

May 2025

The **DEDDINGTON NEWS**



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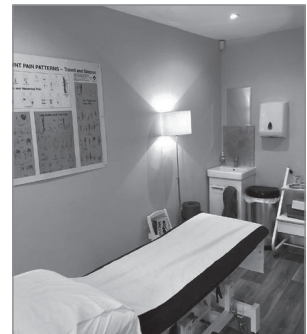
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THE TEAM

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The DEDDINGTON NEWS

This month we say farewell to two 'old Deddington boys'; both lived their lives in Deddington in their own ways, but each contributing considerable colour to the village. See pp17 and 21. They will be missed.

Perhaps on a more uplifting note, we record some claim to fame with two of our younger people appearing at the New York Met, simultaneously. See p10.

JC

What's On May

- | | | |
|-----|----|--|
| Sat | 3 | Artisan Craft Fayre: Windmill Centre, 10.00am–1.00pm |
| Tue | 6 | DOGS: Robin Hood Golf Club, Solihull |
| Wed | 7 | Photographic Society: Adderbury Institute, 7.30pm |
| Wed | 7 | Annual Parish Meeting: Hempton Lounge, Windmill Centre, 7.30pm |
| Thu | 8 | VE Day 80th Anniversary: Market Place, 10.00am |
| Thu | 8 | Holly Tree Club: 80th Anniversary of VE Day, afternoon tea, Holly Tree Hall |
| Thu | 8 | VE Day 80th Anniversary: Lighting beacon bonfire near Tomwell Farm, 9.30pm approximately |
| Thu | 8 | History Society: The Oxfordshire Blue Plaques Scheme, Professor Robert Evans, Primary School, 7.30pm |
| Fri | 9 | Deddington Playgroup: Windmill Centre, 9.45–11.45am |
| Sun | 11 | VE Day celebration, Hempton: Old School Room, 2.00–4.00pm |
| Sun | 11 | Music in Adderbury: Adderbury Ensemble, Dvorak and Schubert, Adderbury Church, 6.00pm |
| Wed | 14 | Deddington WI: Holly Tree Hall, 2.30pm |
| Sun | 18 | Four Farms Challenge: Castle Grounds |
| Wed | 21 | Parish Council: Hempton Lounge, Windmill Centre, 7.30pm |
| Thu | 22 | Oxfordshire Art Weeks: Linda Newbery and Mary Hoffman talks, Library, 7.00pm |
| Thu | 22 | Bookworms: Holly Tree Hall, 6.30pm |
| Fri | 23 | Deddington Playgroup: Windmill Centre, 9.45–11.45am |
| Sat | 24 | Farmers' Market: Market Place, 9.00am–12.30pm |
| Sun | 25 | Music in Adderbury: Adderbury Ensemble, Ravel and Gershwin, Deddington Church, 6.00pm |
| Wed | 28 | Windmill Centre AGM: Clifton Room, 7.30pm |
| Thu | 29 | Book Group: call Sally Lambert, 01869 338094 for details |

June

- | | | |
|-----|----|---|
| Wed | 4 | Photographic Society: Adderbury Institute, 7.30pm |
| Sun | 8 | Deddington Town FC Youth: Presentation Day, Windmill Centre, midday–5.00pm |
| Sun | 8 | Music in Adderbury: Sacconi String Quartet, Smetana and Beethoven, Adderbury Church, 6.00pm |
| Mon | 9 | DOGS: Henley Golf Club, Henley on Thames |
| Wed | 11 | Deddington WI: Holly Tree Hall, 2.30pm |

Submission of any article to the Deddington News carrying personal information (for example names, locations, pictures) will imply that the person submitting the article has obtained the necessary consent from the individual (or parent / guardian in the case of a minor) / company / organisation for this information to be used both in print and online.

Contributors should be aware that the monthly issues are posted online and therefore any personal contact details given are there in perpetuity.

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DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL on Wednesday 16 April at the Windmill Centre

Present: Councillors Ap Simon, Collins, Cox, Mylne, Norton, Oldfield (chair), O'Neill, Robinson, Smith, Swadling, Timms and Watts, District Councillor Rogers, County Councillor Fatemian, the parish clerk, the minutes clerk, two members of the public and a *DN* representative.

County Council

Both County Councillor and District Councillor made reference to the proposed local government reorganisation and devolution, although no decisions have been arrived at.

District Council

Cherwell District Council can no longer demonstrate a five year land supply, meaning that planners are obliged to give more consideration to applications and, unless there is a pressing issue, permission is likely to be granted. This shows the importance of having a Neighbourhood Plan.

Environment and Recreation

There has been a recent incident of anti-social behaviour at the Windmill which was reported to the police. Anyone witnessing similar incidents is asked to report it to the police in order that action can be taken. Local PCSOs will be making regular visits to deter such behaviour.

It was agreed to remove any cycle ramps that may be built in the copse at the back of the Windmill.

The PC will try to get the contractor to return as soon as possible to cut back and treat the brambles on the west side of Gaveston Gardens.

It was decided to investigate the costs involved in converting the Lookout to a teen hangout.

A grant is to be sought to contribute to the cost of painting external woodwork at the Windmill.

A beacon bonfire will be lit on Thursday 8 May at approximately 9.30pm near Tomwell Farm to commemorate the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe.

Finance and General Purposes

Councillors are considering arranging meet the councillor sessions regularly. A date and time will be advised.

It has been decided to install a picnic bench at Castle Grounds.

The annual parish meeting will be held at the Windmill Centre on Wednesday 7 May at 7.30pm.

A total of just over £2,000 was committed to carry out tree work at Castle Grounds and the Windmill Centre.

The new owners of the Satin Lane allotments will be asked to give the land to the PC.

Planning

No objection

Castle House, Bull Ring, Deddington: tree works.

Land adjacent to Clifton Gate, Deddington: variation of plans.

Hazel Hedge Cottage, Tithe Lane, Clifton: single and two storey extension, demolition of garage and erection of double garage with home office above.

Home Farm Cottage, Main Street, Clifton: prior approval application for agricultural building extension for storage.

Approval

Featherton House, Deddington: tree works.

Dolphin Cottage, 5 Hudson Street, Deddington: two storey extension.

The Manse, Bull Ring, Deddington: single storey extension.

Land Adjoining and West of Stonecroft House, Clifton Road, Deddington: erection of four single storey age restricted dwellings.

Appeal

East of Combe Cottage and South of St John's Way, Hempton: to be heard 20 May.

Correspondence

Advice was received on the increase in planning fees from w/e 1 April following government increase. Making of tree preservation order on various tree species at land at Mount Pleasant, Hempton.

Confirmation of tree preservation order on various species of trees on land adjoining and west of Stonecroft House, Clifton Road, Deddington.

Large Scale Developments

The developers of the proposed nine houses on land opposite the end of St John's Way have agreed to change the offer of £10,000, to be made if their appeal is successful, to make the funds available to Hempton church and the Old School Room.

Highways and Transport

It has been confirmed that funding from USAF for road safety improvements will be available for future works in Hempton.

New solar powered speed indicator devices (SIDs) are to be installed on the Banbury Road near the school, on Clifton Road and Hempton Road.

Warning signs that the road narrows are to be installed near Fardon Way and Hobart Way.

Councillors gave a formal vote of thanks to the retiring Councillor Oldfield for her 2½ years as chair of the council. Councillor Collins also gave notice of his retirement from the council after his many years as council chairman and lead councillor for the development of the Neighbourhood Plan. He was thanked for all his considerable endeavours.

The next meeting will be the Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday 7 May at 7.30pm at the Windmill Centre. The next parish council meeting will be held on Wednesday 21 May at the Windmill Centre at 7.30pm.



