

February 2024

The **DEDDINGTON NEWS**



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by **10 FEBRUARY**

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

The DEDDINGTON NEWS

Not only is a small number of people in our community being harried by BT over their landlines and we've had a series of statements from our Health Centre posted on Facebook rather than via more traditional methods, but at least one of our established local organisations has opted to limit the sale of tickets by only making them available through online purchases, rather than including a personal option through one of our retail outlets. I think this excludes some in the community.

On the subject of BT and our disappearing copper lines, our thanks to Helen Oldfield, chair of the PC, for tackling their representatives (see p10) at an extraordinarily restricted drop-in session at the Windmill last week – maybe BT hoped no one would ask any serious questions?

JC

What's On February

Wed 7 Photographic Society: Adderbury Institute, 7.30pm
Wed 14 WI: Craft Activity and Resolutions, Holly Tree, 2.30pm
Thu 15 DEN: People Planet Pint, The George, Barford, 7.00pm
Thu 15 History Society: Canal People, Martin Buckland, Primary School, 7.30pm
Wed 21 Parish Council meeting: Hempton Lounge, Windmill Centre, 7.30pm
Sat 24 Farmers' Market: Market Place, 9.00am–12.30pm
Thu 29 Bookworms: Holly Tree, 6.30pm
Thu 29 Book Group: Please contact Sally Lambert on 01869 338094

March

Wed 6 Photographic Society: Adderbury Institute, 7.30pm
Wed 13 WI: Annual Meeting, Holly Tree, 2.30pm
Sat 16 Deddington Town FC: Fundraising Ball, Great Barn, Aynho
Wed 20 Parish Council meeting: Old School Room, Hempton, 7.30pm
Thu 21 DEN: People Planet Pint, Elephant and Castle, Bloxham, 7.00pm
Thu 21 History Society: 'Can Onions Cure Headaches?' Primary School, 7.30pm
Sat 23 Farmers' Market: Market Place, 9.00am–12.30pm

April

Thu 18 History Society: 'Soldiers, Saints and Sinners of the Civil War in Oxfordshire', Primary School, 7.30pm
Sat 27 Farmers' Market: Market Place, 9.00am–12.30pm

May

Tue 7 DOGS: Brickhampton Golf Club, Churchdown
Thu 16 History Society: 'Homes Fit for Heroes?' Primary School, 7.30pm
Sat 25 Farmers' Market: Market Place, 9.00am–12.30pm

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DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Extraordinary Meeting held on 12 December in the Clifton Room, Windmill Centre

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

Neighbourhood Plan

A few days prior to this meeting, the examiner's executive draft report was received followed by the final report today. This is now a public document and can be read on the parish neighbourhood plan site: <http://www.deddingtonneighbourhoodplan.org/>.

Several minor changes were suggested by the examiner and the PC agreed to accept the amended changes and for CDC to proceed to referendum.

Planning Applications

No objection

Sentry House, Castle Street, Deddington: tree works.
Grove Barn, The Grove, Deddington: tree works.

Leadenporch Farm, Chapman's Lane: conversion of agricultural building to a dwelling house.

Clifton Mill, Main Street: changing roof material to annexe and garage, new doors to garage. PC deferred to the conservation officer regarding replacement roofing materials in proximity to the listed Mill House.

The Hawthorns, County View, Clifton: single storey extension to southern elevation, porch and bay window to northern elevation and side door and window, extend driveway.

Approvals

Fairacre, 17 St John's Way, Hempton: remove existing conservatory and enlarge existing rear extension.

Refusals

8 The Paddocks, Deddington: single storey rear extension – due to scale, design and location, adverse impact on neighbouring property.

Appeal

Land East of Combe Cottage and South of St John's Way, Hempton Road: outline planning application for the erection of up to 9 dwellings. Appeal dismissed on the basis of the Neighbourhood Plan and the walking distance from shops and facilities.

Meeting on Wednesday 20 December at the Deddington Arms

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

District Council

Councillor Williams advised the PC that he will not be standing as District Councillor next year. He was warmly thanked for all his years of support of the PC.

He advised that CDC's move from Bodicote House is likely to take at least a year but that the facility for marriage ceremonies at Bodicote House will be retained. The question of parking at the new venue at

Castle Quay has not been decided.

The Deddington Neighbourhood Plan could be delayed as a result of local elections in early May next year. Final NP documents are expected to be with CDC before Christmas.

Funding continues to support the food voucher scheme across the district and a map of warm spaces has been created.

A household support fund equipment grant has also been established, allowing community groups to apply for up to £5,000 to provide equipment for residents in need.

Finance and General Purposes

It was agreed to spend up to £500 for a maintenance contract for the CCTV cameras and a further £850 to replace 3 cameras if needed.

Concern was expressed regarding the switching off of the copper telephone lines and Open Reach's lack of consultation with the PC. PC allocated up to £200 to be available for a mail drop to advise residents on how to deal with the situation. Open Reach provides the network but residents will need to contact their own phone provider directly for further assistance.

Deddington Environment Network requested the PC to join in a large open meeting, combining with the church, Deddington Development Watch and our local MP, Victoria Prentis. This was declined as being potentially political.

Discussion on installation of wi-fi in the Market Place for the farmers' market traders is ongoing as apparently they are interested. Ultimately it was decided to make further enquiries of the group but, in the meantime, the PC will write again to CDC planning, requesting answers to questions they raised regarding the planning application for the installation of a telecoms mast in the village. A planning appeal for this is to be decided by the end of January.

Work on the roof at the Windmill is on track to be carried out in February and Councillors Oldfield, Robinson and Swadling were particularly thanked for their work on getting the contract sorted and obtaining considerable grants.

Planning

No objection

The Cottage, Goose Green: retrospective consent to re-roof the building and replace rainwater goods, but defer to conservation officer regarding appropriateness of materials.

8 The Paddocks, Deddington: single storey rear extension – revised scheme. Reapplication following a refusal notified at last week's meeting.

Approvals

Plum Cottage, Philcote Street, Deddington: tree works, crown reduction.

Neighbourhood Plan

PC to stress the urgency of passing the NP to go to referendum.

The extent of the impact of Burringtons (developers

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



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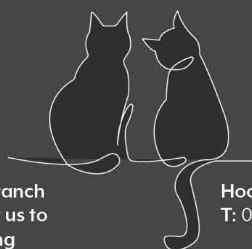
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DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL *Continued from p2*

of Hobart Way and Clifton Gate) becoming insolvent remains to be seen, particularly regarding footpaths and safety issues, in addition to S106 payments which amount to around £300,000. CDC was aware of the company's demise but OCC was not. Money due is now being chased and OCC is following up on the road improvements promised as part of planning consent.

There has been some objection from residents of Clifton to the naming of a house on the Clifton Gate development Clifton Lodge.

Highways and Transport

A broken manhole on St Thomas Street outside The Mount is being reported on Fix My Street.

Existing VAS (vehicle activated signs) can be used on the 30mph stretch of the Clifton Road. More will be requested for specific areas of the parish where excess speed is an issue.

One councillor undertook his own independent traffic survey of east-west vehicles over an hour and recorded 25 rock trucks travelling well in excess of 20mph through Hempton and breaking several Highway Code rules. An application for a weight restriction on the road is to be made.

Environment and Recreation

The grass cutting contractor is being asked to requote, taking account of the areas to be left and those to be cut and collecting grass clippings at the end of the No Mow period.

Four quotes have been received for the mini-tennis project and the PC is continuing to seek additional contractors for the work wanted at Welford's Piece, until any further information becomes available regarding Burringtons.

Thanks are to be sent to Clifton residents for their efforts with the fun Santas.

Meeting on 17 January at the Windmill Centre

Present: Cllrs Collins, Cox, Norton, Oldfield (chair), O'Neill, Snashall, Swadling, Swan, Robinson, Timms, Watts, CC Fatemian, DC Williams, the parish clerk, two representatives of the Windmill Management Committee, and three members of the public and the DN correspondent.

