

April 2026

The DEDDINGTON NEWS



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THE TEAM

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Find out more

... about The Deddington News
 and what's happening locally
 at www.deddington.org.uk

The DEDDINGTON NEWS

Thames Water is slowly moving south down New Street, much to the relief of those living on High Street. It's a huge inconvenience but at least there will be 21st century drains instead of the Victorian ones we've been surviving with for years. Thanks to County Councillor Epps for keeping the traffic management company on their toes.

It's worth noting for those, like me, who jaywalk across the main traffic lights at the crossroads, the sequencing has now been changed, presumably to allow more vehicles travelling south to legally pass through the lights.

JC

What's On

April

- | | | |
|-----|----|---|
| Wed | 1 | Photographic Society: AGM followed by Whose Photo is It? Adderbury Institute, 7.30pm |
| Wed | 8 | Women's Institute: Diaries, Moira Byast, Holly Tree Hall, 2.30pm |
| Thu | 9 | History Society: All That Glitters: Woodstock's Cut Steel Industry, Carol Anderson, Primary School, 7.30pm |
| Fri | 10 | Adderbury Cine Club: <i>I Swear</i> , Adderbury Institute, doors open 7.30pm, film 8.15pm |
| Sat | 11 | Chipping Norton Choral Society: John Rutter <i>Magnificat</i> , St Mary's Church, Banbury, 7.30pm |
| Sun | 12 | Music in Adderbury: Violin and Piano, programme includes Clara Schumann, Brahms, Ravel, Deddington Church, 6.00pm |
| Wed | 15 | Parish Council: Hempton Lounge, Windmill Centre, 7.30pm |
| Sat | 18 | Quiz Night: Windmill Centre Hall, 7.00pm |
| Sat | 18 | Cherwell Choral Society: Dvorak Mass in D, Deddington Church, 7.30pm |
| Fri | 24 | Community Lunch Club: Windmill Centre, 12.30pm |
| Sat | 25 | Farmers' Market: Market Place, 9.00am–12.30pm |
| Sat | 25 | Craft Market: Deddington Church, 9.00am–12.30pm |
| Thu | 30 | Book Group: Call Sally Lambert, 01869 338094 for details |

May

- | | | |
|-----|----|---|
| Sat | 2 | Middle Barton Bowls Club: Open Day, 2.00–5.00pm |
| Wed | 6 | Annual Parish Meeting: Hempton Lounge, Windmill Centre, 7.30pm |
| Wed | 6 | Photographic Society: Adderbury Institute, 7.30pm |
| Sat | 9 | Race Night: Windmill Centre, 7.00pm |
| Sun | 10 | Music in Adderbury: Astatine Piano Trio, Clara Schumann, Beethoven, Brahms, Deddington Church, 6.00pm |
| Mon | 11 | DOGS: Newbury & Crookham GC |

For information on activities, including weekly meetings, see:
<https://www.thewindmilldeddington.org/classes-activities-1>

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

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DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting on Wednesday 18 March at the Old School Room, Hempton

Present: Councillors ap Simon, Gillham, Cox, Mobbs, Robinson (chair), O'Neill, Palin, Snashall, Swadling, Timms and Watts, one member of the public, the parish clerk and *DN* representative.

County Councillor Epps report:

The PC thanked Councillor Epps for all his work overseeing Thames Water's (TW) work in Deddington. His report indicated that OCC has a shortfall of over £24m for the period to 2028/29 when the new unitary authorities are due to come into force.

Finance & General Purposes

One councillor and a member of the public have carried out voluntary hedge-cutting work at Tithe Lane, Clifton, thereby saving the PC around £200.

The PC agreed spending up to £25,000 for the refurbishment of the showers at the Windmill. It is hoped work will start at in early May.

Retired councillor, Brian Wood, who died recently was warmly remembered for all his previous work on behalf of the PC and community.

The PC unanimously agreed to support CDC's proposal of two councils for unitary authority changes.

It was agreed to spend to £2,500 to update the tree survey from the last one in 2019.

Members of the public who took part in the spring litter pick over the parish were thanked.

Planning

No objection

Deddington Health Centre, Earls Lane, Deddington: tree works.

Wells Cottage, Market Place, Deddington: like-for-like repairs to the property's ironstone front boundary wall with attached metal railings.

Eaton House, New Street, Deddington: tree works.

Lodge Cottage, Snakehill Lane, Hempton: single storey side extension, garage and associated internal and external works.

Approvals

Castle End House, Castle Street: replacement of windows.

Magnolia Cottage, Earls Lane: tree works.

Ilbury Farm, Nether Worton Road, Hempton: construction and surfacing of agricultural tracks.

3 The Swere, Deddington: single storey extension.

Crown and Tuns Flat, New Street: internal works.

These Parish Council notes are the view of Jill Cheeseman, a *DN* representative, and not the official minutes. For those, see <https://www.deddingtonparishcouncil.org/meetingsminutes.html>.

Large Scale Developments

A meeting has taken place between members of the PC and representatives of the Deddington Health Centre to discuss the proposed car park (part of the development north of the Fire Station, intended to be opposite the HC entrance). The HC would prefer to take ownership of it but F&GP suggested that the PC should. The HC is hoping to expand their patient facilities. A representative of the developers will be invited to meet councillors before the next PC meeting.

Environment and Recreation

A consultation with the OCC tree officer has been provisionally arranged for 13 April at 6.30pm to consider replacement trees in and around Hempton. Anyone is welcome to attend the meeting. This is being done in consultation with relatives of the resident who carried out the original tree planting.

Highways and Transport

The Fardon Way community speedwatch (CSW) has reported several vehicles for travelling in excess of 40mph and one that was overtaking at the entrance to the development.

Residents of Philcote Street, St Thomas Street and Castle Street have all witnessed an increase in passing HGVs while TW work is continuing, some in contravention of the weight limit on St Thomas Street. Residents are advised to take photos and record the time of vehicle movement to report to OCC at <https://service.oxfordshire.gov.uk/reporthishighwaysbreach>.

A resident observed the *Big Issue* salesperson inappropriately directing traffic at the farmers' market. This has been referred to the farmers' market.

Three HGVs have been successfully fined for using Clifton as a short cut.

Illegally parked vehicles can be reported at <https://service.oxfordshire.gov.uk/reportparkedvehicle>.

No parking cones are being placed by TW contractors but residents are moving them in order to park their cars. This is unacceptable.

Election forms for councillors are not yet available. Arranging an appointment is not essential but would be helpful.

NEXT MEETING will be on Wednesday 15 April at 7.30pm at the Windmill Centre

MANAGER FOR *DN* ANNUAL ADVERTISING

We are looking for someone to join our volunteer team, managing the annual advertising process which raises a significant portion of our operating finances. The bulk of the work arises between mid-October and mid-December with an oversight required for the rest of the year. The role involves communicating with regular and potential advertisers, receiving their instructions and advertisement copy for the following year. You would work with our technical adviser to ensure adverts meet sizing and formatting require-

ments. You would need to liaise with our treasurer to provide details for invoicing. The role also involves, where possible, attending monthly team meetings, providing briefings where necessary.

No special IT skills are necessary but access to a PC or laptop is essential as are strong organisational and communications skills. We provide a dedicated email address.

If you think this might be you, please contact me for initial discussions.

Jill Cheeseman



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BARBARA BUDD 1939–2026

Barbara was born in Dewsbury, Yorkshire, a war baby. Her father died when she was three. She was brought up by her Grandma and Auntie May while her Mum went to work, initially in the Co-op and then running her own hairdressing business. In Barbara's words, this was fun.

At kindergarten, she met some of her lifelong friends on day one. She went to the grammar school and was known as a good all-rounder who excelled at passing exams and active in the school's tennis and hockey teams.

She started Medical School in Birmingham in 1957 and loved the studying, the ambience, and the social life. She met David at Birmingham, also a medical student, during the interval of a play. He was in a competition to see who could drink a pint fastest. Barbara graduated in 1962 and married David.

