

May 2024

The DEDDINGTON NEWS



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

The DEDDINGTON NEWS

Given the old adage, 'Ash before oak, we're in for a soak, Oak before ash, we're in for a splash', the ashes should certainly leaf out before the oaks. I have always doubted its accuracy; in my experience oak regularly comes out before ash. This year is a perfect one for testing the truth of old wisdom. **CD**

WHAT'S ON

May

- Wed 1 Living with Dementia: Windmill Centre, 2–4pm, registration required: education@dementiaoxfordshire.org.uk
- Wed 1 Photographic Society: 'Nudes in the Landscape', Tim Pile, Adderbury Institute, 7.30pm
- Wed 1 Annual Parish Meeting, Windmill Centre, 7.30pm
- Thu 2 Local government elections and Neighbourhood Plan referendum, Windmill Centre, 7.00am–10.00pm
- Mon 6 Holly Tree Club: Coffee morning, 10.30am
- Tue 7 DOGS: Brickhampton Golf Club, Churchdown
- Wed 8 Living with Dementia: Windmill Centre, 2–4pm, registration required: education@dementiaoxfordshire.org.uk
- Wed 8 WI: Holly Tree Club, 2.30pm
- Fri 10 Deddington Playgroup: Windmill Centre, 9.45–11.45am
- Sat 11 Christian Aid: 'Focus on Burundi', Richard Teare, Parish Church, from 12 noon (see insert)
- Mon 13 Holly Tree Club: AGM, Parish Church, 10.00am
- Wed 15 Parish Council: Hempton Lounge, Windmill Centre, 7.30pm
- Thu 16: History Society: 'Oxfordshire Saints and Sinners', Simon Wenham, Primary School, 7.30pm
- Sun 19 Four Farms Challenge: Castle Grounds, 10.30am
- Sun 19 Music in Adderbury: Alasdair Beatson, piano, Parish Church, 6.00pm
- Mon 20 Holly Tree Club: Coffee morning, 10.30am
- Fri 24 Deddington Playgroup: Windmill Centre, 9.45–11.45am
- Sat 25 Farmers' Market: Market Place, 9.00am–12.30pm
- Mon 27 Holly Tree Club: Coffee morning, 10.30am

June

- Wed 5 Photographic Society: 'Camera Obscura', Graham Marek, Adderbury Institute, 7.30pm
- Thu 6 Royal British Legion: D-Day 80th Anniversary, Market Place, 6.30am
- Sun 9 Tennis Club: Open Day, Windmill Centre
- Sun 9 Music in Adderbury: Adderbury Ensemble, Viv McClean, piano, Parish Church, 6.00pm
- Mon 10 DOGS: Copt Heath Golf Club, Solihull
- Wed 12 WI: Holly Tree Club, 2.30pm
- Wed 19 Parish Council: Hempton Lounge, Windmill Centre, 7.30pm
- Thu 20 History Society: 'Voyages to the House of Diversion; C17th Water Gardens and the Birth of Modern Science', Stephen Wass, Primary School, 7.30pm
- Sat 22 Farmers' Market: Market Place, 9.00am–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.

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DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting on 20 March at the Old School Room, Hempton

Present: Councillors Collins, Cox, Mylne, Norton, Oldfield (chair), O'Neill, Robinson, Snashall, Swadling, Swan, Timms, Watts, District Councillor Williams, parish clerk, minutes clerk and five members of the public.

Tim Darwall-Smith and Graham Fisher were co-opted into the council's two vacant seats.

Public Forum

A representative of the Oxfordshire and Cotswold Area branch of the Military Vehicles Trust asked if there would be interest in placing a memorial to Major-General Sir Percy Hobart in the village as he lived for a time in Leadenporch House and his 'Funnies' – specialised armoured vehicles – were instrumental in the success of British troops in the D-Day landings.

A New Street resident raised once again the issue of building vibration and noise pollution from large vehicles travelling fast through the village and requested the installation of a flashing speed warning sign at the junction of St Thomas and New Streets.

Parish Council website

The Parish Council website has been updated to ensure it is compliant with recommendations on accessibility for those with disabilities like partial sight or motor skills.

Planning

Objection

Land East of Oxford Road, Deddington: reapplication to create new access to land, erect single storey bungalow with solar panels and air source heating. PC objected to original application and are objecting again as being beyond built-up limits of the village, would harm the intrinsic value of the open countryside and creation of a new access onto A4260 would increase likelihood of accidents.

No objection

The Firs, St Thomas Street, Deddington: tree works. Fell two laburnums and apple and replace with two or three young native fruit trees.

Castle Grounds, Deddington: tree works. Over next three months remove dangerous trees, as identified in tree report

Market Place, Deddington: install an internal stairlift from the ground to first floor in listed building as homeowner is disabled and cannot manage stairs.

Leadenporch Farm, Chapmans Lane, Deddington: convert agricultural building for residential use. CDC refused original application which PC did not oppose. The previous application was submitted as a Class Q permitted development but, due to the nature/size of the plans, a full planning application was required, submitted here, with some amendments.

No further action at this time

The Hawthorns, County View, Clifton: the resident who referred possible consent infringements to the PC last month has reported them to CDC enforcement. Parish

councillor reports the owners of the Hawthorns have confirmed the diversion was not intended to be permanent and have agreed to remedial work for damage to neighbour's private lane. CDC enforcement will deal with the other perceived planning infringements. While the PC supports the complainant, as CDC enforcement has already been alerted, there will be no further action at this time.

CDC Approvals

Sedge Hill, Main Street, Clifton: fell ash tree

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

5 The Leyes, Deddington: single storey detached home office/studio.

Clifton Mill, Main Street, Clifton: change of roof material to annexe and garage. New doors to garage and replacement gate and fence.

CDC Refusals

Holly Tree, Earls Lane, Deddington: erection of pool house.

The Cottage, Goose Green, Deddington: retrospective consent to re-roof the building and replace rainwater goods.

Large Scale Developments Working Group

Receipt of the approximately total £300,000 which will ultimately be owed by the developer,

Burringtons, on Clifton and Hempton Gates remains uncertain, given their recent insolvency. CDC has not, as of this meeting, received a reply to its offer of staging the already overdue payments for Phase 1 of Clifton Gate in two instalments.

Burringtons have agreed to works at Hempton Gate, including a new bellmouth access to the estate, moving the speed limit signs and building a chicane slightly to the west on the Hempton Road.

Highways and Transport

An air diffusion tube has been installed near the traffic lights to collect a year's worth of data on air pollution levels.

Environment and Recreation

The mowing contractor will be issued maps detailing the limited areas to be left uncut for 'No Mow May' and June. Cut grass will be removed.

The homeowner is researching alternative contractors to stabilise the wall along Satin Lane. Access to the allotments is at the individual's own risk. Currently there is a barrier which can be moved for access but must be replaced immediately.

Bins at the Castle Grounds and cemetery are being used for builders' waste. This constitutes fly-tipping and is being reported and actioned.

Next meeting Wednesday 17 April at 7.30pm in the Hempton Lounge at the Windmill Centre.

