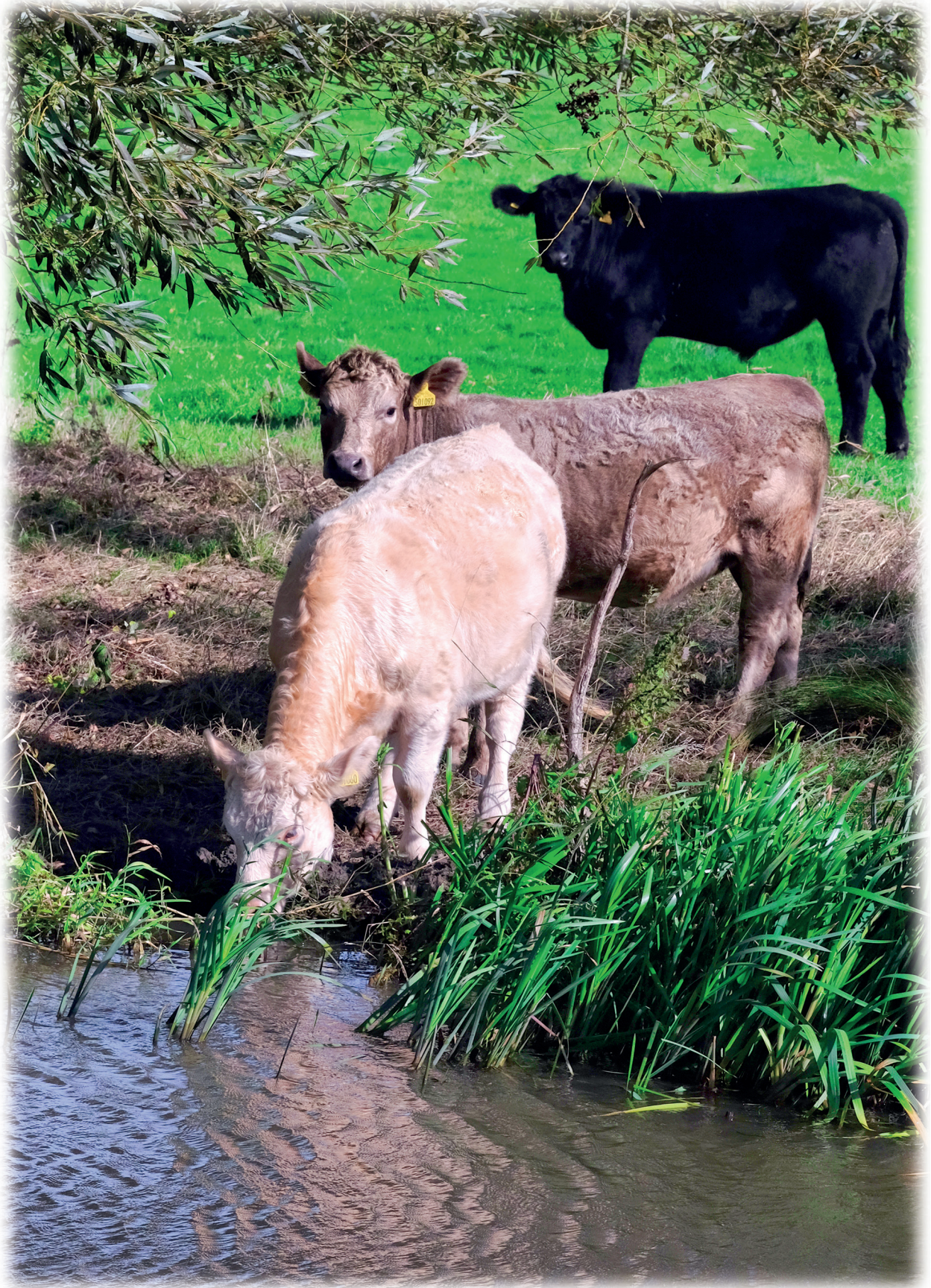


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The DEDDINGTON NEWS

Several goodbyes: first to Helen Oldfield as chair of the PC for the past two and a half years, who stepped up in an emergency situation, into what is, essentially, a full-time job; and second to the buzz in the Market Place, generated by the al fresco diners and coffee drinkers outside Foodies. The little shop Sam set up during the Covid lockdown morphed first into serving hot drinks to single dog-walkers, then to two people, followed eight person 'bubbles', dotted around the Market Place for their daily sanity-saving social contact, wrapped up in hats, scarves and gloves, and finally developed regular morning coffee socials and a loyal lunchtime sandwich following among trades people working in the village.

CD

WHAT'S ON

June

- Wed 4 Photographic Society: Adderbury Institute, 7.30pm
- Sun 8 Deddington Town FC: Youth Presentation Day, Windmill Centre, 12.00–5.00pm
- Sun 8 Music in Adderbury: Sacconi String Quartet, Smetana and Beethoven, Adderbury Church, 6.00pm
- Wed 11 Deddington WI: Hayley Scott, Scene of Crime Officer, Holly Tree Hall, 2.30pm
- Thu 12 History Society: 'Deddington Primary School and its History', Clive Evans, Primary School, 7.15pm
- Fri 13 Deddington Playgroup: Windmill Centre, 9.45–11.45am
- Sat 14 Primary School: Summer Fête
- Sun 15 Music in Adderbury: Tim Horton, piano, Haydn, Schumann and Chopin, Deddington Church, 6.00pm
- Wed 18 Parish Council: Old School Room, Hempton, 7.30pm
- Fri 20 Deddington Playgroup: Windmill Centre, 9.45–11.45am
- Thu 26 Bookworms: Holly Tree Hall, 6.30pm
- Thu 26 Book Group: Sally Lambert, 01869 338094 for details
- Sat 28 Farmers' Market, Market Place, 9.00am–12.30pm
- Sat 28 Deddington Festival: Unicorn and Market Place, 2.00pm
- Sun 29 Tennis Club: Open Day, Windmill Centre, 10.00am–2.30pm

July

- Wed 2 Photographic Society: Adderbury Institute, 7.30pm
- Wed 9 Deddington WI: Holly Tree Hall, 2.30pm
- Wed 16 Parish Council: Hempton Lounge, Windmill Centre, 7.30pm
- Sat 26 Farmers' Market, Market Place, 9.00am–12.30pm

August

- Wed 20 Parish Council: Hempton Lounge, Windmill Centre, 7.30pm
- Sat 23 Farmers' Market, Market Place, 9.00am–12.30pm
- Mon 25 Cricket Club: Memorial Match, 11.00am–6.00pm
- Sat 30 Deddington Parish Show: Deddington Church, 2.00pm

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

Meeting on Wednesday 21 May at the Windmill Centre

Present: Councillors ap Simon, Cox, Oldfield (chair, retiring), O'Neill, Robinson, Snashall, Swadling, Timms and Watts, County Councillor Epps, District Councillor Rogers, six members of the public, the parish clerk, the clerk's assistant and a DN representative.

All councillors expressed their sincere condolences to the bereaved families, to Oxfordshire Fire Service, and to the members of the Deddington station especially, following the deaths of two fire officers at Bicester last week.

Annual Meeting

Councillor Oldfield stood down as chair and Councillor Robinson was elected in her place. Councillor Snashall was elected vice chair. Two councillors, Timms and Oldfield, were recorded as in full attendance for the past year.

Ten Minute Open Forum

The new owner of the old Crown and Tuns introduced herself and wanted the community to know that any alterations to the property would be sympathetically carried out, the main one being to return the original central staircase.

The chair of the Windmill management committee spoke about refurbishing its exterior woodwork as there had been a misunderstanding between the committee and the PC. The PC agreed to contribute £5,000 to the cost of this refurbishment, the remainder to come from the Windmill's income.

A resident from Hempton, previously heavily involved in discussions about traffic in the village, asked if OCC has advised when the work might be carried out, expressing his and other residents' frustrations at the lack of activity. The PC will write to OCC immediately requesting that they proceed at pace with the remaining changes to the road layout and County Councillor Epps will follow up on this.

A resident who had expressed his wish to volunteer as a parish councillor was present but could not be co-opted as the matter was not on the agenda.

District Council

Councillor Rogers, who attended the appeal hearing at CDC on the proposed 9-house development in Hempton, reported no decision was made. Discussion of the finer points of the National Planning Policy dominated the hearing. Consequently, the PC confirmed its decision to revisit the Neighbourhood Plan three years from it having been completed.

