

October 2023

# *The* **DEDDINGTON NEWS**



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*Adderbury, Deddington and*  
*District Photographic Society*

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The Deddington News at:  
[www.deddington.org.uk/deddington-news/](http://www.deddington.org.uk/deddington-news/)

## The DEDDINGTON NEWS

Nick Hardwick's letter (p21) pinpoints precisely why we need to alter our idea of what a garden is. With conventional agriculture sterilising farmland with Roundup, the only habitat left for the wildlife which underpins the overall food chain is public spaces and our gardens. Even Francis Bacon, spy for Elizabeth 1, specified a wild area in his design for a perfect garden. Perhaps we can educate our eye to assess our gardens and verges through the lens of beauty rather than mere tidiness and perhaps survival should override aesthetics.

CD

### WHAT'S ON October

- Sun 1 Photographic Society: Annual Exhibition, Adderbury Institute, 10.00am–4.00pm
- Sun 1 Deddington Players: Pantomime Auditions, Windmill Centre, 2.00–5.00pm
- Wed 4 Photographic Society: 'Beyond the Comfort Zone', Steve Brabner, Adderbury Institute, 7.30pm
- Sat 7 Pop Up Art Exhibition: Cotswold Room, Deddington Arms, 9.00am–5.00pm
- Sun 8 Pop Up Art Exhibition: Cotswold Room, Deddington Arms, 10.am–4.00pm
- Sun 8 Bellringers: Accession Celebration Peal, 2.00pm
- Wed 11 WI: Fundraiser for Royal British Legion
- Thu 12 'Roxy' at the Holly Tree: *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*, 1.30pm
- Fri 13– BALA Theatre Troupe: *Complete Works of William*
- Sat 14 *Shakespeare (Abridged)*, Windmill Centre, 7.30pm
- Sun 15 Music in Adderbury: Tim Horton, piano, Parish Church, 6.00pm
- Wed 18 Parish Council Meeting: Hempton Lounge, Windmill Centre, 7.30pm
- Thu 19 History Society: 'Why Did Russia Invade Ukraine?', Vaughan Jones, Primary School, 7.30pm
- Thu 26 Bookworms: Holly Tree, 6.30pm
- Thu 26 Book Group: Sally Lambert 01869 338094 for details
- Sat 28 Farmers' Market: Market Place, 9.00am–12.30pm
- 29 Litter Pick: Town Hall, 2.30pm

### November

- Sat 4 Winter Artisan Fayre: Windmill Centre, 10.00am–1.00pm
- Sat 4 Cherwell Choral Society: 'Baroque Splendour', Parish Church, 7.30pm
- Wed 8 WI: 'Christmas Traditions', Jane Abbott, Holly Tree, 2.30pm
- Thu 9 'Roxy' at the Holly Tree: *Fisherman's Friends One and All*, 1.30pm
- Sat 11 RBL: Two Minute Silence, War Memorial, 11.00am
- Sun 12 RBL: Parade and Service of Remembrance
- Wed 15 Parish Council meeting: Old School Room, Hempton, 7.30pm

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## DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

### Meeting Windmill 20 September

*Present:* Oldfield (chair), Collins, Cox, Ince, O'Neill, Robinson, Snashall, Swan, District Councillor Williams, parish clerk, member of the public and *DN* representative.

#### 10 Minute Forum

A representative from the developers appealing the refusal to build nine dwellings at Hempton indicated that several attractions were now included: two of the houses being affordable and two reserved for people over 50 years. The chair replied that the PC had made their decision and comments to the CDC Planning department and they were unable to make any changes to that.

#### County Councillor Fatemian's Report

CDC is offering free testing for electric blankets on Wednesday 4 October for Cherwell. Appointments should be booked in advance either on <https://service.oxfordshire.gov.uk/blankettesting> or by calling 01865 895999 when the exact location will be given.

#### Highways and Transport

Thames Valley Police has recently been enforcing speed limits in the parish and some parking tickets have been issued. The PC was disappointed that residents were warned in advance of the enforcement activity on Facebook. There has been an increase in the number of HGVs travelling through Hempton and Deddington in convoys and at some speed, as well as some going through Chapel Square where there is a weight restriction (although HGVs can use it for access). A letter will be written requesting that HS2 traffic is routed away from the parish.

Some of the parish planters have been kept beautifully by residents who have taken responsibility who will be thanked in writing. Others have been abandoned and local garden centres will be approached for sponsorship. Developers will be asked to move some planters to the new outskirts of the village.

#### Environment & Recreation

*Welford's Piece:* Suggestions have been sought on how to improve the play area, in addition to the Wimborn Close play area. Funding is not yet available but it is planned to have a decision made on improvements ready for when the money becomes available.

There is concern about quite costly minor vandalism. Although there is insurance cover, each claim carries an excess of £150, and a new pane of glass for the bus shelters costs £229. Consequently, the glass may be replaced with a wood panel. The PC will also ask the Community Wardens, who work alongside TVP, to pay regular visits to the problem areas.

The rusting goal posts at Castle Grounds will be removed and possibly replaced when S106 funding from Clifton Gate becomes available.

#### Finance & General Purposes

Deddington Fair will set up on 15 November.

Rent and water charges at the Stone Pits allotments will increase by 10%. Some of the allotments have been left uncultivated and allotment holders will be reminded of the terms of their rental agreement.

The Hempton noticeboard will be repaired at a cost of up to £235 pending the homeowner's permission.

#### Planning

##### *No objection*

2 The Lane, Hempton: log cabin with shed and 3m front veranda..

Valley View, St Thomas Street, Deddington: timber framed shed in back garden, patio extension, level and erect sleeper wall (part retrospective)

Crossways, Hempton: like-for-like replacement of windows.

Grove House, High Street, Deddington: tree works.

Winmour, Philcote Street, Deddington. replacement of front ground floor windows.

The Stile House, New Street, Deddington: tree works.

Caris Lodge, Goose Green, Deddington: tree works.

##### *Approvals*

Wynford House, New Street: single storey rear extension garden room.

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

Little House, Clifton Road: demolition of existing dwelling and erection of replacement with detached car barn, swimming pool and pool house. The PC was disappointed that CDC has no policy for environmental improvements to be included in new builds.

##### *Appeals*

East of Combe Cottage and South of St John's Way: erection of up to nine dwellings and associated vehicular and pedestrian access onto Hempton Road, highway improvements, parking, landscaping, drainage features, open space and associated infrastructure, all matters to be reserved, except new vehicular access into the site from Hempton Road. The appeal will be heard on 14 November, although no venue has yet been decided.

#### Neighbourhood Development Planning

CDC Planning Department has agreed to postpone a decision on the PC preferred site north of the Fire Station until 31 January 2024 which should allow sufficient time for the Neighbourhood Plan to be finalised.

#### Large Scale Developments

CDC continues to insist that either they take responsibility for both the balancing pond and play area at The Grange or the PC takes over both. The PC is resisting on the grounds of lack of expertise for the balancing pond. The PC will request that CDC maintain the play area in line with the current terms of the agreement.