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

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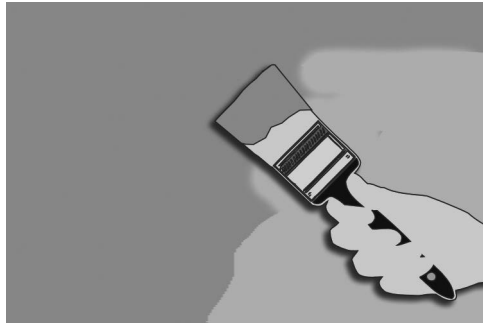
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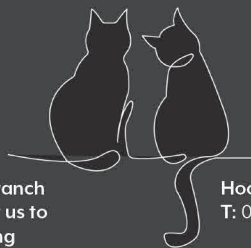
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FRIENDS OF DAEDA'S WOOD

A recent visit to Daeda's Wood found that several old willow trees near the wild flower meadow had been given a drastic haircut. They have, in fact, been coppiced which is the recognised way to prune willows. As they begin to grow, removing the long whippy stems encourages more vigorous growth. The removal of older split stems also helps stabilise the trees and, therefore, the river banks. The cuttings have been piled up and will likely be a welcome home to a variety of bugs and forest fauna. The willow twigs can be bent and twisted to form various shapes. It might be fun to create some and hang them from branches to adorn the Wood. Coppicing dates back to the Stone Age as a method of providing a reliable fuel supply and, later, material for a variety of industries, including basket weaving, in the case of willow.

There is no need for a working party but it would



be welcomed if people who visit the Wood would remove any plastic tree guards and pile them by the litter bins for removal by Cherwell District Council when the litter bins are emptied.

Regular cutting back of growth adjacent to the main rides is carried out by the Woodland Trust, making for trip-free walking. Occasionally fallen trees and branches need removing. This is a job for the Woodland Trust. When necessary, a message to

the area manager via the Trust's website from users of the Wood would set the wheels in motion.

Finally, a well deserved accolade to all users who pick up their pets' poo and all those who bin their rubbish.

Annette Murphy
murphyannette74@gmail.com

I'm going to stick my neck out here and announce that the Windmill roofing work will be completed by mid-May, the scaffolding and contractor's compound will be gone, and we'll have a brand-new roof just in time for the ... er ... summer? Hurrah! Pats on the back all round – particularly to those on the parish council and on the Windmill management committee who spent ages – and I mean ages – identifying, applying for and then securing finance from different organisations. We received grants of £50,000 from the Valencia Communities Fund, £25,000 from the Rural England Prosperity Fund and £8,000 from the Garfield Weston Foundation. The parish council made up the rest, together with several contributions from some of you. Thank you. And thanks once again to our very understanding and co-operative regular users who have had to put up with all the inconvenience. It is appreciated.

The very visible material improvements to our Windmill facilities seem to be attracting more and more users, which is great. In April we hosted an Improv Comedy Show organised by the Deddington Players. Wonderful entertainment. Continuing the comedy theme, we have our next Charity Comedy Night coming up on Wednesday 8 May with three brilliant professional comedians and a fully licenced bar. Doors open at 7.00pm with the show at 8.00pm. Don't miss it. You can get your tickets here: www.lonewolfcomedy.co.uk.

As well as these larger events, many of you are



choosing the Windmill to hold your kid's birthday party, your retirement party or even your party-just-for-the-sake-of-it party. Bring it on. Popular Saturday and Sunday slots are booking up fast,

so we recommend that you contact Julie and reserve your dates now.

I can also announce new regular baby/toddler groups and fitness groups, which continue to proliferate. The Stay and Play group meets on Tuesday mornings – follow their Instagram [@thelittlekids_club](https://www.instagram.com/thelittlekids_club). On Wednesdays we have Tom's Tennis Tots; you can find out more about that at [#tomstennistots](https://www.instagram.com/tomstennistots). For you fitness fanatics, we welcome back Sarah Mahfoudh and her Barre Fit classes on Saturday mornings. Sarah is also planning other fitness and dance classes during the week so email her for more information at sarahthorpfitness@gmail.com. Last, but by no means least, local baker and 'part-time barrista', Sam Patterson is going to set up a pop-up café at the Look-out near the play park on Saturday mornings. Check your social media for more information.

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

Vaughan Jones
chair@thewindmilleddington.org

POSTCARD FROM AMERICA

Nebraska, Christians, bird watching and street racing.
I love road trips in America but I've never heard anyone say they were looking forward to an exciting trip to Nebraska. This month my wife made me do it. Heading east, away from the Rocky Mountains, you reach Nebraska, very flat, miles of corn fields and grazing cows. One of its key demographics is white Christian Evangelicals, who comprise around 14% of the great American nation. In the 2016 election they voted for Trump in order to force through an abortion ban. It appears they intend to stick with a man with whom they share very few values. He figures badly on stealing, adultery and bearing false witness but I guess the good news is that he hasn't murdered anyone. Yet.

Heather says I don't have the patience to be a bird watcher like her. There is a lot of truth in this but the viewing area overlooking the Platt River outside Kearney was very interesting. Every year around 800,000 Sandhill Cranes take a four-week feeding break here on their spring migration from the Gulf Coast to Alaska and Canada. It was a fabulous sight and they were very noisy, but the sunset didn't involve any sun and the wind off the plains was brutal. I had to go to the visitor centre and buy a proper photo because mine were terrible.

Apart from the long-legged cranes, the main local attraction is the Archway which is a cross between a history museum and a motorway bridge. Visitors view the attractions while eighteen-wheel lorries pass underneath. It is bizarre but tells an interesting story about the indigenous population who were pushed out

in the 1860s by white settlers heading west to look for gold and a better life.

We then went on to Omaha, home to the smartest man in America, Warren Buffet, and half a million other people. It has the quietest downtown I've seen in a large American city, very clean and very white with no sign of the homeless you see in Denver. We crossed over the Missouri River so that Heather could scratch Iowa off her state map. It was interesting talking to the people. This is Trump country; they have no time for liberals like me.

The drive back from Omaha was 561 miles which we covered in just over seven hours. This is the point of the US road trip. Sometimes you want to wander and see people and places but sometimes it is worth averaging 80mph and getting home for dinner.

One of the good things about where we live is that we are a mile from the freeway, but on a Friday night it is often the site of noisy car races. The police claim they can't identify the culprits. Many remove their number plates, others use opaque plastic covers to make plate recognition impossible and, in the Land of the Free, there are very few traffic cameras.

Meanwhile I have set up a bird camera on our back patio, so I don't need patience, it's all captured online – and I have a bunch of brownie points with my wife from a trip to Nebraska. I think I'll take the plates off my Dodge Charger and go racing in the streets.

Mike Ward
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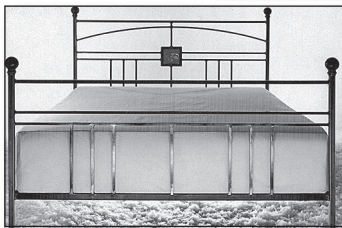
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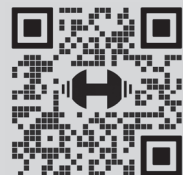
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CHURCH

Parish Church SS Peter and Paul

Last month we welcomed Nick Fielden as the new vicar of Deddington. Please find his contact details below. On Saturday 11 May we are holding a Bring and Share lunch at 12.00 noon in the parish church in support of Christian Aid week. Richard Teare will speak on 'Focus on Burundi'. Donations can be made at <https://bit.ly/DtonMay24> instead of in the old red envelopes.

Deddington church is open throughout the day for anyone wishing to visit, pray, meditate or simply be. 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 5 10.30am Holy Communion
 3.00pm 3 O'Clock Family Service
 6.00pm Choral Evensong
 Sun 12 10.30am Holy Communion
 Sat 18 3.00pm Confirmation Service

Sun 19 10.30am Holy Communion
 Sun 26 10.30am Holy Communion

Hempton

Thu 9 7.00pm Ascension Day service
 Sun 19 9.00am Holy Communion

Barford St Michael

Sun 5 10.30am Coffee and Chat
 Sun 12 9.00am Communion
 Sun 19 10.30am Family Service
 Sun 26 10.30am Family Holy Communion

For baptisms and weddings, funerals and home visits in case of illness please contact the Vicar, Nick Fielden on 01869 934794, vicar@deddingtonchurch.org, or one of the church wardens; Deddington: Stan Nelson, 01869 337883, or wardens@deddingtonchurch.org. Barfords: Sue Addison, 07484 718791, Sally Barber, 07776 241218, or barfordchurches234@gmail.com.

