

March 2024

The **DEDDINGTON NEWS**



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THE TEAM

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CATHERINE DESMOND

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by **9 March**

ADVERTISING COPY
by **9 March**

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The Deddington News at:
www.deddington.org.uk/deddington-news/

The DEDDINGTON NEWS

The only defence local residents currently have against corporate builders swamping their villages with large developments in the wrong places is a Neighbourhood Plan. Since central government overrode both the parish council's and CDC's opposition to increasing the size of the village by 10% in 2013, a dedicated group of volunteers has jumped through innumerable bureaucratic hoops to create a Deddington Neighbourhood Plan whose final step to implementation is a village referendum. The Plan represents the best compromise we are likely to get to help preserve our unusually vibrant community. For more detail see p5 and then we hope you will go to the Windmill on 2 May and vote 'yes' to ratify it.

CD

WHAT'S ON

March

- Fri 1 Deddington Playgroup, Windmill Centre, 9.45–11.45am
- Wed 6 Photographic Society: Members presentation night, Adderbury Institute, 7.30pm
- Wed 13 WI: Annual meeting, Holly Tree, 2.30pm
- Fri 15 Deddington Playgroup, Windmill Centre, 9.45–11.45am
- 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?' Melanie King, Primary School, 7.30pm
- Sat 23 Farmers' Market: Market Place, 9.00am–12.30pm
- Sat 23 Post Office open, 9.00am–12.30pm
- Thu 28 Deddington Bookworms, Holly Tree, 6.30pm
- Thu 28 Book Group: Contact Sally Lambert, 01869 338094 for details

April

- Wed 3 Photographic Society: Monthly meeting and AGM, Adderbury Institute, 7.30pm
- Wed 17 Parish Council meeting: Hempton Lounge, Windmill Centre, 7.30pm
- Thu 18 History Society: 'Soldiers, Saints and Sinners of the Civil War in Oxfordshire', Stephen Barker, Primary School, 7.30pm
- Sat 20 Cherwell Choral Society: Poulenc, *Gloria*, St Mary's Church, Bloxham, 7.30pm
- Thu 25 Deddington Bookworms, Holly Tree, 6.30pm
- Thu 25 Book Group: Contact Sally Lambert, 01869 338094 for details
- Sat 27 Farmers' Market: Market Place, 9am–12.30pm
- Sat 27 Post Office open, 9am–12.30pm

Submission of any article to the Deddington News 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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The DN always seeks copyright permission where appropriate. Material is proof read. The editors seek to ensure the material is not scurrilous, offensive or otherwise unacceptable to the public at large. The DN team reserves the right to refuse any material on this basis.

DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

There is no report in this issue as the February meeting was due after the *Deddington News* print deadline. A report will be published in the next issue. **CD**

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST



Horried villagers Paul Gruber, Vaughan Jones, Freya Mahfoudh, Ava Greenhalgh, Amelia Tong, Harry Tong and Jensen Smith

The Deddington Players' annual pantomime always enlivens a dull January and this year's production was a real treat – possibly the best yet. The usual favourite ingredients were all there, with plenty of boos, hisses, behind-yous and excruciating innuendo. But this year's variety, humour and innovation were exceptional, as were the performances.

Mollie Hamblet-Bowes charmed us as the sweet but feisty Belle; Jen Toll was wonderfully nasty as the wicked Prince Gastoff and rightly received plenty of audience abuse; the outrageous busty dames, Neil Levene and Steve Moss, revved up the audience and kept us laughing out loud while Carrick Cameron, as the Beast's loyal chef, skilfully demonstrated his French accent and wise-cracking humour. As for the Beast himself, Suzie Upson, scarily made-up, showed us frightening menace but generated sympathy while waiting to be released from the wicked Gastoff's spell.

Yet what made this year so memorable were the details and innovations, such as Alexa with her one-liner responses to requests, four young ballerinas performing a beautiful 'Dance of the Fairies' from *Swan Lake*, aided by a press-ganged and tutu-clad member of the audience. Wolves and gardeners, Mrs Teabag and Mrs Mug, the town trier, villagers and the much-loved horse all entertained, sang and danced. The choreography, as ever, was superb.

The cast clearly had a ball and so did we but, as the chair, Steve Moss, said at the end, none of it would happen without Ellie Ince's brilliant direction and the hard work and dedication of the sizeable backstage team both before and during the performances. Thank you all.

Adrian Brett
aandcbrett@gmail.com

NEWS FROM CLIFTON

Once again down here we have lost another of our own. Sally Stiff, daughter of Sue and John and sister of Andy died in January. Sally was blighted by ill health but was deeply loved and well regarded by many. My personal memory was of a friendly, smiling face who regularly came along to cheer (or berate, depending on performance) Deddington Cricket Club that provided a distraction for John and Andy. No parent should ever have to bury a child.

In what could be the last village quiz ever, a Big Fat Quiz of the year was skilfully delivered by our tame sceptic, Dave, Every third question was about 2023, Oscars, sports, and song contest winners. Great fun and great Chinese food was had by all, thanks to Russ, and money raised for Jo Cross's stroke charity.

Apparently, some delicate folk down here are struck dumb with rat sightings. Obviously this is common in a big city but some think it very undesirable in a rural community and this return sighting was not hindered by a massive reduction in feeding wild birds. So there's only one thing for it: bird feeders can come out again and arrest the decline in wild bird populations.

Also, on the back of the announcement of the world's hottest year and the resultant increase in weather extremes, Lower Larkrise saw a return of its very own Rio Grande. Despite CDC's great work solving the rising flood water at the Old School House, the western drain block is still a factor that means any heavy rain follows the path of least resistance and floods down the street to Chapel Close and Drovers Lane.

Martin Bryce
martindnbryce@gmail.com



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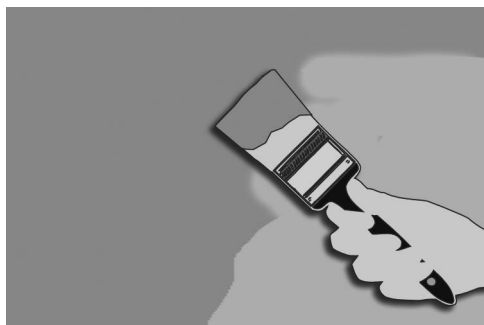


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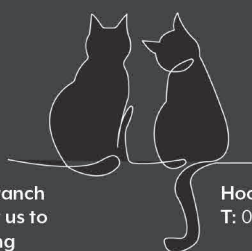
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NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – DEDDINGTON'S FUTURE IN YOUR HANDS

We're nearly there. The independent Examiner, acting for the government, approved our Neighbourhood Plan in December (he even congratulated us) and Cherwell District Council's executive committee in turn approved it at its February meeting. This means the Plan will go to a referendum in Deddington on 2 May, the same day as the local elections and at the same polling station, the Windmill Centre.

This is the final hurdle in a long journey – ten years long. We on the NP steering group would like to thank the many, many parishioners who responded to our various consultations along the way, filling in the booklets, responding on Survey Monkey and, in the early pre-pandemic days, attending drop-in sessions at the church. Your answers were the building blocks on which we constructed the Plan.

We've had to strike a balance. There are a fair number in Deddington who would like the absolute minimum development or none at all. Others accept that new housing is inevitable and we might as well choose where and of what kind it should be. The final Plan allocates one site for development, north of the fire station. This site proved pretty popular in our parish survey; it is close to the centre of Deddington village, causing fewer congestion and parking problems than other possible options, and it comes with much-needed and generous community benefits – a new nursery building and a car park that, hopefully, will enable the Health Centre to expand.

We originally stipulated 80 dwellings, close to the figure of 76 homes which our independent housing needs survey came up with, and high enough to offer some future proofing since the Plan covers the period up to 2040. The Examiner bumped the number up to 85–90 as one of the conditions for his approval. There were other minor changes he required that we decided we could live with, especially as the alternative was to go back to the drawing board and start all over again.