The largest solar farm in Europe, stretching from Rousham Gap to Farmoor, is going through a consultation process but will be decided by a government planning inspectorate. You can see the plans at <https://botleywest.co.uk/Where.html>.

Finance & General Purposes

It was agreed to leave allotment rents unchanged. It was agreed to purchase new signs for the Windmill as a legal requirement in respect of the CCTV and to spend up to £250 to produce a newsletter. It was

agreed to spend up to £850 for a picnic bench to replace the one at Welford's Piece. Some of this is likely to be available from S106 money. It was confirmed that it should be fixed in place rather than moveable as requested by one councillor.

A number of thanks were expressed: to County Councillor Fatemian for his many years of dedication and support of the parish; to the organisers of the VE Day celebrations which were well supported; to members of the Deddington fire station for their attendance at the beacon lighting; to several parish councillors and the clerk who cleared up after the beacon lighting; and to the organisers of the Four Farms Challenge which was extremely well supported and run.

Planning

No objection

Gaslight, Earls Lane, Deddington: demolition and replacement of porch.

The Little House, Clifton Road, Deddington: variation of conditions in relation to the car barn to include solar PV panels set flush within roof finish, and to support carbon emission reduction and energy efficiency in new buildings.

The Little House, Clifton Road, Deddington: addition of high level roof lights to rear elevation of car barn.

Fairview, St Thomas Street, Deddington: tree works (although this application arrived too late for the May agenda), it was agreed to send an informal no objection to CDC.

Approvals

Plough House, New Street, Deddington: addition of bathroom and changes to access.

Highways and Transport

There are ongoing concerns about the number and speed of HS2 trucks travelling along Hempton Road and some had been seen jumping the lights. Councillor Epps asked that registration numbers be recorded where possible.

A finger post problem in Hempton had been fixed following its report on FixMyStreet. A rusting Give Way sign has been reported and will be replaced.

More volunteers are being sought for the Speed Watch groups.

A resident of Fardon Way had volunteered to erect a post for the Speed Watch signs on Clifton Road.

A video clip of a car overtaking within the 20mph restriction in Clifton has been sent to the police.

Environment and Recreation

Additional monitoring of bike activity in the Windmill copse will be carried out over the summer period. Some areas of grass cutting have still not been carried out correctly as per the detailed maps provided to the contractor for No Mow May and June. A further site visit with the contractor will be held.

Next meeting Wednesday 18 June at 7.30pm in the Old School Room, Hempton.

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



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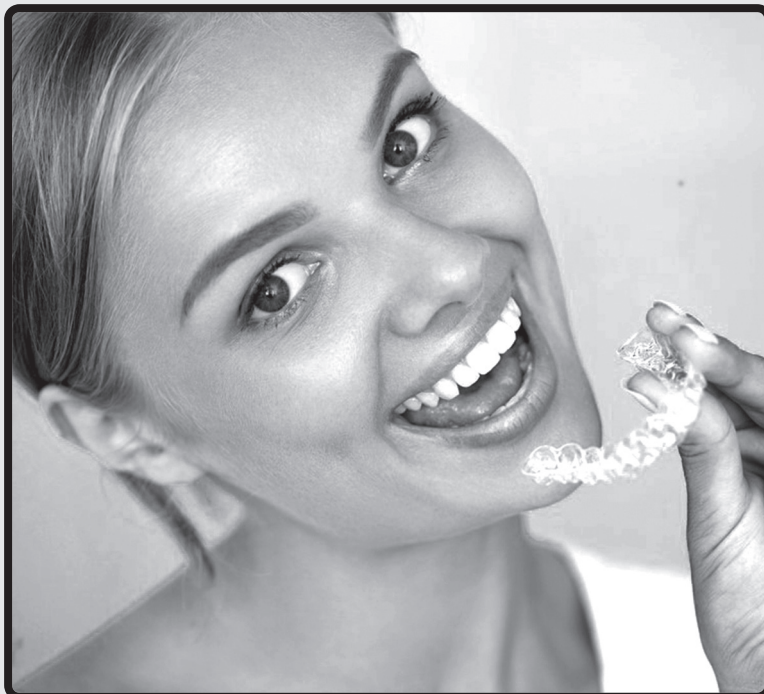
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ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Wednesday 7 May Windmill Centre

The following are highlights from the report of the outgoing parish council chair, Helen Oldfield.

The referendum on the neighbourhood plan was approved by 791 votes to 58 and subsequently 'made' by CDC. soon after. Basically, it allocates a single site, north of the fire station, for 90 houses with generous community benefits including a nursery, a car park which should enable the health centre to expand, an orchard and a biodiversity zone. In the absence of an up-to-date CDC Local Plan, the neighbourhood plan is the key guiding principle for planning decisions. However, our NP looks frailer than it did this time last year because CDC is now deemed to have only a 2.3% land supply instead of the required 5%. They are judged to be underperforming in approving large planning applications for housing developments and are in danger of having planning decisions taken out of their hands and diverted to the Ministry of Housing. This means that all but the most egregious applications are likely to be approved. We will need to be vigilant.

The new roof on the Windmill Centre was completed at a total cost of £89,000, of which around £6,000 came from parish funds, the rest from grants.

Last summer the parish church clock kept stopping. Thanks to Colin Cox's frequent trips up the tower, it was kept going until a lasting repair could be made. The PC has agreed to pay half the annual maintenance cost, to be reviewed annually.

Initially the application for a proposed 9-house self-build development opposite St John's Way in Hempton was refused. A second appeal against the decision was scheduled for late May. Of the \$106 contributions promised with the application, £10,000 is destined for the Old School Room and could be amended to include repair of the adjoining church and its leaking roof.

Burrington Estates in Deddington is now out of business, leaving a debt of £100k in \$106 money and Fardon Way incomplete. Our request for permission for the sale of affordable houses on the site to be withheld until the road work is finished is with CDC's legal department.

Several councillors have resigned, including Alistair Swan, who did prodigious work in Hempton trying to improve road safety and banish heavy lorries. We have welcomed Nick ap Simon and Nick Smith, who have already proved invaluable, and are looking to recruit two new PC members. To help with the ever-increasing workload in the council's back office we have appointed Lisa Smith as assistant clerk.

Steeple Aston PC wanted Deddington to share the cost of testing and treating the Blandford fly's breeding grounds in the Cherwell. The PC declined, not only because it was too late for the 2025 budget, but also because a) the testing zone only went as far as Clifton bridge, b) the Swere, not being tested, may also be a breeding ground, c) treatment would be a recurring cost and d) there are questions as to whether the treatment would affect other riverine wildlife.

Legal work extending the Housing Association's lease of the Holly Tree revealed that the PC owns the site. The council has agreed to return it to the Holly Tree when it formally becomes a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

The proposed build-outs at either end of Hempton village proved to be more controversial than anticipated, although the vote in OCC's consultation was in favour. The work has been delayed and we hope the level of disagreement will not mean nothing is done, as was the case in a nearby parish.

Assuming a new nursery will be included in the development north of the fire station, the PC has asked OCC to make it a gift of the existing nursery site at the Windmill. OCC replied that all options will be considered.

CDC approved a planning application for four additional bungalows to be built on the Poplars field alongside the Castle Grounds. The PC twice recommended rejection, as did Historic England, but the need for suitable housing for more elderly residents prevailed.

Cllr Maureen Cox is leading a Community Speed-watch Group for Deddington and Hempton which is now 17-strong.

The Deddington Estate, which includes the Satin Lane allotments and four fields around the parish, was put up for sale. The PC unsuccessfully pursued several options to help preserve their existing character. The estate has been bought by Storey Homes, a family-owned development company based in Milton Keynes. The PC has asked them to consider donating the allotments to the parish since there is very little chance of them ever receiving planning permission to build there.

Helen Oldfield
helenoldfield.dpc@gmail.com

FRIENDS OF DEDDINGTON LIBRARY

A big shout out to the scores of talented photographers in our midst who have submitted their entries to our annual photo competition. The great weather has certainly helped; we've got some fantastic shots in the bag already.

Don't be afraid to enter some different scenes, not only the stunning countryside that surrounds us but the various events being held such as the VE Day celebrations and the Four Farms Challenge in May. The school fête is coming up and so is the Deddington Festival, giving us the chance to capture something a little different. Perhaps record something that is quintessentially 'Deddington' or 'village life'.

