

April 2024

The **DEDDINGTON NEWS**



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Find out more about
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The DEDDINGTON NEWS

I hope in this somewhat soggy weather, this makes for at least some entertaining reading. It seems to me that there's always plenty of variety within our pages.

Please vote for the Neighbourhood Plan on the referendum day, Thursday 2 May, coinciding with the district council elections. A lot of hard work has gone in to the preparation of this document. The polling station is only one example of how our community centre caters for the parish's needs. Previously, the primary school was closed for a whole day so that elections could take place.

JC

WHAT'S ON

April

- Wed 3 Photographic Society: Monthly Meeting and AGM. Adderbury Institute, 7.30pm
- Fri 12 Deddington Playgroup: Windmill Centre, 9.45–11.45am
- Sat 13 Spring Hill Farm, Barford St Michael: Shepherd's Huts and Campsite Open Day, 11.00am–3.00pm
- Wed 17 Thames Valley Police: Community Forum, Deddington Arms Conference Room, 6.30pm
- 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', Primary School, 7.30pm
- Thu 18 People Planet Pint: White Horse, Duns Tew, 7.00pm
- Sat 20 Cherwell Choral Society: Poulenc *Gloria*, St Mary's Church, Bloxham, 7.30pm
- Sun 21 DEN: Community Orchard Working Party, Welford's Piece, 10.00am
- Sun 21 Music in Adderbury: Barbican String Quartet, St Mary's Church, Adderbury, 6.30pm
- Thu 25 Deddington Bookworms, Holly Tree, 6.30pm
- Thu 25 Book Group: Contact Sally Lambert, 01869 338094, for more details.
- Fri 26 Deddington Playgroup: Windmill Centre, 9.45–11.45am
- Fri 26 Barford Church Auction of Promises: Barford Village Hall, 6.30pm
- Sat 27 Farmers' Market: Market Place, 9.00am–12.30pm
Deddington Post Office open, 9.00am–12.30pm
- Sat 27 Art Exhibition: Cotswold Room, Deddington Arms, 9.00am–5.00pm, www.strokeofabursh.co.uk for more information
- Sun 28 Art Exhibition: Cotswold Room, Deddington Arms, 9.00am–4.00pm

May

- Wed 1 Photographic Society: 'Nudes in the Landscape', Adderbury Institute, 7.30pm
- Thu 2 Local Government Elections and Neighbourhood Plan Referendum: Windmill Centre
- Mon 6 Holly Tree Club: Coffee morning, 10.30am
- Tue 7 DOGS: Brickhampton Golf Club, Churchdown
- Mon 13 Holly Tree Club: AGM, Parish Church, 10.00am

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.

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DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting held on 21 February at the Windmill Centre

Present: Collins, Mylne, Norton, Oldfield (chair), O'Neill, Robinson, Snashall, Swadling, Swan, Timms, Watts, the parish clerk, minutes clerk and *DN* correspondent.

Finance & General Purposes

It was agreed to grant £250 to Deddington Cricket Club in support of their application to the ECB for grant funding for picnic tables and seating.

It was agreed to allow up to £5,000 towards the cost of acoustic panels for the Windmill main hall and Studio. It was agreed to go ahead with mini-tennis at the Windmill, utilising £32,000 already received in S106 money and set aside with the remaining £10,000 from PC funds in expectation this will become available through the overdue S106 money.

It is anticipated that work on the Windmill roof will begin in the week beginning 11 March and take approximately eight weeks to complete.

Permission was granted to the organisers of the Four Farms Challenge to hold their event on 19 May subject to satisfactory paperwork being made available to the parish council 14 days beforehand.

It was noted that the BT switchover deadline has been pushed back beyond the end of April. The PC has received just two requests for help from residents although it's understood that some people continue to refuse to accept the changeover.

Planning

No Objection

Sedge Hill, Main Street, Clifton: fell ash tree. Request that the applicant plant a suitable replacement tree in an appropriate position.

The Old Vicarage, Church Street, Deddington: replace cast iron gates with sliding timber gate. Agreed but defer to the conservation officer.

Stable End, St Thomas Street, Deddington: single storey infill extension, revision to earlier plan.

Archway Cottage, New Street, Deddington: tree works. Request that the applicant plants a suitable replacement tree in an appropriate position.

Ithaca, Hopcraft Lane, Deddington: alterations and single storey extension with installation of wood burning stove and flue and replacement canopy porch.

Clifton Mill, Main Street, Clifton: change of roof material to annexe and garage, new doors to garage and replacement gate and fence, minor revisions to original plans.

Objection

Holly Tree, Earls Lane, Deddington: erection of pool house running adjacent to the Holly Tree Cottage gardens on their eastern boundary. Objection on the basis of being visually intrusive, over development and potential noise.

Approval

8 The Paddocks: single storey rear extension – revised scheme.

Greenstone Cottage, 4 New Street, Deddington: rear

facing window, conversion of existing outbuilding, lifting and replacing existing roof. Replace existing grey plastic rainwater goods with Brett Martin black cast iron profile

The Unicorn Hotel, Market Place, Deddington: redecorate a section of the front elevation in a dark grey colour (existing unauthorised).

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

Appeals – All ongoing – no updates

Mobile mast, The Swere, Deddington and Land Adjacent to Clifton Gate Development, Clifton Road.

Correspondence

A letter has been received from a resident regarding a possible breach of the planning consent for The Hawthorns, County View, Clifton. Concerns regard the driveway and access layout which differs from that which was consented. It appears an area of ground has been partially adopted as parking, resulting in a tree and hedge removal, laying sleepers and the possible unlawful use of an adjacent private service road, and relocation of access onto the Hawthorns property. After some discussion, it was agreed that this is the responsibility of the CDC planning enforcement officer and to add this item to the agenda for the March PC meeting. In the mean time, work at the property is on hold for 6–8 weeks.

Highways and Transport

Some irritation was expressed that a police (TVP) community forum is due to be held on 17 April, the same day as the parish council meeting. However, a TVP representative has agreed to attend the PC meeting following the community forum. PC has a list of issues they wish to discuss including the lack of speed enforcement in the parish.

The PC has received an offer from a resident to act as coordinator for a speed watch group. They are communicating with TVP.

An anonymous communication was received via the PC website regarding a highways issue but councillors are unable to act unless contact details are provided.

Environment & Recreation

A resident has requested that bonfires being lit on the Hempton allotments be moved away from their home. It has been agreed to have a reduced programme for No Mow May and June with maps and improved direction being provided to the contractors.

There is a range of suggestions for improving the Wimborn Close play area and the adventure playground and more costings are being obtained.

The mini-tennis plan is progressing and it will be open for all users. Deddington Tennis Club will provide bats and balls and encourage children up to 8 years old to make use of it.

Next meeting Wednesday 20 March at the Old School Room, Hempton, at 7.30pm.

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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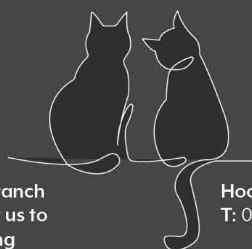
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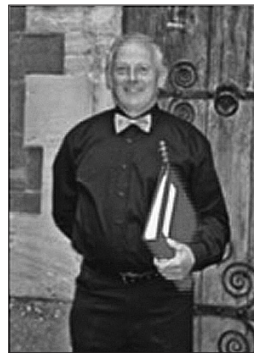
Don Walker 1934–2024

Don was born in 1934 in the house next to the then Post Office on the Bullring, run by Mr and Mrs West. His father, Percy, was well known for his singing and instigated the Carols in the Market Place on Christmas Eve in the late 1970s. His mother, Freda Gardner, was a butter-maker who grew up in Orchard House on Hopcraft Lane. Her grandfather, Fred, made the weather vanes on the church tower.

The family moved to 5 Hempton Road just before WWII started. Don clearly remembered standing outside the house watching the sky turn red over Coventry as it was blitzed. His memories of his wartime school days under the headship of Mr Wing and village life were sharp. The children were sent out to collect rose hips which were taken by Fred Deeley to Aynho Station on his horse and cart, to be sent off to make rose hip syrup which they then all had to take for their health.