Between 1962 and 1971 various anaesthesia jobs followed in hospitals in Wolverhampton, Luton and Dunstable, Edgware Road, London, and the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre in Oxford. James, Bill and I were all born at the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford.

The family moved to Warmington where Mum continued to work while being a wife and mum. Family life was busy and filled with warmth and it's fair to say we were lucky to have her as our mother.

Whilst proud of her Yorkshire roots, she harboured inspiration from kindergarten radio programmes about faraway places and followed with glossy brochures. Barbara embarked on a long-time dream of travelling. In the early 80s she started in Kashmir. Subsequently, she explored endless countries, covering south and central Asia, south and Central America, and Africa and, of course, her many golf trips to Spain.

Even at her last visit to A&E in January and unable to speak clearly, we understood the word Ethiopia. She said this to the paramedic who was telling us about his year off to travel. Mum loved her month in Ethiopia, living simply, while volunteering at the New Day Children's Centre, Bahir Dahr. She only regretted not staying longer.

She moved to Deddington in 1994 where she 'lived happily ever after, tending her garden and going to the pub', but also playing golf at Tadmarton Heath and with the DOGS, continuing her travel adventures, trips and days out with Banbury Fine Arts Society and Bicester Theatre Club, enjoying the Harvard Krokodiloes, with visits to the Royal Opera House, the book club and bridge. She said her life in Deddington was the happiest of her life and that the sun had not stopped shining since she moved in. Thank you, Deddington.

It was during her time here that she became Grandma to Sam, Harry and Josie. They brought energy and life on their visits She loved every minute of it but was glad when peace returned.

Memories were made on school pick-ups and annual outings to Giffords Circus and the panto at Chipping Norton, as well as many other local places of interest. For Mum it was important to have grandchildren in her world.

She was a loyal friend: in addition to the Deddington community who welcomed her with open arms, the friendship with the little girl she met on the way to kindergarten on her first day became the three musketeers and has endured for more than 80 years. Her loyal travelling companion was a fellow medical school student. The strong bonds with her Warmington girlfriends have continued, despite time and distance.

Mum was fun-loving. She loved dancing, and hosting and attending parties. As children, we had a three-tier cake tin that was always full of sweet treats for after school. We had faultless Sunday lunches and big family Christmases, and she could always rustle up a tasty meal with all the random stuff Dad brought back from his own adventures.

She would tell me about street parties and celebrations in Deddington. She was an enthusiastic and glamorous attendee in one of her many scarves and outfits, or fancy dress if required. More recently, parties would be only for people with the surname Budd. Often a supper in the kitchen was labelled a party.

Barbara had an independent spirit; she was curious and courageous. Her career in anaesthesia was curtailed by changing regulations but she retrained in genito-urinary medicine and family planning, extending her career for 18 more years, retiring at the age of 66.

Her collection of travel itineraries and documents are testament to her passion for exploring. Her destination choices were not always easy, requiring problem-solving, resilience and energy ... and maybe a hidden miniature whisky. She was determined and tenacious.

Anyone who helped in her garden will know, she would closely supervise your work. When her cellar flooded, she did not give up. I pity Thames Water on the end of the phone. Although we will never know, her last few days of life were probably on her terms. She didn't really want to leave her lovely house. And she didn't.

Most of all, she was our Mum, the head teacher at our school for life. We really didn't want for anything and there would always be an ear if needed.

Helen Budd

Church Help

Deddington church is for everyone to enjoy, not just those who come to worship. Throughout the year it is the venue for many community occasions of great benefit to villagers and visitors alike. However, we need a couple of volunteer stewards to oversee the running of the concerts; a member of the church will always be present but without more than one stew-

ard these events cannot go ahead. If you could help us, please contact me for a chat. There isn't a rota, simply an email to ask if you are available as each booking approaches. Training, help and support will be given. To find out more, please email me.

Vanessa Loach
bookings@deddingtonchurch.org

FARMERS' MARKET

Cornfield Bakery was founded in 1972 when our grandfather, Derek, opened a small bakery in the heart of Wheatley, driven by a passion for handcrafted bread. As the eldest of 13 children (and the original breadwinner), Derek's commitment to quality quickly made the bakery a valued part of village life. Many locals still recall time spent working in the shop or bakery, stories we're lucky to hear shared today.

In 1986 our father, Geoff, took over the business, building on those strong foundations and guiding Cornfield Bakery through nearly four decades of growth. He expanded our range, grew our wholesale operation and ensured traditional artisan methods remains firmly at the heart of everything we do. What began in the late 1980s with a single village delivery and a small van has grown into three vans delivering fresh bread six days a week across Oxfordshire and parts of Buckinghamshire.

In 2005, we opened our second shop, in Thame, set within a beautiful listed building, complete with an upstairs café overlooking the historic town. As times changed, so did we. Our original Wheatley shop later expanded to include a café which, in 2020, evolved into a fine local food shop. Today, alongside our own bread, we also make a daily selection of cakes, pastries and biscuits and proudly stock a carefully chosen range of local and artisan products, from eggs and flour to oils, pasta, sauces and sweet treats. Everything we sell is selected with the same care we put into our baking.

At the heart of Cornfield Bakery is our bread. We

bake real, honest loaves using traditional, time-honoured methods, with time playing a vital role in every bake. Our sourdoughs are naturally fermented for a minimum of 24 hours, allowing flavour to develop fully while creating bread that's gentle on the stomach and deeply satisfying to eat. It is bread made to be enjoyed, shared and savoured.

In April 2025, we proudly stepped in as the third generation of Cornfield Bakery. Joe brings a deep understanding of the science behind baking, ensuring consistency, structure and quality in every loaf. Brandon is the creative force, with a passion for craftsmanship, flavour and presentation, always exploring new ideas and techniques. Dee keeps everything running smoothly behind the scenes, bringing organisation, balance and clarity to the business and ensuring the bakery continues to grow sustainably.

Together, we're constantly working on new creations alongside the much-loved recipes passed down through our family. We regularly introduce seasonal loaves inspired by the time of year, as well as revisiting and refining classic favourites. This year, we're planning to share more of what we love with you, from new bakes to fresh ideas across the bakery and beyond.

We're incredibly grateful to our customers for their continued support. Your loyalty allows us to keep baking real bread, support local producers and remain a true village bakery at heart. We can't wait to welcome you along for the next chapter of Cornfield Bakery.

Joe, Brandon and Dee



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CHURCH

Happy Easter. March was a mix of celebrations for St David's Day and Mothering Sunday, alongside our Lent reflections on our need for God's salvation as we approach Easter. Holy Week begins on 29 March with our Palm Sunday service, starting with a procession from the town hall at 10.20am. Special services will then be held each evening during the week, including Compline, Stations of the Cross, Maundy Thursday Communion with Foot Washing, Good Friday reflections and the dramatic Great Easter Vigil, before arriving at our joyful Easter Day family service on 5 April. Timings below or see our Easter card (spare copies are available in church). All are welcome to experience the Easter story in a deeper way through these services and a warm welcome awaits. The church then continues to celebrate the joy of the Easter season throughout April and May, so there is much to look forward to this spring. On 26 April, we

Parish Church SS Peter and Paul

| | | |
|-----|---------|--|
| Mon | 8.45am | Morning Prayer |
| Tue | 8.15am | Morning Prayer |
| Wed | 10.00am | Holy Communion (with healing prayer on 4th Wednesday) |
| Thu | 9.30am | Tea+Toast and Squiggles and Wiggles (term time) |
| Fri | 8.45am | Morning Prayer |
| | 5.15 pm | Evening Prayer |

April

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| Wed | 1 | 7.00pm | Stations of the Cross |
| Thu | 2 | 7.00pm | Holy Communion for Maundy Thursday |
| Fri | 3 | 11.00am | Service of Reflection for Good Friday |
| Sat | 4 | 7.30pm | Great Vigil of Easter Service |
| Sun | 5 | 10.30am | Family Communion (breakfast and crafts from 9.45am) |
| Sun | 12 | 10.30am | Holy Communion |
| Sun | 19 | 10.30am | Holy Communion |
| Sun | 26 | 10.30am | Holy Communion |

Hempton

Sun 19 9.00am Holy Communion

Barford St Michael

Wed 5.15pm Evening Prayer

have a special celebration at Barford St Michael's church, as Bishop Gavin will come to lead a Confirmation service, where candidates from across our deanery will come forward to confirm their Christian faith and begin receiving Holy Communion.