**Next meeting: Wednesday 18 October 2023 at 7.30pm at the Old School Room, Hempton.**

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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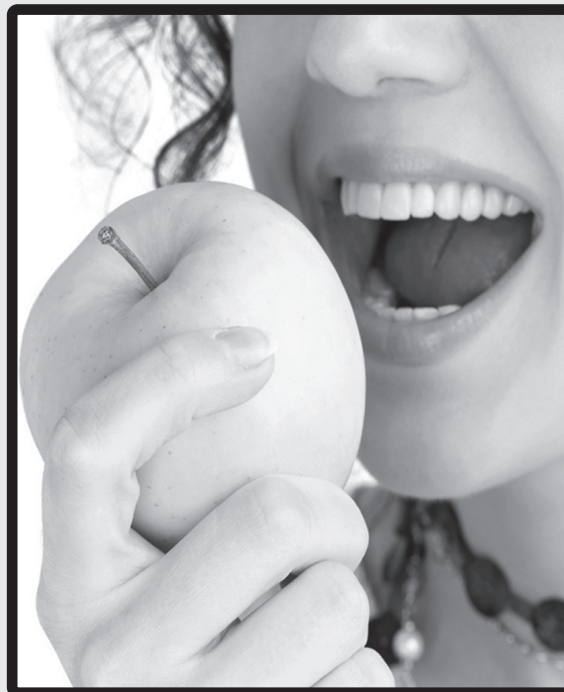
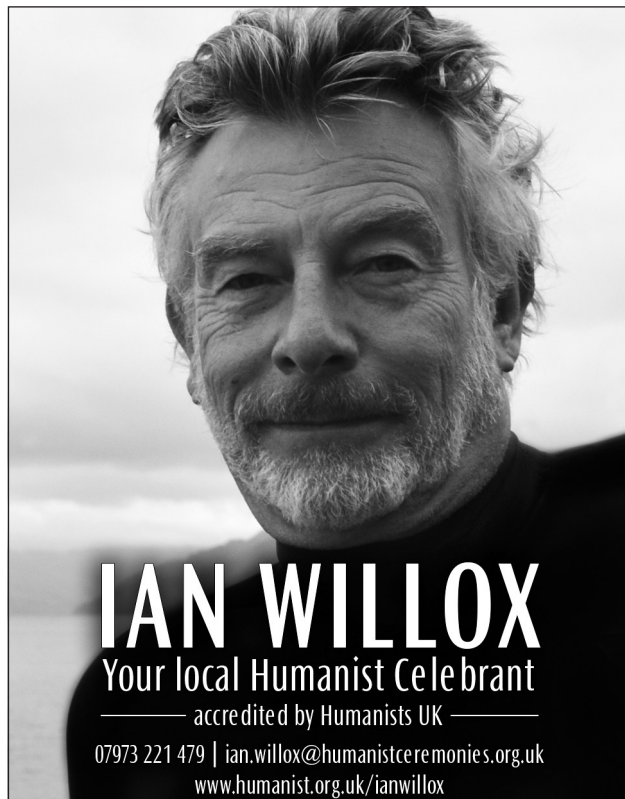
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## DEDDINGTON PARISH SHOW

The parish show took place in the church on 2 September. The committee was pleased at the number of entries, not only in our gardeners and cooks classes, but in the artistic and creative classes too. Although sparse in number, the children's exhibits were of a high standard and much admired.

The committee was delighted at the village support for this event, coming to look and admire and to enjoy the teas and stalls. We would like to thank all our helpers, furniture movers, stewards, tea teams, runners and, of course, our judges. We are very grateful to our sponsors and local businesses for providing the array of raffle prizes.

We are pleased to report that we achieved our highest profits yet and they will be donated to local causes as usual.

The trophy winners were:

*Welford Cup for Cookery* – Anne Bishop, 2nd V Moyes, 3rd Lesley Nelson.

*Marianne Elsley Cup for Flowers* – Melanie Warren, 2nd Lesley Nelson, 3rd Sue Ayles.

*Oliver Hawes Cup for Vegetables* – Stan Nelson,



Parish councillor Mary Robinson presents Show Champion Gardener's Cup to Stan Nelson.  
Pic: Anne Hunsley

2nd Andy Wheeler, 3rd Brian Palmer.

*SS Peter & Paul Cup for Fruit* – Stan Nelson, 2nd Wendy Burrows, 3rd Sarah Liebrecht.

*John Cheney Art Cup* – Stephen Waterman, 2nd Ken Wilkinson, 3rd Sue King.

*Stella Marmion Craft Cup* – Adele Sullivan, 2nd Janet Mac-ey, 3rd Peggy Howarth.

*Farmers' Market Cup for Photography* – Charles Hodge, 2nd Melanie Warren, 3rd Kate Petty.

*Show Champion Gardener's Cup* – Stan Nelson, 2nd Andy Wheeler, 3rd Anne Bishop.

*Children's Trophies:*

*5 years & under* - Emily Harvey, 2nd Isalind Hallgrimsdot-

tir-White, 3rd Lilly Dowling.

*6 – 8 Years* – Lillian Baldwyn, 2nd Elliott Warren, 3rd Thea Francis.

*9 – 11 Years*. Francesca & Edward Eriksen.

*Show Champion Maureen Forsyth Cup*. Emily Harvey, 2nd Lillian Baldwyn, 3rd Elliott Warren,

**Sue Shelley**

[sue.shelley@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sue.shelley@yahoo.co.uk)

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## HOW TO LOSE A PORK PIE COMPETITION AND MAKE A FRIEND FOR LIFE

The first of August this year was a very important date, not least because it was my birthday, but it was also the date of our visit to the Great British Beer Festival. By 'our' I mean a group of guys from Deddington old enough to know better but still young enough to not have learned. With each of us masquerading as the cellarman at the Deddington Arms, we were able to obtain complimentary tickets on the Festival's trade day. When we arrived at Olympia, we realised that over half of the attendees were pulling the same stroke.

Anyway, I digress, because the whole point of this tale is the recent parish show and, specifically, the pork pie competition. On the way to Olympia we were on the Tube going to South Kensington. It was one of those new trains made up of one long sausage of a carriage which stretched the whole length of the train. In fact, I began to imagine it stretched from our departure station to our destination. My mind went back to my school days when we used to jump into the penultimate carriage which was always a smoking carriage and light up from our packet of five Woodbines. There was so much smoke we could remain incognito throughout our guilty pleasure. That is, until one day when the smoke cleared and we found ourselves sitting opposite the headmaster's wife. She did not grass us up and we figured she was having a crafty drag as well.

On the Tube I was next to Keith. We knew of each other but not closely. However, on the journey down we started to get to know each other quite well. So well, in fact, that Keith ventured to ask a rather personal question which in some Deddington circles would have been considered to be dead out of order. He said, 'Are you entering a pork pie in the village show?' It was a bit of an affront but I gave him the benefit of the doubt. I replied, 'Not really as I'm having a lot of problems with my jelly.' (Being English I wouldn't normally be so open, but I felt Keith and I were developing a certain amount of trust on our journey.) Keith immediately expressed a concern that only one pie maker could show for his fellow pie maker. 'My dear chap, whatever is the prob-

lem? How are you applying your jelly?' 'Through the hole in the top', I replied, thinking, doesn't everyone? Keith looked at me with a considered expression, obviously weighing up what he was going to say next. 'Look,' he said, 'as today is your birthday, I am going to let you into a secret. That hole in the top is to let the steam escape whilst the pie is cooking. To put the jelly in you make a hole on one side and a second hole opposite. You then pour the jelly in the one hole and when it comes out the other hole you have filled all the pie with jelly.' Well, I have to admit I felt a bit like Archimedes' wife when she saw him get in the bath and the water poured over the rim, soaking her latest papyrus mat. 'Why didn't I think of that?', I thought.

Well, dear reader, the rest is history. Armed with the new skills given to me by Keith, I was determined to enter a pork pie in the village show. I was awarded first prize with particular attention drawn to the quality of my jelly distribution. Sadly, Keith came third, behind some upstart who submitted a pie made in a mould. Well, I ask you, what is the world coming to, a pie maker entering a competition with a pie cooked in a mould, without any attempt at hand-raising! Not only that but the pie was burned. Bounder, I would say. Anyway, the moral of the story: Winners are grinners, dear friends, winners are grinners, but Keith has a friend for life. Off the record, on the QT, and very, very hush hush.

**Mike O'Brien**

## 'ROXY' AT THE HOLLY TREE HALL

Age UK's first film screening of the season for over 50s is *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel* on 12 October.

It is a comedy drama based on the novel, *These Foolish Things*, by Deborah Moggach. A group of seven British retirees respond to an online ad for a 'newly restored' hotel in exotic India. The film explores their hopes for a less expensive retirement, the reasons they have made the move, and the way their lives intertwine with each other and their host and family.

There is a fabulous cast of Judi Dench, Celia Imrie, Bill Nighy, Ronald Pickup, Maggie Smith, Penelope Wilton and Tom Wilkinson as the guests and Dev Patel as the very eager and optimistic host.

