

December 2023

The **DEDDINGTON NEWS**



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THE TEAM

YOUR EDITOR THIS MONTH:
CATHERINE DESMOND

FEBRUARY 2024 COPY TO
JILL CHEESEMAN
editor@deddingtonnews.co.uk
by **13 January 2024**

ADVERTISING COPY
by **10 January 2024**

EDITORS
Jill Cheeseman
01869 338609
Catherine Desmond
01869 337657
editor@deddingtonnews.co.uk

MONTHLY ADS & INSERTS
Sandie Goundrey
01869 338764
monthly@deddingtonnews.co.uk

ANNUAL ADS
Pat Sedgley
annuals@deddingtonnews.co.uk

WHAT'S ON
Alison Day
whatson@deddingtonnews.co.uk

CLUBS
Alison Day
01869 337204
clubs@deddingtonnews.co.uk

PARISH COUNCIL
Jill Cheeseman
01869 338609

DISTRIBUTION
Netia Piercy and team
01869 338191

TREASURER
Jane Price
01869 337586
treasurer@deddingtonnews.co.uk

COVER
Winter dusk
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

Whatever may be going on in the wider world, Deddington is set for its traditional holiday rituals: Scout-delivered Christmas cards, Dolly and the Ivys, the RC Baker tractor run, the big farmers' market, carols round the tree on Christmas Eve, the panto, of course.

The DN team is grateful to Anne Hunsley who, after ten years as contributor, printer, collator and, currently, month advertising editor, has decided enough is enough. Thankfully, Sandie Goundrey, an erstwhile annual ad manager, has volunteered in her stead.

We will be back in February with the first issue of 2024 and, in the meantime, wish you a happy, healthy, holiday season.

CD

WHAT'S ON December

- | | | |
|-----|----|---|
| Sat | 2 | Festive Artisan Fayre: Windmill Centre, 10.00am–1.00pm |
| Sun | 3 | Christingle: Parish Church, 3.00pm |
| Wed | 6 | Photographic Society: 'A Journey Through Argentina and Chile', Terri Innes, Adderbury Institute, 7.30pm |
| Sat | 9 | Hempton Christmas Fayre: Old School Room and Hempton Church, 11.00am–2.00pm |
| Wed | 13 | WI: Christmas Craft – Table Decorations, Mary Willis, Holly Tree, 2.30pm |
| Fri | 15 | DOGS: Tadmorton Heath 9-hole Texas Scramble and Christmas Party |
| Sat | 16 | RC Baker: KHH Christmas Tractor Run, www.rcbaker.co.uk/tractorrundetails |
| Sat | 16 | Dolly and the Ivys: Parish Church, doors open 7.00pm |
| Sat | 16 | Cherwell Choral Society: 'An English Christmas', Bloxham Church, 8.00pm |
| Wed | 20 | Parish Council Meeting: Deddington Arms Conference Room, 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 |
| Sun | 24 | Deddington Brass: Carols in the Market Place, 6.00pm |

January

- | | | |
|-----|-----|--|
| Wed | 3 | Photographic Society: 'Your Best/Favourite Images of 2023', Adderbury Institute, 7.30pm |
| Wed | 10 | WI: The Hidden History of Nursery Rhymes, Moira Byast, Holly Tree, 2.30pm |
| Wed | 17 | Parish Council Meeting: Hempton Lounge, Windmill Centre, 7.30pm |
| Thu | 18 | History Society: 'Major-General Percy Hobart', Jo Eames, Primary School, 7.30pm |
| Thu | 18– | Deddington Players: <i>Beauty and the Beast</i> , Windmill |
| Sat | 20 | Centre, tickets www.ticketsource.co.uk/deddington-players |
| Mon | 22 | DOGS: AGM, Deddington Arms, 7.00pm |
| Thu | 25 | Book Group: Sally Lambert, 01869 338094 for details |
| Sat | 27 | 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

Meeting on 15 November at the Old School Room, Hempton

Present: Councillors Ince, Norton, Oldfield (chair), O'Neill, Robinson, Snashall, Swadling, Swan, Timms, Watts, District Councillor Williams, County Councillor Fatemian, parish clerk and *DN* representative.

Councillor Higham has resigned. The PC unanimously thanked her for her work over several years. Unfortunately for the local electorate, Cherwell District Council must be notified by 22 November if residents want an election. By the time this publication is out the date will have passed and only someone reading the PC noticeboard daily or, possibly a notice on the community Facebook pages (not visible to the *DN* correspondent at the time of writing) would be aware of the option of electing a new councillor. If no-one requests an election, the PC will simply co-opt someone to fill the vacancy.

District Councillor's report

Councillor Williams reported there is a list of organisations in the district which are providing warm spaces this winter. Councillor Watts indicated that there is support for Hempton to offer a warm space.

As reported in the local press, it was confirmed that CDC has decided to sell Bodicote House and a number of replacement venues in central Banbury are being considered, taking account of parking requirements. The planning department is almost back up to full strength.

Finance & General Purposes

The cancellation of the Remembrance Day parade was discussed. A security team was present, paid for out of County Councillor Fatemian's fund as requested by the PC. However, the decision to cancel the parade was taken by 10.15am by the Deddington Royal British Legion. It was agreed that in future the PC should have an action plan and decisions would be made in consultation with relevant groups.

Power at the Windmill Centre, including EV charging points, will be off for maintenance from 2–4 January.

Work on the Windmill Centre roof is expected to be carried out in early February.

County Councillor report

There is no overall control of Oxfordshire County Council since the collapse of the coalition between Labour, Liberal Democrat and Green parties.

An inspection by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission found widespread systemic failings in Oxfordshire's local partnership provision of support for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

Planning Applications:

No objection

Castle End House, Castle Street, Deddington: erection of greenhouse to east of house. The PC defers to the conservation officer for appropriateness of position and design in the context of the grade II* listed building.

Plum Cottage, Philcote Street, Deddington: crown reduction by approximately 2m, removal of crossing branches and dead wood.

Unable to review and assess:

Glencree, Philcote Street, Deddington: cutting back the neighbour's Norway maple to the boundary wall, up to 2m on the south side of the crown.

Refusal

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

Approvals

Land Adjoining and West of Stonecroft House (The Poplars), Clifton Road: erection of five single storey age-restricted dwellings.

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

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

The Threshing Barn, Pound Court, Deddington: topping a pear tree.

16 The Swere, Deddington: single storey rear extension.

Appeal

Land East of Combe Cottage and South of St John's Way, Hempton: (heard on 14 November), decision deferred for five weeks.

Highways & Transport

Frequent inconsiderate parking outside the primary school and the Beeches has been reported. There will be regular visits from the enforcement contractors so tickets may be issued.

Damaged grass verge outside the old police houses on Hempton Road will be monitored in the hope that the damage is repaired by the contractor responsible.

Environment and Recreation

A tractor and trailer style play piece has been decided for Welford's Piece.

The wall at the entrance to Satin Lane allotments will be repaired by the home owner.

The brambles at Gaveston Green and those by the EV charging points at the Windmill are to be sprayed annually for three years to keep them under control.

In preparation of No Mow May new maps will be produced for Thomas Fox, the contractor, who will also be asked to remove grass cuttings.

Contract Finder is to be used for the building of the mini tennis courts on the old playground area at the Windmill. It is hoped that a contract will be settled in time for work to be carried out next spring.

Dog owners are being asked to please take home their bagged dog poo if the bins are already full, rather than leaving them on the ground.

Neighbourhood Plan

The PC is still awaiting a reply from the examiner.

Next meeting is to be held on Wednesday 20 December at 7.30pm at the Deddington Arms.