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>.

April

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| Fri | 3 | 10.00am | Drop-in Reflective Prayer Stations for Good Friday until 2.00pm |
| Sun | 5 | 9.00am | Family Communion for Easter Day |
| Sun | 19 | 10.30am | Family Service |
| Sun | 26 | 10.30am | Confirmation Service with Holy Communion |

Barford St John

Sun 12 9.00am Holy Communion

From the Parish Registers:

Funerals

| | |
|-------------|---------------|
| 27 February | Barbara Budd |
| 5 March | Wendy Burrows |
| 6 March | Simon Wood |

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 CHURCH

Holy Trinity, Parish of Hethe

Sunday Masses 10.00am, 12.00 Noon (Latin)
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St Joseph's, Banbury

10.00am Sunday Mass

St John's Church, Banbury

6.00pm Friday Confessions and Holy Hour.
10.30am Saturday Confessions
4.00pm Vigil Mass for Sunday
8.30am Sunday Mass
11.30am Sunday Mass

PRIMARY SCHOOL

The school has been taking part in a number of activities over the past few weeks.

World Book Day brought tremendous excitement with children dressed as their favourite characters. The day was filled with storytelling, shared reading and other activities, encouraging a love of books.

Learning Highlights Across the Year Groups

Recent learning has centred on discovering the extraordinary in everyday things: F1 children explored friendship, kindness and nature. Year 2 reflected on simple beautiful moments and writing stories about

Continued on p30



FRIENDS OF DEDDINGTON LIBRARY

www.FriendsofDeddingtonLibrary.org



Deddington library was opened by JRR Tolkien in 1959. Next time you visit, ask Gail or one of the volunteers to show you his letter about the event. Seventy years on, and having been threatened with closure in 2012 due to severe OCC budget cuts, campaigning and fundraising enabled the library to become partially community funded and volunteer supported.

The library offers many services, one of which (common to all 44 Oxfordshire libraries) is that members can borrow and return books at any branch of Oxfordshire County Library. All books have a 'home' library where they live in-between travels. One of my tasks as a volunteer is to separate the returns that live in Deddington from the ones that go elsewhere, packing the 'travellers' into padded bags for their repatriation. I became curious as to the journeys the books made and what their home library was like. AI tells me that Oxfordshire covers an area of 2,605km² and an estimated population of 763,218, so library books can travel far and wide. I realised that, despite living in the area for more than 40 years, I recognised the names of fewer than half the towns in the library service area and had only set foot in three of the forty-four libraries. I decided I needed to get out more. In spring 2025, Gail and I devised a Library Challenge and committed ourselves to visiting all 44 libraries within 12 months.

Our aims were simple: to visit other branches, chat to staff, share ideas, experiences and best practice; to raise awareness of Deddington library's 70th birthday and the services it provides; and (the icing on the challenge cake) to obtain evidence of our visit by getting each branch to stamp our Deddington notebook with their local library stamp, an incredibly rare artefact these days. (NB Notebooks and pens are available for purchase from the library for £2 each, and pencils £1 each, all proceeds to Friends of Deddington Library).

Gail began her Library Challenge in May 2025 and you can see a display of her visits in the library. She has 18 visits to complete but gets extra kudos for visiting Bullingdon Prison library, one supported by OCC but not on our list of 44.

I was unable to start with my Library Challenge until October 2025 and have just made an amateur cut out and glue stick collage of my travels so far. The Challenge has been so much fun that I've rebranded it Love Our Libraries Tour. I have been lucky to have the support of a team of friends and family who have been generous with their time and have battled the weather. They have helped by taking photos, as I'm not good at selfies and, sometimes, a wide angle is needed to capture activities, eg riding the 50 year old children's book train in Didcot library. They've also assisted by giving an author's perspective on breadth and quality of reading material, by navigating, getting stuck into any branch jigsaws in progress, carrying books I've borrowed (never leave a branch empty handed) and even on occasion have read to me if I am driving. One

friend was so impressed by our visit that she rejoined the library after 30 years' absence.

I have documented my travels on Facebook (Love Our Libraries Tour 2025–2026) with photos and fun facts. On the tour, we have seen different library set-ups and all types of weather. There have been tiny but well-formed libraries, easily accessible ones, proactive ones and swanky refurbished ones. We have had a warm welcome from staff and volunteers, and the positivity and pride with which they talk about their work, as they show us around, creates an infectious energy we can bring home to our library.

Please support us on our travels by sponsoring us or making a donation. Gail has worked to keep the momentum going and is so close to completing her Challenge.

Comment on our FB page and share it widely.

Love our Libraries and cherish our own, so that we can continue to support our community.

Helen Chapman

Volunteer at Deddington Library since 2019

Friends of Deddington Library Committee

Member (2019–2022)

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WENDY BURROWS 1936–2026

Aunty Wen began planning her funeral several years ago, when the family was issued with typed copies of the service, complete with who was to read what. Last February I was summoned to Market Place Cottage for what can only be described as a master class in organisation. I was given a strict running order, delivered with the authority only a seasoned teacher can command. During the numerous editorial meetings for the order of service Wen cited examples of poor public speaking and so provided coaching to all invited speakers in the use of the public address system.

Ben Burrows, nephew

Wendy was born in Oxford at home in Five Mile Drive to Walter and Daphne Burrows. Daphne descended from the Seaton family, farmers and property owners in Aylesbury. Walter was the only child of Harry and Letitia Burrows, also born in Oxford. In 1890 Harry founded Holywell Press in Alfred Street, Oxford, a thriving firm still owned and run by the Burrows family. Wendy's love of the natural world and gardening came from her father. In September 1945 her brother, Peter Seaton, was born.

Wendy was educated at Greycotes School from 5 to 7 years and then at Headington School where she was above average in sport, singing and art, but also gained 10 O levels. She played in the 1st hockey team and then in the Oxfordshire Junior X1 and the 1st tennis team and in 1954 won the Junior Oxfordshire County Championships.

She trained as a PE teacher at Bedford College of Physical Education. Her first post was at Yeovil High School for Girls, a grammar school of about 360 pupils.

After five happy years there and following a terrifying interview at Newport, she was appointed head of girls PE at Carisbrooke Grammar School on the Isle of Wight, a mixed school. She stayed there for three years and then needed to be nearer home as her father became seriously ill and was desperate to have her home.

She was appointed PE teacher at Holton Park Girls' Grammar School (now Wheatley Park School) in September 1965. The school was housed in what was Holton Manor in beautiful grounds, including a moated island over which staff could walk from the new block which housed a hall and gymnasium. The games facilities were two netball courts, four tennis courts and one hockey pitch. There was also an outdoor unheated swimming pool.

Wendy's father died four months later at home on Yarnells Hill, North Hinksey, aged only 61. She lived with her mother for two years and helped her move into a smaller bungalow. Their home was then sold – one of the worst times in Wendy's life.

After six years, Oxfordshire's grammar schools were lost and comprehensive education caused Holton Park to be amalgamated with Wheatley Secondary Modern. Unfortunately, instead of building it up from the bottom with 11 year olds, they moved the whole school. Wendy stuck it for two more years and then applied for a lecturer's post at Chelsea College of PE

in Eastbourne. She was then 37 and, to her amazement, got the job, in charge of tennis and also helped teach hockey. Later she became head of gymnastics and taught Scottish and English folk dance, badminton and table tennis.

Her first home was a small terraced house at Herstmonceux which backed onto fields and she had two cats who loved being taken for walks. Her love of miniature dachshunds started here, as one half term her mother brought her cousin Ruth and her two dachshunds to visit. They were well behaved and did not attack or chase the cats. Wendy decided that when she bought a dog, they would be dachshunds. She decided on two which she called Alice and Hannah.