The Examiner wanted to permit businesses suitable for the countryside to be established outside the settlement boundary. He deleted one of our proposed cherished views in Hempton but as no development is proposed in Hempton this was not considered crucial. He also stipulated that we could *recommend* that Deddington people should be given priority for affordable housing but cannot make it a requirement (there should be about 30 'affordable' homes on our selected site). He somewhat watered down our zero-carbon policy.

On the plus side, he endorsed our policy that the nursery building and the car park should be installed at the start of the allocated development and not halfway through, as the developers would have preferred.

Now it is over to you to decide. Clearly, we on the parish council and the steering group are hoping for a resoundingly favourable vote in the referendum in May, for the positive reason that parishioners think the allocation and policies in the Plan are as good as we can get. On the negative side, a 'no' vote would have the unintended consequence that Deddington would be open to every kind of opportunistic large scale planning application for the next year or two, with no NP in place and before CDC's new Local Plan comes into force.

We're taking nothing for granted. The champagne (or cava, let's not be extravagant) to celebrate a job completed will stay on ice for a while yet. If you'd like to read the Referendum Plan and the Examiner's report in full you can find them on both the NP and Parish Council website.

Helen Oldfield

helenoldfield.dpc@gmail.com

www.deddingtonneighbourhoodplan.org

<https://www.deddingtonparishcouncil.org/>

DH History Corner

www.deddingtonhistory.uk

Jackson's Oxford Journals

Thanks to David French's extensive research, History now has a comprehensive record of references to Deddington contained in this important 19th century newspaper. The latest batch posted online covers 1800 to 1819. There are over 670 references to the parish during these years, all transcribed in full. The vast majority are notices and advertisements. Nonetheless, there is sufficient information to provide a glimpse of life in Deddington towards the close of the Georgian era. Seventeen topics of particular interest have been compiled, consisting of a summary description togeth-

er with verbatim transcriptions of the relevant extracts and links to other related sources. They are: Enclosure of common fields 1808, National School 1814, Street Party 1814, Deddington Inns, King's Arms Inn, Deddington Association, Churchill family, legal profession, medical profession, tradesmen, artisans and farmers, property sales, turnpike trusts, Deddington Fairs, old Poor Laws, Deddington Savings Bank, game duty certificates and post coaches. Of particular interest to family history researchers will be the index of names and their principal activities, preceding, as it does, the first National Census of 1841. Go to the History Home page (see url in the logo) to find the shortcut under 'New Articles'.

Rob Forsyth

robert.s.forsyth@gmail.com

THE REVD NICK FIELDEN

Deddington Benefice is delighted to announce that, subject to legalities, the Revd Nick Fielden has been appointed as its next vicar, although he will not be installed until May or June.

Nick writes:

'I am very excited to become your next vicar of the Deddington Benefice. I have felt a strong calling to this role through the warm welcome you have shown me, as I have served alongside you during your interregnum and in getting to know something of your wonderful communities, churches, school and worship.

I am currently finishing my three-year curacy in Bodicote, prior to which I trained at Cuddesdon theological college. Before my calling to ministry, I enjoyed a 27-year career as an IT manager, in both the public and private sectors, and have had a strong faith since



childhood. I am married to my wonderful wife, Vikki, who enjoys her work as a qualified accountant and we have two grown up children, Sam and Catherine, who live in Bicester and Manchester respectively. Sam is getting married in May, so 2024 is shaping up to be a very exciting year all round.

In our spare time, we both enjoy country walks with our dog Nelson and I also enjoy landscape photography, whilst Vikki is a keen bellringer. We are both really looking forward to moving in

and getting to know you more, and I cannot wait to come on board and start serving, supporting and leading you through the next stage of God's plans for our wonderful benefice. In the meantime, we are holding you all in our prayers.'

NEWS FROM HEMPTON

During a break between the serial storms lashing the country, I set out for a ramble around the village. As I trundled along, a flight of red kites struck up an aerial ballet demonstrating their mastery of the air. Their formation flying, however, was not in the same league as the Red Arrows.

Whilst walking I have a habit of surveying any vista except that directly in front of me. True to form, distracted by the aerial display, I failed to notice a fallen branch presumably blown off a nearby tree in the windy weather. Not much more than a twig, I stepped on it and tangled my other foot in the rest of the twiggy mesh and promptly keeled over. A parachute landing avoided any damage except to pride.

Picking myself up I continued on my way, feeling a bit stupid. I soon began to notice a rather unsavoury pong, not an unusual experience in these parts but it wasn't the usual chicken manure aroma. My mental catalogue of pongs and their source came up with poo and the likely source a member of the local canine community.

A quick examination of my person found a substantial smear of the offending substance over the forearm and elbow of my jacket. I might have unjustly maligned my canine neighbours but based upon the size, colour, aroma and consistency of the deposit I deduced it was not left by any indigenous fauna. I repatriated as much of the offending substance as possible to the grass and returned home to remove what was left and disinfect my jacket.

A few days later I ventured into the garden to begin the annual toil of cleaning up the detritus left by the ravages of winter, cutting back and preparing for the

first signs of life. Cleaning up the leaves the worms hadn't dragged down into their realm and recycled, I grabbed a handful and was immediately assaulted by the unmistakable rancid pong of cat poo.

I'm not a conspiracist and don't believe that our feline and canine companions harbour any malicious intent. I, however, might. Bacteria that are pathogens from the intestinal tract and cause diarrhoea include *Campylobacter*, *Salmonella*, *Yersinia* and *E. coli*. Dog faeces may also contribute to the diffusion of protozoa such as *Giardia* and *Cryptosporidium* and roundworms.

I notice we have had recent visits by fly-tippers depositing paint tins and other rubbish at the head of Barford Road (since removed). Hempton Vigilantes may be interested to know that, acknowledging that existing penalties were not an effective deterrent, Desmond Swain, Conservative MP for the New Forest West, suggested in a parliamentary debate that if 'offenders were garrotted with their own intestines' then numbers would fall. I thought this may be more effective as a deterrent but increased powers for councils to impose higher fines were deemed more appropriate.

It strikes me as a little incongruous that those who distribute their rubbish about the countryside are not pursued with the same vigour or attract the same ire as those who display their detritus on private property. But then, one man's junk is another man's treasure. Personally, I'm more particular where I keep my treasure.

Stuart Oldham

sj_oldham@btinternet.com



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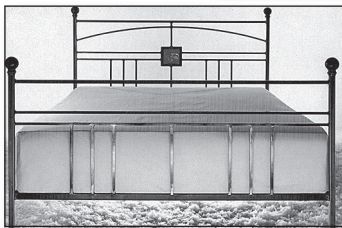
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CHURCH

Parish Church SS Peter and Paul

The Revd Nick Fielden has been appointed Vicar of the Deddington Benefice. He will be licensed on Tuesday 23 April. Until then services and pastoral care continue to be provided by our wonderful retired clergy and clergy from other benefices. The first points of contact are your churchwardens.

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>.

March

Mon:	8.45am	Morning Prayer
Wed:	10.00am	Holy Communion (healing prayer on 4th Wednesday)
Thu:	9.30am	Tea + Toast and Squiggles and Wiggles
Fri:	8.45am	Morning Prayer
Sun 3	10.30am	Holy Communion
	3.00pm	3 O'Clock Family Service
	6.00pm	Choral Evensong
Sun 10	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sun 17	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sun 24	10.30am	Holy Communion Palm Sunday
Sun 31	10.30am	Holy Communion Easter Sunday

Hempton

Sun 17 9.00am Holy Communion

Barfords

Sun 3	10.30am	Coffee and Chat, St Michael
Sun 10	9.00am	Communion, St Michael
Sun 17	10.30am	Family Service, St Michael
Sun 24	10.30am	Family Holy Communion, St Michael, Palm Sunday
Sun 31	10.30am	Special Service, St John, Easter Sunday

Holy Week

Thu 28	7.00pm	Choral Eucharist of the Last Supper with washing of feet and stripping of altar
Fri 29	2.00pm	Reflections on the Cross
Sat 30	7.30pm	Easter Vigil, Jane Haslam, Associate Archdeacon of Dorchester

From the Parish Registers

Funerals

5 February Jean Tew

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.