Matters Arising from the Last Meeting

Councillor Ince has resigned and was thanked for his tireless contributions to discussions. This leaves two vacancies on the council and some younger representatives would be welcomed.

Nicholas Mylne was co-opted to the PC and joined the meeting.

County Council report

Councillor Fatemian indicated that Steeple Aston PC is interested in joining forces to tackle the Blandford

Fly problem which arises in May and June.

Finance & General Purposes

The PC approved its 2024–25 budget, including a 6.5% increase on the precept. This will appear lower per household as a result of the increase in the number of houses in the parish.

Planning

No objection

The Unicorn Hotel, Deddington: retrospective consent to redecorate a section of the front elevation grey.

The Little House, Clifton Road: erection of agricultural/plant store.

Land north of Deddington Highway Depot, Deddington: erection of a salt barn and wash down facility and additional works. PC would be very keen to see ecology comments and biodiversity mitigation plans for this site.

Castle End House, Castle Street, Deddington: tree works.

5 The Leyes, Deddington: single storey detached home office/studio. Unfortunately, this item missed from the January agenda and no comment was put forward.

Approvals

Castle End House, Castle Street: erection of greenhouse to east of house.

Plough House, New Street, Deddington: repointing and other works.

Sentry House, Castle Street: tree works.

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

Grove Barn, The Grove, Deddington: tree works.

Refusals

Leadenporch Farm, Chapmans Lane: Conversion of agricultural building into one bed dwelling house. Proposed alterations would go beyond the building operations permissible under Class Q.

Appeals

The Swere, Deddington: Proposed 5G telecom installation.

Land Adjacent to Clifton Gate development, Clifton Road: erection of single dwelling with detached garage and all associated works, lodged 19.12.2023.

Land Adjacent to Clifton Gate development, Clifton Road: erection of single dwelling with detached garage and all associated works, lodged 16.01.2024.

Neighbourhood Plan

It was understood that the NP will go to referendum in the parish to be voted on on 5 May at the same time as local elections.

Next meeting Wednesday 21 February at 7.30pm at the Windmill Centre.

Hempton Common Land Charity

The charity can consider applications from Hempton residents for furniture, bedding, clothing, food, fuel, heating appliances, tools, books, payment of fees for instruction or examination, or travelling expenses. This list is indicative rather than exclusive.

Most of the grants are up to £100 but the trustees

might consider making a larger grant if funds were available.

Applications must be made in writing to the church wardens or via email to wardens@deddingtonchurch.org. More details are available on our website, www.hemptoncharity.org.

FARMERS' MARKET

Granary Oils and Walnuts

We are a family run farm situated at the tip of South Warwickshire, bordering the Cotswolds AONB. Our farm comprises mostly grassland. We have around 800 walnut trees, grown in pasture fields that our 300 ewes graze beneath. As well as sheep, we produce specialist crops of rye grass/clover hay for horses, Lucerne hay, predominantly for zoos and clover hay for goats.

The farm is owned and run by the Tame family, now in their fourth generation on the farm. The day-to-day running is carried out by David with help from his wife, Rachel, mother Sheila and brother Tom.

We already had 30 mature walnut trees when 10 years ago, we tentatively diversified with the planting of a commercial walnut orchard of 50 trees. The next few years saw 700 additional walnut trees planted.

Last year we harvested 0.75 tonne from our own trees but, to satisfy demand, we harvest walnuts from other sites in the UK and, to cope with the ever-growing crop of walnuts each year, we have invested in machinery to harvest, wash, dry and shell.

Our walnuts are harvested from the end of September through to the middle of October. Once collected, they are washed and dried and then they can be stored safely until they are sold in various forms, in the shell



being the most traditional way.

We produce cold pressed walnut oil by means of a hydraulic press. Pressing with this method ensures that all the goodness of the oil is preserved. Walnut oil is delicate and best used cold, as a dressing drizzled on salad, meat and fish dishes just before serving. We love adding it along with a spoonful of honey to ice-cream and yoghurt.

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David Tame

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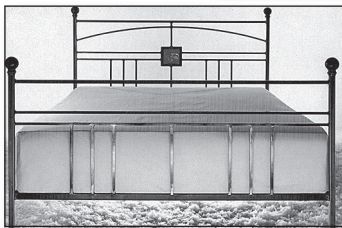
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CHURCH

Parish Church SS Peter and Paul

Deddington Benefice still 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. By the time you read this it is possible a new vicar may have been chosen; until that person is in post, the first points of contact are still your churchwardens.

A big thank you goes out to Alex Moss and his team for once again preparing and delivering a Christmas feast for some of our local residents.

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>.

Weekdays

Mon and Fri:	8.45am	Morning Prayer
Wed:	10.00am	Holy Communion (healing prayer on 4th Wednesday)

Thu:	9.30–11.30am	Tea + Toast and Squiggles and Wiggles
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Tea and Toast and Squiggles and Wiggles provides a safe space for socialising, playing, learning to share and care and much more. As church we offer not just the building but people and their time. Volunteers prepare the simple refreshments and get the toys out of the Living Room. The carers themselves are responsible for the children. More volunteers would be very welcome.

Ash Wednesday is on 14 February this year. Mark-

ing the beginning of Lent, special services, with Imposition of Ashes, will be said both at the usual 10.00am Communion and in an additional service at 7.00pm.

February

Sun 4	10.30am	Holy Communion
	3.00pm	3 O'Clock Family Service
	6.00pm	Sung Evensong
Sun 11	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sun 18	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sun 25	10.30am	Holy Communion

Hempton

Sun 18	9.00am	Holy Communion
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Barford St Michael

Sun 4	10.30am	Coffee and Chat
Sun 11	9.00am	Communion
Sun 18	10.30am	Family Service
Sun 25	10.30am	Family Holy Communion

From the Parish Registers

Baptisms

3 Dec	Bella Jane Calcutt-Jones
	Adelaide Elizabeth Calcutt-Hemmings
	Alfie James Calcutt-Jones

Funerals

28 Dec	James Simmonds
9 Jan	Peter Richardson
12 Jan	Catherine Purton

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 streams 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.

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Happy New Year from all of us. We sincerely hope you all had a peaceful time with family and friends.

The end of last term was busy but wonderful. Our three Christmas performances were enjoyed by everyone who attended. The children sang, acted and read beautifully, portraying the Christmas story in a variety of ways.

The children enjoyed taking part in our annual 'Santa Run' as well as making and selling things at the school Christmas Market. Thank you to parents, families and friends who attended and supported this event.

As we start the new term, we are looking forward to new topics and plans in all aspects of our school life and hoping for some kind winter weather ahead.

Denise Welch

dwel3954@deddington.oxon.sch.uk

From the Fire Station

Happy New Year to everyone from Deddington fire station and, for those affected by the recent flooding, we hope the waters are receding.

The station is still relatively quiet regarding active shouts. There has been some building work around the station, resulting in the office being moved downstairs and the gym is now upstairs next to the kitchen and mess room.

Barney Neal has completed his BA training and the whole crew is now fully BA compliant. Corrie King and Stephen Baker both passed their ERD (emergency response driving) so can pilot the pump on full blue light runs; and Louis Martin and James Greenwood both passed their final development drills so are now competent Fire Fighters.

FF James Greenwood

james@cyclogicalshop.co.uk

The Great Phone Switchover

Deddington telephone exchange will close in the next two or three months. From then, landline telephones will only work if they have a connection via Digital Voice and broadband (or similar).

The BT staff in charge of the switchover held a session at the Windmill Centre on Thursday 11 January to explain what would happen and the help they could offer. The Parish Council only heard of this a few days in advance, but the 72 BT customers most crucially affected were invited some weeks earlier.