Troops were billeted in the village and were welcomed into their homes. The Walkers were members of the Wesleyan Chapel and Don helped his mother with running a canteen for the soldiers, no doubt missing his father who was away serving in the army. When talking with me in 2010 he said he was always reminded of his wartime childhood by a ship-in-a-bottle he still had which had been made by a PoW from Middle Barton camp who worked for Fred Butlin at Grove Farm.

Don left school aged 16 as was quite usual in those days and went to work for the building firm of Hinkins & Frewin, where he fulfilled 50 years continuous service. He and Ruth were married in June 1955 and lived in Fritwell ever since. They have two children, five grandchildren and five great grandchildren. He was a pillar of the community, particularly with his support



for Fritwell Chapel which he and his family regularly attended. The honesty box beside his glorious and abundant garden – noted and envied for its spectacular dahlias – raised thousands of pounds to keep the chapel well maintained; and he still had time to help with other people's gardens.

In retirement he continued with his dry stone walling. His granddaughter, Kim, like all his grandchildren, learnt the art of stone walling as a nine-year old, helping sort stones into sizes. His love of horses – he hunted regularly – was passed on to his family and his well-mown paddock (on his prized but ancient ride-on mower, Billy,) was put to good use for assorted ponies. But he did not suffer whinging. Kim remembers coming off her pony with blood everywhere. Her Grampy insisted she got back on immediately.

He was full of humour, immensely proud of his family and always there to offer practical support and emotional guidance. Like his father before him, he loved singing and his voice on Sundays in the chapel he loved was an inspiration to all and a powerful demonstration of his strong and abiding faith. It was standing room only for his funeral in Fritwell Chapel, testament to the great affection the community had for this Oxfordshire countryman.

This obituary was compiled by Rob Forsyth with the kind agreement of his family as a tribute to Don with whom he enjoyed talking many times about old Deddington. Don's memories – often delivered as poems – were published in the Deddington News and can be found on the Parish Archive History website, along with some family memories of Don, at: <https://www.deddingtonhistory.uk/people/donwalkersmemoirsofdeddington>.

From The Fire Station

It has been a royally soggy month, with callouts being a steady stream rather than a flood. Road traffic collisions and fires have kept everyone at the station occupied.

A narrow escape saw speedy extinguishing of a lounge fire caused by unattended scented candles and air oil fresheners, preventing a rapid escalation of the fire. Whilst the furniture and carpet were a total write-off, further damage to the house was avoided and the occupants no worse for wear than mild smoke inhalation.

More locally, we were called to a thatched property with a reported fire. The fire had been extinguished when we arrived and we were tasked with damping down the roof and salvaging items from the room affected – fortunately, the door had been closed, preventing further spread of fire and smoke.

If you follow our Facebook page and local news, you can't escape seeing pictures of a car on its roof,

with both Deddington and Banbury attending another RTC. The occupant was able to extract themselves with the help of a local farmer and no other vehicles were involved.

MOC (maintenance of competency) deadlines are fast approaching so the crew have been burning the midnight oil in front of their computers, watching presentations and scenarios covering aircraft, buildings, floods, hazardous materials and casualty care to name but a few. This vital element ensures all the knowledge we have gained through development training and on the job experience remains fresh in our minds and boosts confidence when dealing with the varied situations we often find ourselves in.

Both Ben and Adam inch closer to their officer assessments, thus relieving some of the officer in charge burden from both Chris and Andy.

FF James Greenwood
james@cyclogicalshop.co.uk

NEWS FROM HEMPTON

A departure from the general trend of news and events has been the annual appearance of that diminutive floral gem, *Galanthus nivalis*. The name, attributed in 1753, derives from ancient Greek; 'gala' milk, 'anthos' flower and 'nivalis' snow or 'milk flower of the snow', commonly known as the snowdrop.

In recent years sporadic clumps that nestled on the roadside verges and hedgerows of Hempton have evolved into increasingly dense swathes of this harbinger of spring. A self seeded example appeared in a corner of my garden some years ago and has since spread over several years into an extensive area and begun to colonise increasingly distant parts of the garden.

Once the flower is spent, a small bulbous pod develops containing light brown to white seeds. The seeds are surrounded by an oil-rich structure called an elaiosome which attracts ants. The ants carry them into their nests, eat the elaiosome and discard the seeds, helping to distribute them.

The genus is thought not to be native to the British Isles and may have arrived on these shores courtesy of the Romans or, most likely, was introduced around the early sixteenth century. It was first recorded as naturalised in the UK in Worcestershire and Gloucestershire in 1770. Common snowdrops are threatened in the wild due to habitat destruction caused by land use changes and over-collecting for the horticultural trade.

All snowdrops are listed in CITES Appendix II, meaning their trade is closely monitored and regulated

to ensure it does not threaten their survival in the wild. Snowdrop enthusiasts often called 'galanthophiles', may spend more than £350 for a single, desirable bulb.

The extent of Hempton's blooms is not much more than a puddle when compared to the ocean of *Galanthus* usually on display at Welford Park in Newbury, where the *Great British Bake Off* pitches its tent. This year the display came under attack by an army of snowdrop hungry slugs. Heavy rainfall and warm temperatures were blamed for the onslaught. The display was less eye-catching than usual, thanks to the gastronomic indulgence of the gastropod molluscs.

Snowdrops should not be eaten as they contain a poisonous compound, lycorine, which can cause diarrhoea, nausea, and vomiting. They contain a compound called galanthamine which is used in pharmaceuticals to manage Alzheimer's and relieve traumatic injuries to the nervous system.

A lectin (carbohydrate-binding protein) in common snowdrops, called GNA, is being studied for its potential use against HIV. The same lectin is an effective insecticide against a variety of pests, including beetles, butterflies, moths, and aphids. Research has suggested that the GNA gene could be engineered into crops such as rice and tomatoes to increase their resistance to pests.

In Yorkshire, it was customary for village maidens to gather bunches of snowdrops and wear them as a symbol of their purity on Candlemas, the feast of the Virgin Mary, 2 February.

Just as John Price recounts (20:20 Rear Vision, *DN* March 2024), I, and I imagine, many other residents, have also experienced extreme tailgating. The practice was fairly common before the introduction of the 20mph limits and has become more common since. Previously offenders may have been short sighted, simply practising their usual disregard for safety and the law or just aggressive drivers. Some recent miscreants clearly think the reduced limits are an affront to their liberty and unjustified.

I agree with John's musings on the extent of the 20mph zones, suggesting the Kidlington example may be more appropriate. Laws without enforcement or penalty, I suggest, are unlikely to achieve their intended purpose. I read that last year Avon & Somerset issued over 23,000 Notices of Intention to Prosecute (NIPs) for speeding in a 20mph zone compared to zero for Thames Valley.

Mount Pleasant is back in the news. The property has been put on the market as residential land through Connells, estate agents, based on the outline planning permission for two four-bed dwellings and a barn conversion including the partial demolition and restoration of the existing building. Concerned for conservation of the building in view of its historical significance, a resident of Barford St Michael has set up a crowd funded appeal to restore the building. At the time of going to press donations amounted to £25.

