

May 2026

# *The* DEDDINGTON NEWS



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# The DEDDINGTON NEWS

This month's History Corner, (p13), recounting the mid-18th century restoration of the church is particularly timely, given the current need to raise funds for replacing the no longer repairable and highly unreliable heating system.

Please read the chair of the parish council's plea on p17) to fill four council seats: Deddington works well at present but cannot continue to rely on so few to make this happen. CD

## WHAT'S ON

### May

- Wed 6 Annual Parish Meeting: Windmill Centre, 7.30pm  
 Wed 6 Photographic Society: Adderbury Institute, 7.30pm  
 Fri 8 Adderbury Cine Club: *Life of Chuck*, Adderbury Institute, doors open 6.45pm, film 8.30pm  
 Sat 9 Charity car wash: Fire Station, 10.00am–2.00pm  
 Sat 9 Race Night: Windmill Centre, 7.00pm  
 Sun 10 Music in Adderbury: Astatine Piano Trio, Deddington Church, 6.00pm  
 Mon 11 DOGS: Newbury and Crookham GC  
 Wed 13 Women's Institute: Croquet and afternoon tea, 11 The Daedings, 2.30pm  
 Thu 14 History Society: The Green Man Trail in Oxfordshire, Tim Healey, Primary School, 7.30pm  
 Sat 16 North Oxfordshire Wine Club: Wine and Cheese Evening, Holly Tree Hall, 8.00pm  
 Sat 16 Dementia Oxfordshire: Friendly dog walk, Coach and Horses, Adderbury, 11.00am  
 Sun 17 Four Farms Challenge: Castle Grounds, start 10.30am  
 We 20 Parish Council: Hempton Lounge, Windmill Centre, 7.30pm  
 Sat 23 Farmers' Market: Market Place, 9.00am–12.30pm  
 Sat 23 Craft Market: Deddington Church, 9.00am–12.30pm  
 Thu 28 Book Group: Call Sally Lambert, 01869 338094 for details  
 Fri 29 Community Lunch Club: Windmill Centre, 12.30pm  
 Sun 31 Music in Adderbury: Daniel Lebhardt, piano, Deddington Church, 6.00pm

### June

- Wed 3 Photographic Society: Adderbury Institute, 7.30pm  
 Sun 7 Deddington Town Youth Football: Presentation Day, Windmill Centre  
 Mon 8 DOGS: Northwood GC  
 Wed 10 Women's Institute: Repair Shop and Me, Christine Farmer, Holly Tree Hall, 2.30pm  
 Thu 11 History Society: CS Lewis and JRR Tolkien, Alastair Lack, Primary School, 7.30pm  
 Fri 12 Adderbury Cine Club: *Nuremberg*, Adderbury Institute, doors open, 7.30pm, film 8.00pm  
 Thu 18 Deddington Festival: Deddy Laughs  
 Fri 19 Deddington Festival: musical pub crawl  
 Sat 20 Deddington Festival  
 Sun 21 Friends of Deddington Church: Open Gardens  
 Fri 26 Community Lunch Club: Windmill Centre, 12.30pm

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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 Wednesday 15 April at the Windmill Centre

**Present:** Councillors Cox, Gillham, Mobbs, Oldfield, Robinson (chair), Rogers (District), Timms, County Councillor Epps, the parish clerk, and the *DN* representative.

Following the registration period to stand as parish councillors, two of Deddington's representatives have not submitted their applications leaving the PC with only 10 councillors: Councillors Palin and Snashall have decided to stand down. Councillor Snashall was thanked for his good humour and patience on the Finance and General Purposes working group. Although Councillor Palin has decided that his commitments do not allow him time to fully carry out his role on the PC, he will follow up on several existing commitments. All councillors were thanked for their previous year's work and particular thanks were expressed to our district councillor and county councillor who cooperate on several areas.

### County Council

Councillor Epps reported that Heyford Park has not been included as one of the government's preferred New Towns although this is not necessarily good news. The planning application for 9,000+ houses is still being considered by CDC but without the constraints of the government's guidelines for New Towns.

Fire station closure consultations have been closed and the general public's view is that they should be maintained. OCC has indicated that the three local ones proposed for closure will now increase recruitment activity.

### District Council

Councillor Rogers said there was increasing pressure on local villages such as Bloxham and Hook Norton for further housing developments, demonstrating the importance of a strong Neighbourhood Plan such as Deddington has at present. There is also increasing demand in the area for strategic developments such as the Botley West Solar Farm, which will be the largest solar farm in Europe. The so-called Oxford–Cambridge Arc is one of the drivers of these nationally significant elements of infrastructure. The government's reset of business rates is likely to significantly reduce the level of CDC's income and there are ongoing issues of limited funding coming through the system for improving primary care services.

### Finance & General Purposes

It was agreed to grant permission to the History Society to use the coat of arms on their programme.

There are roadworks scheduled for the entrance of Castle Grounds that could affect the setting up of the Four Farms Challenge on 17 May. The organisers have been advised.

The footpath outside Fardon Way is being made up and the main road through the development will also be completed. However, OCC has indicated they will not adopt it as Burringtons did not follow the approved

planning process. This is being followed up by the PC.

It was decided to ask the local contractors how they arrived at the sum of £40/month for the increased cost of fuel for grass-cutting in the parish.

### Planning

#### *No objection*

Bullring Cottage, Bull Ring, Deddington: build masonry wall on the north boundary constructed of salvaged red stock clay bricks with weathered stone capping. Defer to the conservation officer.

Caris Lodge, Goose Green, Deddington: tree works.

#### *Approvals*

Deddington Health Centre: tree works.

Wells Cottage, Market Place, Deddington: railings repairs.

### Large Scale Developments

A meeting will be held in late April with a representative from Lucy Developments, the developers of the site north of the Fire Station. Several councillors will attend and this will be followed by a meeting with Dr Iqbal of the Health Centre.

The application for the rail freight terminal by J10 of the M40 is now with the planning inspectorate and the PC is maintaining a close eye on its progress to ensure taking the opportunity to comment. They have already written to the Ministry of Transport, CDC and the OXSFRI with their concerns on the effects of additional HGVs on the area.

CDC's Local Plan has been heavily criticised but implications are that our own Neighbourhood Plan will stand for longer as a consequence. It was considered that Deddington's NP is currently in a good position although it automatically becomes out of date after five years. It is likely that a planning consultant would be needed to review it again which will be costly. It was also suggested that the open areas between local villages including Hempton and Clifton should be preserved.

### Environment & Recreation

Repairs of the various pieces of equipment at the adventure playground and the refurbishment of the Windmill showers should take place in the next few weeks. Picnic benches have been ordered for Welford's Piece and Wimborn Close.

It was agreed to ask local farmers to delay cutting back their hedgerows, preferably until November, to conserve berries etc for wildlife.

It was agreed to continue with the same contractor for the grass-cutting at the cemetery.

### Highways and Transport

TVP is being urged to carry out speed enforcement in the 30mph area on the Clifton Road following several reports of dangerous overtaking outside Fardon Way.

**NB** The bus stop layby on New Street is being decommissioned but the bus stop is remaining.

**Next meeting Wednesday 20 May at Hempton Lounge, the Windmill Centre at 7.30pm.**

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



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## FRIENDS OF THE CASTLE GROUNDS

This year brings a special connection between Deddington and one of the most famous survivals of the Norman Conquest, as the Bayeux Tapestry comes to the UK. Odo, Bishop of Bayeux and half-brother of William the Conqueror, is thought to have commissioned the tapestry, and he likely used Deddington Castle as a base from which to manage his vast estates. Odo was no ordinary bishop, but a powerful landowner, organiser and military leader. He held lands in 22 counties across the south and east of England and Deddington was one of his richest manors. He was an important figure at the Battle of Hastings in 1066, rallying Norman troops.