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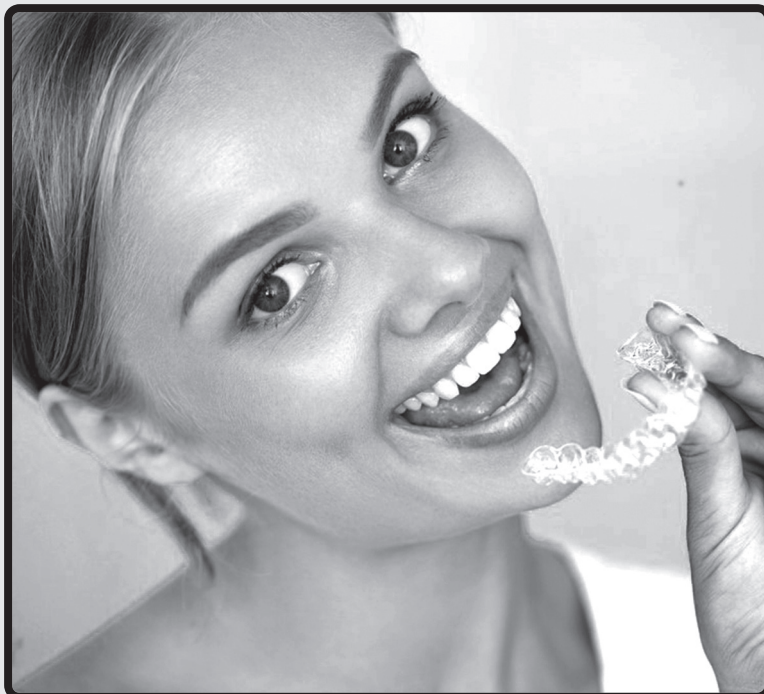
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POSTCARD FROM AMERICA

Tariffs, Turpitude and Trump's Welfare Cuts

The good news about nightmares is that normally you wake up and there isn't a crazy guy coming at you with a chain saw. The bad news for me is that my nightmare is real and I live in a country where, according to multiple sources, 50% of adults read at a level that you would expect from an 11 year old.

I had dinner this week with an old friend who is a Republican. He's a good man, he's run businesses and has travelled a lot. I told him that I thought the tariff merry-go-round was complete madness but my friend said he likes the disruption; he thinks it is all part of a plan. Personally, I feel certain that Trump is unhinged from reality, reversing the last 25 years of trade policy in a few weeks is impossible. The hollowing out of the US manufacturing sector is a large reason he was elected. Vance's book describes how this disrupted the American heartland, resulting in large scale unemployment, a huge loss of male self-esteem and a drug epidemic. Trump thinks he can reverse the 'China shock' in weeks but most of the changes are irreversible and real change will take decades. It is easy to see Americans as stupid but some smart people just want change, and any change can be seen as better than nothing.

America has largely forgotten about the rest of the world; Ukraine no longer figures in the headlines and the damage done in Africa by the destruction of US-AID was never in the consciousness in the first place. Multiple areas of American life are under attack; the

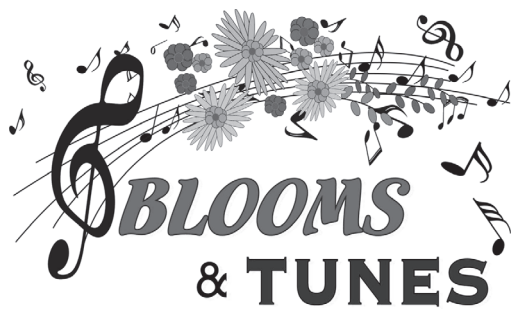
restaurant trade is hugely reliant on immigrants and Trump has created fear and uncertainty for many of these workers. I know Green Card holders who worry that Immigration and Customs Enforcement are about to turn up and throw them out. My family fought hard to gain this piece of plastic (yes, it is green); it gives us permanent residency and a route to citizenship. But they can revoke Green Card status if one shows 'moral turpitude'. Google AI describes this as 'morally reprehensible, shocking to the public conscience and a violation of basic societal duties.' I guess that describes Trump's behaviour pretty accurately.

US government expenditure has grown to 36% of GDP (compared to 44% in the UK), but large parts of the US population just doesn't understand what the government does. They see waste rather than benefit. The majority of this spend (62%) is on social security (pensions) and healthcare and welfare programmes. It is a vast figure so, no matter how much Musk chain saws federal workers in order to finance more tax cuts for the rich, they will need to cut these programmes. Medicare is probably most at risk. This is the programme of healthcare cover for the poorest. Currently it covers around 79 million Americans, 23% of the population. It is estimated that around half of them voted for Trump. John Steinbeck said 'socialism never took root in America because the poor see themselves not as an exploited proletariat but as temporarily embarrassed millionaires.'

We went to Arizona to visit a friend. My lovely wife still retains some wonderfully English courtesy that doesn't find much of a place in American society. When a car stopped at a pedestrian crossing to let us walk, Heather waved thank you to the driver. But there wasn't one, it was a driverless taxi. That's how I feel. My life is out of control, I'm clinging to community, but all around me is driverless and very dangerous.

Mike Ward

mike@mikeaward.com



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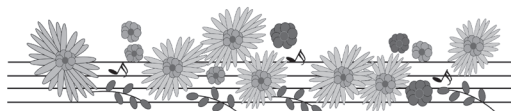
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PFSU AND NURSERY

Thank you to everyone who supported our Easter trail this year. We hope the children had lots of fun taking part. We raised a fantastic £278. A special thanks to Deddington library and Deddington church for their support.

We are very excited to be part of the Deddington Four Farms Challenge again this year, held in Castle Grounds on Sunday 18 May. Please come and take part in our children's activities. There will be face painting, woodland medal making, yoga and a fun run word scramble.

We have a fun packed term ahead. At Nursery our topic is 'Circus' and at Pre School it will be 'The World Around Us'.

Shrene Saleh-Gillett

info@deddingtonnurseryandpfsu.co.uk

NEWS FROM HEMPTON

Come and join in the fun, Hempton is celebrating VE Day on Sunday 11 May from 2.00–4.00pm at the Old School Room in the church. We hope to be able to sit outside. Bring a cake or other sweet offering to share and whatever you like to drink: tea, coffee and squash will be available. There'll be music and games for the young at heart.

When I first arrived in Hempton many of my near neighbours were approaching or already in retirement. A few have moved on to pastures new and many have passed on. I can't generalise about the village as a whole but our demographic profile appeared heavily weighted towards more senior residents. One in five of the UK population is 65 or older. As Psalm 90:10 would have it, 'Our lives last seventy years (three score and ten) or, if we are strong, eighty years. Even the best of them are struggle and sorrow; indeed, they pass quickly and we fly away.' (Holman Christian Standard Bible translation). Although the quote is contemporaneous to biblical times, UK life expectancy is similar today. Life expectancy at birth in the UK in 2020 to 2022 was 78.6 years for males and 82.6 years for females, hopefully, with less struggle and sorrow.

By contrast, life expectancy at birth in 1851 was estimated at only 41 years. The low life expectancies of the 19th century can be explained by the higher number of infant deaths. Survival past the first year of life was historically a predominant factor in life expectancies and once a child had reached five years of age, he or she was much more likely to reach a greater age (is this a tautology?). Before the advent of the NHS, the poor, the vast majority, were at the mercy of fortune, prone to endemic disease and poor sanitation and unable to afford any medical intervention that might be available. Infants succumbed disproportionately.

Old age for the poor was not an attractive proposition. With no state support, the needy and elderly relied on the Poor Laws dating from the C14, compelling parishes to provide support. This rarely amounted to more than the minimum of life support and the workhouse. Gradually they were superseded by welfare reforms alongside family societies, guilds and trade unions.

In 1909 the government introduced the Old Age Pension. To qualify you needed to be 70 years or older, to have lived in the UK for 20 years and be of

good character. Average life expectancy was just 52 and you would need to survive 18 years beyond the average to claim the benefit. No contribution or work record was required but it was means tested at annual earnings less than £21 or less for the full amount and then £21–£31 on a sliding scale.

The Widows, Orphans and Old Age Contributory Pensions Act 1925 introduced a contributory scheme payable by employee and employer. It was compulsory for low wage workers with an annual income below £250 and paid from age 65.

The 1942 Beveridge Report, Social Insurance and Allied Services eventually led to the National Insurance Act 1946 introducing a basic state pension from 1948. National Insurance contributions were to be paid by all male workers. Pension age was 60 for women and 65 for men.

In 1961 graduated pensions were introduced based on income and in 1978 State Earnings Related Pensions, SERPS, were introduced for middle band earners. Those with occupational pensions could opt to contract out of SERPS and reduce their NI contributions. The link with average earnings was dropped on 1980.

The 1995 Pension Act introduced a plan to increase women's pension age to 65 between April 2010 and 2020. This was controversially accelerated to 2018 in 2011 and to gradually increase to 66 for both men and women. SERPS was replaced by the State Second Pension (S2P) in 2002.

In 2011 the triple lock was introduced linking annual increases to the greater of inflation, wage growth or 2.5%.

