

September 2025

# *The* **DEDDINGTON NEWS**



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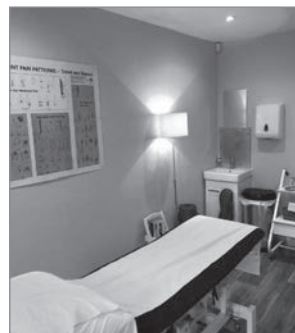
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## *The* DEDDINGTON NEWS

In July we said goodbye to Buffy Heywood, a long-standing supporter and contributor to the *DN*. She was our treasurer from September 1993 until December 2016 and kept all her records by hand – no computer spreadsheets for Buffy. In addition, she researched and wrote each month about the Revd Cotton Risley of Deddington Manor, originally under the title of *The Way We Were* which soon became *150 Years Ago*. These were written from April 1988 until December 2018. They provided an invaluable historic record now available to anyone interested, instead of only at the Bodleian Library. We owe her quite a debt, thank you Buffy.

JC

### What's On September

- Wed 3 Photographic Society: Alastair Howell, sports photography, Adderbury Institute, 7.30pm
- Fri 5 DOGS: Waterstock Golf Club, Thame and barbecue evening in Deddington
- Mon 8 Local Vocals Community Choir: term starts, Primary School, 7.30pm
- Wed 10 Women's Institute, Holly Tree Hall, 2.30pm
- Sat 13 Artisan Craft Fayre: Windmill Centre, 9.00am–5.00pm
- Sun 14 Driving Ukraine: Solidarity Jazz Band, Deddington Church, 6.30pm
- Wed 17 Parish Council: Hempton Lounge, Windmill Centre, 7.30pm
- Thu 18 Deddington Monthly Lunch Club: pre-booking required by 8 September, Hempton Lounge, Windmill Centre, 12.30pm
- Sat 20 North Oxfordshire home energy information event, Deddington Church, 1.30pm
- Sun 21 Deddington Players: auditions for *The Little Mermaid*, Windmill Centre, 2.00pm
- Thu 25 Book Group: call Sally Lambert, 01869 338094, for details
- Fri 26 Wine and Cheese tasting: Advance booking required by 12 September, Holly Tree Hall, 8.15–10.45pm
- Sat 27 Farmers' Market Market Place, 9.00am–12.30pm
- Sat 27 Fair Trade Stall: Deddington Church, 9.00am–12.30pm

### October

- Wed 1 Photographic Society: Adderbury Institute, 7.30pm
- Wed 8 Women's Institute: Holly Tree Hall, 2.30pm
- Thu 9 History Society: Women in the Arts and Crafts Movement in Oxfordshire and the Cotswolds, Primary School, 7.30pm
- Sun 12 Deddington Pork Pie Appreciation Society: Deddington Arms, 4.00pm
- Wed 15 Parish Council: Hempton Lounge, Windmill Centre, 7.30pm
- Sat 25 Farmers' Market Market Place, 9.00am–12.30pm
- Sat 25 Fair Trade Stall: Deddington Church, 9.00am–12.30pm

See also [www.deddington.org.uk](http://www.deddington.org.uk)

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## DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

### Meeting held on 16 July at the Windmill

*Present:* Cllrs Oldfield, O'Neill, Palin, Robinson (chair), Rogers, Smith, Snashall, Timms, County Cllr Epps, parish clerk, clerk's assistant, one member of the public and a DN representative.

#### County Council

OCC has trialled a system called gul-e for EV charging cables across footpaths without trip hazards. Residents will be able to apply to this scheme later.

#### Finance & General Purposes

£100 donation was made to Volunteer Driver Service.

#### Planning

Deddington church: tree works. PC supported the application as it was omitted from agenda.

#### No objection

Land adjacent to Clifton Gate development, Clifton Road: change of material to walls of detached garage. Castle House Cottage, 1 Hopcraft Lane, Deddington: Various works including painting vehicle access gates.

#### Approvals

The Little House, Clifton Road, Deddington.

Deddington Mill, Milton Gated Road, Deddington.

Fairview, St Thomas Street, Deddington.

#### Environment and Recreation

Following RoSPA inspection, Creative Play has corrected the issues they were responsible for. Another quote is awaited for the slide mound.

*Castle Grounds:* Repair to the path is problematic because of inability to access the area with machinery. The box for rackets and balls that the Tennis Club provided has been completely destroyed.

#### Highways and Transport

Site meeting for Earls Lane pathway to be arranged. Speedwatch is continuing with several more volunteers but more would be welcomed.

The VAS going into Clifton isn't working properly.

CDC will be asked to retain existing S106 money and any future funds and pass them to any future organisation following CDC's demise and to hold them on escrow for Deddington.

### Meeting held on 20 August at the Windmill

*Present:* Councillors ap Simon, Cox, Oldfield, O'Neill, Robinson (chair), Dist Cllr Rogers, Snashall, Swadling, Timms, the parish clerk, the clerk's assistant and a DN representative.

Denise Mobbs was coopted to the council.

#### County Council

The Oxford United FC planning application has been granted.

A decision on speed reductions on the A4260 will be made on 4 September. TVP has decided not to reinstate the fixed speed camera at Deddington crossroads, claiming there have been no collisions in recent years.

Free electric blanket testing will be carried out locally on 24 September. To book a spot call 01865 519800 (option 4), email [duty.officer@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:duty.officer@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

or online at <https://service.oxfordshire.gov.uk/blankettesting>.

#### District Council

The government's decision to reset business rates will have a significant impact on CDC's income.

#### Finance & General Purposes

It was agreed to pay £750 for laying down unsafe gravestones and a further £50 for a sign warning of trip hazards.

It was agreed to spend £840 to replace the batteries in the parish defibrillators.

It was agreed to bring forward the RoSPA report next year to ensure equipment is available for the school summer holidays.

#### Planning

##### No objection

Castle End House, Castle Street: reorganisation of existing kitchen east façade.

The Old Butchery, St Thomas Street: replacement of leanto roof and conservatory with a flat roof; re-modelling the kitchen and associated works; 2-storey extension and associated alterations, but defer to conservation officer for use of materials.

The Old Butchery, St Thomas Street: addition of re-configuration of lavatory on the second floor to form a shower room.

5 Flux Drive, Deddington: single storey rear extension.

Crown and Tuns, New Street: change of use to dwelling.

Crown and Tuns, New Street: reinstate central staircase, remove large vent at rear.

33 The Daedings: single storey front porch and wrap-around side extension.

Clifton House, Clifton Road: Certificate of Lawfulness of Proposed Development for construction of single storey rear extension plus detached pergola.

The End Cottage, Hempton: single storey rear extension and extend front floor dormer and alterations to appearance of the dwelling house, level changes to the rear garden to create terraces. Request traffic management order.

##### Not commented on

33 St John's Way, Hempton: single and two storey extensions, internal alterations and new porch.

Mount Pleasant, Hempton: layout, scale, appearance and landscaping – this is a re-consultation following receipt of amendments.

Grove Cottage, New Street, Deddington: tree works, application arrived after the agenda was prepared.

#### Highways & Transport

The PC is pressing OCC for further information on traffic calming for Clifton. No date has yet been given on Hempton build-outs.

#### Environment & Recreation

It was agreed to erect signs to say no bikes in the Windmill copse.

The woodland trail footpath needs to be renewed which requires some volunteers to spread it.