FROM THE FIRE STATION

We are very well behaved and safe in North Oxfordshire – night crew has been quiet crew on the whole. Just when I thought that January would prove challenging to write about, an evening shout roused me from the sofa. With blues emanating from the station, a local RTC saw us out on an emergency shout.

On arrival at the scene, with the police already in attendance, we were able to fully close the road to allow a safe environment for us to work in. We were then able to make the stricken vehicle safe by engaging the handbrake and disconnecting the battery. Smoke had



been seen soon after the accident but was out on arrival, so no BA provision was required. A live electrical cable had been exposed by the demolition of a lamp post but there was no arcing evident and the electricity board was on its way. After a quick clear up of the debris, we left the incident to the police to discuss with the driver.

Back to station and a full soap down and clean of the truck before reversing back into the bay, job done.

FF James Greenwood
james@cyclogicalshop.co.uk

DEDDINGTON BRANCH RBL IS 100 NEXT YEAR – LET’S KEEP IT GOING FOR MANY MORE!

Every year since the Deddington branch of the then British Legion was formed in 1925 it has paraded its Standard for Remembrance and been a very successful fundraiser for the Poppy Appeal. Along with 2,500 other branches across the nation, we form part of the beating heart of the RBL, while acting as a networking community, alert for ex-service men and women needing help in the community.

It is vital our branch remains active to continue honouring those who gave their lives for this country and maintain the RBL’s charitable activities. Sadly, our membership is falling as age and stage take their toll. The Adderbury branch has recently had to close for such reasons. Unless we can find new members our branch will also have to close within a few years with loss of its standard, nobody to run Remembrance and a serious effect on fundraising.

You don’t have to have served in the military, or even have family who have done so, to join our branch, the subscription for which is only £18 a year. You can give as little or as much of your time to the RBL as you wish. In return you will get priority booking for the Festival of Remembrance, free access to clubs around the country and a monthly magazine to keep you informed about all that RBL is doing.



In 2023 RBL spent more than £18 million to support 27,000 individuals and more than 7,500 individuals benefited from help with home fuel bills to a total of £4.8 million. A specialist compensation team won over £39 million at appeals tribunals. All of this was in

addition to a nursing service, telephone buddies for the lonely and six care homes.

The greatest return from joining the Deddington branch will be knowing you are part of the larger RBL community which remembers and cares for those who have served their country encouraging others to do likewise.

So why not join us now to make our upcoming Centennial Year a very special one? Joining online is very straightforward. All you need to do is type ‘join the RBL’ into your browser and take it from there. You will need the code for our branch which is 0746.

For any further information about RBL or what it means to be a member of our branch, contact John Pearson, our membership officer, at johnpearson7@icloud.com.

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

DEDDINGTON ENVIRONMENT NETWORK

Thank you to everyone who came along to the Four Villages People Planet Pint get togethers at the Red Lion in January and the George in Barford in February. It was lovely to see so many faces. The next one will be in Bloxham at the Elephant and Castle on Thursday 21 March from 7.00–9.00 pm.

Emily Connelly, founder of Cherwell Collective, will be talking at Duns Tew Village Hall on 20 March at 7.00 pm. The Cherwell Collective is a Kidlington-based group of organisations bringing communities together around sustainability and the cost of living.

The DEN Team



Friends of Deddington Library

PHOTO COMPETITION

Winning entries will be featured in the 2025 Deddington Parish Calendar!

Once again, we are inviting you to enter your photos celebrating Deddington, Clifton & Hempton.

All ages and abilities welcome!

Images must be landscape format, files must be minimum 5MB, 300 DPI & saved as high quality .JPGs

Deadlines for entries is Friday 2nd August 2024
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Now that the weather is warming up and spring is in the air, we are launching this year’s calendar photo competition. As in past years we are looking for images to include in the 2025 Deddington Parish Calendar with an emphasis on identifiable scenes from within the parish and the surrounding countryside. Images should be in landscape format, 5Mb or larger in size and saved as a .jpg file. The deadline is 2 August 2024. Please send your entries to me.

Bryn Williams
abw@brynwilliams.com

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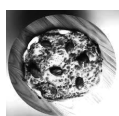
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VIEW FROM THE MEADOW

In Praise of Hedgerows

As we enter winter and I walk the numerous hedgerows on the farm, I am drawn to reflect how much hedge planting has been done on the farm over the years – and it all adds up!

As a child I was always aware of the haven that hedgerows could give to wildlife on the farm.

A mixed native hedge of hawthorn, field maple, blackthorn, hazel, spindle and dog rose, with the odd crab apple or wild plum thrown in for good measure, could provide a feast of berries for birds and mammals in the autumn and bountiful blossom for insects in the spring. Just as important, the little extra bit of ungrazed margin on either side could provide rough areas for voles, invertebrates and maybe ground nesting birds.

With that in mind, I have, at every opportunity, looked to divide up large fields or open areas with new hedges and, over the years, have enjoyed watching them grow and mature to a point where many have been cut and laid by Bill, our retired shepherd. Indeed, some now need laying again.

Whenever asked about our hedge management practice, the answer is 'long term', either by cutting and laying or coppicing off completely to ground level and



allowing them to regrow from the base. This could be as much as a fifty-year cycle for each hedge. No getting the hedge cutter out and trimming down to 4ft every year for us. In total, we have planted over 4.5km of new hedges on the farm and have coppiced off and gapped up a further 4km of older ones.

I think hedges can bring so much joy into the world that it seems a shame to beat them back the whole time as if they were a nuisance. For me, I want hedges to be a palette of joyful colours, sculptural in their non-uniformity, heady with scent, mysterious and full of sound and movement. Last year's hawthorn blossom was so amazing it made me gasp out loud and now their plump red berries are being gobbled up by large flocks of fieldfares that come to us every year from Scandinavia.

Many farmers might look at our hedges and think they were untidy and not well managed. They may be right – but I look at them as food for the wildlife and, just as importantly, food for the soul.

Nick Miller

northastondairyoffice@gmail.com

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DON WALKER

This verse is published as a tribute to Don Walker who, we are sad to report, died on 5 February, just short of his 90th birthday. He was a regular contributor to this magazine of stories of old Deddington, a compendium of which can be found on the Deddington History website, www.deddingtonhistory.uk/people/donwalkersmemoriesofdeddington.

Rob Forsyth
roberts.forsyth@gmail.com

Our Childhood Games

Before the days when tele came
The children played at their own game
Down the road with hoop and guide
They ran together side by side.
And then there was the hoop and top
Just give a whack, my, it did hop
Many a child had the cane
For breaking mother's window pane.
Conker season came quite late
To make them hard we did them bake
Hanging from a piece of twine
What number is she? She's a nine.
Marble time is here again
Played down the gutter, mind the drain
Or played along the garden path
And in the winter on the hearth.
Hopscotch square marked on playground
With stone that's flat and not too round
Hop along from square to square
Plaits in ribbons bob in the air.
Boys with elastic catapult
Shoots at the cat or frightens colt,
Girls with rope that's flying round
Scatters dust up from the ground.
With stones of five placed in your hand
How many on the back would stand?
When tossed into the air with height
How much these games they did excite.
Queenie! Queenie! who has got the ball?
You could hear the children call
And Mr Wolf was asked the time
But would not chase till dinner time.
Two balls were thrown against the wall
Just keep them going till one did fall
With smiling faces full of glee
I think this game was called ten'see
Oh what a sight before our eyes
To hear their shouts and hear their cries
Enjoying their own special fun
My, they could shout and they could run.