RC Parish of Hethe

St John's Church in Banbury streams Mass daily at 9.30am Monday to Friday, at 10.00am on Saturday and 11.15am on Sunday 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.

NEWS FROM CLIFTON

CAST have now signed up for the police speed watch initiatives as this is the only way to collect speed data which the authorities must take note of. We are all hoping Upper Larkrise and Candleford will join us PDQ.

Book Club has been adjourning to the Red Lion lately to enjoy the superb Sussex Harvey's bitter on offer there. It is very sad to see mine host working out his final days up in Candleford and I hope Candleford folk express adequately their gratitude for the way he and his staff have served our community. Goodbye and *bonne chance*.

There is excitement here as attention is being diverted to overweight vehicles coming through and shortening the life of County Bridge, first built in the 1600s. A car transporter nearly got stuck and the violence expressed towards a law-abiding villager, who happened to be in front of him, caused such great concern that the details were forwarded to our rural police commander. More recently, a broken down, overweight, horse lorry was seen waiting for an HGV recovery truck. Why the retired folk of this corner of paradise didn't 'have a chat' to the driver is anyone's guess. However, the closure of County Bridge would be welcomed by many as post-alcohol plans drawn

up towards the end of a Duck Book Club could attest. This plan revolved around lifting off the key stone early one morning with a trolley jack. Happily, this plan was left in the dregs tray.

We have been well into what used to be called the purdah rule that prevents certain types of lobbying 28 days before a ballot, so I can't tell you to vote for our Neighbourhood Plan on 2 May, for the reasons you all know so well, so I won't. I know how to follow rules, but I will remind you to vote and take photo ID. My 1982 passport will get another outing.

The other day I was invited to the licensing of our new vicar when I got an invite from the PCC as well, showing they don't quite have a grasp on the *réalité* of life down here, but it made me smile. Commitments prevent me from attending.

The rat and vermin count seems to be lower these days, so perhaps our counter-measures are having an effect but, as spring is springing, we'll be looking out closely in the weeks ahead.

Remember, any news to me, please.

Martin Bryce
martinDNbryce@gmail.com

NEWS FROM HEMPTON

Hempton's volunteer litter pickers gave their time on the weekend of 23 March to clean up our corner of the parish. In addition to the usual haul of discarded fast food and drink containers, beer cans, confection wrappers, vapes and fag packets, there were yet more donations from the phantom tyre dumper and someone who possibly painted their bedroom and had no use for the empty paint tin and decided their bedroom furniture didn't fit the new décor.

Hempton resident, Mary Parker, is the very proud mum of two times World Women's Senior Snooker Champion, Tessa Davidson. Tessa competed on the women's tour from 1988–95 and again from 1998–99, during which time she won three UK Women's Championship titles and achieved a highest ranking of fourth in the women's rankings. In 1991, Tessa made a break of 135 at the British Open, then the highest achieved on the women's tour.

After 1999, she took a 23-year break from competitive snooker to raise a family, but returned to the sport in 2022 and now competes on the women's and women's seniors' tour. Since her return, she has won a number of women's seniors' titles, including the World Women's Seniors Championship in 2022 and again, defeating Han Feng 3–1 in the final at Dongguan, China, in 2024. As of March, she was ranked ninth in the women's rankings, as well as first in the women's seniors' rankings. Tessa was named the Banbury Guardian's Sports Personality of the Year for 2023. She is based out of Fast Eddie's Pool and Snooker Hall in South Bar where she is passing on her knowledge to the next generation by running a weekly academy.

Having recently started mowing the lawns, I noticed the almost complete thatch of moss (poor drainage, shade and years of neglect) was peppered with small craters. In recent years we have been entertained in spring by grey squirrels digging into the thatch to exhume hazel nuts stashed away in the previous autumn. We never seem to observe the inhumation. This year we noticed a change in activity. Rather than exhuming nuts to stuff into their bulging cheeks or scoffing the nut on the spot, they collected great bundles of moss and grass before zipping up the sycamore at the corner of the garden. I have not been notified by CDC's planning

department of the development, but the squirrels are moving in and building a nest.

Broad leaf trees are their preferred habitat and the nest or 'drey' is usually situated in the cleavage at the fork of two branches or close to the trunk, at least six metres above the ground. They may also occupy any handy hole in the trunk and have been known to squat in magpie nests and vice versa. I can't actually see the nest; it is either camouflaged by the dense grape ivy ascending the trunk or this route is a decoy and the nest is situated in some other tree. Being fairly affluent, they are not content with one drey but often build a second, more open one, in which to spend the summer or sometimes modify the winter abode.

Their bushy tail plays an important thermo-regulatory role; used to catch the sun while sunbathing, to give shade during intense heat and acting as a blanket during cold weather. The tail has a large surface area to volume ratio, which means it loses heat rapidly, despite the fur. A network of blood vessels at the base of the tail allows warm blood to be pumped straight to the tail in hot weather, allowing heat to be radiated to the environment and cooling the animal. In colder conditions, by contrast, warm blood from the heart goes through a counter-current heat exchange system where it passes close enough to cooler blood coming back from the tail to allow its heat to radiate into the cooler blood and return directly to the body. Tails are also used during social interactions, with vigorous tail flicking accompanying many vocalisations, and when scent-marking.

The grey squirrel is regarded as an invasive non-native species, following its inclusion under Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Country Act 1981 (WCA). Schedule 9 makes it illegal to release a Grey into the wild or allow one to escape, without a licence. This means if you trap one, you are obliged to dispatch it humanely.

Donations to crowd fund restoration of Mount Pleasant had not changed since last month's newsletter standing at £25.

Stuart Oldham
sj_oldham@btinternet.com

NO MOW MAY – DOING LESS BUT BETTER

The April issue of DN carried an article about the ideas behind No Mow May and how the PC hopes to be both environmentally aware and smart in what it proposes across the parish for 2024. This year we have a scaled-down scheme following a review of the 2023 experience. In short, we do less – but do it better.

Our grass-cutting contractor has a series of maps which their operatives will follow during May and June. These indicate which areas are to be left uncut; the edges of the areas will be marked with stakes and netting and a sign will reinforce what the scheme is all about. A QR code will also point to where to find further information. At the end of the period, the grass cuttings

will be removed by hand to promote the emergence of wildflowers.

If you want to see the maps, which cover Gaveston Green, Goose Green, Mill Close, The Grange, Wimborn Close, Welford's Piece, Steepness Hill, Hempton, and the Castle Grounds, please go to Deddington Online, www.deddington.org.uk.

This year's scheme will be assessed again at the end of the season. Let's give it a chance to work, then let us know what you think – all comments will be taken on board.

Mary Robinson
maryrobinson.dpc@gmail.com

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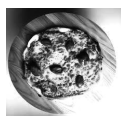
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DIGGING UP THE PAST

What do three horseshoes, nine pence in old money and a military button have in common? Well, normally not very much. The connection here is a story about the blood, sweat and tears of digging out a garden when, in May 1997, we moved to Deddington to a new build on what had been a farm field between The Daedings and the Manor Farm Barns complex on Hempton Road. It was three years of back-aching and frustrating work.

First a thin layer of topsoil disguising layers of bricks, breezeblocks, house stones, wood, nails, roofing felt, concrete, wire, a scaffolding pole and much more, all embedded in builder's diggings and clay that was either wet and sticky or baked hard, depending on the weather. The rubble had to be removed. We were told that our back garden had been used as a storage area by the builders and it showed.