The New State Pension replaced the Basic State Pension and S2P in 2016 for those reaching pension age on or after 6 April 2016. You will normally need at least 10 qualifying years on your National Insurance record to get any state pension and 35 years to qualify for the full amount.

It has been estimated a single person needs £14,400 to afford a minimum standard of living. Even if you're able to claim the full amount of state pension, you'll be approximately £2,900 short of a minimum standard of living in retirement. Halcyon days!

Stuart Oldham

sj_oldham@btinternet.com

FRIENDS OF DAEDA'S WOOD

Some of the *DN* readers who visit Daeda's Wood might have noticed that the information board at the eastern entrance now contains a brief history of the Wood, together with mention of the large part played by Sylvie Nickels in getting the project off the ground. Of course the parish council, local wildlife enthusiasts and a multitude of residents from nearby villages, together with school children, were also involved.

The Friends of Daeda's Wood now feel that the time has come to formally wind up the affairs of the

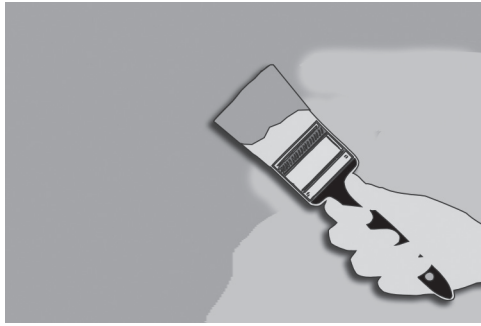
organisation since very little maintenance of the Wood can be done by volunteers. This situation was foreseen at its inception. Accordingly, the funds have been transferred to the Woodland Trust.

Although the Friends have been disbanded, if I receive any notification of interest from the WT or the bat survey people, I will ask the *DN* to include it.

Annette Murphy

Former Chair of the Friends of Daeda's Wood

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CHURCH

By the time you read this, we will have joyously celebrated Easter Day. This is my first Easter celebration with you all in the Deddington Benefice as your vicar, so it is an extra special time for me (and for you too I hope)! As Christians, we share in the same joyous hope of eternal life that Jesus' resurrection gave his first followers when they discovered the empty tomb and met the risen Lord. In Church, the Easter season is a continuous celebration that lasts through to Pentecost in June, so we have much celebrating ahead of us and we hope you will come along to join us whenever you can.

'See, I am doing a new thing!' said the prophet Isaiah and so, as I move into my second year here, I too am looking forward to offering something new to help families, children and everyone of all ages engage with our church in new and exciting ways. To this end, we are launching a new family and all-age service at Deddington Church on the first Sunday of each

MAY

Parish Church SS Peter and Paul

Mon	8.45am	Morning Prayer
Tue	8.15am	Morning Prayer
Wed	10.00am	Holy Communion (with healing prayer on 4th Wednesday)
Thu	9.30am	Tea+Toast and Squiggles and Wiggles (term time)
Fri	8.45am	Morning Prayer
	5.15pm	Evening Prayer
Sun 4	10.30am	Holy Communion
	6.00pm	Evensong
Sun 11	10.30am	Holy Communion
	3.00pm	Family Service
Sun 18	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sun 25	10.30am	Holy Communion

Hempton

Sun 18	9.00am	Holy Communion
Thu 29	7.00pm	Ascension Day Service

Barford St Michael

Wed	5.15pm	Evening Prayer
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month, starting on 1 June. Come in from 9.45am for a self-service breakfast and chat time, with children's activities linked to the theme of the month. Then at 10.30am we'll gather together to start worship in an easy-to-access, informal and more contemporary service, suitable for all-ages. Put it in your diaries now.

The Revd Nick Fielden is vicar of Deddington with Hempton and the Barfords. Mondays are Nick's usual day off, so if you need to contact a member of the clergy urgently on a Monday, please contact one of the wardens. Barford St Michael's church is open every day between 10.00am and 3.00pm. Deddington church is open from 9.00am–4.00pm 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>.

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

Barford St John

Tue	5.15pm	Evening Prayer
Fri	8.15am	Morning Prayer
Sun 11	9.00am	Holy Communion

From the Parish Registers

Funeral

28 March Bryan Clarke (memorial)
For funeral and home visits in case of illness please contact the vicar, Nick Fielden on 01869 934794 or vicar@deddingtonchurch.org, or one of the Church Wardens – Deddington: Stan Nelson (01869 337883), Caroline Condon (07821 259092) or wardens@deddingtonchurch.org; Barfords: Sue Addison (07484 718791), Sally Barber (07776 241218) or barfordchurches234@gmail.com.

For baptisms, weddings and general enquiries please contact the parish administrator: office@deddingtonchurch.org.

RC Parish of Hethe

St John's Church in Banbury streams Mass daily at 9.30am, Mondays to Fridays; at 10.00am on Saturdays; and 11.15am on Sundays on <https://www.mcnmedia.tv/camera/st-john-the-evangelist-banbury>. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be streamed for 30 minutes at the end of each weekday Mass.

FRIENDS OF THE CASTLE GROUNDS

Planning Consent, Spring and Four Farms Run

As you might be aware, permission has been granted for the building of four additional bungalows next to Castle Grounds, to the great disappointment of the individuals and bodies who objected to the scheme and affecting the open setting to the north of the Scheduled Ancient Monument. The Friends will monitor the effect of the development on the Grounds.

It's a great year for blossom, starting with a spectacular display from the blackthorn diagonally opposite the Grounds entrance, so do come for a stroll or picnic and enjoy the spring colour. The outer 'moat' path has finally dried up and you might spot a few bluebells

on the outer banks. There are more felled trees and branches around than usual, as the parish council manages the unsafe and diseased trees.

We hope to see you at the annual Four Farms Challenge Run which will start and finish in the Castle Grounds on Sunday 18 May. Pop over to our stand to find out more about what we do and bring some change for playing Splat the Rat, helping us raise money towards the upkeep of the Grounds.

Charlotte Holmes
info@friendsofcastlegrounds.co.uk

BIG NOISES AT THE OPERA

My name is Ruth and I am a Foley artist. I know! I'd never heard of Foley before, either. But there it is – I make noises for a living. The work I do usually takes place in a dark studio, creating sound effects for TV drama and films, as well as nature documentaries. Even if you're not aware of us, you will have heard us, although it's usually quite subtle; in fact we often say if you can notice the Foley, we haven't done our job properly. But we can make a scene sound more 'real' by adding layers such as footsteps, chair creaks, the clinking of swords, the rustle of silk dresses ... or heightening the dramatic impact of fight scenes or bringing animated dinosaurs to life through sound ... You name it, I've probably done it.

I also work in the theatre and, in particular, with an opera which has taken me to opera houses around Europe and beyond: Simon McBurney's production of *Die Zauberflöte*. Simon's original concept was to open up the working of the show, revealing how the sound and visual effects are made. As an opera, *The Magic Flute* is quite unusual in its structure, as it includes several scenes of dialogue between the arias, so the idea was to provide a soundscape for these scenes of dialogue, adding an onstage Foley artist to facilitate this. And that's where I come in. I make all sorts of weird and wonderful sounds, sometimes adding to the atmosphere of a scene and sometimes interacting with characters, especially Papageno, the clown of the piece, who is told to keep silent in order to pass the tests, but fails because I make everything he does sound incredibly loud. At one point finds himself alone onstage with only a case of wine to keep him company; he places the



bottles in a row and hits each in turn, 'tuning' them (in reality that's me) and playing a tune to which he sings along, after which the glockenspiel player and the orchestra join in.

In 2023 I performed at The Metropolitan Opera in New York and was delighted when I was invited back this year. What an incredible coincidence to discover that Alex Soddy would be here conducting *La Bohème* and *Aida* during the same season – so two people from Deddington performing at the Met at the same time. Unbelievable. And here is the evidence: Alex kindly let me visit his maestro's dressing room just before a performance of the sumptuous *Bohème*. He was brilliant, of course.

My father, Gerard Sullivan, was the founding father of *Deddington News* in 1976. I still have very strong memories of helping to collate the pages around the big table in church, ready for stapling. The feel and smell of the paper is so visceral. I actually have a whole load of Dad's old papers from the 60s and 70s in my Foley props so when I'm called on to work on a period drama like *Downton Abbey*, I know I have a good stock of the right paper to use; today's A4 printing paper just doesn't sound the same. Texture is so important.