The film will start at 1.30pm and doors open for refreshments at 1.00pm.

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## CHURCH

### Parish Church SS Peter and Paul

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

On Sunday 8 October members of the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Bellringers will attempt a full three-hour peal, the first visiting ringers for several years.

#### Weekdays

Mon, Wed, Fri: 8.45am Morning Prayer  
Wed: 10.00am Holy Communion (with Healing Prayer on 4th Wed)

Thu: 9.30am Tea + Toast and Squiggles and Wiggles

#### October

Sun 1	10.30am	Holy Communion
	3.00pm	3 O'Clock Family Service
	6.00pm	Choral Evensong
Sun 8	10.30am	Holy Communion, Harvest Festival
Sun 15	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sun 22	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sun 29	10.30am	Holy Communion

#### Hempton

Sun 15 9.00am Holy Communion

#### Barfords

Sun 1	10.30am	Coffee and Chat, BSM
Sun 8	9.00am	Communion, BSM
Sun 15	10.30am	Family Service, BSM
Sun 22	9.00am	Family Holy Communion, BSM
Sun 29	10.30am	Special Service, BSJ

### 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.



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## GOOD SAMARITANS — OR A WORLD OF HELP

My name is Jillian Drewitt. My husband and I have lived in Gaveston Gardens for nine years. I am a singer/songwriter who has been performing my own songs for twenty-five years. I have just released a five track CD called *A Different World* and am selling it to raise funds for the Banbury Samaritans as the smaller local Samaritans are fighting to survive. I also feel that not enough time and money is spent on mental illness and there are a lot of people out there, especially the young, who are struggling and I think that some of them need a kind listening ear. I have so far raised £25 but would like to try and raise a lot more. If you would like to support the Banbury Samaritans and buy a copy of my CD, £5 and £2 postage and packing, contact me on [jilliandivamusic@gmail.com](mailto:jilliandivamusic@gmail.com).

The CD was professionally recorded at a studio in Charlbury run by Alan Snelling who produced the musical arrangements and has written music for TV

and films. The title track, *A Different World* is about a young girl struggling with mental illness and *Ukraine* is a powerful song about the war. An amazing violinist named Marion Fleetwood is playing on both these tracks. She is a classically trained multi-instrumentalist who sometimes plays at Cropredy Folk Festival, as well as playing in three bands, Feast of Fiddles, Iota and Fleetwood Cave.

You can hear my songs on YouTube by searching for Jillian Drewitt. I used to sing in a jazz trio named Manhattan and have met some interesting artists. I was singing at a jazz festival when Alec Dankworth came up to me and asked how my career was going and one of our band members, Wayne Elliott, used to play for Paul Jones of Manfred Mann and Alan Price of the Animals.

**Jillian Drewitt**  
[jilliandivamusic@gmail.com](mailto:jilliandivamusic@gmail.com)



Well, that's another thing ticked off on our ambitious 'to do' list. The new Windmill

kitchen was installed on time, within budget and was immediately put through its paces when we hosted our second comedy night just a few days after completion. Sam and Kevin, who ran the very busy bar, loved it, especially the new fridge and freezer, the increased worktop space and the industrial-grade dishwasher – clean glasses in just two minutes flat!

Our next big job is to redecorate the main hall. It's time for our rather tired-looking proscenium to get a facelift. This will take place during the last week of October (school half term) and we are hoping to complete the job with minimum disruption to our regular users. As always, we are grateful for your support and understanding.

Just before that, on the 13 and 14 October, we will be hosting the BALA Theatre Group who will be performing the *Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)* – a fast-paced comedy in which

three actors attempt to perform all of Shakespeare's 37 plays and 154 sonnets in just 95 minutes. Hilarious! Please come and support what promises to be two very funny evenings.

Finally, what do Oxford University, Deddington Town U13s and a local saxophonist have in common? Answer: they have all hired the Clifton room recently. The room has also been used as a temporary podiatrist surgery, a studio for art classes and a waiting room for ballet school parents. It is fast turning into our most versatile room. What might you use it for?

As usual, for information about anything going on at the Windmill, please visit our website [www.thewindmill-deddington.org](http://www.thewindmill-deddington.org) or Facebook page or call our bookings secretary, Julie, on 07720 834006.

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

## WE ARE RECRUITING ...

The farmers' market organisers are looking for volunteers to join us in constructing the market and for others to help make decisions about how the market is run. You'd be joining a happy bunch who have developed new friends through working together. As a thank you for your time you and your family can enjoy a free family barbecue each year. We are holding an open meeting on October in Deddington Arms if you'd like to see us in action, making decisions. If you would like to find out more about the roles or want to come to our meeting, email Gillian on [stallholderliaison@deddingtonfarmersmarket.co.uk](mailto:stallholderliaison@deddingtonfarmersmarket.co.uk).

## NEW BUS – AND OTHER CHANGES

Stagecoach, supported by OCC, is running a new express service, S4 X4 on weekday mornings and afternoons, providing fast links between Banbury, Oxford City Centre and Oxford Rail Station. The express to Oxford leaves Hudson Street at 7.50 am and 4.00pm. The Banbury-bound expresses leave Hudson Street at 9.39am and 6.01pm. These two expresses do not serve Adderbury, Deddington Market Place, Steeple Aston or Tackley.

The normal S4 5.55am from Banbury to Oxford and 7.25am from Oxford to Banbury will run 10 minutes earlier so that school children arrive in good time to start their day. The evening trips from Banbury to Oxford are being retimed to better correspond with the S7, providing consistently timed journeys to and from London Oxford Airport.

The full timetable is available at [https://tison-maps-stagecoachbus.s3.amazonaws.com/Timetables/Oxford\\_Timetables/S4\\_current.pdf](https://tison-maps-stagecoachbus.s3.amazonaws.com/Timetables/Oxford_Timetables/S4_current.pdf).





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## FIRE ENGINE SEARCH SPARKS MUSEUM

This might have been a 1990s' tabloid headline but the story of plans for a Deddington Museum is a bit less incendiary.

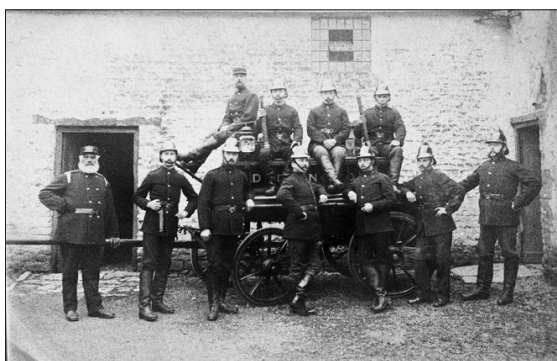
Back in 1896 the Parish Council advertised its old steam-driven fire engine for sale.

Nearly a hundred years later in 1988 Bill Hunt, then clerk to Deddington Charity Estates, tried to find out what had happened to it. He was told 'no records relating to this period are in existence'. This led him to bemoan the lack of village facilities for storing any documents of historical value and, as the Charity Estates own the Town Hall, they formed the idea of turning the upper floor into a museum. The project took some time to gather pace, but between 1991 and 1993 and with appeals in *DN*, Bill Hunt collected a wide range of documents and artefacts ranging from a carving from Franklins, our local firm with world fame, to a scythe and shire horse collar and 18th and 19th-century accounts receipts from local printing firm Cheneys (a full list is included in a longer version of this story on the Deddington History website: <https://www.deddingtonhistory.uk/>).

The Charity Estates had financial help from the Parish Council which donated £2,500 to buy glass-topped display cabinets and exhibits began to be displayed. Two local newspapers even printed reports on the new museum. At that time the PC had a lease on the Town Hall but, apart from hosting their monthly meetings and the occasional exhibition, the space was little used and looked unloved. A firm of local architects was engaged to produce plans and a feasibility study on how to improve this most loved and valued parish asset and provide a public toilet.