Stuart Oldham, sj_oldham@btinternet.com



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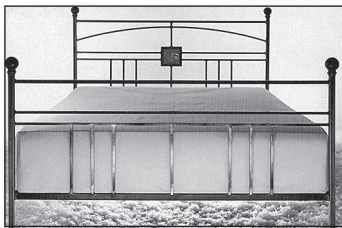
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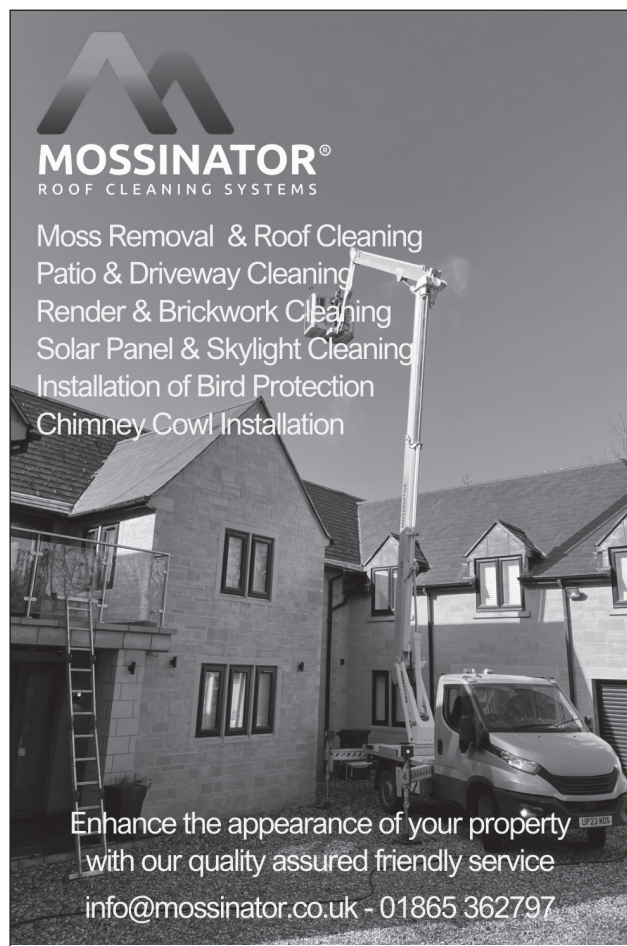
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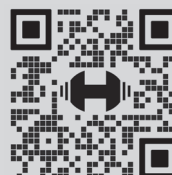
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CHURCH

Parish Church SS Peter and Paul

Until the licensing of Nick Fielden as vicar later this month, services and pastoral care are available through 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>.

April

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

The Revd Nick Fielden will be licensed as vicar at 7.30pm on Tuesday 23 April in Deddington Church.

Sun 7 10.30am Holy Communion
3.00pm 3 O'Clock Family Service
(no Evening Service)

Sun 14 10.30am Holy Communion and Baptism
Sun 21 10.30am Holy Communion
Sun 28 10.30am Holy Communion

Hempton

Sun 21 9.00am Holy Communion

Barford St Michael

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

From the Parish Registers

Funerals:

1 March Shirley Clinch
8 March Claire McMurdo

For baptisms and weddings, funerals and home visits in case of illness please contact one of the church wardens: Deddington – Stan Nelson 01869 337883 wardens@deddingtonchurch.org; 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.

Friends of the Castle Grounds

The owl boxes are now up, supplied and fitted by the Barn Owl Trust. See if you can spot them.

The Four Farms Challenge is taking place on Sunday 19 May. We will have an information stall and games. If anyone has any photos or memorabilia, please get in touch.

We will be planting wildflower plugs and seeds probably in April. Would you like to help us? We hope the local Cubs and Scouts will be involved. The date is yet to be confirmed. If anyone has a small quad bike with a trailer, could you help us move some large logs around different parts of the Castle Grounds? If you find the poo bins full, please use the other bins within the Grounds or take your bags home with you. These bins are constantly managed so there should not be any problem in the future.

We are looking for new committee members and volunteers who can bring fresh ideas to help us maintain this wonderful site. If you can spare some time, please let us know. The Castle Grounds is still muddy and slippery, so take care on your walks. Lighter nights are coming and plenty of sunshine so come and enjoy the Castle Grounds which is a beautiful and tranquil site which we are so lucky to have within our village.

Carol Garrett
cgarrett@btinternet.com

DEDDINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Since half term in February the school has been busy, working hard across all aspects of the curriculum.

Our Fairtrade group has shown great commitment and is excited to announce that we are taking part in the 90kg Rice Challenge. The group also organised a Fairtrade cake stall that took place after school in early March. It was a great success, supported by many of our families and friends. Thank you to everyone who came and enjoyed the sale.

We celebrated World Mental Health day by focusing on kindness and how we can promote kindness across the school.

The children enjoyed celebrating World Book Day which took place at the beginning of March. They dressed as any kind of word that relates to reading books, book characters and stories and they looked fantastic. Thank you to all their families for their hard work in putting costumes together for this special day. The pupils are now looking forward to using their book tokens, putting them towards the full cost of a book.

We love the sight of the spring flowers which are coming out around the school grounds and are looking forward to brighter and lighter days ahead.

Denise Welch
dwel3954@deddington.oxon.sch.uk



I have been asked by the Deddington farmers' market committee to tell you a little about myself, what I do, where I live and why I like coming to Deddington farmers' market.

I live in the tiny village of Taynton, near Burford, the other side of the county from Deddington. I have lived there for 27 years and for the past 16 years have been producing and selling hand-made preserves at various markets including Deddington, Summertown and Charlbury.

When I moved into my house in Taynton I realised I had a vast selection of preserves that would take me many years to eat so when I heard of a Christmas bazaar being held in aid of my workplace, the idea came to me to sell as much of the produce as I could. I became hooked on the selling idea and started to look around for other markets to attend.

I became involved with cooking through my mother when we lived in Summertown, Oxford, when I was a child in the 1950s–1960s. Our garden had apple and plum trees and various fruit bushes, so in the summer my mother made jam and in the autumn chutney and in January, when the shops have Seville oranges, marmalade. She sometimes added whisky or brown sugar just for a change. I must say that I haven't done so when at the market, even if people have said they might be interested.

It was my brother who introduced me to Deddington farmers' market as he lived nearby and had come on it one Saturday and thought I might like to sell there. I came over and found the people involved and asked if I could join. That was the start. I had to submit a selection of samples for the committee to taste to see if my products were good quality. They were and at first I traded in the church. To begin with this was fine but I wanted to be outside in the food market where I have been for the past 14 years.

I love the atmosphere, the friendly customers and stallholders who have become friends over the years. With many customers I have watched their children growing from tiny babies to starting secondary school or, even, university, driving cars and, maybe getting married, who knows. Alongside this, of course, there are the losses which come with the people leaving the area or dying.

The market was much bigger when I joined and, as Covid took its toll, the market reduced the number of stalls, but the lovely people of the area still came out, and still do, which on a freezing cold morning makes it all worthwhile. It was when I suffered a serious back condition that I realised how much the market meant to me. The help I received and the kindness of the people of Deddington and area showed that the market is really part of the community and that we are part of that community. So come rain or sunshine, through wind and heat, the market and Deddington still carry on. Thank you to everyone.

Sarah Jennings

Patient Participation Group

Deddington Health Centre

During our first meeting in 2024 we learnt that the new online triage system is progressing well. The practice constantly reviews the system to look for areas to improve; be assured the team is investing time and effort supporting patients to use the available technology where possible.

The number of calls to the surgery has significantly reduced, thus freeing up patient services' time to speak to anyone who may need help for another reason such as making an appointment to see a nurse.

GPs are happy with the new service as it provides continuity of care; during November and December 89% of patients had an appointment within two weeks. The hope is that, as the system becomes more embedded, it can be expanded and that can only improve the service to patients.

New staff appointments and retention mean that space at the practice has run out, so look out for new developments to increase consulting spaces.

By the time you read this a new practice website will be in operation. As a PPG we are keen to communicate our patients' views so there is an email address to contact us: ppg.deddington@nhs.net. We meet again at the end of April so look out for more news soon.

Hurrah, spring is on its way.

Anne Hunsley
Patient Participation Group

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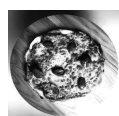
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THE BLANDFORD FLY

The Blandford fly is a 2–3mm blood-sucking black fly which gives a nasty and painful bite during the summer months, particularly May and June when breeding. The flies are typically found near areas of water and there has been a recent marked increase in the number of people severely affected by the bites in this area, both rural and urban (possibly due to water features in gardens). The insects fly less than 0.5m from the ground, resulting in bites to the lower limbs that cause small to large blisters (up to 22cm diameter) and purple (haemorrhagic) lesions, with intensely painful stabbing sensations. The saliva of the fly often causes severe local irritation, spreading redness, swelling (oedema), pain, joint pain and even high temperature of 38°C (100°F) and over, depending on your level of sensitivity. Local reactions can last for several days or longer, but can be symptomatically treated by over-the-counter products, eg oral antihistamines, analgesics from your local pharmacy. Antibiotics are rarely needed although scratching the irritated areas can rupture the skin, leading to secondary infections.