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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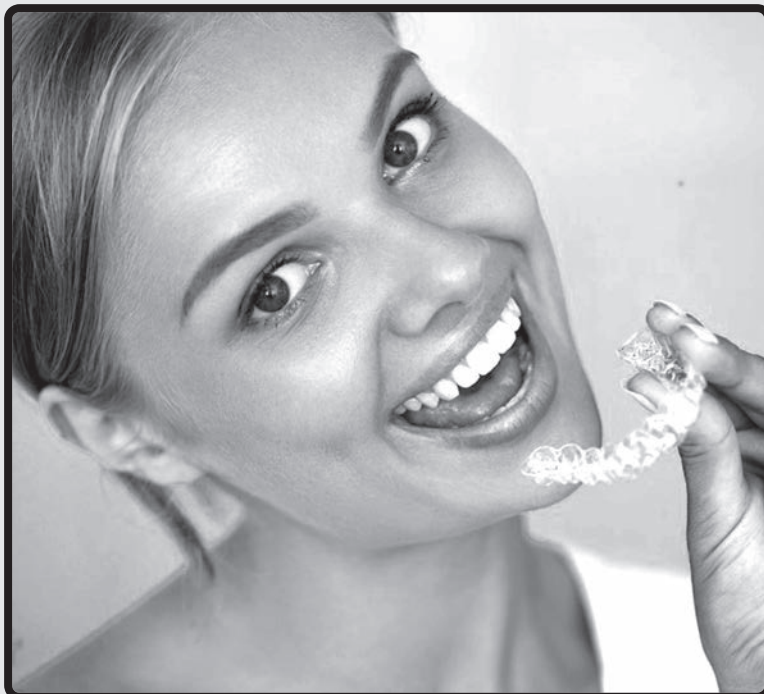
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## POSTCARD FROM AMERICA

### Allegiance to MAGA, Rigged Elections, IT and Cars

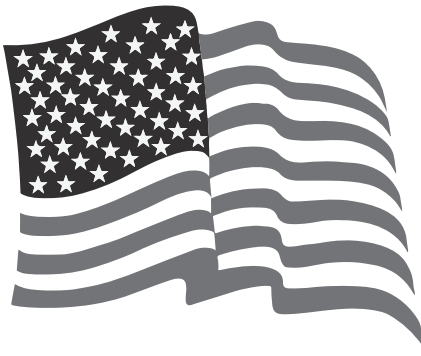
A few years ago our Jake came home from school and asked his mum, 'Who is Richard Stans?' This took a bit of unravelling but Heather discovered that high school kids are made to recite the Pledge of Allegiance several times a week and the second line is about supporting the 'Republic for which it Stands'. Indoc-trination in the belief that America is the 'greatest country on earth' starts early and is reinforced by singing the Stars and Stripes on every conceivable occasion. Over 50% of the houses in our liberal neighbourhood fly the flag every day. This is how MAGA started. They are educated to believe that their country is the greatest place on earth, something that us Brits find a bit offensive.

My friendship circle contains almost no Trumpists, but the few I speak to are enjoying 'smaller govern-ment'. This is a recurring theme amongst Republicans who do not understand the value of public employees. There is a lot of talk of corruption but absolutely no evidence. This is their cover for continuing to support Trump but we are now getting on to the next level, as he tries to make up the economic numbers when he doesn't like what the real ones say. This is going to be a very interesting conversational topic; these business folk like tax cuts but let's see if they can live with this kind of madness.

Before I came to live in America, I thought it was only banana republics that rigged elections but in a post-truth world where the majority relies on social media for their news, this next six months is going to be very difficult. The Republicans in Texas think they can gain five congressional seats by gerrymandering, redrawing constituency boundary maps in bizarre ways in order to win more seats. They want to draw a really wavy line around Democrats (and put them in one constituency which they win easily, cutting them out of multiple places which they previously won marginally. You would think it was illegal but this corrupt Supreme Court is not going to stand in Trump's way and, with the population getting used to troops on the streets to enforce Trump's will, who knows what will happen next.

Someone asked me last week what were the biggest changes I have seen in my 50 years in IT. I replied that AI and Big Data are going to fundamen-tally change our society. Apart from the huge effect on the labour markets, there are dangerous political ramifications that we are not preparing for. The stock markets are booming on the back of IT companies and AI investment is keeping the US economy afloat. People like Peter Thiel and his company, Palantir, are going to be running this new world, and these guys do not believe in democracy.

My mid-life crisis sports car started failing so I



decided that I had to buy a new car. There is not much I agree with Trump on but I decided I should buy American. My old man BMW is assembled in South Carolina but, when I inspected the delivery note, it showed that only 9% of the parts came from the US. Like the UK, the US is no longer a big manufacturing economy. It is the IT industry that drives growth. The result will be that the Tech Bros will be aiming to

get their own man as supreme leader of the US. It's a good job JD Vance loves the Cotswolds.

**Mike Ward**  
[mike@mikeaward.com](mailto:mike@mikeaward.com)

### Deddington Nursery and PFSU

We are looking forward to welcoming our new starters in September.

Our autumn topic at both settings will be 'All About Me'.

Keep your eyes peeled for details of our fundraising Hallowe'en Trail in October.

**Shrene Saleh-Gillett**  
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## THE LAST WORD

### ELISABETH HEYWOOD (BUFFY) 1930–2025

Elisabeth, known as Buffy to her friends, was born in Maidenhead on Christmas Day 1930, a very special Christmas present for her parents that year. Her brother, John, arrived a couple years later and together they grew up having an idyllic childhood around Maidenhead. Once she left school, she trained as a secretary and worked for a surveyor's firm in London.

In the winter of 1956/57, she met Denys Heywood on a skiing holiday in Zermatt. They married in October 1957, fairly soon after they met, due to Denys's RAF postings. She then settled into service life as a housewife and was soon to become a mother.

After various homes all over the UK, including Norfolk, Rothbury, Scampton and Basingstoke, the family started their foreign adventures. Denys had a posting to America in 1966 and, by now, there were four children, Robin, Annabel, Carol and Simon. They lived in America for four years and spent many holidays travelling around the country in a caravan.

After America the family returned to the UK for nine months for Denys to retrain on various aircraft for his next posting to Cyprus. Buffy revelled in her time in Cyprus with lots of service parties and beach barbecues. This was an idyllic time for her as all four of her children were there with her. After a couple of years, they returned to the UK for a short posting to Bawtry, near Doncaster, which became Denys's last posting as he retired from the RAF and, in 1977, they all moved to Deddington. Here, Buffy really came into her own as she loved the idea of never having to move again. A lot of friends moved into the village around the same time, which soon developed into a lovely community with endless parties and tennis matches.

There were many family get togethers as well as excellent Christmas parties which included getting all her children and grandchildren together which she loved. Buffy always loved preparing the annual Christmas meal when the dining table was extended to its maximum and other tables were added so that the whole family could sit together and enjoy the wonderful Christmas lunch, not forgetting to wish her a happy birthday as well.

Buffy developed an enormous interest in the history of Deddington Manor and its 18th century owner, the Rev Cotton Risley. She loved doing the researching his well-known diaries in the Bodleian Library and placing an excerpt under the title of *150 Years Ago* in the *Deddington News* every month. She was a very active member of the Deddington & District History Society, for which she researched and published two authoritative articles about the 'Poor of Deddington' and 'Deddington Schools'.

Buffy and Denys enjoyed playing tennis so much they had a tennis court built at the Manor. Along with



a group of friends, she was involved with raising funds and setting up Deddington Tennis Club which opened in April 1983 where she played for the club teams. She was also involved in setting up the Deddington Map Group for the Millennium Project. As a committee member, she organised the research for naming all the local fields, as well as hosting regular meetings around her dining-room table.

She was the chairman, then treasurer, of a local branch of the charity Imperial Cancer Research which raised over £25,000.

Buffy loved her garden with all its beautiful flower beds and huge kitchen garden which produced a mass of fruit and veg, quite often given to friends in Deddington. But her greatest passion was her roses and, right up to the time she moved, she would be found on her knees pruning and tending the 12 rose beds.

After she left Deddington, she moved to Twyford with Rob and Sheila. Here she enjoyed sitting in the garden on her swing seat enjoying the sunshine, but as her health deteriorated she moved into Seccombe Court just across the road to be looked after by all the amazing staff there.

Buffy is missed greatly by all her friends and family.