For most, the switchover should present no problem, since they already have Digital Voice and an internet connection. However, of the 72 BT customers who do not have Digital Voice installed, 40 have a copper wire cable connecting them to the network. They will need to have fibre optic cable laid to their homes to replace the copper, as well as the Digital Voice kit in their homes. The kit consists of a couple of smallish boxes and attendant wires, one of them a router or hub.

BT Senior Manager, Lee Barlow, who is working on the switchover on behalf of BT Consumer, told me they have already written to the 72 customers letting them know their landlines will need updating. They have been phoning customers to try to make appointments to carry out the installation. Initially the deadline for this work was set for the end of March but, following government intervention in December, this date is under review. BT still aims to have it completed by the end of April. This will affect every landline in Deddington parish – not just those with a BT account, but those with other providers too, because all the landline providers in Deddington ultimately derive their connection from Openreach, a BT affiliate.

Some of the 72 BT customers identified do not have broadband. They may not want an internet connection for laptops and so on, but they will need both fibre optic cable connection and rudimentary broadband that can connect them to Digital Voice if they wish their landline to continue working. There won't be any additional charges for this installation or increases to future bills.

BT's efforts to transfer their 72 customers to Digital Voice have not gone entirely smoothly. Some have agreed and appointments are being made, I'm told. Some have refused to take the telephone call from BT (and who can blame them when one considers the number of scam calls one receives purporting to come from BT). Some have apparently just plain refused to be switched over. Unfortunately for these refuseniks, unless they have mobile phones or change their minds, they will be without a telephone connection when the switchover happens.

Health Care Pendants

The switchover has implications beyond landlines. Health Care pendants or Telecare buttons and heart monitors may need to be connected to Digital Voice as well. Oxfordshire County Council knows of 16 people with pendants or other buttons because they provided them and they will ensure they are compatible.

Other people may have privately purchased pendants which may not work with Digital Voice. An OCC

officer, Dawn Wheeler, is trying to find out who these are to offer assistance. She is also trying to identify businesses and householders with landlines from providers other than BT. We know that Zen has already switched customers to Digital Voice. We don't know if others have done so. If not, we hope they do so by the end of March.

In the event of a power cut, landlines via Digital Voice will not work. Battery back-up will be available for vulnerable customers. Contrary to rumour, you don't need a doctor's certificate; you can self-identify as having one of the various conditions that entitle you to back-up.

Astonishingly BT Consumer, the people we met who are responsible for residents' phones, do not know whether BT Business has been in touch with their local customers to brief them about the switchover. But there is good news: BT will be organising another information session at the Windmill. They've promised us more notice of the date and there will be representatives from BT Consumer, BT Business, Openreach and OCC. So, we hope we will get the full story. The PC hopes to help anyone concerned over this switchover. Ring the PC office on 01869 337447, leave a message and one of us will try to assist you. And there's the BT Customer Service number, 0800 800 150.

Helen Oldfield
Chair, Deddington Parish Council
helenoldfield.dpc@gmail.com



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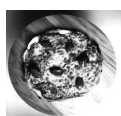
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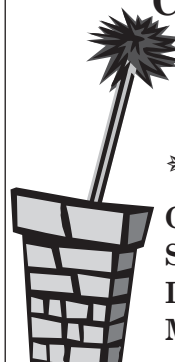
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With a week until showtime, I am writing with complete confidence that this year's village panto, *Beauty and the Beast*, will have been an absolute triumph with truly memorable performances, breath-taking special effects and buckets of glorious silliness (some including water). It will have been a chance for many of you to see the 'new look' Windmill main hall for the first time. We hope you like it. The panto is always a fun community event and a great way to kick off the new year. As usual, the Deddington Players and our management committee are grateful to regular users who had to cancel or reschedule their sessions to accommodate the rehearsals and shows. Thank you.

Another big ticket event – this one for adults only – is our third Lone Wolf Comedy Club night on Saturday 3 February. The very funny regular MC, Andrew Bird, was recently named Comics' Comic for 2023 and will be joined by comedians, Julian Deane and Eddie Brimson, both new to Deddington. The bar will open at 7.00pm and fish and chips will be available, so join us for what I am sure will be another hilarious evening. Tickets are available online (wegottickets.com/lone-wolfcomedyclub/) or on the door. As on both previous occasions, this is a fundraising event. All profits will go to support Nai's House – a Bicester-based suicide prevention and mental health support charity.

At last work on the new roof is about to begin. This one is a real biggie and long overdue. Contractors are due to start in early February and have assured us that disruption will be minimal. The Windmill will remain open throughout and we hope the job will be completed within 4–6 weeks. We will inform regular Windmill users if there are any changes to this. Many thanks to the parish council for part-funding and managing the works. Let's hope it goes well.

Remember that you can find out what is happening at the Windmill or how to book it for one of your own events by visiting our website www.thewindmillededdington.org or our Facebook page or by calling our bookings secretary, Julie, on 07720 834006.

All good wishes for a great 2024 from all of us on the Windmill management committee.

Vaughan Jones
vaughan@englishlanguagematters.com

A New Roof for the Windmill Centre

In February work will begin on a new roof for the Windmill Centre. As many of you may know, there has been a problem for some time with water dripping through to our lovely new Deddington Studio floor on the first floor. We've patched up leaks but there is still an issue with condensation – hence the drips. So the parish council and Windmill management committee have decided there is nothing for it but a complete new roof.

Scaffolding will be erected on the building on 5 February and the replacement work should take five or six weeks altogether. All the usual activities that go on at the Centre will continue as usual and all the entrances will be accessible. During the working day, there may be some noise from the construction work and the builders will need six spaces in the car park. We hope the work will not cause inconvenience.

The total cost of the work will approach £90,000. We have been very fortunate in securing a number of grants from various bodies which will cover the major part of the expense. So we would like to give our whole-hearted thanks, first to the Valencia Communities Fund which has promised us £50,000 towards the new roof. This is an independent non-profit company that administers Valencia Waste Management's contributions to the Landfill Communities Fund. We in Deddington are eligible for a grant because we are within ten miles of the waste recycling centre at Ardley Fields.

Next we should like to thank Cherwell District Council which has recently opened a Village Halls Fund financed by the Rural England Prosperity Fund. Their contribution will be £25,000 and, of course, we're very grateful to them.

Finally, the Windmill Management Committee, which clearly has a keen interest in a secure roof, has been offered a grant of £8,000 by the Garfield Weston Foundation. This is a grant-making charity set up in the 1950s by a Canadian philanthropist and maintained by his family. They have many applicants so the WMC is indeed fortunate that Garfield Weston has agreed to make this generous contribution to our project.

The remainder of the cost of the new roof will have to come from PC reserves – unless there are parishioners who fancy chipping in. If you would like to 'Buy a Rivet' so that you too have a stake in preserving our Windmill Community Centre, let us know at the parish office, deddingtonparishcouncil@googlemail.com or 01869 337447, or let me know. We're pricing rivets at a fiver a go, but you could always get more than one.

Helen Oldfield (Cllr)
helenoldfield.dpc@gmail.com

PFSU & NURSERY

A happy New Year to you. We would like to say a big thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas raffle. I am pleased to announce that we raised £1,131 for our charities.

Applications for September 2024 for both the PFSU

and nursery are now open. Please email us for an application form or to arrange to look around.

Charlotte Witka
PFSU Deputy Manager
info@deddingtonnurseryandpfsu.co.uk

TRACTOR RUN

Last year's Tractor Run total has now reached over £49,000 for Katharine House Hospice, thanks to the generosity of the community, local businesses, an amazing team of 50 volunteer bucket shakers and our fabulous participants. Incredible!

We limit the number of tractors that can take part each year to 100 (the police have asked us to restrict it to this number and we also feel that 100 tractors is more than enough to manage and organise).

