
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