To avoid being bitten by the Blandford fly:

Cover up. Wear clothing (without holes) that fully covers the legs down to the ankles. Wear socks. Apply a quality insect repellent (containing DEET), especially when near rivers, streams, grassland areas (not forgetting when near water features in gardens). Avoid swarms of insects. Protect children and babies with an insect net when in prams and pushchairs.

What to do if bitten by the Blandford fly?

Clean the bite wound with soap and water, then gently pat dry (avoid rubbing the area). Do not scratch the bite as this will spread the fly saliva and may lead to infection. Apply a cold compress or ice pack to reduce swelling and pain. Take oral antihistamines (eg cetirizine, loratadine, chlorphenamine). Always read the label. Take analgesics (eg paracetamol, ibuprofen) if in pain or discomfort. Always read the label. Hydrocortisone can be applied locally to reduce inflammation and a local anaesthetic (eg lidocaine) can help pain relief. Creams and sprays will be easier and less painful to apply than ointments. Antihistamine creams and sprays are not recommended as they may cause skin reactions. Cover large blisters with a dry non-adhering dressing. For swelling in the ankle and feet, elevate and rest legs for a few days. Seek medical help (phone 111 or see a GP) for: discomfort, swelling or red lines in the groin or armpits; a persistent high fever; spreading redness or hotness around the bite (longer than 3 days).

Seek immediate help (phone 999) for wheezing or problems breathing; swelling of the face or tongue, dizziness, nausea, chest pain – this could be anaphylaxis requiring immediate medical treatment.

Maureen Cox, INP, RGN, BA, Dip HE
Nurse Practitioner



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DEDDINGTON DEVELOPMENT WATCH

We are very lucky to live in a beautiful part of the country.

It is only with timely knowledge of national, district and parish plans that we can hope to safeguard the character and natural beauty of our three linked villages and their rural setting. The Deddington Development Watch (DDW) group has, for more than 13 years, consistently participated in and influenced planning applications and their impact on the setting, as well as other events affecting the infrastructure of the parish. DDW members have also been involved in the Neighbourhood Plan which is awaiting the referendum in May.

The aims of the group are to encourage growth and sustainable development and to discourage inappropriate or unsustainable development. The intention is to retain the beauty and character of the parish, whilst ensuring it maintains its vibrancy as a beautiful place in which to live and work.

We join with all those who have supported the parish in the past and ask whether you, or anyone you know, with areas of expertise in planning, conservation, architecture, or legal matters, would like to become more involved in Deddington Development Watch. If you support the DDW aims, then please contact us on deddingtondevelopmentwatch@hotmail.com.

DDW Group

Neighbourhood Plan Referendum

From a mountain of documentation, consultations in the parish, government planning laws, sustainability and housing needs surveys, we have crystallised the Deddington Neighbourhood Plan which goes to a referendum on 2 May on the same day as the district council elections (and, at time of writing, conceivably a general election).

Last month I focused on the allocated site for housing development, north of the fire station, that meets housing need and district council requirements, and the community benefits that come with it – the new nursery building close to the school and the car park off Earls Lane which should allow the Health Centre to expand. I should have added that the regional NHS Care Board has requested £77,000 in S106 money to go towards extending the space for consulting rooms and so on.

This month I'd like to summarise some of the other elements of the NP you'll be voting on. It specifies the type of housing needed – mostly smaller homes for families starting out and older residents downsizing – and appropriate design parameters. It requires that any development preserves cherished views around the parish; maintains wildlife corridors; takes steps towards zero carbon in new housing; and safeguards Local Green Space, in this case the beautiful allotments at Satin Lane.

Much of the rest of the parish's green space – the Castle Grounds, Welford's Piece, Windmill Park, the greenery at Wimborn Close and Gaveston Gardens –

belongs to the parish council and so is deemed safe for the future.

Naturally the NP steering group and the parish council hope you will support the Plan in the referendum. There will be a separate box for your votes at the Windmill polling station and, as you probably remember, you'll need a photo ID. Otherwise you can apply for a postal vote, which can cover both our referendum and the Cherwell District Council election (and a general election, whenever that may be).

The closing date for postal vote applications is 20 April. You can download or fill in online a postal vote application at: <https://www.cherwell.gov.uk/info/11/elections/326/ways-to-vote/2>. To complete this you need your National Insurance number and what they call a wet ink signature, ie your actual handwritten signature. This is a bit of a faff if you're doing it online, involving scanning and so on. If you'd prefer to fill in a paper application form and have difficulty accessing one, ring me on 07732 660004 or email me at the address below.

Hopefully after 2 May there'll be less of me cluttering up the pages of *Deddington News* with Neighbourhood Plan updates and we can all relax, although that may be a vain hope, given what's happening in the rest of the world.

Helen Oldfield, Chair of Parish Council
helenoldfield.dpc@gmail.com
www.deddingtonneighbourhoodplan.org

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POSTCARD FROM AMERICA

Eating and Immigration

One thing I have never understood about Americans is why so many of them can't use a knife and fork. Eating with your hands or only a fork is very common in the Land of the Free. There is even an ex-President who mainly eats McDonald's.

I guess that most Trump's supporters would view this statement as a liberal conspiracy. Apparently, the long list of 91 indictments Trump is facing is due to a political witch hunt and certainly isn't down to lying and basic bad business sense.

I have some sympathy for the core of his base who feel that they have been ignored by politicians for years and, right now, they are very focused on a similar issue to the one that is prevalent in the UK. Food prices are around 20% higher than when Biden came into office three years ago. Even Republican commentators acknowledge that the US economy is probably the strongest in the world right now, but high interest rates, food and petrol prices have hit these people more heavily than the well off. The odd thing about this is how people ignore what Trump actually does rather than what he says and somehow think he will make things better for them. He promised to reopen the coal mines in his first term but, of course, it never happened. People have short memories when it comes to politics and there has to be a scapegoat when your life today is worse than you fondly remember. It appears that the liberal elites have a lot of answer for.

Now that I am either unemployed or retired, I have a lot of time to read and joining a bunch of 'independent' sources like Telegram and Epoch has been very enlightening. When I found a definitive 'summary' of election fraud in 2020, my eyes lit up but, two hours later, I realised I couldn't find one piece of evidence which hasn't been disproved already. However, now I have been down the rabbit hole, I can't shut it out. There really is a parallel universe down there.

Amongst my friends at home in Greenwood Village,

there aren't too many Trumpists. Even our place name reeks of liberal elites. I did have a beer last week with one Republican who is wrestling with what to do when it comes to the election in November. Last time he voted for Biden and says he can't vote for Trump, but of course self-interest sets in. Trump is promising tax cuts which will help the rich but not his main base. Much like everywhere else in the wealthy world, the other big issue is immigration. To put this into context, 300,000 migrants passed through the southern border in December which is absolutely untenable. Rather than Ruanda, they are bused to places like Denver, which has announced that coping with this influx will cost local taxpayers \$150m this year. Even liberal Biden knows something has to happen but Trump has told the Republican members of Congress to block the necessary action. Politics everywhere is screwed up but this is the nadir.

Personally, I am taking a break from the craziness with a trip to Europe. I might stay in Denmark for the rest of my life; the streets are clean, there are no beggars and the people are very polite. The wife says I can stay, if only I could cope with the weather. There is a reason the wind turbine industry is based here. But I failed to get anyone in Palm Springs to take the dog off our hands last month. I would really miss Heather but not the dog.

