

November 2025

The DEDDINGTON NEWS



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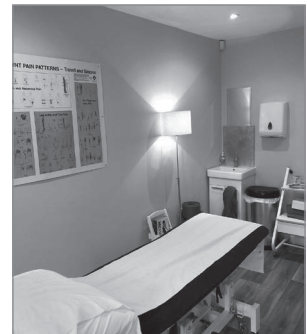
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THE TEAM

YOUR EDITOR THIS MONTH:
JILL CHEESEMAN

DECEMBER COPY TO
CATHERINE DESMOND
editor@deddingtonnews.co.uk
by **15 NOVEMBER**

ADVERTISING COPY
by **10 NOVEMBER**

EDITORS
Jill Cheeseman
01869 338609
Catherine Desmond 01869 337657
editor@deddingtonnews.co.uk

MONTHLY ADS & INSERTS
Sandie Goundrey
01869 338764
monthly@deddingtonnews.co.uk

ANNUAL ADS
Pat Sedgley
annuals@deddingtonnews.co.uk

WHAT'S ON
Alison Day
whatson@deddingtonnews.co.uk

CLUBS
Alison Day
07970 863255
clubs@deddingtonnews.co.uk

PARISH COUNCIL
Jill Cheeseman
01869 338609

DISTRIBUTION
Netia Piercy and team
01869 338191

TREASURER
Jane Price
01869 337586
treasurer@deddingtonnews.co.uk

COVER:
Stefan Wathan

Find out more about
The Deddington News at:
www.deddington.org.uk/deddington-news/

The DEDDINGTON NEWS

The farmers' market committee is keen to find some fresh blood to help out in a variety of roles. Unlike some voluntary positions, you will be rewarded, not just by keeping the market going, but also with their annual dinner. Please contact them to find out what's needed.

Shout out to the Scouts who have already adorned the village with the memorial poppies in readiness for Remembrance Day; and to the Cubs for engaging in a litter pick around the Windmill Centre playing fields. If you're slightly past the ages for being a Cub or Scout, there's more opportunities for collecting the never-ending litter that adorns our highways and byways. Dates and times are given below.

JC

What's on November

- | | | |
|-----|-----|--|
| Sat | 1 | North Cotswold Chamber Choir: <i>A Song of Splendour</i> , Orlando Gibbons at 400, Deddington Church, 7.30pm |
| Sat | 1 | Parish Council Hempton Litter Pick: meet at the green at Duns Tew/Barford Road junction, 9.00am |
| Sun | 2 | Community Orchard: Autumn event, Welford's Piece, Clifton, 1.00–3.00pm |
| Sun | 2 | Village Litter Pick: Town Hall, 2.30–3.30pm |
| Sun | 2 | Fireworks: Primary School Field, gates open 5.45pm, blast off 7.00pm |
| Wed | 5 | Photographic Society: Adderbury Institute, 7.30pm |
| Thu | 6 | People Planet Pint: Unicorn, 7.00–10.00pm |
| Sat | 8 | Deddington Wine Festival: in support of Driving Ukraine, Windmill Centre, 7.00–11.00pm |
| Sun | 9 | Remembrance Parade and Service: parade assembles 10.30am, war memorial 11.00am |
| Wed | 12 | Women's Institute, Holly Tree Hall, 2.30pm |
| Thu | 13– | Deddington Fair |
| Sat | 15 | |
| Thu | 13 | History Society: The History of Afternoon Tea and its Etiquette, Shaun Todd, Primary School, 7.30pm |
| Tue | 18 | Primary School: Open morning by arrangement with school |
| Wed | 19 | Parish Council: Old School Room, Hempton, 7.30pm |
| Thu | 20 | Primary School: Open morning by arrangement with school |
| Thu | 20 | Monthly Lunch Club: Windmill Centre, 12.30pm |
| Thu | 20 | Royal British Legion: AGM, Deddington Arms Boardroom, 7.00pm |
| Sat | 22 | Farmers' Market, Market Place, 9.00am–12.30pm |
| Sat | 22 | Fair Trade Stall, Deddington Church, 9.00am–12.30pm |

December

- | | | |
|-----|----|---|
| Wed | 3 | Photographic Society: Adderbury Institute, 7.30pm |
| Wed | 10 | Women's Institute, Holly Tree Hall, 2.30pm |
| Thu | 11 | History Society: Primary School, 7.30pm |
| Thu | 11 | People Planet Pint: George Inn, Barford St Michael, 7.00–10.00pm |
| Fri | 12 | DOGS: Tadmerton Heath Golf Club and Christmas scramble and dinner |

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 held on 11 October at the Windmill Centre

Present: Councillors ap Simon, Cox, Mobbs, Oldfield, O'Neill, Palin, Robinson (chair), Rogers, Snashall, Swadling and Watts, County Councillor Epps, District Councillor Rogers, the parish clerk and clerk's assistant, *DN* correspondent.

Councillor Nick Smith has resigned from the council, which now leaves two vacancies.

County Council

Councillor Epps raised the proposed Oxfordshire Strategic Rail Freight Interchange (OxSRFI) to be built at Ardley affecting many local communities. This is a significant national infrastructure project rather than a planning application and will go through several processes before consultations begin. There is additional warehousing in separate applications. Other speculative applications proposed for the area between the River Cherwell and Bicester include Heyford Park New Town and Puy du Fou theme park north-west of Bicester. These are all relatively long term proposals but any that obtain consent are likely to have a significant effect on the wider locality. Heyford Park development has now been identified by the government as one of twelve new towns and will be included in a strategic environmental assessment, likely to be published for consultation next spring.

These applications provoked considerable debate, resulting in the PC deciding to write to various government bodies to object on the basis of environmental damage to the parish caused by a substantial increase in traffic movements.

There is three months' free travel on Park & Ride services to encourage Christmas shopping in Oxford.

Finance and General Purposes

It is hoped that Councillor Epps will support the costs of supervising the Remembrance Day parade.

The PC agreed to spend up to £1,100 on a Christmas tree for the Market Place.

The PC agreed to make a grant of £100 to MIND as the charity provides a good deal of support to members of the community.

It was also agreed to spend up to £10,500 on the refurbishment of the Lookout.

Planning Applications

Objection

Pure Barn, Oxford Road, Deddington: extension of existing building for food storage; on the basis of the significantly increased size of the barn which implies an increase in vehicle movement to the Oxford Road. Mallards, New Street, Deddington: side and rear extensions, alteration of a window opening to create a door, repair to front steps, new door in south-east elevation of the 2012 extension; on the basis of change of street scene in conservation area/within proximity to Grade II* listed building, loss of amenity/privacy/overlooking neighbour, highways/parking/poor vision splay lines exiting property, rooflights/roof lanterns/

glass roof to extensions, increase in light pollution, detrimental to nocturnal animals in the adjacent orchard. Design/property use – self contained appearance of the additional bedroom with separate access.

Mallards (as above) with the additions: removal of partitions associated with a downstairs lavatory and widening of an existing access to front rooms on the first floor; on the basis of many of the conservation and heritage issues in the above application being relevant under this application.

Appeals

The outstanding decision on the land East of Combe Cottage and South of St John's Way, Hempton has been dismissed, on the basis of the lack of amenity in Hempton, distance from the centre of Deddington and the provisions of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Approvals

The End Cottage, Hempton: single storey rear extension.

Pure Barn, Oxford Road, Deddington: discharge of biodiversity condition.

The Stile House, New Street, Deddington: tree works.

6 Hempton Road, Deddington: rendering to part front and rear elevations.

Clifton House, Clifton Road, Deddington: Certificate of Lawfulness.

Grove Cottages, High Street, Deddington: tree works.