We had permission to put the rubble in the builder's skips. But once they left there were numerous trips to the local tip. Thank goodness they didn't charge for bags of rubble in those days. Dozens of trips to the tip with dozens of bags would have robbed us of money we needed to spend at garden centres, which at that time offered a discount to members of a now-defunct local garden society that we had joined.

We finally broke through to a dark layer of rich soil that we presume was at the level of the original field. It is here that we found history. First up were the three horseshoes in the front garden. Two medium-sized shoes and one very small pony-sized shoe. They were found close to an old stone wall just in front of the house, possibly at one time part of an old field gateway. Perhaps those of you who have lived in Deddington, before the development of Gaveston Gardens, saw the horses and ponies in the field or maybe you owned them? We displayed the horseshoes in our open porch but sadly they disappeared; enough said of that.

However, it led to us to speculate on the significance of three horseshoes because what is now Rothbury House in Victoria Terrace was then called The Three Horseshoes. We discovered that in the past Deddington boasted two inns called The Three Horseshoes. Today, both are houses. The second, on New Street, can still be identified by its name and bears a plaque with three horseshoes.

So why call inns The Three Horseshoes? Research suggested that the three horseshoes in the coat of arms of the Worshipful Company of Farriers, dating back to 1356, were adopted by wayside inns to indicate to travellers that there was a blacksmith or farrier nearby for horses that arrived with only three shoes, having thrown one. Deddington has had various farriers over the years, the most recent of whom

was Fred Tibbetts at the Archway on New Street.

But back to the dig, there were the usual shards of blue and white pottery but they were discarded with the rest of the rubble. Our excitement was to find a George V silver sixpence dated 1920. It was during 1920 that the silver content of a sixpence was reduced from 92.5% to 50% because of the escalating cost of silver. From 1946 they were made from cupronickel. The person who lost this sixpence could have bought a pint of beer in 1920.

Next, we found a George VI thrupenny bit, dated 1943. This 12-sided coin was made from nickel brass. Introduced in 1937, its unique size and shape were much loved during World War II because it was easy to identify during blackouts. The person who lost this coin could probably have bought a cup of tea and had a penny change in 1943. Decimalisation of the currency in 1971 saw the end of its use and that of the sixpence in your Christmas pudding.

Finally, my favourite find: a military button. How did it get there, who lost it and who lost the money? These are things I shall never know but they are part of Deddington's history. More research suggested that the button belonged to someone who was a Royal Artillery Volunteer. The crown appears to be Queen Victoria's crown. Although in fairly poor condition, the button seems to be of the style of 'other ranks white metal', dated between 1837 and 1901. I have looked through the History section of the Deddington Online website but have been unable to identify anyone who was a Royal Artillery volunteer in Victorian times.

Unfortunately, there were no Roman coins or Anglo-Saxon brooches, no Saxon hoard, but to me these finds are little pieces of treasure that were found, against all the odds, under mounds of clay and rubble.

Deddington has such a long and rich history, many people in the village will have found more interesting or evocative objects as they dig their gardens. Even a milk bottle can be of interest. One avid gardener found an intact Co-operative Society bottle. No ordinary bottle, though: this one would have held one-third of a pint of free school milk. Free milk was given to children under 18 in England and Wales under the 1944 Education Act. The Labour government withdrew free school milk to children in secondary schools in 1968, and in 1971 Margaret Thatcher, then Secretary of State for Education, removed free school milk from children over the age of seven, leading to her nickname Milk Snatcher.

Many will recall the delights of the milk too warm in summer and in winter finding the frozen milk was sticking out the top crowned by its silver top.

So even the most mundane items can have a story to tell or lead to a history lesson. Share stories of your finds by dropping a line to The Deddington News.

Jane Price, treasurer@deddingtonnews.co.uk



*From the top:
Corroded
Victorian Royal
Artillery button;
head and tails
1920 silver
sixpence; 1943
head and tails
thrupenny bit*

IT'S HARD TO SEE THE HORIZON WHILST LIVING IN A SILO

I would imagine that most of us have, at sometime in our lives, read a book that was so insightful and original in premise that it changed our outlook on the world we live in. For me, it was a work by anthropologist and historian Joseph Tainter who, in 1988, authored, *The Collapse of Complex Societies*. In wanting to look at whether there was a recurring phenomenon in societies that were once robust and growing (he cites the Romans, the Mayas and 22 other civilisations that are no more), he found that what they all had in common was that they had become massively complex. In particular, he noted that there was a monetary, labor and energy cost to complexity that, when pushed to the limit, gave ever diminishing returns. For example, when Roman occupation met its limits at Hadrian's Wall, the tax base was not equal to the cost of paying for soldiers, their provisions and fortifications. In a way, Imperial Rome had come to live in a silo, looking only up but not out, and with a world-view that could not see their way of life had become too costly and complex to go on as it was.

Resisting the temptation to wonder if we might follow suit, still I can't help wondering if we're not living in public policy silos of our own. One of the first examples that comes to mind is the UK's national penchant for historic preservation. I, for one, have long admired efforts by government and other public organisations to preserve important buildings in the UK, many of which are residential and commercial structures still in use. What I do not at all admire are policies that prevent these buildings from becoming energy-efficient. A view outside the silo would show that we have by far the least energy efficient building stock in Europe. For example, at 0°C, if we turn the heat off, say for five hours, the average UK house will lose 3°C, whereas in colder countries like Norway the loss is only 0.9°C. On the horizon, if we continue to prevent the use of energy-efficient windows or even solar panels on listed buildings, they will not be habitable because occupants cannot afford to do so. What we are left with is to decide if old buildings retain some social or economic usefulness or if their cost of upkeep will consign them to become relics and ruins.

Next on my list of dubious silo policies is the promotion by governments and environmentalists alike for electric vehicles. As we own one, count me as an enthusiast. At present, most issues of public concern seem to be those related to driving range, time to recharge and the current shortage of well-maintained recharging stations. I have yet to see much in the way of media coverage on how we are going to provide the massive amounts of new electric power to convert our vehicle fleet from petrol to electricity. Rather than building new power plants, the UK has been importing ever greater quantities of electric power from abroad. Some of these countries rely on snowmelt to oper-



The Green Man

ate hydro-electric plants. As climate change takes its toll on that resource, their electricity-exporting future is bleak. Of equal concern is the lack of an electric power distribution network that is up to all the new electric load required for electric vehicles, as well as resolving the years-long backlog for connecting new sources to the grid. We have yet to see any effort to promote off-peak (nighttime) use for charging these vehicles, which is one way to get more capacity out of the transmission grid – and at a significant cost savings.

Resisting further temptation to go on and on with this, I'll wrap up with the 1989 silo that came about with the privatisation of water companies in the UK.

Media coverage of this particular silo has been widespread, continuous, and seldom complimentary. We've all read articles about how the neglect of and under-investment in water and waste water infrastructure puts us all at risk.

One study last year showed that while modern waste water pipes might have a service life of 100 years, the current replacement schedule by these private companies ranged from well over 1,000 years to 2,700 years in one case. It is way past time to step outside the silo on this one ... off by 100 years might be called a dilemma, but at over 1,000, the only word that fits is dystopia. Unlike a war or an economic crisis, we can't hope to muddle through this one; the ownership of these water resources cannot remain in private hands.

A modern technological society is, of necessity, complex. This does not mean we can't do a better job of looking to the horizon and reasoning out the logical consequences of our decisions. If policies fail to improve our lives, I'd settle for them not making things worse. Or, as Hamlet once said to his mum, 'Do not spread compost on the weeds to make them ranker'.