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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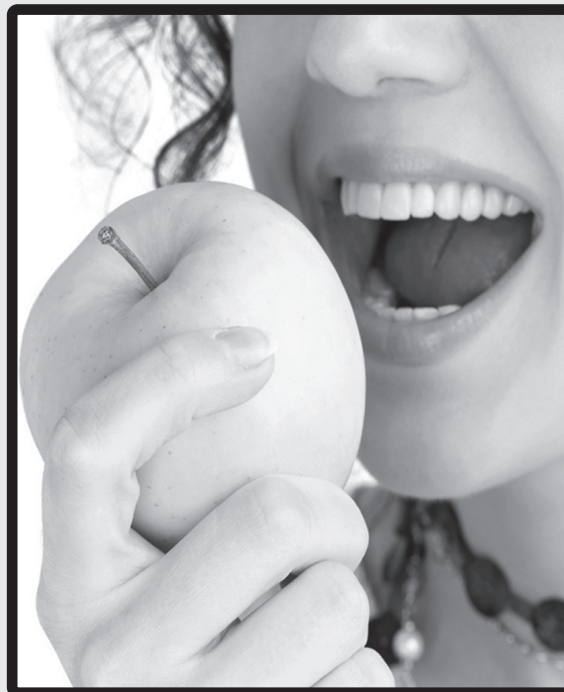
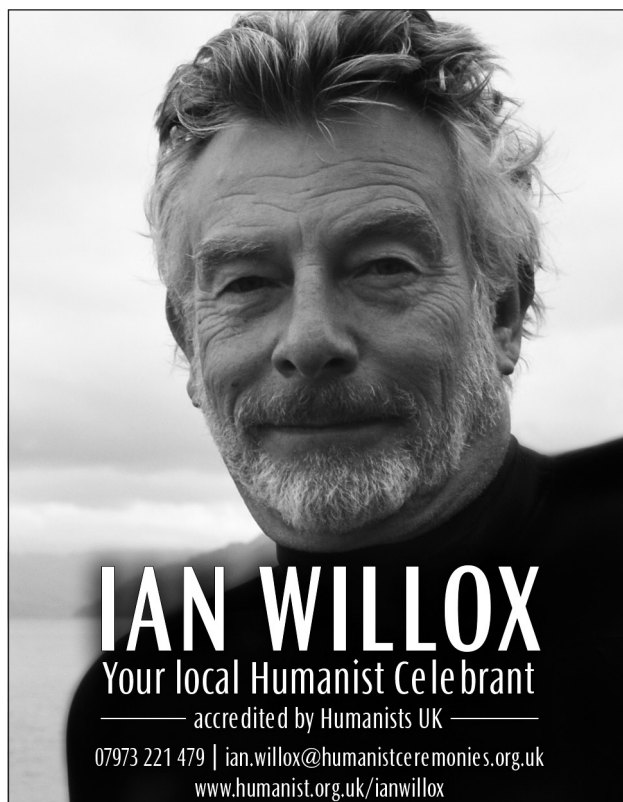
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IMMINENT BT LANDLINE PHONE CHANGES

The original UK telephone system comprised a network of exchanges connecting subscribers through copper wires, the old-fashioned landlines. While many have abandoned landlines altogether, relying solely on mobile phones, some, particularly the less techie amongst us, have hung onto them. However, new landlines operate digitally via fibre optic cable, connected to the internet, known as VOIP (Voice Over Internet Protocol) rather than through actual copper wires, currently leaving parallel systems of both copper wire and fibre.

To simplify operations, BT is beginning to phase out the old copper wire system over the next three years, starting in Deddington, which means that anyone who wants to keep a landline must have a digital phoneline and a VOIP capable handset. The change will also affect older home alarm systems that plug into a landline and older pendant alert bracelets and necklaces that use a base-station plugged into a phoneline. People who depend on their landline for emergency back-up should discuss being supplied with a longer than standard life battery pack.

BT aims to have access through copper wires ended in Deddington by 24 March and many residents are already receiving calls from BT on their new Digital Voice package. The company says, 'The switch to a digital landline will have no impact on how BT customers use their phone and will not cost any

more than they pay today. They'll still have the same service and price plans.'

Their website states that 'BT will be contacting all residential landline users who have not yet made the switch to fibre at least four weeks in advance of any changes taking place, to make sure they are ready for the change to a digital landline.'

'Residential customers who identify as vulnerable, have additional needs or rely on their landline will be provided with additional support, ranging from free battery back-up units to engineer-supported installations and hybrid landline phones, which have a built-in battery back-up unit and can connect to the mobile network. Customers can also nominate a family member, friend or carer who will receive all the information about the changes on their behalf.'

One solution is to give up a landline and switch to a mobile phone although that is not the perfect answer as Deddington has a poor mobile phone signal, partially because the nearest transmitter is towards Duns Tew and partially because of the iron content in the local stone. For those wanting to keep a landline, expect a contact from BT in the near future.

Residents with any questions, concerns or who want to let BT know about their circumstances ahead of the switch to Digital Voice, should get in touch with BT on 0330 1234 150 or visit bt.com/digital-voice.

CD

DEDDINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

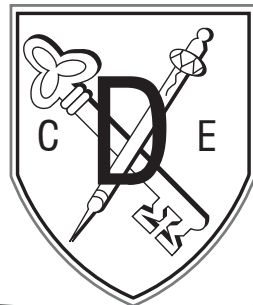
This term has seen many different events, marked by several important dates.

As always, we'd like to thank our very supportive PTA for the fantastic Fireworks Night held on the school field on Saturday 4 November. The firework display was amazing and it was enjoyed not just by our pupils and their families but also the wider Deddington community. Thank you to everyone who supported this evening.

For Remembrance Day, the children decorated wooden crosses with poppies and other extremely thoughtful images relating to war and sacrifice. The crosses were then displayed around the war memorial. Some children also visited the memorial with Mr Evans and Mrs Barber to lay our school wreath and share a moment of quiet to reflect on the meaning of remembrance.

We marked 'Odd Sock' day at the start of the National Anti-Bullying week during mid-November. Both children and staff looked highly colourful with different socks on. Each class focused on a 'Week of Kind Acts' as a means of focusing on the positive side of behaviour within the school community.

We also raised money for Children in Need on Friday 17 November, organised by the School Council.



The children brought in £1 each to dress up in spots and donated cakes were sold at the end of the day. The children had fun raising money for such an important cause.

KS1 and KS2 children took part in cross country events and KS2 children also participated in a Tag Rugby tournament. They competed with great spirit and determination and we were proud of them all.

We are now looking forward to our Christmas performances but, until then, we hope you enjoy the last few weeks of autumn.

With best wishes from us all at Deddington Primary School.

Denise Welch
dwe13954@deddington.oxon.sch.uk

'ROXY' AT THE HOLLY TREE HALL CANCELLED!

The film screenings cannot continue as Age UK has withdrawn this service.

We thank our projectionist Troy for his support over many years.

Julia Cork
Julia.cork@thedha.org

VIEW FROM THE MEADOW

The parish of Deddington lies surrounded by fields whose farms used to provide the majority of the area's jobs. Government statistics show the total number of people working in agriculture in England to be a mere 292,000, as of 1 June 2023. For more than twenty years George Fenemore educated the rest of us as to what it is like to farm here in the 21st century – changing climate, 'green Mafia' bureaucrats, development-related flooding and all – but since he laid down his pen we have lacked any agricultural input. This month we are happy to publish an excerpt from North Aston Farm's latest customer newsletter, detailing life on an organic farm, with apologies to customers who have already read it.

'Almost 120 acres of our farm is natural flood meadow, providing somewhere for the water to go when the aquifers fill up and the rivers overflow. Some of these meadows are designated sites of special scientific interest and are incredibly species-rich, with a large number of wildflowers, grasses and rare plants. Almost every winter, the meadows go completely underwater, protecting the valley further downstream from flooding, while providing a vital habitat for many creatures, great and small. Protecting these valuable landscapes so that they can continue to thrive long into the future is one of our top priorities. However, they are also a crucial element of the farm business and we rely heavily on the meadows to provide the bulk of our hay crop as well as grazing for our beef cattle and sheep in the autumn. This year, due to the wet summer, we couldn't cut the hay until very, very late, and even then had to wrap it as haylage. We could have held out a bit longer on the off chance that we got a proper dry spell in September to get the hay cut in, but we cut it when we did because we were really banking on having some regrowth after the cut to graze in the autumn. The mild weather in September and October meant that we did get some regrowth, but pretty much as soon as we got the cattle on there a few weeks ago to begin grazing it, the rains came down hard and in what felt like just an hour or two, the rivers burst their banks, the meadows flooded and the cows had to be brought back up the hill to higher, drier ground. Not ideal.