As usual pictures need to be no less than 5Mb, in landscape format and of a recognisable scene from around our parish, be they events, buildings, countryside or something a bit offbeat. Entry deadline is 4 August.

Bryn Williams
abw@brynwilliams.com

Private Ted Harper 1920–76

In this VE80 year the media has been full of stories about the experiences of young men and women fighting in WWII. Ted Harper's war stands out among them. He was educated at Banbury Grammar School where he learnt German and then worked for Shell Mex in Banbury. When the war broke out he, aged just 19, and his best mate, Clive, immediately enlisted as privates in the Royal Warwickshire Regiment which was part of the British Expeditionary Force ultimately forced to retreat to Dunkirk. The larger ships were unable to anchor close to the shore so he and Clive tried to swim out to one of them but were captured by a German E-Boat. After landing they were forced marched into Germany, being beaten and starved en route. They were both sent by train to a PoW camp in Malbork, Poland. Ted's family received a postcard from him, confirming that he was a PoW and that he was in Stalag camp No XX-B – and then nothing more.

As a PoW he was part of a workforce doing agricultural work on local farms. Whenever possible he would take the opportunity to steal and eat raw eggs for the protein, not forgetting to hide the shells. He tried to smuggle eggs back into the camp for other PoWs but rarely succeeded. Because he could speak German he was used as a camp translator. Over time his health deteriorated badly and he was admitted to the camp hospital with a severe case of pleurisy, the treatment for which included using leeches. In late 1944 the Germans were retreating and taking PoWs away

DH History Corner

www.deddingtonhistory.uk

from the advancing Allied forces. These enforced marches have been labelled the death marches. The PoWs were weakened and emaciated

by ill-treatment and starvation. Many were forced to march for 86 days, covering 500 miles, dressed only in rags in bitter winter weather. Stragglers were shot. Ted's best mate Clive died on this march. When the Allied forces rescued the survivors they resembled those liberated from concentration camps. He was flown back to England and admitted to Walton Hospital in Liverpool. There he met, and would later marry, Staff Nurse Ceridwen Jones. When he recovered he was assigned to be a military presence on wards where German PoWs were being treated.

After being demobbed he returned to Deddington and resumed employment at the Shell Mex depot. He and Ceridwen were allocated No 1, the first post-war council house built in Deddington, where two children, Michael and Marian, were born. The family moved to Coventry in October 1955 where their second son, Graham, was born in 1956. Ted died at the early age of 56 on 1 April 1976. No doubt his war experiences had taken its toll. This, and many other stories from both world wars, can be read online at: <https://www.deddingtonhistory.uk/worldwars/thebook> and more stories post publication of the book can be found at: <https://www.deddingtonhistory.uk/worldwars/aparish-atwar-postpublicationinformation/personalstories>.

Rob Forsyth

Robert.s.forsyth@gmail.com

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CHURCH

Looking back to April, it was joyous to have celebrated Easter with you all and what a wonderful Easter Day it was, with special services held across the Deddington, Hempton and Barford churches, including over 140 adults and children combined turning up at Deddington! In May we've continued to celebrate the hope of the Easter season, which continues until Pentecost on 8 June. On that day, we celebrate God's sending of his Holy Spirit to be with us always, helping us through whatever we face in our lives.

On Sunday 1 June, we launch our new monthly family service, which we hope will help families, children and everyone of all ages to connect or reconnect with our church in a relaxed way. See May's edition of *Deddington News* for full details, but as a reminder, drop in from 9.45am to share in a simple breakfast and chat time with children's activities. Then at 10.30am we will gather to worship in an easy-to-access service, suitable for all ages. This new style service will be running on the first Sunday every month at Deddington, so do pop it in your diaries as a regular event to look forward to.

Barford St Michael's church is open every day between 10.00am–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>.

JUNE

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 1	9.45am	Family Communion
	6.00pm	Evensong

Sun 8	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sun 15	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sun 22	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sun 29	10.30am	Holy Communion

Hempton

Sun 15	9.00am	Holy Communion
--------	--------	----------------

Barford St Michael

Wed	5.15pm	Evening Prayer
Sun 1	10.30am	Coffee and Chat
Sun 15	10.30am	Family Service
Sun 22	10.30am	Family Communion

Barford St John

Tue	5.15pm	Evening Prayer
Fri	8.15am	Morning Prayer
Sun	8.00am	Holy Communion
Sun	9.00am	Holy Communion

From the Parish Registers:

Wedding

10 May	Barley Calcutt and Benjamin Adams
--------	-----------------------------------

Funeral:

29 April	Jill Simmonds
----------	---------------

Contacts

The Rev Nick Fielden is Vicar of Deddington with Hempton and the Barfords. For funerals and home visits in case of illness please contact the vicar on 01869 934794 or vicar@deddingtonchurch.org or one of the churchwardens. 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.

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.

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

RC Parish of Hethe

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

CHURCH BELL TOWER OPEN MORNING

The church bell tower will be open to visitors on Saturday 28 June, farmers' market day, from 10.00am–noon. Visitors will be allowed to visit the bells, watch them being rung and, we hope, current insurance constraints permitting, see the amazing view of the village and the surrounding countryside from the tower roof. Please bear in mind there are more than 100 steps up a narrow spiral staircase so sensible footwear must be worn and, due to insurance constraints, children under the age of eight are not permitted.

The tower contains a set of eight bells, six of which are known to be some 225 years old. The original six bells were requisitioned for making weapons under King Charles I and were not replaced until 1791. The other two date from 1946 and were donated to commemorate the Deddington Home Guard. They are rung on Sundays and at practice times, as well as for weddings and funerals and other notable occasions.

Colin Cox

cdcox@btopenworld.com

Deddington Festival is back for 2025 and the *Deddington News* caught up with this year's organising committee, Steve Moss, Ollie Bycroft, Keith and Tracey Tong, Adam Perry and Rachel Johnson, to get the lowdown on this year's event. *DN: Most importantly when and where is this year's event?*

KT: It will be held in the Unicorn Inn and Market Place on 28 June. We will officially start at 2.00pm but you might want to arrive a little early as we have a unique opening ceremony in the works.

DN: What's your vision for the festival?

SM: We wanted to build on the village's Festival tradition and Deddy Rocks, while bringing some fresh ideas. It's not just a festival for the local community – it is the local community, celebrating all the talent that our wonderful village has to offer. There will be two main areas; the Deddy Rocks stage and the Market Place.

DN: What can we expect on the Deddy Rocks stage?

TT: Located in the Unicorn's beer garden, we have a range of local artists across a variety of styles including rock, blues, pop, and electronic. You may even get some panto and musical theatre classics from the Deddington Players and Deddington Primary School children, as well as an open mic slot.

DN: What will be happening in the Market Place?

OB: This will be full of all sorts of stalls, activities and entertainment. We are hoping to create a carnival atmosphere with something for everyone. So far, we have food pop-ups, acoustic performances, kids' ac-



tivities, wine tasting, cooking workshops, community groups, local businesses, history tours, artists, authors, games, hair styling, face painting, festival clothes and accessories and fitness challenges. On top of that, we are even running Deddington's first ever Scarecrow Trail. If you would like to make a scarecrow, details are on the posters around the village, or just contact us.

DN: What time will it finish?

SM: The Market Place activities will finish at 8.00pm, the Deddy Rocks stage at 10.00pm and the party will continue inside with live DJs until late.

DN: What should people do if they want to get involved?

AP: The best way to contact us is by email on deddingtonfestival@btinternet.com. Let us know if you are interested in an open mic slot, cooking workshop, wine tasting, history tour, running a stall or being an extra pair of hands on the day. If you would like to contribute to our fundraising, please visit www.justgiving.com/crowd/funding/deddy-rocks.

DN: Any final words?

RJ: Yes, a huge thank you to the Unicorn for hosting us and to all our corporate sponsors whose support will allow us to offer this event free of charge: Mark David (Deddy Rocks stage main sponsor), CI Group (Market Place sponsor), Phil Marsh Hair, Deddington Dental, Cherry Lets, CMS Group and EdCo.

Steve Moss

deddingtonfestival@btinternet.com

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POSTCARD FROM AMERICA

My lovely wife wanted to escape for some adventure on her birthday, so we flew to Costa Rica. I needed to get away from the daily onslaught of lies but then I started to worry whether they would let us back in.