33 The Daedings, Deddington: erection of a single storey front and side extension.

Plummers, 8 Hopcraft Lane, Deddington.

Large Scale Developments

Heyford Park/Ardley Developments and Puy du Fou

It was agreed to object to the Heyford Park planning application on the basis of significant increase in traffic. In the event that the application is granted, it was agreed to request improvement to the traffic lights including ANPR prior to these significant developments plus a noise improvement road surface for High Street/New Street as well as traffic calming at the entrances to the village.

Multiple warehouses adjacent to J10 of the M40: there are implications for Deddington, particularly in the event of an incident on the M40 which immediately syphons traffic through the village backing up along the A4260. It was further agreed to vote against the application on the basis of a substantial increase in traffic volume.

It was agreed to object to the Puy du Fou planning application but, in the event of planning being granted, to request additional funding under S106 money.

Highways and Transport

Thanks were expressed to Alex Moss for carrying out the finger post repair.

A new school warning sign for Earls Lane will be erected soon and the 7.5 ton limit signs for Hudson Street and St Thomas Street replaced.



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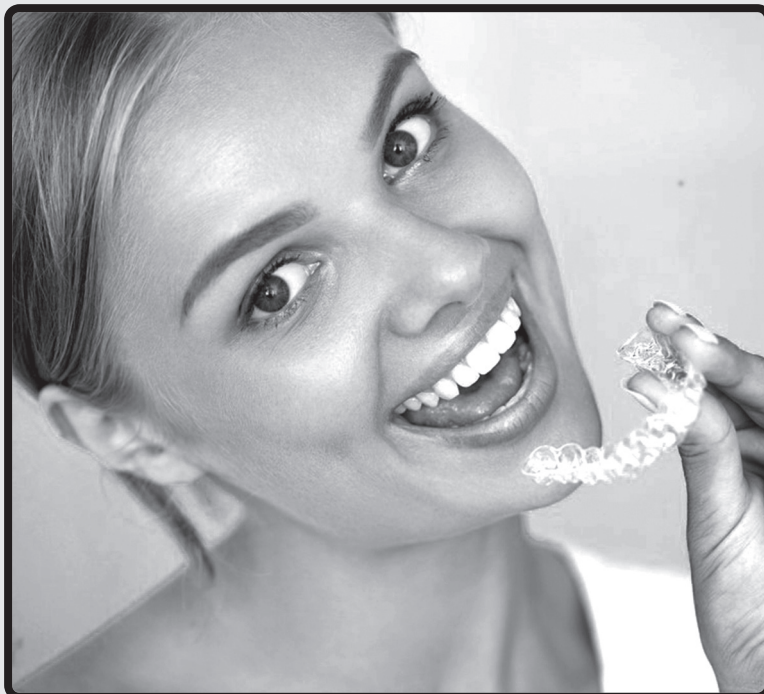
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A Hundred Years of Friendship Celebrating 100 Years of the Deddington Women's Institute

Dedicated to all members past and present of Deddington WI



Members of the Deddington WI at their Centenary Tea, 2025, held at Holly Tree Hall

It all began in 1925 when a small group of women in Deddington gathered with a shared purpose — to learn, to support one another and to make a difference in their village. A century later, that same spirit continues to shine brightly through the Deddington Women's Institute. Through world wars, social change and generations of local families, the WI has been a constant — a place for friendship, laughter and the occasional slice of excellent cake. Meetings, once filled with talks on household tips and sewing, now include everything from climate awareness to crafts and community projects.

Today, members still gather every Wednesday at 2.30pm in Holly Tree Hall, where conversation flows as easily as the tea. It's a place where new members are welcomed with warmth and where stories from the past blend seamlessly with plans for the future.

As we look back over 100 years, we celebrate not only the remarkable women who came before us but also those who carry the WI spirit forward, with open hearts, open minds, and always a touch of humour.

Dorothy Hargreaves

on behalf of the Deddington Women's Institute

DEDDINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

The successful start to the new academic year has continued. Pupils have now settled confidently into their classrooms, become familiar with new staff and adapted well to new routines. Our school vision, outlined below, continues to guide and inspire the Deddington community as we encourage every child to let their light shine throughout the year ahead.

At Deddington we create an inclusive, nurturing, caring community empowering each other to let our lights shine through *INSPIRING* and supporting each other, *BELIEVING* in ourselves and others and *ACHIEVING* together.

In recent weeks, pupils have demonstrated this vision through their participation in Fairtrade Fortnight, the Harvest Communion service with the church community and activities marking World Mental Health Day. Our extensive range of extra-curricular opportunities, inclusive sporting events and weekly outdoor

learning sessions in our forest school area further enable pupils to explore, develop, and celebrate their individual gifts and talents.

Looking ahead, I am delighted to invite prospective parents to our Open Morning sessions in November, as families begin to consider school places for September 2026. These sessions will take place on Monday 18 November and Wednesday 20 November. Parents wishing to attend are invited to contact the school office to arrange a visit and join a guided tour, at office.3452@deddington.oxon.sch.uk or 01869 338430.

As headteacher of Deddington Primary School, I remain immensely proud of our pupils and their many achievements. I look forward to sharing further highlights next month as we approach the end of the autumn term and the Christmas season.

Clive Evans, CEvans@deddington.oxon.sch.uk

POSTCARD FROM AMERICA

Condors, Super Bowl, Ice and the National Guard

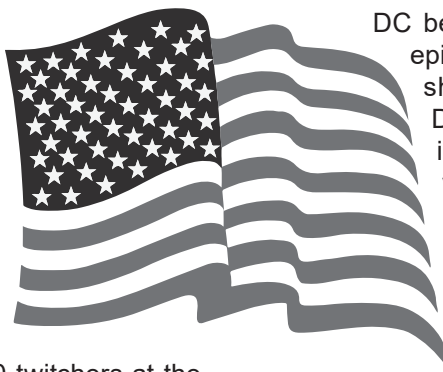
I love a road trip and my lovely wife loves bird watching, so we went to Arizona to view the release of some Californian Condors. Forty years ago this magnificent bird was extinct in the wild but the release of chicks bred in zoos has been hugely successful, with 400 now in the wild. These chicks are nearly fully grown with a three metre wingspan, the largest bird in North America. We joined a group of 300 twitchers at the bottom of the huge cliffs just north of the Grand Canyon and, after several educational talks and a native American dance, we waited. And waited. Eventually a huge cheer went up and the announcer said that the first one had finally left its cage, so I rapidly turned my camera with the expensive lens to the top of the cliffs over 200 meters away. Our 1,500 mile round trip resulted in pictures of a small black dot.

American football is by far the biggest sport here but, unlike most sport, it is not free flowing, and all the 'plays' are choreographed. When a team gets the opportunity to have the ball, the coach tells the team what to do, and all 11 on that side move in a planned manner around the attempts of the quarterback to throw or pass the ball. Some spontaneity does exist; if the defending team gets in the way the quarter back can go rogue and make a different 'play'. Essentially it's as if the set piece coach in football ran the whole game. Is this an allegory? Do Americans want their lives to be controlled? Is this why they believe in the lunatic running the asylum? They certainly like order, structure and certainty. Draws are not allowed.

The Denver Broncos football team have had nine years in the wilderness since their last Super Bowl success. Their stadium was built in 2002 for \$400m but they are planning to knock this one down and build a \$4bn stadium. There is money in sport, but no ties. The MAGA crowd is up in arms because the half time entertainment at the 2026 Super Bowl will be provided by a man from Puerto Rico. Puerto Rico is a US territory but, apparently, he is a foreigner and he sings in Spanish. Maybe el Presidente plans to rename it the Trump White Bowl.