Dan Desmond
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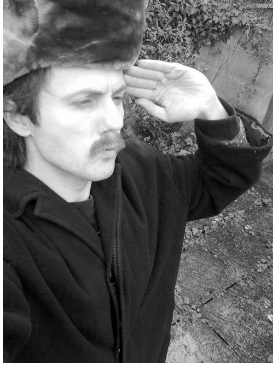
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BLISSFUL THINKING



It's been a bit peculiar to hear so many express surprise at the levels of precipitation, even after British Summer Time was declared not long after the vernal equinox. Climate scientists have been predicting for some time that climate change will mean uncomfortably hot and dry summers interspersed with exceptionally wet winters ...

and boy, has it been wet!

I tried driving over the narrowed Barford bridge in early April – Barford lost its bar! The Clifton Everglades are as full as they've ever been in spring. I saw a lot of sheep had been let out to graze and I suspected the plan was for one to fall in, followed by its peers; cumulatively soaking up the floodwater like a few dozen giant wool sponges. Sadly, driving past a few days later, I saw no sheep and even more water. The science had said no, despite the foolproof logic. With so much water around (nor any drop to drink), the suspicion fell on whoever had slain a bird of good omen. Investigations once again proved futile, as the A4260 seemed littered with such carrion. So, we remained deluged and awash, though perhaps by the time you read this, we may long for just a little of what we cursed in April.

Aaron Bliss, aaronjbliss@hotmail.com

M40 JUNCTION 10 ROADWORKS

National Highways have scheduled work on the southbound off slip road of the M40 at Junction 10, connecting to the A43 roundabout, to start in June and continue until November. This will involve widening the southbound off slip to three lanes as it approaches the roundabout, providing smart signals at all junctions and clearing overgrown vegetation. Work will largely be done off-peak Monday to Friday between 9.30pm and 6.00am.

However, there will be a weekday daytime (6.00am–9:30pm) temporary 50mph speed limit, with the southbound slip road remaining open; a weekday night time (9:30pm–6.00am) closure of the M40 southbound exit slip, with the diversion to Junction 9 and back; as well as 24-hour lane closures of the M40 southbound approach nearside lane; 24-hour lane closures of A43 north and southbound, with a temporary 50mph speed limit; and occasional weekday nighttime (9:30pm–6.00am) closures of the sections of the A43 northbound or southbound.

Further details can be found at <https://nationalhighways.co.uk/travel-updates/road-closure-report/>. For questions or further information contact either National Highways Public Liaison Officer at EMcomms@amey.co.uk or on 07568 605103, or the National Highways Customer Contact Centre, info@nationalhighways.co.uk or 0300 123 5000.

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THE MYSTERY OF THE BODY IN THE CHURCH



In a recess in the south aisle of Deddington Church, near the porch, there is a stone effigy of a man, in legal attire, recumbent in an attitude of prayer, with no indication as to his identity. The tomb has been dated on stylistic grounds to c.1330, making it the oldest surviving monument in the church.

Until recently, the only recorded attempt to identify the effigy was by F. E. Howard in the *Deddington Deanery Magazine* in 1931, who briefly opined, without much evidence, that the effigy was that of Ralph de Bereford of Barford St. John. The identity of the unidentified lawyer has recently aroused academic interest, having been exhaustively researched by Nigel Saul, Emeritus Professor of Mediaeval History at Royal Holloway College, an authority on early church tomb monuments. Professor Saul has written up his findings in the 2023 issue of *Oxoniensia*, the journal of the Oxfordshire Architectural and Historical Society.

Several Ralph de Berefords were recorded in the Deddington area in the 1320s, another at Barford St Michael for instance, and there were a number of places in the country called Barford, whilst 'de Bereford' may have been toponymic; that is, a name based on a place rather than a specific family name.

Although there is no direct evidence, Professor Saul concludes, on a balance of probabilities, that the effigy is likely to be of Ralph de Bereford (died 1329), a justice and commissioner, who may have taken his name from Barford in southeast Wiltshire, rather than Ralph de Bereford of Barford St John. In researching the career of Ralph de Bereford, Professor Saul highlighted his connection with the notorious Despensers, Hugh the elder and Hugh the younger, the unpopular favourites of Edward II (1307–27), and his participation in hearings to try those involved in attacks, in 1322, on Despenser properties in north Oxfordshire, including Deddington, and on the properties of William Aylmer, rector of Deddington (1318–28). Aylmer was a nominee of the elder Despenser, lord of the Duchy manor and patron of the living. He was a wealthy cleric, employing a steward and bailiff to manage his various estates. It is unclear to what extent Aylmer may have lived in Deddington, as he employed two chaplains.

In the consequent 1322 legal proceedings, one of the charges lists 95 parties, including 16 women, accused, 'with others', of breaking into Aylmer's properties in 'Dadyngton' (or 'Dadynton') and Caversham, and carrying away his goods, suggestive of the occurrence of a riot or riots. The list of defendants also includes a Ralph de Bereford, perhaps from Barford St John or Barford St Michael.

The elder Despenser was a ruthless and unprincipled character, whilst his son's behaviour was even more unsavoury. It has been suggested that the younger Despenser had a relationship with the king similar to that of an earlier royal favourite, Piers Gaveston, who was briefly held at the rectory house (now Castle House) next to the church in Deddington in 1312, before being abducted and executed.

The unreasonable behaviour of the two Despensers, who made themselves indispensable to the king, resulted in civil war with most of the barons and the queen. Both the Despensers were captured by the barons in 1326 and executed. The hapless Edward II was forced to abdicate in 1327.

On account of the Despenser connection, therefore, the inhabitants of Deddington had direct experience in the 1320s of the turbulence associated with the troubled reign of Edward II.

David French

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A link to David's article can be found on the History Home Page, <https://tinyurl.com/47ynp7jj>.

PFSU AND NURSERY

We would like to say a huge thank you to the church, the Flower Shop, the library and Wellness at New Street for their help with this year's Easter trail. We are pleased to announce we raised a fantastic £310 for the Nursery and PFSU. We would also like to thank the families who took part. We hope you had fun and really appreciate your continued support.

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LETTERS

FROM BRYN WILLIAMS,
DEDDINGTON

On 2 May I shall be stepping down as your Cherwell District Councillor.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our dedicated and hard-working parish councillors and clerk, the residents of the parish and the wider community for your support, as I've been proud to serve you for the past 10 years.

I hope that during that time I've had a positive effect and made a difference in some small way to one or more along the way. The commitment has been challenging and demanding at times, especially when holding down a full-time job but, overall, I'm very pleased that I said yes, all those years ago. On reflection, it's been humbling and rewarding but an absolute privilege.

Should my successor prevail in the local elections, please make him welcome and extend the same support and respect as I've enjoyed, for which my sincere thanks.

FROM CHRISTOPHER HALL, DEDDINGTON

For many years Deddington residents have responded generously to Christian Aid Week each May, giving well in excess of £1,000. This year the traditional red envelope has become digital. Donations can now be made on <https://bit.ly/DtonMay24>, using bank or credit cards.

The focus is on Christian Aid's work with partners in Burundi, supporting recovery from historic ethnic tensions. Now climate change is hitting food production, putting up prices and causing domestic abuse. One practical solution is helping women like Aline to become self-supporting. On Saturday 11 May, Richard Teare from Gaveston Gardens will be sharing how his agency promotes 'Community-led solutions to malnutrition in Burundi'. Everyone is welcome to a 'bring and



share lunch' in the parish church from 12.00 noon.

FROM GEOFF TODD,
DEDDINGTON

Don Walker – Deddington Beeches Bowls Club

Reading Rob Forsyth's tribute to the late Don Walker in April's *Deddington News* recalled my early encounters with him and his dad, Percy. When

I moved to the village, 40 years ago, they were both active members of the Deddington Beeches Bowls Club in Earls Lane, as were Don's wife, Ruth, and their son, Michael.