Tutoring students on six week teaching practices was an important part of the job. Secondary schools covering Oxfordshire, East Sussex, Hampshire and Kent were used and it was essential to watch students teaching games, gymnastics and dance.

Working out her timetable to see all the students was a bit of a nightmare with the long distance between some schools, with the added pressure of finding digs for six weeks. The 25 years teaching at the college were fulfilling and interesting. She retired in 1996 and stayed on one more year to help with teaching practice.

She and a friend decided to have a holiday in Canada, even though she had to get over her fear of flying. Based in Vancouver, they had booked a 2-berth camper van. They were offered a 6-berth one for the same price.

Soon after returning home she decided to buy a second-hand VW camper van, which had some mod cons, but no toilet. Most of the time before she sold it, she had holidays in Britain, although she did go to Norway, France, Switzerland and Austria.

Her mother became ill with dementia and Wendy secured a place for her in a care home in Eastbourne, visiting her twice a week to take her to see the sea or up on the South Downs. She died in December that year. This was the second traumatic period of her life.

Wendy had sung in choral societies all her adult life and after retirement she was elected chairman of the Eastbourne Choral Society.

She then decided to move back to Oxfordshire to be nearer the family. Her college room-mate and friend, Liz Dickinson, had moved to Deddington, so Wendy decided to find a house in the village and was lucky enough to buy a small cottage in the Market Place. She moved in October 2003 and was very happy there, joining in village activities, singing in the church choir, putting on shows in the church for the community, and starting Deddington Parish Show in December 2008 which grew in popularity with a range of sections. She also sang in the Oxford Bach Choir, the rehearsals for which were in the Sheldonian. Into her 80s she felt too old to carry on with all this activity and handed it on to younger people, but kept on writing the rotas for church services involving many church goers.

POSTCARD FROM AMERICA

Texas, Whooping Cranes, Iran and Cadbury's

I used to do a lot of business in Texas. It personifies the brash 'America First' and can-do ethos that is on display on the world stage right now. As I slid into retirement, I had expressed relief that I would never have to visit the state ever again, but then my lovely wife decided we were going to attend another crane watching festival. The last festival was two years ago when we met with around 50,000 sandhill cranes in a riverbed at dusk. The sights and sounds were astounding. There were around half a million of them around Kearney, Nebraska, the only place I have ever visited a museum in a bridge over a motorway. This time we were on an island in the Gulf of Mexico visiting the Whooping Crane Festival. The problem was that someone had forgotten to invite the cranes. We saw six. It was 24 hours into our stay at a semi-derelict hotel in Port Aransas when Heather admitted that there were actually only 535 of these whooping cranes in existence so we were actually lucky. I don't know how they know there are 535 of them but I didn't hear them whoop. I am happy to report that, despite the presence of several loud Texans at some fantastic seafood restaurants, this was not mainstream Texas. It certainly was the Gulf of Mexico; conservation is a priority and there was no mindless hunting.

We had dinner last night with several of our neighbours. In many ways it is like a secret society meeting, with murmured discussions about Trump's latest idiotic acts. Everyone is appalled at the war on Iran, a feeling shared by my Iranian tennis partner and my Jewish neighbour. The complete lack of a plan is frightening, Trump is acting on gut instinct now. After some success in removing the dictator in Venezuela, he is emboldened. It is like another episode in *The Apprentice*, but the only one fired was the dog killer from South Dakota.

Hegseth, the 'Secretary of War', claims to be a Christian, but his rhetoric doesn't strike any accord with what I was taught in Bible classes. Hegseth wrote a book called *American Crusade*. He sees Israel and the US as being linked together in a fight against Islam. One of his underlings said that Trump was 'anointed by Jesus to light the signal fire to cause Armageddon and mark his return to earth'. The first six days of the war cost the US \$11.3billion and resulted in the obliteration of a school. It appears that the MAGA crowd is still supporting Trump, despite more forever wars, but will they handle the increasing price of petrol? And the lies continue – Trump said 'In the first hour it was over'.

None of Trump's actions helps the vast majority of the population. Sixty per cent of the US is living paycheck to paycheck. The top 1% now owns more wealth than the bottom 93%. And one man, Elon Musk, owns more than the bottom 53% of American households combined.

Today is a good day. My wife got back from a quick visit to see her ailing mother in England and brought back urgently needed supplies. Hershey has the rights in the US to Cadbury's. Of course, they use a different

recipe, less cocoa and more sugar, which is obviously cheaper to manufacture, but I am happy. My wife returned to a very clean house with a suitcase full of rations. I might be waiting for the world to end but at least I can go down bingeing on Dairy Milk.

Mike Ward
mikeatcherwell@gmail.com

Deddington Library

By the time you read this the library will have had a fresh coat of paint inside, from top to bottom. It will look so much brighter. How smart we will be. We will also have had new radiators and heating fans put in. In order to do this we will be closed until Saturday 11 April. Many thanks for your understanding and patience at this time. All your borrowed books have had their loan periods extended to cover this. You are welcome to use any Oxfordshire library.

I am hoping to have visited another six libraries by then, leaving me with 12, which is three days' worth of get to by the end of April. Helen and I plan to visit five libraries in Oxford on 21 April and Helen's excellent reporting on 'Love our Libraries Tour 25–26' can be seen on our Facebook page. Our ambitious target of £1,000 is also a big challenge so please come and sponsor us. The form is in the library.

I'm still on the scrounge for outside paint for our mural: half empty tins or spray paints, anything will be welcome. They can be left at the library or by the back door in a safe place. We want to start painting in May.

Thank you for your continuous support and to my volunteers, especially Julia Cork for her organisational skills and keeping me on my toes.

Happy Easter to you all and see you from 11 April.

Gail Cripps
Deddington library manager
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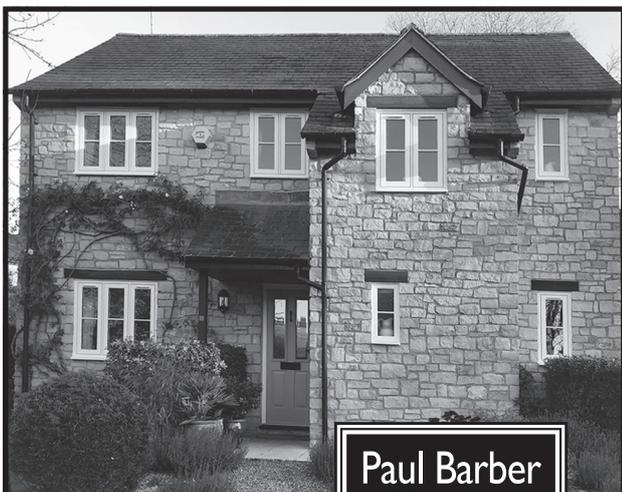
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NEWS FROM CLIFTON

The Duck got an email from Katharine House Hospice thanking them for having collected £347.10 for the 2025 Banbury Tractor run from staff and punters. A great effort for a great local charity from a great local event. Special thanks to Lily Catlin who did most of the legwork.

Well done Cllr Mark for organising the annual litter pick. Fi & Kev, Kent, Viv, Sharon, Mark, Grace and her friend found 10 plus bags of rubbish. A disintegrated box of children's toys was found with a Christmas tree and an electric fan fly-tipped in the layby. Sad, as we have to question OCC's new booking and charging regime at the local tips that makes sensible disposal of waste a more difficult activity. Certainly our CDC councillor, David Rogers, reports a significant increase in their dealing with fly-tipping. OCC Councillor Gareth Epps says, 'I have an open mind about this [the changes] and want to see the evidence either way.' However, this Lower Larkrise team still deserves our thanks. Other neighbours who will relish this cleansing might want to turn out next year and make it less than the two hour activity that this year was.