If you have friends or family visiting on the day of the Four Farms Challenge on Sunday 17 May, it's a great opportunity to see the Grounds full of life and people, as the run starts and ends here. Do come over to our Friends of the Castle Grounds (FOCG) stand, to say hello, discover more about the history, share your thoughts or ideas about the Grounds, or volunteer to get involved. Younger visitors might like to have a go with the toy swords and helmets, or play Corn hole or Splat the rat – cash donations to the FOCG charity are very welcome.

Health note: the Blandford fly sometimes visits this area in May and June, which can give unpleasant bites usually below knee level – long trousers and/or insect repellent are recommended. The Deddington Health Centre website has more information.

If visiting on a quieter day, it's a lovely place for

listening to or spotting birds. I'm no twitcher but walking and pausing mid-morning around the perimeter path, down the mud track (now dry!) then round the moat, I heard 20 birds. Their calls were mostly identified by Cornell University's brilliant free Merlin Bird ID app, definitely worth downloading onto your phone. Even if, like me, you're hopeless at identifying their calls yourself, it somehow helps connect you to your surroundings. Today I heard a chaffinch, willow warbler, chiffchaff, wood pigeon, wren, goldfinch, blue tit, stock dove, robin, great spotted woodpecker, nuthatch, song thrush, great tit, collared dove, jackdaw, blackbird, pheasant, long-tailed tit and blackcap, as well as a red kite – which Merlin mysteriously doesn't seem able to hear or identify, but everyone in Deddington is probably lucky enough to see or hear on a daily basis.

You may already have enjoyed the beautiful fritillaries, bluebells and other spring flowers, especially along the moat path. As May progresses, parts of the outer bailey (the large field) and the inner bailey (small field beyond the three beeches) will be left to grow longer for no-mow May, encouraging wildflowers and wildlife to flourish. By then, the cow parsley should be forming its familiar white clouds below the mound, a real highlight of late spring. Do take a moment to enjoy it.

**Charlotte Holmes**

**[info@friendsofcastlegrounds.co.uk](mailto:info@friendsofcastlegrounds.co.uk)**

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## DEDDINGTON FESTIVAL

Deddington Festival is returning this year – Saturday 18 – 20 June and we are looking to make it even bigger and better this time.

All the wonderful things we did last year will be back. On Saturday 20 June there will be live music throughout the day, played by local bands and artists, on the stage in the Market Place, among a variety of stalls run by local businesses and people selling food, drinks, crafts and other wonderful things, as well as brilliant activities to keep everyone entertained.

We are exploring a second stage and are looking for acts including music but also a broader range of arts and entertainment from singing, dancing, acoustic, poetry, magic, comedy, dramatic performances – anything goes!

Not only do we have all that going on but we are expanding the Festival this year. On Friday evening, 19 June, we are holding a festival ‘pub crawl’, where we will follow live music being hosted at each venue, one after the other. On Thursday evening, 18 June, we

have the very first Deddy Laughs, an evening of live comedy and we are very excited to have a mixture of local and well-known comedians who you may well have seen on TV programmes such as *Mock The Week* and *Would I Lie To You*. The evening will be hosted by Andrew Bird, and feature Matt Richardson, Shappi Khorsandi and Hal Cruttenden. On top of all that we will be doing another scarecrow trail. The theme is film characters (any character from any film), so get your creative juices flowing.

So keep 18 – 20 June free, check social media and all the posters that will be appearing around the village for more details and make sure you join us for Deddington’s community event of the year.

Please contact us for anything regarding the festival – if you would like to run a stall (free of charge), would like to sponsor the event, or you would like to be involved or help out on the day – at [deddington-festival@btinternet.com](mailto:deddington-festival@btinternet.com).

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## NEWS FROM CLIFTON

Contact has been made with Andy, the man responsible for managing our easternmost boundary as he works for the company planting willow trees in our neighbourhood for the cricket bat market, driven mostly by India where English willow is seen as the weapon of choice to teach us how to play the game. Andy is currently planting apple trees closest to us, and he told us that the hedge at the bottom of some of our neighbours’ gardens must be kept six to seven feet high to maintain the land stewardship requirements for biological diversity. He went on to explain many other factors he is managing for the landowners to give us all a nicer environment to live in so we can excuse the fact that we cannot survey the glorious view of the flood plains from our garden as we strive to meet these ecological requirements.

Kathy, a Yorkshire lass from t’Mill, is running the next London marathon and while we wish her well, we will unchain our wallets to donate to the Breast Cancer Now cause she has picked.

This correspondent came across the following waste disposal data showing that Ardley handled 32% less waste this February than in February 2025.

These figures were shared with Councillor Gareth Epps, Liberal Democrat, Deddington Division, whose only response was not to deny these numbers but say ‘Some of the figures, I’m advised, will take some time to come through’. We will continue our pressure on local government for what many people see as the renewed blight of fly tipping on our neighbourhood.

The Clifton Car Club has many entries into the upcoming Aynho Classic Vehicle show. Most of them are English, with an Austin 7, a 1936 Frazer Nash race car, and a Coventry ‘Big Cat’. Hopefully a French motorised bicycle and possibly a green Citroen recently featured in an international motoring publication will also be there. It remains to be seen if we get our local Porker in the lineup. It’s on 14 June, so we hope many of you will stroll ‘down dale and uphill’ to come and see all the vehicles on show when it opens at 12 noon.

This was a bit thin this month so as always if you have any news or comments you want to share please let me know.

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

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## DEDDINGTON LIBRARY

Wow, wow, wow!. During our closure the library was decorated and is now looking fabulous. You may need your sunglasses. It is bright and airy and feels much larger. The response from the public has been ‘The library looks bigger and modern.’ This amazing response from my readers made the short closure very worthwhile. Please come and have a look.

The winner of the Easter Egg challenge was Natalie Iddles from Barford St Micael who made the winning guess of 63 eggs. Congratulations and I hope the family enjoyed them all.

My fundraising journey around Oxfordshire’s librar-

ies finishes on 30 April. I managed to visit Stonesfield, Charlbury, Witney, Carterton, Faringdon, Bampton, Burford and Wychwood over the Easter break, leaving me with nine to go. There is still time to sponsor me: all the money goes to help keep the library open. Volunteer Helen continues on her journey for another few months. There will be a display in the library from our travels.

Looking forward to seeing you all.

**Gail Cripps**  
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## POSTCARD FROM AMERICA

The 'Brits in Denver' Facebook group went wild last month when Heinz Baked Beans turned up at Costco. Our supply of English foodstuffs is easier now than it was 13 years ago when we arrived in the Land of the Free. We rely on suitcases full of Cadburys and my sausages, bacon and steak & kidney pies come from an online butcher. And of course, HP sauce for my sausage sandwiches made with my own sourdough. The supermarket bread has too much sugar.

These days the news cycle in America is a matter of hours. Trump is an expert at burying bad news but starting a war in Iran as a diversion seems a bit extreme. Then his wife popped up in a press conference to deny she knew anything about Epstein, leaving everyone wondering why she was drawing attention to the issue. This theatre of the absurd is a daily occurrence and the winning idiot this week was a senior official at Federal Emergency Management Agency, the disaster relief agency. Mr Phillips said he was teleported 50 miles to a Waffle House in Rome, Georgia. Strangely enough, FEMA uses an informal metric to determine the scale of assistance required for disaster recovery called the Waffle House Index. If the local branch of this fast food joint is closed, we have a problem, Houston. You couldn't make it up.. These people are in charge of the country. Personally, I have never been to a Waffle House, by road or any form of alien transport.

I talked to a Republican friend about the war in Iran. Like everyone else he said it doesn't make any sense. Where we differed was the end game for Trump. Like many others, my friend is a great believer in the way the US political system was set up by the founders and he foresees a peaceful handover to sensible people following the 2027 election. I think we can expect big

trouble around the mid-term elections this November. Trump's claims of election fraud are going to be loud and he is going to use every means to stop the election being free and fair.