Don Walker

PFSU AND NURSERY

We are looking forward to our next two fundraisers. The Easter Trail will be on Saturday 6 April and the Four Farms on Sunday 19 May. More information to follow so please keep an eye on our Facebook.

Charlotte Witka
charlotte@deddingtonnurseryandpfsu.co.uk

UPDATES FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

Deddington Parish Council is now short of two councillors. Would you consider stepping forward as a replacement? It need not be overly demanding and you'll be in the thick of things, making a contribution to the general well-being of the parish.

Several of us on the council are what you might call well-seasoned veterans. So, while we'll always welcome retirees with time on their hands and a willingness to pitch in, we'd also value some younger newbies, even teenagers, to give us another perspective. How about it? If you're interested contact the parish clerk at deddingtonparishcouncil@googlemail.com or 01869 337447 as soon as possible.

Aside from fielding parishioners' complaints – and trying to solve them – there are pleasant tasks; for instance, deciding how to spend the money for community benefits that comes with new housing developments. You may have heard that the arm of Burrington Estates responsible for the new developments at Hempton Gate and Clifton Gate is going out of business. We're reasonably confident that the S106 money promised for sports facilities, nursery, library, community centre and so on will still be forthcoming. Remember the great Deddington phone switchover to Digital Voice? That has been postponed yet further to ensure everyone is compatible with the new system. BT has promised another session at the Windmill to answer queries.

Helen Oldfield
helenoldfield.dpc@gmail.com

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20:20 REAR VISION

The scene: motoring along Hempton Road from the direction of Chipping Norton at as close to the speed limit of 20 miles an hour as possible on that unhappy cusp between second and third of modern car gearing, Murdock Close on the right. A small black SUV appeared far back in the rear-view mirror close to where the 20-speed limit is signed.

By the time the Daedings was alongside on the left it was a large black SUV close behind with RANGE ROVER trying to meld with my rear-view mirror. The vehicle practised extreme close pursuit onwards towards the A4260 lights which were showing green. A few tens of yards later the tailgater pulled out and sped past me towards the lights. By the time the black vehicle, giving vent to his or her inner Max Verstappen, crossed the junction the lights were firmly red.

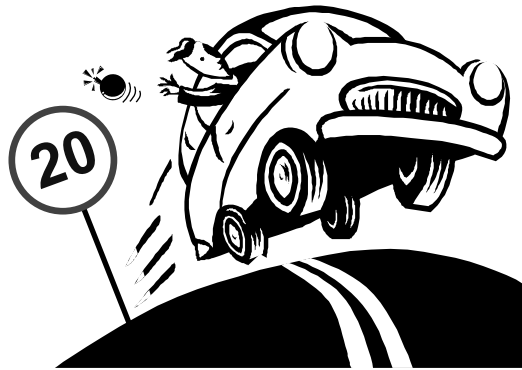
So on to Clifton, where the larks rise and our correspondent, Martin Bryce tracked down one of the remaining 20,000 public payphones to Clark Kent-like don red cape and underpants to become Supercouncillor, fending off extremist claims about Blackshirts and Nazism.

Passing through the village from Aynho one dark evening, I slowed to the 20mph limit and dawdled upwards into the village with its traffic-calming clutter of cars at the roadside. Two magnificently bright headlights came so close to my tailgate that the glare could be seen but not the lights themselves. A tad close for any hesitation at all on my part.

As we left Clifton, the pursuit vehicle dropped back but closed up again as we hit the 30-limit in Deddington, and then ever closer as we entered the 20mph area. At this point the driver disconcertingly

showed off how many times they could switch between full and dipped headlights in the time before they were able to swing off into Earls Lane while we continued into the centre of the village.

A neighbour reports that a row of six vehicles sticking to the 20mph limit on Hempton Road were sped past in one spurt of acceleration by a large SUV, the driver of which clearly felt that they were not bound by the constraints of legality and safety. Even allowing for miscounting, it



sounded alarming.

For those who like strolling round the village, a walk along Earls Lane can involve diving into the potholes or mud baths at the side of the road as it has more than ever become risky as cars turning into the straight from either end seem to think the 20mph limit no longer applies.

Subjectively and anecdotally the conclusion has to be that the 20pmh limit can create aggressive levels of frustration and impatience. Perhaps Kidlington has lessons that could also be taken on board.

There the 20mph limit is much closer to the heart of the shopping area, with a pleasingly short run on the A4260 that is not much longer than the section on the B4031 through Hempton.

Should Deddington eschew the example of Wales and reinstate the old 30mph limits but impose 20mph closer to the Market Place and traffic lights? Or perhaps adopting Scotland's example of fining driver £100 for parking on pavements could be up for discussion?

As Martin Bryce said in his December edition of News From Clifton, all views are taken on board.

John Price

RAFFLE FOR UKRAINE

Following the update in January's issue, many of you have come forward to offer help or have suggested ways to help, either by volunteering to collect and deliver vehicles or fundraising through various activities. We are fortunate that two well-known local artists are each donating an original painting with a Ukrainian theme to support the cause. These paintings will be raffled in the coming weeks with the draw in March. Look out for details around the village. You can buy your raffle tickets from Hamptons in the Market Place, from me or visit www.drivingukraine.org for more information. Remember all proceeds will go directly to help and support the people of Ukraine – and you may win one of these unique pictures.

Jenny Soddy
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TOGETHER AT LAST!



Ruth Johnson in front of one of the new collages

DEDDINGTON LIBRARY

Great news. The two embroidered collages generously donated by Carol and Chedly Mahfoudh, look absolutely splendid. Do come in and take a look.

As I mentioned previously, we would like to start Rhymetime again for babies and toddlers and their carers. We need three or four volunteers who could spend half an hour every five or six weeks to lead the group in singing nursery rhymes. Retired grandparents would be very welcome in this role.

In addition to our recent batch of new books on rotation through the library service, we have a good selection of jigsaws for both children and adults, free to be borrowed without any need to be a member of the library. I am still looking for 150 and 250 piece ones for younger children and would be grateful for any you may wish to donate.

To protect books from damage when transferring them between libraries we pack them in envelopes of various sizes. If you have any spare Padda bags or other large reusable types of envelope we would be very happy to have them and will recycle them many times over.

Gail Cripps
Gail.cripps@oxfordshire.gov.uk



Holcombe Hotel collage 1995

More than 25 years after they were completed, the three delightful embroidered collages of the village, created by the Craft Group, have been reunited permanently on the walls of the library, thanks to the efforts of Gail Cripps, the library manager and daughter of Daphne Canning, one of the group's members.

Any regular patron of the library is familiar with the largest one, representing Deddington as a whole, town hall, church, pubs, bowler hats, clocks and, of course, sheep (presumably Cotswold Lions), which has hung behind the librarian's desk since 1991. The second portrays a section of High Street, while the third, made to commission, shows a wedding party outside the Holcombe Hotel (now partially Holcombe House). The owners of the latter two, Carol and Chedly Mahfoudh, have now graciously agreed to donate them to the library as a gift to the village.

Begun in 1986, the Craft Group met weekly, first in the school and subsequently in members' houses to stitch, with attendant tea, coffee and chat.

The High Street collage was completed in 1991 by a team comprising Daphne Canning, Margaret Colley, Mary Dant, Marianne Elsley, Joyce Harper, Margery Hawes, Mildred Homans, Ruth Johnson, Jo Mace, Stella Marmion, Molly Nield, Sheila Reese, Irene Robinson and Marion Scott. The redoubtable Ruth Johnson is now the Group's last surviving founder member.