Heather booked us in to a tent in the rainforest, which was a bit of a concern. I was very pleased to discover that this tent had a private pool, a four poster bed, and a view of the volcano when you opened the tent flaps (sorry, curtains). We were living amongst sloths, monkeys, scarlet macaws, coatis and toucans. It was a fabulous experience but the clue to the weather is in the name: it wasn't a good time to discover that my rain jacket was misnamed.

Costa Rica has its issues with drugs and corruption, but it was good to meet friendly people who take pride in their country. Most of the food is local and very fresh, and they generate 94% of their electricity from clean sources. You constantly hear their slogan, Pura Vida, which alludes to a good and relaxed life. Unfortunately, after two weeks we had to return to insanity.

I have spent time in the Middle East but have never been to Qatar. Their proposed gift of a 747 jet to Trump is slightly more significant than the usual decorative vase. The Justice Department has said this is fine. I was intrigued to find that the Attorney General, Pam Bondi, used to work for the State of Qatar. We always used to say there was no such thing as a free lunch, free \$300m aeroplanes will not be an exception. Undoubtedly, this particular noise will go away but the wider corruption will continue. It is obviously a coincidence that the Trump Organization is undertaking huge developments in the area.

Musk started his attempt to take a chain saw to government spending with a target of taking out \$2 trillion of the \$7 trillion federal budget, before scaling

this back to \$150 billion. Today the verifiable number is \$2 billion, including cuts to aid in Africa that is going to result in the deaths of thousands of children. Laying off one quarter of the 2.3 million federal civilian employees would shave off just 1% of federal spending. The real brains behind it all, Mr Vought, said about federal employees, 'when they wake up in the morning, we want them to not want to go to work, because they are increasingly viewed as the villains. We want to put them in trauma'.

The US is deeply divided. I avoid the Trumpists but do talk to business people who, for some reason, thought the tariffs wouldn't happen and are deeply shocked. It is Middle America which will decide in the mid-term elections whether Trump is accountable for all the lies about reducing prices and bringing back manufacturing. A lot is going to happen over the next 17 months.

The good news is that when I got off the aeroplane and walked through an empty immigration hall to stand in front of a face recognition machine it welcomed me back in. I did learn one important lesson from Costa Rica: they have eyelash pit vipers that come in different colours. And the yellow ones don't try and evict the brown ones. There is a lot that America can learn from a small country like this but, instead, Trump and his gang of morons think America is Great. I think we all know the answer to that.

Mike Ward
mikeaward.com

BLISSFUL THINKING

We've reached the time again when our little corner of the planet is displaying its whole backside to the Mother Star, and many of us are open air bathing, gardening, socialising, or maybe just perambulating. With all the commitments, routines and distractions of our economic model, it's easy to forget the masses of life that we share this molten marble with, but on a recent stroll across the fields in the happy hamlet of Hempton and beyond, unexpected spectacles unfolded before me. A wild hare initially raced across my path a few feet in front of me, seemingly blissfully ignorant of my presence. Later on, back in the locale as twilight was approaching, a relaxed family of muntjaks foraged for food, and, most entertainingly, a large field I traversed saw a pair of foxes absolutely haring it down a hill, chasing each other and screeching like some sugar-drunk toddlers. Evidently, the wildlife wait for the human noise to fade, then they frolic like there's no tomorrow, and make a heck of a racket while they do it! Truth be told, I envy their aestival abandon.

Aaron Bliss
aaronjbliss@hotmail.com

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DEDDINGTON'S VE DAY 2025 COMMEMORATION

The 80th Anniversary of Deddington's Victory in Europe commemoration event on 8 May was blessed with dry, albeit cold, weather and the bonus of the noisy Market Place bin collections being completed before the flag raising ceremony began at 10.00am. It was attended by a very large crowd including the Oxfordshire RBL chairman, our MP, leaders of local authorities, the Fire Brigade and Year 6 pupils from the primary school. The latter played a leading role in hoisting the Union Flag, singing the national anthem, accompanied by members of Deddington Brass, and acting as wreath bearers.

Following prayers for thanksgiving and peace by Canon Hall, Pipe Major Duffy led us in procession to the tune of *The Battle's O'er* to the War Memorial where the 13 men who died in WWII were remembered and a two-minute silence observed. The lament, *Flowers of the Forest* was played during the laying of RBL, Navy, Army and Air Force wreaths. In conclusion, it also being the 100th anniversary of the Deddington RBL Branch, Canon Hall re-dedicated our standard. Pipe Major Duffy then led us back to the Market Place to the *Highland Laddie* and *We Are Sailing*.

I would like to thank the numerous people who contributed to making a success of this important event, including the behind-the-scenes team who keep our churchyards so well cared for and those who arranged



l-r Christopher Hall, Rob Forsyth, Tony Lowe, Josh Odell, Francesca Eriksen

the building and lighting of the parish council bonfire and beacon at Tomwell Farm, Hempton. At 9.30pm I was privileged to put the flame to a very large bonfire and beacon at Tomwell Farm just outside Hempton – preceded by a fanfare played by two members of Deddington Brass – which burned fiercely and was visible for miles around. To the delight of the young Scout troop, it briefly required the Fire Brigade to turn a hose on a nearby hedge. The day very much met the aim of remembering the joy and relief of the end of six years of war and the terrible cost in lives while also remembering that fighting continued in the Far East and many families still awaited the return of loved ones. VJ80 on 8 August will commemorate the end of WWII.

The *Banbury Guardian* posted an article and some very good photos on Facebook

<https://tinyurl.com/3td8um3d>.

Rob Forsyth
robert.s.forsyth@gmail.com

FRIENDS OF CASTLE GROUNDS

At the risk of tempting fate (writing this before the event), the lively atmosphere of the Four Farms Run starting and ending in the Castle Grounds will have reverted to the sound of bird song, with the occasional barking of deer in the evening. You'll often hear six or seven birds at a time, including woodpeckers and pheasants (free Merlin bird song app recommended). Anyone heard cuckoos there?

You might have noticed some chopping of the rampant ivy on the northern rampart, left of the gate. This reduces the likelihood of its weight causing the trees to topple over. There are campions and ox-eye daisies, buttercups and cow parsley, though yellow rattle which weakens the grass, aiding the flowers, remains elusive so far. The nettles are similarly prolific though we're doing our best to keep them clear along the badge path. Enjoy the early summer greenery but cover up well against the Blandford fly!

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NEWS FROM HEMPTON

It is well-known that Deddington is listed in the Domesday Book of 1086 and that the manor was granted to the half-brother of King William I, Earl of Kent, and supposed commissioner of the famous tapestry, Bishop Odo of Bayeux as tenant in chief, William having declared the Crown owner of all England and relieved the previous incumbents of its benefit.

I've written on the subject previously but given far less, if any, attention to Hempton which was recorded as a separate manor under the tenancy of one Walter Gifford, Lord of Longueville in Normandy. Walter, like many of William's trusted companions was a kinsman of William's, through Gunnor, the hand fasted wife of Duke Richard I of Normandy. (Hand fasting is an ancient Celtic and medieval wedding ritual in which a couple's hands are symbolically bound together, signifying their commitment and the joining of their lives, and is possibly the origin of 'tying the knot'.)

Walter was far too busy to be involved with the running of Hempton manor; he was tenant of 113 manors and a Christian knight who fought against the Saracens in Spain during the Reconquista. As tenant he was responsible to the Crown for supplying military resources and tax revenues. Consequently, he appointed Ralph of Lanquetot as Lord of Hempton Manor, making him responsible for the collection of tax on his behalf.

After dispensing with the Moors, he made a pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela in Spain, and was given a horse as a gift by the king of Galicia, which he then gave to William on his return to France. (According to some sources, this is the horse William rode in the Battle of Hastings.) Walter attended the Council of Lillebonne where William announced his intention to invade England and he provided thirty ships for William's invasion fleet and one hundred men.

Walter, one of the 15 or so known companions of William the Conqueror at the Battle of Hastings, was quite old at the time and was offered the honour of carrying the duke's standard at the battle. He declined on the grounds of his age and because he wanted both hands free. Apparently, William was impressed by his bravery in battle although, according to one story, he was rescued by William himself. After a life on the battlefield, he was keen to atone for his sins and founded the monastery of St Michel de Bolbec in 1079, dying in 1085/86.

The Giffords wielded power and influence in matters of state and the church. One son, also named Walter, became the 1st Earl of Buckingham. Another son became Bishop of Winchester during the reign of King Henry I, having served as William Rufus's Chancellor. His daughter, Rohese, married the second son of Richard of Tonbridge, another of William's kinsmen and a key political player of the period.