One of the items that gets hidden under the flurry of news is widespread corruption in the presidential pardon system. All US presidents have used this process to forgive people for federal crimes, either political supporters or in cases they feel were unfair. Biden even pardoned his son. Now we have lobbyists being paid seven figure sums to get their clients out of jail. Thirty-three of the approximately 1,000 6 January rioters, who were pardoned, have since been rearrested for other crimes. The Chinese owner of an illegal crypto exchange who had been jailed for money laundering was pardoned; coincidentally he had done several million dollars of business with the Trump organisation.

There has been an explosion in gambling on world events such as the war, with many bets suspiciously placed by people with inside knowledge. Polymarket is the largest such betting business; in 2025 it was the subject of an eight figure investment by Donald Trump Jnr.

As my lovely wife and I slowly sink into the world of retired folk, we have reverted to European hours. Most of my dear neighbours eat dinner at 5.30pm and are fast asleep dreaming at 9.00pm. But it's good to know that at least the President of this fine country is awake as I walk the dog at 10.30pm, threatening the 'death of an entire civilisation'. It's good to know we are all in good hands.

**Mike Ward**  
*mikeatcherwell@gmail.com*

## FRIENDS OF DEDDINGTON LIBRARY

We are delighted with the maintenance work and improvements that OCC and their team have done at Deddington Library in recent weeks.

We'd like to express our grateful thanks to James Hazlewood and Graham White at OCC for scheduling the work and to Councillor Gareth Epps for his continued support.

The outside of the library was decorated recently and new heating installed. But you will see when the library reopened on 11 April it did so with a lovely fresh coat of paint inside too (some 25 years since the last one!). However these improvements exhausted the limited library service budget, so the Friends have chipped in to replace the window blinds to ensure the old broken ones didn't need to be re-used.

Please pop in to see what a wonderful new look library we have, just in time for celebrate our 70th anniversary year.

Gail will be pleased to see our regular and loyal

borrowers, as well as any newcomers to the parish and wider community. You will get a warm welcome.

We'd like to thank everyone who came to our curry evening at the Bengal Spice on 18 March, everyone had a great night out, both sittings were very popular and between ticket sales and raffle, we raised a little over £1,000 during the evening.

A big round of applause must go to Naz and his team who once again spoiled us with an incredible array of dishes and supported our annual curry night fundraiser in great style.

The Windmill Centre events running throughout the year are also supporting the library, so please go along to the quizzes, and the upcoming race night on 9 May and have some fun and raise money for the library too.

Your support, in whatever way you are able to give it, is hugely appreciated, thank you.

**Bryn Williams**  
*abw@brynwilliams.com*

## CHURCH

In early April we travelled through Holy Week with a memorable set of daily services commemorating Jesus' last days on Earth, before arriving at Easter Day to joyously celebrate his glorious resurrection, which brings eternal hope and light for us all. As I write this, we are also looking forward to two celebrations later in April – a double baptism at Deddington, followed by a special confirmation service at Barford St Michael a week later, which will be led by Bishop Gavin.

Looking forward, May will be another busy month. In addition to our usual services, we celebrate Ascension Day on Thursday 14th at Hempton Church, Christian Aid week between 10 and 17 May, the annual parochial church meeting (APCM) and, finally, Pentecost on 24 May, which marks the end of the Easter season and God's gift of the Holy Spirit on all who come to faith through baptism. We hope to see you whenever you can make it, a warm welcome always awaits.

### May

#### Parish Church SS Peter and Paul

Mon	8.45am	Morning Prayer
Tue	8.15am	Morning Prayer
Wed	10.00am	Holy Communion (with healing prayer on 4th Wednesday)
Thu	9.30am	Tea + Toast and Squiggles and Wriggles (term time)
Fri	8.45am	Morning Prayer
	5.15 pm	Evening Prayer
Sun 3	10.30am	Family Communion (breakfast and crafts from 9.45am)
	6.00pm	Evensong
Sun 10	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sun 17	10.30am	Holy Communion, followed by APCM
Sun 24	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sun 31	10.30am	Holy Communion

The Revd Nick Fielden is Vicar of Deddington with Hempton and the Barfords. Mondays are Nick's usual day off, so if you need to contact a member of the clergy urgently on a Monday, please contact one of the wardens. Barford St Michael's church is open every day between 10.00am and 3.00pm. Deddington church is open from 9.00pm–4.00pm for anyone wishing to visit, pray, meditate or simply be. Deddington church services are streamed live. Please see the church website or Facebook page for updates, [www.deddingtonchurch.org](http://www.deddingtonchurch.org) and <https://www.facebook.com/DeddingtonChurch>

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

#### Hempton

Thu 14	7.00pm	Ascension Day Service
Sun 17	9.00am	Holy Communion

#### Barford St Michael

Wed	5.15pm	Evening Prayer
Sun 3	10.30am	Coffee and Chat
Sun 10	4.00pm	APCM
Sun 17	10.30am	Family Service
Sun 24	10.30am	Family Communion

#### Barford St John

Sun 10	9.00am	Holy Communion
Sun 31	9.00am	Holy Communion

#### From the Parish Registers:

##### Funerals

18 March	Brenda Munson
20 March	Robin Charles
23 March	Christopher Clayton

## RC CHURCH

#### Holy Trinity, Parish of Hethe

Sunday Masses 10.00am, 12.00 Noon (Latin)

Holyday Masses 9.30am, 6.30pm

Confessions Sundays 5.00–6.00pm during Holy Hour

## BLISSFUL THINKING

If I were to (hypothetically) take to Chapel Square after dark and break every window I see and slash every tyre on every car for good measure, would that be a good or a bad thing? Before you answer, be sure to take into account all the business I've just generated for local glaziers and tyre replacement specialists. A whole lot of unexpected gross domestic product has been stimulated as a result, so the hypothetical rogue me has improved our economic outlook at a stroke. Are you not grateful? You may have noticed if you often drive Banbury way that three independent, unconnected stretches of wall just after the Twyford bridge have collapsed under mysterious circumstances over the

last year. Oh sure, it might have been weather, vehicle collision or some other rational explanation, but what if there was another culprit? Perhaps I'm given to the odd flight of fancy, but one doesn't have to be too conspiratorial to suggest that a rogue cabal of stone wall specialists heading out after dark in their best cat burglar camouflage to desecrate the ageing carapaces of Adderbury might be in their business interests. (My legal representative has advised that I make clear this is not a serious allegation but an elaborate analogy. I hope you enjoyed it.)

**Aaron Bliss**  
[ajbliss@hotmail.com](mailto:ajbliss@hotmail.com)

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## DH History Corner

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### *Restoration and re-pewing of the Parish Church*

By the mid-1850s Deddington Parish Church was in serious disrepair. Rain penetrated the roof of the north aisle, worsened by the absence of drainage around the foundations. Earth piled up to three feet against the north wall left the interior damp, the masonry decaying, and the pews rotting. In May 1856, on the initiative of Charles Faulkner, a special vestry meeting approved draining the foundations and installing downpipes, funded by a church rate of 3d. in the pound.

Concern deepened the following year. In October 1857 a vestry meeting, held in the Town Hall and chaired by the new curate, the Revd JH Burgess, heard a report from the diocesan architect, GE Street. He warned of the church's dangerous condition and recommended removing the gallery without reducing seating. The vestry resolved to restore the entire church and add sittings, this time relying on voluntary contributions rather than a compulsory rate.

Momentum grew when the Bishop of Oxford, Samuel Wilberforce, preached two sermons in November 1857 to support the restoration fund. Sixty-three subscribers had already pledged generously and collections raised £43 10s 4d. Nevertheless, opposition soon emerged. Some parishioners resisted both restoration and new seating, and hostility towards Burgess – trained at Cuddesdon and suspected of Anglo-Catholic sympathies – was particularly strong among low-church Evangelicals.