The route: departs Spring Hill Farm in Barford St Michael at 5.00pm, the tractors travel through the villages of South Newington, Milcombe and Bloxham. From Bloxham, they continue along the A361 into Banbury. On reaching the traffic lights in Banbury, the tractors turn left, down to Banbury Cross. They drive around the Cross and back up South Bar (retracing their steps) and continue along the Oxford Road (A4260) to Adderbury. Once in Adderbury, the convoy turns left at the traffic lights and passes Katharine House Hospice. They continue to Aynho and from there they travel along to Clifton, through Deddington (via the Market Place), Hempton and back through Barford St Michael to Spring Hill Farm.

We are absolutely thrilled by the overwhelming support our event received once again this year. The turnout was nothing short of phenomenal, with both

the crowd and the display of tractors surpassing all expectations. Our farming community truly outdid themselves, with their incredible looking tractors. Before the convoy even set off, we had already broken previous records and the momentum has only continued. We know the funds raised will make a significant difference to Katharine House Hospice and will help

support patients and their families in receiving vital care from the amazing team there. What makes the success of the event even more special is the flood of positive comments we have received. It's heartening to see that, in its eighth year, our event has become a cherished Christmas

tradition for many. The joy it brings to both children and adults alike is truly heartening.

We want to say the biggest thank you to everyone who contributed to making this event happen. Your support has not only made this a meaningful Christmas tradition but has also spread joy and will make a lasting impact on those in need of support from Katharine House Hospice.

Jennie Steenkamp

Director, RC Baker Ltd and event organiser



*Toby Nunneley, no 56, the winner of the Best Dressed Tractor
Photo courtesy Matthew Hicks*

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Friends of Deddington Library

First of all, a very happy New Year to all. I hope you had a fabulous festive break. We'd like to thank everyone who supported our photo competition and calendar last year.

Entries were up and the quality of pictures always impresses us. Our sincere thanks to our loyal and valued sponsors who make it possible to produce such a high quality calendar, the hundreds of you who buy the calendar each year and the army of talented photographers who traverse our parish for new angles and spectacular vistas. You're all a key component of making our calendar possible and keeping our valued library open, so take a bow and thank you.

Keep taking those pics as we'll be opening our entries again in March for this year's competition. The likely deadline will be early August.

Bryn Williams

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NEWS FROM HEMPTON

The Deddington Arms was the scene of the Hempton Halfwits' latest triumph, carrying all before at the charity quiz night. Congratulations to them.

Here in this quiet corner of the world, we thankfully avoid the vicissitudes befalling many around the globe. It was not always thus. The area has witnessed warfare and momentous political change as overwhelming as any featuring on today's international newsround.

Britain was uninhabited during the last Ice Age. As the climate improved, these isles were gradually populated by migrants from European shores. In the late Iron Age, before the Romans came to stay, Britannic tribes formed a nation of fierce warriors. Our knowledge of tribal territory is extremely vague. Historians have estimated the potential extent of tribal influence partly by plotting the distribution of coinage found bearing a tribal or king's name.

Hempton sat close to the confluence of three kingdoms; those of the Catuellauni to the east, the Corieltauvi to the north and the Dobunni to the west. The tribes were polytheistic with beliefs and practices involving offerings and sacrifice, including human but mostly animal, and believed in fairies and the 'other World'. Warfare between the Celtic tribes could be brutal, bloody and savage, occasionally including the slaughter of non-combatants. This may possibly explain the presence of Iron Age hill forts here at Ilbury and nearby locations. Perhaps raiding parties and land grabs took place with tribal influence ebbing and flowing across the area.

Then in 45 CE the Roman legions arrived with war elephants. The Catuellauni and others put up a resistance but ultimately, over 40 or so years, all but Wales and Scotland submitted to Roman rule. The elite of society benefited enormously under Roman rule but life for the majority at the bottom of the ladder changed little although slavery and social inequality increased.

Angles, Saxons and Jutes were raiding and settling in the East before the Romans cleared off in 435 CE. Following their departure, Britons reverted to tribal politics; society collapsed, and within a generation the villas and towns of Roman Britain were almost completely abandoned. The invaders came in strength,

quickly dominating what was to become England. They were ferocious barbarian invaders and settlers with pagan beliefs. The overlords of kingdoms changed frequently as a result of pitched battles, regnal and dynastic murder, intrigue and strategic marriage. By the 7th century CE, Hempton found itself in the kingdom of Mercia under, amongst other less familiar kings, Offa, famous for his Dyke.

Then the Vikings stuck their oars in. In 787 three long boats arrived in the Isle of Portland, Dorset, and were greeted by the local Reeve, Beaduheard, who was promptly cut down. This was the first recorded landing; many more long boats came, marauding throughout the land. Monasteries were especially popular targets and were violently relieved of great wealth. Eventually, King Alfred defeated the Danish armies but opted for compromise, conceding to King Guthrum of the Danes control of Eastern England and Northumbria. Their territory was known as the Danelaw and Hempton sat close to its border. In 913 a Viking army fought the men of Hook Norton at nearby Todmarton Camp, reportedly killing many in the area.

Then William of Normandy crossed the Channel and took the crown and title to the whole of England by force of arms. The tensions between the Norman tradition of central power and Saxon autonomy of kith and kin resulted in Magna Carta, the Baronial wars under Henry III and the Peasants' Revolt, culminating in the religious and political revolutions of the Tudors and Stuarts. The eventual outcome was constitutional monarchy subject to parliamentary democracy.

The last physical threat came in the 1939-45 war when the Luftwaffe bombed Barford St John airfield. That is, if you discount the ongoing threat of nuclear annihilation.

Although Pitt the Younger thought pistols at dawn a suitable remedy back in 1798, today we tend to throw insults and feeble jokes across the Commons dispatch box rather than cleaving an opponents head from his shoulders with a battle axe.

Long may we continue to live peacefully in our serene abode, traffic excepted. Would that the rest of the world was equally tranquil.

Stuart Oldham
sj_oldham@btinternet.com

Friends of the Castle Grounds

Happy New Year and a healthy and happy 2024 to all.

After the awful weather the Castle Grounds is very wet and muddy and very slippery underfoot. Take care when you are walking the grounds. Once again the poo bins are very full; the Parish Council has been informed. Please use the other available bins or take them home for disposal.

The new owl box is going to be installed by the Barn Owl Trust in the next few weeks ready for the breeding season.

The first mow of the year has taken place. We have a new volunteer, Charlotte. Thank you for offering your help. If you feel you can spare some time to help us out, please get in touch. Even though the Castle Grounds is very wet and muddy at the moment, I hope better weather and lighter nights are arriving soon.

Come and visit the Castle Grounds and enjoy this wonderful historic site which we are so lucky to have.

Carol Garrett
cgarrett@btinternet.com

DH History Corner

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Deddington Turnpike and Toll-House

On 27 October 1903 the *Banbury Advertiser* reported that the Duchess of Marlborough's car, in which she was travelling towards Oxford, had been stopped by the police in the vicinity of 'the spot known as the toll-gate' doing 20mph.

On being advised of this, the Duchess provided the name and address of her chauffeur. This interesting nugget of information was occasioned by an email enquiry from Simon Roots of Nottingham who thought that his ancestor, William Lewis (b1837), may have lived in the toll-house at the time of the 1891 census. To my surprise there was not an article in the *Deddington*

News or on the History website referring to it, despite it being generally known that the road through the village had been a turnpike at one time. What follows is the result of my joint research with Steeple Aston Village Archive (SAVA). Somewhat late in the day, here is what we found.

In 1755 a group of Warwickshire gentry petitioned Parliament for a turnpike road from Ryeton Bridge south to Banbury. The gentry of Oxford and the surrounding county seized the opportunity to add an extra section from Banbury to Oxford. In support of their case, Mr Francis Edge (of the Three Tuns, Banbury) said that 'The road is, from the number of heavy carriages passing along the same, and the nature of the soil, so ruinous as to be dangerous to travellers and almost impassable for carriages many months of the year'. The final recommendation describes the road as being 'from the Cross Hand near Finford Bridge [aka Ryeton/Ryton Bridge] to Banbury and from the Guide Post near the vill (sic) of Adderbury to the Mileway leading to the City of Oxford'. It was called the Kidlington & Deddington Trust and had jurisdiction from Adderbury village to Parks Road in Oxford. Samuel Churchill of Deddington was appointed as Clerk to the Trust.