The meadows also provide vital grazing for our sheep flock, which traditionally 'clears up' behind the beef cattle. However, this year it's unlikely we'll be able to get the sheep out on the meadows, unless we are blessed with a very dry winter, which is not looking likely. Due to the meadows being off limits, and the saturated ground across the rest of the farm, the cattle have had to come inside, although – out of necessity – this won't be for long. We don't have enough straw or silage to keep the whole beef herd inside over winter and all year have been planning to outwinter the cows and calves, after last winter's success. Due to the late hay harvest (and a bit of indecision in the office), we didn't manage to set out all the bales in the outwintering fields, but a large proportion has been done and at the first hard frost (when the ground is hard enough

to drive the tractor on without compacting the soil) we will get the rest of them laid out.

From about 1 December, a group of 40 cows and their calves will be turned out of the sheds again and will begin working their way up and across Coldharbour Dairy Ground, a 40-acre field at the northern end of the farm. There are many benefits to outwintering cattle. First and foremost, it saves us a vast sum of money. We don't need to bed up a barn every week, so save about £4,500 worth of straw, as well as the labour and fuel costs of bedding up, mucking out, and muck spreading. We also use about half the number of silage bales, as we have left plenty of grass standing in the field for them to graze. That's about a £9,000 saving across the winter. While there is quite a bit of work involved in getting the bales laid out in the correct place, once it's done, it's just a case of moving the animals each day by opening up some electric fence and moving the water trough. It also gives the field a really big boost of fertility, as all the leftover (undigested) nutrients from the meadow bales are deposited straight back onto the land, feeding the soil life below. Some of the bale is left behind (we plan for about 25% of it to not be eaten) and, instead, this is trampled into the ground where it will biodegrade, building organic matter (carbon) levels in the soil. And then there is the seed transfer from the meadows! Our hay is cut and baled after many of the plants have flowered and gone to seed. This means that when we roll the bales out in the field, those seeds are scattered in the sward. The cows then push the seeds into the ground where they will germinate when the conditions are right. This process increases the diversity of plants in the sward, making the pasture more resilient, without spending a single penny on bought-in seed, let alone the labour and fuel cost involved in reseeding a field. The seeds that don't make it to the soil surface are a much-needed winter food source for birds. Last winter, almost every week there was a different group of birds following the cows.'

Nick Miller

farmoffice@northastonfarms.co.uk

TURKEY AND TRIMMINGS?

It was sad to say goodbye to Annie the vicar; she is missed. However, we are continuing the tradition of cooking a lunch for those who are on their own on Christmas Day. Thank you to Milson and Daire for agreeing to help with the cooking and to the whole gang who come to church at midday to deliver the meals. If you would like one of the free lunches, please let me know by 18 December. Either drop me an email or phone me.

I would also be very happy to hear from anyone who would like to help out in any capacity. It's a hugely rewarding thing to do and very much appreciated by all the recipients.

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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 clergy 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>.

Thanks to those who dug deep again to give to the Gaza Hospital emergency appeal totalling £827.25.

Weekdays

Mon: 8.45am Morning Prayer
 Wed: 10.00am Holy Communion,
 no service on 27 December
 Thu: 9.30am Tea + Toast and Squiggles and
 Wiggles
 Fri: 8.45am Morning Prayer

January

Sun 7 10.30am Holy Communion
 6.00pm Epiphany Carol Service
 Sun 14 10.30am Holy Communion
 Sun 21 10.30am Holy Communion
 Sun 28 10.30am Holy Communion

Hempton

Sun 21 9.00am Holy Communion

Barford St Michael

Sun 7 10.30am Coffee Church
 Sun 14 9.00am Communion
 Sun 21 10.30am Family Service
 Sun 28 10.30am Family Holy Communion

From the Parish Registers

Funeral

8 November Anne Marie Hayden

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.

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POSTCARD FROM AMERICA

There is a new trauma in the house, I've discovered that my toilet paper is shrinking.

Americans rarely ask for directions to the toilet, they are 'rest rooms' and in our local supermarket this essential item is in an aisle marked 'bath tissue'. My wife says I am far too condescending to the great American nation. Um ...

I discovered the problem a few weeks ago when I happened to look at the roll on the wall while I was sitting in comfort and realised that the roll no longer reached to the edge of the device holding it. This started a very painful research project that led me to the discovery that the rolls I had been buying from Costco were the normal size, 11.5 cm, but the supermarket was selling rolls that are actually 10% smaller. In a bid to avoid the nightmare that is a trip to Costco, I ordered 12 rolls from Amazon. Their website was very clear. These rolls were the proper size. But they shipped the smaller ones. Twice. And then their return mechanism couldn't cope. In order to get them to their return agent at UPS I needed to box them, despite them having been delivered boxless. UPS wanted \$10 to assist. Yes, this principled pursuit of proper paper has cost me a lot of effort. It's a good job I don't work for a living.

You will be pleased to know that I am still in pursuit of an answer to another big question: who on earth thinks it is a good idea to vote for a lying egotistical maniac in the election next year? Trump's problems continue to mount. He now has a fraud ruling against his business practices in New York and a total of 91 pending charges. You have to admire his marketing though. Using the mugshot from his arrest in Georgia as a fundraiser was a brilliant idea. You would have thought that stating publicly that once he gets re-elected, he is going to use the highest office in the land to 'pursue his enemies' would worry folks. Apparently not.

The man who drove Bill Clinton's winning presi-



dential campaign, when asked about what drives voters, said 'It's the economy, stupid'. In America right now most people are worse off than they were before the pandemic, which has hugely affected the bottom of the pay scale and not troubled the richest 1% at all. Logically this isn't Biden's fault. If you look at what he has achieved

he has done very well, pushing through large scale investments in infrastructure and in US manufacturing. But this then leads into the second issue. The majority are fed up with aging and distant politicians. America is not run by a bunch of liberal paedophiles out of a pizza restaurant basement but is run by self-serving politicians, paid for by the very rich and directed by big corporate interests. Biden has been in politics for over 50 years, and Trump is the man that is going to drain all of this away. If you don't laugh, you will cry.

My wife has left me to visit her ailing mother, which means I can be condescending about the fine people of America without her giving me that look. Doesn't she realise that I am condescending to everyone? It isn't just the Land of the Free that I rant about but without Heather I am out of control. I am shouting at Amazon customer service and I am obsessing about the shrinking assets in my toilet. I hope she comes back soon, but I am sure you all understand why she might not.

Mike Ward

mike@mikeaward.com

PFSU AND NURSERY

We are pleased to announce we raised £450 from our Hallowe'en Trail. We hope everyone had lots of fun.

Our next fundraiser, the Christmas raffle, goes live on 1 December. Look out for more information on our Facebook page.

Charlotte Witka

charlotte@deddingtonnurseryandpfsu.co.uk

DEDDINGTON'S STREET POPPIES

The appearance of red tape round lampposts and telegraph poles in October was an intriguing precursor to a new way of remembering, during Poppy Weeks, all the Deddington soldiers who died for their country. The RBL provided large poppies on which Branch committee members, Tony Lowe and John Pearson, wrote one or more of the names of the 86 who died. The Scouts then attached the poppies to all the marked posts and poles in each of the three villages from which the soldiers came.

The impact of rows of poppies marching down the main road alone spoke volumes but also inspired this beautiful and very expressive poem.

Rob Forsyth robert.s.forsyth@gmail.com

REMEMBER 1914-1918

Arthur, Tom and George and Joe,
Friends who walked the streets we know –
They marched to France, a khaki flow:
Repeat their poppy-posted names on show.
Sacrificed to war hard-won:
Youth was a price too dear.

