

November 2023

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THE TEAM

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JILL CHEESEMAN

DECEMBER 2023 COPY TO
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by **18 November**

ADVERTISING COPY
by **10 November**

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COVER

**Poppy among echium at
Great Rollright by Colin Lamb**
*Adderbury, Deddington and
District Photographic Society*

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

The DEDDINGTON NEWS

Several of our local organisations are looking for additional help, specifically this month the parish council (p5) and the farmers' market (p6). If you value any of these organisations and you can spare an hour or two, please consider offering your support.

I am pleased that, at last, we have had some communication with the Health Centre. See p14 for more information on how things will operate from 6 November. I hope you find this helpful.

JC

What's On November

- Wed 1 Photographic Society: Adderbury Institute, 7.30pm
- Sat 4 Winter Artisan Fayre: Windmill Centre, 10.00am–1.00pm
- Sat 4 PTA: Fireworks, primary school, gates open 5.45pm, blast off 7.00pm
- 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*, Holly Tree, 1.30pm
- Sat 11 RBL: Two-minute silence, war memorial, 11.00am
- Sun 12 RBL: Remembrance parade, assemble Bull Ring from 10.00am, march off 10.35am
- Wed 15 Parish Council meeting: Old School Room, Hempton, 7.30pm
- Thu 16 History Society: 'The Rise and Rise of Alice Chaucer, Duchess of Suffolk', Rowena Archer, primary school, 7.30pm
- Mon 20 DEN: Homemade toiletries workshop, 7.30pm
- Thu 23 RBL: Branch AGM, Deddington Arms, 7.00pm
- Thu 30 Bookworms: Holly Tree, 7.30pm
- Thu 30 Book Group: Please call Sally Lambert, 01869 338094 for details
- Sat 25 Farmers' Market: Market Place, 9.00am–12.30pm
- Sat 25 Banbury Symphony Orchestra, autumn concert, parish church, 7.30pm

Thu 30 Book Group: contact 01869 338094 for details

December

- Sat 2 Festive Artisan Fayre: Windmill Centre, 10.00am–1.00pm
- Wed 6 Photographic Society: Adderbury Institute, 7.30pm
- Wed 13 WI: Christmas craft – table decorations, Mary Willis, Holly Tree, 2.30pm
- Thu 14 'Roxy' at the Holly Tree: *Miracle on 34th Street*, Holly Tree, 1.30pm
- Fri 15 DOGS: Tadmarton Heath 9-hole Texas Scramble and Christmas party
- Sat 16 RC Baker: KHH Christmas Tractor Run, see <https://www.rcbaker.co.uk/tractorrundetails> for details of route and approximate timings
- Wed 20 Parish Council Meeting: Hempton Lounge, Windmill Centre, 7.30pm
- Thu 21 History Society: 'James Murray and the Oxford English Dictionary', Simon Wenham, primary school, 7.30pm
- Sat 23 Farmers' Market: Market Place, 9.00am–12.30pm

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

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

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DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Windmill Community Centre, 18 October

Present: Oldfield (chair), Higham, O'Neill, Robinson, Snashall, Swadling, Swan, Watts, parish clerk, one member of the public and DN representative.

10 Minute Forum

A resident on the south end of New Street expressed the concern of herself and her neighbours that the 20mph limit was not being observed, having measured speeds of 46–48mph, and also that vibration from the increasing volume of heavy vehicles was causing damage to the foundations of the buildings on that part of the road. She requested enforcement of the speed limit as happens in Adderbury and was told that the PC has already made such a request.

Finance & General Purposes

Cllr Oldfield was thanked for her work on acquiring funds to repair the Windmill roof. Work is currently scheduled to begin in February 2024.

The quote of £14,325 for refurbished cricket nets to be paid from S106 monies was accepted.

Highways and Transport

The PC is continuing its request for CDC to install an air diffusion tube to monitor air quality in the vicinity of the traffic lights.

Cllr Swan was thanked for speaking to RS Transport about the high volume of HGV traffic through Hempton which has subsequently reduced.

Cllr Timms was thanked for making replacement posts for those damaged round the Market Place greens.

Environment & Recreation

No Mow May: Mary Robinson was congratulated on her comprehensive draft report on 2023's project and

analysis of the parish's response. There was agreement that any future efforts should focus on doing less but better; for instance, cutting everything except for specific areas designated to encourage wildflower growth and adding signage there, indicating the reason for the lack of mowing.

Welford's Piece: A design for the extended play area to be funded with S106 monies is underway.

Planning

No objection

The Paddocks, Deddington: single storey rear extension. Neighbour comment in support of application. Fairacre, 17 St Johns Way, Hempton: remove existing conservatory and enlarge existing rear extension. Land Adjoining and West of Stonecroft House, Clifton Road, Deddington: erect 5 single storey dwellings for people 60 years or older with access, landscaping, and associated infrastructure.

Re-consultation of existing application previously commented on in March 2023, following several minor amendments including materials, design, layout. PC strongly supports proposal made in this application to convert current Y junction at Earls Lane with a T junction.

The Threshing Barn, Pound Court, Deddington: topping of pear tree along the west boundary of the rear garden.

Deddington Manor, New Street: Fell holly. The applicant has planted 50 indigenous trees in the last year and is planning to plant a further 50 this winter to ensure the biodiversity gain is clear.

Next meeting: Wednesday 15 November 2023 at 7.30pm in the Old School Room, Hempton.

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

The Complete Works of Shakespeare at the Windmill

Friday the thirteenth might be an inauspicious night to put on such a mighty production, particularly one which included 'the Scottish play'. Yet, in spite of the date, much fun was had by all and nobody died – oh, correct that – many people died but that's Shakespeare.

The BALA Theatre Troupe (aka Ben, Ali, Lee and Adrian) literally threw themselves into an energetic and hilarious performance of *The Complete Works of Shakespeare*, adapted from the script of The Reduced Shakespeare Company. Under Ben's direction, Ali, Lee and Adrian rattled through thirty-seven plays and one hundred and fifty-four sonnets in ninety-seven minutes. At breakneck speed these talented actors changed character and costume to transport the audience from Verona, to Scotland (complete with Scottish accents) and finally, with many stops between, to Denmark, to the misfortunes of Hamlet. In authentic fashion, the men played the women and the women played the men.

There was music, dancing, ghosts, sword-fighting and audience participation. We should have been fore-

warned when the show started with a hapless youth on the front row being mocked by the actors. Turned out that was staged and he was one of the cast, but the same cannot be said for the young lady who was co-opted to play Ophelia. She rose magnificently to the occasion and produced a blood-curdling scream on cue, then again and again. In pantomime fashion, the audience joined in with shouting and swaying on command and produced a respectably loud noise and convincing performance.

And nobody could argue that they didn't get value for money. When the script actually finished at ninety-three minutes, they ran the whole of Hamlet again, but faster. When they still had a minute to spare, they ran it faster and backwards!

The energy, cleverness, madness and mayhem of BALA made for a thoroughly enjoyable evening. And all within walking distance of the centre of Deddington. I shall certainly be looking out for more productions by BALA and more live events on my doorstep at the Windmill.