CAST is currently planning the next steps in try-

ing to secure permanent road calming measures in Lower Larkrise, but are being frustrated by the 'no money' excuse/reason. One of their pet peeves is that Clifton doesn't figure as needing any safety measures, as shown in the relatively recent USAF Safety Review that looked at the safety of routes between RAF Croughton and RAF Barford St John. As you can imagine we feature heavily in that. Some in the group are of the 'storm the battlements' persuasion, while others are of the 'let's get the evidence out to those responsible' and see what future funding streams can be brought to bear once the need is established with the higher authorities. While this went to print, a strategy meeting was being held. To be fair, to the USAF/ Department for Transport, CAST only started to collect this data after the sad death of Harry Dunn that was the catalyst for the review. However, this shows that we only benefited from 16% of the spend from the fund of the money spent in the parish as a whole.

As ever, any news or updates to me please.

Martin Bryce

Martindnbryce@gmail.com



Club hosted quiz in January raising funds for the teams, we held our own Windmill Quiz Night a few weeks later. Nearly 100 quiz-goers divided into 17 teams and quizmaster extraordinaire, Peter, put everyone through their paces – at pace. Original, thought-provoking questions were organised around some of the activities that regularly take place at the Windmill. My favourite was a picture round called 'Cubs'. At first glance it seemed a completely random set of images, until you worked out that each picture somehow represented the name for a baby of a species. Clever stuff. A busy bar, some hilarious moments and a great atmosphere made for a really enjoyable evening. The Deddington Library raised around £230 on the raffle and the Windmill management committee made a further donation of £120 from the quiz proceeds. Building on this success, we've decided to hold a second Windmill Quiz Night on Saturday 18 April. Email events@thewindmilledddington.org now to reserve your team's place and avoid disappointment. We only have room to host 20 teams.

Next up it's the Windmill Race Night which, in a change to the date announced in last month's *DN*, will now take place on Saturday 9 May. Put it in your diary! This is just the start of what we hope will be a programme of regular community events including films, live music, drama, more quizzes and more race nights at the Windmill. You'll find details on our website

It's quiz-tastic up at the Windmill! Following a very successful Football

or on Deddington Online.

Another community event that is going from strength to strength is the monthly lunch club hosted by Gregg Brown. Sold out every time, this month's lunch will be served on Friday 24 April. If you haven't attended one yet, I recommend it as an excellent way to start the weekend.

Despite all this success, there are inevitably some community institutions that aren't faring so well. Brownies is one of them – still looking for volunteer leaders. The other one I'd like to shine a light on is the Deddington Playgroup which hasn't managed to meet for the best part of a year. There will be many people in the village who, like me, have fond memories of first meeting other young parents at the playgroup – meetings that led to enduring friendships which continue to this day. Again, the main problem is lack of volunteers along with a few red tape issues. If you think you can help, please contact me or email deddingtonbabyandtoddler@gmail.com. Let's get the Playgroup back up and running!

Finally, to return to the positives, there are new Zumba and circuit training classes starting. Contact Violet on 07355 400409 or email enquiries@uv-wellness.com. If it's your mind rather than your body that needs a workout, then you might also be interested in new Guided Meditation sessions – places are filling up fast. Contact Hannah on 07752 835381 to book.

To start a new class, or hold your own event, just visit our website www.thewindmilledddington.org, our Facebook page or call our bookings secretary Julie on 07720 834006.

Vaughan Jones

chair@thewindmilledddington.org

DRIVING UKRAINE

What a week for Driving Ukraine! To coincide with and celebrate Women's International Day, Convoy 55, six vehicles driven by 12 local women, left Deddington on 12 March heading for Ukraine, bringing the total number of vehicles delivered to 310. In the same week Convoy 56, 'The Lads' Convoy, left these shores, 14 young drivers, five vehicles, all friends from university who understand the work Driving Ukraine is doing, an inspiration for us all, young people standing shoulder to shoulder wanting to make a real difference.

Every month at least five vehicles (minimum of 10 people) depart Oxfordshire. If you have availability over the coming months to dedicate five days total to the cause, please visit the website, www.DrivingUkraine.org, fill in the 60-second form to discover upcoming convoy dates and how you can be a part of the next mission. Experience the journey of a lifetime and make a real difference to Ukraine. Since Driving Ukraine began four years ago, more than 1,400 dedicated volunteers from 30 countries have joined a convoy – discover how you can be part of our next life-saving mission.

Friends of the Castle Grounds

We had plenty to look back on at this year's AGM. The north bank has been cleared, wildflower seeds and bulbs planted there and on other banks, the large beech trees have had a careful trim, and several benches and goalposts have been repaired or replaced. The Four Farms Run and No Mow May are coming up and we've continued our ongoing balancing act: keeping the brambles in check along the paths while allowing the rest of this historic site to remain happily semi-wild.

Next year we'll be doing much the same and we're always glad of new ideas and helping hands from like-minded clubs or individuals. If you'd like to get involved, come along to a meeting (second Wednesday of the month in the Deddington Arms meeting room). Whether you want to share ideas, donate wildflowers, or simply wield some secateurs for an hour or two, you'll be very welcome.

We're also on the lookout for photos of the Castle Grounds, recent or historic. If you have any you'd be happy for us to share, from an album or your phone, we'd love to see them.

Keep an eye out for the new QR codes appearing on the bins, which make it easier to report when they're full. More cheerfully, keep your eyes peeled (and fingers crossed) for emerging aconites and fritillaries alongside the daffodils as spring gets under way. And finally, start saving your coins if you or yours will be at the Four Farms Run on 17 May – there will be games.

Charlotte Holmes

info@friendsofcastlegrounds.co.uk

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On 28 February, USA and Israel launched an attack on Iran, targeting its missile infrastructure, military sites and leadership in Tehran and across the country. In response Iran carried out missile and drone attacks on countries hosting US bases – Qatar, Bahrain, Jordan, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait – and US-allied Oman and Saudi Arabia. Since then Instability in the Middle East has begun to impact the global economy.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky says that, while it is understandable the world's attention has shifted to the Middle East, the situation is 'not good for Ukraine'. By Trump easing sanctions on countries buying Russian oil, pro-Ukraine campaigners have suggested that it will enrich Vladimir Putin and prolong the war in Ukraine. In addition to this, the conflict in the Middle East may deprive Ukraine of weapons and reduce the amount of air defence that they might normally receive. Let's not take our eye off the Ukraine ball – let's keep thinking of Ukraine, let's keep supporting Ukraine and let's keep standing with Ukraine.

On the other hand, a bit of developing and maybe positive news: Trump is looking to Ukraine to help its operations with Iran. Ukraine is the world leader in anti-drone defence which is needed by the US. Helping in this way will give Ukraine leverage with Trump to serve as an investment in their diplomatic capabilities.

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LETTERS

FROM SARAH BRYSON,
SIBFORD FERRIS
*Great Wall of China Trek –
October 2026*

I used to work as a nurse at Katharine House Hospice, on the ward, the Living Well unit and in the community team, overall for about eight years until just after the pandemic. My experience there was formative in many ways, giving me the skills and confidence to take a role as a nurse in the 'Hospice at Home' charity, Lawrence Nurses, based in Chipping Norton where I worked as a nurse until January 2025.

The funding of hospices is an ongoing problem so, on New Year's Eve, tempted by the opportunity to travel to China, I signed up on the spur of the moment to take part in this charity event for Katharine House Hospice, the Great Wall of China Trek in October 2026. I am paying for the trip as I would for a holiday, so all the donations I receive as sponsorship will go directly to the hospice.

I will be doing the walk with people I know – Nic is a deputy sister on the ward and Eva used to work there as a care assistant before going on to do further training. We live quite close to each other and plan to do some training walks together.

The three of us are passionate about the importance of holistic, high quality care for palliative patients and those at the end of life. Sadly there is a massive shortfall in funds for this level of care to be possible. This is true across all hospices.

Dr Rachel Clarke, a palliative care doctor and a journalist who worked at the hospice during my time there writes regularly for *The Guardian*. In a piece on 10 November 2025 she wrote this: 'Remarkably, the famous 'cradle to grave' NHS funds only about 30% of hospice care in the UK. The shortfall is made up from charitable donations: the goodwill of local individuals and businesses stepping in where the state has chosen to walk away.'