Maureen Dew



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NEWS FROM HEMPTON

Clear your diary for December: a Christmas Fair is planned for Saturday 9 December between 11.00am and 2.00pm in the Old School Room. There will be hot bacon rolls, soup, cakes and drinks on offer, a bottle tombola stall, you can make and hang your own memory baubles on the Hempton Christmas tree, a hamper will be raffled, guess it's weight and win a Christmas cake, Christmas gift stall and much more. Everyone is welcome.

Songsters should note the Hempton Church Carol Service on Friday 15 December at 6.00pm. Mulled wine and mince pies will be available to soothe stressed vocal cords.

Tractor and fairy light fetishists can get their annual fix, support Katharine House Hospice and socialise when the village gathers to watch the Christmas Tractor Run on Saturday 16 December. Departing from Spring Hill Farm, Barford, at 5.00pm, the convoy is expected to pass through Hempton at approximately 8.15pm. There will be mulled wine, hot chocolate and other goodies in the Old School Room.

A service will be held in Hempton church on the morning of Christmas Day at 9.00am.

I surmise most are familiar with the phrase 'paint the town red'. I suspect the rainbow variations that play on the metaphor are less familiar. 'Paint the Town Blue', meaning sadness rather than celebration, was controversially used in the song *Miss Americana & the Heartbreak Prince* by Taylor Swift. Pundits speculated that she was commenting on the 2016 US election results. 'Paint Your Town Pink' has been used in a breast cancer awareness campaign.

'Paint the Town Purple' was the slogan in a US campaign addressing domestic violence. 'Paint the Town Yellow' was inspired by projects and programmes organised in connection with the United Nations' International Day of Happiness. 'Paint the Town Green' is both the name of a London-based painting and decorating company and a song by Irish pop rock band, The Script, which talks about the joy and ecstasy of partying and celebrating life with friends.

One variation I had not come across until recently is 'Paint the Town White'. The individual who made me aware of this variation had taken things too literally or does not understand the concept of metaphor. Their attempt only extended to a few yards of vegetation covered in white paint on the east side of the Barford road approaching Hempton.

I discounted the possibility that it was the latest work by Tracey Emin (try Googling her piece called *Every Part of Me Kept Loving You*), based on the empty paint tins and spatter pattern that suggested the tins had been launched either intentionally or accidentally from a passing vehicle. Or perhaps they were thrown from the gateway used as a lay-by by many on the opposite side of the road. They may have taken a lead from Benjamin Franklin, who, in his autobiography indicated that he entered every city with the intent to 'paint the town white'. I'm not sure what he intended. In this instance, it could be a parochial metaphor for

trashing the environment.

Perhaps they thought the village needed sprucing up or maybe they were thinking of 'white wash', though I fail to see what deed or fault they were attempting to cover up.

We have had another visit from the phantom tyre dumper. I came across a neat pile of four vehicle tyres on the verge of the Duns Tew road. I suspect they were originally dumped randomly onto the verge but stacked together by some passer-by. The dumper is obviously a thrifty individual, keen to save money and avoid cost but relaxed about who picks up the tab and the tyres.

Stuart Oldham
s_joldham@btinternet.com

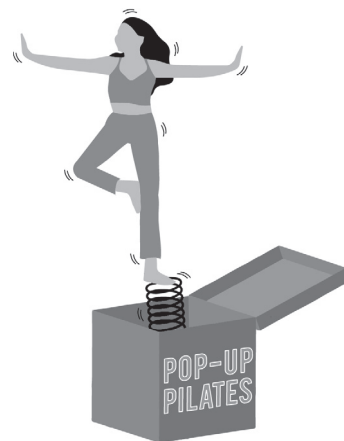
DING DONG! MERRILY ...

Come one! Come all! It is that time – to join your neighbours and the accomplished Deddington Brass at 6.00pm on Christmas Eve round the tree in the Market Place for the annual community carol sing.

As usual, there will be mulled wine to soothe hoarse throats – or inspire heavenly descants – and volunteers with buckets collecting for Watoto, which provides homes for orphaned and abandoned children, support for vulnerable women and children and support to keep girls in school in Uganda and South Sudan.

Michael Liebrecht
Liebrecht@1gc.com

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NEWS FROM CLIFTON

Tragedy has struck again in our midst as Moira was taken from us suddenly. Moira was a much loved and highly regarded member of our community, whose wit and glamour will be sadly missed. Her keen sense of humour and simple kindness marked Moira out as a key member of our community who will never be replaced. She was taken from us following the prognosis of a vicious disease and we take little comfort from her quick passing, leaving less time for suffering, and leaves our Yorkshire neighbour Alan to reflect again on life's injustice.

Traffic has again featured down here as two HGVs, one from the east and one from the west, brought the village to a standstill as the drivers realised Main Street just wasn't wide enough for both of them. Some feel a width limit could be in order, although, despite the weight limit protecting County Bridge, HGVs do have lawful business along Clifton Road. Registration numbers are being sent to the authorities to check which may mean a width limit may not work.

Cars have kept a few of us busy too, as we build on our database of speeding motorists and the analysis of what the 20mph limit is doing for us. Two hundred and seventy vehicles have been recorded and a clear picture is emerging to be passed on to our neighbourhood police team and local councils.

We know everyone does not support the 20mph zones and we also know that these surveys are not universally popular. Neighbours have taken the time to inform us they thought what we were doing was wrong, although the comparison to the Blackshirts seemed a bit extreme. If the Blackshirts in question were, as we surmised, the SS (or Mussolini's 'helpers'), this seemed especially odd as Nazism only prospered because good people did nothing while rules were being broken. However, all views are valid and these have been taken on board.

Remember – any news please ...

Martin Bryce
martindnbryce@gmail.com

FARMERS' MARKET

Our wonderful Christmas market is later than usual this year as it falls on Saturday 23 December. There is still time for you to order your festive foods from our stallholders. Their contact details are on the stallholders' page on our website www.deddingtonfarmersmarket.co.uk. As usual we will have a full market, as well as the Deddington Brass Band and primary school choir helping to create a festive atmosphere. We encourage our stallholders to wear Christmas themed hats, and we'd be delighted if you



felt you'd like to join them.

We've had a very good year this year on several counts, best of all being able to give more than £2,500 to local clubs, groups and charities at our November market.

Finally, we would like to thank our stallholders and shoppers for their support in 2023 and wish them a festive Christmas time and a Happy

New Year.

Tei Willox
chairman@deddingtonfarmersmarket.co.uk



FRIENDS OF DEDDINGTON LIBRARY

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As Christmas approaches, what better way to support our wonderful library and share the beautiful scenes from our parish with friends and family than buying one of the few remaining library calendars. We've nearly sold out of our A5 calendars and have a handful more of the A4 calendars remaining, so get yours now before they're gone. We're likely to sell out before the December farmers' market so we won't have a stall there but you can get yours from Nellie & Dove, Hamptons, Fenemore's Farm Shop and, of course, the library itself. If you can't get to any of the retailers before Christmas, we'll get a calendar to you; just call Julia Cork on 07881 438930.

The Friends have been grateful recipients of two donations from community organisations, the farmers' market and the parish show, as well as contributions this month from two parish residents. We are grateful for everyone's continued support, be it through donations, buying books, cards or our calendar.

As the festive season and the end of another year approaches, we'd like to thank one and all for your support and wish you a happy and peaceful Christmas with family and friends and a healthy and joyful new year!

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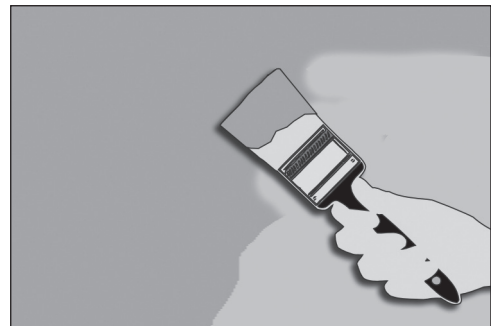
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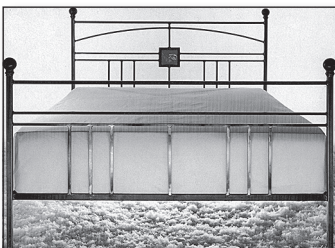
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THE SINKING OF CHRISTOPHER HALL AND HIS TEDDY – 83 YEARS AGO

In November each year we remember those who lost their lives in war. A recent conversation with

Canon Christopher Hall reminded me that we rarely hear from a survivor. Here is his story.