Helen Hall



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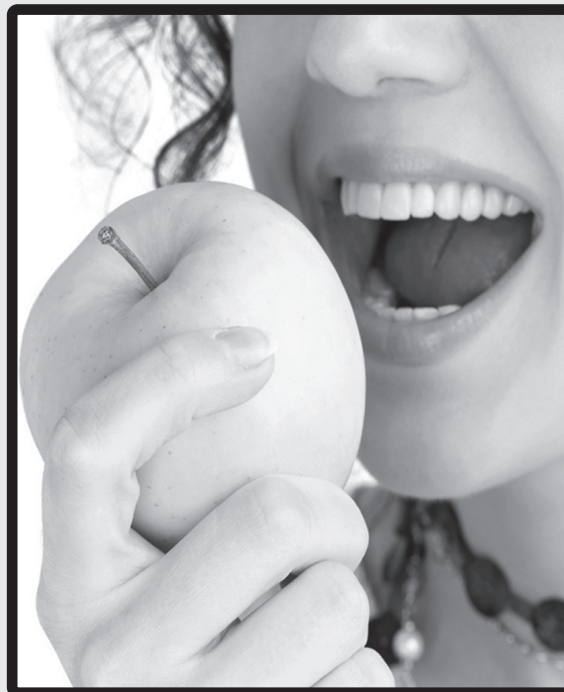
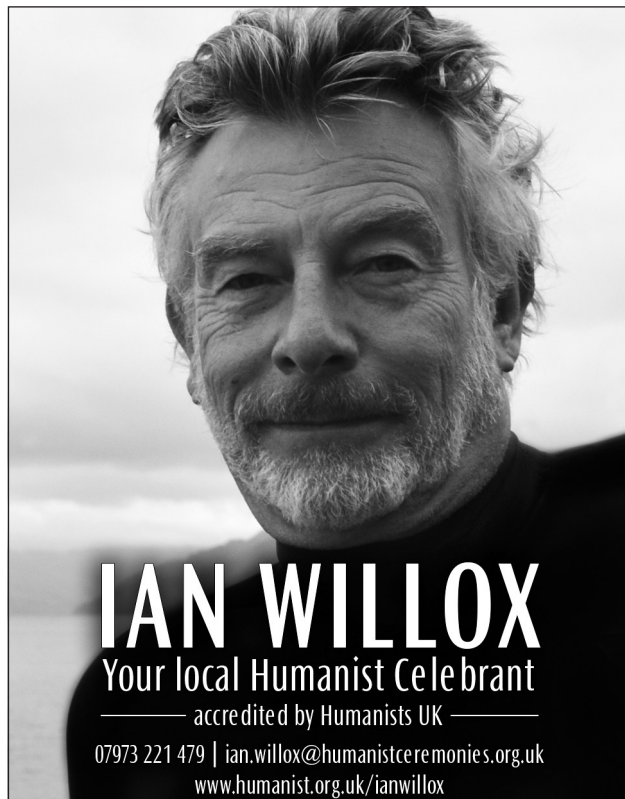
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A TESTING TIME FOR THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Deddington's Neighbourhood Plan (NP) is still with the examiner appointed to test its viability. He asked us a few questions for clarity and we proposed an amendment to one of our policies – that the number of four- and five-bedroomed houses on a new development be limited to 20%, since we know the chief need in Deddington parish is for smaller homes for families starting out and older downsizers.

As you know, the NP steering group and the parish council spent a year mulling over your votes in the public consultation last summer, as well as the pros and cons of the various sites on offer. To recap, in the end we allocated one site – north of Earls Lane and east of the Banbury Road.

We favoured the site partly because of the public vote and also because of its location closer to the centre of Deddington village than any of the other options, but also its being reasonably unobtrusive. The community benefits offered with the site include a nursery building in close proximity to the primary school. As parents and others will know, the current nursery building by the entrance to the Windmill Centre is on its last legs.

Another key offering is the car park for 20 cars alongside Earls Lane, which we hope will enable the Health Centre to expand on its current site.

We have stuck by our request that we want the nursery and the overspill car park to be installed at the start of the allocated development rather than halfway through. We await somewhat anxiously any modifications the examiner may require for the Plan.

A planning application for developing this site with 90 homes has already been submitted but CDC will not reach a decision until after the end of January 2024, allowing time for the NP to be 'made'. As well as the nursery and car park, the application provides for a community orchard between the car park and the housing, a biodiversity zone/wildflower meadow at the north end of the site, an extension to the belt of trees at the end of The Beeches and, of course, the required play area on a central green.

Some parishioners may be disappointed at the number of new homes allocated – 85, the figure amended by the parish council. CDC's draft Local Plan, now out for consultation, does not specify a target number for individual villages. Instead it proposes 500 new homes across the 11 larger villages, of which Deddington is one. An eleventh share of this is in the mid-40s, more or less what we were anticipating.

All the same, the steering group is increasingly convinced we were wise to posit a higher figure, endeavouring to future-proof the NP – which lasts until 2040 with a review after five years – the more so since the recent Labour Party conference, where a much more gung-ho approach to planning and housing numbers was promised, should they win the election. In the back of our minds we have our independent Housing Needs Assessment which set a target of 76

homes for the parish until 2040.

In our view, all the alternative sites which proposed fewer houses, had some inherent disadvantage and none of them offered anything like the generous community benefits promised with the site we allocated.

Assuming all goes smoothly with the examiner and Cherwell District Council (CDC) gives its OK, the NP goes on to a referendum. This is organised by CDC, with parishioners invited to cast their vote at a polling station, almost certainly the Windmill. We're hoping for a large turn-out and, a positive vote.

Watch out for an alert when the NP completes its journey through the labyrinth and you can go and cast your vote in the referendum. Fingers crossed.

Helen Oldfield

helenmoldfield@yahoo.co.uk

www.deddingtonneighbourhoodplan.org

TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURES

The Lane, Hempton, 31 October–2 November

Barford St John, 13–15 November, 7.30am–5.30pm
each day to facilitate bridge investigation work on Barford bridge.



Deddington Parish Council

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DEDDINGTON FARMERS' MARKET 22 Years Strong ... But for How Much Longer?

Do YOU like coming to our multi award-winning monthly farmers' market? Are YOU one of the 2,500 visitors, drawn by the quality foods produced by our stallholders? If so YOU are one of the people who spend at our market and in our local shops. Win, win for YOU, shopkeepers and our community. As a not-for-profit organisation, we've given away over £50,000 to local groups and organisations over the years.

I imagine that very few in our community haven't either shopped with us or benefitted from our charitable donations. I guess it's fair to say our market makes a difference.

And we need YOU to help us continue to make that difference. Can you imagine the fallout if we were unable to function for lack of volunteers to facilitate its management and construction team? There'd be many who would be angry, upset, disappointed, cross ... pick your adjective.



We need help to keep our much loved market alive. Our management group needs new members, people to take over our social media, the marketing and administration. These are not onerous tasks; we are looking at a few hours during the week of the market. And we need a few extra helpers on market day, mostly for the construction team and someone for the information stall. Could YOU step up and join our happy number? We have a laugh, we make new friends, we help each other, we celebrate annually with a meal together. We are the essence of a small and happy community.

In short we need YOU!

If you are interested in finding out more, please email me.