The trustees discussed how to classify exhibits, engage the Craft Group to produce labels, organise security, and even commission a weathervane for the Town Hall roof. The PC had other ideas: they wanted the Town Hall to house not one, but two, public toilets. They also decided that 'for the Council to proceed the Council should own the freehold of the building, particularly as the feasibility study showed an estimated expenditure of up to £135,000 as compared to the sum allocated of £26,000'. At that point the idea of a museum was side-lined as the discussion widened into whether the PC should buy the listed building.

Nothing more, until a rather forlorn letter from Bill Hunt appeared in *DN* in March 1993: 'I am inclined to the view that the parish council's only interest in the Town Hall is because it would provide the only likelihood of establishing a public toilet in the village. They have little or no interest in providing a museum and other facilities in the building. Should my fellow Trustees be disposed to selling the Town Hall to the parish council, an aspect which causes me considerable concern is what would occur to the numerous items already donated to the museum.'



And even more despairing in 1995: 'Now that we are told the Windmill Centre is 'up and running', those of us involved with the Museum project are hopeful that Parish Councillors will be able to devote their energies to the establishment of Deddington Museum.' Nothing. The PC didn't buy the Town Hall and no museum ever appeared, so what happened to

the artefacts and documents? For many years they lay in the clerk's garage gathering dust and mould until a later trustee, Charles Newey, made a valiant effort to return them to their donors. We too retrieved a bundle of mounted photographs assembled for an exhibition in 1973, damp but recoverable.

Since then, the Charity Estates have repurposed the upper floor of the Town Hall. Other attempts were made to start an archive in the library, which were equally unfruitful. Now, thanks to two grants from outside sources, we have a splendid warm, dry, purpose-built room at the Windmill, where loos come free ...

Because of pressure on space we store documents only – no 1920s football boots! We have a team of scanners (thank you Anne Barlow, Martin Ince, Janet Macey, David Murray-Hundley and Gemma Webber), energetically scanning the images still coming our way. The scans are uploaded into an online register and photographs added to the Deddington Online Gallery of currently more than 3,500 items. The task of preserving our parish history must continue, so if you have anything you feel would be of interest, please contact Rob Forsyth, [Robert.s.forsyth@gmail.com](mailto:Robert.s.forsyth@gmail.com), Richard Broadbent, [rb.broadbent@gmail.com](mailto:rb.broadbent@gmail.com) or me.

And what happened to the fire engine? We're still trying to find it – the best laid plans and all that.

**Mary Robinson 07841 938439**  
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## NEWS FROM HEMPTON

We got our 20mph speed limit. It's difficult to say what the overall effect on traffic speeds has been. There are still frequent and continuing instances of excessive speed, with reports of those adhering to the limit being overtaken by impatient drivers who ignore or are unaware of the new limit. How they could miss the signage beats me, so I assume their transgression to be blatant. The new limit has had no discernible effect on increasing due care and attention or good manners at the pinch point. Research has shown that only one in 40 pedestrians dies when hit by a car going at 20mph, compared to one in five at 30mph. However, a study published in November last year found 20 mph limits had 'little impact' on crashes, casualties and driver speed. The new 20 mph blanket limit on residential roads in Wales may be the acid test.

Lazing in the garden, recumbent on my recliner, enjoying the Indian summer, my thoughts turned to that other highway, the one above the village. When I first arrived in Hempton the United States Airforce 20th Tactical Fighter Wing was still ensconced at Upper Heyford. Their F111 Aardvarks would frequently cruise past at low level west of the village heading north at low speed. (The name 'Aardvark' originates from the likeness of the aircrafts long nose to that of an anteater's similar profile, at least to the eyes of the USAF.)

In 1943 Hempton residents must have been perplexed on seeing and hearing an unfamiliar shape winging by, accompanied by a loud whistling sound rather than the growl of piston engines. They were witnessing a small part in the development of the

jet aircraft. The first prototype of the Gloster Whittle E.28/39, tail number W4041/G, was based at RAF Barford St John for a time and was the first British/Allied jet engined aircraft to fly in 1941, although two German and one Italian jets had already taken to the air. The G suffix signified the aircraft must be guarded at all times whilst on the ground. This aircraft has been preserved and is currently on display in London's Science Museum. The contract to produce each prototype for the MOD allowed only £18,500 plus £7,000 for additional high speed wings. The current Eurofighter Typhoon comes in at £73million.

In the same year W4041/G was joined at Barford St John by Gloster Meteor prototype F.9/40 DG202 which was Britain's first operational twin-engined jet aircraft. On arrival it stood idle for two months undergoing modifications and being cannibalised to keep other prototypes flying. Hempton residents may have heard but not seen much of this aircraft as most flights were conducted during cloudy weather to preserve secrecy.

Another, even more obscure, claim to fame was RAF Barford St John's part in *12 O'clock High*, the 1949 American war film starring Gregory Peck as Brigadier General Frank Savage. Mr Peck was not seen propping up the bar in the George or any other local hostelry, RAF Barford St John was used only to provide background photography with all the flying sequences being filmed in the US.

**Stuart Oldham**

***Sj\_oldham@btinternet.com***

## DEDDINGTON LIBRARY

After a visit to Deddington school at the end of term I introduced the start of the summer reading challenge, 'Ready Set Read!', encouraging the children to read throughout the holidays. This has been a great success with many children completing it and I will be returning to the school to present their certificates and medals.

Following on from this, I have set another challenge – for children to read 20 books between 1 October and 24 December. This is also open to any brave adults.

Another adventure is to try out our travelling piano keyboard, available until the end of January 2024 for the public to play. The only stipulation is that if there are people using the computers the piano will be switched off. It also comes with headphones. Come and have a go.

I am looking forward to selling the Deddington calendars and we also have some Deddington library mugs for sale as well as postcards and notelets and local books, including *A Parish at War*, *As I Remember* by George Harris, *The Diaries of William Cotton Risley*, *Not Only the Good Boys* by Jo Eames, and a few of our library patron, Linda Newbery's books. These all make very good birthday and Christmas presents.

**Gail Cripps**  
**Library Manager.**

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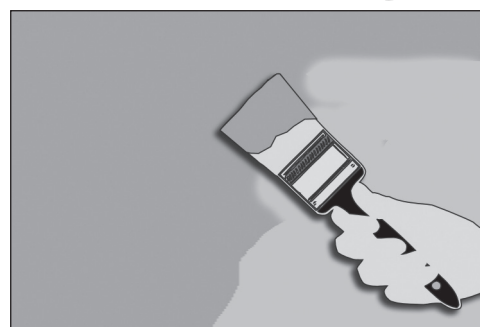
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## WINDMILL CENTRE HISTORY – THE LAST LAP

This is the final instalment of the history of the Windmill Centre site. I am not going to recount the history and use of the current building as this is covered fully in Mary Robinson's excellent account, available on Deddington OnLine and on the Windmill Centre website.

We left the story with an area of the Windmill School site available to establish a community centre. Most parish councillors agreed to accept OCC's offer to lease four classrooms and a four-acre playing field and it was proposed that an independent management committee be set up as soon as possible.

At a public meeting at the end of March 1981 a 14-member Windmill Management Committee was formed under the chairmanship of Richard Broadbent to represent all the interested voluntary organisations and the first meeting took place the following month. Their brief was to investigate the need for a community centre and assess whether the remaining classrooms could be used. They were willing to manage the centre and the PC agreed to provide £2,000 to make the old buildings usable. They were in a derelict state with over 200 broken windows and much initial repair and decorating work had to be done to get the centre up and running. In the December 1981 *DN* the management committee announced 'at long last we have our own Community Centre with facilities for all age group activities'. It also reported that it had set up a financial group. Some members of the parish council continued to express concern over expenditure, despite the WMC's commitment that they would continue their fund-raising efforts to minimise the need for requests to the parish council.

In parallel, Rockwell Development, who had purchased the land in front of the school buildings to build eight houses, realised that they had little chance of selling their proposed new houses within view of the eyesore of the old school buildings, so they offered to demolish three classrooms and refurbish the fourth.

The WMC felt that would leave them with insufficient room and suggested to Rockwell that they build a new centre in exchange for increased land for housing, taking the number of homes from eight to 26. Rockwell liked the idea, so the PC set up a working group, chaired by Rob Forsyth, with Richard Broadbent and Mary Robinson, then chair of the PC, to negotiate with Rockwell.