On 20 December 1940 SS *Anchises*, commanded by Captain James, sailed from Hong Kong for Liverpool via the Cape. Among the passengers were Christopher Hall, his 11-year-old sister and parents. In Singapore, where the ship loaded its immensely valuable cargo of rubber, his father disembarked for his episcopal duties in Hong Kong and a member of the Malayan Civil Service, and Bill Nightingale, boarded. Dr Jean Sherring boarded at Cape Town.

The next stop was Freetown, Sierra Leone, on 14 February when the captain had to make a decision whether to join a slow convoy or rely on *Anchises'* speed of 10 knots to avoid U-boats. He chose the latter and crossed almost to Newfoundland before the last, most dangerous, leg across the Atlantic. The captain joked that, as *Anchises* belonged to Alfred Holt & Co, the crockery had AH monograms in gold for 'Adolf Hitler' so they would be safe.

At 9.23am on 27 February, just a day out of Liverpool, the *Anchises* was attacked by a lone Dornier aircraft. Ship's crew member, Robert Prys Owen, later told his son that the plane overflew *Anchises* three times, dropping two bombs each time; all missed but hull plates were sprung, causing flooding in the engine room and stokehold. In the meantime, gunners fired about 70 rounds of ammunition from their Hotchkiss guns before both of them jammed. Tracer bullets were seen to penetrate the plane and its engine coughed as it made off.

Anchises had started to list so, at 10.30am, the captain gave the order for all passengers, stewards and firemen to take to the boats. Thirty-three sailors stayed on board in case they could salvage her. She was sinking slowly, buoyed up perhaps by her cargo of crude rubber.

All six boats got away with 134 passengers and crew on board with women and children first. That included Christopher (his teddy bear tucked into his life-jacket), his mother and sister, with one small case between them. The waves were 40 feet high so oars and rudder were useless. The first to be launched, their lifeboat drifted for 30 hours, so furthest away from *Anchises*.

Back on board, *Anchises* a message was received at 2.00pm, acknowledging the SOS and saying that a Navy ship was on its way. At 7.30pm, she signalled saying she was 20 miles away, proceeding at 10 knots, and that if she had not made it by 9.30pm to burn a flare every half hour; *Anchises* did so.

At 10.00am HMS *Kingcup* (Lt Cambridge RNR), a Flower Class corvette, like *Compass Rose* in 'The Cruel Sea', only commissioned in Belfast two months



History Corner

www.deddingtonhistory.uk

previously, hove over the horizon. She went round a couple of times pouring oil on the mountainous seas.

At 11.00am Captain James

gave the order for the remaining crew to abandon ship. All hands boarded the last lifeboat; it was lowered slowly to within 6ft of the water and the last six feet with a rush. The forward end jammed but the First Mate managed to clear it just in time. Another passenger, Keith Luke, later learned that the lifeboat was crushed by *Kingcup's* bow. Three men were lost including the captain.

Christopher's lifeboat was the last to be found by *Kingcup*. The crew leant over the railings to snatch survivors from it, heaving up and down alongside in the heavy swell. One called out: 'The little un's mine.' All three Halls were saved ... and teddy too.

Lifeboats were searched for anything which might be of interest to enemy intelligence before being sunk. An able seaman came into the wardroom where survivors were recovering and yelled: 'Anyone lost a leg?' It was teddy's.

Passengers' clothes were taken off to the boiler room to dry. Dr Jean, wearing just a raincoat, went on her rounds, tending the needs of the survivors. Only later did she realise that every time she leant down over a patient the back of her raincoat parted – revealingly. One lifeboat was still missing, with Bill Nightingale on board.

Kingcup disembarked the survivors at Gourrock at the mouth of the Clyde. Christopher's father in Hong Kong received a heavily censored cable from his mother, 'Safe ... luggage lost'. Much later, over dinner, he overheard that *Anchises* had been bombed. He fled from the table and was sick.

Fifty-two years later, at a meeting in London in 1994, Christopher, by chance, met John Nightingale. He arranged for Christopher to meet his parents Bill and Jean in Redditch. They were not 'an item' on board *Anchises* but had met again through mutual friends and married in October 1941.

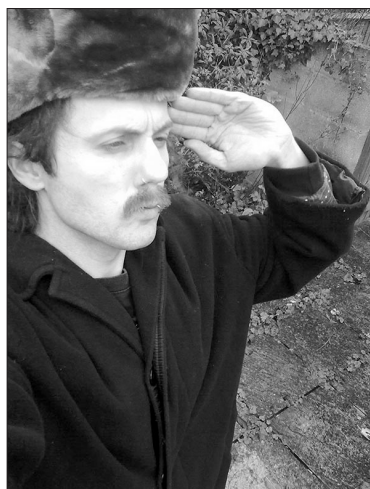
Bill recounted that his lifeboat had not been picked up for a week, by then only one day's ration of food and water was left. Six of the twenty on his lifeboat had died and two more were to die in hospital. They were discovered by a Canadian destroyer HMCS *Assiniboine*. As Bill was then 'in-command of' his lifeboat, the captain lent him his cabin to recuperate. Bill gave Christopher a copy of the original SOS received from *Anchises* at 12.46 on 27/2/41; it read:

'Position 55.14 degrees north; 13.17 degrees west. Preparing to abandon ship. Stoke hold flooded. Require assistance.'

Of the 171 on board, 12 of the crew and three passengers were killed; 156 were rescued – including teddy, now resident at The Knowle.

Christopher Hall achall@globalnet.co.uk
Rob Forsyth Robert.s.forsyth@gmail.com

BLISSFUL THINKING



You know sometimes you feel like you're right behind the eight ball? Or back to square one? I'd like to be on cloud nine for more of the time, like anyone. Far more likely to be at sixes and sevens though, that only a good forty winks could threaten to alleviate. If they would ever materialise. If I could just zero in to

a theme for this piece, it would sure kill two birds with one stone: an immediate piece and another potential avenue for future columns. Look, whether I'm caught between two stools or in a catch-twenty-two situation, a stitch in time saves nine is a favourite motto of mine. I may look half-cocked but rest assured no quarter is given: just two penn'orth. Local connection you say? I remembered playing forty-forty as sprogs at the old Windmill Centre playground. Sometimes a mental image is fruitful, as a picture can paint a thousand words. I was in two minds about whether this was a good idea for a theme: maybe you're able to tell I wrote this at the eleventh hour.

Aaron Bliss
aaronjbloss@hotmail.com

LIGHTS! RUMBLE! ROAR!

It's the Tractor Run! RC Baker, supported by the Co-op and, most importantly, by local farmers, kicks off the run up to Christmas on 16 December with its cavalcade of fairy-light festooned tractors, small and huge, to raise funds for Katharine House Hospice.

The tractors, including, of course, a couple from Home Farm, identifiable by toy sheep on the front, are scheduled to reach Clifton around 7.40pm, before roaring through the pinch point into the Market Place about 7.55pm. After happily disrupting the traffic on the Oxford Road they should reach Hempton around 8.15pm. Timings are obviously very approximate and past experience suggests a probable delay of 15–20 minutes.

Donations can be made on <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/christmastractorrun> and more detailed information is at <https://www.rcbaker.co.uk/tractorrun>

CD

O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree ...

If you are wondering how to dispose of your Christmas tree in an environmentally responsible way Katharine House Hospice has the answer. Volunteer elves are running its tree-cycle scheme once again. In return for a donation to the hospice, volunteers will collect your tree from the street outside your house from 8.00am on either 9 or 10 January. Bookings need to be made on khh.org.uk/christmastree by 10.00am on Tuesday 3 January.

CD

Lawrence Home Nursing

A massive thank you to our volunteer and fundraiser **David Best** of Barford St John for completing the **Great South Run** in October and raising over **£4,200** + Gift Aid for Lawrence Home Nursing.