The Craft Group itself continues, meeting every Tuesday from 2.00–4.30pm in the Holly Tree Hall and welcomes anyone who would like to learn or teach creative crafts. To contact the Group go to liquorishflux@gmail.com.

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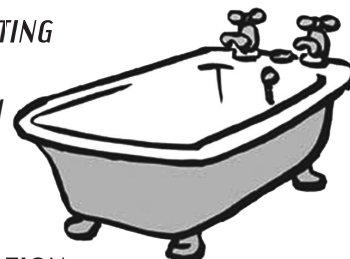
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OUR VOLUNTEERING ROLES WITH GUIDE DOGS FOR THE BLIND

We have known our editor, Jill, for many years now and she has often asked us to write something for the *DN* about what we do for Guide Dogs, so here is a summary of our roles over the past two decades.

We have lived in Deddington for 24 years and not long after we had settled in and our three daughters were happy in their schools, Adele had a yearning for a dog. Dave, having come from a cat family, was not keen. On a family day out to a garden centre, we met a Guide Dog volunteer with a puppy who told us all about puppy raising for Guide Dogs. The girls thought it was a great idea and Dave agreed because we only had to commit to one year of puppy raising ...

Twenty-three years later we have now homed six dogs and 64 puppies have been born in our house.

Our first puppy was a male black Labrador called Neil. Puppies stay with their puppy raisers for one year before going on to assessment and, if suitable, formal training. During this year it is our responsibility to teach them to walk to heel and 'spend a penny' in the appropriate place as well as getting them used to family life, public transport, shops, cafes etc.

Of course, after that first year we were all sad to see Neil leave us, so went straight into puppy number two, Annie a female yellow Lab. Another year later and she was replaced by Tamsin, a female black Lab.

After our third puppy, we decided we wanted a more permanent member of the family and were fed up with having furniture chewed! So, we volunteered to be part of the breeding programme and look after a Guide Dog Mum.

Guide Dog Mums live with a volunteer family for all their lives from the age of one. Their job is to have puppies, but Guide Dogs are very conscientious about their health so limit them to four litters or a maximum age of eight to breed. Our first mum was Megan and she had three litters of ten, nine and eight puppies.

Guide Dogs provide all the equipment, advice and support during pregnancy and whelping so, although the first whelping seems daunting, there is plenty of help on hand. The puppies are usually around 400g when born and blind, but they are very capable of wriggling around to find mum's milk. They live off this for the first three weeks and during this time mum needs increased food and care to keep her healthy and also keep the pups developing. We weigh them every day to make sure they are gaining weight and it is remarkable that they can double in weight in two weeks just from their mother's milk.



They start on solids after three weeks and then they really start to grow. They also produce a lot of poop! Our job then becomes much busier, feeding them four times a day and clearing up after them. After four weeks, they are running around our kitchen and by six weeks we are letting them loose in the garden when the weather allows. They leave us at seven weeks old and

it is a massive relief when they go, even if they are super cute by then.

We now have our third Guide Dog Mum, Sacha who has also now had three litters. Unfortunately, her last two whelpings needed Caesarean sections to birth the last of the puppies which was very stressful, but all part of the job. Sacha is only six years old and is now retired from breeding so becomes our pet. This probably means we are also retiring from the breeding programme.

However, Adele is still very much involved with Guide Dogs as a fundraiser and 'My Sighted Guide', where she helps a partially sighted person, who is unable to have a dog, to get out and about.

If all this sounds like something you might want to get involved with, please get in touch with Guide Dogs as they are always looking for volunteers to look after dogs for short or long term. For more information on what the organisation does and the volunteer roles visit <https://www.guidedogs.org.uk/>.

Adele and Dave Sullivan

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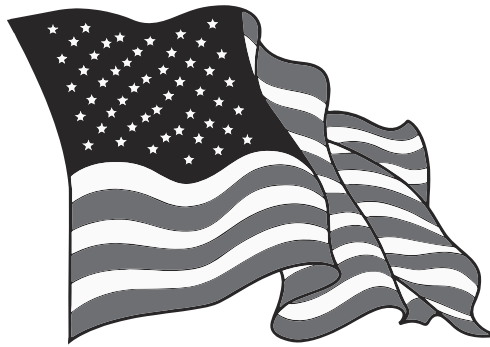
POSTCARD FROM AMERICA

Please don't tell my wife, but there are two things I don't like about having a dog. One of them is when the evening pee walk takes me outside at -18C; the other is that he isn't good at staying home alone. It was obviously time to book a trip to the sunshine but, unfortunately, it's a difficult drive to Mexico or the Caribbean, so here we are in Palm Springs. It's a two-day drive and we have to drug the dog to get him into the car.

I love Palm Springs and the Coachella Valley but it is a very curious place. As you walk around the place you realise there are two main demographics, gay men and retired rich folks. There are as many golf carts as BMWs and Maseratis. It does mean that the service levels are great in restaurants and shops and there are no Trump banners in any of the beautifully manicured gardens. I needed to get away from election madness as well as the snow.

The Valley became a resort in the 20th century, due to its climate. In the summer it reaches 40C, in the winter it is a wonderful oasis surrounded by desert. Its original popularity was due to its proximity to Los Angeles. The film studios used to insist that their stars were available within a two-hour drive. One of the things I love here is the architecture. In the 1950s there was a movement to build these unique stylish single storey houses. We stayed in one last winter, it was gorgeous but had terrible plumbing and a leaky roof.

The 1,100-mile drive south from Colorado goes through large tranches of Native American land in New Mexico and Arizona. You can always notice it; they got left with the less valuable bits. The Indian Removal Act of 1830 was used by President Andrew Jackson to



push the Native Tribes west out of the land that the white folks wanted, leading to thousands of casualties on a forced march to what is now Oklahoma. Over the next 100 years the tribes were driven out of their homelands time and again as the white man moved westwards to take over the minerals, the oil and the land. In 1876 the Agua Caliente tribe

was allocated a reservation in the Valley but then parts of this was given by the government to the railroad company in order to encourage them to build lines from the East. The end result is bizarre, with the area split into one square mile allocations with the tribe owning every other square. As always across America, the tribes built casinos on their lands but, around the expensive neighbourhoods, there are large gaps where the tribes have demanded more control and high ground rents.

Elon Musk was posting again this week about 'the great replacement theory'. He thinks the Democrats are allowing in immigrants in order to gain a majority over the white population. I am thinking this has happened before in this fine land. It's just that the Republicans don't want to listen to history.

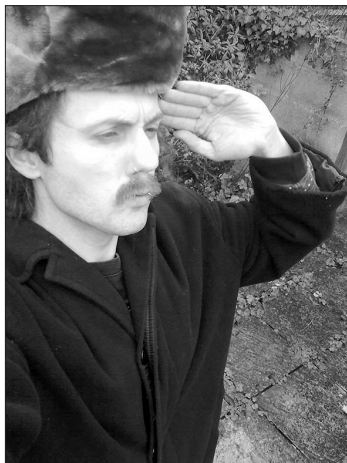
I am now a fully signed up Swiftie. The music is OK but, more importantly, the gang is great. Apparently, we are going to prevent the lunatic from entering the White House again. It's unfortunate that the gang also includes some hulk of an American football player but that's the problem with conspiracies, you can't choose your fellow idiots.

Mike Ward
mike@mikeaward.com

BLISSFUL THINKING

I walked past the primary school recently when something was on in the evening, so the inside of what used to be the assembly hall was visible from the street. Back in the day, there used to be gym equipment bolted and hinged to the back wall, so it could be folded out when needed. When you're as small as you are at primary school, the top of the gym equipment might as well have been the top of a skyscraper. You'd get vertigo staring at it for too long. Tragically, it looks like this equipment is now gone.