At some sports games, in California in particular, there is a new kind of security force patrolling the area around the ground. ICE is the immigration enforcement force for which the US is now investing \$1m a week in recruitment, a typical advert says 'after a hard day of deporting illegals ... kick back with your boys and laugh about what you just accomplished'. The agency will soon be as big as the FBI but, rather than wearing black suits, they tend to wear masks and hang around places where immigrants like to congregate, like Los Angeles Dodgers baseball games and kids soccer camps, in fact anywhere there is a brown face.

Trump's latest act of escalation has been to send the National Guard to cities. He chose Washington



DC because he said there was a crime epidemic. This is not what the numbers show but he is trying to intimidate Democratic cities. The National Guard is made up of part-time state-based volunteers who typically respond to major issues like natural disasters or large protests. The courts have been asked to decide whether Trump is allowed to send them in to work alongside local police forces, but the emergencies are the troops have no experience of

invented and this kind of work.

The big question is, 'Where is this all going to end?' The key dates are November 2026 for the mid-terms, ie halfway through Trump's term, when some congressmen and senators are up for election, and then the general election in 2028. If Democrats make significant gains in these elections, is Trump going to allow the will of the people to go against him? Is he prepared to stand down or will he escalate the militarisation of American life and mount a full scale insurrection this time?

One of our local members of Congress posted a story claiming that the US government is combining human and alien DNA to create enhanced beings. This is the level of intelligence and logic that is ruling this country. One day I will wake up and this will all have been a bad dream, like that shower scene in Dallas. Time for another road trip, I think, but I need to persuade my wife that bird-watching is not the answer. Tigers maybe – the pictures have to be better don't they?

Mike Ward
mike@mikeaward.com

Trevor Gladdy



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CHURCH

Parish Church SS Peter and Paul

Over the past two months, we've joyfully celebrated God's harvests four times across the benefice, culminating in a whole-school service where children taught us about the importance of buying Fairtrade products. At our all-age family service, children baked bread and decorated jars with leaves and glowsticks. If you've not yet joined us for a family service, do come along on 2 November.

This month takes on a more reflective tone. On 2 November at 6.00pm, we hold our All Souls service of Remembrance, giving thanks for loved ones no longer with us. Then on 9 November, we mark Remembrance Sunday with our annual parade, act of remembrance at the war memorial and church service. This year is especially poignant, marking 80 years since the end of the Second World War, concluding our year of special remembrance events. Advent begins on 30 November which we will be celebrating with our beautiful Advent Carol service at 6.00pm – a joyous moment not to be missed.

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 and <https://www.facebook.com/DeddingtonChurch>

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 Wriggles (term time)
Fri	8.45am	Morning Prayer
	5.15 pm	Evening Prayer
Sun 2	10.30am	Family Communion (breakfast and crafts from 9.45am)
	6.00pm	All Souls Remembrance

Sun 9	9.45am	Remembrance Sunday (parade assembles 10.15am)
Sun 16	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sun 23	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sun 30	10.30am	Holy Communion
	6.00pm	Advent Carol Service

Hempton

Sun 16	9.00am	Holy Communion
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Barford St Michael

Wed	5.15pm	Evening Prayer
Sun 2	10.30am	Coffee and Chat
Sun 9	9.00am	Remembrance Sunday
Sun 16	10.30am	Family Service
Sun 23	10.30am	Family Communion

Barford St John

Sun 30	9.00am	Holy Communion
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From the Parish Registers:

Baptisms:

21 September	Florence Lovell
27 September	Felix Peacock (blessing)
4 October	Connie Romilly
11 October	Etta May Cooke-Yarborough

Funerals:

25 September	David Bird
3 October	John and Jeanette Burdon (interment of ashes)
3 October	Mavis Ann Herbert

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

For baptism, wedding and general enquiries please contact the Parish Administrator: office@deddingtonchurch.org.

RC Parish of Hethe

Mass times:

Sunday Masses 10.00am, 12.00pm (Latin)
Holy day Masses 9.30am, 6.30pm
Confessions Sundays 5.00–6.00pm during Holy Hour.

DEDDINGTON NURSERY AND PRE-SCHOOL

We have a busy second half of the autumn term ahead.

At Pre-School, we are excited about our autumn lunch and also creating firework salt pictures, taking inspiration from the children's own firework night experiences. After this, our countdown to Christmas begins with lots of festive activities and preparations for our nativity with the F1 children.

At Nursery this term we will be focusing on shapes and the transition from autumn to winter. We will be cel-

ebrating Bonfire Night, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Thank you to everyone for supporting our fundraising efforts during the Hallowe'en trail, with special thanks to Gail and her team at Deddington library for helping on the day. Keep your eyes peeled on our Facebook page for more information regarding our Christmas raffle – there are some fantastic prizes to be won again this year.

Shrene Saleh-Gillett
info@deddingtonnurseryandpfsu.co.uk

DRIVING UKRAINE



The Ukraine Solidarity Jazz concert

The latest news on progress to end this war sees Kyiv and Washington discussing new steps to help bolster Ukraine's air defence systems, following the aftermath of a massive Russian attack on the country's energy system, causing power cuts and disruptions to the major water and energy supplies. The Ukrainian president said that Russia was stepping up its air raids, taking advantage of the world being 'almost entirely focused on the prospect of establishing peace in the Middle East'.

Jazz Concert – 14 September

What a night it was! The Ukraine Solidarity Jazz Band entertained 130 people in the church with their soulful sounds of iconic jazz favourites and Ukrainian traditional songs, everyone united in support of those affected by this awful war. Almost £3,000 was raised to help buy, refurbish and deliver vital vehicles for evacuation, medical transport, and aid distribution on the Ukrainian front line. Congratulations to those who won the opportunity to 'tag a vehicle' on its way to Ukraine with their chosen tag: Jill Cheeseman and her family chose 'Derek's Drive For Life' and Tony Simpson chose 'Deddy T'. Thank you to all the sponsors who gave so generously and to those who attended on the night.

Wine Festival – 8 November

We are delighted that the 2025 Deddington Wine Festival has nominated Driving Ukraine as their chosen charity. The Wine Festival, inspired by and in memory of local man Charlie Elvin who died of prostate cancer, is on Saturday 8 November at 7.00pm at the Windmill Centre. An evening you won't want to miss, tickets are

£35 per person which includes sampling a range of 30 lovingly selected wines, enjoying delicious finger food, with auction prizes, a licensed bar and a DJ. The aim is to raise enough money to buy two combat vehicles to send to Ukraine. Tickets can be bought with a card, by phone or email – details below.

How you can help: all along Ukraine's eastern front, the war rages on. Every nine minutes a critical evacuation of the wounded is attempted. With your help, we can make sure that attempt is a success. Vehicles and aid: since we began, more than 1,400 dedicated volunteers from over 30 countries have stood shoulder to shoulder with us, making a real difference. Now it's your turn – join us and discover how you can be part of our life-saving mission!

Upcoming convoy dates –

20–23 November 2025

11–14 December 2025

2026 dates to be confirmed ...

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A message from Fynn Watt

The invasion of Ukraine will be remembered in history for so many reasons. The part you played in this war will also be remembered. Thank you to everyone who continues to support Ukrainian lives, Ukrainian freedom and European security. We look forward to seeing you at the Wine Festival on 8 November at 7.00pm at the Windmill Centre.