As a motivator for myself, to get in training for the very hilly section of the wall, I have set a target of 2,026km in 2026. If you'd like to support my endeavour I would be most grateful. The link to my Just Giving page is https://www.justgiving.com/page/sarah-bryson-5?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL. Thank you.

FROM JANET BIRD, DEDDINGTON

Oxfordshire Artweeks is just around the corner and will this year feature a number of local artists. I am an animal and landscape painter and will be joining Deddington farmers' market exhibitors, Ruth Thomas (quilts), Lainey Samuelson (painting), Delia Brown (paintings) and 11 other artists and artisans working in stone, wood, textiles, silver, glass and print for an exhibition in Adderbury's beautiful parish church.

The event will run from Sunday 10 May for a week. Opening times are 10.00am–6.00pm Monday to Thursday and Saturday, 10.00am–8.00pm Friday



and 12.00–6.00pm both Sundays. Refreshments will be provided and all will be made very welcome so please do pop along.

FROM MARIE SMITH

We would like to apologise for any inconvenience caused in Tays Gateway by a contractor with a large white van who

started work on 2 March refurbishing our bathroom, including removing the bath tub and installing a shower. There are currently three major building projects that have been going on for several months nearby involving two skips in the Bullring and numerous tradesmen's vehicles plus a skip in Victoria Terrace. It's often impossible to find a parking space. The temporary traffic lights at the crossroads have exacerbated problems because Tays Gateway is being used as a rat-run to avoid the delays. The rear access to the building project on Victoria Terrace is directly opposite our property. Large jumbo bags of building materials have been dropped in the lane opposite our gate, often remaining there for long periods. One of the bags was still there when our contractor arrived on 2 March. His van is his travelling workshop with all the tools and kit required for his carpentry, plumbing and tiling. He and his partner needed to load/unload and access tools and materials several times a day. My husband told them they should park outside our gates. Due to the jumbo bag opposite, cars couldn't pass, so my husband spoke to the builders, explaining the situation and they said the bag would be removed. It's still there, seven days later, damaged with the contents spilling out.

Two days after our job began and after much honking of a car horn, we had a visit from three police officers who had received a complaint that the van was obstructing the traffic. We explained that our contractors needed access to their van frequently and that it was the jumbo bag causing the obstruction and if it was removed cars could get by. We also pointed out that there are alternative routes. They spoke to the builders. Later that day there were again more horn blasts and we had a repeat visit from the police who insisted on speaking to our contractor who was told that if he didn't move the van it would be removed. The offending jumbo bag was still in the road.

The upheaval and disruption of having a bathroom renovation has been difficult enough, without the added stress of having to cope with the current difficult local parking problems. I am disappointed that someone, who is presumably local and aware of these problems, was so indignant at the inconvenience, they refused to use an alternative route and complained to the police resulting in creating more difficulties for our hardworking contractor.

We have lived in Deddington since 1977. I've always felt privileged to live in such a lovely village and community. This unpleasant experience has saddened and disappointed me.

DH History Corner

www.deddingtonhistory.uk

Researcher Trevor Rowley talks about Bishop Odo and Deddington Castle

This was first published in the Oxford Mail on 7 May 2013 and is republished here with its kind permission.

All that is left of Deddington Castle is a ditch, a mound and a grassy bank topped with trees, but this paradise for dog walkers was once the headquarters of the second most powerful man in Britain, Bishop Odo. Depicted on the Bayeux Tapestry on horseback waving a baton during the Battle of Hastings, he has gone down in history as a cruel killer who helped the Norman invaders lay waste to Saxon England, amassing a large fortune in land and gold – and then betrayed his half-brother, William the Conqueror, by fomenting rebellion.

Chroniclers described him as: ambitious, rapacious, arrogant, tyrannical and destitute of virtue – one called him a ravaging wolf. Orderic Vitalis, a chronicler monk, creates an unattractive image of Odo as a regent who abused his responsibilities, oppressing the poor and unfairly seizing England's wealth and land. But now he has a defender in the form of Trevor Rowley, a lecturer at Oxford University's Department of Continuing Education.

He said: 'You just have to mention Odo and people shake their heads. But he was no worse than most of his contemporaries. He just had a bit more energy.'

The one date in history that everyone remembers, 1066, is entrenched in the English psyche as a symbol of invasion.

'There is this idea of England under the Norman yoke, and certainly, the first 20 years or so after the Norman Conquest would have been pretty awful, but things recovered quite quickly. I would not have liked to be an English landowner between 1066 and 1080. It would have taken all your negotiating skills to survive, I think. There was not a great number of executions but there was a great deal of disruption and laying waste to land.'

Mr Rowley believes Odo's biggest legacy is the Bayeux Tapestry, which he commissioned, probably at St Augustine's in Canterbury. He is said to have contributed 100 ships to the invasion fleet and the embroiderers showed Odo active in battle. The tapestry shows William listening to Odo in council beforehand, implying Odo was the architect of the invasion.

Mr Rowley said: 'This may be an exaggeration – probably due to the fact that it was Odo himself who commissioned the tapestry – but he was certainly an important figure in the conquest.'

William reorganised his new kingdom and made the loyal Odo the richest tenant-in-chief in the kingdom. A *Sunday Times* Rich List, covering the period from 1066 to 2000, put Normans in three of the top four places, with Odo at number four. In his book, Mr Rowley reports this with apparent relish, but adds that it was 'a dubious honour, dubiously calculated'.

Mr Rowley spent most of his working life making

academic research accessible to a wider public. He arrived in Oxford in 1969 to teach archaeology and local studies at the university's extra-mural studies department, retiring in 2000 as deputy director of what is now the Department of Continuing Education. During that time, he helped to build the department's reputation in landscape history and still lectures.

As for Deddington, Mr Rowley believes that it was a major centre, and would have been developed into a stone castle, typical of the later Norman period, had Odo not been imprisoned after raising a private army on the Isle of Wight, probably in a bid for the papacy. Mr Rowley believes Deddington was a military stockade – the centre of Odo's midlands empire.

'It was his intention to develop something like Kenilworth as a military base, but he doesn't have time to do this because he has fallen by 1082. It would have been interesting when the Bishop of Lincoln built up Banbury Castle – that would have taken the wind out of Deddington. You might have had a similar situation to Kenilworth and Warwick, and the same rivalry.'

As for Odo: 'He lived life to the full. He was not just a Norman bully. He built cathedrals, commissioned the Bayeux Tapestry. He could fight, but he was a good administrator. He revolted, he wanted to be pope, we think. He was an extremely influential man but I don't think he was any more unpleasant than the others. He was a single-minded money-maker.'

'In his 60s he went off on a crusade, so he was one of the relatively few people who fought at Hastings and went on the First Crusade.'

If Deddington deserves a bigger role in descriptions of our Norman history, does he think the site should have more prominence?

'I am a big fan of Odo and I think it would be worth having a bigger interpretation centre. The problem is that you have a lot of maybes. But I am prepared to say Odo built this and that this was his midlands headquarters.' More about the Castle and its Grounds can be found at: <https://www.deddingtonhistory.uk/deddingtoncastle>

Rob Forsyth



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CALLING ALL CLUBS

Photographic Society

In March we welcomed renowned photographer, Nicholas Posner, who spoke about his remarkable 40-year career in celebrity portraiture.

Nicholas grew up in Sunderland and went straight from school into medical training at Leeds Medical School. His career took a dramatic turn after attending the Durham Miners' Gala, where he captured an iconic photograph of Arthur Scargill, later acquired by the National Portrait Gallery. That moment sparked his determination to photograph the major figures of the political and celebrity world.

Nicholas set himself the goal of photographing every prime minister of his era. Relentless in his pursuit of political portraiture, he contacted politicians directly. He developed a strong rapport within political circles and was invited by Kenneth Baker to Dorneywood, where he combined photography with a friendly game of snooker. Unbeknown to Kenneth, Nicholas was a keen amateur player, and went on to win the match.