During 1982, the Windmill Community Centre was used by the Scouts, Cubs, Guides and Brownies and by the Windmill Sports and Social Club. A newly formed Tennis Club applied through the WMC to the Sports Council for a grant to do up the derelict tennis courts. OCC was asked for a long lease as required by the Sports Council; the suggestion came back that the PC buy the Windmill school site rather than lease it. As sitting tenants, the PC were able to negotiate a favourable price of £21,500. Not all councillors were in favour; some saw the building as a white elephant that would never be used and would only drain the PC's reserves. After much robust discussion at a special meeting in July 1982, approval was given for the purchase by eight votes to four.

A purpose-built community centre was in sight but making it happen was not straightforward, as detailed in Mary's history. Rockwell started building the Windmill Centre in January 1985 and it opened for use in January 1988, the same year it was granted charitable status.

*Alison Day*

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## POSTCARD FROM AMERICA

### Retirement, Bobert and Pirates

The 'R' word looms large in our Colorado home: have we retired or are we simply resting? One thing I used to love about working in America was the travel, but America is a very large place. When I worked from Deddington I could visit any customer in England and get back home the same day. In the States the work road trip was four nights away. I always travelled in a black suit and a white shirt. The customers always remembered the visit from an English 'gentleman'. Little did they know the truth.

It could all go very badly wrong though, such as when I caught scabies in a very iffy hotel on Venice Beach. This part of California is now overrun with tourists but it is still a unique mix of bodybuilders, punks, musicians and grifters. North America is such a wonderfully diverse place, full of interesting peoples.

On one occasion I flew four hours to Charlotte in North Carolina, only to discover that all the people I was due to meet were laid off while I was in the air. Those who know me will find this hard to believe, but I once tried to save money in Houston by staying in the Motel 6. After stepping on crunchy things on my way to the toilet in the middle of the night I moved to the Marriott in the morning. It's never good to share your trip with cockroaches. I once turned up for a meeting in Montreal and they wanted to hold it in French. Needless to say, I objected to travelling 2,000 miles to communicate in a language I was very poor at 50 years ago and, for once, the English gentleman uniform was

certainly not going to win me that order.

My brother joined us in Colorado this week, so we have been touring some of the local sights. The wonderful Rocky Mountain National Park is less than two hours away and on the way back we stopped for a beer in a mountain town. I noticed that their little theatre was putting on a production of *The Pirates of Penzance*: old English culture is enjoyed in America even at 8,000 feet.

Then we extended the cultural tour to the important stuff. The Wynkoop Brewery opened in 1988 in a dilapidated part of central Denver as the first brewpub in Colorado. Back then Colorado was a Republican state. Now downtown is a thriving place and a Democratic stronghold. In pride of place on the pub wall was a lovely picture of an Obama visit.

Lauren Bobert is a Republican Member of Congress who represents parts of the mountains. Another comic opera played itself out at the main Denver theatre when she was ejected for, amongst other things, vaping during the performance. She said it was smoke from the production of *Beetlejuice* but the security footage shows the truth, something she and her idol both struggle with. It struck me yesterday that the main song from *Pirates* maybe resonates in the Republican mountains. It could well be Trump's new theme song as he tries to dismantle the US democracy. He is the Modern Major General.

**Mike Ward**

**Mike@mikeaward.com**

### BLISSFUL THINKING

Now the aestival festivities are over and the harvest is complete, it's time to focus on necromancy. I mean, Hallowe'en. I gave ChatGPT a rest this month and consulted Dr Google for speculation on spectres in Deddington parish. Then I suspected I'd gone over this ground before and returned to the AI theme. Or AR.

It feels like augmented reality isn't afforded the sense of wonder it deserves, as its most famous application, so far, seems to be catching Pokemon in the street. I've read about its development at long-abandoned historical sites, so why not here? Imagine sticking on a headset and seeing the Castle (mound) in all its original glory. Returning a book to the library leads to an unexpected glimpse of the old drunk tank, while you may appear to nearly be run down by the furious riding of a highwayman fleeing through Hempton with his plunder.

Anyone with access to capital and know-how, just drop me a line to get onboard for my new venture: 'Live-ington – an AR Adventure Through Deddington's History'. For an additional fee you will be set objectives like collecting artefacts, repelling invaders at the castle battlements and taking Piers Gaveston into custody before he is run through. AI is dead, long live AR!

**Aaron Bliss**

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## LETTERS

FROM ALBERT P HUMPHRIES, MBE, DEDDINGTON  
I have never known anything so thoughtless for road safety, never mind wildlife. What about human life? Where the grass verges are left to grow they create a serious hazard. On the road from Deddington to Clifton the grass has been left and is so bad that it is impossible to see round the left-hand bend just before Clifton at a point that is used by deer to cross the road. In fact several have been killed there in the last 12 months. It could well have been a motorbike rider or a cyclist.

Not mowing alongside pavements is hazardous for pedestrians, particularly alongside the A4260 from Deddington to Adderbury which creates serious trip risks. It allows dandelions and thistles to grow and their seeds to blow into the adjacent fields, contaminating farmers' crops. It also allows ragwort to grow which is poisonous and fatal to horses.

Verges when mowed look a lot neater and tidier. I wonder if the No Mow people let their lawns grow.

FROM NICK HARDWICK, DEDDINGTON

Villagers cannot fail to have noticed the extension of 'No Mow May'. Although it was supposed to have extended into June, it seems that it was the end of July before many areas were mown. I am in favour of biodiversity, but it needs to be pursued thoughtfully and not as a means of greenwashing funding cuts. The village still looks decidedly scruffy which, in turn, makes people take less pride in their community. Overgrown verges impair visibility of vehicles, pedestrians and road signs. They are a fire hazard and outside the village, force pedestrians onto the tarmac for example if they've broken down or just don't want to drive everywhere. Green spaces became so overgrown by the time they were mown that they were useless for recreation. In fact, there are still some mounds in the little play area at the Windmill that are impassable. Uncontrolled weeds also break up the tarmac on paths and road edges, causing potholes and more frequent need for repair. While pollen is generally a good thing, it should be remembered that it causes misery for millions of people suffering from asthma and hay fever.

Finally, while pollen-makers were flourishing in the village, it is ironic that several square miles of arable land to the south west of Deddington had been treated with herbicide, turning them into a sterile desert. Surely we can encourage biodiversity without spoiling the beauty and amenity of our village?

FROM DEDDINGTON HEALTH CENTRE

We write to you about your recent *DN* feature in September regarding Deddington Health Centre withdrawing our repeat prescription telephone ordering line. As I am sure you are aware, we would never make a significant change without good reason and certainly not without the support of NHS England.

The main reason for the decision to withdraw the line was made for patient safety. We are constantly looking at ways to improve our processes and procedures surrounding this. NHS England is encouraging

patients to use the NHS app and other online services to order their prescriptions. This prevents errors and empowers the patient to take a role in their own care. Answer machine messages are not always clear and this raises the risk of dispensing errors. Online ordering is much more efficient and less time consuming both for the patient and for us as a dispensing practice. Access is available 24 hours a day which brings many other benefits for the patient, such as the ability to view your immunisation history and test results. This change also brings us in line with other practices.

In preparation for the withdrawal of the telephone ordering line, we turned off our answering machine for a two month period to enable our patients who regularly use the line to have a bespoke telephone call with one of our dispensers and a chance to raise any queries or concerns they may have had. In this time we are pleased to report that only four patients were adversely affected by the change and we have been able to resolve these on a case-by-case basis.

We are confident we have put every effort into speaking to all patients who may be directly affected by the change and have worked hard to provide a satisfactory solution for these patients accordingly, depending on which regular medication they order. Patients who have been ordering certain regular medications monthly can be put onto a system called Repeat Dispensing which entails the dispensing surgery approving one year's worth of prescriptions to the NHS spine for the patient's nominated pharmacy to issue, eliminating the need for the patient to order their medications during this time. This service is not available for pain management medications such as paracetamol as this is not classed as regular medication with a set dosage regime.