The authenticity of the entry in the Domesday Book has been questioned on account of the entry including a patch of woodland, 2.25 miles by 0.44 miles, and a mill for which there is no historical or contemporary evidence. The Domesday Book was a tax assessment

and provided no indication of manorial boundaries. At the time, some 12% of England was woodland. The extent of steep ground less suited to cultivation or grazing both to the west and east of the current village may not have been cleared for farming. The steep ground follows the ridge line through Hempton and out towards the A361 and may account for the dimensions being long and narrow. Measures of length and area were notoriously elastic in medieval times. As for the mill, the manor may have included some of the run of the Swere to the north and the South Brook at Ilbury. Both locations have existing or past existence of mills which, if they existed at the time of Domesday, are not accounted for in the surrounding manorial entries. I imagine the book contains the odd error.

The Gifford arms – in heraldic speak – are gules, three lions passant argent. That is, a red shield with three silver lions walking to the left. Were the Giffords extraordinarily prescient England supporters?

How and when Hempton manor was absorbed into Deddington manor is unknown but speculatively it was through the marriage, some time in the twelfth century, of Alice de Lanquetot, a descendant of the original Ralph of Lanquetot, to Roger de Chesney. The Chesneys were holders of Deddington manor.

Please note there may be alternative or disputed interpretations the evidence.

Stuart Oldham

Sj-oldham@btinternet.com

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HOSPITALITY HUB

Service or Hospitality

I was lucky enough to spend a few weeks in India in April with my son Wilf, travelling around Punjab on the border with Pakistan. We went to seven hotels. India is blessed with an abundance of people looking for jobs in hotels and a wide choice of hotels serving the relatively few tourists. At the end, we chose our personal favourite.

For me, it's all about hospitality, the feeling of being looked after personally, with care and understanding. Food is important, functional service is necessary, cold beer, hot food, clean loos. Hospitality makes you feel at home, cared for. So, I chose the one that was great at hospitality.

Deddington needs pubs and restaurants that do this well. And let's be realistic: compared with India, it's really hard in England, where getting a great permanent team is extremely challenging and really expensive. Without that, everything rests on the operator every day. We must keep supporting those operators who chose to stay in Deddington as they battle to be the best they can be. They are all really trying and they provide places for us to meet or to just read a book, daytime or nighttime, coffee or spritzers or pints, for the whole community.

Most of you will know the latest pub news. Will from the Red Lion has gone and there is no news on who is coming. Lots of you will miss him. I understand the Quince and Clover team will re-open Foodies in September. Mark and Hana at the Unicorn need some part time team members – the garden is great in the

sun – and there's a new menu to try at the Deddington Arms. Let's look forward. Keep supporting the operators and talking to them about what is needed for you to visit more often.

All the pub and village events are on www.deddington.org and you can sign up to receive the hospitality offers and news on <https://bit.ly/3CHmstE>.

Hamish Stoddard
hamish@stoddard.co

PARISH SHOW – SATURDAY 30 AUG

Each year we are knocked for six by the amazing talent and work of the entrants. Whilst there is healthy competition between participants, this is not the be-all and end-all of our show. Well ... apart from the friendly and amusing banter from the Pork Pie Brigade! Whether you win a prize or not, everyone has the opportunity to enter even 'just one item'. Not only do we celebrate the endeavours of many but we hope others will be inspired to take up a craft or learn a new skill.

It's never too early to put aside a bottle or two (no matter what) for Terry who runs the bottle stall. If you're happy to make a cake for the cake stall, let Rosemary White or any of the committee know. Both these stalls and the raffle are very popular and help to raise funds for worthy village projects. Once again, we are pleased to enhance the event with the awesome Deddington Brass Band. Programmes will be available shortly throughout the village or online and look out for our promotion stalls at the farmers' markets in July and August.

We are always open to new ideas to keep the Show on the road. Its future depends on the enthusiasm of the younger entrants so here is a preview of the children's categories.

Pre-school

A picture of planets or the Earth

5 years or under

A picture of planets or the Earth

A picture of your house

An insect or animal made from a toilet roll centre

An insect or an animal made from pipe cleaners and pompoms

2 decorated cupcakes with a farmyard theme

6 – 8 Years

A picture of planets or the Earth

3 paper flowers in a paper vase

A mask made from a paper plate and straws

A collage of your house

2 decorated cupcakes with a cactus or dog theme

9 – 11 Years

DIY fish tank in a glass jar

A dream catcher

Decorate your Initial

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Apple cake (recipe provided)

Teenagers

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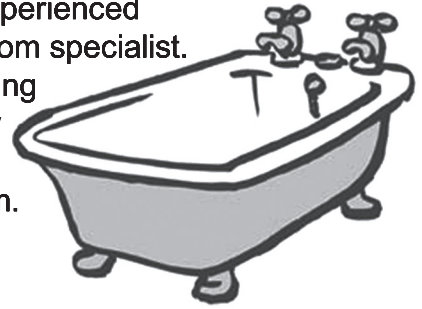
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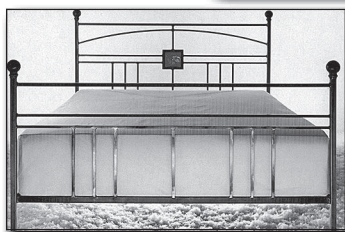


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FROM THE FIRE STATION

'There will no article from the station this month in respect to our two colleagues who lost their lives in the line of duty.'

Chris Fenemore, Crew Manager

However, the *DN* would like to acknowledge the bravery and commitment of those who serve in the Fire Service and, in particular, the members of our Deddington crew, who were called out to the conflagration in Bicester. We send them our best wishes as they come to terms with the loss of their colleagues and thank them for their service to this community..

CD

NEWS FROM CLIFTON

VE80 commemorations have occupied many of us down here this last month. Planning and material collection led to Lower Larkrise building the parish beacon and we also supplied half the staff for its successful design and construction. Many thanks to Mark, Jonathan, Nick and, especially, Susan who provided much of the fuel.

Commander Rob Forsyth read Churchill's broadcast speech, followed by the Kohima Epitaph and a reminder that VJ day on 15 August needs to be commemorated as well. Lower Larkrise provided half of the fanfare, sounded by Julie and Alice, as Rob lit the blaze for the more than 50 spectators who were marshalled by the Scouts under Jo's leadership.

Our retained Fire Service, who always come to support anything in the village, supplied a major part of the evening's entertainment with an expert demonstration of preventative safety measures, deploying their equipment and a good many litres of water 'just to keep us all safe'. They then showed their mastery of fire as they burned the remaining fuel for all the villages south of us to see, demonstrating how much this community values the sacrifices made by all who served or stood behind those who did.

This was the second contribution the Fire Service

made to life down here, as they attended Pete and Jan's workshop fire. (I say 'and Jan's' but I doubt she spends much time in there. Wider damage was expertly contained although our horologist has lost his time valued workshop and we all feel for him.

The VE80 commemoration continued on the following Sunday, with an excellent picnic, arranged by Sharon and the rest of the Clifton Ladies Sports Club. Nearly 50 residents came to eat, drink and make merry in the sunshine at Welford's Piece. For a village of 74 houses this represented a great effort and many of us will treasure the group photo taken as we all recalled the sacrifice, not only of the fallen, but also those who left home, some for six years, to serve in great danger and those who gave up their usual lives to work in military establishments or factories (a far from safe option in those days), making sure tyranny had an enemy.

Without this remarkable generation our lives would have a fraction of the value they currently do. We are thankful.

Remember, any news – please let me know.

Martin Bryce
MartinDNBryce@gmail.com

DRIVINGUKRAINE UPDATE

As I write, Russia has just killed a further nine Ukrainians in a drone attack, hours after Russia and Ukraine held their first direct peace talks in years, in what many are calling a 'cynical war crime'. Medinsky, the head of the Russian delegation, sent a clear message during the negotiations that Moscow was ready to continue the war for years. Despite this news, the UK, along with many other countries, continues to provide economic, humanitarian and military aid to Ukraine. Sanctions against Russia are still in place and these international efforts to find a peaceful solution are ongoing.