We would also like to thank **Halls Personal Training** in Deddington (visit: <https://www.personaltraineroxford.com/deddington>) for supporting the charity and helping David with his training.

Our 2023 Christmas cards are now on sale now at **Eagles in Deddington** and priced at **£5 per pack of 8 cards** of the same design.



SAVE THE DATES!

We have two exciting fundraising events taking place in 2024 - our **25th Anniversary Year**:

Graeme Garden In Conversation with Michael Palin
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LETTERS

FROM JANE GREEN,
DEDDINGTON

Christmas cards are for sale in the church in aid of Embrace the Middle East, a British charity sending funds to Christian charities in the Middle East. It was already supporting five charities in Gaza before the present disaster.



FROM ALAN HOLMES, CLIFTON

Following the death of Justin earlier this year and the sudden one of Moira in October, Jayne, Lily, Chloe and I would like to profoundly thank everyone for all the cards and letters of condolence and support we received, as well as the incredibly generous donations to Cancer Research.

The separate celebrations we had for them were both joyous, happy events, filled with laughter mingled with tears. Something we will never forget.

As Jayne has in Adderbury, I would like to say a further thank you to my friends in Clifton who have really looked after me. I have warned them that I am becoming the food critic for the village.

FROM JOHN PEARSON, DEDDINGTON RBL
BRANCH MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT OFFICER

The words below started to form for me at the start of Remembrance week whilst selling poppies at the farmers' market and kept reverberating for that week.

'Remembrance is a community thing, by our community to recognise and remember those who gave, so we have a community.'

At the market, I watched people enjoying the day, sellers selling, people meeting and chatting, dogs everywhere, children playing – in relative safety and without fear – all because so many young people from our villages gave the ultimate sacrifice so we can enjoy today. I'm asking forgiveness, as I am bound to have missed out names but here are many of the things which happened because people care: the school children

decorated the crosses that went into the memorial garden in the Market Place; the Scouts put up the street poppies on lampposts; the churchyard volunteers cleared the leaves from the gravel around the war memorial and raked it; James Greenwood (standard bearer), Neil Skinner (church lighting), Jean Dipper (poppy arrangement), Alan Collins (march drummer), Stan Nelson (church

warden), Flt Lt Jamie Turner (market stall), Maureen Dew for her lovely poem, the Year 6 children who sang their own composition and laid a wreath, Deddington Brass Band, the parish council, DOGS, Guides, Cubs, Fire Brigade, Police and Royal British Legion – and the list will go on. And, of course, the generosity of so many people who showed support by buying and wearing a poppy which does so much: it is a symbol of remembrance for those who have died as a result of service to our country and the funds provide ongoing and much needed support to service personnel whose life has been changed, physically and mentally, and for their families.

Membership costs £18 and the website details are www.Britishlegion.org.uk. Among the benefits I would highlight Bengal Spice's generosity in discounting 10% off their menu prices on presentation of a membership card. You and one guest are eligible to attend the Royal Albert Hall's Festival of Remembrance, tickets are only £15.

FROM SARAH LIEBRECHT, DEDDINGTON

Thank you to everyone who took part in this year's Ride and Stride, walking, cycling and welcoming visitors. Together we raised £907. Half will go to help churches in need throughout Oxfordshire and the other half to our church here in Deddington.

Look out for details of next year's event, the second Saturday in September.

FRIENDS OF THE CASTLE GROUNDS

Autumn has arrived at the Castle Grounds: the leaves are changing colour, look spectacular and are falling fast.

A visit from English Heritage is due very soon, hopefully outstanding matters can be discussed. Seed plugs have been ordered for the wildflower area, including cowslips, white campion and oxeye daisies.

Two of the green bins by the entrance have been removed leaving the area by the wicket screening looking much tidier.

The owl box has arrived and is very impressive. It will be erected in spring. Recently we have had complaints about the dog bins being full. They have now been emptied. Apparently CDC has had a problem

with the vehicle used for this. If you see the bins are full please take your dog waste home or put them in alternative bins in the village.

The Castle Grounds are very wet and muddy at the moment with the addition of slippery leaves under foot. Please avoid the moat area by the badger setts as this area is treacherous. The moat path on the left-hand side is muddy and covered by fallen leaves but is still passable and a nice entrance path to the main Castle site.

We wish everyone a happy Christmas and a healthy New Year. Let's look forward to many visits to the Castle Grounds in 2024 to enjoy this lovely site.

Carol Garrett
cgarrett@btinternet.com

Let's imagine you've got a 'significant' birthday coming up in 2024. You want to invite everyone you know – no wait, that's too many... everyone you like – er no, that's too few... Maybe somewhere in between. About a hundred or so. A friend has said they know someone who would do the catering but they need a fully-functioning commercial kitchen. You want a licensed bar, you want lights, you want music. In fact, another friend has said they know a really good cover band who might be available, so you probably need a stage too. Where to find such a facility – one that will allow you to decorate it as you wish, one that's conveniently located, and one that won't break the bank? (You're a generous person ... but not *that* generous!) I think you know the answer. It's the Windmill – our very own completely redecorated and updated community centre.

If you are new to the village, then we hope you will soon come along and find out what we have to offer. If you've been in the village for a while then there's a risk that the word 'Windmill' conjures up negative images of nasty green carpets, dark brown ill-fitting doors, an outdated 1980s kitchen and very smelly downstairs loos. All gone! Check it out. In fact, an ideal moment to do just that would be to come to the annual village panto *Beauty and the Beast*, performed by Deddington Players, who we are proud to host on 18–20 January. (Shameless plug!)



As well as the newly-decorated main hall – the one where you'll be having your party (and going to the panto) – with its stage, chairs, tables, lights, sound system, double doors into the Hempton Lounge and large hatch into the brand-

new kitchen, we have several other spaces to hire. The Deddington Studio upstairs is a lovely light, airy space used for activities such as yoga, baby classes and dance. It has access to a galley kitchen and is often hired for smaller children's parties, talks or larger meetings. The Clifton Room on the ground floor is our smallest room. With new chairs and tables and plug-in AV equipment, it's ideal for smaller meetings (up to 10-12 people) and other low-capacity events.

Then outside we have the floodlit and recently re-surfaced All Weather Court with markings for football, tennis and netball. You can also hire The Lookout – the old bowls pavilion – which is great for children's parties and small groups who want to enjoy our outdoor spaces, playgrounds and courts but need a weather-proof base.

Where do you get in touch? Visit our website www.thewindmilleddington.org or Facebook page or call our bookings secretary Julie on 07720 834006. The Windmill offers all these possibilities and more. What will you use it for? Happy Christmas everyone!

Vaughan Jones

vaughan@englishlanguagematters.com

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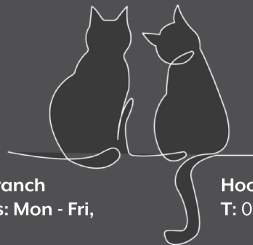
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DEDDINGTON ENVIRONMENT NETWORK

If you've been missing stocking-up on SESI washing up liquid etc at the Deddington Farmers' Market we've got some alternatives for you.

1. The new community refill point in the porch of St Mary Magdalene Church in Duns Tew is offering washing up liquid at £3/litre or 30p/100ml. It's cash only for now, into the wall safe by the door of the church, which is emptied daily. Don't forget to bring your own bottles with you.

2. Visit the Barford farmers' market on the third Saturday of every month – except January and August – between 10.00am and noon to stock up on washing-up liquid, all-purpose cleaner, hand soap and non-bio laundry liquid.

3. If you're happy to commit to a minimum purchase order of 5 litres, we are placing occasional bulk orders. We need to buy at least £150 worth of stock, which is why we have the 5L minimum, of any item. You'll need a 5L container, which we can add to the first order or you can source these yourself.

The price of all products will be cost plus a share of the delivery charge (£18), so they may vary slightly but you'll be getting them at the lowest cost possible. We can deliver within Deddington. Our next order is likely to be in January. To find out more, message us on Facebook or email info@deddingtonenvironment.net.