The turnpike is first shown on a 1756 map of Oxfordshire. A later 1821 Ordnance Survey map marks the location of the toll-gate as being where South Brook, marking the boundary between Deddington and North Aston, passes under the road just to the south of the village.

Census records provided the names of three toll keepers – Richard Busby in 1851, Aima Allan (female)

in 1861 and George Skuce in 1871. He was the last keeper because the turnpike was closed in 1876. The house remained a dwelling for some years after when census records list the Preedy family as living in 'the old toll house' in 1881 and Frank and Rose Sykes in 1891. There is then nothing identifiable as the old toll-house. This raised the possibility that, like many others, it had been demolished in due course. As for William Lewis, the subject of Simon Root's original enquiry, he was living on Leaden Porch Farm just across the fields from the toll house.



Local newspapers have carried a number of stories over the years originating from the vicinity of the toll gate. A vexed issue according to *The Oxford Chronicle* in October 1850 was whether dog carts should pay a toll. In March 1864 two poachers, who were stopped near the gate, protested their innocence despite having eight dead rabbits and some nets with them. In February 1883, a

man with a suspicious bundle was stopped; it turned out to be a carpet. The gate was also the starting line for a point-to-point horse race – known as a 'Grind' – which raced to Hawke's Hill and back 'taking the brook several times'. These newspaper reports and more are linked from the article.

There we thought we had the full story except for not knowing the exact location of the toll house and what had happened to it in the end; and so I wrote up all we knew and posted it at www.deddingtonhistory.uk/deddingtonturnpikeandtollhouse. An hour after hitting the upload button, Joanna Cox, who has been a keen researcher for me on the history of the fire service, emailed a copy of a photograph of the toll house which clearly shows it was in the dip where South Brook flows under the road just to the south of Deddington village limit, on the right heading towards Oxford. She had found it in a local Oxfordshire history book, *The Way It Was*. Almost as important as the photograph were some descriptive words below it: 'The photograph shows Turnpike Cottage being demolished in about 1928. A Mr R Kearsey had bought it for £50. He used the materials to build a bungalow along the Hempton Road.' So all that remains is to identify Mr Kearsey's bungalow. If anyone knows, please contact me.

Rob Forsyth
robert.s.forsyth@gmail.com

PS: I gratefully acknowledge the help of Martin Lipson and Miggy Wild from SAVA for their help with this important addition to our history archive and, of course, to Simon Roots for alerting me to it in the first place.

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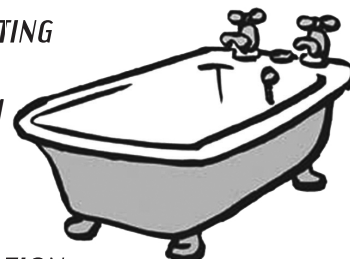
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LETTERS

FROM GEMMA LEWIS. CLIFTON
Alan Holmes from Clifton ... is the 'Real Clifton Santa'! He did a brilliant job of being Santa for the Deddington Baby and Toddler group on 15 December for their Christmas party. He made all the girls and boys very happy and played the part excellently.

FROM NICK AP SIMON,
DEDDINGTON

Thank you for another year of wonderful monthly news. We are very lucky to have such a wonderful publication which we greatly enjoy reading and appreciate all the hard work that goes into it. Thank you and a very happy New Year!



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

FROM MICHAEL LIEBRECHT,
DEDDINGTON

Thank you to all the singers in the Market Place on Christmas Eve. It was a great pleasure to accompany such a throng in fine voice. Your donations of £513 will all be passed on to good causes. I am, as ever, grateful to all the individuals who turn out to help, each year, to Deddington Church and The Marlstone for the annual loan of

equipment and to members of the band for coming to help us celebrate. All very best wishes to everyone for 2024.

NEWS FROM CLIFTON

An impressive resurgence in Book Club membership has occurred with a racing driver, school governor and potentially a cross-Channel swimmer being added to our gang, with recent attendance into double figures. However, this was all put in its place by the Clifton Ladies Sports Club Christmas do where, as reports had it, 24 ladies celebrated living in Lower Larkrise and the upcoming Yuletide. The question is, why are their husbands not at Book Club? Use the pub or lose it is the mantra.

The best cocktail party of the year was held at t'Mill, hosted by our new Yorkshire-born couple, Becky and Jonathan, who have settled into village life in spectacular style. Clifton Ladies were supplemented by the overspill from Book Club Christmas dinner at the Duck and tours of the race and stables (showing many a spectacular vintage 'horse') were valued by many.

The Santas parade made a great showing this year, with two marathon runners, two cyclists, one canoe paddler and one rower, plus an escaper, guitarist, bingo caller, Tractor boy, shepherd and silo king plus many more. Twenty-five – in fact a record over last year's 23. What will we think when the Santas outnumber the residents? However, tragedy (or criminality) struck when one of the cycling Santas was thrown from his mount in what seemed an attempt to establish a new ownership of the velocipede (that has completed the London–Brighton cycle ride not once, but twice). Alternative wheeled transport was arranged.

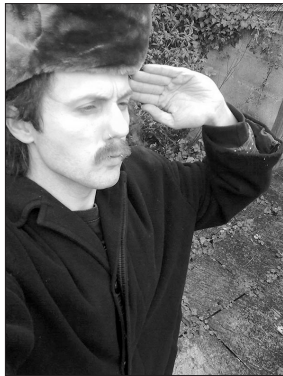
Welcome back to Chris and Esther who have returned to Lower Larkrise after more than 20 years from 'Flemland' near Wallonia and settled right back in.

One thing to cause chagrin down here, however, is notice that a house in the Clifton Gate development has been called Clifton House. We had our own Clifton House, named by earlier owners with no regard to our views but, when new owners moved in, they appreciated the ostentation of the name and renamed it after an apple tree. Now Candleford folk have taken this name and will draw derision unless they see sense. Cllr Collins, in what may be his last action, will apparently bring this travesty to the attention of the authorities.

Remember – any news please ...

Martin Bryce MartinDNBryce@gmail.com

BLISSFUL THINKING



January arrives with whispered threats of willpower scupperance and such, but I was ready for this one. Or so I told myself, as the wide-eyed idealist inside woke up earlier than the embittered cynic.

Kayaking to work has been fun. I'm not sure if I'm in a minority, but I kind of relish the bleak tones of midwinter. It does have a

reputation of being a time when everything becomes less visible. Less sunlight, of course, but even the daylight that emerges tends often to be foggy, grey and more evocative of pronounced twilight some days; something about the moisture that the angle of the sun's rays struggle to penetrate effectively (Google Lord Rayleigh).

In the meantime, the shedding of leaves from hedgerows and trees reveals secrets unseen for the rest of the year. Houses whose outside edifice was hitherto in shroud from the street are now proverbial elephants hiding behind lamp-posts. A panorama normally terminated by foliage now stretches to the horizon, while trees resemble skeletal scaffolding to some unfinished building. Meanwhile, another issue with low light is hallucinations, which might explain rumours of an alligator lurking in the Clifton Everglades. Still, if worse comes to worst, I recently watched an old *I Shouldn't Be Alive* episode, where a guy having his arm chewed on by a crocodile reached into the back of its throat with his free hand to mess with the flap that stops the croc swallowing water and made it release him. Now that's what I call January energy.