Tei Willox

chairman@deddingtonfarmersmarket.co.uk

FRIENDS OF DAEDA'S WOOD

The Friends of Daeda's Wood have decided that there is no longer a need for our organisation and we will wind up at the end of this year. The main reason is that the maintenance of the Wood is beyond the capability of volunteers and so there is little that we can do except maintain a watching brief and alert the Woodland Trust to any trees which have fallen and are causing obstructions to main rides. This is quite possible for any users of the Wood to do. The contact details are as follows: www.opsmanager@woodlandtrust.com.

All monies in the account will be sent by our treasurer to the Woodland Trust. A plaque will be placed on one of the gates in memory of Sylvie Spencely-Nickels who was the driving force behind the creation of the Wood. I will notify former Friends and local residents via the *Deddington News* of the date for the installation of the plaque.

I have copied the Woodland Trust's response:

'I would like to say a big thank you to The Friends of Daeda's Wood for the group's help in establishing and caring for this woodland and making it a permanent fixture within the landscape for future generations to enjoy.



'I understand the decision that has been made and it makes sense. Thank you for your kind words, we will do our best with the resources available to us to safeguard Daeda's Wood and manage it through its cycle of change.

'The idea to recognise the work undertaken by Sylvie Nickels has never left my consciousness. I feel that if the group could, with my help, organise the production of a suitable plaque it would be a simpler way to utilise some of the funds that remain. I would be happy to discuss this further if you feel that a group member could take a lead. If this is something that may not be possible, then of course I will happily organise from start to finish. As mentioned before, if you would like to suggest some wording I would be very grateful.

'The Woodland Trust appreciates the donation of any remaining funds and it will of course go towards our work to protect and establish woodland for future generations.'

Please contact me if you have queries regarding this decision.

Annette Murphy

Chair of the Friends of Daeda's Wood
murphyannette74@gmail.com

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CHURCH

Parish Church SS Peter and Paul

Deddington Benefice has a vacancy for a vicar, so services and pastoral care are available through our wonderful retired clergy and those from other benefices helping out. The first points of contact are your churchwardens (numbers below).

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 and <https://www.facebook.com/DeddingtonChurch>.

Thank you to the generous donors to the Red Cross North Africa appeal in church on Sunday 24 September – £1,450 including Gift Aid was raised.

Weekdays

Mon, Wed and Fri: 8.45am Morning Prayer
Wed: 10.00am Holy Communion (healing prayer on 4th Wed)
Thu: 9.30am Tea+Toast and Squiggles and Wiggles

November

Sun 5 10.30am Holy Communion
3.00pm 3 O'Clock Family Service

6.00pm All Souls Service of Commemoration and Thanksgiving

Sun 12 10.45am Service of Remembrance

Sun 19 10.30am Holy Communion

Sun 26 10.30am Holy Communion

Looking ahead:

Sun 3 December 3.00pm Christingle Service

Hempton

Sun 19 9.00am Holy Communion

Barford St Michael

Sun 5 10.30am Coffee and Chat

Sun 12 9.00am Service of Remembrance

Sun 19 10.30am Family Service

Sun 26 10.30am Family Holy Communion

From the Parish Registers

Baptism:

24 September Annabelle Clarke

For baptisms and weddings, funerals and home visits in case of illness please contact one of the church wardens; Deddington: Stan Nelson 01869 337883 or Lucinda Fuoco 07869 282227; Barfords: Sue Addison 07484 718791 or Sally Barber 07776 241218 or barfordchurches234@gmail.com.

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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Ukraine Update

It is very sad that Debenhams, the main drop-off point for donations for Ukraine, has had to close its doors to the public. However, donations are still being collected from Deddington church and delivered to a depot in Banbury where they are taken by road to the Ukrainian front line. So please keep donating in any way you can.

Over the last few months 'DeddyforUkraine' and many local volunteers have been raising money and giving their valuable time to help where Ukrainians need it most. To date, 13 convoys of vehicles, of which 58 operational vehicles such as ambulances, 4x4s, Land Rovers, have been bought, refurbished and delivered to the frontline.

The recipients of these vehicles include both volunteer and combat medics and paramedics, bomb disposal teams, Ukrainian civilian hospitals and the armed forces of Ukraine. Have a look at the website, www.drivingukraine.org, and read all about how you can help by volunteering, donating or fundraising – there is so much you can do.

The next convoy leaves on 25 November, volunteers needed!

Jenny Soddy

01869338298

07976 922558

Jennysoddy@gmail.com

NEWS FROM HEMPTON

The boundary between the worlds of the living and the dead will have become blurred once again on 31 October, according to pagan belief. The ritual of the Hempton pumpkin trail will be celebrated, together with autumn themed activities, in the Old School Room on Sunday 29 October. Trail maps will be available at £2 each and all proceeds will go to the upkeep of the Old School Room. Scary pumpkins are supposed to keep ghouls and ghosts on their side of the boundary. It seems to work; visitors from the other side have been conspicuous by their absence.

Whilst messing about in the garden I came across a snake. It was basking in the sunshine as cold blooded reptiles are wont to do. It didn't hang around, slithering into the shrubbery. This was my second encounter with snakes since moving to Hempton. Some years ago I disturbed a juvenile grass snake in the garden; it too cleared off sharpish. I would have assumed the recent sighting was a grass snake based on its markings; it was dark grey-green with a bright red and black collar. This threw me a little as I'd only seen photographs or read that a yellow or possibly orange or cream/white collar was its dress code. Fear not, it was not a newly invasive species of venomous viper but a common grass snake with less common sartorial tastes.

They are Britain's longest snake, growing to a metre or more in length. My acquaintance was only an infant some 12 inches from nose to tail. Grass snakes are protected by law in Great Britain (under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981) such that it is illegal to deliberately kill, injure or sell them.

Grass snakes are Britain's only egg-laying snake. The females lay up to around 40 off-white, leathery eggs in June or July, in warm places and preferably rotting vegetation – including garden compost heaps. The eggs hatch into miniature versions of the adults in the late summer months. They like to frequent ponds, particularly during the summer, hunting for fish and amphibians, their favourite food. They will also snack on other endangered freshwater species such as the great crested newt. Dead prey is never taken. Prey is consumed live without using constriction.

There are many subspecies of grass snake. Only one is native to the UK where 'grass snake' refers to

the barred grass snake (*Natrix helvetica*), a non-venomous member of the Colubridae family. With 249 genera, it is the largest snake family. The earliest species of the family date back to the Oligocene epoch about 34 to 24 million years ago and frequent every continent except Antarctica. The species has predators, including corvids, storks, owls and perhaps other birds of prey, foxes and domestic cats.

In defence they can produce a garlic-smelling fluid from the anal glands and feign death by becoming completely limp when they may also secrete blood from the mouth and nose. They may also perform an aggressive display in defence, hissing and striking. They rarely bite in defence and lack venomous fangs. If caught they often regurgitate the contents of their stomachs.

After breeding in summer, grass snakes tend to hunt often, ranging widely during this time, moving up to several hundred metres in a day. Prey tends to be large compared to the size of the snake, impairing their ability to move. Snakes that have recently eaten rarely move any significant distance and stay in one location, basking to optimise their body temperature until the meal has been digested. Individual snakes may only need two or three significant prey items throughout an entire season.

They shed their skins at least once during the active season. As the outer skin wears and the snake grows, the new skin forms under the old, including the eye scales which may turn a milky blue/white colour, referred to as 'in blue'. The blue-white colour comes from an oily secretion between the old and new skins; the snake will also appear as if covered in dust. This process affects their eyesight and they do not move or hunt during this time; they are also, in common with most other snakes, more aggressive. The outer skin is eventually sloughed in one piece (inside-out) and normal activity is resumed.