And I'll leave you with a little known fact: there are more astronauts in the world than Foley artists. Trust me, you'll never listen to a David Attenborough programme in the same way again ...

Ruth Sullivan
rubyrocks76@gmail.com
Foley Artist + Theatre Maker
Foley credits: IMDB
www.ruthsullivan.co.uk – a work in progress

DEDDINGTON LIBRARY

Our Lego club is going nicely and it would be lovely to see you here every Monday 3.30–4.30pm. We have models scattered around the library for you to look at.

During Oxfordshire Art Weeks 17–26 May, I have arranged for our patron, Linda Newbery, and Mary Hoffman to come and give a free talk on their work as authors and the importance of art, specifically carving in stone, in their respective novels: Mary's *David: the Unauthorised Autobiography* and Linda's *The One True Thing*. Art Weeks actually appears in Linda's novel, and she will talk about how the novel grew and was helped by her association with former exhibitor, Bernard Johnson. Mary's novel, set in Renaissance Italy, is about the fictitious model for Michelangelo's David. This will take place Thursday 22 May at 7.00pm in the library. Light refreshments will be available for a

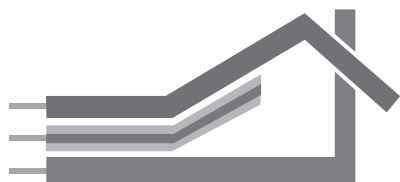
donation to library funds. All are welcome.

Linda is also here during Green week on Monday 9 June and a third author, Sue Palmer, for children on 31 July at 2.00pm. Further details will follow.

I am still on the lookout for plants for the courtyard if you have any spare and I would love someone to paint a hopscotch and target game outside as well. This would be great fun for the children, and adults, to enjoy the library in its full glory.

There is a small room ideal for book clubs, knitting group and chatting available. It has a table and chairs, a small kitchenette, and it holds around 10 people. If you are interested, please come and ask for details.

Gail Cripps, Library Manager
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A settled spell of unseasonably warm weather in early April saw a marked increase in the good folk of Deddington, Clifton and Hempton coming to the Windmill and enjoying the six or so acres

that make up our communal outside space. Junior and senior football, tennis and mini tennis, 5-a-side on the all-weather court, cricket practice in the nets, dog walkers, teenagers shooting basketball hoops and 'hanging out', families having picnics, kids playing in the adventure playground and pocket park, making dens in the woods, learning how to ride bikes, I could go on. (I even saw somebody using the outside fitness trail around the playing fields ... er ... once).

Now this is all very lovely and, as with everything, the vast majority of people who come to the Windmill are super friendly, courteous and respectful and have a great time. We are all very lucky to have access to such a great facility on our doorstep. However, there have been one or two isolated reports of behaviour that has absolutely no place at the Windmill or, frankly, anywhere. I hope you would all agree that it is simply



unacceptable to be aggressive or obnoxious, shout abuse, smoke dope, get drunk and urinate in plain sight, litter, let dogs run free on the playing fields and not pick up (or pick up and hang the poo bag on a branch in the

woods – never understood that one). If you witness anything like this, please contact the Windmill or the parish council. We have CCTV and we will report any instances of anti-social behaviour to the police. Let's all work together to ensure that the Windmill remains a safe space for everybody to enjoy.

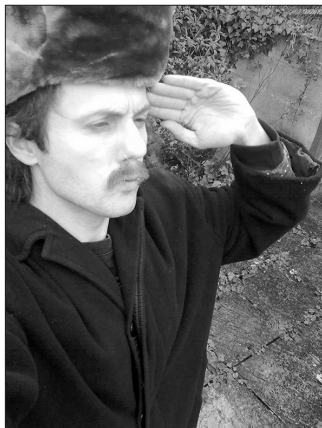
On a brighter note, we continue our ongoing programme of Windmill improvements. Over the coming weeks, we will be repairing and repainting the exterior woodwork, installing a new bin store and bicycle rack, refitting the upstairs kitchenette and refurbishing the changing-room showers.

We are still running our special offer for people wishing to start up new groups. Just visit our website www.thewindmilledddington.org for more details. If you'd like to view our facilities in person, please contact Julie: enquiries@thewindmilledddington.org or call 07720 834006. Finally, just to let you know that the Windmill AGM will be held at the Windmill on Wednesday, 28 May at 7.30pm.

Vaughan Jones

chair@thewindmilledddington.org

BLISSFUL THINKING



Can't we do away with daylight savings already? How much more daylight needs to be saved before we can pay off our debt to the darkness? I'd rather default than have to tolerate a month of static jet lag every year. What's the time, Mister Wolf? Whatever I say it is! Time is a social construct which is why it's dinner time at 7.00am.

Because it's 7.00pm on the other side of the globe and I'm assuming their time right now. Wasn't this one of the all-time great playground games though? The memory lingers large of playing this on the tarmac at the front of Deddington Primary before it was a car park, and the tree still stood proudly attempting to uproot the unnatural surface.

I tried to research the origins of the game but could only find vagaries. Who decided a wolf was a good timekeeper anyway? Perhaps the same person who imagined a little girl could mistake a creature covered in fur with a muzzle and razor sharp teeth for her own grandmother. Did you hear that scientists have recently resurrected the dire wolf, extinct for some ten thousand years? We're now building machines smarter than humanity and resurrecting long dead apex predators but apparently keeping the same time all year is beyond the pale.

Aaron Bliss

aaronjbliss@hotmail.com

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Last year Claire retired from the business and Michal and his wife Klaudia became the new owners and managing directors, with a vision to develop and continue the high standards and reliability Natural Bread is well-known for and to keep it very much a family business centred around farmers' markets. Their dedication to using natural fresh ingredients in their range of baked goods remains strong and Natural Bread continues to be one of Oxford's leading artisan bakeries.

Continuing to participate in local farmers' markets in the area, different family members serve at their stalls, including brother-in-law, Gabriel (also on the



bakery team), Michal and Klaudia, and their daughter. Their son Dawid is an integral member of the artisan bakery team and is thriving in his bakery adventure.

Their signature sourdough loaves are accompanied by a range of beautiful, yeast-leavened breads, rolls and bagels, and an assortment of authentic French-style pastries, all free from preservatives.

They continue to handcraft their entire range from scratch, baking daily in their Botley bakery, without additives, using flours milled locally by Shipton Mill.

The team of artisan bakers knead their dough rather than stirring it, the method used for most processed breads. Although kneading takes longer and demands great skill and strength, it results in breads that are easier to digest for those with lower gluten tolerance and high yeast sensitivity and kinder to your gut.

Taking care of their production to limit their own waste, they also created a tailored, online pre-ordering service, allowing their customers to order their favourite items, sliced or unsliced, sweet and savoury, by Wednesday each week and collect from the market of their choice, cutting down time spent in a queue and guaranteeing customers their favourites will be on the stall, ready for collection each time.

At our stalls, you are buying directly from the family bakers who have baked them and know their ingredients, and the processes used to create them, as well as the history behind each product.

Stevie Biltcliffe, Company Administrator

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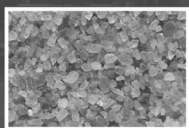
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THE LAST WORD

BRYAN 'NIPPER' CLARKE 1942–2024

Bryan Clarke, or Nipper as he was more affectionately known, was born in Deddington on 17 December 1942 to Henry and Irene Clarke, one of four children.

He attended Deddington Infants School and went to the Windmill School at age 11. He was an Air Cadet in his youth and piloted a glider.

He enjoyed school where he became a prefect and excelled in sport, especially football. He left, as so many did in those days, at 15, and started work at Hinkins and Frewin as a quantity surveyor. He went on to work for Parker Knoll in quality control where he spent the rest of his working life.

He started playing for Deddington Town Football Club whilst still at secondary school and he had to obtain the headmaster's permission. He won many trophies including the 1967 Coronation Cup. He also represented the Banbury & District League select 11 in 1967 and 1968.

Six-a-side competitions were played during the summer months and these resulted in various victories at local villages. He was also part of the team that won the final competition held at the Castle Grounds in 1976.

When most players were looking to end their playing days, Nipper continued with the next generation of Deddington footballers and became part of the team that enjoyed victories winning the Benevolent Cup, the Banbury Guardian Cup, the Coronation Cup and the Oxfordshire Charity Cup many times over a five-

year period and was part of the team that in 1977–78 won the league title and three other trophies. He was a truly great servant to Deddington Football Club for over 25 years and, a man, whilst little in stature, who had the heart of a lion.