Both on the green and at post match teas, Don and other village characters would swap tales about the villagers and of the time when the village had two bowls clubs, one for the farmers and gentlemen and a second for 'the others'.

One of the tales told was of the delivery of the former Great Western Railway coach where we took tea. The coach was installed in what was, at the time, Maurice French's garden at the end of the bowling green. Maurice, like the late Fred Deely, bowled for the county team.

After-match teas were provided by members and were followed by a raffle. Raffle prizes often included produce from Don's and fellow members' gardens.

The former green and the neighbouring tennis court were subsequently built on in Monty Spencer's time and are now known as The Beeches, recognising its former use. The club moved to a new green at the Windmill Centre but sadly closed a few years ago.

FROM THE FIRE STATION

The night crew has had a month of undisturbed sleep as the alerter has stayed firmly silent, with the day crew picking up all the activity – standbys, fire, ambulance assistance and even a rescue from a bog!

Training has, as always, continued with plenty of variety. For those in Banbury a couple of weeks ago, the cordoning off of the Castle Quay multi-storey car park was an exercise in response to the Luton airport car park fire last year.

The exercise simulated a hybrid car on fire, with one known and one unknown casualty, on the top floor of the car park. Three crews attended – from Banbury, Deddington and Hook Norton. Multiple Breathing Apparatus crews were committed, taking hose reel jets to locate and extinguish the fire. Both casualties were treated for the effects of smoke inhalation. The exercise was successful and completed before the shops opened their doors for 10.00am Sunday trading.

We have also seen an upturn in requests for smoke and carbon monoxide alarm testing and fitment, which have all been sorted for the local community.

FF James Greenwood
james@cyclogicalshop.co.uk

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CALLING ALL CLUBS

Photographic Society

At our March meeting members presented their favourite photos or photography style. There was quite a variety, including fabric and textile printing, film photography, portraiture, use of gel lighting, flash and blur techniques and flour dancing, street photography, printed landscapes, inside flowers, 'looking up from the ground', with reflections and abstracts and UV photography. The latter produces astounding flower and fern photos. The monthly topic was 'Fine Art: Found', which pushed members to photograph found objects in a fine art style.

The monthly topic for our April meeting, also our AGM, was 'What is it?'

We welcome new members to our society nights on the first Wednesday of each month. For further information have a look at our website, addphoto.co.uk or find us on [Facebook.com/add.photosoc](https://www.facebook.com/add.photosoc).

Courtney Killpack

Women's Institute

Our March meeting was our AGM when we reviewed the past year's activities and the president and committee were re-elected. We finished with an interesting quiz on the history of Deddington.

Our speaker in April was Peter Barker from the Otmoor Trust who spoke about 'Otmoor: a Wetland Restored'. When the site was farmland, it was too wet for many crops and so drainage channels were put in. It didn't improve the situation sufficiently, so the decision was taken to restore it as a rare habitat of lowland mixed grassland. Otmoor has a clay subsoil and so the restoration was a big success.

Now it is well managed and extended, and home to several rare species, especially birds. Raptors use the site in large numbers and it is home to cuckoos and bitterns. There are also rare plants, including the fen violet, only known in Otmoor and on a site in Cambridgeshire. I can see that there will be trips taken by many members in the warmer weather.

Moira Byast

deddingtonwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk

Holly Tree Club

The Holly Tree Club's AGM is on Monday 13 May in the parish church at 10.00am. Coffee and cake will be served following the meeting – and it's free.

We will be open for coffee on both bank holidays in May, 10.30am as usual.

Julia Cork

julia.cork@thedha.org

Deddington and District History Society

In March, Melanie King gave a fascinating and entertaining talk entitled 'Can Onions Cure Earache?'

Her information on eighteenth century illnesses and cures was largely based on the 1769 publication of *Domestic Medicine* by Dr William Buchan. This first self-help medicinal book is now in the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich.

Bad diets, poor housing, unsanitary conditions and clothes riddled with fleas were rife. Open fires were a common cause of accidents in the home and horses were responsible for many in the outdoors. Burns were treated with a homemade lotion of salad oil mixed with egg. If blisters appeared 'Turners Serate' was used, known today as calamine lotion.

Common cures for many illnesses were blood letting, induced vomiting, purging or herbal cures. The practice of bleeding often involved leeches – clergy men and teachers were among those recognised as qualified to carry out the task. Bleeding had its hazards. George Washington died in 1799, bled to death from a sore throat as 35% of his blood was extracted. For many poor people a bread and milk poultice, sometimes with onions or garlic (both have antiseptic qualities) was the panacea.

'Taking the waters' was a favoured option for the rich. Gout, more prevalent in the 18th century than today due to the lead content in pipes causing an increase in uric acid, really could be relieved by the spa waters at Bath as they were effective in drawing out lead from the body.

Finally, Melanie King noted that Dr Buchan praised the benefits of gardening for physical exercise and 'calming of the mind'. *Plus ça change ...*

Please note that in a change to the printed programme, the speaker at the May meeting will be Simon Wenham talking about the varied landscape of religious belief in Victorian and Edwardian Britain, with particular emphasis on Oxfordshire.

Jean Dipper

jean.dipper28@gmail.com

Iron Down Sculpture Studio

This new creative art space is perfect for amateurs, hobbyists, newbies and artists who want to sculpt in all forms. Having to relocate from our original home in Bicester, Iron Down Farm, has offered us a superb space in the old calf barn, full of light and warmth.

The studio has many materials and tools to inspire imaginative art, including, wood, metal, stone and clay. Although, at present, we do not offer formal classes, the current members, whose knowledge and experience span many years, offer a supportive environment.

The current artists are celebrating their new home by hosting Oxfordshire Artweeks as venue 15 over the first two weekends in May (4–6 and 10–12), providing a chance to see the studio and original pieces. It is a brilliant opportunity to chat to the artists about their work and we look forward to seeing you.




For more information, please contact me.

Wendy Edmundson

wendyedmundson@hotmail.com

Deddington Playgroup

Do you have a baby, toddler or pre-schooler? Would you like to meet other local mums, dads and carers? This month we are open Friday 10 and Friday 24 May, 9:45–11:45am at the Windmill Centre. We would love

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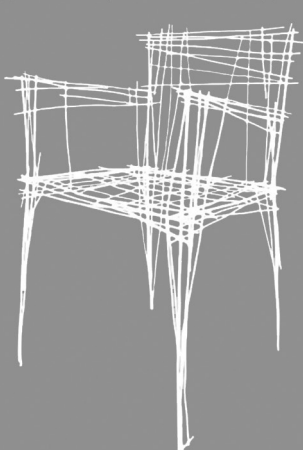
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CLUBS

Continued from p22

you to come and join us!

We have lots of space for the children to run and play, plus loads of brilliant toys – ball pit, slide, seesaw, tunnels, ride-on cars, play kitchen, dolls, dinosaurs, musical instruments, baby gyms and more.

We provide drinks and snacks for the little ones and the grown-ups can enjoy a hot drink and cake while having a chat. Admission is £4 per family. There is no need to book. Just turn up and you can pay with card or cash. You are welcome to arrive and leave at any time during the session; you don't have to stay for the whole time. We look forward to meeting you.

Helen Carpenter
deddingtonbabyandtoddler@gmail.com

Book Group

We found much to enjoy in *The Perfect Golden Circle* by Benjamin Myers. Set in 1989, it is a fictionalised account of mysterious and intricate crop circles which appear across the countryside of southern England. Two men, Calvert and Redbone, work at night in great secrecy, their results attracting huge media attention and even claims of alien intervention. The very different characters of the two men are glimpsed gradually, tracing the respectful relationship between them – Calvert, a disciplined but traumatised Falklands veteran and Redbone, leading a chaotic life yet inspired to create elaborate designs.