Neighbours with garden ponds or compost heaps may be more familiar with these and other reptilian residents. I assume grass snakes are indigenous to the area and gave rise to the obvious connotation with Snake Hill Lane.

Stuart Oldham
sj_oldham@btinternet.com

'Roxy' at the Holly Tree Hall

The next film screening this season, shown by Age UK (for anyone aged over 50), will be on 9 November.

Fisherman's Friends: One and All

This comedy film sequel is based on the true story about the singing Cornish fishermen. Following the unexpected success of their album, the tale resumes a year later and continues with their lives as they struggle with fame, grief from losing a beloved member, the

pressure of creating a second album and the unusual approach to getting to perform on the Pyramid Stage at Glastonbury.

Doors open at 1.00pm for tea and biscuits and the film starts at 1.30pm, £2 entry. Do join us for an entertaining afternoon.

Julia Cork
julia.cork@thedha.org



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POSTCARD FROM AMERICA

Hell, Lies, Geriatrics and Road Trip

We are all going to hell on a handcart.

Our American neighbours love my dear wife's old English sayings; the 'experts' disagree on the source of this one but some refer to Dante's epic poem, *The Inferno*. As wars rage in the Middle East and Ukraine, with lies and conspiracy theories driving people's behaviour, it does feel like we are all descending into hell.

In the US, two geriatrics are gearing up to fight out the Presidential election next November and I can't help feeling that it is going to go horribly wrong. I never meet anyone who thinks the last election was stolen or that a proven liar with terrible business management abilities should be the next elected leader of the free world. This makes it hard to understand the current situation where some polls have Trump winning this election. Dante saw hell as the 'realm of those who have rejected spiritual values by yielding to bestial appetites or violence, or by perverting their human intellect to fraud or malice against their fellowmen'. Sounds spot on.

America has a royalty complex that you would have thought they should have got over after they rejected King George III on 4 July 1776. This week 'a family once considered American royalty' was torn apart when John F Kennedy's nephew announced he was running for President as an Independent. It should be borne in mind that he has 0% chance of winning and if he continues to spend the tens of millions required to reach the ballot next year, he will take votes from both sides. He is a curious character, an environmental lawyer who has fought big business and helped

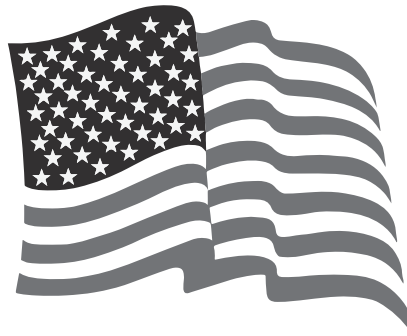
many people, but right now his main platform is right wing. He rejects Covid vaccinations and lockdowns and fought a long campaign based on linking vaccines to autism. Four members of his family have stood as Democratic presidential candidates, two of whom were assassinated, no wonder they are disowning him.

My brother came over for a visit last month (it was raining in Manchester) so we set out on my favourite road trip. This is a great way to understand one of the truly wonderful things about the American West:

the mountains and canyons of Colorado and Utah. The sights in Arches and Canyonlands are spectacular but it is Monument Valley that I love most. The names of John Ford and John Wayne figure prominently on the sights which should conjure up the right images for you oldies. We finished the trip at Mesa Verde where we clambered down the side of a canyon to walk amongst the Native American cave dwellings from 800 years ago. These lands are sacred to the tribes; they believe their ancestors still roam there. Somehow, I feel that these fine people, who have been robbed of almost everything, understand this planet far better than we do. I don't see them on the slope into hell.

Utah has some strange laws. My dear brother was upset that they wouldn't sell him his gin and tonic as a double. Perhaps it's me that is mad and lies and war are the new norm. Pass me the gin bottle please, I'll have it neat.

Mike Ward
mike@mikeaward.com



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News from the Health Centre

Our Health Centre (HC) has a Patient Participation Group (PPG) that works with the practice to represent patients.

The main topic at its last meeting was the new appointment system going online from 6 November. The system will be available via the NHS app or the HC website <https://deddingtonhealthcentre.co.uk>.

All non-urgent requests

After entering information about your requirements, keeping it clear, concise and accurate because it forms part of your medical record, a GP will review the request (triage) and signpost you to the most appropriate team member. If you need to be seen face-to-face you will receive a link to make an appointment. You may have a telephone consultation or be signposted to another member of the clinical team. Electronic requests will be the quickest way to get a non-urgent appointment or solution to other queries.

Urgent medical requests

You can still use the online service and mark it urgent where it will be reviewed by a GP. If it is a medical emergency that does not need 999 but a same day appointment you can call the HC on 01869 338611 where the Patient Services Team will complete the triage form. A GP will decide whether a same day appointment is required. It may be face-to-face or by telephone and will be with the healthcare professional identified by the GP. If the GP does not feel your request needs to be dealt with on the same day, they will review it along with other requests, with the aim of responding within two working days.

If you can't use the online service

You can call the practice and the Patient Services Team will complete the online request form for you. This will be put into the system with all the requests submitted by patients using the online service. If you have someone who can help by going online to use the service on your behalf, this may speed up the request and save a telephone call. However, the team is there to complete the appointment request for you.

GPs will prioritise urgent medical requests first and will then review all other requests in the order they were submitted to the system. Calling the practice will not result in a quicker solution for non-urgent requests.

The aim is to improve access for the centre's 12,500 patients, improve patient care, reduce the 8.00am rush and improve staff wellbeing.

This will be a new system for you and the centre's teams and they ask for your patience whilst we all get used to it. They are grateful for your continued support in what have been the most challenging of times.

The PPG is keen to hear from anyone who feels they have the inclination to apply to become a member of the existing PPG. We hope to be a group that reflects the practice population demographic. To request an application form please email ppg.deddington@nhs.net.

Look out for more information about the PPG and the Health Centre in forthcoming issues of *DN*.

Anne Hunsley

PPG Deddington Health Centre



Here's a question for you. Which of the following activities can you not do at the Windmill? Age UK Strength & Balance, Baby College (parent and baby development), Baby Massage (2 weeks to crawling), badminton, ballet, Body Combat, Brownies, cricket (men's and women's and All Stars for 5–8), Cubs, Deddington Playgroup (babies and pre-school children), dog training, 5-a-side football (men's and women's), football (youth, adult and veteran teams), Guides, kids' martial arts, Monkey Music (3 months–3 years), Musical Minis (pre-schoolers), netball, panto (Deddington Players), Pilates, saxophone practice, Scouts, tennis (youth and adult teams), Wildcats (Girls' football 5–7) or yoga?

That was, in fact, a trick question. You can do all of them and more. Yes indeed, they are all regular groups that meet at the Windmill to do their thing (apart from the saxophonist who does his thing by himself). If you

or somebody in your family would like to join one of these groups, clubs or organisations, there is information on the Windmill website. Get in touch.

Better still, if you have an idea for a new activity, we'd love to hear from you. Anybody fancy starting a table tennis club, a pickleball club, a chess club? Or setting up cookery classes, art classes, Spanish classes? Or running a course on mindfulness, origami or falconry? (Er... maybe not the falconry. I'm just throwing out ideas here.) We have the facilities.