Aaron Bliss

aaronjbliss@hotmail.com

POSTCARD FROM AMERICA

Here in suburban America, the road system doesn't work well. Local drivers' approach to lane control is terrible and the accident rate is appallingly high. It would help if the most advanced economy in the world could come to terms with roundabouts but America is obsessed with traffic lights. My daily drive to the tennis club (retirement does come with privileges) is 1.4 miles and there are seven sets of lights. When, for the first time in 11 years, they were all green I decided that this was a sign – it was time to go down the rabbit hole and try to understand Trumpism.

I consume the news across the political spectrum. I have subscriptions to *the Telegraph*, *the Guardian*, *the Financial Times*, *the New York Times* and the *Wall Street Journal*. Sensible people know that all media comes with some bias; one needs to understand how to differentiate opinion from factual reporting. In an effort to educate myself I decided to subscribe to Telegram, and a very interesting site called the Epoch Times. I entered an alternative reality.

Epoch has developed a series of videos entitled 'The Real Story of January 6th'. If you were completely impartial and knew nothing about the events on that day in 2021, you could certainly watch it and think the deaths were all down to police brutality. In their telling, the lady who was shot while trying to break into the members' chamber was apparently trying to run away rather than climb through a window. That is certainly not what I have seen elsewhere but careful editing and talking heads can tell a story differently.

Their story then moves in a much more interesting direction and focuses on 80 'suspicious actors' who,

they claim, were instrumental in encouraging the 'patriots' to break the law. They show clips where someone is invited to do something stupid by an unidentified person. I am an old man. I have a healthy scepticism with regard to our institutions on either side of the pond. The FBI has a storied history of subterfuge and illegal acts. Its most famous head, J Edgar Hoover, kept files on JFK and many others. We will hear a lot more on this conspiracy theory which 25% of Americans now believe is true. I have no idea whether this was insurrection but it was certainly a riot and forced entry into America's centre of government. What would you think of a mob entering the Houses of Parliament?

If Trump wins the next election, he will pardon every one of these criminals. Both sides are predicted to spend around \$16bn (£12bn) on the lead up to November. That's bigger than the whole economy of smaller countries like Kosovo. If you take these conspiracy theories and misinformation campaigns and then add AI generated deep fake videos, it's going to be a mess.

My dear wife got home after a month in the UK looking after her mother. She asked me where the vacuum cleaner was, so I pointed out the cupboard where it lives. It obviously wasn't her cleaning that I missed. Her absence did give me plenty of time to watch conspiracy videos but, now she is back, I can go back to ranting about the driving in Colorado, knowing that she has that look on her lovely face. It makes me feel justified in my condescension.

Mike Ward
mike@mikeaward.com

Ukraine Update

Latest news – by the time you read this, it will probably be old news but, at the time of writing, the UK has just announced it will provide £2.5 billion in military aid to Ukraine over the coming year. Certainly good news amid fears that interest in the war is flagging among allies as it drags on. Indeed Ukrainians have seen some of the heaviest aerial bombardment in a second new year since Russia's war began and so the awfulness drags on.

However, there is no flagging of interest with Deddy for Ukraine. With the enthusiasm and dedication from Fynn over the last two years inspiring so many brilliant volunteers, donors and supporters from all over the country, Deddy for Ukraine through the website, www.DrivingUkraine.org, is going from strength to strength.

Visit www.DrivingUkraine.org and read how it all started: a van of supplies was driven over by Fynn and Jono to Ukraine in March 2022 three days after the war started; they then proceeded to shuttle Ukrainian refugees from the Ukrainian-Polish border to places of refuge in Europe. Now, nearly two years later, January 2024, that first initiative has become a dedicated mission to support Ukraine in so many aspects. The start of 2024 is seeing a convoy of eight vehicles, a team of 16 people, driving reconditioned vehicles to Ukraine. In addition, between them, they

have raised £70,000 to fund this and future convoys. They leave Oxfordshire on the fourth Saturday each month heading for Ukraine; the vehicles are immediately put to work, ex-ambulances, 4x4 evacuation vehicles, first aid responder vehicles and many other types now stationed on the Eastern and Southern frontlines of Ukraine.

Over the last two years your local support has been fundamental in supporting this ongoing cause and we thank every one of you – the focus is to raise enough money to buy de-commissioned vehicles, repair, prepare and modify them, drive them to Ukraine to be used for a myriad of purposes to help and support the Ukrainian people.

Question: Do you have a few hours a week to get involved and volunteer? Do you have admin and organisational skills, fundraising and networking or maybe time to collect or deliver vehicles. Please get involved. With your help there is no challenge too large and we will ensure that the help will never stop.

Go to www.drivingUkraine.org and complete the form to begin working for Ukraine together or please give me a call or email to chat about how you could help.

Jenny Soddy
Jennysoddy@gmail.com, 07976 922558

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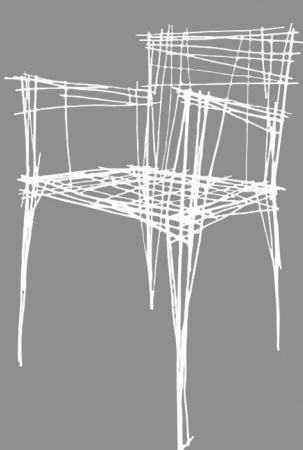
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CALLING ALL CLUBS

Holly Tree Club

Our Christmas lunch at the beginning of December in the Deddington Arms was a lovely gathering, putting everyone in a festive mood. Many thanks to the committee and our wonderful local businesses who generously donated prizes for the raffle: Nellie and Dove, the Co-op, Eagles, Polka Dots, Medipill, the Flower Shop and the Deddington Arms.

Julia Cork Julia.cork@thedha.org

Photographic Society

January's club night welcomed current members back from their Christmas break to a fun-filled evening showcasing members' best of 2023 photos. These ranged from portraiture and flowers to children's toys and composites, which were a reminder of the monthly topics.

Our monthly topic for January was Creative, which encompassed photos showing motion blur, intentional camera movement, light trails, double exposure and composite images.

This year we are excited to have new and exciting guest speakers at our meetings and will be showcasing our works across the county at various shows and festivals. Watch this space.

We welcome new members to our Society nights on the first Wednesday of each month. Please see our website for further information.

Courtney Killpack
www.addphoto.co.uk

Deddington and District History Society

Our November meeting talk was entitled 'The Rise and Rise of Alice Chaucer, Duchess of Suffolk'. Rowena Archer gave us a biographical account of an Oxfordshire woman who started life as a commoner. Three marriages later, she died a wealthy, powerful member of the aristocracy whose life spanned much of the fifteenth century.

Alice, granddaughter of the poet and playwright, Geoffrey Chaucer, spent the early part of her life in Ewelme, near Wallingford. Her first marriage was to Sir John Phelip, her second to Sir Thomas Montagu, Earl of Salisbury, and her third to William de la Pole, Duke of Suffolk, each marriage marking a notable rise in rank. Her first two husbands were killed in conflicts in 1415 and 1428 respectively. By the time of her third marriage, Alice had already become a wealthy landowner. William de la Pole was murdered in 1450, leaving her to maintain land and properties extending over several counties.

She owned land in Deddington, Adderbury and Hanwell and still maintained a close connection with Ewelme. She died there in 1475, a place apparently valued as a safe haven and her real home.

In December, Simon Wenham gave a fascinating talk about James Murray and the production of the Oxford English Dictionary. Forced to leave school at 14, he spent the rest of his life educating himself and others. In London he worked at the Chartered Bank of

India but pursued his academic interests in his spare time, finishing up with a working knowledge of about 20 languages. This led him to join the Philological Society and an invitation to draw up a replacement for Samuel Johnson's Dictionary. The scale of the task meant that the delegates of the Oxford University Press expected a book of 7,000 pages printed in four volumes. When the results were published in 1928, about 12 years after Murray's death, it ran to twelve volumes.