Small charities like DrivingUkraine.org are playing a crucial role in supporting Ukraine, by providing a range of aid from humanitarian assistance to direct support for military needs. Every pound DrivingUkraine raises to turn into a life-saving vehicle which -reaches frontline heroes to be there at that crucial moment to save life and limb. Convoy 43, which consisted of 10 medical evacuation vehicles with vital aid on board and driven by 20 volunteers, left for Ukraine at the end of May. To date a huge £1.3 million has been raised and a total of 209 vehicles have been driven to Ukraine.

DrivingUkraine recently launched another project called '1,000 lives'; the goal, to save 1,000 lives by buying and delivering 1,000 life-saving individual First Aid Kits (FAKS) which are essential equipment for handling life threatening wounds. £120,000 will buy 1,000 of them. Those of you who came to the May farmers' market would have seen them on the charity Ukraine stall. In September, the children of Deddington Primary School hope to raise money to buy these life-saving kits. The school is also hoping to forge a relationship with a school in Kyiv, allowing the children in both schools to learn about the world around them and understand the problems that face children of their own age in other parts of the world.

Please keep caring and donating by visiting the website DrivingUkraine.org, delivering a message of support and compassion to those who need it most.

Slava Ukraini!

Jenny Soddy
Jennysoddy@gmail.com
07976 922558

A couple of issues ago, we launched a special introductory offer to anybody interested in using the Windmill as a venue to start up a new class or activity. It's fair to say that the take up wasn't huge: we had a few enquiries and I showed one or two people around our facilities. It might result in a new group or two, it might not. Then I thought, maybe we'll get a better response if we throw out a few ideas. So, I turned to ChatGPT, fast becoming my new best friend, and it came up with a load of suggestions, many of which are groups already thriving at the Windmill. Here are a few that we don't have and, to my knowledge, that we've never had: indoor sports such as table tennis, pickleball or indoor bowling; martial arts such as judo, karate or tai chi; arts and crafts, such as painting, drawing or pottery. My new best friend also suggested mindfulness and meditation groups, parenting support groups and, one that I particularly liked the sound of, laughter yoga. Anyway, our introductory offer still stands, and we'd love to hear from you.



In the meantime, there are two more Windmill improvement projects to report on. During June and July we will be refurbishing the upstairs kitchenette and bringing it up to the same standard as the downstairs kitchen – bringing it into the 21st century!

We will also have contractors on site repairing and repainting exterior woodwork and generally improving the appearance of the place. There may be some slight disruption to some hirers. We will, of course, let you know in advance and keep this to a minimum. As always, your support and cooperation is appreciated.

Right, I think that is all I have to say. To find out more about our facilities and what's on currently, just visit our website www.thewindmilledddington.org. If you'd like to view our facilities in person, please contact Julie: enquiries@thewindmilledddington.org or call 07720 834006. We look forward to hearing from you.

Vaughan Jones
chair@thewindmilledddington.org

DEDDINGTON LIBRARY

Thank you to all my readers for your support of the library. Not only do we have books to borrow but also CDs, jigsaws, local walks leaflets, access to Ancestry and Findmypast, printing, photocopying, scanning, maps, children's and adult's books, postcards and notelets for sale. If you need information, I will do my best to find it for you: I love a challenge.

Our next event is on 9 June, in conjunction with Green Week, when the author (and our patron), Linda Newbery, will be here during the afternoon to answer questions and again at 7.00pm when she will be joined by another author, Jane Rogers. It would be great to see you here.

I have also invited children's author, Sue Palmer to

give a talk about stories of astronauts and space and experiments on 31 July, 2.00–3.00pm. It should be great fun. There is no need to book – just come along to the library.

The children's Summer Reading Challenge, this year, 'Story Garden', starts on 5 July and runs until 6 September. The target is to read at least six books during the holiday period. There will be the usual prizes and stickers as well as a medal for completion.

With the Story Garden in mind, I am still after a few more plants for the yard so the space can be used for the reading challenge.

Gail Cripps
Gail.Cripps@oxfordshire.gov.uk

DEDDINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Unbelievably, we are now in Term 5 but the weather is definitely making us feel brighter, with it seeming more like summer! What a treat for us all.

For the first time this year, we taught a group of children to maypole dance who then performed for the whole school on the playground. It was brilliant! The dancers loved every minute of it and we all enjoyed watching them.

With the 80th anniversary of VE Day taking place on Thursday 8 May, we celebrated in a variety of ways at school. The Year 6 children attended church and also spent time reflecting at the memorial area in the Market Place, with other members of our community. Four children took an active part, raising the flag and carrying the wreaths laid at the war memorial. Everyone enjoyed the lunch picnic on the school field. It was a fantastic occasion which allowed us to reflect on the past, and show respect for those who fought in WW11.

Our Year 1 class had a wonderful visit to Little

Rollright Farm where they learned a great deal, particularly about soil types, feeling them, seeing and smelling them. They learnt how to plant seeds whilst visiting the allotments there, saw chickens and found out about the lambs, which were just four days old and piglets just a few weeks old.

Years 3 and 4 children are now having tennis lessons at the Windmill Centre. The Year 2 pupils loved attending a multi-skills festival at the Warriner. They enjoyed the whole event which took place outside on a lovely sunny day.

Our headteacher, Clive Evans, will be giving a presentation on the history of our school at the next meeting of the History Society, Thursday 12 June at 7.30pm in the school hall. It is open to everyone, with non-members paying £4.50 on the door.

Denise Welch
dwel3954@deddington.oxon.sch.uk

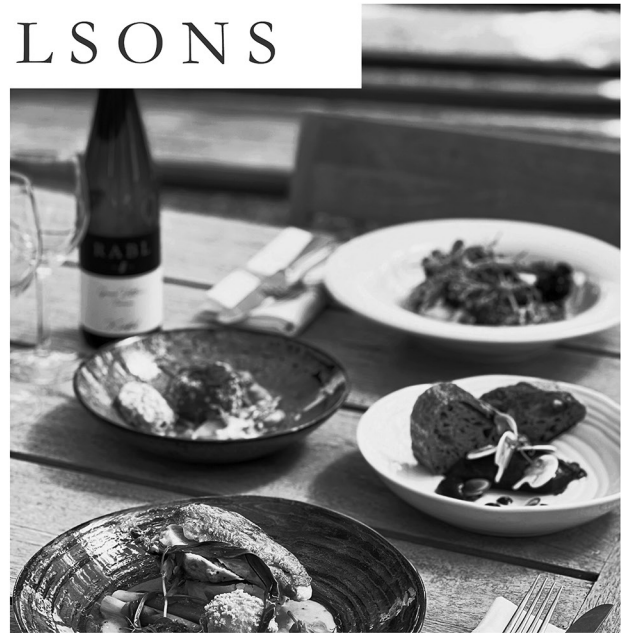
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www.deddingtonnurseryandpfsu.co.uk

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PERMITTED DEVELOPMENT AND HOME EXTENSIONS

I am often asked by people, thinking about extending their property and assuming that, since their extension falls within the limits of permitted development, if they need planning approval or can they just get on with it.

Permitted development applies to the enlargement or other alterations to a dwelling, provided it is not listed or in a conservation area, a national park or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty or Site of Special Scientific Interest for larger homes, and it only applies to houses and not maisonettes, flats, or other buildings. There may be other restrictions known as Article 4 directions applying to a particular property.

Extensions to the front of the property do not fall within permitted development but some side extensions may be. Verandahs, balconies and raised platforms are not permitted development and require planning permission, although Juliet balconies, where there is no platform and therefore no external access, would normally be permitted development.

Permitted development rights apply to specific types of dwellings and this is where it can be complicated. Single storey rear extensions must not extend beyond the rear wall of the original house by more than three metres, if it is a semi-detached or terraced house, or no more than four metres if it is detached. 'Original house' means as it was first built or as it stood on 1 July 1948, if it was before that date. Although you may not have built an extension to the house, a previous owner may have done so. In 2015, planning legislation was amended to increase these limits to six metres and eight metres respectively.

Whilst it is correct that planning approval is not required if the proposed extension falls within the relevant permitted development criteria, a different kind of approval is required from the local planning authority, confirming that the proposed work is indeed permitted development. For extensions of up to three

metres for semi-detached and terraced houses and up to four metres, if detached, a Lawful Development: Proposed Use application is required. For extensions under the 2015 planning legislation, a Prior Approval: Larger Home Extension application is required and will include consultation with neighbouring properties. In both scenarios, the local planning authority must be notified with the relevant application before the development starts. Supporting information in the form of existing and proposed plans and elevations of the proposed extension must accompany the application.