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NEWS FROM CLIFTON

Well it happened, despite what the naysayers believed, it happened. The Duck opened for drinks from 3.00pm (for locals) on 5 October. One of the locals arrived on time for a warm welcome from Max, the licensee, and Charles, his handsome best friend and 'wingman' for the early days, not to forget of course Gavroche, the pub dog, that is a JackWhupp (whippet Jack Russell cross) and lends its name to the locally brewed lager on tap. After a while the very crème de la crème of Candleford residents showed up to add to the bon

homie as a good time was had by all in the sensibly remodelled bar area. The restaurant will open on 19 October with the motto 'Seasonal, Sustainable and No Waste' so expect your empty crab shells to be reduced into a bisque and other cooker hacks to use all the goodness in the ingredients. Tom, head chef, will shortly be joined by a sous chef in preparation but, if the food is anything like the 'shin in Yorkshire pudding' I was granted in a post opening fact finding mission, then we will eat well and not too expensively. Two £5 beers and a revamped and quality Bavarian import Hofmeister add to the attraction. We ALL wish Max and the staff a long and happy time here in Lower Larkrise.

In other aspects of life here, the Clifton orchard has been harvested. This oasis of apples was planted by a great number of Candleford folk because Candleford couldn't agree a space and they have all been picked and hopefully used well and enjoyed. This correspondent would love to know how well they were used and enjoyed, so please let me know so that I can tell the community of the success of this venture.

CAST (Clifton Speedwatch) has received a massive majority in the recent survey in support of traffic calming in the village and, just as importantly, has started to collate a considerable database of 'near misses' from speeding traffic to try to supplant the current MO of waiting for a road related death before action is taken. The database is still being consolidated but has recently been enlarged by a statement from the thatchers re-roofing the Duck who said, 'Bloody hell – the speed of some of these cars makes this bloody dangerous'. More news to follow. They have also been very community minded by lending key equipment to the Deddington speed watch team. However rules on sunrise means the team will recommence after the clocks go back.

Martin Bryce

martindnbryce@gmail.com

FRIENDS OF CASTLE GROUNDS

The autumn colours around the Castle Grounds and views beyond from Betty's bench on the top path are looking fab. Do enjoy them before all the leaves fall. Thanks to a generous donation of a variety of native wildflower bulbs from Richard Lehman, we'll have something to plant on the north bank, once the rampant brambles, ivy and stumps have been reduced. It was helpful to hear about the experience of volunteers involved in wildflower planting at Welford's Piece in Clifton. Their most successful method of keeping down the brambles, in a previous role at a zoo – elephants eating them – is sadly unlikely to be available to us.

Anyone visiting the Castle Grounds after prolonged wet weather will know that water can be a bit of a thing, both in the area by the entrance and on parts of the lower badger path. No one knows who owns the parking area, but the whole breadth of it can be covered in a couple of inches of water after a rainy period. Thanks to Graeme Hanley and Richard Spencer's team for investigating and replacing the old, very broken clay pipes to the north of the area. Fingers crossed that was the main source of the leak.

The other sometime watery area is the badger path. It's a winterbourne – a seasonal stream which is mostly dry but wet in the winter. The parish council is reviewing whether to leave it as is – with signs to warn people about it being an uneven and seasonal path, and to avoid or wade in at their own risk – or to find a way of filling the flood-prone areas, a tricky task particularly given its location and access.

The parish council has also found a local fabricator to replace the ancient goalpost for a less eye-watering amount than some firms were requesting. In case you ever wondered why the current goalpost is so low, it started life at a normal height but one side gradually rusted away. As a classic make-do-and-mend measure back in the day, the other side was cut down to match and popped back in the ground. A slightly higher goalpost and easier goal scoring opportunities will follow.

Contact us with any questions, comments or to get involved or follow us on Facebook @FriendsCastleGroundsDeddington.

Charlotte Holmes

info@friendsofcastlegrounds.co.uk

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We'd like to thank County Councillor Gareth Epps and Deddington parish council for their collective support of our efforts to spruce up the library with a much-needed lick of paint and to OCC Library

Services for actually arranging the work. I'm sure you'll agree it looks sensational now, just in time for its 70th anniversary next year.

We launched our 2026 Deddington parish calendar at the Holly Tree Hall on 19 September, where the winning entrants were revealed and presented with complimentary calendars and the top three received mounted prints of their entries.

Our winners were Becky Jones, Wilf Stoddart, David Webb, Maurice Bawden, Helen Spencer, Kate Logie, Stefan Wathan, Karen Cheetham and Charles Hodge. Helen, Stephan and Wilf each had more than one successful entry. The top three, who received



Some of the calendar competition winners, sponsors and supporters with members of the Friends' committee

stunning mounted prints, were third, Helen Spencer (collected by daughter Florence Spencer), second Karen Cheetham, and the overall winner was Stefan Wathan for his colourful view of the Buzzy

Beans coffee stop, north of Deddington.

Our thanks to everyone who entered the competition. We had several new entrants this year and are grateful to you. Congratulations to the winners. Our calendar wouldn't be possible without the continued support of our valued sponsors who make it all possible. Calendars can be purchased at the November farmers' market, as well as at Nellie & Dove, Hamptons, Polka Dots and Fenemore's Farm Shop in Clifton, and of course, at the library. Cash only sales. Thank you.

Bryn Williams
abw@brynwilliams.com



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NEWS FROM HEMPTON

On Saturday 13 September, the Old School Room hosted Riders and Striders for the annual event. Although there weren't many visitors, the catering was superb as usual. Many thanks to all who contributed.

Harvest Festival – thanks to all those who contributed to both the display of fruit and veg (it looked lovely) and the generous donations to the local food bank.

Coming soon –

Pumpkin Trail – if you would like your display to be part of this year's trail, please contact Andrew on the village WhatsApp. Maps will be available to buy from the Old School Room on Friday 31 October.

Parish council litter pick: Saturday 1 November at 9.00am. Bring gloves and meet on the green at Duns Tew/Barford Road junction. A great way to start the weekend.

Hempton Christmas Fair: Saturday 13 December, 10.00am–2.00pm. There will be the usual refreshments and stalls. Donations for the raffle and the bottle stall gratefully received.

Tractor Run – the Old School Room will be open in the evening of 13 December for the annual Katharine House Tractor Run. Mulled wine, hot chocolate and other goodies plus somewhere to shelter if the weather's a bit parky.

Carol Service – Friday 19 December at 6.00pm. Come and join the choir for a good rousing sing followed by mince pies and mulled wine.

FYI – don't forget that in an emergency there is a defibrillator located at the church near the back door.

Fake News Alert: Any uncritical reader of my last column would have been surprised to learn that Queen Elizabeth II lived to be over 900 years old. I'm sorry to disappoint anyone wishing to emulate this miraculous feat and any conspiracy theorists, but she did not live to be quite so long. Had I paid close attention to logic and fact checking my diatribe, I would have realised along with any reader with basic maths or knowledge of British history [*not to mention the DN editors*], that it was Queen Elizabeth I to whom the Mayor of Genoa made his cheeky claim for outstanding payments.

We wait with bated breath for the latest machinations of Rachel from Accounts, her peers in the Treasury and various lobby groups, otherwise known as the Budget, due on 26 November. You may guess from my use of a disparaging nickname that I am somewhat cynical with regard to political economy.

Does the Chancellor's prior experience and achievement in the field of economics qualify her or suggest she is a suitable candidate to take responsibility for such a complex, malfunctioning national economy? Some think not, hence the nickname.

She gained a Masters degree in economics at the LSE, graduating with merit. The rigours of the degree do not appear to have been exercised in any subsequent employment prior to her appointment as Chancellor.

My concerns are not specifically about the current Chancellor, although to date there seems little to com-

mend. I wish her well for all our sakes.

Other concerns include the opaque influence wielded by think tanks and lobbyists, some of the best funded and influential of which appear to peddle policies that promote the interests of the wealthy without regard or at disadvantage to the weakest in society. This process has persisted since the 18th century when Adam Smith declared God's will would be fulfilled by entreating the proletariat to act as fodder, facilitating wealth generation, preservation and accumulation by the owners of capital. Perhaps God passed on this addendum to his earlier declarations over an ale in the local tavern.