The land is the other star, together with its magnificence, history, flora and fauna, and the need to protect it from those who do not care. Just once or twice we felt that Myers had allowed his own perceptions to intrude but this was a minor point. The novel is beautifully written, filled with lyrical descriptions and a mixture of adventure, humour and humanity.

The Book Group

Royal British Legion

We are very pleased to welcome four new members to the branch : Mrs Angie Brimacombe, Sir Frank Davies and Mr Rodney and Mrs Anne Hayward.

The 80th Anniversary of D-Day is on 6 June and will be marked in various ways across the country. In Deddington the Union Flag will be hoisted on our flagpole in the Market Place at 6.30am, this being the time at which General Hobart's 'Funnies' began their advance guard assault on Gold and Sword Beaches. (More about this former Deddington resident can be read at www.deddingtonhistory.uk/people/indexh/generalhobart.) A piper will play 'Hielan Laddie', as did Piper Bill Millin on Sword Beach as the troops fought their way ashore. The Union Flag will remain flying under the watchful gaze of our arms reversed WWI soldier silhouette, Private 'Archie' Gomm, until 25 July, which was the date when the Allies finally broke out of Normandy and began their advance on Paris.

Rob Forsyth
robert.s.forsyth@gmail.com

Local Vocals Community Choir

The new term sees us working towards a possible concert in the summer, polishing off those songs we learnt last term as well as resurrecting some from last year and starting afresh with some new ones. We will certainly be kept busy. I'm delighted to say our numbers have been increasing and the sound produced is benefitting as a result. New members will be warmly welcomed.

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

Alison Grieve

SPORT

Deddington Town FC

First Team results

16.03.24	Hardwick Sports Club (a)	L 2–3 Arnold (2)
23.03.24	Hanwell United (a) (CUP)	L 1–2
<i>Reserve Team results</i>		
09.03.24	Hardwick Spts Res (h) (CUP)	L 0–2
16.03.24	Kings Sutton Res (h) W	7–1 Gabrielli, Jones, B. (2), Reed (2), Pascoe (2)
23.03.24	Tysoe United (h)	W 1–0
30.03.24	Longford Park Dev (h) (CUP)	W 3–2
04.04.24	Swis Reserves (h) (CUP)	L 0–1
06.04.24	Bodicote Spts Res (a)	L 3–6

We're into the home straight now and both teams have picked up some serious steam. Sadly, the Humbugs came close but have been denied a cigar, after they fell gallantly at the semi-final stage of the Mid-Oxon Cup. Meanwhile, a defeat at Hardwick, combined

with other teams' games in hand, conspired to knock them off the division summit. With one league match remaining, they have an outside chance of finishing third, which would still be an excellent season, but the denial of glory will smart and, no doubt, serve as fire for the next challenges.

The Reserves/Latics have had their fixture backlog come back to haunt them somewhat, playing three matches in eight days and losing two of them. However, the matches prior to that contained some great victories, particularly the Kings Sutton match which saw three players claim braces, as they racked up a magnificent seven in style. They sit comfortably in mid-table as the season reaches its thrilling denouement.

Aaron Bliss
07909 642882

Deddington Town FC Youth

The Under 15s had an 8–3 home defeat to table-topping Charlbury Town, with a hat-trick for Theo Flint.

SPORT

Continued from p25

The Under 14s had a 3–3 draw with Clanfield, followed by a 2–0 win over Garden City in the cup. The Under 13s had a 3–3 draw away at Middleton Cheney with a hat-trick for Vinnie Holiday, followed by 4–0 win at Easington Sports. The Under 12s had a 3–3 draw with Carterton, followed by a 3–2 defeat at Charlbury Town.

Wildcats

Dedicated football for girls is back for 2024. As the Lionesses start the defence of their Euro 2022 title, now is the time to get involved as a player or as a coach with Deddington Wildcats: non-competitive football for girls who want to give it a go for the first time or want to play with other girls of their own age. The focus is on having loads of fun and meeting new friends. We plan to return in the summer and will run sessions at the Windmill on Friday evenings between 5.30–6.30pm for girls who, next academic year, are in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.

Deddington Town FC will support volunteers to become football coaches and get you started on your football journey. We particularly want to recruit female coaches to work with the girls. If you interested, please email me.

Get involved in volunteering

There is still time to volunteer. We want to continue improving the pitches at the Windmill as well as working with the primary school in the future to improve its field. If you want to get involved and give a few hours back to the club, please get in touch with Roger Sykes for an informal chat about how you can help.

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

Roger Sykes, 07899 914425
carsykes@btinternet.com

Tennis Club

The summer season is getting underway and we have lots going on at the club.

Teams

Our A team topped the Floodlit Banbury Leagues for the winter season for the second year running. We're very proud of our squad, captained by Kathryn Hampshire, which has also included appearances for a couple of our juniors. The B team had a trickier season and are waiting to see if they stay in division 2 next winter while the C team put in a solid performance in division 4.

We also performed well in the weekend leagues, The ladies consolidated their first season in the premierships with a mid-table finish, the mixed weekend team finishing third in division 1, and our men's team are promoted to division 3 for next winter. Summer fixtures are getting underway in the next week or two and we have high hopes for similarly strong performances over the summer.

Chair

The club has a new Chair. After eight years, Ed Toll has stepped down and Becky Jones is taking on the role. Ed has made a big difference in his time as chair, not

least in getting the floodlights installed and bringing in the new coaching set up, as well as being a committed player and captain. Thankfully he is staying on the committee but we would like to offer a huge thank you to him for all the time and effort he has put into the club over the years.

Summer events

We are bringing back two important club level events this summer: our Club Championships and the Open Day.

The Club Championships will take place over the next four months, with a final's day in early September. The championships didn't happen last year and we are hoping the break will have fired up the competitive spirit amongst club members.

The Open Day is a chance for members and non-members alike to come and meet some of the players, coaches, and committee and play tennis. If you're someone who hasn't played for a while and would like to come back to it, someone who's always wanted to give it a go, someone who has realised they are now so rusty their kids can beat them, or just someone who'd like to meet some new people and try a new hobby, we'd love to see you. There are people amongst our current members and team players who fit all those descriptions. It will be our first Open Day since before the pandemic and will take place on Sunday 9 June at the Club. There will be taster sessions, opportunities for social play, a barbecue as well as drinks and cakes. Exact times tbc but it will be most of the day.

Our website is currently being updated. There is a temporary site where you can book courts and find out about membership, but the new site should be live by the June edition.

Becky Jones

www.nick14.com/deddingtontennis/

Deddington Original Golf Society

The next DOGS Day out is to Copt Heath GC, 1220 Warwick Road, Knowle, B93 9LN, on Monday 10 June. This is a subsidised event: £67 per DOGS member, £70 for guests. The interest in this venue is likely to be high, so please book as soon as possible. Arrival time is 10.00am for tea/coffee/bacon roll, followed by a first tee at 11.00am for 18 holes of golf, Stableford format, with prizes for best team score, individual score nearest the pin and longest drive.


Further information and how to book your place will be sent shortly. We look forward to the pleasure of your company.

Tony Lowe, 07710 477000
dogsgolf23@gmail.com

YOUTH



1st Deddington Guides

The end of term was all about preparing for our annual entertainment to raise money for local charities chosen by the Guides. It was a bit hectic and on the night several Guides were unwell but, undaunted,



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YOUTH

they quickly reorganised and put on a good show for friends and family. We had a lovely production of Cinderella, a musical duo, a fun version of *Strictly* with a fashion show to finish. Well done everyone! Together with our refreshments, book stall and raffle we raised almost £100.