If the planning authority decides that the work does not fall within permitted development limits, then a Householder Planning Application will be required for the work. If an extension has been built without either a Lawful Development Certificate or a Prior Approval Notification, the planning authority can require a Householder Planning Application to be submitted for approval. If planning approval is not obtained for an extension already built, and an appeal against the decision is dismissed by the planning inspector, the planning authority can issue a Planning Enforcement Notice against the construction of an illegal building, requiring it to be demolished at the householder's expense.

Permitted development doesn't just apply to extensions and includes the installation of solar panels or other alterations to the roof of a house, such as dormers or the alteration or replacement of a chimney, as well as outbuildings, swimming pools and even LPG or oil containers.

As you can see, permitted development is not as straightforward as it appears. The technical guidance runs to 50 pages.

Jan Liberadzki BA Arch (Hons), MSc
design@jlda.co.uk

FARMERS' MARKET

Our market has now won the Prestige Award for The Best Farmers' Market in Oxfordshire, five times in a row. This year it has also been nominated for a Travel and Hospitality Award too. It shows we are doing something right.

Another yardstick of our success is that we are celebrating our 25th anniversary next September. If it were a marriage it would be a silver one, symbolising the enduring strength and beauty of a long-lasting union, which sort of fits.

We want to celebrate this milestone and ask anyone who remembers the early days to drop us a line with their memories. Also, if you have celebratory idea for the day itself, we'd be very happy to hear them. Please send an email to chairman@deddingtonfarmersmarket.co.uk with your suggestions. Currently we are thinking along the lines of a 'Best Dog in Market', maybe a fancy dress competition, a guess the value/weight of the market hamper, best market photograph, though nothing is written in stone ... yet.

So do help us celebrate our 25th Anniversary mar-

ket in style. This is your market, run by your neighbours for our village. How lucky are we to have this monthly event on our doorstep.

Tei Willox
chairman@deddingtonfarmersmarket.co.uk

PFSU AND NURSERY

Thank you to everyone who came along to join in the fun at Castle Grounds for the Four Farms Challenge. We hope everyone enjoyed all the children's activities.

Deddington PFSU will be part of the primary school summer fête on Saturday 14 June. Please come and play 'hook a duck' and 'splat the rat'.

Looking ahead to our final term this year, the children in Nursery will be getting pre-school ready and enjoying topics on the snail and the whale while pre-school will have a focus on keeping fit and healthy.

Shrene Saleh-Gillett
info@deddingtonnurseryandpfsu.co.uk

CALLING ALL CLUBS

Deddington Bookworms

Our book last month was *At Hawthorn Time* by Melissa Harrison. Bookworms concluded that this was a 'Marmite' book. 'A book of two halves' seemed to be the consensus – a beautiful reflection on the natural world during the time of hawthorn blossom and, albeit occasionally, a confusing exposé on the nuances of village life. Melissa Harrison's understanding of the season and its plant life is clear, as is her realisation of how communities, like swans, can move along smoothly with the unseen nuances swirling busily beneath.

For many of us there was a lack of cohesion between the two halves and, by leaving the explanation/development of the undercurrents until the last few pages, the conclusion was less than clear or, indeed, satisfying. This is a book that needs time to mull over.

Our next book is *The Letter Home* by Rachael English.

DeddingtonBookworms@gmail.com

Photographic Society

Our inspiring guest speaker for May, Kate Barry, shared her fascinating journey from photojournalism to landscape photography, rooted in her upbringing in Deddington. At the beginning of her career, she worked in manual film photography, and she described the satisfaction of producing a good image in the darkroom for publication. A turning point came when she was asked to photograph the local weather, sparking a deep interest in landscape and seascape photography.

Her career shifted to teaching at an art college, which gave her the freedom to travel during school holidays. Her journeys took her to Israel and Namibia, where she captured stunning scenes of sand dunes and tribal life. Welcomed by a local tribe, she learned about hair design techniques and tribal hierarchy, all while photographing the experience. She was also fortunate to observe wildlife including leopards, zebras and elephants. A highlight was photographing the Milky Way over the Namib desert, thanks to the remarkably clear skies. Kate's travels led her to Glencoe in Scotland where, amongst other things, she captured Rannoch Moor. This was followed by a trip to Wales, photographing the Penmon Lighthouse in Anglesey and Dinorwic Quarry.

This tied beautifully into May's theme: 'Closer to Home', reminding us that inspiration often begins right where we are.

Courtney Killpack
www.addphoto.co.uk

Holly Tree Club

On 8 May, Holly Tree Club members celebrated the 80th anniversary of VE Day with a special afternoon tea party. The Holly Tree Hall was decked out in bunting and balloons, everyone dressed in red, white and blue and some even had handmade accessories. After a greeting accompanied by a glass of fizz, everyone was treated to a fabulous afternoon tea (provided by Mrs Teas of Adderbury) using pretty vintage china.

Members had fun with a VE quiz, raffle, spot prizes, a singalong to wartime songs with flag waving and, of course, the national anthem.

A celebratory afternoon evoking much nostalgia, memories and stories aplenty.

Stella O'Neill

History Society

At our May meeting, Professor Robert Evans, Chairman of the Oxfordshire Blue Plaques Scheme, gave a lively and informative presentation about the scheme and some of its recipients. Plaques, as well as monuments, have long been used to combine a verbal and visual message. The first official plaque placed by the London Society of Arts was to Lord Byron in 1867 on his house in Holles Street, London (now John Lewis). The second, also in 1867, was to the living Napoleon III as emperor of France. Subsequent history led to the decision that blue plaque recipients should be deceased. Today there are about 1,000 blue plaques in London. If a blue plaque is placed on a listed building it becomes protected under that listing.

The Oxfordshire Blue Plaques Board was established in 1999 under the chairmanship of Professor Evans. All the members are volunteers and the criteria for awarding a blue plaque are listed on their website. Since 2001, 143 plaques have been placed – 83 in Oxford city and 60 in Oxfordshire. The first one was to Sarah Cooper (1848–1932) in recognition of her Oxford marmalade and placed on the site of production at 83, High Street, Oxford. A plaque costs about £700 and the board seeks funding from the proposers where possible.

After outlining some of the notable blue plaque awards, including in unusual locations such as the site of the Cutteslowe Wall, Professor Evans detailed the blue plaque awards in Cherwell. The nearest to Deddington is that of Janet Blunt (1859–1950) at Le Hall Place, Adderbury, noted for her collection of folk songs and detailed written instructions for Morris dances, vital for the revival of the Adderbury Morris Dancing groups in the 1970s. Listings of all blue plaques awarded in Oxfordshire are also available on the website. The latest award was unveiled in Banbury on 17 May to Herbert Payne (1881–1922), a notable campaigner for council housing, on his former home in Queensway.

In June, Clive Evans, headteacher of Deddington Primary School, will be talking about the history and some interesting facts about the school. Please note the earlier starting time of 7.15pm for this meeting.

Jean Dipper
jean.dipper28@gmail.com

Local Vocals Community Choir

Our summer term is interspersed with school and bank holidays meaning many of our more mature brains return after two or three weeks away desperately trying to recall what we learnt previously. Thankfully after a few minutes it rushes back, and we again make a



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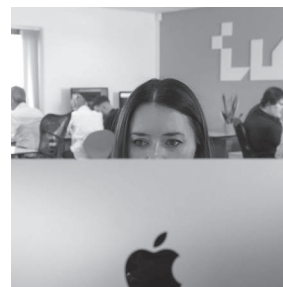
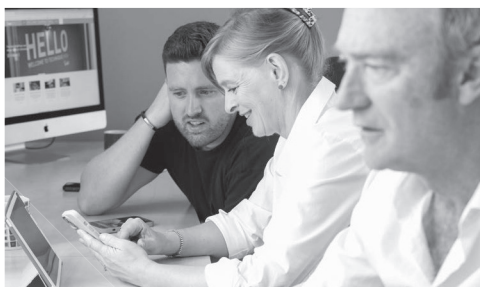


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CALLING ALL CLUBS

Continued from p26

reasonable sound. New songs this term include the beautiful and haunting *Adiemus* by Karl Jenkins. We're breaking tradition by including male voices. Fingers crossed we will nail it.

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.localvocalscc.co.uk. New members always welcome.