In 15 years or so of economic stagnation there has been an ongoing trend of increasing income and wealth inequality. The rich accumulated wealth far faster than the poor, resulting in higher concentrations of wealth at the top, slower earnings growth for working families and greater difficulty for younger generations to achieve upward mobility and own assets like homes. Some economists believe this is the effect of medicine we have no option but to endure to achieve economic recovery in the long term. Hence the programmes of austerity imposed by national governments.

All the talk is of continuing to bear down on austerity, reducing public expenditure and easing private taxation. Think of George (né Gideon) Osborne with his degree in modern history. He became Shadow Chancellor as third choice after William Haig and David Cameron turned the job down, or of Donald's 'Great Big Beautiful Bill'.

Is that a rendition of Noel Coward's ditty I hear? *There Are Bad Times Just around the Corner* or just more of the same?

Stuart Oldham

sj_oldham@btinternet.com

Katharine House Hospice Events Big Give Christmas Challenge

2–9 December

For one week, every donation made to Katharine House Hospice online through The Big Give will be doubled thanks to match funding. To help us maximise the funds raised, please consider making a donation during this week.

Banbury Christmas Tractor Run 13 December

The much-loved Banbury Christmas Tractor Run will be back on 13 December and, as it's the 10th year of this mega event, make sure you get it in your diaries as it's not to be missed. The festive fleet of fairy-lit tractors will tour around local villages, spreading cheer and raising money for Katharine House Hospice. For more details and timings, visit khh.org.uk/tractor.

FARMERS' MARKET

My passion for spicy foods is undoubtedly a result of my upbringing. My mother is Belizean and I spent much of my childhood with my grandparents from her side (a Belizean grandmother and Jamaican grandfather). I was raised on a fusion of foods with English, Mexican and Caribbean influences and chillies and hot sauce were never far away. I enjoyed helping my grandmother in the garden where all kinds of fruit and vegetables were grown and chillies were a staple in the greenhouse.

As I grew up, so did my passion/obsession with chillies and, in 2018, when the Johnny HOT Stuff brand was launched, I had grown 17 different varieties and 44 plants in my polytunnels and greenhouse. Varieties from the mildest, Anaheim at around 1,000 Scoville heat units to the Carolina Reaper, which can reach a crazy 2.4 million SHU!



I was right. It was indeed a fantastic start to the Monthly Lunch Club.

I know this because I was there. Fabulous food, service and company. I will admit that, with 48 people plus servers packed into the Hempton Lounge, it was tight and very noisy. Annoyingly, the lounge is the one hireable space at the Windmill where we don't have acoustic panels fitted. Maybe we should review that. In the meantime, the October lunch is over-subscribed and 18 December is likely to follow suit, so get your reservations in early – information on our website or Deddington OnLine. All in all, a tremendous success and a real community effort, with lots of people giving their time to help set up, serve up and clear up. Thank you Gregg and the team!

With the more gloomy days, could I suggest that a couple of glasses of fine wine might help ease you into winter mode? The second Deddington Wine Festival is taking place on Saturday 8 November at the Windmill and tickets may still be available – check online. Come and help us raise enough money to buy two more pick-up trucks, as well as much needed specialist aid, for Driving Ukraine, the amazing Diddy-based charity saving lives, one vehicle at a time.

The exterior paintwork is all done, weather-proofing the building and giving it a much-needed facelift. We've even painted the car park lampposts but there's more to do. Next, we're looking to update the Deddington Studio, then the upstairs loos and the changing rooms showers. It's a never-ending list!

Check our website, www.thewindmillededdington.org, if you would like to know about classes and activities going on. If you'd like to book our facilities, please contact Julie, enquiries@thewindmillededdington.org or call 07720 834006.

Vaughan Jones
chair@thewindmillededdington.org

I decided to launch Johnny HOT Stuff as a result of friends and family constantly telling me that I 'should sell this stuff' when I used to hand out samples of my homemade hot sauces, marinades, powders etc and, as somebody who loves to shop local and try artisan products, I thought I'd give it a shot. I launched a couple of hot sauces at the 2019 Eat Food Festival in Henley and the feedback was incredible.

One product I am extremely proud of is my Fruity Bonnet HOT Sauce. It's a mild, tangy, fruity sauce that goes great with a typical English breakfast among other things. In January 2020 my grandma died after suffering with Alzheimer's disease. Seeing somebody you love so much go through such an ordeal is heart-wrenching and I wouldn't wish it on anybody. Most of us will be affected by dementia in some way, shape or form. Her image features, alongside my late grandfather's, on the label and, in a partnership with Alzheimer's Research UK, £1 for every bottle sold will go directly to the charity. My hope is to raise at least £2,000 for what I see as a very worthy cause and it will serve as a tribute to my wonderful grandma who is and always will be greatly missed.

In September 2020 Johnny HOT Stuff achieved a Great Taste Award from the Guild of Fine Food for HOT Date HOT Sauce, our Chocolate Habanero and Date Sauce, a proud moment and reward for all of the hard work up to this point.

Johnny Maillard
aka Johnny HOT Stuff



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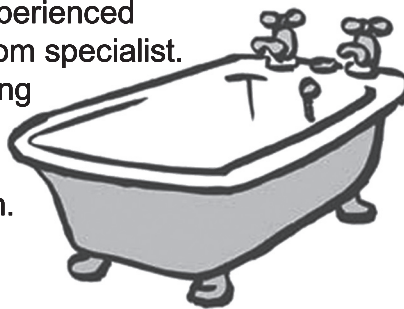
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CALLING ALL CLUBS

Photographic Society

We welcomed photographer, Huw Alban from Shaftesbury, in October. He shared how his creative journey has been shaped by the late Sir Ken Robinson, renowned for his work in arts education and his influential TED Talk, *Do Schools Kill Creativity?*

Drawing from his experiences in camera club competitions, he discussed the challenges of conforming to genre expectations and the importance of staying true to one's artistic vision. He emphasised that creativity thrives when we stop trying to please others and focus on what resonates with us personally. Huw shared a recent example of helping a client refocus their work to reflect their own preferences rather than external approval. He also spoke about his passion for Intentional Camera Movement, a technique not always embraced by traditionalists, and how spontaneous moments often lead to the most creative outcomes. Huw has recently ventured into street photography. He concluded with a reminder that mindset is key: take time to observe your surroundings and photograph with intention. He left us with a powerful quote – comparison is the thief of joy.

At our November meeting, Dianne Berridge talks about photo restoration and the part she played in the Channel 4 documentary on the Titanic.

Courtney Killpack
www.addphoto.co.uk

Local Vocals Community Choir

Christmas comes early to our choir members as, in October, we start learning the festive songs we will be performing at our Friends and Family concert in December. As I write this, we are voting on what these will be. My choice didn't make it to the shortlist, but then I don't think members have forgiven me yet for us learning *Happy* by Pharrell Williams six years ago.

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

Alison Grieve

Holly Tree Club

In addition to the regular monthly lunches, which are always enjoyed by our members, in early October the Holly Tree Club members enjoyed a 'seaside special' lunch. The bunting was up, the Hawaiian leis were worn and the sun shone for a wonderful lunch of fish and chips freshly cooked at the Hall by Mark of Country Fish and Chips. This was followed by a trip down memory lane with a 99-cone courtesy of Edd from Mr Frosty who arrived right on time, jingles and all. Members thoroughly enjoyed the treat which evoked many happy memories of seaside trips long ago ... and many stories of chasing the 'jingles' as kids to catch the ice-cream van. What a lovely way to round off the summer.

Julia Cork, Julia.cork@thedha.org

History Society

At our first event of the new season, Dr Katherine Bradley gave us an interesting and informative talk about the multi-talented women who contributed to the Arts and Crafts Movement that flourished between 1880 and 1920, with its stronghold in the Cotswolds.