We ran out of time to finish voting for which local charities will benefit but will resume our decision-making next term and let you all know.

Thank you to everyone for your support, it is much appreciated.

Maggie Rampley 07957 600755

1st Deddington Scout Group**Cubs**

Cubs haven't met for a few weeks due to a school residential programme and the Easter break. However, we are looking forward to the new term and, fingers crossed, lots of outdoor activities.

**Tracy Tong
deddingtoncubs@gmail.com**

DEDDINGTON PARISH SHOW

On the morning of Saturday 31 August there will be an air of expectation in the village as entrants come and go from Deddington church with their entries to be displayed and judged. Gradually the delicious aroma of freshly baked cakes, pork pies, flowers and produce will fill the air.

Thinking and planning ahead is the key. Bearing this in mind, we are making sure programmes will be available from the beginning of May in the church, the Co-op, the Flower Shop, Eagles, Cedar Therapy, Hamptons, Hempton church, Foodies, the library, Mark David and Nellie&Dove. The programme can also be downloaded from Deddington Online.

Art, Crafts and Photography all have new classes. The parish show is a great way of raising money for village causes but, more than that, it's an even better way of drawing our community together and encouraging creativity. If you don't win a prize for produce or artistic effort you have the chance to win a raffle prize sponsored by our very generous business community. So put the date in your diary now.

**Maureen Robinson
maurentrobinson@hotmail.com**

Scouts

Looking for ways to promote Scouting, the boys created their own Scout branded biscuits, using a mixture of Rich Tea, chocolate, Flumf (it's a thing), caramel drizzle and other teeth-rotting ingredients. One or two of them looked quite professional, although I don't think Cadburys should start worrying just yet. It might seem that a lot of our activities involve chocolate. Well, let's just say we know our audience.

Our last activity for the term saw the Scouts building trolleys capable of carrying a couple of eggs (chocolate, of course) around obstacles. We are also hoping that we'll see the last of the persistent wet weather as we are desperate to get outside.

**Pete Churchyard
deddingtonscouts@gmail.com**

DEDDINGTON LIBRARY

A big thank you to my relief worker, Linden Lyne, for covering my holiday. I had two weeks with my son in New Zealand which was wonderful, followed by a week in Western Australia with cousins and extended relatives.

On Saturday 6 April over 20 children came in to collect their prizes from the Nursery's Easter egg hunt and to hand in their maps. This was a lovely morning and well done to the children who took part. I am also looking forward to welcoming back the school's F1 class.

Every year the Kelsey Fund, in memory of Kaye Brearley Kelsey, provides additional money to the library for buying books. This year's selection is now coming in. There are new gardening, cookery, history, health, children's, adult fiction and picture books on the shelves.

In a joint adventure with the NHS, we have a blood pressure machine for use by the public as part of a four-library pilot scheme. It has already proven a life saver in another library. If the trial is successful it will be rolled out to all libraries.

Is there a need in the village for people to learn how to use smartphones and Kindles? If you would be interested please let me know and I will arrange a session for you. I can be contacted on 01865 816010.

Thank you for your continuing support.

**Gail Cripps
gail.cripps@oxfordshire.gov.uk**

FRIENDS OF DEDDINGTON LIBRARY

We have already started to receive entries for this year's Deddington photo competition, even though the weather hasn't been too kind to us over the past few months, limiting photo opportunities. However, it now appears that spring is definitely in the air, so we look forward to seeing more entries dropping in my inbox, especially now that the blossom is out and the trees and hedgerows are in leaf, not to mention the wildlife

and spring lambs gambolling in the surrounding fields. We look forward to seeing more of your creative and inspirational photos from each one of our three parish villages. Entries should be landscape format, as a jpg file and no less than 5Mb in size. Please send them to abw@brynwilliams.com.

Thank you.

Bryn Williams

DEDDINGTON ENVIRONMENT NETWORK



Some of the merry band of March litter pickers

A huge thank you to everyone who turned for the litter pick on Sunday 24 March, followed by tea and cake at Holcombe House. Between Deddington, Hempton and Clifton, 30 people collected over 12 bin bags of litter, plus a wardrobe, a VW hub cap and some car brake pads.

DEN has joined forces with other local groups to form the Four Villages Sustainability Group. We're helping each other in lots of ways; sharing ideas and resources between the Barfords, Bloxham and Duns Tew. Between 8 and 20 June Bloxham will be running their annual Great Big Green Week with lots of events

from fêtes and fun days to clothes swaps, wildflower and farm tours, art, films, talks and local food. We'll share the full programme in next month's edition but, in the meantime, have a look at the national Great Big Green Week website <https://greatbiggreenweek.com/>.

Come and find us at the farmers' market this month where Linda Newberry will be focussing on sustainable food.

Further information is on our website, deddingtonenvironment.net.

Fiona Smith
fionasmith1969@gmail.com

DEDDINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Term 4 was filled with visits, trips and school journeys. Our F1 class had a visit from ZooLab which was a fantastic experience. The children were given the chance to touch various insects, spiders and a snake, as well. It was a morning packed full of interesting facts and learning opportunities.

Year 2 pupils enjoyed a visit to Mary Arden's Farm near Stratford where they saw inside the Tudor house, learnt a Tudor dance, visited the animals, looked at artefacts and found out so much about the past, linking to the term's history project.

Year 4 stayed at Kingswood from Monday to Wednesday. This residential experience was very successful. The children strengthened their relationships through teamwork and built their confidence and resilience through the activities they took part in.

For their residential trip, Year 6 went to Kilvrough on the Gower Peninsula from Monday to Friday. The children took part in various activities, such as canoeing,

abseiling and outdoor expeditions. Our pupils faced many different types of challenges, working together as a team, solving problems and putting their ideas into practice. They performed excellently, showing perseverance and determination.

The Year 1 class held a very enjoyable art and Design and Technology work exhibition for the parents and relatives who came into class to see their achievements over the term.

The final week saw all classes visiting Deddington church to see the Easter Contemplation Stations, giving them time to reflect on the meaning of Easter. We hope members of the wider community enjoyed seeing this too.

We are now hoping for warmer weather in terms 5 and 6, with much less rain. In the meantime, we at the primary school send our very best wishes to all of you.

Denise Welch
dwel3954@deddington.oxon.sch.uk

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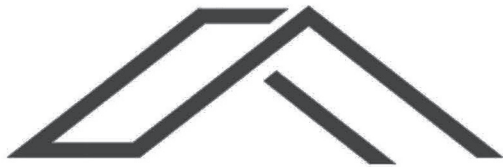
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 HOSPITALS:
 Churchill 0300 304 7777
 Foscote (Private) 01295 252281
 Horton General 0300 304 7777
 John Radcliffe 0300 304 7777
 Manor (Nuffield Health, Private) 01865 521405
 Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre 0300 304 7777
 Katharine House Hospice 01295 811866
 NHS Non emergency 111
 PARISH CLERK 01869 337447
 (Monday 9.00am–12.30pm, Wednesday 9.00–5.00pm,
 Thursday 9.00–12.30pm)
 POLICE (non-emergency, 24 hrs) 101
 PRIMARY SCHOOL (C of E) 01869 338430
 PFSU 01869 337484
 VILLAGE NURSERY 01869 337383

TRAVEL:

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 Thames Water (24hrs) 0800 316 9800

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

DEDDINGTON LIBRARY 01865 816010
 Monday 2.00–7.00pm
 Wednesday 9.30am–1.00pm
 Thursday 1.00–5.00pm
 Saturday 9.30am–1.00pm

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

DEDDINGTON CHURCHES See section inside



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