Mike Ward

mike@mikeaward.com

Art for Ukraine

By now you may have seen the posters around the village about Art for Ukraine and you may have visited the Ukraine stall at the 23 March farmers' market (where the pictures were on display) to buy raffle tickets, giving you the opportunity to win an original painting with a Ukrainian theme, created by renowned local artists.

All proceeds from the raffle will go straight to buying, repairing and modifying vehicles and driving them to Ukraine where they are immediately put to work. Since the beginning of the year a convoy of vehicles has been leaving Oxfordshire on the fourth Saturday every month heading for Ukraine, and this month is no exception. Come to the Deddington Arms around 7.30pm on Friday 29 March where the raffle draw will take place and to wish the March convoy every success and safe passage for the beginning of their journey to Ukraine the following morning.

Tickets are £1 each and can be bought from Hampsons in Deddington, myself via email or phone and on Friday 29 March in the Deddington Arms.

I look forward to seeing you on 29th.

Jenny Soddy

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No More No Mow May? Or Be Smart *and* Go Wild?

For several years, we have left parts of our roadside verges, open spaces, greens and play parks uncut during the summer months. The aim has been to encourage rare and endangered wildflowers to grow freely, resulting in more bees, other insects, birds and various small wildlife appearing too. It has been very successful – wildflowers, insects, birds and tiny mammals have been seen in the wild roadside verges and uncut areas across the parish. Even some rare orchids have appeared on Goose Green.

Since the start of the initiative, we have been learning and understanding more about the pros and cons. This has informed our decisions following a review of managing the annual mowing programme and of parishioners' comments. The question is how can we strike a balance between keeping our parish smart and safe and go wild?

For 2024, the grass-cutting programme has been revised. There will be some uncut areas during May and June and, in some areas, July; however, these will be narrower and/or smaller than before. Roadside verges will be cut immediately next to the road to ensure that cyclists and other road users are better able to see the road ahead – an uncut area will be still be



Photo thanks to Stefan Wathan

left, but alongside the hedgerows instead. Greens, open spaces and recreation areas will have uncut areas, generally at the rear boundary or hedgerow so that people can continue to enjoy the amenity unhindered by long grass and wildflowers. We hope this gives us the best of both worlds.

Deddington Parish Council is being smart about going wild – but patience is the name of the game; wildflower areas take years to settle and develop into attractive swathes of different flowering plants. We hope that you will soon see that an attractive, tidy environment alongside wild areas is possible. It just takes time.

If you are keen to support the continued drive to provide more habitats for wildlife, or even if you are sceptical of its benefits across our parish and indeed the planet, there is a wealth of information to be found. Try your favourite search engine ... or ask at the library about the rationale behind leaving verges and other areas to grow freely throughout the summer. Prepare to be surprised.

Jill Norton

Deddington Library

We have a blood pressure machine in the library for public use. Anyone can pop in when we are open and use it. There are leaflets available for further advice.

I am grateful to Linden who has kindly stepped in to cover while I am away in New Zealand and Australia.

It's been a pleasure to have our Duke of Edinburgh student, Jess, here for three months, helping to produce our Christmas Advent calendar and spring collage for the children's area. She has also been learning about the library. I wish her the very best for the future.

Gail Cripps, Manager

Gail.Cripps@oxfordshire.gov.uk

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During the Four Farms Challenge which is taking place on Sunday 19 May, we have on offer a wonderful range of children's activities, such as medal making, word scramble, face painting and yoga. Yoga tickets can be booked from 15 April. To book, please email info@deddingtonnurseryandpfsu.co.uk.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Charlotte Witka

charlotte@deddingtonnurseryandpfsu.co.uk

PFSU Deputy Manager



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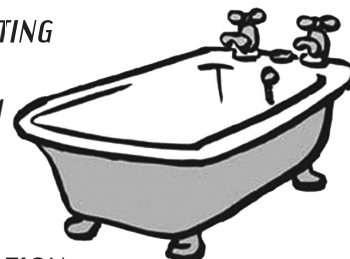
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LETTERS

FROM JONATHAN WATTS,
HEMPTON
*addressed to Daniel Murphy
of TVP*

Re Forum 17 April Deddington Arms

I'm writing as an individual, not on behalf of the parish council. It's pleasing to note that you're holding a meeting with the parish. However, it's very disappointing that it is on the same night as a parish council meeting. I would say a major concern is speeding through the parish, especially from west to east and vice versa from Hempton to Clifton. Over the years we have had various speed groups and asked for enforcement.

It is fair to say that there's been no enforcement for a long time and I struggle to understand this when there is constant enforcement in Adderbury. Perhaps you can confirm whether you would enforce 20mph limits or not? If that's not the case, perhaps you could ask for enforcement on the 50mph buffers between Hempton and Clifton.

It would be nice to see a police enforcement van somewhere in our parish, especially when they seem to spend a significant amount of time in Adderbury, Kidlington, the Shipton-on-Cherwell turning, and the bridge near Botley over the A34. It would be good to understand, through your seniors, why we get no enforcement in Deddington parish.

I appreciate you making contact but I feel I need to feed this back that we see very little enforcement of the speed limits. We have provided considerable evidence over the years. So when you meet with us or me, I'd welcome some feedback and what's going to be done about speeding in our parish.

FROM ALET RANSOME, WYCHWOOD SURGERY
As Cardiovascular Disease Champion (CVD) for the North Oxfordshire Rural Alliance (NORA) Primary Care Network (PCN), I am proud to note that funding has been obtained to run a pilot project to implement a self-service blood pressure monitoring station in libraries in the PCN, including Chipping Norton, Deddington, Hook Norton and Milton-under-Wychwood.

Each station will provide clear instructions on how to use the monitor and staff are able to signpost users to local community pharmacies offering blood pressure monitoring via the Hypertension Case-Finding Service or online information resources (without having to interpret results). Library staff members are all Making Every Contact Count trained. Health is one of the three priorities for libraries and larger libraries are fitted with defibrillators, making this a complimentary service.

The CVD champion initiative run by the Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care System wishes to raise awareness of high blood pressure as a risk factor of CVD, address health inequalities across the counties and encour-



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

ages residents, visitors and regular library users to get into the habit of checking their blood pressure regularly. The aim is to identify those at risk of developing hypertension and being able to offer preventative measures. Through early intervention and the optimisation of blood pressure, the risk of heart attacks and stroke can be reduced, in line with the Core20PLUS5 clinical area of focus.

I hope this initiative will increase accessibility and provide service users with a friendly and relaxing setting to check their blood pressure.

FROM MIKE ROBINSON, DEDDINGTON

I was interested to see in early February on BBC South Today, that Hook Norton has formed a Community Land Trust to promote and build 12 affordable and 'eco friendly' houses for people on the housing list with a strong local connection. This Trust is in the process of building the houses and, together with a Housing Association, will direct and manage the rental arrangements for the tenants. The houses will be rented at social housing rates and will not be available for sale on the open market. I assume that the land was bought below market value and was from a socially minded landowner. The CLT will be the main custodian of the design and build arrangements and the eco friendly supporting infrastructure. No developers will be involved. The community will be directing the development and have a say in the selection of the rental residents.

I have experience in this arrangement when, as a district councillor in Dorset, we set up a CLT for a small housing development in Marshwood, sited in an AONB (Marshwood Vale). A socially minded farmer offered a piece of his land at well below market value and a HA secured the land and employed the building company. The CLT directed the HA and remained in control of the arrangements. Houses were built and people with a strong local connection were able to rent the properties which were all eco friendly with air source heat pumps and good insulation.

Deddington's housing growth seems to be at the mercy of developers and, despite the creation of a Neighbourhood Plan, we villagers have little say in what is built and what conditions or design arrangements are met for people on the housing list who cannot afford what is described as affordable. The result is that we end up with housing only suitable for wealthy newcomers or retired residents.

Consideration could surely be given to setting up a similar CLT in Deddington. If Hook Norton, why not here? Landowners might be willing to provide small plots of land at below open market value where 3-4 houses could be built. These are the sort of small development which found support in our Neighbourhood Plan survey. As we already have two Housing

LETTERS

Continued from p21

Associations doing good work in this village, a third, I suggest, is long overdue.