In your feature, you mention the option of our paper prescription ordering drop-in service we still provide to order medications, but we also have the facility to set up proxy access for the relatives of those patients who would be happy to consent for a nominated family member or carer to order medication online on their behalf. This option has proved very popular, particularly with our elderly population patients.

We always welcome feedback and will respond to any of your readers who get in touch.

FROM ROB FORSYTH, DEDDINGTON

A recent very bad experience with the parcel courier, DHL (only contactable digitally), coupled with your editorial last month about Deddington Health Centre requiring us to use the NHS app instead of the repeat prescriptions phone number and also a text advising us that booking appointments will change to 'an online system' on 6 November, has prompted this letter. I fear these changes will further marginalise digitally challenged members of the community – by no means restricted to just the elderly – who struggle with banks, parking, rail ticket offices ... and DHL.

Apart from needing the technology, as well as the skillset to send an email, not everyone is able to clearly



LETTERS *continued from p21*

express the need for an appointment in writing and some may also find it physically impossible to get to the Health Centre to seek help from reception. In these circumstances the option of a phone call is essential, whether urgent or not. I do not think I am alone in my

concern because the Centre effectively has a monopoly on our health care; opting to go elsewhere is not a practical option for most people. Perhaps the Health Centre should consider some form of public meeting to hear of any concerns before finalising its plan.

## DEN – OUR NATURAL WORLD IN WORDS

Nature writing is enjoying a surge, with enticing displays in every bookshop. Thanks to library manager, Gail Cripps, Deddington library held a well-attended celebration of nature writing on 17 August, hosted, in Gail's absence due to illness, by volunteer Julia Cork. Here's my selection from the evening – the main difficulty was what to leave out.

*Nature Cure* by Richard Mabey relates his recovery from severe depression through immersion in his new Norfolk surroundings. *Four Hedges* by Clare Leighton takes us through the year in her Buckinghamshire garden in the thirties, beautifully illustrated by her own woodcuts. Several poems: *Adlestrop* by Edward Thomas gives an evocative glimpse of a still June evening in a place known to many of us; *Thistles* by Ted Hughes brings crackling energy to something commonplace. I read from Thomas Hardy's *Afterwards*, in which he wonders if he'll be remembered for appreciating weather, stars, small creatures and their habits, and read two from *Ten Poems About Birds* that celebrate birds in exuberant flight: *Skylark* by Katrina Porteous and *Swallows* by Kathleen Jamie. *Silent Earth* by Dave Goulson aims to make everyone appreciate insects and be aware of the threats they face from pesticides and harmful herbicides. His title refers to *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson, published in 1962, a seminal book

on environmental awareness. *The Wild Places* by Robert Macfarlane brilliantly evokes settings, atmosphere and weather in the UK and beyond. *Say Goodbye to the Cuckoo* by Mike McCarthy looks at our summer migrants, or 'springbringers' as he calls them, through literature and folklore as well as through the eyes of observers who know them well. For how much longer can we take it for granted that swifts, swallows, warblers and cuckoos will be part of our summers? 'One of the penalties of an ecological education is that one lives alone in a world of wounds' Aldo Leopold, *A Sand County Almanac*, 1949. No longer alone – but it's crucial that we use our voices to protect the natural world and halt further catastrophic losses.

*Why the future of food has to be plant-based.* Join us at the Red Lion from 7.30pm on Monday 16 October for an illustrated presentation by publican Gary Ward, who is committed to serving delicious plant-based food at his pub. Gary's talk will show why we all need to eat less (or no) meat and dairy produce and how a shift in diet can benefit human health, carbon emissions, biodiversity and certainly animals. Afterwards I will talk briefly about my work with the Plant-Based Councils campaign and its impact across the country.

**Linda Newbery**  
l.newbery@btinternet.com,

## NEWS FROM CLIFTON

We are all very exercised by the adoption of the 20mph speed limit, generally thought to be a good thing although many drivers seem to disagree. Clifton Against Speeding Traffic (CAST) has been in action down here. They are keen to collect and present speeding evidence to the authorities.

At a recent session, nearly half the traffic was recorded at below 30mph but the star was a white Mercedes travelling at 43mph (we have your reg number ...S111 ..). One of the CAST members was nearly overtaken in the 20mph limit but was able to stop and 'have a chat' with the driver to help him next time. Many more sessions are planned before the speed data is passed on.

Again, we have a pile of dog faeces on the grass at the corner of Main Street and Chapel Close. This is made worse as it is only a couple of steps to the dog bin. It is getting to be a far too regular occurrence and demonstrates utter laziness and lack of consideration by the person walking the dog. Young children catch the school bus from here and it is not healthy for them to stand in it or even get it on their hands. A kind neighbour cuts the grass here and it is very

unpleasant to go over it with the lawn mower. May I remind all dog owners to clear up after their animals and keep the village safe. If the bin is full they should take the bags to the next bin, not leave it at the bottom of the telegraph pole! If we see this happening we will report the walker and dog to the police who could prosecute the owner.

It is a big Book Club goodbye to Steve, who is leaving. Some of us are concerned for his wellbeing since, as a Chelsea fan, he's losing his support network, but we all wish him and his family well and will miss his badinage and technical IT briefings. His departure, of course, means there is a Book Club vacancy if you fancy a beer with interesting company and wide-ranging conversation just pop along to the Duke any Thursday at 8.00pm.

**Martin Bryce** martindnbryce@gmail.com

## TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURES

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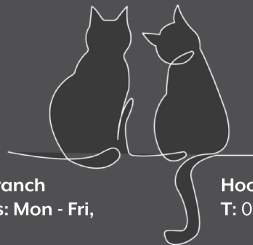
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THE DOODLE <small>12-25kg</small>	£172.80	<b>£404.99</b>	£577.79
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## CALLING ALL CLUBS

### WI

Our meeting on Wednesday 9 August, included a talk entitled 'The History of Afternoon Tea', given by Sean Todd. Afternoon tea in private houses is in danger of dying out although, luckily, hotels from the Ritz to the Deddington Arms are filling the gap.

Tea was first brought into the country by Catherine of Braganza, a Portuguese princess who married King Charles II, and brought three chests of tea as part of her dowry. A tea party in the afternoon helped her to learn English. In Regency times, lunch was served earlier in the day than later in the century and Anna Marie Russell, an avid tea drinker, got hungry during the afternoon so included cake and sandwiches with her afternoon tea. As this was an informal occasion and no gentlemen attended, a casual style of dress was permissible. So the more comfortable tea dress with less corseting was adopted. Businesses took to the idea and teas, exclusively for ladies, although gentlemen were allowed, sprang up. They were also convenient places for ladies to hold meetings and the Suffragettes often met in tearooms. A Cornish farmer's wife, Mrs Rodda, sent her clotted cream up to London where it was served with jam on scones. The original West Country cream tea served Devonshire splits, made with a yeast dough but, as the rising time took so long, the yeast-less scone was created, thanks to Mr Bird's invention of baking powder. Hotels started serving afternoon teas which became popular as ladies could attend them unchaperoned and special crockery and cutlery were introduced.

**Moira Byast**

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

### Deddington Bookworms

Our latest book, *Isolarion*, by James Attlee, takes its title from a fifteenth century map that isolates an area in order to present it in more detail and that's exactly what Attlee, armed with tape recorder and notebook, does during his pilgrimage along the Cowley Road. Instead of focusing on the dreaming spires of Oxford, he introduces the reader to the many shops, restaurants, pubs and religious establishments that are teeming with life and reflective of the multicultural make-up of the surrounding neighbourhood. This was a very different read for us and one that has inspired a few of us to take a stroll along the Cowley Road to see some of the places he describes with such enthusiasm.

Our next book is *The Midwich Cuckoos* by John Wyndham.

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

### History Society

We look forward to welcoming you to our 2023–24 meetings held at 7.30pm in the primary school on the third Thursday of the month.