The Risley diaries record a turbulent restoration committee meeting in January 1858, dominated by accusations against Burgess. He was branded a 'Puseyite' and 'Romanist' and accused of preaching doctrines such as regeneration and transubstantiation. The meeting reportedly spent over three hours on these allegations rather than practical business.

Conflict intensified at the Easter vestry in April 1858, when churchwardens were elected. Burgess nominated Henry Churchill as vicar's churchwarden. Charles Faulkner proposed Henry Franklin as parish churchwarden, while Samuel Field, a leading local solicitor, was nominated by John Scroggs. When both Franklin and Field received eight votes, Burgess used his casting vote against Field. Faulkner protested that the curate had effectively appointed both wardens himself and demanded a poll of all ratepayers.

Pamphlets and letters soon circulated. A letter from 'A Fellow Ratepayer' urged support for Franklin and accused Field of leading a faction determined to harass Burgess and obstruct restoration, including the introduction of new pews. Field's supporters canvassed actively but Field withdrew on the eve of the poll, issuing an open letter lamenting the bitterness of the dispute and condemning threats made to coerce voters.

In the *Banbury Guardian*, Faulkner defended the restoration, explaining that a gallery erected some thirty years earlier had damaged the south aisle wall

and roof, necessitating comprehensive repairs. He highlighted the generosity of contributors, notably £205 from the Revd WC Risley and his family and contrasted this with the minimal subscriptions of Field's supporters. Faulkner argued that their true aim was to block restoration and insult Burgess.

Faulkner further justified the proposed 're-pewing' of the church. He condemned the existing box pews as socially divisive and unchristian, noting their size, elevated floors and enclosed backs. Such pews, he argued, intensified class distinctions, leaving 'the poor to feel their poverty more acutely in church than anywhere else.'

Opposition voices responded sharply. A letter from 'A Lover of Consistency' attacked Faulkner's integrity, praised Field as a defender of Protestantism against Popish innovations and mocked Faulkner's antiquarian interests with personal insults.

Despite controversy, restoration progressed rapidly. By June 1858 the fund exceeded £1,000. By early 1859 the *Oxford Journal* reported that a new vestry had been built, box pews replaced with oak benches and gas lighting and hot water heating installed. Yet divisions between high- and low-church Anglicans continued to trouble Deddington well into the 1880s.

During the same decade, new churches were established nearby. St John's, Hempton, opened in 1851 through the generosity of the Revd Dr William Wilson but later struggled. St James's, Clifton, consecrated in 1852, was largely funded by the Revd WC Risley and reflected similar energy and ambition in church building across the parish.

This is an abbreviated version of one of several topics written by David French as part of his research into references to Deddington in Jackson's *Oxford Journal* in the 18th and 19th centuries. See the link on Deddington History Home Page.

**Rob Forsyth**  
robert.s.forsyth@gmail.com

## FOURTH SATURDAY CRAFT FAIR

*Can you spare an hour a month?*

In February we said our grateful thanks to Mike Clarke who stepped down as coordinator of the Craft Fair which is held in Deddington church every fourth Saturday. June Taylor has kindly agreed to step back up – thank you! She will support the parochial church council by booking stallholders and with administration but there is a small and reducing band of people who set up stalls on the fourth Friday evening at about 5.45pm and take them down after the Fair at about 1.00pm on Saturday.

If you can spare an hour a month – even if it was either to only put up or to take down – that would share the load. It would help us to hold this monthly event which supports local craft people, artisans and small businesses and brings us all out for a most reasonably priced cup of coffee. You don't have to be a churchgoer. If you can help please email me or come along for a coffee to the next Fair on 23 May and lend a hand.

**Sarah Banes**  
sarahbanes538@btinternet.com



Another month goes by, and another quiz takes place. As I write this, our second Windmill Quiz hasn't actually happened yet but, based on the success of the first one, I'm sure it will have been a memorable, fun-filled evening. What I do know is that it will be the first of many events to take advantage of our brand new audio-visual facilities in the main hall.

Our indefatigable events officer, Peter, managed to source grant funding for new state-of-the-art projector, new dropdown screen and new accessible sound system. They are being installed as I write. Great for a whole range of community events – quizzes, race nights, comedy evenings – as well as large scale talks, meetings and private functions. From now on, when organising, say, that 40th birthday party, you'll be able to simply plug in your phone with your party playlist and – if you wanted to – publicly screen humiliating photos or videos of the birthday girl or boy! (Er ... is that just my family?) With all this new kit in place, we are also keen to start a community cinema. Is there anybody out there who would be prepared to help us set this up? Please get in touch.

The next big Windmill event is the Race Night on Saturday 9 May. It promises to be an absolute cracker. Entry is from 7.00pm with the first race at 7.30pm. You can buy a horse in one of our six races for £10 if you want. Just email [events@thewindmilledddington.org](mailto:events@thewindmilledddington.org) with your name and your horse's name. If it wins, you get a prize. Winning horses then go into a final race and, if yours wins that, you get £200. If you don't want to buy a horse, just come along, have a flutter and enjoy our licensed bar. Entrance on the night costs £2 which includes a race card showing all the runners and riders. Betting is by tote using cash or tokens purchased on arrival. Remember, all the proceeds from our community events are shared between the Windmill and Deddington library. We look forward to seeing you there.

Finally, a couple of announcements. We will be holding our AGM at the Windmill on Wednesday 27 May. You are welcome to attend. Secondly, due to significantly increased running costs, we will be raising our hire rates slightly from 1 September, the first rise in two years. The new rates will appear on our website nearer the time.

As always, if you want to book the Windmill or just see what's going on, visit our website, [www.thewindmilledddington.org](http://www.thewindmilledddington.org) or our Facebook page or call our bookings secretary, Julie, on 07720 834006.

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

## GREENING THE SCHOOL

The primary school is excited to be working in partnership with OCC in its Green Infrastructure in Schools Pilot Study, which aims to use nature-based solutions such as green walls, trees and hedges to create healthier learning environments. The project seeks to reduce exposure to air pollution and reduce road traffic noise, as well as provide more shade on our playground and increase local biodiversity by planting a variety of species to support wildlife and pollinators.

You will see natural barriers such as hedges and climbing plants being introduced across our grounds. Two air quality sensors have been installed within and adjacent to the school to provide data on how vegetation influences air pollution levels. You might have noticed the one by the school contained within a large yellow cage.

The project includes interactive workshops for pupils and teachers to raise awareness about air pollution, climate change, and biodiversity, enable participants to engage with real time data collected by the sensors and foster a sense of ownership and understanding of environmental issues within the school community.

By combining practical interventions with education, the project aims to create healthier, greener and more resilient school spaces while inspiring the next generation to take an active role in environmental stewardship. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs Kerry Simpson at the school on 01869 338430.

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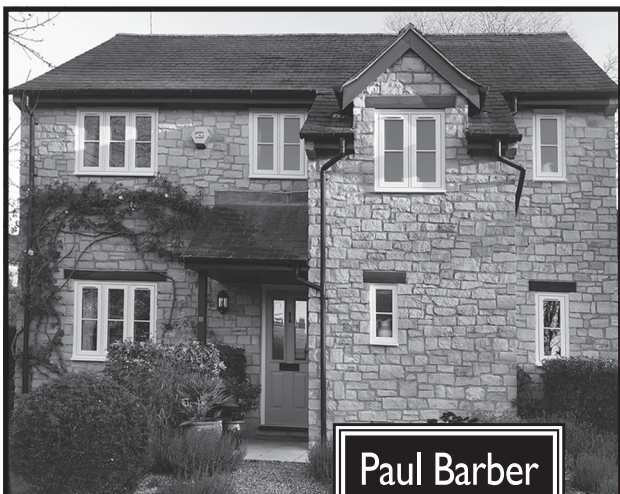
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## ON POTHOLES, SPEEDING AND NEW HOUSING

I'd like to share some thoughts about the place we call home, and ask: what do you care about when it comes to our community? Whether it's making sure litter and dog bins are emptied, the grass is cut – or maybe left longer to help support local wildlife – play-ground equipment is safe for our children, or that the cemetery or allotments continue to run smoothly, these things all depend on people like us stepping up.