FROM ANNE HUNSLEY, DEDDINGTON

BT Digital Voice

My Mum has recently changed over to BT Digital Voice and I just wanted to put minds at rest that it can work very smoothly.

At the appointed time engineers came and fitted the fibre to a new point they fixed to the wall. This now has three green lights to show the connection is working. They had to drill, from outside, through the wall to bring the fibre wire into the flat but this was all left tidy and safe.

Once the line was up and running, they also connected the phone to a black router that we have sited close to the phone. This just sits and does its job. It occurred to me that in a power cut the telephone would not work so I contacted BT again and they agreed to fit a battery pack to enable the line to be used. The emergency call line is the only issue we have as it is still not working but currently my Mum doesn't rely on this.

All the equipment was supplied by BT and there was no cost involved. It arrived in good time for the engineers' visit. Everyone involved in the process was most helpful and there was a courtesy call to check we were happy with the way the changeover had gone. Result was a satisfied customer.

DEDDINGTON ENVIRONMENT NETWORK

Since the launch of the food-sharing app, Olio, in February the number of users in our villages has doubled, so why not have a look and see if there's anything – food or non food – that catches your eye? Don't forget you can also list non-food items in the free, borrow or buy sections too.

We'd love you to join us at Welford's Piece in Clifton for the annual Community Orchard Working Party on Sunday 21 April at 10.00am with a pub lunch afterwards at the Great Western Arms. The next Four Villages People Planet Pint meetings are taking place at the White Horse, Duns Tew, on Thursday 18 April at 7.00pm and the Red Lion, Deddington, on 23 May at 7.00pm. Do register on Eventbrite People Planet Pint if you can – the first thirty people to do so get a free drink. We'll also be at the April farmers' market where we'll be holding a consultation about car sharing in our villages.

Get in touch on info@deddingtonenvironment.net if you have any ideas or questions about these or any future events.

Fiona Smith and the DEN team

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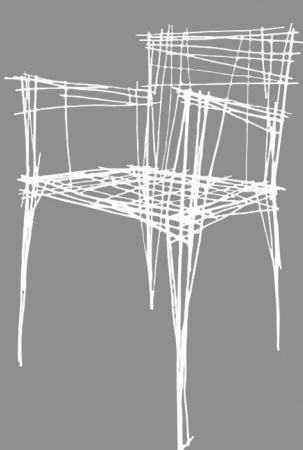
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Charity No: 1100275



CALLING ALL CLUBS

Women's Institute

Our meeting in February was a change from usual. We were given instructions and help from our leaders in Stitchcraft. We were given a silhouette of a pattern or animal with holes punched about 3mm apart together with threads and needles. The task was to use long stitches to create a pattern in thread and eventually create a finished greetings card. 'It's too hard' and 'I can't thread needles' and similar comments eventually quietened down as people proved they could and were enjoying it. So much so that our usual tea-time of 3.30pm drifted by without anyone noticing. Finally, at 4 o'clock, tea and biscuits were served to some but others were reluctant to stop. It was a successful and enjoyable afternoon. A new hobby for some and a task completed by others.

Moira Byast

deddingtonwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk

Deddington Bookworms

February's book, *Next to Nature* by Ronald Blythe, was met with a mixed response. You could say it was Marmite. The book is a series of essays collated from 1993 to 2017 about the countryside year, with links to the ecclesiastical calendar. Ronald Blythe had an encyclopaedic knowledge of both the farming year and, because he was a lay reader, the church year too. Having been born into a poor farming family, on leaving school at fourteen he worked in a bookshop and so began his self-education.

His witty and insightful writing style creates a book you want to follow through the year. Some Bookworms have bought their own copies to do just that. The descriptions of Suffolk and Essex are sublime, his use of similes is so well done. Ronald died in 2023 aged 100 and was obviously well regarded amongst his peers but what is very evident is his absolute love of the countryside and his knowledge of art, history and literature.

Some enjoyed it and learnt from it; others just couldn't become absorbed by its gentle style and put it on the book pile. One Bookworm thought it would make an excellent audio book if it was read by a soothing voice.

Our next book is *The Gift of Radio* by Justin Webb.

Deddingtonbookworms@gmail.com

Deddington and District History Society

In February, Martin Buckland gave us a talk on 'Canal People'. He started by explaining how canals worked and why they were needed in the growing British economy of the 18th century. They were not cheap and the first modern canal was financed by the Duke of Bridgewater to carry coal from his mines at Worsley the 15 miles to the ready market in Manchester. The risk was huge, but the success made him even richer. To design and supervise the construction, he employed James Brindley, whose experience as a millwright meant he was expert in channelling water.

Huge numbers of labourers were needed to excavate the channel, to make bricks and construct the numerous bridges necessary for crossing the new canals. They were known as navvies because they worked on the navigation.

As the canal network grew, the routes taken by the boats took longer and the boatmen could not go home after a day's work. We were shown how families moved to living on the boats in very restricted cabins – space for cargo was far more important.

The coming of much faster railways in the early 19th century marked the decline of canals for commercial traffic. Many were closed and de-watered; others were filled in and became the track bed for railway lines. Other canals languished until the late 1950s when LTC Rolt popularised the idea of using canal boats as a way of exploring the country. Martin then talked about his involvement in the Wilts and Berks Canal Trust which has been trying to reopen a route that was closed in 1914. The trials, tribulations and triumphs of the venture brought an end to a fascinating talk.

On 18 April, military historian Stephen Barker will tell us about 'Soldiers, Saints and Sinners of the Civil War in Oxfordshire'.

Jean Dipper

jean.dipper28@gmail.com

Deddington Playgroup

We were so pleased to welcome lots of new families to Playgroup in March and it was lovely to see many familiar faces too. The children have been enjoying some new additions to our toy collection donated by families whose children have outgrown them. Thank you so much to those who have kindly donated them. This month we are open on 12 and 26 April, 9.45–11.45am at the Windmill Centre. The 12 April is during the Easter holiday so older siblings are very welcome to join us. Admission is £4 per family. There's no need to book. See you there.

Helen Carpenter

deddingtonbabyandtoddler@gmail.com

Local Vocals Community Choir

I read recently that a choir is the perfect manifestation of the adage 'the whole is greater than the sum of its parts' and I couldn't agree more. I don't believe any of our members would individually say they are amazing singers, unless of course alcohol is consumed at a karaoke bar. But when you sing with others, not only do you forget the cares of the day, make new friends and sing some well-loved songs, you also don't need to have a particularly good voice to contribute to a beautiful, collective sound. That is all down to teamwork.

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

Alison Grieve

CALLING ALL CLUBS

Continued from p13

Holly Tree Club

Save the date: the Holly Tree Club is holding its AGM for members on Monday 13 May at 10.00am in Deddington church, followed by coffee morning as usual. Fabulous cake will be provided by Cotswold Baking and there will be no charge for refreshments on this occasion.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Julia Cork

Julia.cork@thedha.org.uk

Book Group

The *Lost Bookshop* by Evie Woods combines the story of an enterprising young woman with a literary mystery and a romance. Add a certain amount of skulduggery, together with a lot of magical realism, and the plot becomes pretty complicated.

The narrative alternates between three main characters and two timelines. A forward-thinking young

woman in early twentieth century London, Opaline is determined to avoid the unwelcome prospect of an arranged marriage and escapes to Paris and then to Dublin. Her success in running a bookshop is accompanied by dramatic events, including evidence of a lost manuscript, the sudden appearance of a former lover and eventually her own abduction. A century later, Henry, a young Englishman and student of rare books, is searching Dublin for both the lost manuscript and the bookshop once run by Opaline. As if by destiny, he meets Martha, a young Irish woman fleeing domestic abuse, who is working for a mysterious woman in a house next to the site of a now vanished bookshop. Henry and Martha join forces in an attempt to discover the truth.

Most of our group enjoyed reading this novel, finding the various storylines were intertwined to make an interesting, immersive page turner.