Helped by the expansion of the middle classes, education and greater employment opportunities, women, as much as men, were the leaders in the movement. They were championed by William Morris, but his wife, Jane, and daughters Jenny and May, were all highly skilled designers. Based at Kelmscott Manor, near Lechlade, their embroidery and later the manufacture of textiles and printing, effectively revived the medieval techniques of traditional rural crafts. May Morris in particular is known for her embroidery and design, and she expanded into wallpaper, tiles and jewellery design which she taught.

In the early 20th century, Chipping Campden became the pivotal centre for Arts and Crafts in the area, primarily due to Charles Ashbee and his Guild of Handicraft which relocated there from London in 1902. The Guild's workshops in the Old Silk Mill focused on metalworking, jewellery, furniture, and more, attracting other artists and craftspeople. These included Arthur and Georgina Gaskin, jewellery and metalwork designers, examples of whose work are in the V&A Museum.

Rodmorton Manor, near Cirencester, is a fine example of a country house built and furnished according to the Arts and Crafts ideal. Alfred Powell, one of the craftsmen engaged in furnishing the house, opened a studio in the Cotswolds with his wife, Louise, a calligrapher, designing and decorating pottery and ceramics for Wedgwood. Kate Adams, a bookbinder famous for her detailed leather bindings also had Oxfordshire/Gloucestershire connections. Phyllis Barron and Dorothy Larcher set up a textile printing workshop at Painswick in Gloucestershire in 1930. They received commissions from the Duke of Westminster for whom Phyllis designed the materials used in his yacht and for Coco Chanel who placed an order for the cushions in her garden.

Our next meeting is on Thursday 13 November when Shaun Todd will be telling us about the history of afternoon tea and its etiquette.

Julian Dipper
jean.dipper28@gmail.com

Hempton Book Club

The Manningtree Witches by AK Blakemore

Based on actual events, the book is set in a time of upheaval during the English Civil War. Many men are absent, there is famine, a vacuum of authority and virulent anti-Catholicism, all contributing to the so-called Witch Craze that led to the deaths of up to three hundred men and women. Leading the purge was Matthew Hopkins, self-appointed witch hunter general, fuelled possibly by religious fervour or, more likely, by the price per head for which he was paid.

CALLING ALL CLUBS

Continued from p21

This is a disturbing book that follows one of the accused women through the horrors of testing, gaol and the trial and death of her mother. Some of the club struggled with the way the book was written, especially the use of archaic words. Would we recommend it to a friend? Maybe. Would we read another book by the author? Probably not.

Jo Churchyard

Royal British Legion

It pays to advertise in the *DN*. We are pleased to welcome to the Branch Peter Hogben who very kindly responded to my appeal in last month's Letters section for someone to help with managing our membership.

Eighty-six street poppies are now on lampposts and elsewhere as part of Poppy Weeks, courtesy of the Scouts, who have undertaken this on an annual basis from now on.

The annual Remembrance Service is on Sunday 9 November at the war memorial, observing a two minute silence at 11.00am. Those wishing to join the parade to the churchyard for the service should be assembled by 10.30am.

The Branch AGM is on Thursday 20 November at 7.00pm in the Deddington Arms boardroom. An agenda will be posted on the Branch Facebook page.

Rob Forsyth

Book Group

We had great hopes for Kristin Hannah's novel, *The Women*. The book tells of the frequently overlooked

contribution of women in the Vietnam War through the heroine, Frankie, who joins the Army Nurse Corps. The section portraying the work of the medical staff in the field hospitals and the conditions they endured is both horrifying and gripping. Although we thought the rest of the book was less well written, it was also a chance to increase our knowledge of other aspects of the war and its aftermath. We spent a long time talking about the conflict, Agent Orange, the draft lottery, the social rejection of veterans and resulting mistrust of governments. As one of our number remarked, the discussion was actually better than the book.

Book Group

Women's Institute

The October meeting was a party because the WI was 100 years old. We had a traditional afternoon tea. The birthday cake was cut by Yvonne our longest serving member. The tea was followed by a quiz and the traditional singing of *Jerusalem*.

At our November meeting, we have Jo Eames talking on Major General Hobart. The inventor of many of Churchill's 'funnies', he modified tanks for overcoming obstacles. Hobart lived in Leadenporch House during the war, and Hobart Way off the Hempton Road is named for him.

New members are welcome; we meet on the second Wednesday of each month. For information contact Moira Byast on 01869 338637

Moira Byast



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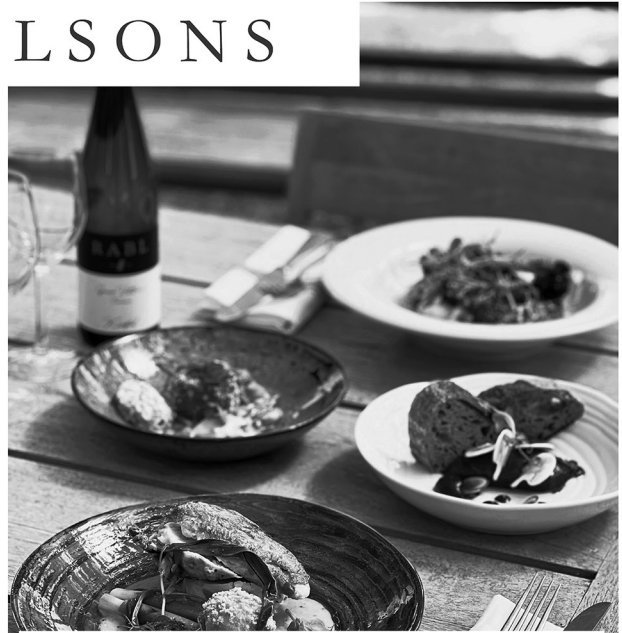
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SPORT

Deddington Town FC

First team results:

13.9.25	Hardwick Spts Res (h)	W 2–1 Large, Bucknell
20.9.25	Swis 313 (a)	W 3–1 Arnold, Thornton J (2)
27.9.25	Shipston Excelsior (a)	W 2–1 Thornton J, Bucknell
4.10.25	Hook Norton (a)	W 4–1 Bucknell (2), Rogers (2)

Reserve team results:

13.9.25	Blockley FC (a)	L 2–4 Jones, Wakelin L
20.9.25	Swis 313 Reserves (h)	D 1–1 Caro
27.9.25	Bodicote Spts Res (h)	W 3–1 Edmonds (3)
4.10.25	Tysoe Utd (h)	L 0–2

Suffering succotash! Sensational salutary showings should see superlatives scattered: five wins from five see the Humbugs thrive. The First Team has slain all before them before re-stomping the proverbial groins. If you know your DTFC history, fast starts like this are as rare as hen's teeth, but we rarely see men of such magnitude, let alone ones whose collective noun amounts to boiled sweets. Even Mike Large was exhumed from the crypt to stick his goalscoring oar in against Hardwick, while Joe Thornton and Tom Bucknell shouldered most of the other goals burden bar a six-minute brace from substitute Ben Rogers.

The Reserves have not been nearly as ruthless but have earned a win and a draw in half their fixtures this month, helped chiefly by a James Edmonds hat-trick against perennial nemesis Bodicote Reserves.