Apart from supporting Deddington Football Club over the years, Nipper also supported Nottingham Forest, which he followed for many years and would have been pleased to see the success the club is enjoying currently.

He loved playing golf with friends and over the years was a well-known character in the local hostels where he was heavily involved with Aunt Sally and also master of many a quiz. He was partial to a magic trick and loved to entertain friends and visitors at whichever pub he happened to be in with his conjuring skills. Nipper was incredibly social and was always a friendly face to newcomers to the village.

Each year Nipper led the New Year's Eve celebrations in the Market Place with the singing and organisation of *Auld Lang Syne* which was always appreciated by many.

Today we remember the man, the carpenter, the craftsman, the sportsman and the friend who loved a laugh and joke. Above all, we remember his loyalty to his friends and his community.

Nipper died on 20 December 2024, just after his 82nd birthday.

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DRIVING UKRAINE

I am writing this after an extraordinary week when tariffs, stock market falls and world trading turmoil has bombarded the news. Sadly with all this going on, the war in Ukraine has had little coverage in the press and online. At the same time, Russia is stepping up its aggression towards Ukraine and has hit cities such as Kryvyi Rih, where at least 18 people, nine of them children, have been killed. We are on a very uncertain, long, slow road to a possible ceasefire in Ukraine, with no guarantees of success.

Still, we continue to find ways to support our friends in Ukraine. Our monthly convoy of vehicles is being driven by brave volunteers and handed over to the Ukrainian frontline heroes to be there for that crucial time to enable them to save life and limb.

An exciting development in our community is a fundraising initiative with the pupils of Deddington Primary School. Activities are in the planning stage and we are running a stall for Ukraine at the farmers' market on 24 May where we would be delighted to show you the children's plans to raise money at events over the summer. If any of you have any fundraising ideas to raise money for DrivingUkraine.com please let me know. Thank you.

**Jenny Soddy, 07976 922558
Jennysoddy@gmail.com**

DH History Corner

www.deddingtonhistory.uk

From the Parish Archive

Two Matthews brothers from Deddington – Joseph (b1808) and Richard (b1811) – emigrated as missionaries in 1830 and 1831 respectively. Joseph set up his mission station in Kaitaia, in the north of North Island, New Zealand, but Richard had a far more adventure-some journey as a passenger on Darwin's 'Voyage of the Beagle', nearly losing his life along the way, before many years later also settling in Kaitaia. What follows is an edited extract from his lengthy obituary published in the *New Zealand Herald* on 20 February 1893 concerning his time on the *Beagle*.

'He left England when quite a young man on board *HMS Beagle* commanded by Capt Fitzroy RN, afterwards Governor of New Zealand, on a Christian mission to the Terra-del-Fuegians. He was also accompanied by three native Fuegians, namely Yorkminster about 30, Gimmy Button about 16, and Fueva Basket, also about 16, whom Capt Fitzroy had previously brought to England for benevolent purposes and from whom young Matthews gained an elementary vocabulary of words in the Fuegian language. He and the three natives named above were duly landed at Terra del Fuego about the end of 1831, when he soon commenced operations by clearing a piece of ground and planting potatoes, and sowing various sorts of vegetables seeds. He soon, however, discovered that there was little prospect of doing any good in

this respect, as the curiosity of the natives led them to pull up all the plants. In the meantime, the *Beagle* had weighed her anchor, spread her canvas, and resumed her journey. The novelty of his position was soon obliterated from the minds of the natives and they decided to sacrifice the life of the young missionary and this was only averted by the earnest pleading on his behalf of his three ship-mates. But although he got off with his life they carried away all his stores, and robbed him completely of his wardrobe, which proved to be the means of saving of his life afterwards, for Capt Fitzroy, seeing a lot of the natives dressed up in European clothing along the coast about 150 miles away, hastened back and just reached the place in time to save his life as they had again decided to kill him. Although Mr Matthews had no desire to shrink from his self-imposed duty, Capt Fitzroy would not permit him to remain any longer and took him on board again where he remained till the *Beagle* reached the Bay of Islands, in December 1835, having been on board for a period of about four years, during which time he assisted the celebrated naturalist C Darwin in collecting specimens of natural history, who honourably acknowledged the able assistance that Mr Matthews had rendered him.'

The obituary goes on to recount his many further adventures and travails before he finally settled in Kaitaia with his brother. An extensive article containing the obituaries of both men, extracts from Darwin's journals and a full account of their extraordinary experiences on the far side of the world can be found on the History website at: www.deddingtonhistory.uk/emigrationandtransportation2/emigration/thematthewsbrothers.

Descendants are still living in Kaitaia and some of the images have been provided by Joseph's 4 x great granddaughter, Anne. Incidentally, a later member of the same Deddington family, Eliza, was landlady of the Plough Inn on New Street in the early 1900s.

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Please be assembled by 9.50am at the latest. Road closures round the little green will be in place. Access to the Co-op may be restricted from 9.50am for 20 minutes or so.

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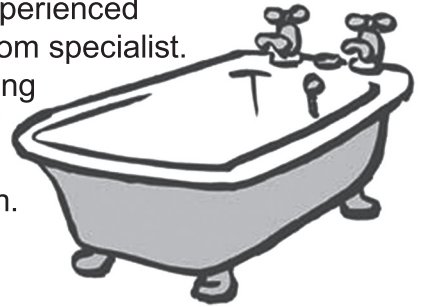
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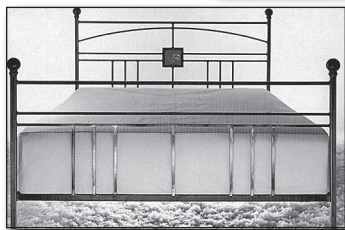


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THE LAST WORD

MICHAEL BOYD 1944–2025

Michael (Mike) Boyd was born on 5 February 1944 in Hempton to Iris and William (Bill) Boyd. He was the third of nine children. The family then moved to Deddington. However, at four years old, Mike decided he would prefer to live with his maternal grandparents in Hempton. His grandfather worked on a farm in Hempton and later at Manor Farm, Deddington.

Mike went to Deddington Primary School and the Windmill School on Hempton Road. Given the knowledge and values of his grandparents' generation, he established an early interest in gardening, animal husbandry and the natural world. This served him well and gave him a passion that lasted a lifetime.

His first job as an adult was as a mechanic at Archway Garage, Deddington. This turned out to be a career move of incredibly good fortune. It was there he met his wife, Gillian, in the late 1960s. They married in 1971 and subsequently had two children: Joanne and James. Later, Mike worked on building sites driving machinery and then he finally got the job he loved the most: gardening at the Vicarage in Adderbury. He spent the last 14 years of his working life there.

Family life in Deddington was peaceful. The house (still occupied by Gill) is surrounded by a wonderful garden. Fifty years ago, Mike and Gill designed it. Once home to a whole menagerie of animals, it is now a beautiful place, a sanctuary, an oasis of calm, a space to be enjoyed by all those fortunate enough to enter.

Mike was kind, compassionate, loyal, trustworthy and very hardworking. He was a family man. Always providing for and protecting those he loved the most. He was gregarious and genuinely interested in the thoughts and feelings of others. He often gave his time to help others.

He was a skilled, multi-talented, practical and pragmatic man. He used his skills to build, create, repair and grow. He loved carpentry and made many items for his children, the home and his garden. Everything he touched was made with care and precision, to stand the test of time.

He was generous with his love of the natural world and compassionate in his care of animals. He had an innate understanding that we are better people if we have a positive relationship with nature.

Mike's legacy will be the buildings he has helped construct, the things he has made and the gardens he has created. Something for everyone.

Joanne and the Boyd Family

LATEST ROAD CLOSURES

Temporary Road Closure/No Waiting at Milton Road, Bloxham

Oxfordshire County Council will close the above road to facilitate carriageway surface dressing works.

The temporary closure will operate from 18 May and the anticipated completion date is 21 May, working hours 4.00am–6.00pm.

The usual access will be available for emergency services and those frontages within the closure area, subject to the progress of the works and liaison with the works supervisor.

Further information may be obtained from Tim Belton, Oxfordshire County Council, 0345 310 1111.

Temporary Road Closure/No Waiting at Bloxham Road/Barford Road, Barford St John

Oxfordshire County Council will close the above road for surface dressing works.