The Book Group

SPORT

Deddington Original Golf Society

Our first DOGS outing is on Tuesday 7 May with a visit to a new venue, Brickhampton Golf Club, Churchdown. Arrival 10.00am – tea, coffee, bacon roll followed by a first tee at 11.00am. 18 holes of golf, Stableford format. Prizes for best team score, individual score, nearest the pin and longest drive. Sandwiches and fries on completion ... cost for the day £52 per DOGS member, £57 for guests on the day. Further information and how to book your place will be sent shortly. We look forward to the pleasure of your company.

Tony Lowe,

dogsgolf23@gmail.com

Deddington Town FC

First Team results

17.2.24	SWIS FC (a)	L 2–3
2.3.24	SWIS FC (h) (CUP)	W 6–2

Reserve Team results

17.2.24	Kings Sutton Res (h) (CUP)	W 2–0
24.2.24	Bodicote Spts Res (a) (CUP)	L 3–4
2.3.24	Longford Pk Dev (a) (CUP)	L 0–6

It's been mostly a month of cup escapades for the Deddington teams. The Humbugs have played SWIS FC home and away and, sadly, lost the league match which has cost them top spot. Though they'd done tremendously well to ascend to the pinnacle, they had played significantly more games, and Hornton have dethroned them, with another three games in hand to boot. They did attain a measure of vengeance in the Mid-Oxfordshire Cup though, and now advance to the semi-finals. The Latics, sadly, lost two out of their three cup games and the last of those was a battering in the Eric Morris cup semi-final. Still, their recent resurgence has left them safely in mid-table and still with an interest in the Geoff Wilson trophy, as winter gently recedes to spring.

Aaron Bliss
07909 642882

Tennis Club

We are having lots of success with our teams building on their successes from last winter. Thanks to the captains for getting teams out each week and to the players for their commitment. There are still some fixtures to be played, but here is a round-up of all our teams.

In the midweek or floodlit Banbury league, our A team is in division 1, currently third but with the potential to win back-to-back titles if the remaining matches go well. The B team is consolidating its position in division 2, although unlikely to get promotion. The C team is doing well in division 4.

At weekends, we only have one mixed team in the Banbury league – we are mid-table in our first season in division 1 and have a few tough matches ahead to ensure that we stay up. We have a ladies' and a men's team in the Oxfordshire leagues. The ladies are playing their first season in the premiership and are safely mid-table, having played their toughest opposition at the start of the season. The men's team is currently third in division 4 and still has a chance of promotion.

We have two teams for the first time in the ladies Oxfordshire league in the summer. In the national Team Tennis our ladies are playing at regional level this season and start fixtures this month. For the first time, we have a men's team in the national over-50s, with potential fixtures all over the country, although the first fixture is at home.

Please stop by when there is a match on and, if this makes you want to join in, come along. We are open to new members and offer tennis at all levels. You can get in touch via the contacts page on our website www.deddingtontennis.com/contacts/.

Becky Jones

Deddington Town FC Youth

The Under 15s have just had one game and a 1–5 away win at Kidlington Cavaliers with a hat-trick for Thei Flint. The Under 14s had a 3–0 win over Gars-

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SPORT

Continued from p14

ington with two goals for Guy Newton and a narrow 1–2 defeat to Mansfield Road Juniors. The Under 13s had a 2–0 defeat at Berks County Eagles, followed by a 4–3 win over Mansfield Road Juniors with two goals for Vinnie Holliday. The Under 12s had a 2–1 win over Chesterton.

Deddington Town FC fundraising ball

By the time you read this, the Club will have held its fundraising ball at the Great Barn, Aynho. We hope to have raised significant funds for the development of the club – improvements in facilities and development for our players and coaches. The club will donate 25%

of our profits to support Young Lives v Cancer – a wonderful organisation that supports young people and carers through the challenges of cancer.

Thank you for sponsorships pledged from Evenlode Investments, Tustian Carriers, Brita, Renovation and Restoration, the Education Company, Deddington Dental and Cedar Therapy and to all the businesses and individuals who donated auction and raffle prizes.

Further information is on our website – <http://www.deddingtontownfc/> or visit us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/DeddingtonTownFc>

Roger Sykes 07899 914425

YOUTH

1st Deddington Guides

As is traditional on Thinking Day, 22 February, we turned our thoughts to the beginning of Guides more than 100 years ago and to Guiding internationally. We learnt about how life in many other countries is quite different and, in many cases, much tougher for Guides and Girl Scouts living there. We tried fruits from other countries ... all the Guides challenging themselves to try something new. Otherwise, we have been busy planning our entertainment for the end of term to raise money for charity.

Maggie Rampley 07957 600755

1st Deddington Scout Group

Cubs

This month we have been busy focusing on our Science Badge. We were grateful for a visit from our local vet who shared some of their fantastic knowledge with us. We dissected animal hearts and kidneys whilst learning about how the organs work. We looked at blood, hair and bone samples under a microscope and inspected real animal bones. We also practised putting bandages on some cats and dogs. Thankfully they were stuffed cuddly toys and so unable to wriggle too much.

We had great fun looking at what makes a structure strong and then designed and built our own structures made of spaghetti and marshmallows. We challenged our structures to support an egg. Some were more successful than others but we only had a few broken eggs.

Tracy Tong
deddingtoncubs@gmail.com

Scouts

We've updated our navigation training and moved into the modern world by using What3Words. Those Scouts with phones downloaded the app, went out into the Windmill grounds and hid a cone, recording the co-ordinates before swapping them with another group who then had to find it. All were located except the one hidden in a tree – cunning! I love the way some of them think outside the box. This was a test before we play over a larger area.

We next attempted some cooking, a challenge as we have more than 20 boys at present, so decided on making puddings using mugs and a microwave. We made seven different puds, most of which were quite successful, apart from the one that looked as if it had already passed through someone's digestive system.

Pete Churchyard
deddingtonscouts@gmail.com



Just as I announced in the last *DN* that work was about to begin on the new roof, the contractors delayed the start by three weeks – what a surprise! We are now expecting them to get going by the middle of March with a completion date towards the end of April or beginning of May. It's always best to be slightly vague with these things. We will keep you updated and are grateful to all users for their patience and cooperation. It's an important project and will ensure the viability of the Windmill as a safe, leak-free and 'greener' facility.

Many of our users have said how much smarter the inside spaces are looking, with new kitchen, loos,

floors and doors. The main hall has been redecorated and the stage refurbishment is nearly complete. Our next step is to fit acoustic panels in the hall and upstairs in the Deddington Studio. They should significantly improve the sound quality. Then, we have new showers, furniture and lamps for the car park on our ever-expanding 'to do' list.

These are designed to revitalise, as well as widen the scope of your community facility. Whatever you are planning – a party, keep fit class, silent disco, business away day, cookery lessons, science lecture, school fundraiser, drama workshop, wine-tasting session, pickleball/table tennis/chess club – whatever, you need look no further than the Windmill.

Book it for one of your events by visiting our website, www.thewindmillededdington.org or our Facebook page, or call our bookings secretary, Julie, on 07720 834006.

Vaughan Jones
chair@thewindmillededdington.org

IRON DOWN SCULPTURE STUDIO

Welcome to Iron Down Sculpture Studio, a creative sculptor space on a local farm. Amateurs, hobbyists, newbies and established artists who want to do sculptural art are welcome to join us. Formerly Bicester Sculpture Group, we have relocated to Iron Down Farm in the old calf barn, full of light and warmth with lively chat and restful absorption, all set in a splendid country setting, a place to get your creative juices flowing.

Although we do not offer classroom style lessons, the group offers a supportive environment to get going. Members have decades of knowledge and experience and are keen to help. There are many resources and plenty of know-how on hand. The existing members come from diverse backgrounds, with only a few coming from an arts career background.

It can be anything you want, a little of this and that, a photo or a picture, animals or human form, serious or whimsical. Sculpture uses every material and doesn't have to be expensive. We like skips (always ask) and are always looking out for materials to inspire us. The studio has many tools for working materials including stone, wood and ceramics.