We might not be able to fix the potholes but we do try to fix the speeding – and we will certainly have a say in controlling future housing developments through a revised Neighbourhood Plan.

Deddington works, but this doesn't just happen by itself. It's thanks to the hard work of local volunteers who keep everything running. With elections coming up on 7 May, including for the parish council, we have a real chance to shape our future. There are 14 seats to fill, yet only 10 people have come forward so far for the PC. Those who have served deserve our gratitude, but we're still four councillors short. Ideally, we'd love to welcome some younger members to bring new perspectives – it's really rewarding work.

Without a full team, some projects may have to wait, including a pyramid net at the Windmill play-



ground near the recently refurbished Lookout teen shelter – anyone able to help here? In a worst-case scenario, if we can't fill enough seats, our parish could be taken over by the District Council, meaning our finances and reserves – carefully invested for the

benefit of everyone here – would be absorbed into a larger authority.

So, I encourage you to come along to our Annual Parish Meeting at the Windmill Hempton Lounge on Wednesday 6 May at 7.30pm. This is your chance to raise any issues or ideas about life in Deddington. We may not be able to solve everything, but we're listening. If you have something you'd like discussed, please email the clerk ahead of time at [clerk@deddington-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@deddington-pc.gov.uk).

If you just want to see how things work, you're always welcome to sit in on a parish council meeting – the next one is on 20 May at the Windmill. Details are on our website: <https://www.deddingtonparish-council.org/>

Let's keep Deddington working for everyone – your input and involvement really do make a difference.

**Mary Robinson, Parish Council Chair**  
[cllr.mary.robinson@deddington-pc.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.mary.robinson@deddington-pc.gov.uk)

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## NEWS FROM HEMPTON

Any survivalists, residents with green digits or who fancy a go at 'the good life', and are looking for a cheaper alternative to a gym subscription or maybe have an interest in sustainable food, improving their diet or just like fresh fruit and vegetables – please note: there are vacant plots on the Duns Tew Road allotments. Further information can be had from the Deddington parish council's assistant clerk, Vanessa Oliveri, at [assistantclerk@deddington-pc.gov.uk](mailto:assistantclerk@deddington-pc.gov.uk).

Allotments originated in the late Anglo-Saxon and early medieval period when large fields, some hundreds of acres, belonging to villages or manors, were divided into thin strips for individuals or families to grow crops. By the late 1500s, this common land was divided into plots for use only by the owner and then enclosed with hedges during the enclosures that took place over the next few hundred years. To compensate, 'allotments' of land would be attached to tenant cottages. The very poor in society without access to an allotment often starved because of the enclosures.

The General Enclosure Act of 1845 made provision for 'field gardens' for use by the landless poor, although very little enclosed land was set aside for this purpose. The later Small Holdings and Allotments Act of 1907 and 1908 imposed responsibilities on councils to provide allotments where demand existed.

Allotment use increased hugely during the First and Second World Wars as blockades resulted in a shortage of imported food. Disused railway land, public parks and private gardens were all used to grow fruit and vegetables. Their use declined after the wars but this slowed in the 1970s when TV shows like *The Good Life* inspired interest in food production and self-sufficiency.

Since the 1990s, there has been a revival in allotment use as concerns about climate change and an interest in organic produce led people to become more concerned about the origin of their food. The

rise in interest has not been met by availability; waiting lists for allotment plots can extend to several years in urban areas.

I have frequently mentioned the issues we have with fly-tippers and general rubbish discarded on our roadsides. Assuming you are not one, you may have a mental image of the culprits as knuckle dragging morons all too keen to demonstrate an extensive vocabulary of expletives if challenged on the matter. My vocabulary has certainly been enhanced when pointing out antisocial behaviour on several occasions.

On the Saturday of the March farmers' market, I walked to the parish capital to purchase my usual weekend newspaper. I usually use the self-checkout to pay for my purchases, particularly on market day to avoid the queue waiting for a human interface. I had the choice of either of the vacant checkout positions but was less than impressed by the state earlier customers had left them in.

Baskets had been abandoned at both positions, left on the shelving or on the floor and numerous till receipts were scattered about the machines and the floor or in a chain left hanging from the slot through which they emerge. The detritus was quickly cleared away into the bin provided or stacked to one side.

It was not the first time I'd cleared other customers' discarded baskets and receipts. Although generally much worse on market days, it is a regular occurrence. What does it say of customers' attitudes? They appear to have no compunction about leaving the checkouts surrounded by an increasing accumulation of detritus for others to clear up. Do they consider it beneath them to indulge in such a menial task? Do they have no respect for their fellow customers or the shop staff? Perhaps they are simply oblivious, heedless, unmindful, and ignorant. Perhaps our phantom tyre dumper is amongst their number.

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

---

## SIMON TIMOTHY WOOD 1952–2026

Simon was born in Bedford on 26 March 1952 to Derek and Denise, the eldest of four alongside Jeremy, Hilary and Anna. He built a successful career in the pub and restaurant industry, holding a number of senior roles, including managing director of Beefeater at Whitbread, followed by a series of non-executive positions. He had a natural gift for bringing people together and food, drink and music were always at the heart of his life. He was known for his warmth, humour, fun and generosity.

Simon married Sheila in 1991 and they moved to Deddington in 1994 and later that year their daughter, Alice, was born. He was a loving husband, father and father-in-law to Anthony. One of Simon's proudest moments was walking Alice down the aisle in Deddington church in October 2024, despite struggling with poor health.


A valued member of the community, Simon supported fundraising events for Deddington Youth Club and, in earlier years when he was in good health, helped mow the churchyard. He also served as chairman of the governors at Bloxham School.

In November 2020 Simon was diagnosed with motor neurone disease. In April 2025 his family hosted a concert at Deddington church to raise vital funds for the MND Association raising over £20,000. He faced this cruel illness with remarkable dignity and courage and passed peacefully at home on 2 February 2026.

Simon will be greatly missed by his family and his many wonderful friends in the village and beyond. The family remains committed to fundraising for the MND Association in the hope that one day there will be a cure.

**Sheila and Alice Wood**


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## LETTERS

FROM MARY BRODEY, DISTRICT COMMISSIONER, GIRLGUIDING DEDDINGTON DISTRICT  
*The leader of Deddington Guides celebrates 50 years of service*

There was a surprise presentation at the end of the spring term for Maggie Rampley, the Guide leader, who has been volunteering with Girlguiding for 50 years. Maggie has been involved with Deddington Guides since 1976 and has held various other roles within Guiding including as a trainer and a County adviser.

Maggie was presented with her 50 years long service award by Sue Bisson, the President of Girlguiding Oxfordshire. The award was presented to Maggie at the end of the Deddington Guides' entertainment evening which several parents had come to see. Many congratulations Maggie. We are all most grateful to you for the time and effort that you put into Guiding in Deddington.

FROM SARAH BANES, DEDDINGTON

Thank you to everyone who continues to support Christian Aid so generously. The two appeals we organised last year (including Gift Aid) raised over £600 for emergency relief for Myanmar and over £1,700 during Christian Aid week itself. Although we focus attention on Christian Aid for seven days in May, it works all year round with partners across the globe. Donations also support their emergency appeals for the Middle East, Sudan, Afghanistan and Ukraine. This

year we are focusing on Nairobi where the partner charity realised that, to get children into school, they needed to tackle food insecurity in the home. They help women become established as urban farmers to feed their families and sell excess produce. For more information, search online for Christian Aid Week 2026. With your *DN* this month you will receive a red envelope. Use the QR code to find our digital red envelope where you can donate using bank or credit cards. Donations by cash or cheque can be made using the red envelope which can be handed in at Hamptons or Eagles. Collections will also be made in Hempton church and Deddington church during services. Please add Gift Aid if you can. Thank you in advance for your support.

### DEDDINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

March was a lively and enriching month for our pupils, filled with creativity, sport, and memorable learning experiences. A particular highlight was the launch of CN Glass's very first Easter Doors competition. Pupils from local primary schools in and around Banbury were invited to design a colourful Easter scene, with the winning entry to be transformed into the glass doors of the company's showroom. The winning design came from five-year-old Deddington pupil Mariella, whose imaginative and charming artwork captured the judges' attention. Her design has been brought to life by professional glaziers — a proud achievement for Mariella, her family, and the wider school community.

Back at school, pupils embraced a range of seasonal and extracurricular activities. An Easter-themed sporting event on the top field brought energy and excitement, while the return of the much-loved annual book fair encouraged a continued enthusiasm for reading. Meanwhile, Easter stations held in the church, thoughtfully organised by Mrs Sally Barber, offered children a meaningful opportunity for reflection and learning during this important time of year.

In the classroom, Year 3 pupils stepped back in time with a creative and engaging Egyptian Day, immersing themselves in history through hands-on activities. The youngest pupils also enjoyed a special French morning led by Mr Carrick Cameron, a popular event that continues to spark curiosity and enjoyment among both children and staff.

Performing arts flourished as well, with two musical theatre after-school groups, showcasing their talents in performances for parents. Their lively renditions of songs and dances from *Wind in the Willows* and *School of Rock* were met with great enthusiasm.

Sporting opportunities extended beyond the school grounds, with Year 5 pupils taking part in hockey lessons at Tudor Hall. This was one of several successful sporting events attended by pupils, who consistently demonstrated excellent behaviour and strong sporting values — a credit to the school.

**Clive Evans, Headteacher**  
**head.3452@deddington.oxon.sch.uk**

### DEDDINGTON & DISTRICT HISTORY SOCIETY

#### Are you willing to share your skills?

The Deddington and District History Society is thriving. Our meetings are well attended and talks this year have varied from 'The etiquette of afternoon tea' to '80 years of flying operations out of Brize Norton'. Next year's programme is already in place, but how does this happen?

Surprisingly a small committee meets only four times a year for no more than one hour each time. We arrange and publicise the year's presentations and speakers, we maintain regular contact with our members and we keep the accounts in good order.

On the basis that many hands make light work the present committee would like to welcome two new members. Our secretary Jean Dipper has been a stalwart for a number of years but feels the time has come for someone to take over from her, though she will be around to assist her successor.

Are you interested? We would love to talk about it with you in greater detail - without obligation.

Please email us at  
deddingtonhistorysociety@gmail.com

## CALLING ALL CLUBS

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### Women's Institute

The March meeting was our annual business meeting when the committee is elected and reports from various departments are made to the membership. At our April meeting there was a talk from Lawrence Nursing, a remarkable institution that aids patients in their own home and is a registered charity. Also in April, a team of four members entered the northern area county quiz. We came an honourable third out of ten teams. This was a thoroughly enjoyable evening although we hadn't revised our WI history as we should have.

Our next meeting on 13 May is our croquet and tea on the lawn afternoon. New members are always welcome. Contact me on 01869 338637 or 07467067883

**Moira Byast**

### Local Vocals Community Choir

We've had a very different start to this term with our performance at the Oxford Folk Festival which saw over half our choir singing at the Weston Library; always nerve-racking beforehand but such a buzz afterwards. Thank you to those who you came and supported us. This was swiftly followed by our annual social evening and quiz where we got to talk to those in different sections of the choir who we don't usually get a chance to chat with, as well as stretching our grey cells in a very light-hearted but still head-scratching music-themed quiz. We are all ready to see what songs we'll be tackling this term from 20 April.

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](http://www.localvocalscc.co.uk). New members are always welcome.

**Alison Grieve**

### History Society

In April Carol Anderson gave a fact filled talk about the cut steel industry in Woodstock in the eighteenth century, a time of glitz and glamour for the wealthy with elaborate decorations in their homes. It was more of a craft than an industry as the steel was bought in.

A primary source of the steel was re-used horse-shoe nails with Swedish nails found to be the best. Henry Metcalfe, an early eighteenth-century whitesmith (a metalworker who specialised in finishing, polishing or working with 'white' or light-coloured metals like tin, pewter and zinc) was regarded as the founder of the cut steel craft in Woodstock. He took on apprentices who had to pay for their seven year apprenticeship. Qualified whitesmiths earned a good salary, seven or eight times that of an agricultural labourer.

Woodstock cut steel decorations included shoe buckles, jewellery, scissors and sword handles (the blades were bought in) and was characterised by the intricacy of its design, the tiny screws which held the pieces together and its glistening appearance. It was recognised to be of the best quality both nationally and internationally and commanded high prices with

a pair of scissors at fifteen guineas and a Garter star for the Duke of Marlborough costing 50 guineas. The shine of these pieces was created by faceting. Goods were sold in Oxford and London and tourists spread its international reputation. However, there was no copyright for the processes or designs and the industrialist, Matthew Boulton, took advantage of this. He copied their designs using rivets instead of screws and his products were not faceted which enabled him to sell them more cheaply, undercutting the Woodstock steel craftsmen. Fashion was also changing and within the next twenty years the Woodstock cut steel industry declined as the whitesmith masters branched out into other businesses. By the beginning of the nineteenth century the polished steel industry of Woodstock had passed into history.

In May, Tim Healey will tell us about 'The Green Man Trail in Oxfordshire'. Meetings are open to all, with £5 entrance fee for non-members.

**[deddingtonhistorysociety@gmail.com](mailto:deddingtonhistorysociety@gmail.com)**

### Hempton Book Club

*Slade House*, by David Mitchell, is a modern gothic novel, creepy and a bit weird. It's the story of two siblings striving for eternal life and the methods they use to achieve it.

Every nine years in a small pinched, alleyway, a door appears in a wall leading to a sunlit garden and house that at any other time does not exist. A 'chosen person' can open the door and enter taking others with them, but they never leave.

For us this was a Marmite book, with some members enjoying its intricacies while others found part of it, especially the last chapter, gobbledygook and the end rather contrived. The author is also fond of inventing his own words which takes a bit of navigating. If you're a fan of the genre then you'd probably try another of his books. Would we recommend it to a friend – probably not.

**Jo Churchyard**

**[jochurchyard@hotmail.com](mailto:jochurchyard@hotmail.com)**

### Book Group

A famous racehorse, a skeleton and a discarded equine painting all play a part in *Horse* by Australian-American author Geraldine Brooks. A multi-layered novel, its main thrust is the story of Lexington, a magnificent, record-breaking thoroughbred and America's greatest stud sire, born in Kentucky in 1850. Though this account of his life is fictionalised, many of the characters depicted from the horse-racing industry at the time were real, as was the widespread use of slaves to maintain the animals. The skeleton (now held in the International Museum of the Horse in Kentucky) and the painting provide the link to chapters portraying the scientists and art historians of the 21st century and the sad reflection that racism is still present.

Most of us really enjoyed the book. It is very well researched and written, though some felt it was too



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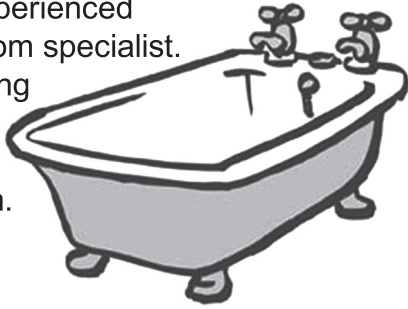
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## CALLING ALL CLUBS

*Continued from p22*

detailed. Only a few of us knew anything about horses but we were gripped by the drama of Lexington's

story and the moving bond between the horse and his enslaved groom.