Deddington resident, Vaughan Jones, will speak on 19 October about the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Before the invasion Vaughan visited Ukraine many times to promote his English language textbook for

secondary schools and, since then, has returned on humanitarian missions. He spoke at the 'Deddy for Ukraine' evening and many in the audience wanted to hear more from him. Now is your chance.

In November Rowena Archer is speaking on 'The Rise and Rise of Alice Chaucer, Duchess of Suffolk', the remarkable story of an Oxfordshire lass who was born a commoner and died a duchess in 1475. In December, Simon Wenham will tell us about 'James Murray and the Oxford English Dictionary'.

Membership fees remain at £34 for couples and £18 for individuals for the whole season. Fees for visitors and single meetings are £4.50.

**Jean Dipper**

**[jean.dipper@btinternet.com](mailto:jean.dipper@btinternet.com)**

### Holly Tree Club

The weekly 10.30am coffee mornings on Monday continue to be well attended, as do the monthly lunch club sessions.

To round off the summer, partly due to the regular caterer taking a well-earned holiday, we enjoyed a seaside themed lunch in September with fish and chips freshly cooked on site at the hall, courtesy of Simeon in van 66, from Howe and Co, who deliver regularly to the village on a Monday evening. This was followed shortly after by Mr Frosty himself, Edd Frost and daughters, bringing freshly made Mr Whippy ice cream 99's for dessert. We can confirm that van 66 and Mr Frosty both had their jingles intact and in full working order.

New members always welcome.

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

### Photographic Society

September's meeting saw Adderbury connect with South Africa, albeit intermittently, via the wonders of technology, so we could chat with past member and keen wildlife photographer, Scott Hurd. His talk, 'My Namibia', took us from the beginnings of his hobby with his Aunt Vera through to his photography around the country which Scott explores in his bakkie (4x4 off road vehicle). He began by showing us his recent visit to the vasbyt (meaning 'art of being stoical') races where competitors in adapted 4x4's must drive between the white taped off area and complete the course as quickly as possible while remaining in one piece. He also showed us how his country can switch from rain and rainbows to dust devils, a loose term for upside down plug holes like hurricanes and tornadoes but on a smaller scale. If you get caught in one, you will spend the next few hours cleaning your lenses of dust and debris.

Scott's local area is surrounded by a variety of animals including flamingos, oryx, cattle and, further inland, elephants, geckos, yellow hornbills, baboons and a vulture population rehabilitated by the local Herero people. In Botswana he has photographed hippos, cape buffalo, bee-eaters and spoonbills.

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

## CALLING ALL CLUBS

### Royal British Legion

The branch will launch this year's Poppy Appeal with a stall at the October farmers' market. Please come and support us by giving generously and getting your poppies and pins. The cost of caring for former military personnel is so high as to need all the help we can provide. Every penny counts.

The annual two-minute silence in memory of those who lost their lives in the service of their country will be observed at 11.00am on Saturday 11 November at the war memorial. Eighty-six crosses remembering those from Deddington will be decorated by Year 6 primary school children and planted in the garden on the green. The Service of Remembrance in the churchyard on Sunday 12 November will be preceded by the usual parade and we are grateful for the support of our parish council.

Formal notice is given that the branch AGM is at 7.00pm in the upper boardroom of the Deddington Arms, courtesy of Nigel Oddy, on Thursday 23 November. The agenda will be promulgated on the branch website the week beforehand. Everyone is welcome to attend. Proposals for new committee members should be submitted by 1 November.

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

### Deddington Players

A reminder that if you didn't make our first panto audition on 24 September, you can still audition on Sunday 1 October 2.00–5.00pm at the Windmill Centre. The performance dates for *Beauty and The Beast* are 18–20 January 2024 at the Windmill.

**Suzie Upson** [suzieupson@mac.com](mailto:suzieupson@mac.com)

### Local Vocals Community Choir

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

## SPORT

### Deddington Tennis Club

It seems a while ago now, but we had a very enjoyable and well-attended 40th anniversary celebration back in July. We were delighted to welcome several founder members as well as former and current members; some played a friendly tournament and we all enjoyed a lovely afternoon tea in the Hempton Lounge.

At the time of writing, there are a couple of fixtures to be played but our teams have had what we might call mixed results over the summer season. In the midweek leagues, our A team has been playing in division 1 after some challenging fixtures and difficulties with postponements and availability but we hope to be back in winning form in division 2 next summer. That means two of the fixtures will be against our B team. The Bs have played in division 2 this season and won 6 of 12 – at this moment we are 3rd but likely to finish 4th when all fixtures are completed.

The C team has been playing in division 3 and has won two and lost ten. The season was characterised by a lot of close matches, many against B teams. Despite

*Continued from p25*

It is wonderful to be back singing again and straight in to learning two new songs. Our vocal chords may have rested during the holidays but our enthusiasm has not waned. This term we are starting with a song made famous by Elvis and another by Toto. Fingers crossed we will have them perfected by the time our next friends and family concert takes place. 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**

### Book Group

In July the Duns Tew Book Group held a 'Meet the Author' evening featuring Rebecca Wait. Originally from Duns Tew, Rebecca is the author of four critically acclaimed novels, *The View on the Way Down*, *The Followers*, *Our Fathers* and *I'm Sorry You Feel That Way*. Being unfamiliar with them, we were naturally interested to find out more.

It was a fascinating evening. Rebecca is an excellent speaker and we learned a lot about her personal approach to writing and the editorial process. It is apparently remarkable how great an effect the book cover can have on sales. She responded to our questions with frankness and humour, explaining that she has always been interested in the psychology and complexities of relationships. This is reflected in the situations and characters portrayed in her novels. We have not, so far, chosen one of Rebecca's novels to read as a group. However, a few of us have been inspired to read one or two since the meeting and have been impressed by the combination of insight, compassion, warmth and humour.

Our next meeting is on Thursday, 26 October. Please contact Sally Lambert on 01869 338094 for more details.

**The Book Group**

the losses we maintained a good team spirit throughout. Our D team had a good season and enjoyable matches. Three wins leave them third in division 4.

We have three teams in the Dunlop weekend leagues. Our Ladies played in Division 3 and won four out of six. The last fixture is still to play and we will almost certainly be promoted in either first or second place. Our men's team play in Division 8 and won 5, drew 1 and lost 1 to give them a second-place finish and promotion to Division 7 next summer. Not to be overlooked, the mixed weekend team came second in Division 7 and will also be promoted next season.

Congratulations to all team players and a special mention to the captains who do a great job in dealing with the weather, the opposition, date changes, cancellations and other challenges to get teams out.

If you're interested in joining the Club, playing some competitive or social tennis please contact us on [chairman@deddingtontennis.com](mailto:chairman@deddingtontennis.com). For coaching enquiries please contact [paultaylortennis@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:paultaylortennis@hotmail.co.uk)

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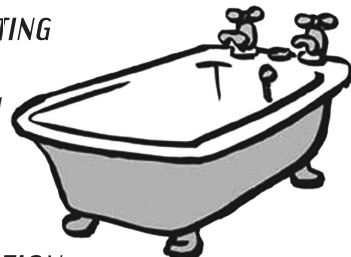
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English  
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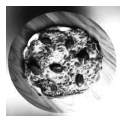
Bar Meals



Coffee  
& Cake



Children's  
Menu



Lunch



Dinner



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**SPORT****Deddington Town FC***First Team results*

2.9.23 Woodford United (a) W 6–3

9.9.23 Hornton (a) L 1–5

*Reserve Team results*

2.9.23 Hardwick Reserves (a) (CUP) Walkover win

9.9.23 Bodicote Sports Res (h) L 1–3

Something of an inauspicious opening from both Deddington sides, but then neither the Humbugs nor the Latics are renowned for their speed out of the gate. The Banbury District and Lord Jersey pyramid seems to have got its act together over the summer and ensured there is once again a Division Three. I assume it is made up of all new or resurrected teams, as the Reserves' bottom placing in Division Two has not led to relegation. Let us hope that the Latics can use that humiliation as a springboard back to the champions' summit they scaled all too recently. Boatloads of points, goals and indescribable narratives are yet to unfold and you can watch the action unfold live: totally free.