Finally, I hope you will have noticed our efforts to update and improve the Windmill. Our latest project is to redecorate the main hall and stage area. By the time you read this, that project should be completed. As I sit here looking at the latest quotes, there is a strong chance we may stray slightly over budget. If any of you are willing to make a donation to help us out, we would be extremely grateful. Please contact us.

Where do you get in touch? Visit our website, www.thewindmilleddington.org or Facebook page or call our bookings secretary Julie on 07720 834006. Thank you.

Vaughan Jones

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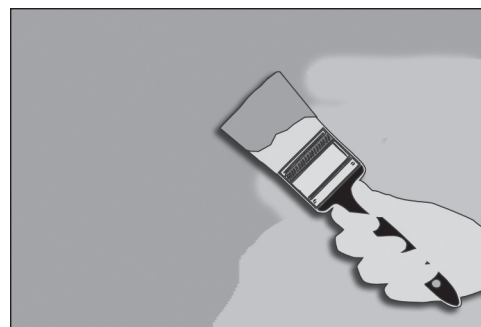
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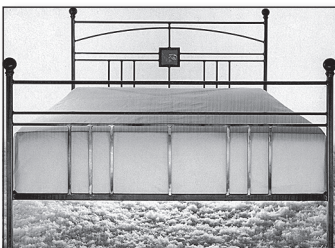
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DH History Corner

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Last month's *DN* carried Mary Robinson's article about the Deddington Museum that never was. It started and ended with talk about an 1896 fire engine. Also, coincidentally last month, Joanna Cox posted on the Facebook group, *Growing Up in Deddington*, a copy of a photograph she had found in a local history book. It pictured Deddington's fire engine and crew in 1923 outside the Unicorn Inn and identified one of the crew as Walter Allen Course of Deddington Mill. Joanna tracked the original photo to her local library in Brackley which also had a note of some of the names.

supply of uniforms, early drills and fighting fires: one of which showed that the first appliance was not at all satisfactory – hence its sale.

Albert Humphries, Don Walker and Walter Gibbs provided me with more recent anecdotal information that has helped identify quite a few of the previously untitled photographs in the DOL Gallery and so I have been able to flesh out the later years. It is also a matter of parish pride that two former Brigade members, Albert Humphries (2001) and Anne Waters (2006), have been awarded MBEs. The resulting extensive and



Courtesy of Brackley Library. Of the 5 Deddington men, the only one identified so far is Walter Allen Course, 2nd from left

They were Brackley men except four unnamed ones. It seems that this was a combined Deddington–Brackley crew.

A later 1927 photograph (shown above) in the Fire Station shows a similar combined crew which competed in an annual regional competition.

Inspired by the fact that her grandfather, John Harry Cox (1903–92), was a Deddington firefighter, Joanna delved deeper, leading to a joint effort to create a much needed history of our fire service from its creation in 1883, the 1896 sale Mary referred to and on through to the present day. Joanna's research turned up some early press reports on the formation, fundraising, local

informative article can be found via the 'Deddington Fire Service' link under 'New Articles' on the History Home Page. If you can add anything to the story of our historic Fire Service, still using volunteers 190 years later, please contact Joanna or myself.

**Rob Forsyth robert.s.forsyth@gmail.com
and Joanna Cox joannacox69@hotmail.co.uk**

STOP PRESS: Thanks to David French's research, we have found out that Deddington had a self-help, bucket-filled, 200 gallon, hand-pumped horse-drawn fire engine from about 1684 which was hired out and it was this engine that was replaced in 1883.

DEN

Towards the end of October, you might have seen a number of Wombles of the human variety, helping out in our Three Villages' Litter Pick, organised by the Parish Council in conjunction with DEN. Regular readers may remember that in April this year, volunteers collected over 30 large rubbish bags of litter, as well as a tent, a combustion engine and a car bumper, among other things. A visitor from Mars would be forgiven for thinking that people only ever litter in early spring and autumn, but sadly we know that's not the case. However, as the weather turns cooler and plants start to die back along the verges, it becomes much easier to spot and retrieve rubbish and, likewise, in the spring, before the new growth starts to shoot up.

Fancy doing some litter picking in the mean time? The Parish Council has invested in some pickers, gloves, bags, and hi-vis vests which are being permanently stored at the Holly Tree, ready for any would-be Wombles. All you need do is drop us an email and we'll put you in touch with the caretaker who has the key.

On Monday 20 November at 7.30pm, come and join us for a Homemade Toiletries workshop. We'll be looking at why natural, synthetic fragrance – and preservative-free toiletries are the way forward and I'll be showing you how to make easy, sustainable, effective and toxin-free deodorant, body cream and lip balms. Places are limited to ten people, so email us or text 07906 771038 to reserve your place. There will be a small charge of £7 to cover the cost of materials and you'll take home what you make.

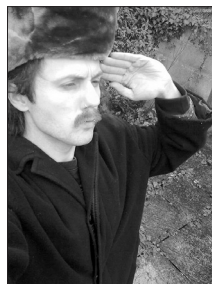
If you haven't already signed up to our monthly newsletter, where we keep you up to date with the latest local and national events and campaigns, then do so by dropping us a line at the email address or by visiting our website.

Fiona Smith and the DEN team
info@deddingtonenvironment.net
deddingtonenvironment.net

KHH Tree-cycle your Christmas Tree

Katharine House Hospice is arranging their Christmas Tree-cycle scheme again this year between 9–10 January. So instead of worrying about how to environmentally dispose of your tree after the festivities are over, you can make a donation to Katharine House Hospice and, in return, they will collect and recycle your tree. You will need to book it in by 3 January. See their website at <https://www.khh.org.uk/Event/christmas-tree-cycle> for details nearer the time.

BLISSFUL THINKING



With our complete lack of a nationwide public transport strategy and haphazard building, more and more vehicles appear every year, and I've noticed, particularly in the last decade, that a rather more morbid alternative to bird watching can be observed on roadsides around and approaching the parish. Sadly we are all probably

enured to the sight of perished hedgehogs, but I've seen badgers, birds, foxes and even a squirrel recently as part of the roadkill menagerie. A few years back a vehicle had finished a sizeable deer with stunning branched antlers that had been dragged on to the grass verge between Deddington and Hempton and tragically a house cat has also been struck and fallen on the pavement near me.

My initial reaction to the blanket 20mph speed restriction was to question the need, since Deddington's roads generally have excellent visibility and plenty of crossing points. However, if it prevents quite so many magnificent creatures falling victim to our endless slew of horseless carriages then I can definitely get behind it. Though judging by recent experience, it would seem that diligent people stick to the new limits, while those who would have broken the previous limit will continue to flout the restrictions. Sadly, I fear, these are also the most likely culprits for the roadkill issue.

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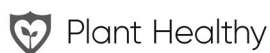
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LETTERS

FROM CHRISTINE GILLESPIE,
DEDDINGTON

A hospital stay has vividly brought to my attention how many people and specialties are involved in patients' care. Following an accident, help came from people in the vicinity, ambulance crew and police, who all acted with kindness. On reaching the Coventry A&E reception, triage and the management of bewildered people were all handled with kindness and patience.

Examinations and referral for further tests were done with tact and lots of positive reassurance.