**Rob and Sheila Heywood**

The Friends of Deddington Library

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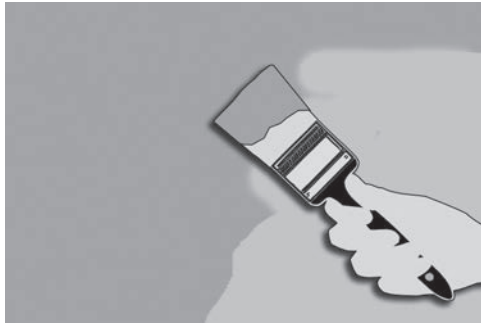
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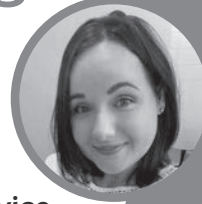
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## CHURCH

### Parish Church SS Peter and Paul

Welcome back after the summer break and, whether you have been away or not, we hope you have had a chance to rest. This month we are looking forward to welcoming our wonderful choir back after their August break, starting with Choral Evensong at 6.00pm on 7 September, something not to be missed. Our fun, family communion service also returns on the morning of the seventh, whilst on 21 September, Hempton will be celebrating Harvest Festival (Deddington celebrates Harvest on 5 October). On 28 September, we are focusing on Fairtrade in Deddington. So autumn is getting off to a great start – come and join us.

#### September

Mon	8.45am	Morning Prayer
Tue	8.15am	Morning Prayer
Wed	10.00am	Holy Communion (with healing prayer on 4th Wednesdays)
Thu	9.30am	Tea + Toast and Squiggles and Wiggles (term-time)
Fri	8.45am	Morning Prayer
	5.15pm	Evening Prayer
Sun 7	10.30am	Family Communion (breakfast and crafts from 9.45am)
	6.00pm	Evensong
Sun 14	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sun 21	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sun 28	10.30am	Holy Communion (Fairtrade focus)

The Rev 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](http://www.deddingtonchurch.org) and <https://www.facebook.com/DeddingtonChurch>.

#### Hempton

Sun 21	9.00am	Harvest Festival with Holy Communion
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#### Barford St Michael

Wed	5.15pm	Evening Prayer
Sun 7	10.30am	Coffee and Chat
Sun 21	10.30am	Family Service
Sun 28	10.30am	Family Communion

#### Barford St John

Tue	5.15pm	Evening Prayer
Fri	8.15am	Morning Prayer
Sun 14	9.00am	Holy Communion

#### From the Parish Registers:

##### Baptisms:

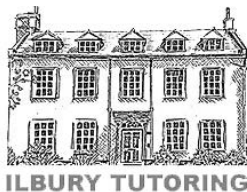
29 June	Rory Allen
27 July	Felix Romankiw
3 August	Logan-Riley Jones
10 August	Walter Fenning

##### Funerals:

27 June	Viv O'Donnell
10 July	Brian Edward Rogers
24 July	Elisabeth ('Buffy') Heywood

For funeral and home visits in case of illness, please contact the vicar, Nick Fielden, on 01869 934794 or [vicar@deddingtonchurch.org](mailto:vicar@deddingtonchurch.org), or one of the church wardens: Deddington: vacancy; Barfords: Sue Addison (07484 718791), Sally Barber (07776 241218) or [barfordchurches234@gmail.com](mailto:barfordchurches234@gmail.com).

For baptism, wedding and general enquiries please contact the parish administrator: [office@deddington-church.org](mailto:office@deddington-church.org).



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#### 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>. There is a 4.00pm Vigil Mass for Sunday and Sunday Masses at 8.30am and 11.30am.

## NEWS FROM HEMPTON

Parishioners are quite used to coming across all manner of detritus abandoned on the roadside and in the hedgerows. Examples range from crisp packets to car tyres donated by the Phantom Tyre Dumper. I observed an unusual item littering the verge opposite Stone Pits the other day. The item itself was not unusual, but finding it discarded on the roadside was.

The item in question was a pair of underpants. It pricked my curiosity as to how they came to be there. Surely no one felt the need to disrobe and deposit them on the spot. Perhaps someone under the influence of alcohol or other substance thought a spot of mooning was in order, though complete removal of said garment is not necessary to perform the gesture. Could it have fallen from the owner's pocket having been removed to facilitate some other activity? Maybe it was the result of a prank carried out on some victim by their so-called friends, following an evening of revelry. Did the owner have a sudden urge to go commando, or perhaps have an accident rendering them unwearable? Is there a clue in the words repeated all over the garment: 'Game on'? Perhaps the answer is more mundane and the garment had escaped from a passing refuse truck or other vehicle.

Should the owner wish to be repatriated with the garment, he may be disappointed to learn that they have subsequently been mowed along with the vegetation on the verge. Their appearance now emulates a popular nickname for the garment, shreddies. The term 'shreddies' for underwear is colloquial, originating in the British Armed Forces. It refers to the fact that underwear would often shred or tear apart, especially during long marches and drills.

Shreddies Ltd manufactures flatulence-filtering garments in Leicestershire. They were originally invented as healthcare underwear for people with conditions such as IBS, Crohn's disease and food intolerances. Shreddies' garments feature an activated carbon back panel, which absorbs and neutralises odours. The panel is reactivated when the garment is washed. Research found that the fabric 'removes sulphide and ethyl mercaptan so effectively it can filter odours 200 times the strength of the average flatus emission'. In 2009 Shreddies underwear received a 'Look Good, Feel Good' award from the Association for Continence Advice.

The term, pair of underwear or pair of pants, pair of knickers, what have you, comes from the fact that early underwear, worn in medieval times, was two pieces. You'd pull a piece up each leg and then tie them together.

My personal award for the most egregious disregard for the 20 mph limit through Hempton this month goes to the driver of a Bentley Flying Spur. I observed the vehicle as it burst out of the narrows at a considerable velocity almost flying in the direction of Deddington. My guess was 40–50mph. Undeterred

by any limit or restriction he, for it was a he, floored the accelerator and unleashed the 771bhp the vehicle is said to develop. Its velocity as it passed out of the village and into the 50mph zone is anyone's guess and still accelerating as though the Inland Revenue was after him.

The driver, assuming he was the owner of the projectile, I presume is well heeled. These hand-built vehicles have a base price new of £226.5k; loaded with options owners can pay more than £300k. You may surmise that you could not afford petrol to feed such a beast; it is apparently quite frugal on the old go-juice with 85.6mpg quoted if you opt for the hybrid model. Straight go-juice variants only manage about 19-26mpg. Top speed is quoted as 177mph for the hybrid, V12 engined editions can better 200mph.

He apparently believes rules are for fools and an annoyance. No doubt his accountant deals with fines etc and his lawyer deals with any interference from the Blue Meanies.

Our American friends transiting between Barford St John and Croughton now have a nice smooth road and should arrive without spilling their coffee. We indigenous types are still keeping the dry cleaning industry alive on the rest of the network.

**Stuart Oldham**  
[sj\\_oldham@btinternet.com](mailto:sj_oldham@btinternet.com)

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## FARMERS' MARKET

Our monthly market is a wee wonder and much loved by those who shop there. However, it doesn't happen by magic. We have a hard working management team of seven who meet once a month to take care of the back story, legals, marketing, finances, donations, insurance and more.

As important is our construction crew. Without our band of happy volunteers there would be no market and therefore no annual distribution of profit to our local groups ... and, of course, no lovely local produce to buy.

There seems to be a barrier to recruiting more team members and we think it's because people are concerned about the number of times they have to pitch up. Some of our team come every market, some two or three times a year, either in the morning to set up or at the end of the market to pack everything away. The attraction after the morning set-up is the crew breakfast in the Deddington Arms.

And why does our team do it? It's not the free

t-shirt or fleece or annual lunch but it's about the camaraderie and wanting to add to the community we live in. It's particularly inviting to village newcomers as Dave and Sue discovered when they moved to Deddington:

'From that very first crisp 7.00 in the morning back in 2023, joining the Deddington farmers' market set-up team has been an absolute joy. My wife and I have been there almost every month since, only missing the odd one for holidays, and it's become a highlight in our calendar. There's something special about the early buzz of the square, the friendly banter as stalls go up, and the shared sense of purpose in bringing the market to life. Beyond the fun, it's deeply rewarding to know we're helping the community and playing our part in the life of the village.'

If you feel you'd like to get involved, meet new people, or just help the market out a few times a year, please get in touch either by email [construction@deddingtonfarmersmarket.co.uk](mailto:construction@deddingtonfarmersmarket.co.uk), or pop along on market day to the information trolley to meet some of the team.