4. Order online from Nothing But Footprints in Banbury on <https://www.refillnotlandfill.co.uk> and Dan will deliver to your door on a Thursday when you can give him your empty containers for your next delivery. He's also opened another shop in Bicester at 16 Sheep Street, inside 'Bicester Green'.

Want to know more about what is happening locally on sustainability issues but don't want to get too formal or involved? Come along to the People, Planet Pint meet ups. The first is at the Blue Boar in Chipping Norton on 7 December from 6.00–9.00pm, to coincide with COP28 and another at the White Horse in Duns Tew on Thursday 21 December at 7.00pm. The events are designed to get communities together to talk about all things environment in an informal way with no agenda.

Fenemore's Farm in Clifton is selling Christmas trees again. They are all freshly cut trees from a local grower who aims to plant two trees for every one that is harvested. They'll also have their fresh lamb, goat and pork on sale from the 15–17 December, Friday 3.00–5.00pm, Sat 9.00am–3.00pm and Sunday 9.00am–1.00 pm, along with their lovely honey, candles, cards by a local artist, bee houses and nesting boxes.

Fiona Smith and the DEN team
info@deddingtonenvironment.net

FROM THE FIRE STATION

After months of not being on when the alerter sounds, I actually got a shout in the early morning hours – hurrah!

We were called to a van on fire whilst parked up. Our arrival was made slightly tricky by neighbours 'trees and bushes encroaching onto the only narrow access road. The vehicle was well alight and perilously close to the surrounding hedge.

Two firefighters, donning full BA, immediately got two hose-reels to work on the vehicle whilst full lighting was set up. After initially dousing the fire, equipment was used to open both the bonnet and door to allow the



fire to be fully extinguished. At one point the heat was so fierce that both the front and rear screens melted into the driver's compartment.

A full tank of water, over 1800 litres, was emptied and no further property damage occurred.

Several days later the fire engine was on hand at the school firework display, showing lots of excited children around the pump and equipment lockers, with the hose-reel doing a sterling job of cleaning muddy wellies after the event.

James Greenwood FFD
james@cyclogicalshop.co.uk

£2 BUS TICKETS

Stagecoach is offering single tickets capped at £2 under the government's National Bus Fare Cap scheme until at least January 2024. The scheme is available on most single (including Child and Student) local bus journeys in England, including any area where you can get a Stagecoach bus, except London. You can buy tickets on the Stagecoach bus app or on the bus,

using cash, contactless or Apple/Google Pay. There are some exclusions depending on the bus route. Full details of any routes not included can be found in the local service updates. Timetable details are available at <https://www.stagecoachbus.com/about/oxfordshire/banbury>

CD

CALLING ALL CLUBS

Holly Tree Club

At the end of November, our members enjoyed a trip out of the village to Bicester Blue Diamond Garden Centre. They explored the Christmas decoration department, did some shopping and had a lunch that they didn't have to cook. Using OurBus Bartons is a wonderful way to travel!

Julia Cork

Julia.cork@thedha.org

History Society

Thank you to Vaughan Jones who gave a fascinating talk on 'Why did Russia invade Ukraine?'. Throughout history Ukraine has come under the rule of many external powers, finally becoming independent again in 1991 when the Soviet Union was dissolved. Kyiv was the historical capital of medieval 'Kievan Rus' and is regarded as the cultural ancestor of both Russia and Ukraine. The roots of the present conflict go back to the break-up of the Soviet Union and Putin's desire to expand Russia's borders against the West. The rejection of Ukraine's people of their President Yanukovich's pro-Russian stance was followed by the Russian annexation of Crimea in 2014. Subsequently, Putin justified his invasion of western Ukraine by arguing that the many people who wanted to be part of Russia needed his support.

Vaughan has visited Ukraine on many occasions both for work and on humanitarian missions, taking part in some of the supply convoys from this area. At the time of speaking local volunteers had delivered 61 vehicles.

In December Simon Wenham is talking about James Murray, first editor of the Oxford English Dictionary, and in January we look forward to Deddington resident, Jo Eames, telling us about Major-General Hobart and why this unsung war hero's name has been given to Hobart Way off Hempton Road.

Jean Dipper

jean.dipper28@gmail.com

Women's Institute

Jane Abbott spoke to us in November about Christmas traditions. To begin, we were each given a Christmas bauble with a number inside with each number referring to a Christmas tradition, each dealt with in turn. The traditions ranged from the mediaeval, such as boy bishops, to the modern with Rudolph. Christmas food also came into focus: puddings pre-date mince pies, with the former forbidden by Oliver Cromwell in an act not yet repealed. It gave a very different look at things we thought we knew well.

Moira Byast

deddingtonwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk

Photographic Society

November's club night welcomed current member and keen underwater photographer, Chris Dean, who took us to the pre-historic volcanic region of the Maldives which Chris and his wife visit every few months. His

photos varied from lots of friendly tortoises to the black-tipped reef and nurse sharks, which are extremely difficult to photograph, given their nocturnal lifestyle. In shallower waters, colourful powder tangs, trevally, snapper, trigger fish and convict tangs. He recalled how he was very close to being bitten when he ventured too close to a Titan trigger fish's nest. Amongst Chris's favourite Maldives sealife are the rays, including the porcupine, manta and feather tailed sting rays.

We welcome new members to our society nights on the first Wednesday of each month. Contact addphoto.co.uk for further information.

Courtney Killpack

www.addphoto.co.uk

Deddington Bookworms

Our latest read, Marianne Cronin's debut novel, *The One Hundred Years of Lenni and Margot*, is a book about life, love, loss and, most importantly, friendship. Two women, one young and one old, meet in an art class whilst in hospital and bond instantly. Seventeen-year-old Lenni is terminally ill, but still has plenty of living to do. Eighty-three-year-old Margot offers new friendship and enviable artistic skills. Between them they have lived 100 years and Lenni comes up with the idea of painting a picture for every year of their life. It is a heart rending, humorous and touching story and one which most of us thoroughly enjoyed reading.

Our next book is *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens.

Deddingtonbookworms@gmail.com

Local Vocals Community Choir

We meet on Mondays at 7.30pm during term time in the primary school hall. With the end of 2023 creeping closer we are trying to polish our songs and carols ready for the end of term friends and family evening. This is always a fun evening where we celebrate the achievements of the choir with our nearest and dearest and this year is even more meaningful as Local Vocals nears its five year anniversary. I think we have probably tackled nearly 50 songs, albeit some more successfully than others. Thank you to everyone who has supported us over the years. Here's to the next five!

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

Alison Grieve

Royal British Legion

Remembrance this year had several innovations. On Saturday 11 November the two-minute silence was preceded by my piping *The Still* on a Naval bosun's call and *The Carry On* afterwards.

Sunday's proceedings were led by the Bishop of Dorchester as we have no incumbent vicar. Youth organisations were ably shepherded by Maggie Rampley and Jo Churchyard through the third innovation; the Act of Remembrance was held in the church for the first time for as long as anyone can remember. More than 200 people attended the service. Fortunately, the

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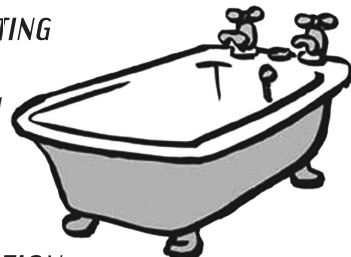
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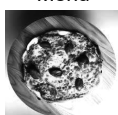
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CALLING ALL CLUBS

Continued from p26

weather was dry by the end and the final parade and march past could take place as usual.

Primary School Year 6 children, who were unable to join the other youth organisations in the parade on the day, observed a two-minute silence and laid a wreath at the war memorial on the following Tuesday. They also movingly sang a peace song of their own composition.

Rob Forsyth, Branch Chairman
robert.s.forsyth@gmail.com

Deddington Players

It's that time of year again ... oh yes, it is! The Deddington Players proudly present this season's pantomime, *Beauty and the Beast*, on 18–20 January at the Windmill. Join Belle at the castle as she tames the Beast and makes lots of new friends while dashing the plans of the dastardly Gastoff. Expect the usual Deddington Players' family fun, toe-tapping tunes, hilarity and audience interaction. Tickets for all four performances are available from 1 December at www.ticketsource.co.uk/deddington-players.