Or has it? The worldwide web, millennium bug, 9/11, the war on terror, the global financial crash, tuition fees, corporate lobbyists, Covid, climate change, Gen Z, social media, coffee shops, gym culture, smartphones, artificial grass, artificial intelligence,



dating apps, quantum computing, simulation theory, hydroponics, deepfakes, driverless cars, electric vehicles, heat pumps, solar panels, social media meltdowns ... what if these are all simply elaborate components in the coma fantasy of an awkward young boy who fell from a great height? What if right now I'm addressing fictional characters in a tableau, playing out on a bereft neural motorway gradually filling back up with synaptic traffic, soon to rouse a body surrounded by teachers too concerned to chide me for climbing on the gym equipment without permission, in a bed in the Children's Ward of the Horton, back in 1992?

Aaron Bliss
aaronjbliss@hotmail.com

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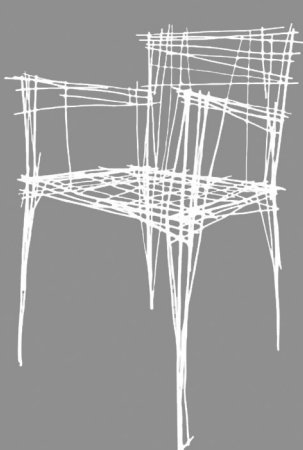
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CALLING ALL CLUBS

Deddington and District History Society

January's speaker was Jo Eames. She began her fascinating talk by describing her discovery that, in the 1940s, her home, Leadenporch House, had been the residence of the military engineer, Major-General Sir Percy Hobart, who was the mastermind of novel armoured vehicles during World War II. In the late 1930s Hobart had been a tank strategist in Egypt. A hardheaded character who believed in tough training, Hobart gained the respect of his men but his gung-ho methods upset his senior officers and he was 'retired' early.

After Dunkirk Churchill wanted new and imaginative approaches to dealing with the Germans' coastal defences and Hobart was brought back to adapt tanks and develop new assault vehicles. Collectively known as Hobo's 'Funnies', these innovations included the Crab – a Sherman tank equipped with revolving flails for detonating enemy land mines, and the Crocodile – a Churchill tank equipped with a flamethrower in place of its machine gun. The Americans had nothing comparable and, although Hobart failed to sell these ideas to them, the 'swimming tank' and other devices were shown to be effective and greatly contributed to the success of the Normandy landings.

After the war Hobart returned to England, was appointed CEO of the Royal Hospital Chelsea and knighted. Today he is celebrated in Deddington in the naming of Hobart Way. Jo has written a book with a story around the life of Major-General Hobart, titled *Not Only the Good Boys*.

Melanie King's talk in March is called 'Can Onions Cure Headaches?'. Come along to find out more about medical advice from the 1700s.

Jean Dipper
jean.dipper28@gmail.com

Deddington Bookworms

Last summer our group read Elif Shafak's *The Island of Missing Trees*. Our latest read was another Shafak novel, *10 Minutes 38 Seconds In This Strange World*.

Shafak uses her novels to highlight social issues and this story, in particular, challenges traditional gender roles and explores the complexities of women's experiences whilst also giving valuable insight into Turkish and Middle Eastern cultures. Tequila Leila is a female sex worker in Istanbul who is brutally murdered. She's dead, but for 10 minutes and 38 seconds her brain continues to function. In those final minutes she recalls her troubled childhood, marriage, relationships and her eclectic friends. A deeply touching story of friendship and marginalisation unfolds. An interesting and well written book but not enjoyed by all Bookworms. One criticism was that the final part of the story becomes almost comical in places (not sure this was intentional). Some Bookworms also found the subject matter slightly disturbing.

Deddingtonbookworms@gmail.com

Deddington Playgroup

This is a friendly group run by volunteers for those in Deddington and the surrounding villages. We meet at The Windmill Centre every other Friday, 9.45–11.45am. This month we are open 1 and 15 March. We offer a range of toys and activities for babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers, as well as a great meeting place for parents and carers. We provide snacks and drinks for the little ones and tea, coffee and cake for the grown-ups. Admission is £4 per family. There is no need to book. We look forward to meeting you.

Helen Carpenter
deddingtonbabyandtoddler@gmail.com

Local Vocals Community Choir

Last year club members voted on the songs we most wanted to sing and this term's addition is *Sweet Caroline* by Neil Diamond. Learning harmonies for a song we've known for years can be quite a challenge but that's why choirs help keep those little grey cells ticking along. We are looking forward to our next friends and family evening when we open this one up to our audience. So good, so good, so good – better start practising now folks.

To find out more about our choir, which meets 7.30pm at Deddington Primary School each Monday during term time, go to our website www.localvocalscc.co.uk.

Alison Grieve

Book Group

Small Things Like These by Claire Keegan is a short novel but rich in content. Set in an economically deprived Irish town in the 1980s, its main character is Bill Furlong, a respected coal merchant, happily married with two daughters. While delivering coal to the local convent, Bill comes across a traumatised young mother locked in a coal house. Troubled by his discovery, Bill faces an agonising dilemma. Should he try to help, thereby incurring the anger of the church, many of the townspeople and even his own family? Should he do nothing and be wracked with guilt for the rest of his life? What would most people at that time have done?

For most of us this was a thought-provoking book which showed how the power of the Church, together with the social attitudes of fifty years ago, could lead to the hidden cruelty of the Magdalene laundries. Keegan is adept at describing atmosphere, places, characters and relationships in a few vivid sentences where every word matters. The portrait of Bill is built up through a few incidents, showing his thoughtfulness in his business and his family life. Perhaps his compassionate nature came from being the son of an unmarried mother who had benefitted from the kindness of another woman.

Our next meeting is on Thursday, 28 March. Please contact Sally Lambert on 01869 338094 for more details.

The Book Group

CALLING ALL CLUBS

Barford WI

Barford WI meets at 7.30pm on the second Wednesday of each month in the Village Hall. On 13 March our Annual Meeting will be followed by supper. This is an opportunity to hear about our varied talks and activities over the past year, get a foretaste of what's planned for 2024–25 and enjoy a chat over supper. The talk on 10 April is 'Passion for Fashion'. If you'd like to know more, please contact Kathryn Wheeler 01869 338221 or Christine Hall 01869 338659.

Photographic Society

Jim Muller gave an inspiring illustrated overview of the photographic opportunities in the Peak District, which was Britain's first National Park. He started with a short description of the history and geology of the area, including the Kinder Scout mass trespass in 1932.

Mining, cotton mills and agriculture have shaped the landscape, which now bears witness through canals, rail tracks and industrial relics. These range from scenic viaducts to abandoned millstones. Reservoirs, although man-made and sometimes at the cost of submerging whole villages, provide an attractive setting. Edges and txxeryd8vg 9ors often have spectacular rock formations, complemented by moorlands and dales. Embedded in all of this are rivers, waterfalls and ancient woodlands, each providing photographic

material, which was beautifully demonstrated by Jim's images.

Finally, he showed images of attractive buildings, especially around Buxton, that are worth a photographer's attention. The area is so popular with visitors that it's often necessary to be up at first light to obtain a photograph without people in it. The Peak District clearly has a huge range of material for photographers interested in landscape, nature and historical material.

There was a good selection of creative images on this month's topic: black and white photography. Most of us are so used to working with colour that we lose the habit of restricting ourselves to monochrome which forces us to focus on elements like shadow, shape, contrast, texture and balance. The appearance can be changed dramatically by adjusting the brightness of individual colour channels. Members produced fascinating photos of subjects such as urban and rural landscape, sculpture, animals, birds, people, flowers and trees. In fact, it seemed that no genre was a no-go area – a good reminder to consider whether an image would benefit from black and white conversion when composing or processing.