**Tei Willox**

[chair@deddingtonfarmersmarket.co.uk](mailto:chair@deddingtonfarmersmarket.co.uk)



## FRIENDS OF CASTLE GROUNDS

Could you help? We'd love to extend the variety of wildflowers on the northern bank of the Castle Grounds, on the left as you go in the gate. We tried planting some small patches a couple of years ago with limited success and are planning to have another go in the early autumn.

If you have either experience or tips to share, or willingness to lend a hand with preparing the area and sowing/planting some seeds, then please get in touch. Email us at [info@friendsofcastlegrounds.co.uk](mailto:info@friendsofcastlegrounds.co.uk) or message us on our Facebook page @FriendsCastleGroundsDeddington, where you can also see some photos of the wildflower bank.

There are also some recent pics of the Castle Grounds in high summer on the Facebook page. There's always plenty of shade amongst the surrounding trees, wonderful for an atmospheric stroll or a spot of relaxing forest-bathing.

No-one needs reminding how hot and dry this summer has been. Fires and barbecues aren't allowed at the Grounds because of its historic nature but would be a serious hazard at the moment. We're grateful to everyone for complying with this.

Glimpses of hope from the annual check of the owl boxes – a collared dove had been inhabiting the tawny owl box, but there was an owl feather in the barn owl box ...

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## DRIVING UKRAINE

### *Ukraine Solidarity Jazz Band*

We are so excited to announce news of a forthcoming concert in aid of Driving Ukraine coming to Deddington church on 14 September at 7.00pm. All proceeds will go to Driving Ukraine and tickets will be on sale for £10. For more information about the concert, the performers and Driving Ukraine, look out for posters and flyers around the villages, Deddington online Events, WhatsApp groups and the *Banbury Guardian*.

A flyer is enclosed in this *Deddington News*. Tickets can be bought from Hamptons estate agents in the Market Place, cash only; online using the QR codes on the enclosed flyer; or at the church door on the night, cash or card. Alternatively contact me, details below, phone or email, card or cash. Please come along and support Ukraine and enjoy what will be the most amazing evening of great music – listening to the soulful sounds of jazz, everyone united in support of those affected by this awful war.

### *Convoy 45 and 46*

In July, we ran two huge convoys to Ukraine, delivering 12 vehicles. Twenty-eight volunteers raised £81,000 to complete the missions. On the first convoy on 10 July, we were joined by Alastair Caldwell, ex-McLaren F1 World Championship team winning manager in '72 and '74 (James Hunt and Fittipaldi). Alastair has been a massive supporter of Driving Ukraine since the beginning of the invasion and since Driving Ukraine started. In 2023/24 he auctioned off four classic cars from his personal collection, donating the proceeds to charities including DrivingUkraine.

On this trip, not having joined a convoy before, he was rightfully recognised and awarded by Lviv City Council with a gold medal in Lviv Town Hall, a true token of appreciation from the city and its leaders. During the second convoy our team member, Jacob Simpson, was awarded the Medal of Military Support from General Oleksandr Syrskyi, the commander-in-chief of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, an award from the highest level of Ukrainian government and military, an incredible honour and a token of how crucial his work with Driving Ukraine has been over the past years. Lastly Maksym Sosliuk, Head of Ukrainian Operations and Driving Ukraine co-founder with Fynn Watt in 2022 and Stanislav Dekhtiar Ukraine PR Manager, were winners of the BRAVE awards held in Lviv. This was certainly a month of many achievements and incredible appreciation shown towards the team and all those involved in Driving Ukraine. Upcoming convoy dates are now on our website. Come and join us: [www.DrivingUkraine.org/volunteer](http://www.DrivingUkraine.org/volunteer).

### *Recognition*

When Mission 45 returned from Ukraine, the convoy of drivers were invited to go directly to the Houses of Parliament, by invitation from David Taylor MP, where Driving Ukraine was given thanks as a token of appreciation for groups enabling life-saving work in Ukraine.

### *A Remarkable Story*

At the Deddington Festival in June, Fynn Watt invited the children attending the festival to write their wishes and messages for the people of Ukraine on one of the convoy vehicles before it was sent to the front. The vehicle was a white Hilux. It was delivered in Convoy 45 and subsequently carried out every possible and impossible task. It has especially proven itself during casualty evacuations and lately, there have been many of them. The Hilux completed each evacuation successfully, saving the lives of many young soldiers.

Unfortunately, during a recent night mission, the vehicle was struck by a Russian FPV (first person view) drone equipped with a thermal camera. Yet, by

some miracle and incredible luck, all four soldiers inside survived without serious injuries. The drone hit the vehicle's door pillar, which absorbed the entire impact, sparing the crew. Even more surprisingly, the Hilux can be repaired and brought back into service so we will definitely hear more of it in the future.

The soldiers believe they were saved by the many wishes and messages that were written on the vehicle by our children at Deddington Festival before it was sent to Ukraine. Living a spiritual life and being in one of the world's most dangerous places, those involved in the combat take all the blessings they can get and none have served them better than those made by the children of Oxfordshire.

### *Result of the Blind Auction – Painting by Viv*

Following a blind auction to win Viv O'Donnell's final painting, that she started and finished one week before her death, and to fulfil her wish to auction one of her paintings for Ukraine, we are delighted to announce the winner, Eugene who lives in London and has long been a supporter of Driving Ukraine, he bid £5,000, our highest offer – thank you Eugene for your generosity. Thanks also to everyone who took the time and love to place bids for the painting.

We look forward to seeing you on 14 September at 7.00pm in Deddington church.



*The Hilux at Deddington Festival*

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## CHURCHILL'S EMPORIUM

Some while ago the *DN* editors were keen to find some interesting articles to introduce to the magazine. With suggestions from the rest of the editorial team, I fixed on the building recently changed from the home of the British Microlight Aircraft Association to residential accommodation, having watched with some interest the changes that have been wrought around the Market Place, in particular to Laurel House and Wychway House on the Bullring. The BMAA has moved to Banbury Business Park at Adderbury.

The earliest evidence I can find of ownership of the building was when it was variously known as Churchill's Emporium or Colonial Meat Stores, selling groceries, foreign wines, spirits, ales and stouts and drapery, with William Churchill's name displayed clearly on the wall of Wychway House facing the Market Place.

There is a complex history of the local Churchill family (24 pages!) available on DOL at [https://www.deddingtonhistory.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0004/12685/ChurchillsFin3.pdf](https://www.deddingtonhistory.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/12685/ChurchillsFin3.pdf). If you're a local Churchill and think you may be related, or just interested, this is well worth a read but you need a strong coffee to keep track of the branch of the family you're researching. There are several tombstones of their ancestors in the parish churchyard.

The relevant extract relating to Wychwood House states that 'the youngest son of Joseph and Hester was William Churchill who was born on June 3 1822. He too was a carpenter living in Castle End. He married Mary Bruffet [later corrected to Prophet] of Sibford in 1846 by whom he had two sons and four daughters. The second son Joseph died an infant, and Miss Fanny Churchill died in 1909, a tablet in memory of her exists in the church. William died in 1888 and his wife survived him until 1911. The surviving son, William Churchill, kept a grocer's shop near the Market Place until he died in 1899, his wife Elizabeth dying in 1912. The tombstones of this family are to be found in the churchyard on the north side of the church.'

An extract from *The Victoria History of the County of Oxford* provides an additional insight to parish life in the 19th century, referring to Churchill's and Tucker's shops in the Market Place as being long-established family businesses, with Churchill's 'presumably dating at least from the mid-18th century when Bartholomew Churchill, hop-dealer and grocer was a prominent figure in the town'. It goes on to say that a furniture and drapery warehouse was established in the Bullring in the later 19th century by the Chislett family and William Churchill ran a similar business, the Household Cash Stores. The name of Household Cash Stores can be

seen in the photograph.

Further information was discovered on DOL from notes given by Sid Berry talking about the period 1925–40 (recorded in 2005) in conversation with Mary and Colin Robinson and updated to 2013. This shows Fortescue's, solicitors, in the building known as Wychway House.

Philip Allan began his Phillip Allan Publishers business in 1972 on the second floor of the property, subsequently joined by *DN*'s first editor, Mary Robinson, where she was employed as an editor

from 1980–83, with Janet Broadbent of this parish as secretary, one production girl and one other editor. All five were in one room, with access by a single staircase, and no fire exit of course.