Suzie Upson
suzieupson@mac.com

Book Group

Last month we read *The Jewel of St Petersburg* by Kate Furnivall, the first in a trilogy of historical novels tracing the lives of Russian refugees in the early 20th century. The author paints a convincing picture of unrest in Russia during the years preceding the 1917 Revolution, emphasising the gilded way of life of the wealthy and the dreadful poverty of the workers. The title refers to Valentina, the privileged daughter of the Tsar's finance minister. She falls in love with Jens, a Danish engineer working in Russia, and their story unfolds through a complicated plot full of intrigue and violence.

The historical backdrop and plot are compelling but most of us found the writing style overblown. Some of the characters are rather stereotypical and Valentina herself is blessed with rather too many qualities and accomplishments.

Our next meeting is on Thursday 25 January. Please contact Sally Lambert on 01869 338094 for more details.

The Book Group

SPORT

Deddington Original Golf Society

Your DOGS Committee wishes every DOG the happiest of Christmases, a most enjoyable and healthy 2024 and may the golfing gods shine on you with the unmentionables (shanks) and missed 2-foot putts a thing of the past. Your committee has exchanged contracts, deposits have been paid and three courses booked for 2024. All will be revealed at our AGM on Monday 22 January in the Deddington Arms at 7.00pm.

We are still looking for a venue for the 6 September meeting, the penultimate one of our 2024 calendar, culminating in the evening party. If anyone has a garden large enough and would like to host this event the committee and, more importantly, DOGS members would be forever grateful and your place in heaven assured ...

Tony Lowe, Secretary
dogsgolf23@gmail.com

Deddington Town FC

First Team results

14.10.23	Hanwell Utd (h)	L 5–7
21.10.23	Steeple Aston (a)	W 4–3
28.10.23	Kings Sutton (a)	W 1–0
4.11.23	Woodford Utd (h) W	5–1
11.11.23	Steeple Aston (h)	W 3–0

Reserve Team results

14.10.23	Longford Park (a)	L 0–3
21.10.23	Chesterton (h)	L 2–7
28.10.23	Longford Park Dev (h)	L 1–6
11.11.23	Kings Sutton Res (a) (CUP)	W 1–0

Well, well, well. The Humbugs have dusted themselves down, oiled themselves up and started flinging bodies out of the ring like confetti. After a chaotic defeat to Hanwell, they have blitzed all-comers and stormed to the top of the Premier Division, albeit having played more games.

The Latics have sadly done the opposite; currently having the alarming habit of conceding a hatful and scoring very few goals. However, November did begin with a morale-boosting clean sheet and victory in the Eric Morris Cup, so let's hope this can be a springboard for a midwinter resurgence.

Aaron Bliss
07909 642882

Deddington Town FC Youth

It is with great sadness that we received the news that Matthew Cowley, an Under 14 player, died unexpectedly in the middle of November. As a mark of respect, and in memory of Matthew, there was a minute's silence before fixtures on the weekend of 25–26 November. Matthew's family and friends have set up a GoFundMe page. The Under 14 players, parents and coaches have been hit hard by this loss and the Club will support them and the family at this difficult time.

The Club will be holding a fundraising ball on 16 March at the Great Barn, in Aynho. This is an opportunity to support the future development of the club – improvements in facilities and development for our players and coaches. The Club will donate 25% of the profits to support Young Lives v Cancer – a wonderful organisation that supports children, young people,

SPORT

parents and carers through the challenges of cancer.

We are looking donations from local businesses and individuals for our grand auction and raffle. Could you offer a stay in your holiday home? Do you know of a restaurant that could donate a meal for four? Have you a contact who can donate tickets for major sporting events? Can you donate health and beauty prizes? The bigger the items the higher the bids. Anything we can auction or raffle is welcome. If you can donate,

please contact me.

Volunteers are wanted for coaching, safeguarding, match day support and pitch improvement work. We also need a marketing and communications officer.

Website: www.deddingtontownfc/. Facebook: www.facebook.com/DeddingtonTownFc.

Roger Sykes, 07899 914425
carsykes@btinternet.com

YOUTH

1st Deddington Guides

Our Patrols continue to work well together on various schemes of their choosing. We've played a variety of very energetic games requiring quick thinking and working together. We've tried our hand at painting, and old skills like semaphore.

You may remember that some of our Guides went to Paris for a few days at half term. Marian returned from Suffolk to lead the group, which included Guides from Banbury, and they had a wonderful time, including venturing up the Eiffel Tower on a very windy day and, of course, Disneyland.

As Remembrance Day approached, we were pleased to welcome Rob Forsyth from the British Legion to explain its role and the importance of 11 November. The Guides were very interested in the village's involvement and had lots of questions.

Thanks again for the continued support of parent helpers at weekly meetings.

Maggie Rampley
07957 600755

1st Deddington Scout Group

Thanks to everyone who braved the weather to come to a rather different Remembrance Day Parade.

The group held its AGM on Thursday 16 November.

Cubs

Heads up to all Cub parents: 'they' now know how to iron, make a proper cup of tea (none of your tea bag nonsense) and peel and chop vegetables. Use this information wisely.

As a run up to Remembrance Day, we talked about our role in the parade, practised carrying the flag and explained about the poppies.

We invested six new Cubs, then spent the rest of the evening making galaxies as the first part of the Astronomer Badge, hoping for clear skies for the next few weeks.

deddingtoncubs@gmail.com

Scouts

Scouts were entertained when an ex-member came to talk them through the labyrinth that is Dungeons and Dragons. We had received a free kit that allowed us to run the evening and tick off one of their badge requirements.

We spent an evening talking about the Royal British Legion and the part they play in the Poppy Appeal and Remembrance Day Parade. We also looked at the role played by Scouts in both the World Wars and were amazed at the level of skill and responsibility they had. We watched a 1941 film about The Scouts, *Men of Tomorrow*, 50 /50 heart-warming and hilarious!

We ran our Royal Army Medical Corps evening – casualties had to be retrieved from the 'battlefield' and treated while avoiding mines (frisbees) and gas attacks.

Congratulations to all the Scouts who helped the RBL by installing the poppies around the parish; a good job, well done.

Pete Churchyard
deddingtonscouts@gmail.com

DEDDINGTON LIBRARY

The library is looking for two volunteers to help with Rhymetime starting in the new year. This involves singing nursery rhymes with toddlers and babies and their mothers for half an hour on a Monday every few weeks, on a rota basis. Please pop into the library for more information.

I had great pleasure in returning to the primary school recently to hand out the certificates and medals from the summer reading challenge. It was a great success with almost 100 children taking part and an excellent 85% completion rate. Thank you to the parents for encouraging their children to take part. My follow-on challenge, for both children and adults, of 20 books before Christmas is still ongoing.

The Friends of the Library's 2024 calendar is on sale in the library – as well as at the December farmers' market, Nellie and Dove and Hampton's. It makes a lovely Christmas present and the proceeds help keep the library open.

Please note: the library will close on 23 December at 1.00pm and will re-open on Wednesday 3 January 2024 at 9.30am. Wishing all my readers a very happy Christmas and a blessed New Year.

Gail Cripps
Gail.Cripps@Oxfordshire.gov.uk

BED & BREAKFAST



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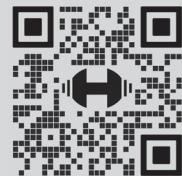
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 CITIZENS ADVICE 01295 221448
 HEALTH CENTRE DEDDINGTON 01869 338611
 HOSPITALS:
 Churchill 0300 304 7777
 Foscote (Private) 01295 252281
 Horton General 0300 304 7777
 John Radcliffe 0300 304 7777
 Manor (Nuffield Health, Private) 01865 987292
 Nuffield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

Merry Christmas from all of us!



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 special events in December - visit: nellieanddove.com