The house in Banbury Road, North Oxford, where Murray then lived, had a large shed in the garden where most of the work was done. Letters from all over the world arrived there and Murray answered all of them. The volume was so great that the Post Office sited a postbox next to the house, still there today.

At our meeting on 15 February, Martin Buckland will talk about Canal People and how canals affected many people from ancient Egyptian canal builders to the present day restoration movement.

Jean Dipper jean.dipper28@gmail.com

Women's Institute

At our first meeting of 2024, Moira Byast gave a fascinating talk on the history of nursery rhymes. We learnt that nursery rhymes date back to Roman times, with Old King Cole being one of the earliest. We don't exactly know who King Cole was but he was a prestigious visitor to Colchester, an important city in Roman times.

Rhymes were made up about prominent people or events and used as a method of passing on information to ordinary people about changes in the laws of the land or religious doctrines.

Factual evidence exists that support many of the rhymes, such as Dr Foster's unfortunate visit to Gloucester. Many rhymes have their origin in the turbulent religious times of the 16th and 17th centuries. Goosey Goosey Gander is a reference to the ruthless searching out of Catholic priests during the Protestant era.

Children's rhymes were often used as a method of disguising what might have been regarded as slightly seditious opinions by the authorities. Most are simply a way for ordinary people to express their thoughts about current events. Baa, Baa Black Sheep was a comment on the wool tax that reduced the price paid to farmers. These and many other anecdotes made for an entertaining talk and members thoroughly enjoyed it.

Margaret Hodge
deddingtonwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk

Deddington Bookworms

At our last meeting of 2023, we reviewed *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens, a bestselling nature writer. It tells the story of Kya as she grows up alone in the marshes of North Carolina after her mother and siblings are forced to leave their shack due to her father's abusive behaviour. When Kya's father deserts her, she is left to survive in the wilderness where she is taught about life by studying the marsh and eventually learning to read books on biology, physics, poetry and

CALLING ALL CLUBS

Continued from p25

and everything in between. The story is told from two perspectives; in 1969, it follows the murder investigation of Chase Andrews and from 1952 to 1969 it follows Kya's life as she grows up.

This is a remarkable book with lots of elements to engage the reader and which we all thoroughly enjoyed. The descriptions of feathers, shells and the natural world of her environment were amazing. We recommend you adding this to your reading list for 2024.

The first book of 2024 for The Bookworms is 10 Minutes 38 Seconds in This Strange World by Elif Safak.

Deddingtonbookworms@gmail.com

Local Vocals Community Choir

A new year, a new term and happily some new members. This term we have a theme: all our songs will be from musicals or film, and we've already started learning 'Can You Feel the Love Tonight' from the *Lion King* and 'What a Wonderful World', the Louis Armstrong classic, that has appeared in many films including *Good Morning Vietnam*. Personally, I'd love to sing 'We All Stand Together' from the animated film, *Rupert and the Frog Song*, but we'll have to wait and see.

To find out more about our choir, which meets at 7.30pm at Deddington Primary School each Monday during term time, please see our website www.local-vocalscc.co.uk.

Alison Grieve

Book Group

In 2014 Raynor Winn and her husband, Moth, were dealt a double blow. They lost everything because of a bad business deal and, within days, Moth was diagnosed with a rare degenerative brain disease. Homeless and almost penniless, the couple made the seemingly rash decision to walk and wild camp along the 630 mile South West Coast Path. *The Salt Path*, Raynor's account of their experience, is frank about the difficulties of managing on inadequate food rations and next to no sanitary facilities. We admired the couple's courage and determination, though we winced at how poorly equipped they were. Raynor and

Moth certainly gained a deeper understanding of the desperate situation faced by homeless people. Well written, with lyrical descriptions of landscape, flora and fauna, this is a story of how personal challenge and the natural environment can sometimes allow individuals to come to terms with devastating events.

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

The Book Group

Royal British Legion

The total sum raised during Poppy Weeks came to a grand total of £4,954. As street collections have largely stopped because of cold dark nights and safety issues, collections are now almost exclusively from static tins. Highlights were: Adderbury (new collection area following closure of their branch) £890, of which their school collected £377; October farmers' market £846; Remembrance Sunday church collection £565; North Aston £527; Co-op and PO £405; Primary School £336; Steeple Aston £242; Duns Tew coffee morning £193; Eagles £140; Hopcrofts Holt garage £121; Nicholson's Nurseries £99 and the Red Lion £53. So, a very big thank you to everyone who hosted a tin.

We are sad to report the death of Francis White on 31 December. He was a long term RBL member resident in Adderbury then latterly in Deddington.

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

Deddington Players

At the time of writing, it's nearly showtime and by the time you read this, it'll all be over. We've had a ball rehearsing and performing our pantomime *Beauty and the Beast*. If you were in the audience, thank you for your support and we hope you enjoyed the show. It takes a village to put on a local panto, so we also thank our wonderful director, Elli, writer and chair, Steve, fabulous production and backstage crew and talented performers. We've laughed and we've laughed some more and (sometimes) we've forgotten our dance steps. If you've been inspired to get involved on stage or off, we'd love to hear from you.

Suzie Upson
suzieupson@mac.com

SPORT

Deddington Original Golf Society

At our AGM, the venues for 2024 were confirmed:
Tuesday 7 May Brickhampton GC, Churchdown
Monday 10 June Copt Heath GC, Solihull
Wednesday 7 August Coventry GC, Fineham
Friday 6 September Whittlebury GC, Towcester
Friday 13 December Tadmarton Heath GC, Christmas golf and party

Full venue information will be emailed giving sufficient time for you to plan your diaries. Please do your best to attend as many of the outings as you can.

Following the golf at Whittlebury, we will hold our annual evening event and, back by popular demand,

Italian style catering will be provided by Giuseppe and his team. There will also be traditional barbecue fare for those who don't embrace Mediterranean cuisine.

If, by any chance, you're not receiving emails but are reading this, would you please check to confirm that the committee has your latest address. Please email me with the correct address.

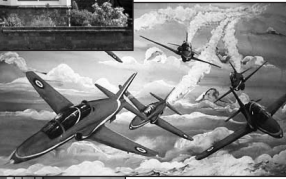
If you play golf but are not a member of a golf society, we would love to hear from you. You don't have to reside in or around Deddington. Please contact me on any of the details.

Tony Lowe, Secretary
dogsgolf23@gmail.com

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SPORT*Continued from p26***Deddington Town FC***First Team results*

18.11.23	Glory Farm (a) (CUP)	L 2-3
25.11.23	Longford Park (h)	W 2-0
16.12.23	Kings Sutton (h)	W 1-0
6.1.24	Hornton (h)	W 3-1

Reserve Team results

18.11.23	Tysoe Utd (a)	L 1-3
25.11.23	Bodicote Spts Res (a) (CUP)	W 2-0
16.12.23	SWIS Reserves (s)	D 1-1
6.1.24	Chesterton (a)	L 2-4

I'm pleased to announce that the Humbugs have continued their rampant charge to the summit of the Banbury District and Lord Jersey league pyramid. The chasing pack has a ludicrous number of games in hand, but don't look a gift horse in the mouth people: savour this time. The Reserves are sadly still struggling along, picking up scraps and loitering near the foot of the division. That said, there was a morale-boosting cup victory over arch nemesis, Bodicote, to enjoy, so there's something to build on in the weeks to come.

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

The Under 15s are on a good run: a 3-3 draw with Yarnton Blues, a 1-1 draw away at Brackley Athletic, a 4-1 win over Kidlington Cavaliers, and a 6-4 over Banbury Spencer. The Under 14s had a 6-1 away win at Caversham, followed by an 8-3 away win at Thame United in the cup with a hat-trick for Jago Newton, and a 3-3 draw away at Brackley Athletic. The Under 13s had a 6-0 win over Garsington, a narrow 3-4 home defeat to Summertown Stars, and a 4-0 win over Wallingford. This means they won the autumn league and are promoted from the D league to the C league for the spring season. The Under 12s have had a mixed run in a tough A League: 8-1 defeat at Vikings Crusaders, 6-2 away win at Carterton Town and 4-0 away defeat at Ducklington.