His distinguished portfolio includes portraits of John Major, Tony Blair, Edward Heath and James Callaghan, as well as Bobby and Jackie Charlton, Geoff Capes, Paul Daniels and Kylie Minogue. After moving to Oxford, Nicholas was invited by the Oxford Vaccine Group to photograph Annalise Dodd and Chris Patten. Away from politics, he enjoys photographing the Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra and assists Michael Heseltine by photographing the trees and flowers at Thenford arboretum.

It is our AGM at our April meeting followed by 'Whose Photo is it?' Make it your 2026 resolution to join us. Come along and enjoy inspiring talks from our wonderful guest speakers. All are welcome. We meet on the first Wednesday of the month. Meetings start at 7.30pm in the Adderbury Institute.

Courtney Killpack
www.addphoto.co.uk

Royal British Legion

I am very pleased to announce that the 1st Deddington Scout Group is now affiliated to our branch. As and when opportunity offers, they will work with us to promote the values of the Royal British Legion, the Poppy Appeal and for the good of our community. The affiliation will be signified by the wearing of a badge which our president will award to each member.

Rob Forsyth, chairman
Robert.s.forsyth@gmail.com

Local Vocals Community Choir

Our choir repertoire is never highbrow but rather an eclectic mix of easy-listening pop, folk and world genres. This term we have been concentrating on songs that we can perform at the Oxford Folk Festival taking place on Sunday 12 April. We will perform at 11.30am at the Weston Library, opposite the Sheldonian Theatre and will be joined for some of the songs by our choir leader's other choir from Faringdon. Do come

along and support us. The event is free. Our final Monday rehearsal was on 23 March – fingers crossed our brains retain what we have learnt.

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

Alison Grieve

Hempton Book Club

The Spy by Paul Coelho

The book tries to retell the story of Mata Hari, an exotic dancer and courtesan, who is nearing the end of her trial for allegedly being a double agent for France and Germany during the First World War. The story is told in the form of letters (meant for her daughter) between Mata Hari and her lawyer. Although the events are not in chronological order, she lists her thoughts and life events as she awaits the verdict. A lot of her recollections are factually incorrect but that could be the way she chose to remember them to defend herself. Spoiler alert for anyone who hasn't heard of her as there's a description of her execution at the start of the book.

The writing style was awkward but probably due to being translated from Portuguese. Would we read another of his books? No. Recommend to a friend? No. Best thing about it – short with big print.

Jo Churchyard
jochurchyard@hotmail.com

History Society

Christopher Hotten's talk in March described the role that James Lees-Milne (1908–1997) had in saving so many country houses for the National Trust. He was brought up in Wickhamford Manor, near Broadway. Educated at Eton, where one of his best friends was Tom Mitford, and at Oxford where he became friends with John Betjeman. While at Oxford he developed an interest in architecture and in March 1936 he was appointed secretary to the National Trust Country Houses Committee. Until the 1930s the National Trust only looked after land. One result of WWI was that many who were servants in country houses lost their lives. Death duties at this time were 95% so in 1935 Neville Chamberlain, then Chancellor of the Exchequer, was approached to develop a scheme whereby large country houses could be donated to the nation in lieu of death duties. Owners would be permitted to stay in their homes. James Lees-Milne would be instrumental in negotiating agreements with these owners to hand over their properties to the National Trust. After serving about two years in the army during WWII James was medically discharged and continued his work with the National Trust until 1950 where he had a huge influence. Max Hastings said he was 'the man who saved England'.

Mr Hotten detailed some of the local properties that James Lees-Milne was involved in acquiring for the National Trust. Negotiations would sometimes

CALLING ALL CLUBS

Continued from p25

take several years. Lees-Milne first met Charles Wade, owner of Snowhill, in 1948 and it was finally transferred in 1952. Hidcote Manor took six years of consultations before its owner, Major Lawrence Johnston, finally signed the agreement and it opened in 1949. Charlecote was donated in 1946, described by Lees-Milne as 'a dream of summery beauty'. He visited Upton House in March 1946 recognising the art as a 'superb private collection'. Upton was donated to the National Trust on Viscount Bearsted II's death in 1948.

On 9 April, Carol Anderson will be talking on 'All that Glitters: Woodstock's cut steel industry'. In the eighteenth century Woodstock was famous for high-quality cut steel items produced by craftsmen in the town.

Jean Dipper
jean.dipper28@gmail.com

SPORT

Deddington Town FC

First team results:

- 14.2.26 Kings Sutton (h) (CUP) W 4-0
Whitrow, Thornton J (2), Catania
21.2.26 Hardwick Sps Res (a) (CUP) W 3-0
Whitrow, Edmonds (2)

Reserve team results:

- 21.2.26 SWIS 313 Dev (h) (CUP) W 7-1
Warman, Newton (2), Henn (3), Ayling
28.2.26 Blockley (h) W 2-0
Jackson, Newton

Only a pair of matches each but it's all aces for both teams. The Humbugs swept aside Kings Sutton and Hardwick Reserves in different cup competitions, with Ollie Whitrow contributing a goal in each. The Latics followed the previous 13-1 cup victory with a 7-1 victory over SWIS 313 – twenty goals in just two matches! Ciaran Newton contributed seven of those alone, while Aedan Henn grabbed a hat-trick in the latter match. Cup progress and superb league placings near their respective summits: things are looking very promising for both Deddington sides as we move into the spring run-in.

Aaron Bliss 07909 642882

Deddington Town FC – Youth

The Under 15s who play in the B League of the Oxfordshire Youth Football League had 1-6 home defeat to Chadlington, followed by a 5-0 away defeat at Bicester Town. The Under 14s playing in the Witney & District Youth League had a 2-1 defeat

YOUTH

1st Deddington Guides

What a busy few weeks. The Phoenix Patrol made some super dough decorations and also organised a fashion show involving the whole unit, watched by an enthusiastic and discerning audience. Earlier in the evening the Panda Patrol treated us to a well organised tea party with each patrol member being a hostess at their own table of guests ... well done all.

Book Group

In February we read *What I Ate In One Year* by the actor and food writer Stanley Tucci. As in his TV series *Searching for Italy*, he combines his passion for food with a genial and witty approach. The book is a diary of the meals shared with family, friends and colleagues, ranging from meals which he has cooked for his children to those eaten in notable restaurants. It is a light and easy read, but we found some chapters repetitive and were also disappointed that the occasional recipes given did not specify ingredient amounts. However, the subtitle of the book (*and related thoughts*) points to the significance for him of sharing and enjoying food. Some chapters were quite moving in that they showed a deep connection to the people he loves and an appreciation of life with all its ups and downs.

The Book Group

at Hook Norton followed by a 1-3 home defeat to Wychwood. The Under 13s playing in the Witney & District Youth C League had a 7-1 defeat to Brackley in the cup, followed by a 3-2 defeat to Adderbury Park. The Under 12s playing in the Witney & District Youth B League had a 3-1 defeat at Kingston Colts. Roger Sykes led a group of Wildcats and their parents to watch Arsenal play West Ham at the Emirates in the Women's Super League. It was a great experience to watch live football at the Emirates Stadium.

Our presentation day is at the Windmill Centre on Sunday 7 June to celebrate the achievements of all our players and the work put in by managers and coaches through the season. We are looking for a sponsor for each of our awards: Most Improved Player of the Year; Sportsperson of the Year; Manager's Player of the Year; and Players' Player of the Year. The amount we seek is £250 for each award. A sponsor will get their logo on the front cover of the programme; their logo in the award section of the programme; their logo on the slide deck we use; and logo coverage on our website and social media. If you are a local business who is interested, get in touch now.

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.deddington-townfc/ or visit us on Facebook, www.facebook.com/DeddingtonTownFc.

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

Teamwork was key.

Charlotte and her team of Young Leaders organised a much enjoyed pamper evening. Somewhere along the way we fitted in pancakes – of course.

Thinking Day followed with our thoughts turning to Guides around the world. Inevitably it involved food again. This time we sampled breads, or their equiv-



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YOUTH

Continued from p26

alent and dips, from various countries. Most Guides tried something that was new to them.