Aaron Bliss 07909 642882

Deddington Town FC – Youth

The Under 15s, who play in the B League of the Oxfordshire Youth Football League, had a 1–2 home defeat to Didcot Town, a 0–3 away win at Cholsey, a 4–1 home win over Radley, and 5–1 away defeat to

Bampton Town. The Under 14s have had a tough start to the season – a 20–0 away defeat at Combe, 1–5 home defeat to Chesterton, 6–2 away defeat at Garden City and 0–3 home defeat to Hook Norton. The Under 13s had a 2–3 home defeat to Farrington, 4–8 away win at Highfield Juniors and 3–3 home draw with SWIS. The Under 12s had a 1–10 away win at Ardley, 4–2 defeat at Easington, 7–1 win over Tower Hill, and 3–1 win over Stonesfield. They also had a narrow 5–4 defeat after extra time to Bicester Town in the county cup.

After five years with the club, Dan Branch will step down as secretary in December 2025. He has been a brilliant officer for the club 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. They are the main point of contact with Oxfordshire FA and the leagues. The secretary looks after the administrative duties for the youth part of the club and provides key support to team managers. 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 in becoming secretary, please email Dan at secretarydtfc@yahoo.com for more information and an informal chat. You do not need to know anything about football – you just need to be organised and have great people skills.

If you want to get involved with the club as a volunteer or a sponsor, contact me.

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

Roger Sykes, Club Development Officer
07899 914425 or carsykes@btinternet.com

YOUTH

1st Deddington Scout Group

Cubs

Cubs have had an exciting few weeks as we have welcomed new members into our pack. They have been setting themselves new goals, to learn and improve skills, as well as taking part in team building games and activities.

A few weeks ago, they enthusiastically took part in a community litter pick around the Windmill Centre and were surprised at how much they collected. They showed fantastic understanding and care for the environment and planet, thinking of future ways in which they can help.

The Cubs identified flora and fauna in the woods and then collected autumnal treasures to create different creatures using clay. We had some very

imaginative creations. They went on a night hike from Deddington to Barford down Snake Hill and had great fun navigating, using torches and demonstrated the Cubs' values excellently.

Tina Deacon
deddingtoncubs@gmail.com

Scouts

Now we are all settled into the new term the Scouts spent a couple of sessions building a model village. It went from the sublime – Hamish's church complete with stained glass, belltower, candles and parishioners, to James's Lego man weeing in a bush.

Using blackout, distorted specs and a pair of crutches we made our way round the Windmill Centre to see how accessible it is to some disabilities.

YOUTH Continued from p25

We are now putting plans in place to erect the memorial poppies around the village for the Royal British Legion.

We held our annual AGM on 18 September.

Pete Churchyard
deddingtonscouts@gmail.com

1st Deddington Guides

We now have our new patrols settled and the Guides have elected their patrol leaders.

We have done a variety of activities including trying out unusual fruits from different countries and thinking about sustainability etc. It was good to accept the challenge of trying something new. The Guides made some lovely paintings of wedding outfits that they had designed. Some senior Guides looked around the building, learning about fire safety and organised an impromptu fire drill during a meeting.

We had a fascinating talk by Young Leader Daisy about her amazing school trip to Cambodia. What an experience! Well done, Daisy.

Lastly, we have got very excited about the new Guide badges that can be gained ... so, we have some new challenges.

A warm welcome to any girls 10 or over ... just come along and see what we get up to.

Maggie Rampley
07957 600755



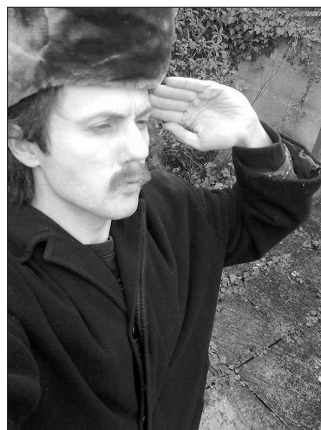
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BLISSFUL THINKING



Legend has it a forgotten pastor of Deddington, Reverend Leatherbarrow, was arrested and eventually committed, after disturbing the entire parish with tales of a chimeric horror haunting the church bell tower on All Hallows' Eve. One fateful Samhain after sundown, the Reverend was said to have spied a sinister figure amid the rafters and clambered

the narrow steps alone to investigate. A colleague cleaning the vestibule later heard a commotion and raced to the foot of the steps to find the Reverend unconscious. Rousing him with smelling salts, a clearly deranged Leatherbarrow immediately began writhing and screaming about some infernal creature with three heads that had chased him from the belfry. The colleague calmed him, administered aid and resorted to filling the raving cleric with brandy to put him down to sleep. Despite his curiosity, the man would not dare to substantiate the vicar's claims and, instead, put the delusions down to the spirit of the season.

Leatherbarrow was excommunicated and exiled from the parish some months later for continuing to fill his sermons with warnings of the grotesque beast, but some crude drawings were discovered among his personal effects left behind, showing a terrible quadruped with the heads of an ox, a wolf and a mare. Much merriment was had at these bizarre etchings which were later honoured on the Deddington Coat of Arms. Did you spot the fabled monster this Halloween?

Aaron Bliss
aaronjbliss@hotmail.com

Let it Snow, Let it Snow, Let it Snow ...



OK, we haven't had snow like this for some years – 15 actually – but we still have to be prepared. We have a great team of volunteer snow wardens on standby to keep the pavements across the parish clear of ice and snow in the winter months. But perhaps some of them won't mind me saying quite a few are getting on a bit and we're looking for more – and younger –

members to join the team.

OCC looks after gritting the main roads and we're fortunate in having the Council Highways depot on our doorstep. But it's down to us to clear the pavements



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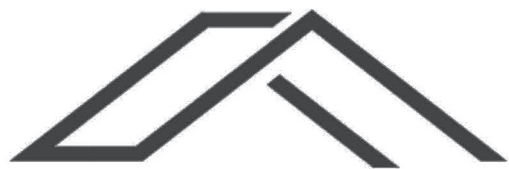
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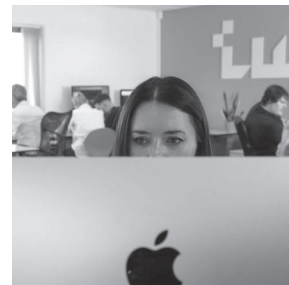
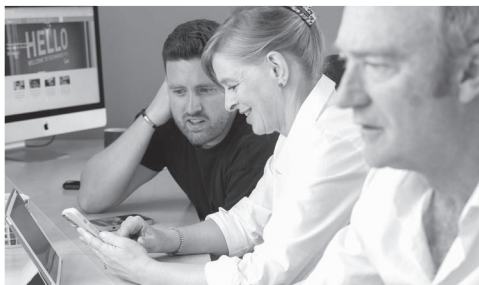


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Snow Wardens

Continued from p14

and the doorsteps of neighbours unable to wield a shovel for themselves. The scheme is a great way of getting communities working together during bad weather. We also encourage businesses who want to do their bit by clearing snow from around their places of work.

The parish council's job is to liaise with the local and district authorities and, more importantly at a local level, to organise our team of community snow wardens and provide them with the necessary equipment: salt spreaders, shovels, hi-vis jackets, gloves, etc. Our 14 salt bins across the parish are kept topped up every year.

If you're interested in helping our community and your neighbours, please contact the parish co-ordinator of the scheme, Clive Snashall, at clivesnashall.dpc@gmail.com or the parish clerk at deddington-parishcouncil@gmail.com, 01869 337447. Clive is drawing up a list of snow wardens in each of the three villages and checking all the right kit is available.

When we last appealed for help across the community to set up the Covid Emergency Team, the response was brilliant. Let's do it again!

LETTERS

FROM ANNETTE MURPHY, DEDDINGTON

The Harvard Krokodiloes did not visit us this year but the boxes of surplus apples around the village reminded me of the two Kroks who stayed with me last year. Andy from Michigan was very friendly and, on his thank you card to me, left his mother's recipe for apple butter which I thought might be of interest. Great, he said, for spreading on toast, crêpes or sandwiches.