Alison Grieve

Deddington WI

Our May meeting was our annual croquet game. The weather was ideal and Mary's garden the perfect venue. The scores didn't seem important, the fun we had was more so. At our June meeting we have Hayley Scott, a Metropolitan Police Scene of Crime Officer talking about her life.

The WI meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 2.30pm. Visitors are always welcome. For further information contact Moira Byast on 01869 338637.

Moira Byast

Hempton Book Club

Our last read was *The Satsuma Complex* by Bob Mortimer. Described in the blurb as, 'a page turning story with a cast of unforgettable characters and 'a comic novel with genuine tension', it's the story of a man's quest for a girlfriend and the answer to the mystery

of his friend's disappearance, with a smattering of squirrels!

The group was divided 50/50 on this Marmite book; you either loved it or, while not exactly hating it, disliked it, there seemed to be no middle ground. We found it an easy read but not particularly funny – it was quirky! Would we read another book by Bob Mortimer – yes and no.

Next read – *Metronome* by Tom Watson.

Jo Churchyard

Book Group

Last month we read Clover Stroud's memoir, *The Giant on the Skyline*, a moving homage to the place near the Ridgeway where she has created a home for herself and her family. However, the family is split because Clover's husband, Pete, has a successful and demanding career in Washington DC. Pete wants Clover and the youngest children to join him there, leaving the older ones at university in the UK.

Clover is aghast at this prospect. Through her detailed and lyrical descriptions of the local landscape, flora and fauna, history, community and customs, we see how deeply she is connected to them and how difficult her choice will be.

Some of us loved the book, while others found it repetitive at times. However, we all thought that it was beautifully written and aroused our sympathy for Clover in her dilemma.

The Book Group

SPORT

Deddington Town FC

First Team results

12.4.25	Shipston Res (h) (CUP)	W 4–1
17.4.25	Hardwick Sports (a)	L 2–3
21.4.25	Wroxton (n) (CUP)	W3–2Lowe,Thornton J, Fountain
26.4.25	Kings Sutton (a)	D 0–0
29.4.25	Wroxton (a) W	6–0ThorntonJ.(3), Atherton, Rogers, Hayward
3.5.25	Swis 313 FC (h)	L 2–6

Season concluded.

Sound the bugles and light the cannons, for Deddington's men's teams have continued a dynasty of glory and written their names into folklore. The Humbugs have done the parish proud by claiming the Lord Jersey Cup with a hard-fought victory against Wroxton. Goals from Ash Lowe, Jack Fountain and the inimitable Joe Thornton were sufficient to claim the prize and add to the six previous Lord Jersey trophies the side has claimed in our storied history. After the Lord Mayor's show came a win, a loss and a draw, with a hat-trick from Joe Thornton leading the way in rubbing their Lord Jersey victims' noses in six of the best. The First Team finished fourth in the Premier Division: an excellent placing to go with their trophy.

Meanwhile, despite no more games, the Latics have only gone and got promoted. Having accrued 31 points, they could only have been usurped by Blockley

FC's games in hand, but despite two wins and a draw, Blockley had to forfeit their final match, leaving them one point behind the mighty Reserves. So, there we have it: a trophy and a promotion to savour from another memorable season. Let your acclaim cascade!

Aaron Bliss

07909 642882

Deddington Town FC Youth

The Under 15s finished the season with a narrow 5–4 defeat at Caversham in the B League. The Under 14s had a 1–3 away win at Harwell and Hendred to win the C League and promotion. They won the league by eight points with only one defeat all season. The Under 13s finished the season with two defeats – a 9–0 defeat at Chadlington, and a 5–2 defeat at Banbury Irish.

We have run Deddington Wildcats for girls in the 2023/4 and 2024/5 seasons for Years 2 and 3 girls. They train on the Windmill Centre all weather court on Fridays from 5.30–6.30. It is non-competitive football for girls who want to give it a go for the very first time or want to play with girls of their own age. The focus is on having loads of fun and meeting new friends. We plan to run Wildcats for Years 2 and 3 children for next season but this depends on recruiting new volunteers to become football coaches, particularly women. We may also run it for Year 1 girls as well, if enough volunteers come forward. The Club will provide support to volunteers becoming football

SPORT

coaches and get you started. With the Women's Euros taking place in Switzerland this summer and the Lionesses as defending champions, this is a great time to get involved in girls' football. If you are interested and want to find out more, please email me.

Our presentation day will be held at the Windmill on Sunday 8 June from 12.00–5.00pm 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 to sponsor our presentation day programme and the other to sponsor our player award trophies. If you are a local business who is interested, do get in touch now.

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

Roger Sykes, 07899 914425
carsykes@btinternet.com

Deddington Tennis Club

On 5 May, we ran our Play Your Way to Wimbledon tournament. It is a national competition that aims to give club level tennis players the chance of competing on Wimbledon's world-famous grass courts.

It was the first year we have run this and we held both men's and ladies' doubles competitions. Both competitions were hard fought with some very long matches, and it was a great way to spend a Bank Holiday. Our winners, Sally Wetten and Clare Taylor and Ed Toll and Ed Whorwood, go on to play a second round at county level on 22 June, the winners of which will go on to Wimbledon for the finals. We wish our representatives the best of luck for the next round.

If that makes you itch to pick up a racket, why not come to our Open Day on 29 June? It's for anyone who has ever thought about playing tennis, people looking for a new club or for the chance to pick up a racket again. It's 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. We are offering a discount to anyone joining the club that week. We're also running a poster competition at the school and the winning entries will be on show at the Club.

You can book a space for social play. You can just show up on the day but, to guarantee a court, see the booking page on www.deddingtontennis.com, which also has information about how to join and the options we offer. We post club news on Facebook [DeddingtonTennisClub](https://www.facebook.com/DeddingtonTennisClub) and Instagram [@deddingtontennis](https://www.instagram.com/deddingtontennis).

Becky Jones

Deddington Original Golf Society – DOGS

Our first outing of 2025 took us to the Robin Hood Golf Club in Solihull on 6 May, a first visit by DOGS. It is a beautiful course and despite the weather service forecasting cloudy skies, we enjoyed wall to wall sunshine. 'The sun shines on the righteous ...' - we just need to identify who it is.

Winners on the day were: Nearest the Pin, David

Continued from p29

White; Longest Drive, Lyn Talbot; Team Winners, David White, Keith Spengler, Lyn Talbot and John Dauphin with 86 points; Individual Winners, David White in 2nd place with a very respectable 36 points; and Overall Winner, new DOG Steve Rice with a magnificent 40 points.

Our next event is at another new venue, Henley-on-Thames Golf Club on Monday 9 June.

We're always on the look out for 'stray dogs', so if you would like to join a friendly golf society or for more information please contact Tony Lowe, secretary, dogsgolf23@gmail.com.

Tony Lowe

YOUTH

1st Deddington Scout Group

Cubs

Last month we made the most of the lighter nights and have loved being back outside. We enjoyed lots of outdoor team challenges and competitive games and have been hiking, playing in streams, paddling in fords, building dens, cooking sausages and toasting marshmallows.

If you were at the farmers' market, you may have heard us before you saw us. St George is the patron saint of Scouting, so we celebrated St George's day by parading from the Windmill to the Market Place, blowing whistles and banging pots and pans and anything else we could find. On arrival each Cub renewed his promise. My ears are still ringing!

Tracy Tong
deddingtoncubs@gmail.com

Scouts

Following on last month's visits by the various Friends groups, the Scouts held a very productive evening making bird scarers that we hope to sell for the Friends of Deddington Library. They are made from fully recycled materials and cost a mere £2 each. Please contact me if you would like one.

Cycle maintenance was next on the agenda. Half the boys went to the Cyclogical Shop for James to share his expertise with them. Many thanks to him. The rest stayed at the Windmill with Neil and me. Bikes have come a long way in the past few years and I was very glad to have Neil along. Thanks to him too.

We walked down to form an honour guard for the lighting of the VE Day Beacon, which turned out to be more exciting than we anticipated. It was nice to see so many villagers there.

With camping season fast approaching, we dug out our two bell tents, just to check on their condition. The Scouts erected them very well, considering how hard the ground was and how big the pegs are.

Thanks to the boys who bravely carried the dragon for St George – they can't see where they're going at all.

Pete Churchyard
deddingtonscouts@gmail.com

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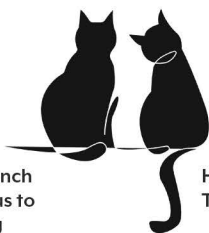
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