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

Courtney Killpack

SPORT

Deddington Town FC

First Team results

13.01.24	Woodford Utd (a) (CUP)	D 3–3 (Won 3–2 on pens)
27.01.24	Longford Park (a)	D 1–1
03.02.24	Hanwell Utd (a)	W 2–0

Reserve Team results

13.01.24	Longford Park Res (h)	D 3–3
20.01.24	Banbury Athletic (a)	W 3–1
27.01.24	Bishops Itchington (h)	L 3–5
03.02.24	Banbury Athletic (h)	W 6–2

A very positive opening to the year for both sides, with the Humbugs remaining unbeaten in their three games and progressing on penalties in the Mid Oxon Cup. The Banbury District and Lord Jersey pyramid is looking glorious right now, as DTFC sit a staggering eleven points clear at the summit! All you glory hunters out there, now is the time to attend a Humbug game for they are the leading lights and looking very much like they could bring the ultimate prize home again.

Meanwhile the Latics have dug deep and found that unrelenting will to win from somewhere, lifting themselves out of the doldrums by beating Banbury Athletic home and away within a fortnight to nudge above them into midtable in Division Two. In all their games they managed at least three goals, so entertainment is currently guaranteed wherever you look. What a run-in we have to look forward to, with all still to play for and

both sides embodying the never-say-die fortitude we have come to expect from the parish's finest.

Aaron Bliss
07909 642882

Deddington Town FC Youth

The Under 15s lost 4–3 to Bicester Town Colts in the cup. In the League: a 2–2 draw with Garden City, 3–0 defeat at Charlbury Town and 2–4 away win at Chadlington with a hat-trick for Theo Flint. The Under 14s are having a tough time in Oxfordshire Youth Invitation B League: a 7–0 defeat at Henley, 5–1 defeat at Clanfield, and 5–2 defeat at Oxford City. The Under 13s, now promoted to Oxfordshire Youth Invitation C League, had a 1–5 home defeat to Harwell and Hendred, 2–0 win over Oxford City, and 2–2 draw with Wallingford and Crowmarsh. The Under 12s had a 0–1 away win at Chesterton, 2–0 home win over Brackley Athletic, and then 6–3 defeat to Banbury Irish in the cup.

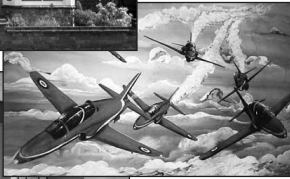
Fundraising Ball

The Club is holding a ball on 16 March at the Great Barn in Aynho to raise funds for the future development of the Club, including improvements in facilities and development for players and coaches. We will donate 25% of our profits to Young Lives v Cancer – a wonderful organisation supporting children, young people, parents and carers through cancer.

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SPORT*Continued from p26*

We are looking for donations for our grand auction and raffle. Could you offer a stay in your holiday home? Do you know 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. If you can donate, please contact me..

Thank you to sponsorship already pledged from Tustian Carriers, Brita, Renovation and Restoration, Deddington Dental and Cedar Therapy. More sponsors and support welcome!

Get involved in volunteering

We are looking for help in coaching, safeguarding, match day support, pitch improvement and marketing and fundraising. If you have the skills and want to give a few hours, please get in touch with me for an informal chat about the roles. Further information about the club is at www.deddingtontownfc.com and on www.facebook.com/DeddingtonTownFc.

Roger Sykes
carsykes@btinternet.com
07899 914425

Deddington Original Golf Society

The following venues are booked for our 2024 golfing season.

Tue 7 May	Brickhampton GC, Churchdown,
Mon 10 Jun	Copt Heath GC, Solihull
Wed 7 Aug	Coventry GC, Finham
Fri 6 Sep	Whittlebury GC, Towcester
Fri 13 Dec	Tadmorton Heath GC, Christmas golf and party.

Following the golf at Whittlebury there will be our annual evening event and, back by popular demand, Italian style catering by Giuseppe and his team. There will also be traditional barbecue fare for those who don't embrace Mediterranean cuisine. We are most grateful to John and Janet Dauphin for hosting the event again this year.

Full venue information will be emailed to members prior to each event. Please do your best to attend as many of the outings as you can.

Any golfers (or beginners) new to Deddington or surrounding areas are welcome to join the DOGS. Be warned, the subscription is £10 per annum.

Tony Lowe, Secretary
dogsgolf23@gmail.com

YOUTH**1st Deddington Guides**

It's been a busy half term. The Guides have had fun in their Patrols, challenging themselves to try a wider variety of activities. We have continued to work on our Skills for My Future badge, particularly on issues around communication, and tried some sewing; each Guide made a bookmark using cross stitch decoration. We also learnt a bit about money management and played a game to try out these skills. Some teams ended up owing a small fortune, whilst others seemed to be making theirs.

We've been working on the Guide motto 'Be Prepared' and, having already practised our fire drill recently, it stood us in good stead when the alarm sounded for real. The Guides behaved impeccably and knew exactly what to do – well done to them.

Everyone enjoyed the pet evening when we had visiting guinea pigs and gerbils and, of course, Fred the Spider from Isla R's garage. We also met a variety of much-loved cuddly toy pets. We celebrated Shrove Tuesday with pancakes, a week early.

Lastly, congratulations to Daisy and Melissa on becoming Young Leaders. We look forward to seeing them move forward as Guides.

Maggie Rampley
07957 600755

1st Deddington Scout Group***Cubs***

We've had a very busy month. We've looked at the different badges available to us and voted on which ones we'd like to earn this term and now have a wonderful

programme of activities to look forward to..

We've talked about how we like to be treated and how we should treat others and have written our own pack rules to ensure everyone has the best possible time during our meetings.

We had a whole evening of team games, which involved lots of cheering and a great time with lots of laughter and giggles watching the Deddington pantomime, a long running tradition. We ended the month making delicious pancakes with our favourite toppings – some of us even flipped them successfully.

Tracy Tong
deddingtoncubs@gmail.com

Scouts

We started the new year in a very positive frame of mind and dived (metaphorically) into either gaining or renewing the Emergency Aid Badge. This is a staged badge where each section reinforces the knowledge gained from the previous one, before adding new skills. This term we have worked towards Stage 3 with the invaluable help of Matt, who passed on his expertise in an entertaining and informative way. Everything from, shock, bleeding, burns, hypothermia and choking to recovery position and practical CPR using mannequins. We hope the Scouts will never have to call on their newfound skills – but the way they play hockey, who knows. The Scouts also thoroughly enjoyed the Deddington panto, while eating their own bodyweight in jelly worms.

Pete Churchyard
deddingtonscouts@gmail.com

DEDDINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Term 1 has flown by, with it being just five weeks long. Despite this though, much has been packed into each of the school weeks.

We have had netball and football tournaments for KS2 children and swimming lessons for Year 6. On 15 January a selection of children from Years 5 and 6 enjoyed themselves in a lovely swimming gala at Sibford School where they performed very well.

Towards the end of January, Year 6 pupils visited Rewley Road Fire Station in the centre of Oxford, taking part in a series of very useful safety scenarios that they may come across in their lives.

The whole school focused on Safer Internet Day on Tuesday 6 February which emphasised the importance of using computers in the safest possible way, to support our learning. It was an enjoyable way of



learning critical lessons to maintain one's safety online.

A Pebble Mass service was held in school to officially welcome the new members of our school community. It was, as always, a special occasion for us.

We are delighted that the Revd Nick Fielden was appointed as the new Deddington Church vicar. We look forward to seeing him in school soon, getting to know all staff and pupils, as well as leading important

services in church.

We are now looking forward to the end of winter and a return to spring. With all best wishes from everyone here at the primary school.

Denise Welch

dwel3954@deddington.oxon.sch.uk

By the time you read this, work on the new Windmill roof should have begun in earnest. This is the biggest and, in many ways, the most important improvement project we – that is the Parish Council and the Windmill management committee – have embarked on to date. We've been told that the new roof can be any colour we like as long as it's grey. So, we've chosen, er ... grey.