Mrs Drummond's Apple Butter

4 lbs apples

1½ tbsp lemon juice

1½ teasp cinnamon powder

½ teasp nutmeg

¼ teasp ground cloves

¼ teasp salt

Core and cut apples into chunks.

Add spices and salt to apples – for tart UK apples he suggested adding some sugar.

Put apples in pot with enough water to cover. Bring to boil, cover and reduce heat. Cook until apples are soft, 2–2.5 hours.

Remove from heat and blend until smooth.

Reduce puree to desired consistency. Jar it or keep in fridge.

THE MISSING FINGER

Be honest, how many of you have noticed the heritage fingerpost road sign outside the old mortuary (now Baerlein House) on Goose Green? Oxford 16½ miles on one arm, Clifton 1½ miles, Aynho 3½ miles and Buckingham 15 miles on the other. My memory says the black and white chequerboard strip indicates 'leading to the A4260' rather than being the actual main A road – but Google is curiously silent on this.

There's another traditional cast aluminium one at the corner of Philcote Street and Chapel Square, and a much more visible one outside County Hall in Oxford where Deddington is 2¼ miles in one direction and Chipping Norton 8½ miles in the other direction on the B4031. OCC clearly thought it attractive enough to feature in the courtyard outside its county headquarters. There are only a few left in Oxfordshire.

Earlier in the year, the Goose Green fingerpost was damaged (by a lorry, we think) and one arm broke off. Our lovely postie, Rory, salvaged it and it spent some time bouncing round in a Royal Mail van,

before he asked Stella O'Neill what he should do with it. Then questions appeared on social media asking whether the arm had been nicked so the PC decided to go about getting it repaired, refurbished and reinstalled.

Cue Oxford County Council, owner of said fingerpost. They suggested sending it to their contractor in Manchester for repair. Estimated cost £3,000 (75% of their annual maintenance budget), so they were likely to come back to the PC to share the cost. And if we declined, there was a chance it would be replaced by one of the modern, featureless signs like in the Market Place.

Instead one parish councillor found a local firm to weld a new piece back on – cost £370. And our local craftsman blacksmith, Alex Moss, stepped in to grind,

sand, fill, prime, age and paint – cost £225. Lastly, a bunch of councillors got together to reattach it to the post. Job done, cost to OCC £595, not £3,000.

We have our traditional fingerpost back, have a look next time you are in Goose Green.

Mary Robinson, mary.robinson.dpc@gmail.com



L-R Councillors Ed Palin, David Rogers, Nick ap Simon and Mark Swadling

BOOK REVIEW

Albion by Anna Hope has many ingredients of the typical big country house story: a rural mansion, death and inheritance, warring siblings. Unusually, this particular house, a Greek revivalist mansion with a thousand acres of Sussex land, isn't named; *Albion* is the title of a ten-year rewilding project run by Philip Brooke and daughter Frannie. Now Philip has died, and his wife and three adult children gather for his funeral.

Into a potent mix of grudges and conflicting ambitions comes Clara, a young PhD student from New York, who may or may not be Philip's daughter and who makes a well-timed announcement that causes the family members to reassess their inherited privilege. Although readers may well see what's coming, the moment is electric, with tensions sparking off the page. With astute characterisation and scene-setting and keen observations of the natural world, this is a compelling read.

Linda Newbery is Patron of Deddington Library

What has the PC ever done for us?

(with apologies to Monty Python)

For a start, have a look at the PC's new Action Plan 2026–29 at <https://www.deddingtonparishcouncil.org/news.html> with its review of recently completed projects and a Forward Plan for the next three years.

Deddington Parish Council
Parish Office
Windmill Centre
Hempton Road
Deddington OX15 0QH

Tel: 01869 337447
email: deddingtonparishcouncil@goolemail.com
Clerk and RFO to the Council: Susan Fuller



Action Plan 2026–29

Authors: Helen Oldfield and Mary Robinson
Version: Amended October 2025
Review: October 2026



Interesting and busy times are ahead, what with local government reorganisation, a review of the Neighbourhood Plan, and the prospect of a new nursery as part of the proposed housing develop-

ment north of the Fire Station. And we're keeping a close eye on the huge developments at Heyford Park where there are plans for a new town with 10,000 more houses, a Strategic Rail Freight Interchange next to the M40, huge warehousing and the Puy du Fou theme park. Milton Keynes Mark 2 anyone? The main effect expected here in Deddington will be a vast increase in vehicle traffic, both HGVs and cars, both during construction and when it is all up and running. We'll keep you posted, and in the meantime we are looking

at what traffic-calming and road-surface improvement mitigation measures we can ask for.

We are 14 councillors, some of us getting on a bit, and we do need more help (particularly from younger residents), whether it's joining us as a councillor, helping in one of our groups working on a specific project like the nursery (specialist legal and building help needed here), or the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group which will review and amend the NP to keep Deddington in charge of where and how many future housing developments we are allocated.

The Mission Statement in our 2026–29 Action Plan is 'to make Deddington a great place to live, work and visit, by:

encouraging a community spirit;
preserving and expanding facilities, including recreational and sports; and
maintaining the parish identity as it expands with new development'.

Please come and help us achieve that aim – contact the clerk, Susan Fuller, on deddingtonparishcouncil@gmail.com.

In the context of local government, we will be looking at the effects on our finances of the expected slash in CDC's budget. More on this as we get nearer to setting next year's Council Tax precept.

**Mary Robinson, Chair
Deddington Parish Council
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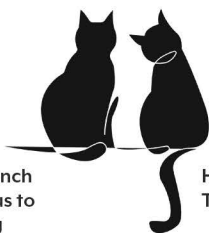
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CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL	01295 227001	TRAVEL:	
CITIZENS ADVICE	01295 221448	Pulham & Sons (Coaches) Ltd	01451 820369
HEALTH CENTRE DEDDINGTON	01869 338611	National Express	0371 781 8181
HOSPITALS:		National Rail Passenger Enqs	03457 48 49 50
Churchill	0300 304 7777	OurBus Bartons	01869 699699
Foscote (Private)	01295 252281	Oxford Bus Company	01865 785400
Horton General	0300 304 7777	Oxfordshire Comet	01865 323201
John Radcliffe	0300 304 7777	Stagecoach Bus Company	01865 772250
Manor (Nuffield Health, Private)	01865 521247	Traveline (Public Transport)	0871 200 2233
Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre	0300 304 7777		
Katharine House Hospice	01295 811866	UTILITIES:	
NHS	Non emergency	Gas Escapes (24hrs)	0800 111 999
PARISH CLERK	01869 337447	Electricity – any supplier	
(Monday 9.00am–12.30pm, Wednesday 9.00–5.00pm, Thursday 9.00–12.30pm)		Emergency/Power cut	105
POLICE (non-emergency, 24 hrs)	101	Careline (over 60s)	0800 101 3333
PRIMARY SCHOOL (C of E)	01869 338430	Ofgem	020 7901 7295
PFSU	01869 337484	Thames Water (24hrs)	0800 316 9800
VILLAGE NURSERY	01869 337383	WARRINER SCHOOL, Bloxham	01295 720777
		WINDMILL CENTRE	07720 834006
		OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL	01865 792422
DEDDINGTON LIBRARY	01865 816010	DEDDINGTON CLUBS & SOCIETIES: The full list of contacts is available from the Library and Deddington OnLine website at http://www.deddington.org.uk/directory .	
Monday	2.00–7.00pm	DEDDINGTON CHURCHES	See section inside
Wednesday	9.30am–1.00pm		
Thursday	1.00–5.00pm		
Saturday	9.30am–1.00pm		



01869 340429/01908 505658 • info@dunstewkitchens.co.uk • www.dunstewkitchens.co.uk