**Aaron Bliss 07909 642882****Deddington Town FC Youth**

Wildcats – football for girls who are in Reception, Years 1, and 2 in the 2023/24 academic year – is progressing well. We need two female volunteers to help run the sessions at the Windmill on Friday evenings between

**YOUTH****1st Deddington Guides**

We had a relaxing start to the new term with many of the Guides having had a busy day or two back at school and, in many cases, new schools. It was great to get together again for some favourite games and activities as well as trying new ideas and beginning to plan the term ahead.

We are pleased to welcome new members. If any girls, aged 10 and over, would like to come and see what we do, please give me a call.

**Maggie Rampley 07957 600755****1st Deddington Scout Group****Cubs**

Just one meeting so far as we return from the holidays and we are pleased to welcome not only several new Cubs but also some lapsed members too. Our first evening consisted of noisy & energetic games but with more badge work in the coming months, & lots of fun! deddingtoncubs@gmail.com

**Scouts**

Scouts welcomed six new members who have come up from Cubs & we were very pleased to see all the old boys again (how do they manage to grow so much in such a short time!). We also played games both inside & out - it was very dark!

**Pete Churchyard**  
deddingtonscouts@gmail.com

*Continued from p26*

5.30–6.30pm. If you are interested, please email me .

The Under 15s started the season with a heavy 7–1 defeat to Bicester Colts. The Under 14s had a close 3–2 win over Summertown Stars with goals from Jago Newton, Petch Williams and Fred Madden. The Under 13s had a narrow 2–1 win over Easington with goals from Charlie MacDonald and Luke Haynes. The Under 12s had a narrow 3–2 defeat at Hook Norton.

A special mention to the Under 8s who started in league football with good performances against Tower Hill on a beautiful hot sunny day on the first day of the season. Well done to the coaches and parents for preparing them for the start of their football journey.

Now is the time to volunteer: you can help in coaching, as a safeguarding volunteer, on the day match support, pitch improvement work and marketing and fundraising. We also need a club welfare officer to support our safeguarding and respect work and for a marketing and communications officer to promote the club locally. If you want to give a few hours to the club, please get in touch with me for an informal chat about the roles.

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)

**FRIENDS OF DEDDINGTON LIBRARY**

The Friends held their AGM on 9 September, at which we welcomed our new treasurer, Jennie Clarke, and our social media/website guru, Sharon Greenwood, to the team.

The parish calendar photo competition was very well subscribed with record entries and the quality of the images continues to impress us. Choosing the winning images was as difficult as ever and, for the first time, we chose an entrant's photo as our front cover. This, along with three others, were selected as the most popular by our committee and were presented with a printed canvas of their photos at the calendar launch at the Holly Tree Hall on 22 September. This was a lovely gathering at which the calendar sponsors, winning photo entrants and committee all got to see the calendar for the first time and the committee could thank both entrants and sponsors for supporting the Friends and making the calendar possible.

The calendar went on sale next day at the September farmers' market. It was a very busy morning, with calendars selling like hot cakes and many compliments, so get yours before they sell out. We will be at the October and November markets where we can take card payments. The other outlets are the library, Nellie and Dove and the Fenemore Farm Shop where cash is required. We have a limited print run. When they're gone, they're gone.

Thank you for your continued support.

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

## FROM THE FIRE STATION

A relatively cool wet July couldn't give rise to a similar August, could it? Well, yes, it could! August also saw the culmination of our Fire Fighter Charity fundraising efforts for the charity's 80th year. This was our epic 080880800808 challenge undertaken on 8 August, starting at 8.00am, comprising 80km of riding, walking and rowing from station 01, Banbury, to station 08, Deddington and the six stations in between.

Tuesday morning dawned and proved to be the wettest day that week. Indeed, the only day it rained: it didn't just rain, it poured. Our intrepid runners started their on and off road trek at 8.00am, with cyclists and rowers off at 9.00am. The scenic route took in Banbury, Hook Norton, Chipping Norton, Charlbury, Woodstock, Kidlington, Bicester and Deddington, allowing fuel stops at each station, together with the obligatory photo opportunities. Competitors from Deddington, Banbury, Bicester and Rewley Road battled the ele-

ments for most of the day and everyone completed the challenge, with several of us combining running and cycling over the day.

The riders were able to complete the route by mid-afternoon and formed a noisy reception committee for the dedicated running group, and the one individual who ran the whole course, to cheer them home.

It was a great effort by all who took part, including those who supported us morally and logistically, planned the route and laid out food and refreshments at all the stations. Our original target of £800 was smashed and now stands at more than double that. To find out more about the challenge, you can visit: [www.justgiving.com/page/deddington-fire-station-080880800808](http://www.justgiving.com/page/deddington-fire-station-080880800808).

**FFD James Greenwood**  
[james@cyclogicalshop.co.uk](mailto:james@cyclogicalshop.co.uk)

## DEDDINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL



This term began with the circus coming to Deddington, as organised by our outstanding PTA. It was a huge success, enjoyed not just by our children but also by the wider community. We would like to say another massive thank you to our PTA for a great and well supported fundraising event to start this academic year.

During the summer a major project began, working on our new Quiet /Sensory Area in the playground. It has already made a considerable difference to the children and the areas in our school grounds where they can play. We have a gated entrance to this quiet place and it is already really pleasant for the children

to enjoy at break times. The project will continue to be developed throughout this academic year.

The playground area outside Years 3 and 4 is also finished and the Astroturf incorporates a school badge in the middle. It is another great space and important entrance for the lower KS2 children.

Our F1 children began their school journey during one of the hottest weeks of the year and nonetheless still started to take part in all aspects of school. We are delighted to welcome them into our school.

As always, we are looking forward to the autumn terms ahead.

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

## FRIENDS OF THE CASTLE GROUNDS

We have had a visit from the bat man who suggested sites for the bat boxes which will be sited in April and the wicker bins have now been installed, thank you, Paul and James.

We have two new volunteers, Paul and George, and we look forward to working with them and their new ideas. If you feel you could spare some of your time to help us with day-to-day maintenance, please get in touch.

Jobs for the autumn include clearing the outlook by Betty's bench, cutting saplings and some repairs to the benches. Wildflower seeds are being sourced for the Castle Grounds so if you have any contacts

with garden centres or seed suppliers, please pass the information on.

The football post is looking a bit sad. The side posts are rotting and the cross bar is bowing. The PC has been informed.

Plans are still being negotiated regarding the eroding path by the badger setts. It could be a long process. Autumn is approaching and the Castle Grounds always look spectacular at this time of year. Come and enjoy whatever the weather.

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

## PFSU AND NURSERY

We are so pleased with how well the PFSU and Nursery children have settled in. Our term is in full swing and both settings are turning their focus to learning about autumn.

After last year's success, we will be organising

another Hallowe'en trail on Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 October. More details to follow, so keep an eye on the Deddington Nursery and PFSU Facebook page.

**Charlotte Witka, deputy manager**  
[charlotte@deddingtonnurseryandpfsu.co.uk](mailto:charlotte@deddingtonnurseryandpfsu.co.uk)



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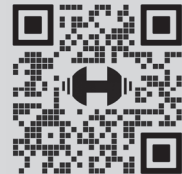
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Churchill	0300 304 7777
Foscote (Private)	01295 252281
Horton General	0300 304 7777
John Radcliffe	0300 304 7777
Manor (Nuffield Health, Private)	01865 987292
Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre	0300 304 7777
Katharine House Hospice	01295 811866
NHS Non emergency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

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National Rail Passenger Enqs	03457 484950
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Oxford Bus Company	01865 785400
Oxfordshire Comet	01865 323201
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Water leak	0800 714 614
WARRINER SCHOOL, Bloxham	01295 720777
WINDMILL CENTRE	07720 834006
OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL	01865 792422
	or 01865 816000

DEDDINGTON LIBRARY	01869 338391
Monday	2.00–7.00pm
Wednesday	9.30am–1.00pm
Thursday	1.00–5.00pm
Saturday	9.30am–1.00pm

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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