Trek America were then in residence for a few years, within my memory, as was Cliff Collins' business, Mirror Image. This was a successful photocopy machine business when they were quite a new thing and Cliff provided good support to *DN* before our printing production transferred to the primary school.

**Jill Cheeseman**



Photo courtesy DOL Gallery



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I'd like to say it's nice to be back after a fabulous summer break but I'd be lying. Sitting in front of a computer versus playing with my grandchildren on a beach in northern Spain – you decide ... ho hum. That said, there is plenty to look forward to over the coming months at the Windmill. Here are a few dates for your diary.

On Thursday 18 September we are proud to support a really exciting new venture by local chef, Gregg Brown. The Deddington Monthly Lunch Club will take place at the Windmill from 12.30pm. At last, our new kitchen will be put through its paces. Gregg's mission: 'to create a warm and welcoming space, where friendships flourish over home-cooked meals. A choice of delicious mains and mouth-watering desserts, followed by coffee and teas. All for £15. Email [greggbrown@cook-school.co.uk](mailto:greggbrown@cook-school.co.uk) by 8 September to book your place.

On Sunday 21 September from 2.00–4.00pm the Deddington Players will be holding auditions for this season's panto, *The Little Mermaid*. Get yourself down

to the Windmill if you think you can act or sing or help out backstage. All are welcome. The shows will take place on 22, 23 and 24 January next year. Always a village highlight!

I am delighted to announce that on Saturday 8 November from 7.00pm we will be holding our second Deddington Wine Festival. This fundraising event was a huge success last year. Over 160 people enjoyed tasting 30 lovingly-selected wines with wine experts on hand to guide them through, not to mention the delicious complementary nibbles. This year, the organisation we have chosen to support is Driving Ukraine – you will have heard of it. An amazing local operation which saves limbs and lives by buying, preparing and delivering vehicles and aid to help evacuate wounded soldiers from the front line. More information in the next issue.

As well as these three 'biggies', all our regular clubs and groups will be returning after the summer break. There is plenty to do but we are always on the lookout for more. Check our website, [www.thewindmill-deddington.org](http://www.thewindmill-deddington.org) if you would like to know what is going on. If you'd like to view our facilities in person, please contact Julie on [enquiries@thewindmillededdington.org](mailto:enquiries@thewindmillededdington.org) or 07720 834006. See you at the Windmill!

**Vaughan Jones**  
**[chair@thewindmillededdington.org](mailto:chair@thewindmillededdington.org)**

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## NEWS FROM THE HEALTH CENTRE

As a group learning more about the workings of the Health Centre, it is becoming evident what a complex organisation it is. At our last meeting, we discovered the difference between a retail pharmacy and a dispensary and how important distance can be.

If you live more than a mile from a retail pharmacy, prescriptions can be fulfilled by Deddington Health Centre's dispensary; any closer and it is a retail pharmacy that issues the items. All prescriptions are the responsibility of GPs because there is not a dispensing pharmacist on site. The dispensary issues to 60% of the practice population which can be 14,000 items per month. As you are probably aware, the dispensary does not sell any proprietary items that you might find in a high street pharmacy.

The storage robot used for all the drugs held in the dispensary is linked to software, so prescriptions dispensed are picked by the robot, ready for dispensing and labelling. This allows for great traceability because the record of stock in and out is captured electronically and is reviewed by staff. All prescriptions are electronically checked rather than being printed when they are reconciled each month. It is estimated all this saves one and half person's time.

Only complete prescriptions are being loaded into the vending machine outside the dispensary, so that repeat journeys are minimised. Previously, partially complete prescriptions were being loaded. A PIN is

needed to access the machine, for non-refrigerated prescription items, which can be picked up 24 hours a day. There is also a delivery service for free or prepaid prescriptions, on Thursday and Friday each week, for patients who are housebound or unable to collect.

The pharmacy team records and updates patient information from secondary care (hospital) such as changes to medication for long term conditions and discharge letters after inpatient care. Anyone discharged from hospital should be issued with two weeks' medication. It takes up to seven days to update a patient's record due to the number of discharge letters being received. It is not possible to supply any new medication straight after discharge, so a patient will be referred to the hospital should that arise.

The dedicated team also completes annual medication reviews, ensures NICE and inhouse protocols are followed for drugs, in agreement with GPs, as well as monitoring high risk drugs. This frees up capacity for GPs as the administration is completed by pharmacy technicians. Medication reviews for patients are very important and can often be ignored, triggering the need for reminders. So, if you are invited for a review, please do complete it.

Our next deep dive will be with the patient services team.

**Anne Hunsley**  
***Patient Participation Group***



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## LETTERS


FROM MICHAEL LIEBRECHT,  
CHAIR,

DEDDINGTON CHARITY ESTATES  
Reading Alison Day's article on the Town Hall in the July edition of *DN* had me thinking that I might offer something of an update. As a reading of the history of the Town Hall reflects – on [www.deddingtonhistory.uk/buildings/townhall](http://www.deddingtonhistory.uk/buildings/townhall) to which Alison refers – an

extensive programme of renovation was undertaken by the DCE between the ending of the parish council's lease in 2006 and 2015. More recently, the outstanding step in that phase of renovation was completed by painting the render. The extensive costs – roof work, window replacements, re-rendering and painting of a Grade II listed building – were funded entirely by the DCE, through some careful and dedicated management by the trustees throughout that time.

The trustees hope that Deddington's residents and visitors feel as the trustees do – the Town Hall's condition and appearance make it a worthy part of Deddington's history and character. Very pleasingly it has become the home of Wychwood Art, while the undercroft remains available for temporary stalls or the like, for a modest rent, just as it was in 1806. A welcome and much-appreciated regular user has been the farmers' market.

The DCE's principal purpose though, is the provision of accommodation for individuals facing hardship, in the four almshouses on Church Street, while additionally seeking to support local education



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

in various ways, most recently by the provision of an art club at Deddington Primary School. Some readers may have noticed that in autumn last year the almshouses underwent an urgent complete re-roofing. The urgency of protecting the welfare of residents, together with listed building status, bats and Welsh slates, combined to present enormous challenges but it

was successfully completed in February this year.

The re-roofing of the almshouses consumed some £89,000. It had been intended – and planning consent has been obtained – to embark on restorative work to the undercroft ceiling structure and brickwork floor and pillars, as well as some improvements to lighting and insulation. That work will now have to be delayed or staggered. The DCE is not a big charity and it would be wrong of me not to take this opportunity to say that any contribution to ensure this important landmark of the village is kept in rude health will be very welcome (for options on how to do so please email the clerk at [deddingtoncharityestates@gmail.com](mailto:deddingtoncharityestates@gmail.com)). At the same time the trustees are aiming over time to improve the accommodation for residents in the almshouses as far as circumstances will allow.

On a personnel level, there is room for another trustee or two if anyone is interested. More importantly, the charity is looking for a new clerk to take over from January 2026, who can be reassured that the exceptional challenges of the almshouse roofs and main refurbishment of the Town Hall are now behind us. If anyone is interested, or knows of anyone who might be, please do get in touch.

Finally, an assurance that, notwithstanding the various ambitions mentioned and not-too-distant memories of the pandemic, there is no intention to rebuild the Pest House in the Pest House Field. See [www.thededdingtoncharityestates.org](http://www.thededdingtoncharityestates.org) for more on that.

## NEWS FROM CLIFTON

One of our neighbours, Julie, has a gig with Radio Horton and is looking for any content you think might be of interest. If so, send it here and I'll pass it on. She has already broadcast an interview with Vaughan about the contribution of the Windmill Centre to our community. If you are interested in getting involved I can arrange an introduction.

CAST is getting very caimpaigny, meeting here, there and everywhere to seek a reason why other localities are enjoying traffic calming measures, with little supporting evidence other than RTCs, where we are sadly lacking. So a thought was had that we should all meet to share RTC stories (we know of two 'unreported') but we're sure you know of more. What da ya fink? CAST will continue to report HGVs breaking the 7 tonne limit and I'll continue to update you on the prosecutions.

The reopening of the pub is eagerly awaited and some of our group have met the new landlord and further news in September is eagerly awaited. Apart from that we have little else in this holiday season – sorry. Remember if you have any news, contact me.