We are now busy rehearsing our annual entertainment for the end of term to raise money for charity. There's never a dull moment.

All girls 10 and over are welcome to come along and see what we get up to.

Maggie Rampley 07957 600755

1st Deddington Scout Group

Cubs

This term at Cubs we started with a mini bow and arrow problem solving challenge where the Cubs worked in teams to design simple bows, test them, and improve their ideas. It was brilliant to see so much creativity, resilience and teamwork.

We also celebrated Chinese New Year with fun activities and games. The Cubs made their own colourful paper lanterns and then took on a lively chopstick challenge. There were lots of laughs and some impressive chopstick skills on display.

ROLL UP! ROLL UP!

Middle Barton Bowls Club is pleased to invite you to an Open Day on Saturday 2 May from 2.00pm–5.00pm. All you need is a pair of flat bottom shoes (trainers are fine) and we'll provide the rest. There is no age limit – all are welcome – as long as you can pick up and bowl a bowl you are good to give it a go (and they come in different sizes to suit). We have members from many surrounding villages including several from Deddington, so you may already know someone here.

We mainly play outside in the summer on Tuesdays and Saturdays (afternoon or evening) but other days come up too and roll-ups (fun games or practice) can be arranged to suit. You can play as often or as little as you want, there is no pressure to come every week or play in competitions, so games fit in with your other activities. The Club is a really friendly one where folk can come and enjoy great company, take a little gentle and fun exercise and relax amongst friends.

We would love to see you. Tea and cake will be provided and members will be there to answer any questions and show you what to do. No need to book, just come and bring your friends too.

Contact secretarymiddlebartonbc@hotmail.com, Middle Barton Bowls Club, Worton Road, Middle Barton. OX7 7EE.

Road Closures

Hempton Road, Barford St Michael

14–18 April

B4031–Townsend, 4.00am–6.00pm. There will be limited access for frontages and to emergency vehicles. Access will be maintained for buses, cyclists and pedestrians.

Castle Street

12 May

9.30am–3.30pm for sewer cleaning works.

Later in the term, we welcomed a visit from a council representative who taught the Cubs all about recycling – what can be recycled, what can't and why it matters. The Cubs asked great questions and came away with new ideas to help reduce waste at home and at Cubs.

Tina Deacon
deddingtoncubs@gmail.com

Scouts

To look at the benefits of a healthy diet, the Scouts decided to tackle the subject by turning it on its head and suggesting the unhealthiest menu possible – it was truly horrible. They didn't gain their chef's badge.

February saw the birthday of Robert Baden Powell when we celebrated as Founders Day with a cake and tried out some of the activities in *Scouting for Boys* that are still used today. Hunt the thimble, Scout's nose (identifying things from their smell) and tracking around the Windmill following trails of bread, flour and bird seed – no mean feat on a windy evening. Luckily Scouts nowadays don't need to know how to stop a runaway horse or deal with a rabid dog. The latest topic saw them design the ultimate school bag, complete with rockets and toilet.

Pete Churchyard
deddingtonscouts@gmail.com

We are in urgent need of volunteers especially for the Cub pack, if you're interested in finding out what's involved, contact Jo Churchyard, deddingtonsl@gmail.com.



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NEWS FROM HEMPTON

Spring is here, apparently three weeks early. Meteorological spring starts on 1 March, while astronomical spring begins this year on 20 March. We've had the usual ever-expanding carpet of snowdrops and hosts of daffodils are showing off their vibrant trumpets.

You may have noticed the verges and hedgerows are looking less like a waste tip, thanks to our volunteer litter pickers who gave up their weekend to rid us of the aftermath of consumers' passage through the village. Thank you to those who took part but they will never be stuck for something to occupy their weekends.

The phantom dumper has been at it again; no, not that: fly-tippers. Two car tyres were found adorning the verge on the rise before Ilbury bridge on the Duns Tew Road. OCC charges £7.50 per tyre for disposal at a recycling centre, subject to a maximum of four. National average rates are £1.50–£3.50 per tyre; so much for discouraging fly-tipping in the county.

OCC must be competing with neighbouring authorities for the biggest pothole in the land. Their effort at nearly 3m x 1m was frequently under water and occupied nearly half the carriageway. I'm not sure how many fathoms deep it was, but I'm sure I spotted a periscope. If the ever-expanding hole on this side of the bridge at Ilbury was much bigger we would need a second bridge or ferry to navigate South Brook. It was recently filled – not repaired but I doubt it will last.

I continue to cycle during winter months and was particularly irritated by the state of the road following the annual hedge trimming period. Tractors are often

driven with one tyre in the verge at the edge of the road surface creating a channel in which water collects with no drainage. The result, year on year, is an ever deeper channel and damage to the road surface which frequently breaks up, producing potholes and reduces the width of the road. This year I encountered the road buried under mud and rubble with a generous helping of hawthorn shards on the road. Result: one new tyre and inner tube beyond repair and a long walk home in cleated cycling shoes. Now I need a new set of cleats as well as tyre. Unfortunately, tractor tyres are impervious to hawthorn shards.

There seems to be the likelihood of increased pressure to resume development applications in Hempton. I was contemplating the economics of development and particularly land transactions.

Arable land in north Oxfordshire may be valued at c£10–15k or more per acre; greenfield development land may be valued c£200–250k per acre. Thus, at a stroke of the planning officer's pen, the landowner in the comfort of his bed or without lifting the proverbial finger, is gifted an increased asset value of £190–235k per acre. We must sympathise that the owner will pay capital gains tax on the incremental value, in some cases income tax, and will incur costs in the planning process. As Samuel Clemens, aka Mark Twain, is alleged to have quipped; 'buy land, they are not making it anymore'.

Stuart Oldham

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PFSU AND NURSERY

Looking ahead to next term, at Nursery there is a focus on spring, and at Pre-School the topic is the World Around Us.

The Pre-School children will be looking at life cycle sequencing and keeping a close eye on our caterpillars, watching them turn into butterflies before we release them in the Pre-School garden.

At Nursery the children will be having fun with all things magical – fairies, wands, pixies and potions.

Thank you to everyone who took part in our Easter trail this year. We hope you had a fun morning. A special thanks to Deddington church, Deddington library and Deddington Dental for their continued support.

Don't forget to join us for our next fundraising event on Sunday 17 May for Deddington Four Farms. More detail will follow.

Shrene Saleh-Gillett

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BLISSFUL THINKING

March is rapidly becoming my favourite month. One can flirt with sister spring during daylight hours and roll back into the tranquil gloom of mistress winter at nightfall. You could be shovelling snow on Monday, using a wing suit to coast to work on Wednesday and frolicking in the meadows in a sunshine haze come Friday. It's the season for the man with everything – not too hot, not too cold – always something new around the corner. About the only constant is the sheep at the Clifton Everglades needing snorkels and quite frankly nobody is prepared to do without that.

In a world where discord and tumult are permanent background noise, we will accept nothing less than everyone's favourite wetland overdoing it again for a quarter of the year. May spring be as generous to us!

Aaron Bliss

aaronjbliss@hotmail.com

Primary School *Continued from p9*

the environment. Year 3 immersed themselves in soil science, creating their soil samples and mud paintings. Year 4 produced volcano projects and enjoyed hands-on geography and Greek Day activities. Year 5 looked at nature, inspired by the book *Extraordinary*, noticing seasonal changes. Year 6 shared reflections on meaningful moments and celebrated one pupil's published writing in *The Week Junior*.

Years 5 and 6 enjoyed bowls sessions at Woodgreen Leisure Centre, showing determination and confidence in a new sport. Our Year 5 and 6 athletes also shone at athletics tournaments at Warriner with Team Awesome securing first place. The gymnastics squad demonstrated excellent skill and commitment during the intraschool competition and the Wade Gymnastics Club event.

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| NHS Non emergency | 111 |
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DEDDINGTON CLUBS & SOCIETIES: The full list of contacts is available from the Library and Deddington OnLine website at <http://www.deddington.org.uk/directory>.

DEDDINGTON CHURCHES See section inside



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