There was no delay in admission to the ward after observations were passed to specialists for diagnosis. Treatment options were explained calmly and thoroughly and time allowed for decision-making without pressure. As well as the surgeon, registrar, anaesthetist, nursing and other medical staff, there were suppliers of meals and drinks, and cleaners who worked cheerfully, thoroughly and were very tolerant. There are more names of individuals than I can remember, certainly upwards of 20 involved in my care alone. Physiotherapists communicated ways to improve mobility with the least pain and harm. Pharmacists were responsible for the final discharge prescriptions which were detailed and precise and checked again. These observations were of just one ward.

FROM JULIE WESTLEY, CLERK TO DEDDINGTON
CHARITY ESTATES TRUSTEES

Deddington Charity Estates would like to thank all those affected by the work being carried out on the Town Hall. Everybody's co-operation has been much appreciated, particularly those businesses



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and include your name and address
even if they are not for publication

and residents whose properties are in the Market Place. We apologise for any inconvenience caused to those using the bus service.

The painters have done a particularly good job and we hope you will enjoy the results.

FROM DAVID BEST, BARFORD

Lawrence Home Nursing Team (LHNT)

provided compassionate end of life support for my wife, Sarah, enabling her to spend her last days at home with her family when there was nothing more the hospital could do. Their support should be available to anyone who needs it.

The NHS provided superb care for Sarah during the day with a team of District Nurses but that is not available at night.

The LHNT nurses work closely with GPs and community nurses to help manage symptoms and give each person the appropriate care. By helping people to relax, the nurses make sure patients and their families, get the most from their last moments together. The care is free and given whenever it's needed, whether for a few hours in the day or through the night.

LHNT look after any adult in their last weeks of life. Patients are referred by GPs, community and specialist nurses, hospitals, hospices and sometimes family members.

LHNT receives less than 10% of its income from the government. The rest comes from donations which is why I have become a volunteer and fundraiser. I am competing in the 10-mile Great South Run in October to raise money for this fantastic charity. If you would like to donate, please go to: www.justgiving.com/page/david-best-1695981719134.

NEWS FROM CLIFTON

Book Club is at something of a low ebb currently. Having lost Steve, and Chris not quite 'in station' yet, there are some gaps in our line up, so if you want to meet some neighbours, get up to speed with events, drink some fabulous beer (or Merlot with Dave), lend your time to CAST (Clifton Against Speeding Traffic), be part of a vast tool and equipment sharing group, and generally talk so much nonsense so you can't tell your partner what was discussed, then pop along any Thursday at 8.00pm and say hello. You don't have to come back and you can leave any time but 10.00pm is often 'home time'.

CAST will have done more sessions to collect data by the time this is published and results will be passed on for the authorities to take action.

A neighbour writes: 'We all need to do something about the amount of people that block the limited number of footpaths we have in the village. The residents and businesses in the village and their guests are happy to complain about the speed cars travel through the village but some feel it is ok to block a footpath with cars or bins forcing pedestrians, people

with young children in pushchairs or prams and dogs into the road where they aren't safe with oncoming traffic, made worse by the ones speeding. This is especially problematic for those with mobility issues, be they temporary or permanent.'

Will people please ensure they keep paths clear and that cars don't overhang a footpath. If the car is too big for the parking bay then park out on the road safely. Also don't let bushes or other foliage overgrow and close off the pavement.

If bins need to go on the path to be collected, then they should only be there on collection day and taken in once emptied; the rest of the week the paths should be kept clear.

And finally, our best wishes go to 'Idris' who sadly broke her leg recently and is in metalwork-assisted recovery. We hope you're up and about soon and can make your planned trip.

Let's make this village safe for everyone.

Martin Bryce
martindnbryce@gmail.com

Deddington Primary School



This term has been busy and, with the lovely weather, we have been able to use all our school playground and field. The new F1 children have now been fully integrated into our playtimes so the whole school is together for its morning break sessions.

It's wonderful to watch the older children looking after, and playing with, the new children.

In PE, we had a very successful whole school cross country afternoon. We have started swimming sessions for Year 4 this term which have been beneficial and enjoyable for the children concerned.

Our Harvest Festival was delightful and was largely led by the pupils in our Worship Group. The children spoke and read beautifully and clearly throughout the service. We would like to thank everyone for their contributions of food and the people at Banbury Food Bank were extremely grateful for all of our offerings.

On Tuesday 10 October, staff and children wore

yellow clothes to mark World Mental Health Day. Pupils across the school focused on their emotions. They learned how to recognise their own feelings and how to find ways of dealing with them. Older pupils also focused on how to manage the trickier emotions they may begin to feel as they mature. It was a day that the children benefitted from immensely.

We are now looking forward to Term 2 when our plans for Christmas will no doubt begin to take shape.

Denise Welch

dwel3954@deddington.oxon.sch.uk

From The Fire Station



The Scenario 2 training day at Moreton-in-Marsh proved interesting and worthwhile as the Deddington crew was able to put out fires and search for casualties in controlled situations under the watchful eyes of instructors. Three scenarios were presented during the

course of the day: a domestic dwelling with a ground floor fire, a light industrial unit with a first-floor internal fire and a shopping centre with a fire adjacent to the loading bay. As colleagues from other stations were also attending, two crews with separate appliances were operating. In each case, crews had to locate the trapped casualties and control/extinguish the fire. Each scenario was completed successfully with crews working very well together and tackling the situations correctly.

Each appliance ran an Incident Commander, Pump Operator, two Breathing Apparatus crew and one BA commander and a sixth firefighter. Crews alternated between the domestic and light industrial fires before lunch-time, and joined together to attend the super-market fire as a two pump incident. After each scenario was completed, an immediate on-site debrief occurred, with a more detailed round up and discussion in the class room at the end of the day.

Well done to Garin Wilby and Corrie King in passing their development and now being fully competent and congratulations to Steve Baker and Cee Jay Harber for passing their BA course.

We are approaching winter so, before lighting those fires, please get your chimneys swept.

James Greenwood FFD

james@cyclogicalshop.co.uk



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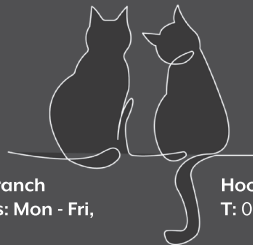
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CALLING ALL CLUBS

Photographic Society

October's club night welcomed Steve Brabner, a long term member of Amersham Photographic Society and founding member of the sub group called 'Beyond', which aims to push club members away from their comfort zone and beyond, by listing monthly topics which need to be newly taken and will not be judged. Each task lasts three months.

Topics in the past include blur, still life, playing with scale and perspective, water/bubbles, paper, self portrait, pop art, triptych, silhouettes and text. More recent topics have included food, postage stamps, decay, create a book cover, AI, deconstructed landscape and surrealism.

The audience was interested in Steve's images and is now looking into the feasibility of doing this within our club.

We welcome new members to our society nights on the first Wednesday of each month.

Courtney Killpack
www.addphoto.co.uk

WI

'A fundraiser for the Royal British Legion' was on the calendar for our October meeting and about 20 members, including three new ladies, assembled at the Holly Tree to see what was in store. Bingo! Everyone enjoys bingo and it's so easy to play.