If all goes according to plan, the work will be completed by mid-April and the centre will remain open throughout. We are working with the contractors to make sure that disruption is kept to a minimum, particularly when daytime sessions are running. As always, we ask all our regular users for their understanding and cooperation during this time. Thank you.

One unavoidable downside is that we will temporarily lose six of our parking spaces as the contractors need a compound to accept deliveries and store stuff. But could I spin this as a positive? Could I politely ask all of you to reconsider whether you really need to drive your car *all that way* to the Windmill for your tennis match, Pilates class, yoga session and so on? If you live in Deddington itself, setting off ten minutes earlier and walking or cycling would really help things – and that's not just while we've got the roofing contractors on site, by the way. Thank you again.

Last but not least, we'd like to welcome some new classes which have already started or are about to start at the Windmill: Tom's Tennis Tots (ages 2–4) on



Wednesday mornings; the Oxford School of Ballet's new adult class on Wednesday evenings; and possibly a new cookery class in our brand new kitchen. Watch this space!

If you would like to start a regular class of some sort, do get in touch. We still have a few evening and weekend slots available and plenty of availability during weekdays. The Windmill is your community space. Use it.

To find out what is happening at the Windmill or how to book it for one of your own events, visit www.thewindmilleddington.org or our Facebook page, or call our bookings secretary, Julie, on 07720 834006. See you up there soon.

Vaughan Jones

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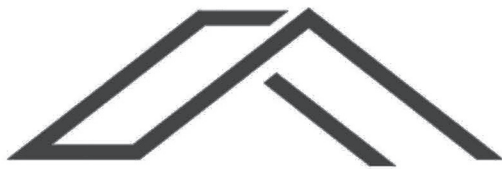
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JOHNSONS OF DEDDINGTON

TIMBER & BUILDERS' MERCHANT

The Timber Yard, Chapel Square, Deddington, Oxfordshire, OX15 0SG
Tel: 01869 338275
www.johnsonsofdeddington.co.uk

10% Discount
Collections Only*

You may be unaware that there is a Timber and Builders' Merchant on your doorstep. We also have a hardware shop for your decorating and DIY needs.

If you bring the completed form below to us and with proof of your address you will receive 10% discount off anything you collect from our yard.*

* Terms & Conditions Apply.

JOHNSONS OF DEDDINGTON DISCOUNT FORM (DN)

This form, when completed, entitles residents of the Parish of Deddington, Clifton and Hempton to ten percent discount off all materials collected from our yard*.

Name _____

Address _____

email _____

☐

We would like to occasionally send you details on further promotions that may be of benefit to you. If you do not want to receive these offers please tick the box. We do not give your details to any third parties.

TIMBER BOARDS GUTTER HARDWARE PAVING CEMENT SAND INSULATION

Mon–Thu: 7:30am to 5pm Fri: 7:30am to 4:30pm

NELLIE & DOVE



mens & ladies wear | gifts | jewellery | home | accessories | shoes

pop in for a relaxing browse, we're open 10am to 5.30pm Monday to Friday & 9am to 5pm on Saturday's

nellieanddove.com | 01869 336972 | info@nellieanddove.co.uk



DEDDINGTON DATA



CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL	01295 227001
CITIZENS ADVICE	0808 278 7906
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 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
National Express	08717 81 8181
National Rail Passenger Enqs	03457 48 49 50
OurBus Bartons	01869 699699
Oxford Bus Company	01865 785400
Oxfordshire Comet	01865 323201
Stagecoach Bus Company	01865 772250
Traveline (Public Transport)	0871 200 2233

UTILITIES:

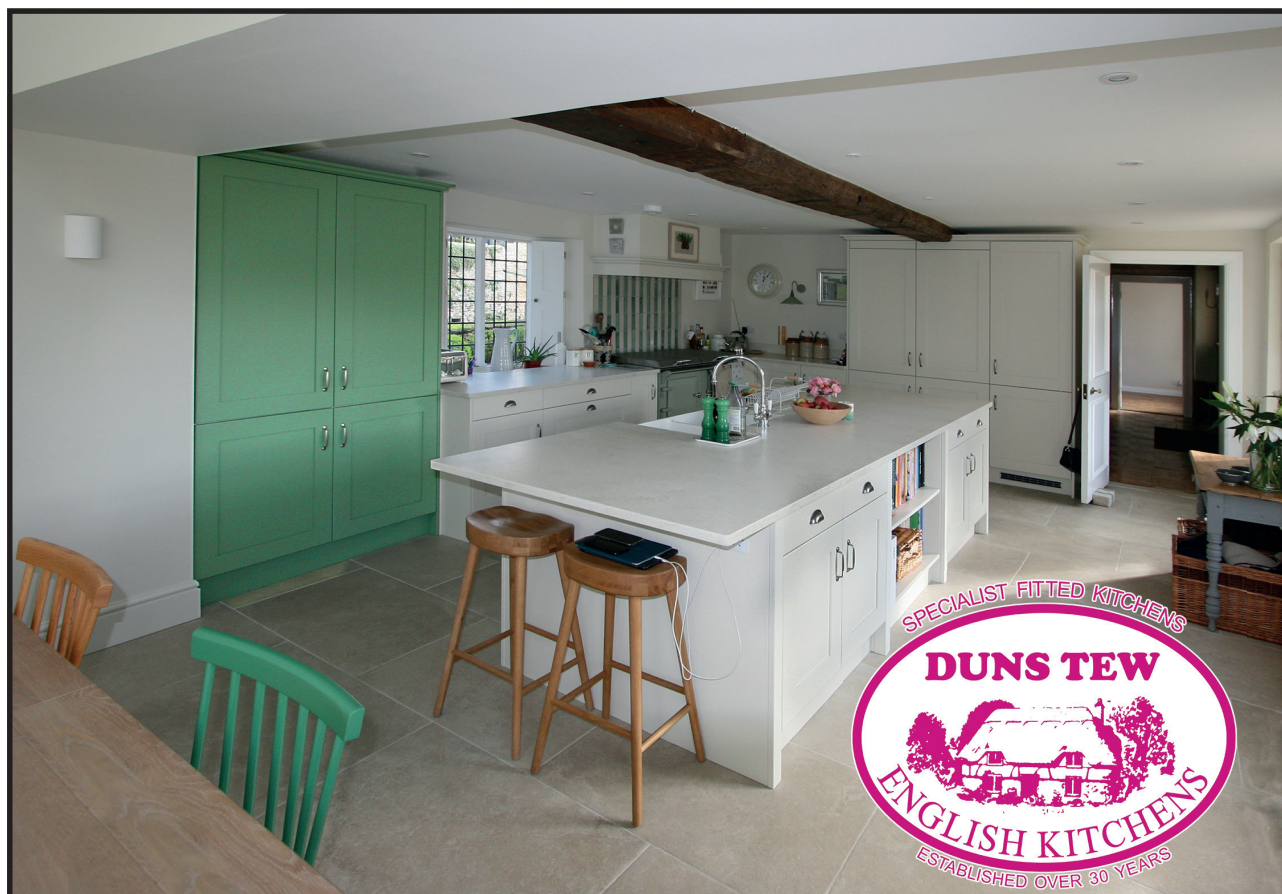
Gas Escapes (24hrs)	0800 111 99
Electricity – any supplier	
Emergency/Power cut	105
Careline (over 60s)	0800 101 3333
Ofgem	020 7901 7295
Thames Water (24hrs)	0800 316 9800

WARRINER SCHOOL, Bloxham	01295 720777
WINDMILL CENTRE	07720 834006
OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL	01865 792422

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



01869 340429/01908 505658 • info@dunstewkitchens.co.uk • www.dunstewkitchens.co.uk