The temporary closure will operate from 19 May with anticipated completion date on 22 May, working hours 4.00am–6.00pm.

Temporary Road Closure and No Waiting restriction at Milcombe A361

Oxfordshire County Council will close the above road and impose a 'No Waiting' restriction as detailed to facilitate surface sealing works.

A temporary Notice will operate from 30 May up to and including 2 June 2025 between 4.00am–6.00pm.

KROKS RETURN

The Harvard Krokodiloes will not be performing in Deddington in 2025 but it is hoped they will return next year.



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NEWS FROM CLIFTON

Firstly, it's my sad duty to report the passing of Jerry. He was not known to many of the Lower Larkrise residents but those who did would be happy to pin the gold medal for the most active 90 year old on his chest. He was still cutting neighbours' hedges shortly before Christmas, 'because they both work and don't have time'. His encyclopaedic knowledge, gained often from a very extensive library, always made him interesting company and he will be missed by many of us but none more than Jean, his wife, who a few of us will be looking out for.

An even quieter month just gone and Book Club has seemed to hibernate, driven, I guess, by the rumour that, although the Duck has a new owner keen to keep it as a dining pub, it will not reopen until 2026.

CAST was pleased to see 3/4s of the gates installed to quite a bit of local approval. CAST has also had the

data from the twin cable speed monitoring. It showed east to west: seven day average speed 30mph, 85th percentile speed (the speed which 85% of the traffic is not exceeding), 36mph. Thames Valley Police look for the average speed to be at or below the posted speed limit, 20mph, and the 85th percentile speed to be within 10%+2mph of the speed limit, 24mph. Clearly this is not the case in Clifton. Our OCC contacts were clearly 'surprised' by this, but money is tight. We still await the HGV prosecutions and we'll keep you updated.

Bridgegate continues to reduce the traffic flow and confuse passersby. Is that light working or not? There's still little rush from National Rail to repair the damaged bridge.

**Martin Bryce – as keen as ever for copy
martndnbryce@aol.com**

DEDDINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

The end of Term 4 seemed to come upon us very quickly. The newly developed and extended Forest School has already had masses of use by all the classes. It has been a terrific area for outdoor learning. The benefits of having this space will be immense over the coming months.

Our church Easter sessions were thoughtful and reflective for the children this year. The sessions were led by staff, Reverend Nick and other members of the church and our community. Thank you to all of those who were involved.

An Inspiring Young Scientist Event took place on 21 March and was highly successful. We would like to thank everyone who took part in the afternoon. The event was organised with parents whose jobs had some scientific links, coming in to school. They each explained what they do and showed how they use science to support their jobs. Displays with information and resources were used to illustrate their

occupations and these were set up for children, and their parents after school, to see. Each class was given time to visit the area in the school hall, and the hope and intention was to inspire our children to see the some of jobs they could do in the future which incorporate science. It proved to be very successful and it definitely inspired our pupils.

The Year 6 pupils loved their trip to Yenworthy in the last week of term, for their final residential whilst still in primary school. It was both rewarding and challenging for everyone, but was loved and will be remembered by the children for many years.

The last day of term saw our traditional Easter Fun Run taking place. The children ran and did athletic tasks en route, as they sped around, having fun as well as great exercise. The weather was so kind to us too on that day.

**Denise Welch
dwel3954@deddington.oxon.sch.uk**

FRIENDS OF DEDDINGTON LIBRARY

What can we say? A super huge thanks to everyone for coming to support the FoDL at Bengal Spice on 2 April. What a fabulous night, great company and fab food. And all raising money for two great causes: the library and supporting a much-loved local business, Bengal Spice. It was great to see so many there, both old friends and to make new ones, with newcomers involved, some from our surrounding villages. We hope you were made to feel welcome.

The raffle was extremely well supported. Thank you all so much for your generosity. We are very grateful to all our sponsors who supported the event, from Naz and his team at Bengal Spice for providing the venue and fantastic food, to our raffle prize sponsors, Eagles Fine Foods, the Cyclogical Shop, Icon Publishing, Ashcroft Therapy Centre, Cllr David Rogers, Joan and Geoff Todd and Catherine and Dan

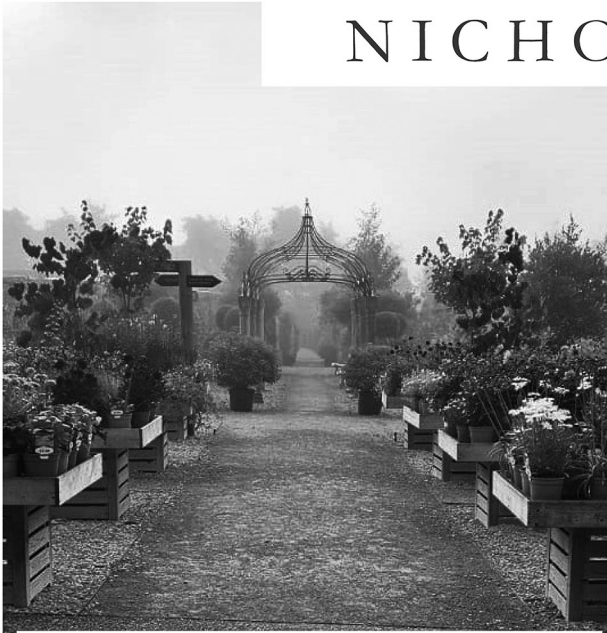
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Now that the dust has settled and we've had a chance to tally the numbers, we raised a little over a thousand pounds to support the running costs of the library, which is an incredible outcome and far exceeded our expectations. So thank you all so much. You've made a real positive difference to our fundraising this year. We're looking forward to doing it again in 2026.

As we're finally enjoying some warm sunny weather, it's time to get snapping for our annual photo competition. We all have mobiles and the quality is pretty impressive these days. Pictures should be in landscape format, no less than 5Mb in size and saved as .jpg. Send to me at the email below.

**Stella, Bryn and the FoDL team
abw@brynwilliams.com**

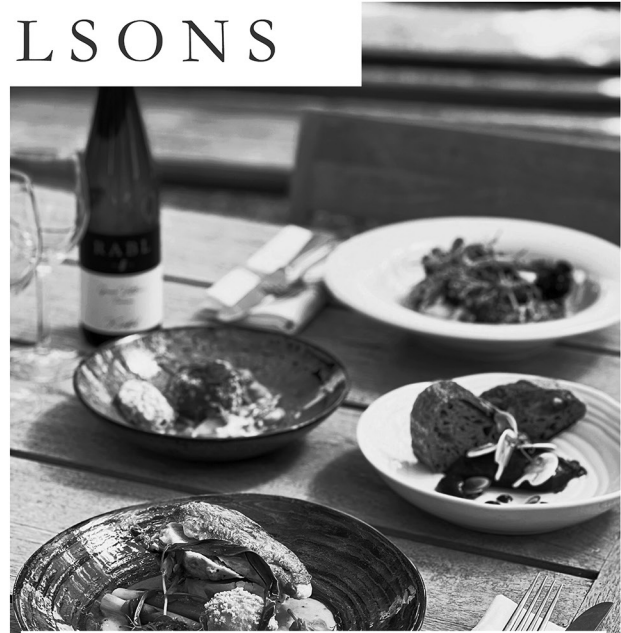
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CALLING ALL CLUBS

Deddington Bookworms

A double review this month as yours truly missed the last copy deadline.

In February, we read *The Green Road* by Anne Enright. It is her second novel since *The Gathering* won the Booker Prize in 2007. The story centres around the Madigans, an Irish family from County Clare. It starts with a series of stories from the perspective of each of the four children, Constance, Dan, Emmet and Hanna. We see the fall out of Dan choosing to leave home for the priesthood which causes his mother to take to her bed for a week, via the baby sister's eyes. Ten years later we see him again in New York – a failed priest still coming to terms with his sexuality. The other brother makes his way to Africa as a UNICEF field worker whilst the eldest daughter has stayed in Ireland, married well, had a clutch of children and is battling with her weight. We then learn about Hanna, now grown up, not quite making it as an actor, with a baby of her own and an alcohol problem. Each chapter could quite easily be a book. The second half of the book centres around Christmas 2005, when they come home to be together for the first time since leaving to hear their mother declare she is ready to sell the family home. There were mixed reactions from the group. A few really enjoyed it whilst others felt it was hard to read as the story jumped around so much from character to character.