**The Book Group**

## SPORT

### Deddington Town FC

#### *First team results*

21.03.26	Longford Park A (a) (CUP)	L 2–3
2.3.26	KEA (a) (CUP)	L 0–2
4.4.26	Wroxton Sports (a) Away	walkover

#### *Reserve team results*

14.3.26	Bodicote Sports Res (a) (CUP) W 2–1 Newton, Jones
21.3.26	Bodicote Sports Res (a) (CUP) D 3–3 Jones, Edmonds Reed (Lost 4–5 on pens)
4.04.26	Arncott Athletic (h) walkover

What a strange month, filled only with cup games and walkovers. Sadly, the Humbugs were defeated in both of their semi-finals, falling at the penultimate hurdle but still sitting nicely in second place in the Premier Division after Wroxton had to forfeit their fixture. The Latics had an almost identical run of results while facing perennial nemesis, Bodicote, in both competitions. The first game saw a narrow win with goals from Ciaran Newton and Luke Jones, while a high-scoring draw in the next fixture sadly only led to a defeat in the resultant penalty shootout. They completed the month's fixtures with their own walkover victory and share the Humbugs league position (a division below). Spooky symmetry!

**Aaron Bliss 07909 642882**

### Deddington Tennis Club

Over the last few weeks, we've been tying up the last of the winter fixtures. Our results are pretty strong across the board. For a small club like Deddington to be able to field so many teams in different competitions is no mean feat, let alone to compete at the levels that some of our teams have reached. Well done to all the players and a big thank you to the captains for their hard work all season.

We've had three teams this winter in the floodlit Banbury leagues which played mid-week. In reverse order, our C team finished fourth out of five in division 4, having had a difficult run of matches in the second half of the season. Our B team were third out of six teams in division 3, winning six matches, drawing three and only losing one. The A team finished comfortably mid-table in division 1 – the last match was only played this week so final positions are not confirmed.

For our weekend teams, our Ladies A team managed to finish an impressive ninth out of twelve in the OLTA Dunlop Premier League, which was particularly amazing as we have had a lot of injuries over the last few months. Ladies B came third out of eight in division 6 and should get a promotion next winter. Our Men's A were safely mid-table, ending the season sixth out of twelve in division 3, and our Mixed A team came top of division 1 in the Banbury League, finishing thirteen points clear.

So now the summer season is under way and we also have some club competitions on the go. As well as our annual club championships on 4 May we are running Play Your Way to Wimbledon. This is a men's and ladies' doubles competition that leads to a second round at county level and then to Wimbledon for the finals. Last year we had four pairs in the county round and one ladies' pair who went on to the national finals at Wimbledon. We have high hopes of similar levels of success this time round.

You can see that there is competitive tennis at all levels here in the village. If you've ever thought about playing tennis or you're looking for a new club or the chance to pick up a racket again, we'd love to hear from you. We are running an Open Day on 28 June (more next month) but you don't have to wait that long, you can get in touch any time via our website.

If you'd like to find out more, check out our website, [www.deddingtontennis.com](http://www.deddingtontennis.com), for information about how to join and all the tennis we have on offer. We also post tennis club news on Facebook, DeddingtonTennisClub and Instagram @deddingtontennis.

**Becky Jones**

### Deddington Town FC Youth

The Under 15s playing in the B League of Oxfordshire Youth Football League had a 0–1 defeat to Hanborough. The Under 14s in Witney & District Youth League had a 5–2 home win over Bourton Rovers, followed by a 1–5 victory at Carterton. The Under 12s playing in the Witney & District Youth B League had a 12–4 home win over Clanfield, 4–5 away win at Grendon and 3–2 away defeat at Wychwood.

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

If you want to get involved with the club as a volunteer or sponsor, contact me on 07899 914425 or [carsykes@btinternet.com](mailto:carsykes@btinternet.com). Further information about the club is on our website, [www.deddingtontownfc/](http://www.deddingtontownfc/) or visit us on Facebook, [www.facebook.com/DeddingtonTownFc](http://www.facebook.com/DeddingtonTownFc).

**Roger Sykes**  
**Club Development Officer**

## YOUTH

### 1st Deddington Scout Group

#### Cubs

Over the last few weeks, the Cubs have enjoyed a mix of fun activities. We played a selection of rope games, then headed outside to try sending simple Morse code messages using torches. Our biggest highlight was a visit to Warriner Farm, where the children met a range of animals, with cuddling a lamb being a firm favourite!

**Tina Deacon**  
[deddingtoncubs@gmail.com](mailto:deddingtoncubs@gmail.com)

#### Scouts

Observation and communication were the topics in one meeting before Easter. For one activity the Scouts sat back-to-back in pairs, drew a picture which they then had to describe to their partners who attempted to recreate it. Some were remarkably accurate – suspicious! We then used Lego, where patterns made by part of a patrol were remade by the other half using just the descriptions given to them. It's less complicated than it sounds.

We finished the term with an evening of giant games, table football, guess who and, with the help of some trollies and helmets, hungry hippos.

Looking forward to lighter evenings.

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

### NURSERY AND PFSU

At the end of last term at Pre-school we said a very sad goodbye to Hazel Neal. Hazel has been part of the Pre-school setting for 12 years and will be hugely missed by all children, parents and staff. We would like to wish Hazel lots of luck and best wishes for the future in her new role at Cogges Farm.

This term at Pre-School we will be introducing our postcard project which will run until the end of the summer term. If you have any friends or relatives living or visiting a different part of the world we would love to receive a postcard from them. We will display the postcards on our display board until the end of the academic year. The children will also be learning to Morris dance in hall time.

At Nursery the children are looking forward to a farmer and tractor visit and also a visit from the Fire Service to learn about fire safety.

We look forward to seeing many of you on Sunday 17 May for Deddington's Four Farms Challenge. Please come and support us if you can.

**Shrene Saleh-Gillett**  
[info@deddingtonnurseryandpfsu.co.uk](mailto:info@deddingtonnurseryandpfsu.co.uk)

### 1st Deddington Guides

It was a very busy half term. We welcomed new Guide, Olivia, at her promise ceremony, Amelia B as a Young Leader and Amelia M as an adult leader ... very special.

We celebrated Mothering Sunday by making peppermint creams for mums, although the number of mints arriving home may have been less than those made. Well done to the trusty band who attended the Sunday church service. We provided two colour parties, helped with the collection and distribution of posies and gave some readings. We were very proud of them all.

Most of our time was taken up with preparing for our annual entertainment. We performed our own mini-panto, *Aladdin Finds A Friend* – to family and friends and raised nearly £80 for the Guides' choice of charities, BARKS and the Fire Fighters Charity. Thank you so much for all your support and well done again to the Guides.

We meet after Easter for our favourite term when we get outside almost every evening. All girls 10 or over are very welcome.

**Maggie Rampley**  
**07957 600755**

And our congratulations, too, on 50 years' continuous service. Amazing!  
*Eds*



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## BRENDA MUNSON 1935–2026

Brenda was born in Lokengate, Cornwall, the third of seven children. Her father Joseph Pedlar was a farm worker and the family lived in a tied cottage. However, his death when Brenda was four meant an end to the tied cottage and a childhood of serious poverty. Her mother, Edna, and her second husband Bill moved frequently but could barely make ends meet. Despite the poverty there were, of course, good times, especially visiting Granny Denning who was a star in the granny stakes. She would take Brenda and her brothers, Colin, Bob and Mick, to the river to make a dam, build a fire and boil a kettle but the real star turn was Granny taking out her teeth and chasing the children round with a knife.