Much merriment ensued as the rules were explained, again and again, until everyone had a rough idea of what it was all about. Our chairman started up what looked like a giant hamster wheel which spun the coloured balls and silence descended as we all concentrated on crossing off the numbers called out. There was still some confusion as to what constituted 'House!' as opposed to 'Line!' but we all enjoyed several games raising over £100 for RBL. A delicious tea with a wonderful spread of cakes was provided by the committee and everyone enjoyed themselves.

Margaret Hodge

Deddington Players

Rehearsals are underway for this season's pantomime, *Beauty and the Beast*. It promises to have all the fun, laughs and musical numbers you love from the Deddy Players. Get the performance dates in your diary, 18–20 January at the Windmill, and follow our Facebook page for behind-the-scenes rehearsal antics and a taste of what's to come.

Suzie Upson
suzieupson@mac.com

Book Group

In 1560 Lucrezia Cosimo de' Medici, the 15 year old daughter of the Grand Duke of Tuscany, was brought to Ferrara as the wife of Alfonso d'Este, Duke of Ferrara. One year later Lucrezia was dead, apparently from fever, but there were rumours that Alfonso had poisoned her.

In *The Marriage Portrait* Maggie O' Farrell gives

us a gripping fictional version of Lucrezia's life and an unexpected ending. A richly detailed account of courtly life is pervaded by the sense of Lucrezia's increasingly lonely and frightened state. Although a few of our group found the book too dark for enjoyment, we agreed that it was very well written. Characters and relationships are convincing and the descriptions are wonderfully vibrant. For most of us this was a thought provoking and absorbing page turner.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 30 November. Please contact Sally Lambert on 01869 338094 for more details.

The Book Group

Deddington History Society

Our next meeting is on Thursday 16 November when Dr Rowena Archer will be speaking on 'The Rise and Rise of Alice Chaucer, Duchess of Suffolk, d1475'.

Alice Chaucer, granddaughter of the poet Geoffrey Chaucer, lived through much of the fifteenth century in Oxfordshire. She had close connections with Adderbury, was born a commoner, married three times and died a wealthy and powerful woman.

Meetings take place in the primary school and start at 7.30pm.

Jean Dipper

Deddington Bookworms

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CALLING ALL CLUBS

Continued from p25

Cuckoos by John Wyndham. The action begins when all the inhabitants of the small English village of Midwich suddenly fall unconscious. As they start to come round several hours later, they appear to be unaffected, but gradually all women of child-bearing age in the village discover they are pregnant. They all give birth on the same day and their children all share the same appearance. The children develop unnaturally quickly and soon begin to exert a form of control over the villagers making it impossible for them to leave Midwich. But this is only the first sign of the controlling power they have and, between them, their influence over Midwich slowly reveals itself to be a definite threat. We all enjoyed the book and found it to be quite thought-provoking in terms of humanity's place in the grand scheme of things.

Deddingtonbookworms@gmail.com

Royal British Legion

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Poppy Appeal at the October market. You may have noticed that the Poppy Appeal has gone digital with 'smart' tins, which can be scanned, some of these have been placed around the parish. Another Remembrance innovation involving our youth are the street poppies

that have been placed on lamp posts and telegraph poles by the Scouts. Each one bears the name of a Deddington man who died in war for our country. The school children have planted their beautifully decorated crosses in the Remembrance Garden. A two-minute silence will be observed at the War Memorial at 11.00am on Saturday 11 November. Please join us. The Remembrance Sunday Parade assembles in the Bull Ring from 10.00am on Sunday 12 November; march off at 10.35am. The Bishop of Dorchester is conducting the service.

Rob Forsyth, Branch Chairman

Local Vocals – Community Choir

Mondays at 7.30pm during term time at Deddington Primary School Hall.

We are delighted to have welcomed some new faces recently and it's already making a noticeable difference to the volume we now generate. Half term will see us take a short break and when we return on 6 November it will be time to start learning our Christmas songs – where has 2023 gone?

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

Alison Grieve

SPORT

Deddington Town Football Club

First Team results

16.9.23	Hardwick Sports Club (h)	W 4–2
23.9.23	Swis FC (h)	L 0–2
30.9.23	Hornton (a) (CUP)	D 0–0
		(Lost 7–8 on pens)
7.10.23	Glory Farm (h)	W 3–1

Reserve Team results

16.9.23	Bishops Itchington (a)	L 0–8
23.9.23	Kings Sutton Res (a)	D 2–2
30.9.23	Swis FC Res (h)	L 2–3

The somewhat sluggish start to the season continues for our men's teams. Having done some digging since last month, I now discover that the previous fourth tier of the Banbury District and Lord Jersey leagues is a Veteran division and, even more strangely, there is only one Bishops Itchington team, and it sits in Division Two. Back in my brief playing days, Bishops was a force, normally in and around the very top of the BD&LJ pyramid, so I don't know what's happened to reduce them to a single side in the bottom division. Their fearsome reputation doesn't seem to have been much diminished as they demolished the Latics 8–0.

However, we should all remember that true character is measured by how one responds to adversity and the Latics grabbed their first point of the season after this trauma, demonstrating theirs. The Humbugs were gallingly edged out on penalties in the Lord Jersey Cup, but picked up a couple of good victories to leave them in the top half of the table, nicely placed for a cavalry charge when the time comes.

Aaron Bliss
07909 642882

Deddington Original Golf Society

The DOGS are quiet at the moment with our main golfing season in hibernation. However, your committee is still active and currently finalising the venues for 2024. So far we are in negotiation with Brickhampton GC, a venue out to the west of Oxfordshire, Coventry (Fineham) and Copt Heath, near Solihull.

We still need a venue for next September's meeting, the last in our calendar and culminating in an evening party event. If anyone has a garden large enough and would like to host this event in 2024 we, and more importantly DOGS members, would be forever grateful. We've moved the date from late August to early September to avoid the Deddington farmers' market. This will enable us to 'borrow' chairs and tables which don't need a hoist or crane to rescue them from the crypt at the church. This will make life much easier for all the volunteers who physically move the furniture to the site for the evening bash. Oh, and back again.

Our last get together for 2023 will be held at Tadmorton Heath Golf Club on Friday 15 December, consisting of a nine-hole Texas Scramble, followed by traditional Christmas fare. Details will be published soon. As a heads up, confirmation to attend will coincide with your payment for the golf and meal. Golf at this time of year is a bit of an unknown and totally dependent on the weather.

Finally, a date for your diary: Monday 22 January 2024 AGM.

Tony Lowe, Secretary
07710 477000

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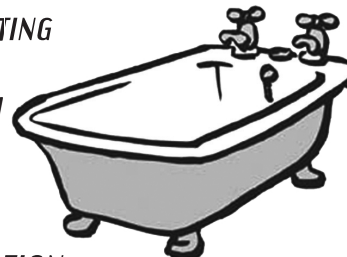
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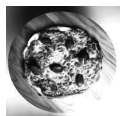
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YOUTH

1st Deddington Guides

It's been a pleasure to welcome five new members to our unit from various villages around. We have four new patrols which have now all elected their leaders and are busy organising their own activities and spending time each week on various projects.

We have enjoyed a variety of energetic games and activities as well as crafts such as refashioning jewellery. I would like to thank the parents who have given up time to support our meetings whilst the search continues to find a second leader.