**Martin Bryce**  
[martindnbryce@gmail.com](mailto:martindnbryce@gmail.com)

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## DH History Corner

[www.deddingtonhistory.uk](http://www.deddingtonhistory.uk)

### VJDay 80

On Friday 15 August the nation, including Deddington, marked the 80th anniversary of Victory over Japan with a 2-minute silence at 12.00pm during a service at the war memorial. Preceding this, the church bells pealed for half an hour in celebration of the end of WWII. The so-called 'Forgotten Army' had had to carry on fighting in the Far East long after the war in Europe had been won.

Ten men left Deddington for the far side of the world. They were remembered by name during the service – Sid Berry, Bill Bignold, Les Burton, Jockey Callow (who survived being a PoW on the infamous Burma Railway), Ron Canning, Sam Keyes, Les Legerton, Len Plumbe, Harold Pratt and Harry Sor-

rell. However, only nine returned.

Henry (Harry) Sorrell, who was a driver in the Royal Corps of Signals, had been captured by the Japanese in Thailand. He was drowned in September 1944 when the unmarked Japanese cargo ship, *MV Rakuyo Maru*, on which he was being transported as POW slave labour to Japan, was sunk by a US Navy submarine unaware of its human cargo. A total of 1,159 British and Australian POWs were lost. He had five sisters, some of whom had been evacuated to Deddington at the beginning of the war. Two of them, Doll and Ada, married Deddington soldiers, Frank Tarling and Arthur Bliss, who both served in the war in Europe. Descendants of three of the sisters were present and cousins, June and Anita, laid a wreath in memory of their uncle, Harry Sorrell, on behalf of all the families. Go to [www.deddingtonhistory.uk/](http://www.deddingtonhistory.uk/) to find links to articles about VJ Day 80 and Harry Sorrell and his family

**Rob Forsyth**  
[robert.s.forsyth@gmail.com](mailto:robert.s.forsyth@gmail.com)

## DEDDINGTON LIBRARY

Our biggest news is that Rhymetime is returning to the library on Monday 8 September at 2.15–2.45pm for 0–4 year olds. This will be term-time only. Parents are then able to collect children from school and return to the library for Lego club at 3.30–4.30pm, age 5+.

We celebrated Big Art week with author Mary Hoffman, followed by Big Green week with Jane Rogers, organised by our patron and author, Linda Newbery. The evenings were well attended with wine and biscuits, and lots of questions and discussion. Following on from this I invited Sue Palmer, children's author, who came and chatted to the children on space, linking into her books, *May's Moon*, and the children were enthralled, learning about the space shuttle and what's inside, including how to go to the loo!

Lots of rewards have been given out. I haven't known the library so quiet.

The summer reading challenge has been going well – more of this next month.

The Scouts have painted the large wall at the back white, ready for a mural to go up. So many thanks to Jo Churchyard and her four boys for doing this. I am still after your favourite book characters and scenes to add to the mural. The drawings will be added into the mural. This is running to 5 October. Please get your thinking caps on and drop your pictures into the library.

I look forward to seeing you in the library.

**Gail Cripps, Manager**  
[Gail.Cripps@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Gail.Cripps@oxfordshire.gov.uk)  
**01865 816010**



Daeda's Wood is an oasis of tranquillity on our doorstep and is well used by young and old. The information boards give the history of its creation in 1996 and pointers to tree identification. Ash dieback continues but the Woodland Trust ensures that the rides are clear and have even raked off the thatch from the mown wildflower meadow.

Dog walkers are mindful of the needs of others and considerately pick up and dispose of their pets' poo in the red bins.

We look forward to hearing from Reg Tipping later this month regarding the activity in the black bat boxes.

**Annette Murphy**  
[murphyannette74@gmail.com](mailto:murphyannette74@gmail.com)

## RIDE AND STRIDE

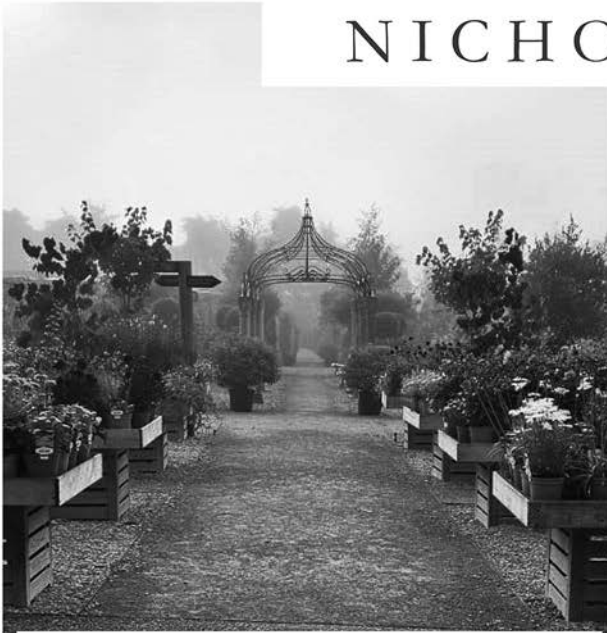


Ride and Stride 2025 is just around the corner. This sponsored event is taking place on 13 September between 10.00am and 5.00pm. You can cycle, walk, drive or even ride a horse between some of our neighbouring churches. Plan your own route or,

for a short family ride followed by a cream tea, meet at Deddington church at 2.00pm.

Not only will you be raising money for our church and for Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust but you'll also have the chance to explore some of the county's historic churches. For further details and to sign up for the event, contact our church coordinator, Sarah Liebrecht on [s.liebrecht2@gmail.com](mailto:s.liebrecht2@gmail.com) or 07976 523494, or take a look at OHCT's website: <https://ohct.org.uk/ride-and-stride>.

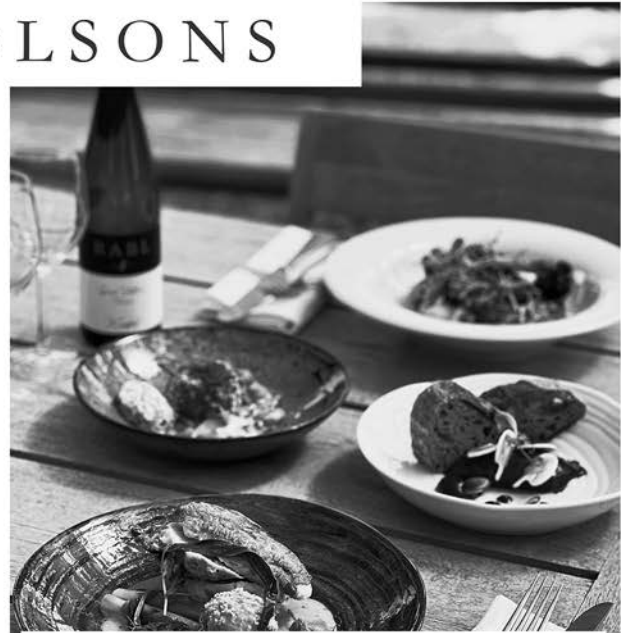
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## FRIENDS OF DEDDINGTON LIBRARY

Thank you to all our photo competition entrants. We received some wonderful shots, many from new entrants presenting several new angles and scenes never seen before in our competition. The FODL committee chose their top 12 images in an anonymous process where entrants' names were not revealed.

The calendar is currently at the printers and will be back in time for launch at the farmers' market on 27 September. We would like to thank our valued and loyal sponsors who support the calendar by sponsoring each month and thus cover our production costs. The three entries which garnered the most votes from the committee will each receive a large canvas print of their entry.

Once again, thank you to everyone involved who make it possible. .

**Bryn Williams**  
abw@brynwilliams.com

## LIBRARY BOOK REVIEW

*Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver, set mainly in rural Virginia, USA, is an ingenious updating and retelling of *David Copperfield*. Kingsolver follows the fortunes of a bright boy born into poverty and the wrong side of luck; like Dickens' David, he's passed from one home to another via a range of guardians and employers.