In March, we read *Washington Black* by Esi Edugyan, a book with glowing reviews and short-listed for the 2018 Man Booker Prize, but it failed to enthrall any of us.

Washington Black is a field slave who becomes a talented scientific illustrator. He is chosen by his master's eccentric brother – a naturalist, explorer, scientist, inventor and abolitionist – to be his manservant. This leads him into a world of flying machines, horrific injury, bounty hunters and travels to America, the Arctic and Europe. The first chapters, set in a sugar plantation in Barbados where Washington was born, were detailed and explicit. However, the group felt the second half was rushed, perhaps trying to get too many block busting adventures into the story. Unfortunately, not one to recommend.

Our next book is *At Hawthorn time* by Melissa Humson.

DeddingtonBookworms@gmail.com

Deddington WI

Our meeting in April was a talk by Stuart Cummins entitled *Innovations from Years Gone By*, an interesting talk that included a large collection of items on show rescued from old rubbish dumps.

Our next meeting is on 14 May for croquet and afternoon tea. Also in the pipeline for July is a trip to the Oxford theatre to see *Jesus Christ, Superstar*.

Meetings take place in the Holly Tree Hall on the second Wednesday of the month at 2.30pm. For more information contact me.

Moiria Byast 01869 338637

Local Vocals Community Choir

Prior to our Easter break, we had three sessions with our temporary choir leader, Alaster. His vast musical experience and much needed patience ensured we were once again learning new songs and arrangements and this will continue for our summer term. Under his tutelage we are also stamping, clapping and clicking fingers whilst singing. Something some of us seem more able to carry out than others until we all collapse in laughter. The joy of Monday evenings has well and truly returned.

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

Alison Grieve

Book Group

Before entering politics, Rory Stewart had a wide-ranging career which included academia, the diplomatic service, charity work in Afghanistan and travel writing. In 2010 he was elected as MP for Penrith. His memoir, *Politics on the Edge*, describes his experiences as a constituency MP, backbencher, minister and candidate for party leadership.

It is a well-written, detailed and frank account of those years and many of his colleagues do not come out of it well, their own advancement often seeming to be their main priority. Rory himself is ambitious but keen to make a difference and feels his own experience is underrated. His constituency work seems to be the most rewarding. Sadly, his book shows how politicians at Westminster are moved too frequently from one area to another, giving inadequate time to fully understand the needs of the role and improve their current sector.

We enjoyed this fascinating and compelling book, written with humour, honesty and self-awareness.

The Book Group

Deddington and District History Society

In April Julie Ann Godson gave a lively and informative talk about '1066 Oxfordshire and the Norman Conquest'. Oxfordshire is often mentioned at critical points before and during the Norman Conquest, including the birth of Edward the Confessor at Islip about 1003. Julie Ann detailed this connection from the early eleventh century with events that led to the downfall of the Anglo-Saxon royal house. Edward was crowned king in 1043 and married Edith, daughter of Earl Godwin, in 1045. They had no children. It was claimed by Duke William of Normandy that Edward had promised to leave him the crown of England. However, King Harald Hardrada of Norway also made this claim. On his deathbed Edward bequeathed his kingdom to Harold, son of Earl Godwin, who was crowned king in January 1066.

When William defeated Harold at the battle of Hastings, his conquest was not over. He needed to take London. He overcame resistance at Dover and

CALLING ALL CLUBS

Continued from p25

Canterbury, burning both places to the ground, but failed to cross the Thames in London. He moved along the southern banks of the river and arrived in Wallingford in mid-November. Wallingford had just been rebuilt following the Viking invasion, so the residents immediately surrendered. Crossing the Thames, William now approached from the north, capturing London and was crowned king on Christmas Day 1066. Robert d'Oilly, one of William's favoured knights, was left in charge at Wallingford and built the motte and bailey castle there. As a reward for their surrender, the people of Wallingford were granted an extra hour before curfew – 9.00pm and the practice of ringing the curfew bell just before 9.00pm continues in the town today. Robert inherited other lands in Oxfordshire in 1071 and by 1086 was recorded as being Lord of the Manor in many Oxfordshire places. His title was Baron 'Hocknorton'. He became a great patron of the city of Oxford, building the castle there and a causeway across the Thames, known today as Folly Bridge. Odo, bishop of Bayeux and half-brother to William the Conqueror, also held much land in Oxfordshire including Deddington and South Newington. The old Anglo-Saxon aristocracy was taken over by the Normans with every piece of land in the gift of William the Conqueror. 'The Norman Conquest in Oxfordshire was effectively a boardroom takeover, just as it was across the whole of England.'

SPORT

Deddington Town FC

First Team results:

15.3.25 Bodicote Sports (a) L 1–2 Fountain
22.3.25 Longford Park FC (h) W 6–1
29.3.25 Hook Norton (a) (CUP) L 0–3

Reserve Team results:

15.3.25 Kings Sutton Res (h) W 4–1 Devine (2),
Newton (2)
22.3.25 Bearley United (h) W 3–0
5.4.25 Blockley FC (h) W 1–0

In a critical month, the Humbugs were sadly comprehensively beaten in their Coronation Cup semi-final at Hook Norton but they have another semi-final in the Lord Jersey Cup to look forward to. In terms of league performance, midtable looks the most likely destination.

The Latics meanwhile have now completed their league fixtures with a superb run of victories. The lowest they can now finish is third, so lend them your unrestrained acclaim and save the rest for willing the First Team to victory in their final gallop for silverware.

Aaron Bliss 07909 642882

Deddington Town FC Youth

The Under 16s had just one match – a 5–2 away defeat at Chadlington. The Under 15s had a 0–1 home defeat to Dynamo Tekkers, followed by a 0–0 home draw to Kingston Colts in the B League. The Under 14s playing in the C League had a 3–0 win over Oxford Blackbirds, followed by 6–1 win over Wantage Town to win the league and promotion to the B League for

On Thursday 8 May, Prof Robert Evans will speak about the Oxfordshire Blue Plaques scheme with a focus on the blue plaques in Cherwell.

Jean Dipper
jean.dipper28@gmail.com

Hempton Book Club

Hempton Book Club has been meeting each month since last September in the Old School Room. We have joined the Oxfordshire Libraries Book Club Group and they select and send up to 12 copies of each title from a wish list that we sent them, so it's a surprise when the books arrive. So far, we have read, *Anna* by Sammy Smith (not a book club selection, she's a local author), *The Undiscovered Deaths of Grace McGill* by Craig Robertson, *The Mapmakers Daughter* by Clare Marchant and the latest, *Us Three* by Ruth Jones. This was a novel about the friendship of three women who met at primary school and shared happiness, tragedy and fallout throughout their lives. This was a popular read enjoyed by all the members and contributed to a lively discussion as to how we viewed the different characters.

This month's choice – *The Satsuma Complex* by Bob Mortimer. We'll let you know what we think of that next month.

Jo Churchyard

next season. There have been no matches for the Under 13s since the last report. The Under 12s had a 3–6 home defeat to Wychwood, followed by a 1–4 win at SWIS.

Our presentation day is at the Windmill on Sunday 8 June to celebrate the achievements of all our players and the work put in by managers and coaches through the season. We are looking for two sponsors this year – one for our presentation day programme; and the other to for our player award trophies. If you are a local business who is interested, get in touch now.

We have run Deddington Wildcats for two seasons. Last season this was for Years 2 and 3 girls. They train at the Windmill all weather court on Fridays from 5.30–6.30pm. It is non-competitive football for girls who want to have a go for the first time or want to play with other girls of their own age. The focus is about having fun and making new friends. We need to recruit new volunteers to become coaches, particularly females. The Club will support volunteers and get you started. We plan to get interested volunteers and parents together in May 2025 to discuss our plans. With the Women's Euros taking place in Switzerland this summer and the Lionesses as the defending champions, this is a great time to get involved in girls' football. If you interested, please email me. Further information about the club is on our website, www.deddingtontownfc/, or visit our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/DeddingtonTownFc.