Deddington Town FC fundraising ball

The Club is holding a ball on 16 March at the Great Barns in Aynho. This is to raise funds for the development of the Club including improvements in facilities and development for our players and coaches. The Club will donate 25% of its profits to support Young Lives v Cancer, a wonderful organisation that supports children, young people, parents and carers through the challenges of cancer.

YOUTH**1st Deddington Guides**

We welcomed in the new year with our first meeting of fun, exciting and noisy games. It was great to be back with friends again.

We had a rethink about our Patrol activities – always good to challenge ourselves to branch out into something a little bit different. Plans are underway for an interesting and varied programme for this term.

Well done and thank you to Connie for coming to help with the Wardington House Nursing Home

We are looking for 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. Thanks to sponsorship pledged already from Tustian Carriers, Deddington Dental and Cedar Therapy. If you want to donate, please contact me.

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

Roger Sykes
carsykes@btinternet.com
07899 914425

Deddington Cricket Club

It may be cold outside, but preparations for the new season are taking shape. Thanks to generous funding from our parish council, the artificial cricket nets at the Windmill have been resurfaced and a new cage net installed which will make using the nets better and safer for players and other users of the site when outdoor training commences.

We are also seeking grants to improve the outdoor seating around the pavilion for players and spectators come the summer and hope to have news about this very soon.

On the playing front, we entered a team in the Banbury Indoor League pre-Christmas. The standard was high and we had some very close games but our 'novice' status showed when it came to the crunch. Everyone enjoyed the games though and we have learned a lot for next winter. The Women also played some indoor games in a local league and got a lot out of the experience.

Indoor nets will start in February. We plan to use the facilities at Heyford Park School and combine nets with indoor games. If anyone is interested in joining these or the separate ones planned for the Women, please contact me for more details. We are an inclusive club so if you have never played, are a seasoned regular looking for a fresh challenge or anything in between, get in touch.

We will move outside come April and the first League games are on 4 May. Roll on the sun.

Simon Oldfield
07771 997358

Christmas party.

We'll keep you up to date here with all our news. Any girls 10 or over are very welcome to come along and see what we get up to.

Maggie Rampley 07957 600755

1st Deddington Scout Group

Many thanks to everyone who used the Christmas postboxes and thanks to the Scouts and Cubs who delivered them.

YOUTH

Cubs

In December the Cubs had lots of fun learning about planets. We made planet hats so that we could turn ourselves into planets and create our own human solar system. We made telescopes with built-in constellations and created a moon surface, complete with craters, made by throwing various sized balls into sand. We finished off December with a fabulous Christmas party.

Our first session in January began with looking at the different badges available to us and the Cubs chose which ones they would like to earn this year; we will now create a programme to help them achieve this. Everyone is looking forward to a busy and fun packed year ahead,

Tracy Tong
deddingtoncubs@gmail.com

DEDDINGTON LIBRARY

With 2024 now in full swing, I have had a busy few weeks catching up with our Christmas returns and it's been wonderful catching up with all my readers.

The Christmas Book challenge went well with some very happy children and adults who completed it, receiving certificates and rewards.

In the library we have jigsaws for anyone to borrow. You don't have to be a member to borrow them. If anyone has any children's puzzles they no longer need, please consider donating them to the library and also 250 piece puzzles.

When you recycle paddy bags, please could I have them for the library?

I have exciting news regarding a new display for the library so watch this space.

A happy new year to everyone.

Gail Cripps 01869 338391
Gail.Cripps@oxfordshire.gov.uk

DEDDINGTON ENVIRONMENT NETWORK

Have you ever wondered what to do with those yoghurts that are about to go off in a couple of days but you're going away tomorrow, or mistakenly ordered ten cabbages instead of one via your online shop – yes, apparently this does happen – or perhaps you've got a glut of courgettes and your neighbours have started avoiding eye contact? Enter a well-established app that has 300 members in Deddington. It was designed to prevent food (and other surplus articles) being wasted; you upload a photo and brief description of your unwanted goods, specify a time window you'd like them collected in and it's that easy. The app was launched in 2015 and to date has more than six million users. Most live in cities where it's obviously easier to collect unwanted groceries and household items, but we're keen to see if it will work in our local area too and are planning to be at the farmers' market on 24 February to introduce it. Check out details at www.deddingtonenvironment.net and see what you think.

The first 'Four Villages: People Planet Pint' launched at the White Horse, Duns Tew, before Christ-

Scouts

We were very lucky that the wonderful people from Games Workshop were offering free Warhammer kits again this year. The Scouts built four models each and painted them – some even looked vaguely humanoid. They then used them to play futuristic wargames, using weird dice and tokens. I'm not sure anyone knew exactly what was going on but they seemed to enjoy it.

We ventured out for a hike to Barford; we walked one of the Scouts home to give the outing a purpose, amazingly not too muddy.

For our Christmas celebrations we staged a Taskmaster evening – eating a banana without using your hands, balancing a biscuit on your forehead and transferring it to your mouth (no hands again), tearing animal shapes out of paper blindfolded (worth it just to see them all wearing paper carriers as blindfolds) and many more daft antics.

Pete Churchyard
deddingtonscouts@gmail.com

CONGRATULATIONS AND THANKS

On behalf of the community, thanks to the generous-hearted team who volunteered their help on Christmas morning to provide a hot meal, delivered to the doors of a small number of local residents who were on their own on Christmas Day. The meals were hugely appreciated.

It may not affect many people locally but it's nonetheless a valuable contribution to our community. Thank you to all those who gave up their time away from their families for a couple of hours to remind us of the real meaning of Christmas.

Alex Moss
alex1moss@hotmail.com

mas. In case you missed the last newsletter, People Planet Pint is an international organisation designed to provide a place for people who are curious about sustainability to have an informal chat with no agenda or commitment. Despite its name, the drinking of pints is by no means necessary. In fact, DEN co-founder, Nick Smith, has even set up a version in Manchester, called People Planet Pastry, for those who prefer their chat over a cuppa in the morning. We'd love you to come if you can and, if you missed us at the Red Lion, Deddington, in January, you can find us at the George, Barford, on 15 February at 7.00pm or the Elephant and Castle, Bloxham, on 21 March at 7.00pm. If you're one of the first 33 people to sign up on Eventbrite, you get your first drink free. Just enter People Planet Pint followed by Barford or Bloxham into Google and it will lead you to the appropriate Eventbrite page. I look forward to seeing you there.

Contact us if you have any questions or comments or can spare a couple of hours to help us.

Fiona Smith
info@deddingtonenvironment.net



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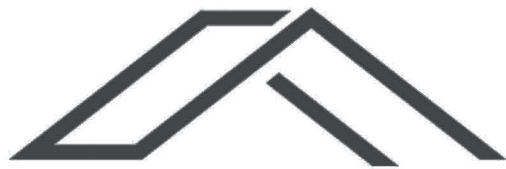
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 HOSPITALS:
 Churchill 0300 304 7777
 Foscote (Private) 01295 252281
 Horton General 0300 304 7777
 John Radcliffe 0300 304 7777
 Manor (Nuffield Health, Private) 01865 521405
 Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre 0300 304 7777
 Katharine House Hospice 01295 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:
 Pulham & Sons (Coaches) Ltd 01451 820369
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 OurBus Bartons 01869 699699
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 Thames Water (24hrs) 01295 720777
 WARRINER SCHOOL, Bloxham 07720 834006
 WINDMILL CENTRE 01865 792422
 OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

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 AND SOCIETIES: The full list of
 contacts is available from the Library and Deddington
 OnLine website at <http://www.deddington.org.uk/directory>.

DEDDINGTON CHURCHES See section inside



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