Throughout his varied experiences of harshness and kindness, Demon forms lasting friendships and discovers his talents, though this compelling depiction of rural poverty and the opioid crisis sees him and others falling into addiction. It's not essential to have read the Dickens novel to find this a moving and memorable story, but if you have, you'll enjoy meeting Kingsolver's versions of Betsy Trotwood, Uriah Heep, Agnes and others, and predicting events as they unfold. A brilliant novel by the winner of the Women's Prize for Fiction.

**Linda Newbery is Patron of Deddington Library**

## Stagecoach Improved Service

Stagecoach has made it easier to get around Oxford, Bicester, Witney and Banbury, with a range of improvements.

### More buses on the Banbury–Deddington–Oxford route

The X4 Express journey Banbury–Oxford, Monday to Friday, has additional journeys meaning there are X4 departures from Banbury Bus Station at 0715, 1025, 1225 and 1535 and return journeys from Oxford Rail Station at 0853, 1148, 1348 and 1705. The X4 complements the S4 service operating all week. As a result of punctuality issues of the X4, the early morning journey from Banbury will now leave 10 minutes earlier at 0715 instead of 0725.

The new X4 and S4 timetable can be seen at: [https://tison-maps-stagecoachbus.s3.amazonaws.com/Timetables/Oxford\\_Timetables/temp/2025//S4\\_X4\\_Banbury\\_310825.pdf](https://tison-maps-stagecoachbus.s3.amazonaws.com/Timetables/Oxford_Timetables/temp/2025//S4_X4_Banbury_310825.pdf)

## BLISSFUL THINKING

I'm a terrible photographer, mostly because of my total lack of patience and practice. But I always found long exposures fun for their very simple premise that the longer something in the frame stays still, the more developed it appears in the final shot.

Now, imagine that this basic photography logic could be applied, without actually opening an aperture, from the very chronological beginning of a tableau, but the effect was the same. Imagine, if you will, that this magic camera was in reality a series of cameras that drove around capturing images of an entire area, like the search engine ones do. Only, instead of a freeze-framed milieu from a moment in time, the image came out with the long exposure logic. The buildings that had stood the longest would emerge as the primary layer visible; the most exposed. Which businesses would appear with what signage? What landmarks, roads or bodies of water would emerge from our 15 or so centuries of history? Would there be any faint images of people or dogs in the public spaces around the parish? We know humans tend to be creatures of habit so it's not beyond the realms of possibility if people had stayed in the parish most of their lives. So, while we're burning up the planet for AI to generate pictures of a tyrannosaur eating our car, I dream of quantum computing offering us the chance to overdose on time dilation: to witness the past, present and future of all events in the multiverse occur at the same moment, all at once!



**Aaron Bliss**  
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## CALLING ALL CLUBS

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### Women's Institute

Our June meeting was one of the best we have had for a long time. Hayley Scott spoke on 'The Life of a Met Police Crime Scene investigator', full of technical details but in a way that was easy to understand and enjoyed by everyone. Our July meeting was very different, about the wedding customs of an Indian lady. The brilliant colours of the costumes and flowers brought it to life and it was interesting to hear about a very different culture where there are still many arranged marriages and divorce is rare. Our August meeting was playing bocchia, the wheelchair form of bowls, made popular by the Paralympics.

The WI meets on the second Wednesday of each month. New members are always welcome. Contact me on 07467067883 or 01869 338637

**Moira Byast**

### Photographic Society

At our August meeting wildlife photographer, Monica Doshi, talked about her travels.

She took us on a photographic journey to the Isles of Lewis and Harris showing photos of deserted beaches and stormy clouds, as well as shipwrecks around the islands. Monica loved photographing the local otter community, along with seals and black guillemots. Her trips have also taken her to Orkney and beyond.

She went to Shetland to photograph gannets and the rare red-throated divers and loved photographing the red-necked phalaropes, known for spinning on the water to bring up food.

On mainland Scotland, she often watches dolphins at Chanonry Point. In the Cairngorms she photographed snow buntings and mountain hares. She also captured the stunning landscape of Bamburgh Castle.

At our September meeting Alastair Howe will talk about his journey in sports photography. All are welcome.

**Courtney Killpack**  
[www.addphoto.co.uk](http://www.addphoto.co.uk)

### History Society

Headteacher, Clive Evans, gave a fascinating talk in June on the primary school's history. On display were several school photographs and documents of historical interest prompting much discussion and interest.

The school was founded in March 1853 on land given by the Cartwright family of Aynho and opened on 6 January 1854. The hall was part of the original building and housed the boys' school. The girls were taught in what is now the year 5 and 6 block. A school photo of the boys taken in 1910 was shown and raised the question of how many of those boys would be lost in the WWI. Three Year 6 pupils gave a beautiful presentation about the Deddington Chislett and Hancox brothers who died in WWI and are remembered on the war memorial. An interesting insight was given into Clifton School (1870–1945), now the home of one of those pupils.

A selection of old photos was included documenting some activities over the years, such as the Home Guard using the school as a training facility in WW2, some evacuees with a teacher, a 1927 school production, woodwork and basket weaving classes in 1928 and the 2011/12 mixed tag rugby team who won a national award. He concluded with a video showing the school today.

In June, the Society enjoyed an outing to Stowe Gardens. Stephen Wass, who spoke to the society last February, led a guided tour showing some of the treasures to be found in the gardens. His in-depth knowledge of its history and archaeology would be difficult to better and his insights made the visit well worthwhile and fully appreciated.

The History Society will be at the Community Hub at the farmers' market on 27 September, so visit us there to find out more about us.

The first meeting of the new season is on Thursday 9 October at 7.30pm in the primary school. Membership fee for the season is £20 per person or £5 on the door for non-members. Katherine Bradley will talk about the history of women in the Arts and Crafts Movement in Oxfordshire and the Cotswolds, including Jane and May Morris.

**Jean Dipper**  
[Jean.dipper28@gmail.com](mailto:Jean.dipper28@gmail.com)

### Deddington Players

Auditions for the next Deddington Players pantomime, *The Little Mermaid*, will take place at the Windmill on Sunday 21 September at 2.00pm. It's open to adults and youngsters (Year 1 upwards) on stage or behind the scenes. For further information, please contact me. Pantomime performance dates are 22–24 January 2026.

**Suzie Upson**  
[suzieupson@mac.com](mailto:suzieupson@mac.com)

### Local Vocals – Community Choir

Our new term starts on Monday 8 September when we will carry on with some of the songs we were learning last term, and some new ones. I still can't decide if it's easier to learn a song I have never heard before or one I know but, being an alto, only occasionally get to sing the melody. When it all comes together though, the sense of achievement is palpable and drives me on to the next. We are so pleased that our temporary choir leader, Alaster, has agreed to continue with us for this term.

To find out more about our choir, which meets at 7.30pm in the primary school each Monday during term-time, please go to our website [www.localvocalscc.co.uk](http://www.localvocalscc.co.uk). New members always welcome.

**Alison Grieve**

### Hempton Book Club

Since our last report, we have read two books. The first was *Up in the Attic*, a poetry book by Pam Ayres. This was, as you would expect, mildly amusing, in-



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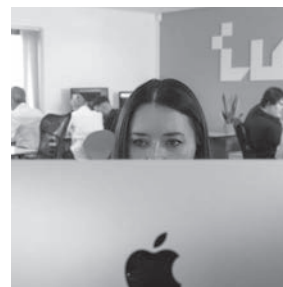
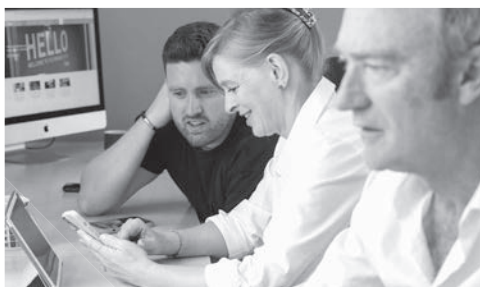
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## CALLING ALL CLUBS

*Continued from p26*

offensive, but not very exciting. The general opinion was that it was 'ok'.

The second was *On the Red Hill* by Mike Parker. Broadly, this was a true story based around two couples who lived at The Red Hill in North Wales. I'm afraid that's about as much as I can say about the book, as nobody got further than a quarter of the way through. One member commented that it was 'too wordy' which is ironic really. It was very descriptive but without much story about the main characters and I, for one, simply lost interest. Let's hope the next one keeps us riveted.