From using clay, paper, wood or metal to insulation

blocks, sculpture has been found all over the world since time began and can be in any material and form the human spirit takes you. It is a very mindful occupation.

The group originated in the 1990s in the garden and outbuildings of stained glass artist, George Muller, who worked on many great buildings. He generously made an art environment, setting up Bicester Sculpture Group, inviting amateurs and professionals to sculpt, share and develop, which we continue, ensuring these creative thoughts develop to become what you want at its heart.

The present artists will be opening the new studio with freshly created pieces for Oxfordshire Artweeks. At Venue 15, over the first two weekends in May, you will have a chance to see the studio and original pieces made from mixed media and ceramics. You will also have the opportunity to chat to the artists about their work. It's a great time to ask questions where we are creating and learning. We look forward to seeing you.

For more information, please contact me.

Wendy Edmundson
wendyedmundson@hotmail.com

The Best in the Country on Your Doorstep

'It's really important that top quality musicians come and play out of London,' says violinist Chris Windass and, for almost forty years, he has been ensuring they do. He formed the Adderbury Ensemble in 1986, a flexible group of freelance musicians who began playing together in the village church on Sunday evenings. He also started the popular Oxford Coffee Concerts series in Oxford. The Holywell Music Room has proved the perfect venue, both for the audience, who love the acoustics and intimacy of the hall, and for the players. 'The series is very highly thought of by musicians,' observes Chris and the impressive list of quartets and chamber musicians these concerts attract speaks for itself. Many of the best musicians in the country have played there, including recently the Sacconi, Heath, Tippett and Carducci quartets.

Less well known is the other series of concerts organised by Chris, Music in Adderbury. These are spring and autumn seasons of six or seven concerts each, held in the churches of Deddington and Adderbury on Sundays at 6.00pm. They often feature the same musicians as the Oxford Coffee Concerts – sometimes they will play in Oxford in the morning and Adderbury or Deddington in the early evening. The current series runs from March to July. Details are on the website, Musicinadderbury.com. These concerts are unusual, bringing outstanding chamber music to village churches and it is a great joy and privilege to have them in our villages.

The Adderbury Ensemble has developed a concerts series in Chipping Norton over the past ten years. They are now held monthly and the current series is well under way. Many players in the ensemble have local links but some travel from further away – such as the

outstanding violinist, Bradley Creswick, who led the Royal Northern Sinfonia for years, as well as the Philharmonia and the orchestra of the Royal Opera House.

Look out for notices and check the Adderbury Ensemble website, www.adderburyensemble.com, for future concerts. Better still, join the mailing list at the foot of the webpage. It is unusual to have such a high standard of live music on our doorstep.

Rachel Phipps

NEWS FROM CLIFTON

Clifton Against Speeding Traffic has submitted data from five speed watch sessions and the scores are in. Over five sessions, 469 readings were taken. Mean speed was 29.4mph.

The record holder was a white van driver doing 59mph on 13 February who had to slam on the brakes before turning into Tithe Lane and County View where he was working.

The data have been submitted to the PC and TVP, asking what we can do to facilitate road changes to enforce the new speed limit. We hope John Price approves.

By the time you read this, the Duck will have closed for the second time in my memory. Rumours of a summer reprieve were just that and it has come to an end. Since its reopening eight years ago, the village failed to support it sufficiently and those of us who did clearly didn't drink enough. We are grateful to Tim Catling who gave us these years but none of us can blame him for thinking enough is enough.

Book Club will continue and could possibly be nomadic for a while until a new venue can be christened.

Martin Bryce, *martindnbryce@gmail.com*

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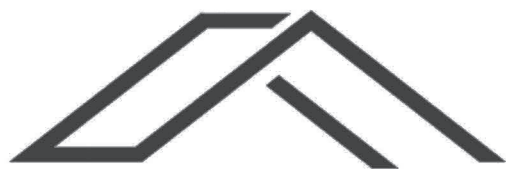
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 Katharine House Hospice 01295 811866
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PARISH CLERK 01869 337447
 (Monday 9.00am–12.30pm, Wednesday 9.00–5.00pm,
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PRIMARY SCHOOL (C of E) 01869 338430
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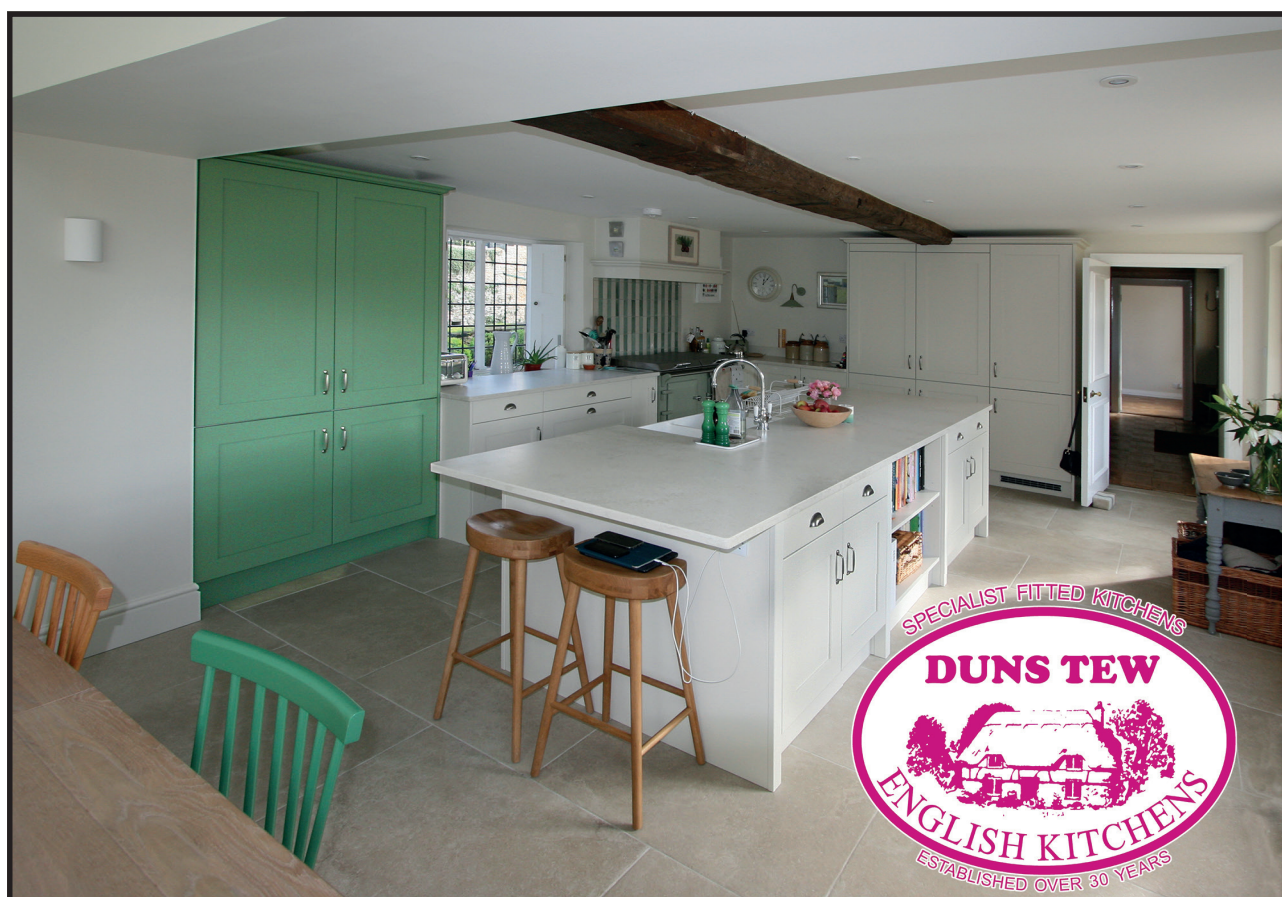
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 Wednesday 9.30am–1.00pm
 Thursday 1.00–5.00pm
 Saturday 9.30am–1.00pm

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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