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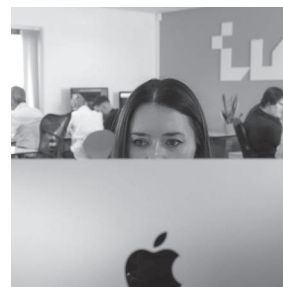
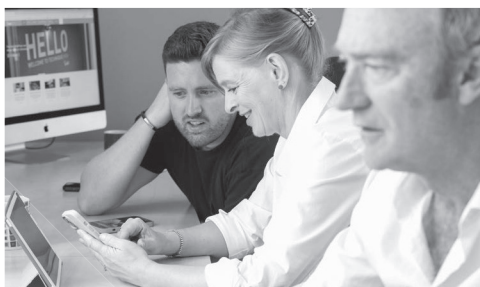
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SPORT

Continued from p26

Deddington Tennis Club

It's been great tennis weather for the last few weeks, which was fortunate as we had a few winter fixtures to play before the summer season got underway. This year we have A, B and C teams in the midweek Banbury leagues, Ladies A and B teams, one Men's team in the Dunlop weekend leagues and a mixed team which plays weekend fixtures. We also have men's and ladies' Team Tennis which is played at regional level. For a small club, we field a lot of teams and our members have access to competitive tennis at all levels.

On Easter Monday, members are taking part in a singles tournament to kick off our new singles league at the club. On 5 May, we are running Play your Way to Wimbledon; this is a men's and ladies' doubles competition that leads to a second round at county level, and then to Wimbledon for the finals. If any of our players get to Wimbledon, you can be sure I'll be reporting on that in a future edition of the *DN*.

For anyone who has ever thought about playing tennis, or for people looking for a new club or the chance to pick up a racquet again, we are running an Open Day on 29 June. There will be more information in the next *DN*, but it will be from 10.00am–2.00pm and there will be taster sessions for coaching and social play, as well as family fun activities, refreshments and a chance to meet other club members. There will be a discount for anyone joining the club that week.

If you'd like to find out more, check out our website www.deddingtontennis.com for information. We also post tennis club news on Facebook DeddingtonTennisClub and Instagram @deddingtontennis

Becky Jones

Deddington Cricket Club

Our pre-season preparations are well underway with our indoor nets finishing on 28 March and moving outdoors with the clock change on 3 April. Nets training at the Windmill is on Thursday evenings for men and Friday for the women's squad from 6.00pm. Prospective members of all ages are welcome to attend and dust off old skills or have a taster session to see if cricket is for them.

Competitive games start in early May for all teams and we are holding the junior All Stars programme again on Friday evenings in May and June. At the time of writing there are a few places left for 5–8 year olds. For more information please contact the following: Men, Rich Munro, richardmu.ssl@googlemail.com; Women, Sarah Cox, Coxylulu77@yahoo.co.uk; AllStars Cricket: https://ecb.clubspark.uk/AllStars/Search?gad_source=1&gbraid=0AAAAADCy8HK9D-mEADN0uB4hYLbJOz5ndG.

Simon Oldfield

simon.oldfield0@gmail.com

YOUTH

1st Deddington Scout Group

Cubs

In April we were working on our Communicator badge. We have been translating messages written in Braille and Morse Code and learning the phonetic alphabet and finger sign language.

We have also been talking about our pets and how we take care of them and been busy making bird feeders as we work towards our Animal Carer badge.

We used our creative skills to make gifts for Mother's Day and invested our new joiners.

It's been great to be able to get back outside following the clock change which means that our meetings are now in the light.

Tracy Tong

deddingtoncubs@gmail.com

Scouts

Our visits by the various 'Friends' groups led to discussions as to what we could do to help them. The Hempton boys will sort the books for sale in the church porch and clean the boxes, we will make and sell bird scarers to raise money for the library and assist in various jobs at the Castle Grounds as the nights become lighter.

We are also in the early stages of the Cyclist badge, looking at first aid specific to cycling and outdoor pursuits and how to prepare for different weather

conditions. As part of the first aid, we purchased a trainer EpiPen for them to practise with. It's all very well talking through the theory but it's easier to remember when you've spent the evening jabbing yourself in the thigh. Next comes bike maintenance and a long ride.

Pete Churchyard

deddingtonscouts@gmail.com

1st Deddington Guides

The end of term saw us following a quiz trail around the Market Place, enjoying the lighter evenings, and getting back to base at the Windmill before dark.

We also made peppermint creams as a gift for Mothering Sunday although I think some may have been eaten before getting home. We attended the Mothering Sunday service in church and the Guides colour party did us proud, helping with the collection and readings and distributing the posies. Well done Nellie, Margot, Emmie and Isla B.

Most of our time has been given to rehearsing for our charity entertainment evening next term. It's very much a work in progress but I know it will be alright in the night.

We restart on Tuesdays after Easter ... all girls age 10 or over are welcome. As the term goes on we'll be mainly out of doors enjoying a variety of activities.

Maggie Rampley

07957 600755

EVENTS LIST

What is going on in Deddington?

No, the sky isn't falling in, instead we have a new online parish-wide Events Listing, showcasing everything that's going on in the vibrant community of ours up to 12 months ahead.

So how does it work? To add an event, email Nick Smith on nick@thepsmiths.co.uk. He is the moderator for the listing and says: 'Regular users will be able to up-

load and update events themselves but we can do this for infrequent users. There will be optional links to posters, ticketing

and websites. It will only work if everybody uses it! Regular users include the Windmill, Holly Tree, parish council and church. One-off posts are put in a pending box for moderator approval, like our local Facebook sites. You'll have to say who is posting, in case of query.

To view the listing, go to Deddington OnLine <https://www.deddington.org.uk/> – first image on a smartphone, top left on a desktop or tablet. Click on the image to take you to the listing where you'll see the boxes are easy to navigate. You can filter by event, venue, organiser, or day. Highlights of some of the month's events are featured here – these change frequently throughout the month. Click on the links for more information.

While you're visiting DOL, have a look at the wealth of other information about community, clubs and so-

cieties, picture gallery and history.

As the list becomes more popular it should prevent unhappy diary conflicts like last year when we had the PTA circus and the Parish Show on the same day, or sporting event clashes at the Windmill which cause so much parking grief for the residents of Mill Close and Wimborn Close.

There's also a Community Hub stall under the Town

Hall on farmers' market day, hosted by the Hub team. Any organisation wanting to promote an event, attract members and



What's On in Deddington, Clifton and Hempton



DeddiNews April



Hospitality Hub April Events and Offers



Your Parish Council needs you!



VE Day celebration Market Place, 8 May

volunteers or raise money, can book a space on the stall or have a stall on your own. To learn more or sign up for space, email mailto:communityhubfarmers-market@gmail.com. This launched at the March market and 50 events were signed up almost immediately.

Another idea we're working on is to have a simple 'jobs listing' bolt-on to DOL to help fill the gap between organisations crying out for volunteer help and those who might have a couple of hours to spare to help keep the community ticking over. There are more than 30 clubs/organisations/societies in the parish and a good few of them are desperate for help to keep going. Any group, society or organisation like the parish council, the market, 'Friends of ... etc' can point to it.

Nick Smith, nick@thepsmiths.co.uk
Mary Robinson, robimary@gmail.com

LETTERS

FROM SARAH BANES, DEDDINGTON
As Christopher and Viviane Hall step back from organising the Deddington Church fundraising appeal for Christian Aid, we'd like to offer them heartfelt thanks for their tireless work to help the poorest and most vulnerable through this charity.

For many years Deddington residents have responded generously to Christian Aid Week each May, typically giving well in excess of £1,000. This year's digital red envelope is available at this



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

website where you can donate using bank or credit cards: <http://bit.ly.Dton-CAMay25>. Cash donations can be made using envelopes from the church or in the collecting bucket in Hamptons. The focus this year is on Guatemala where extreme heatwaves have affected crops. Christian Aid works with local partners supporting farmers like Aurelia to grow resilient crops, make fertiliser and conserve water. Thank you in advance for your support.

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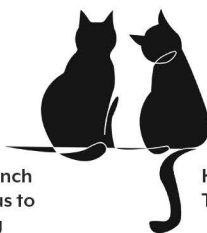
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NHS	Non emergency	Gas Escapes (24hrs)	0800 111 999
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(Monday 9.00am–12.30pm, Wednesday 9.00–5.00pm, Thursday 9.00–12.30pm)		Emergency/Power cut	105
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		WINDMILL CENTRE	07720 834006
		OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL	01865 792422
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Monday	2.00–7.00pm	DEDDINGTON CHURCHES	See section inside
Wednesday	9.30am–1.00pm		
Thursday	1.00–5.00pm		
Saturday	9.30am–1.00pm		



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