**Jo Churchyard**

### Book Group

*This Must Be the Place* by Maggie O'Farrell is the story of a marriage. Claudette, a former film star who has fled fame to live in fiercely guarded obscurity with her

young son, meets Daniel, a magnetic but flawed man and father to three children. Their chance meeting is the start of a complicated and stormy relationship which is played out in the course of the novel, together with glimpses of their lives before they met.

Our group had previously read and enjoyed two other works by the same author, *Hamnet* and *The Marriage Portrait* and had hoped to enjoy this novel too. Maggie O'Farrell writes well, creating a vivid picture, not only of Claudette and Daniel, but also the subsidiary characters. However, the narrative is not sequential, and every chapter brings a change not only in time but also in place and character. We found this made it difficult to follow the storyline and ultimately made it much less engaging.

The next meeting is on Thursday 25 September: call Sally Lambert, 01869 338094 for details.

**Book Group**

## SPORT

### Deddington Original Golf Society – DOGS

Our penultimate trip for summer 2025 was a visit to Stratford Oaks GC, Snitterfield. Sixteen DOGS ventured forth, including a debut for Josie Finding. Josie acquitted herself admirably contributing to the winning team. The results were: nearest the pin – Archie Kane; longest drive – No one. Winning team – Josie Finding, Andrew Finding, David White and Tony Lowe. The individual winners were: 3rd Place Andrew Finding with 30 points on countback; 2nd Nigel Oddy 30 points on countback and, the overall winner at 1st David White with 32 points.

Our last sojourn this summer takes us to Waterstock GC near Thame. This will be followed by our barbecue evening. For details, please contact me.

If you're new to the area and play golf socially or more competitively, DOGS would welcome you. For more details, contact me.

While it's four months away, our Christmas scramble and party is now scheduled. More information nearer the date. Enjoy the remainder of this amazing summer and play well.

**Tony Lowe, Secretary**  
[dogsgolf23@gmail.com](mailto:dogsgolf23@gmail.com)

### Deddington Town FC – Youth

We are pleased to return to football after the summer break. What a summer it was with the Lionesses winning Euro 2025 for the second time. We hope this will inspire girls to participate in football in the season ahead. We anticipate running our Wildcats programme for girls again this season – check our website for more information.

In July the adult and youth parts of the club formally became one football club with a new constitution to guide us and endorsement from Oxfordshire Football Association. This will enable the club to run more effectively, encouraging closer work between adult and youth coaches, and planning a clearer progression from youth into adult football.

After five years with the Club, Dan Branch will step down as secretary in December 2025. He has been a brilliant officer and provided much needed support to ensure our football offerings to children and young people work well. The secretary is one of the most important roles in grassroots football, being the main point of contact with Oxfordshire FA, the Witney and District Youth Football League and Oxfordshire Youth Football League. The secretary also provides key support to team managers and looks after the administrative duties for the youth part of the club. The main responsibilities are applying for membership to Oxfordshire FA and leagues; registering players to the leagues; submitting our England Football Accredited application each year and organising the club AGM and other meetings. If you are interested, please email Dan at [secretarydtfc@yahoo.com](mailto:secretarydtfc@yahoo.com) for more information and an informal chat. This is the one role where you do not need to know anything about football – you just need to be organised and have great people skills.

A warm welcome to our new Under 8s team who



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## SPORT

*Continued from p29*

start to play matches this season. For the last two seasons they have trained on Saturday mornings and are now ready to start their football journey in the league.

A warm welcome to the coaching team – Richard Lydiatt, Simon Watterton, and David Jukes. All the best to players, parents and coaches for the new season and thank you to Andy Hayward Window Cleaning for sponsoring the kit for season ahead.

**Roger Sykes, Club Development Officer**  
07899 914425, [carsykes@btinternet.com](mailto:carsykes@btinternet.com)  
[www.deddingtontownfc.com](http://www.deddingtontownfc.com)

### Deddington Tennis Club

It's been a busy summer at the Tennis Club, with hopefully a few more weeks of good weather to take us to the end of the summer season.

In June we held a very successful open day with lots of new members of all ages joining the club. We ran taster sessions and welcomed a member of CDC to see the new mini courts in use. The mini courts have been a great addition to the play areas at the Windmill. If you haven't already been for a hit, they are free to use, and rackets and balls can be borrowed from the Club.

I wrote a couple of months ago about the Play your Way to Wimbledon tournament. Day one was an internal club competition, from which two of our men's

pairs and two ladies' pairs went through to play in the second round at North Oxford. Clare Taylor and Sally Wetten, our number one ladies' pair, won the second round. This qualified them to play at Wimbledon at the beginning of August where they won one match and lost one, which was sadly not enough to take them through to the quarter finals. Even so, it was an amazing week for them and great for the club to be represented on the famous grass courts of SW19.

Early August saw our courts full of juniors as our coaching team ran a week of summer camp. We had a great response and were lucky to have some of our more grown-up juniors along to help and provide inspiration. We're keen that the kids get a taste of competition and had a one-day mini-tournament for them during the summer holidays.

On Bank Holiday Monday we hosted a charity doubles competition for club members in aid of Cancer Research. Many of us either know someone with cancer or have experienced cancer ourselves and all proceeds from our fundraising will go directly to Cancer Research UK to help find new ways to outsmart cancer. There is a donation link on our website.

If you're interested in finding out more about the Club or coming along to play, please go to our website for more information, [www.deddingtontennis.com](http://www.deddingtontennis.com).

**Becky Jones**

## YOUTH

### 1st Deddington Scout Group

#### Cubs

In August we enjoyed the outdoors. We built dens, toasted apples and made hot chocolate in Kelly Kettles. We completed our Communication badge by becoming human bee-bots and communicating in semaphore. Next will be our Pioneer badge, learning to tie various knots and their uses.

Thanks go to the Fenemores for the fantastic farm visit and to Ed Toll for the tennis session – so much fun. The term was rounded off with a mini camp at Horley, sleeping in the bunkhouse and in tents, with lots of fire-lighting, cooking, den building and adventures in the woods.

**Tracy Tong**  
[deddingtoncubs@gmail.com](mailto:deddingtoncubs@gmail.com)

Many thanks to Tracy, who is stepping away from Cubs, for her enthusiastic leadership over the past years. I'm sure she will be there to help when needed – or else.

#### Scouts

Thank heavens for the light nights. We've been spending most of our meetings away from base. The Scouts went to the Castle Grounds to work out how to measure trees – apparently, if you bend over and frame the tree between your legs, the distance between you and the tree is the height. Probably not very accurate but it looked hilarious.

Bell tents were erected at the Windmill – good practice and a check for mice damage, thankfully none

found, which was a good thing, as we used them for camp at Horley. On a very hot weekend, the Scouts spent a lot of time in the woods with water pistols before honing their sharpshooter skills on the rifle range and had a go at axe throwing. Several of them slept overnight in hammocks.

The visit to Hinton Airfield to see Ian Anthistle's glider was a great success as was the annual fishing trip to Belchers Farm, many thanks to both.

**Pete Churchyard**  
[deddingtonscouts@gmail.com](mailto:deddingtonscouts@gmail.com)

### 1st Deddington Guides

We finished the summer term with three outdoor meetings. The shooting activity at Horley scout camp site, with our very experienced instructor, was great, and we enjoyed games in the woods and on the field afterwards – a popular site. Then there was backwoodsman cooking and stream walking. On an open fire we made tea in our homemade billy cans and cooked all sorts of delights in foil parcels – a lovely evening. Thank you to Vicky and family for their hospitality – the girls loved the stream walking which was a great adventure and a perfect way to cool off on a warm evening. The rain, while we tucked into chocolate brownies (thank you, Charlotte) and lemonade afterwards, didn't dampen our end of term spirits.

We meet again on Tuesday 9 September, 7.00–9.00pm. All girls 10 and over are welcome. Come and see what we do and give us a try.

**Maggie Rampley 07957 600755**



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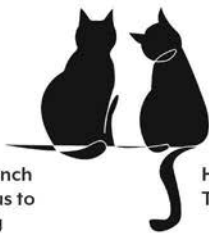
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