Maggie Rampley
07957 600755

1st Deddington Scout Group

Cubs

Well, the Cubs have gained their first badge of the new term: the second stage of the Navigator Activity badge. They had to find themselves on a map and draw a simple map of their bedroom. We looked at co-ordinates and used them in a game around the Windmill Centre. I'm pretty sure most of them couldn't be trusted to find their way to the bathroom but we live in hope! They've now moved on to Emergency Aid,

which we consider to be a vital skill, and try to repeat every year, although I'd advise you not to stretch out for a nice rest – you might find you've been wrestled into the recovery position.

Jo Churchyard
deddingtoncubs@gmail.com

Scouts

Do you know how many bits make up a laptop? No, well, it's lots, as the Scouts found out when they dismantled our old outdated ones, plus a keyboard. They had the best time and, after pocketing a few interesting pieces, the rest was taken to be recycled – the man at the tip was very surprised.

Next we dug out the camping stoves, compared the different mediums, boiled water using the Trangias (our favourites), and made hot chocolate.

Conkers – what more can we say about that? Bedlam!

Pete Churchyard
deddingtonscouts@gmail.com

The Deddington Scout Group Trustees met on 28 September at the Deddington Arms.

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE (PARISH SHOW) PORK PIE COMETITION

Understandably there is an element of jealousy emanating from Mr O'Brien and, whilst dubiously awarding first prize, the judges showed great integrity and knowledge of all thing pies. That said, I have it on good authority that it was a very close run thing with a split decision in favour of Mr O'Brien – most likely a sympathy vote.

The judges saw that my offering was not actually burnt but exuded the final layer of ingredients used in the assembly of fillings in my pie. The burnt effect was actually Danish Blue cheese. Beneath it lay apricots, Bramley apple, smokey bacon lardons and finely minced Cotswold pork.

Mr O'Brien took advantage of Keith's vulnerability, ingratiating himself whilst Keith was slightly the worse for wear, due to copious amounts of beer whilst attending a festival in London. I don't bear grudges and I am pleased that Mr O'Brien has a new friend, effectively doubling his total circle of friends. As an aside, when Mr O'Brien was very young, his mother used to hang a pork chop around his neck so that the dog would play with him.

I was aggrieved to learn that Keith recently attended a training course on how to make pork pies at

Melton Mowbray. Insider dealing, if ever there was, and not in the spirit of amateur bakers. However, common sense prevailed and his offering came third. I have it on good authority that, had there been more than three entries, his example would have slipped much further down the list.

The Gelatine Argument: For another communication but, suffice it to say, it was originally introduced before fridges and preserving mediums were available to assist in extending the life of pork pies. I accept it's for purists but not at all essential.

Production of Pork Pies: A 'dolly' not dissimilar to half a wooden rolling-pin is one implement used to mould the pastry to form the shell, hand raising up the 'dolly' externally.

Alternative methods include using a spring-form tin into which the hot pastry is lowered and then hand raised internally. Experts say, whilst this is more difficult (scaffolding is not allowed), it is worth the effort, because the results are more uniform and the finished product more pleasing to the eye – and the taste? Magnificent!

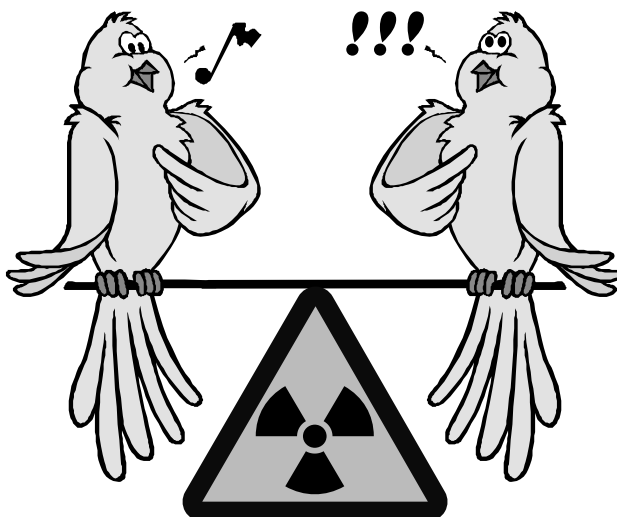
Tony Lowe
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CANARIES AT SEA

From time to time the editor has kindly published one of my stories about life under the waves. Recalling the one about taking my scrubbing brush (dog) for a walk one Sunday morning while on patrol, she asked if I had any more of a similar vein. This one really belongs to the Senior Engineer Officer, responsible for the nuclear reactor system and all working machinery in an 8000-ton submarine, whose design and construction has been described as the most complex machine ever designed by man.

He decided a back-up system for checking on the quality of the atmosphere on board was needed (we had our own oxygen generators and air purifiers), so he bought a pair of canaries that he sat on top of the atmosphere analyser – shades of old coalmine technology. He called the canaries CO2 and O2. Amazingly, after a few days on patrol, they somehow worked out what time dawn was up top and started to sing on cue.

After a while he asked if they could be let out to



stretch their wings in the 'tunnel' (an enclosed and lead shielded passageway to the engine room above the reactor compartment) with the doors at each end shut. Permission was granted and we piped 'Flying Stations' and he duly let them out – that was the easy bit.

Recovering two canaries from behind all the stainless-steel spaghetti pipework in the tunnel caused the change of watch (personnel on duty) to be delayed by a couple

of hours – not exactly popular – so the exercise was not repeated.

When the medics ashore heard that we had taken canaries to sea, it nearly became a disciplinary case before they established that canaries do not pass on psittacosis – but we saw their point – *Daily Mirror* headlines: 'National Deterrent Put at Risk by Canaries' ... not exactly a story that Flag Officer Submarines Admiral would have approved of and not exactly enhancing to either of our promotion prospects.

Rob Forsyth
robert.s.forsyth@gmail.com

Nursery and PFSU

The children have really enjoyed learning about autumn in our first term of the year.

Preschool's focus turns to celebrations throughout November and December, when we will be learning about Diwali, bonfire night and Christmas. We will also start practising our nativity with F1.

Nursery's focus will also be on celebrations such as Hallowe'en, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Both settings will have Christmas decoration sessions for parents to attend – details of this will be out nearer the time.

Thank you to everyone who took part in the Hallowe'en trail. Keep an eye on our social media for our next event, the Christmas raffle.

Charlotte Witka
PFSU Deputy Manager

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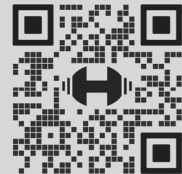
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CITIZENS ADVICE	01295 221448
HEALTH CENTRE DEDDINGTON	01869 338611
HOSPITALS:	
Churchill	0300 304 7777
Foscote (Private)	01295 252281
Horton General	0300 304 7777
John Radcliffe	0300 304 7777
Manor (Nuffield Health, Private)	01865 987292
Nuffield Orthopaedic 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

TRAVEL:	
National Express	08717 818181
National Rail Passenger Enqs	03457 484950
OurBus Bartons	01869 699699
Oxford Bus Company	01865 785400
Oxfordshire Comet	01865 323201
Stagecoach Bus Company	0345 2410 8000
Traveline (Public Transport)	0871 200 21 33
UTILITIES:	
Gas Escapes (24hrs)	0800 111 999
Electricity - any supplier	
Emergency/Power cut	105
Careline (over 60s)	0800 101 3333
Ofgem	020 7901 7295
Thames Water (24hrs)	0800 980 8800
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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