Brenda was a bright girl and attended two grammar schools. She wanted to train to be a nurse but the family needed a more immediate income so she went to work in a dress shop in Bodmin. She loved dancing and a dance was where she met a Royal Navy man named Sid Munson. Brenda is said to have been less than delighted at the prospect of meeting 'that drunken sailor' again but she did and they married in Bodmin in 1957 and lived initially at Porthleven. With Sid working on Stilgoe's Farm, they moved first to Croughton, where Brenda's parents were settled, and ultimately, in 1961, to 4 Windmill Street, then newly built. Brenda was immensely proud of this house and enjoyed tending the garden too. The wonderful neighbours, Mary Tomkins, Sybil Ward, Maureen French and Evelyn Freeman, welcomed Brenda and Sid warmly and became like family.

Not only did Brenda she spend more than 60 years in this community, she made strong contributions to its life. She started work as a waitress at the Great Western Arms in Aynho before becoming a dinner lady at the school and spent more than forty years as a general factotum at the Holcombe Hotel, with flower arranging a speciality.

However, tragedy struck more than once. When she was twenty-nine Brenda's second child, Angela, died in 1965, at the age of five, from a genetic problem causing kidney malfunction. Over the next years she gave birth to Paul, Jill, Andrew and Helen. In 1978 the seven year old Helen died from the same genetic issue that caused Angela's death. She found solace in her remaining children though and perhaps her losses made her love all the stronger for the children she still had and, when they came, their children and then their children's children. She enjoyed immensely just being with the little ones of her family, observing with concentrated attention what they got up to.

Other enthusiasms often involved family. Brenda loved to travel: the family camper van made possible holidays in Porthleven and Portland Bill, where Ernie, Sid's older brother and Auntie Gwen lived; there was a coach trip to Austria with Andrew and Jill; expeditions with Robert and Andrew – New York, the Grand Canyon, Las Vegas and Robert's house in Spain. On a trip to Nice and a castle in the French Alps for Andrew's 50th the temporary loss in transit of Brenda's

wheelchair was compensated for by the replacement chair being pushed by 'a very nice Frenchman'. Only a couple of years ago she went with family to Iceland to see the Northern Lights.

Her later years were not a joy-ride. For a third time she lost a child when Robert, her eldest, was killed in a motor-cycle accident in 2011. She battled through as she had with the earlier tragedies and faced the indignities of old age with courage and humour. She survived falls and a broken back, stalwartly pushing her wheelchair some hard uphill yards in Porthleven to reach her favourite view of the sea and dealt with the degree of dementia she knew she had at the end with a resigned acceptance, not letting it get in the way of rebuking the staff at Featherton House when they failed to produce of 'a good cup of tea'. (She was actually very happy with Featherton's respite care.) Above all, she followed keenly what was going on in the lives of her family across the generations – and there was a lot to follow: eleven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Her love of life remained to the end, despite the hard times and the heavy blows life dealt her. She brought light into the lives of many others. Latterly, she knew that that her time was limited and could look death unflinchingly in the face. 'Death is a journey we all have to make – and make alone,' she said. She indicated that those who loved her needed to let her go.

*The Munson Family*



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## DEDDINGTON TO LVIV: A JOURNEY OF SOLIDARITY AND STRENGTH – CONVOY 55

Earlier this year, a group of us from Deddington, alongside others from across the UK, took part in a humanitarian aid convoy to Ukraine with Driving Ukraine. Many of you will know of the organisation through Jenny Soddy's coverage in the *DN*. It was a humbling and inspiring experience, but also one filled with moments of genuine joy.

Thirteen of us set off in five utility vehicles, driving across Europe to Lviv. These vehicles are now supporting frontline and military efforts, helping those living through the daily realities of war.

Our team brought together a wide mix of backgrounds: engineer, physiotherapist, radio producer, teacher, nurse, head-hunter, sixth form administrator and more. Above all, we were mothers, wives, aunts, daughters, sisters and friends – each with our own reason for going, but united by a shared determination to help. This was DrivingUkraine's Convoy 55, and it quickly became something very special to be part of. Taking place during International Women's Month, the mission carried an added sense of solidarity – women supporting women across borders, united by resilience and compassion.

As an all female driving team, camaraderie came naturally. We arrived in Ukraine on Mother's Day, a moment that felt especially poignant, highlighting the contrast between our own lives and the uncertainty faced by so many families there.

For me, the journey carried deep personal meaning. The vehicle driven by Sian and me was named the VODPod, in honour of my late mother, Vivien O'Donnell, a much-loved Deddington resident and celebrated artist. Even in her final days, Mum continued to give, painting her last piece to donate to Fynn Watt for DrivingUkraine, the proceeds from the auction of which raised the funds for the truck. Having watched Fynn grow up, she was immensely proud of the work he has led since the start of the war.

The VODPod was a true reflection of her spirit – painted bright purple, with dramatic black eyelashes, her signature blue eyeshadow and bold red lips across the bumper. It turned heads across Europe and brought smiles wherever it went.

One unforgettable moment came just miles from the Ukrainian border. At a rest stop, the enormity of

what we were doing suddenly hit us. In a spontaneous burst of energy, we found ourselves dancing around the trucks to a lively Ukrainian pop-folk track by Verka Serdutchka, Ukraine's 2007 Eurovision entry, its cheeky message adding to the moment. Laughter filled the car park as we danced together, much to the amusement of passing travellers and a group of Danish aid workers.

By then, our convoy felt like a family. Each vehicle had its own personality: alongside the VODPod was Dolly leading the way (driven by Karen and Maria), Verka (Charlotte, Sam and Sophia), Stallions (Lindsey, Lou and Fiona), and Wee-Beastie (Angie, Gail and Svetlana). Even mid-journey repairs became part of the story, Gail often happiest under the truck, cable ties at the ready. Together, we carried not just supplies (Haribo), but determination, humour and hope.

In Lviv, we were warmly welcomed by the Driving Ukraine team and met the Ukrainian military personnel who would take the vehicles onward. Hearing their first-hand accounts of life on the frontline was deeply moving and brought home the scale of what they are facing.

The following day, we visited the Field of Mars, the cemetery of the fallen. Surrounded by flowers, flags and photographs, we paid our respects to those who have lost their lives. It was a sobering and profoundly moving experience that will stay with me. Lviv is beautiful. When the war is over, I urge you to visit or sign up for a convoy.

Returning home, I feel a renewed appreciation for our community. Deddington should be incredibly proud of the support it has given to DrivingUkraine. Many of you have contributed, taken part, or followed these convoys, and it truly makes a difference. I encourage everyone to continue supporting this vital work.

Thank you, Mum, for everything you gave. We miss you dearly, but your vibrant spirit travelled with us every mile of the journey.

Finally, a heartfelt thank you to everyone who sponsored and supported us. Your generosity made this journey possible and had a real impact where it matters most.

Slava Ukraini – we stand with Ukraine.

**Harry Palin and Sian Westbury**  
[www.drivingukraine.org](http://www.drivingukraine.org)



L-R Harry Palin, Alina Sukh-Ukrainian Army platoon leader and now driver of VODPod, Sian Westbury



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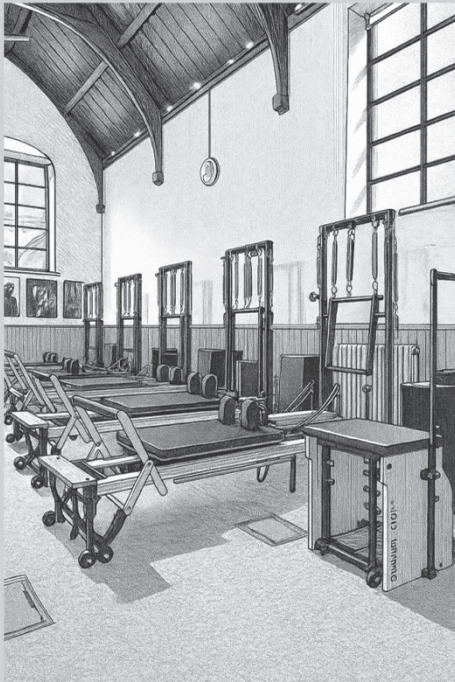
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