

June 2026

# *The* DEDDINGTON NEWS



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### Find out more

... about The Deddington News  
 and what's happening locally  
 at [www.deddington.org.uk](http://www.deddington.org.uk)

## The DEDDINGTON NEWS

What an extraordinary number and variety of events and activities are available in this beautiful parish of ours, all kept going by what seems to be a shrinking number of people.

Many organisations locally are crying out for additional help. This isn't a guilt trip but please don't just sit back and assume someone else will take up the slack. If you enjoy what's on offer, why not give it a try? Getting involved with local organisations turns out to be very satisfying.

JC

### What's On

#### June

- Wed 3 Photographic Society: Trip to China, Aleks Gjika, Adderbury Institute, 7.30pm
- Sat 6 Friends of Deddington Church: Charity Concert, Nicholas Doig, tenor and piano, Deddington Church, 7.00pm
- Sun 7 Deddington Town Youth Football: Presentation Day, Windmill Centre
- Sun 7 Katharine House Hospice: Aynho Open Gardens, 2.00–5.00pm
- 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, 7.15pm
- Fri 12 Adderbury Cine Club: *Nuremberg*, Adderbury Institute, doors open, 7.30pm, film 8.00pm
- Sat 13 Deddington Parish Church: closed for recording session, 8.00am–2.00pm
- Wed 17 Parish Council: Old School Room, Hempton, 7.30pm
- Thu 18 Deddington Festival: Comedy Evening, Deddington Arms
- Fri 19 Deddington Festival: Deddy Pub Crawl
- Sat 20 Deddington Festival: Market Place, 1.30pm till late
- Sun 21 Friends of Deddington Church: Open Gardens, 2.00–5.00pm, tickets from Deddington Church
- Sun 21 Music in Adderbury: Carducci Quartet, St Mary's Adderbury, 6.00pm
- Thu 25 Book Group: Call Sally Lambert, 01869 338094 for details
- Fri 26 Community Lunch Club: Windmill Centre, 12.30pm
- Sat 27 Farmers' Market: Market Place, 9.00am–12.30pm
- Sat 27 Craft Market: Deddington Church, 9.00am–12.30pm
- Sat 27 Deddington Bellringers: Deddington Church tower open, 10.00–12.00pm
- Sun 28 Tennis Club: Open Day, Windmill Centre, 10.00am–2.00pm
- Sun 28 Music in Adderbury: Emily Beynon flute and Andrew West piano, Deddington Church, 6.00pm

#### July

- Wed 1 Photographic Society: Adderbury Institute, 7.30pm
- Sat 4 Cherwell Choral Society: *A Season to Sing*, Joanna Forbes L'Estrange, Deddington Church, 7.30pm

Submission of any article to the Deddington News carrying personal information (for example names, locations, pictures) will imply that the person submitting the article has obtained the necessary consent from the individual (or parent / guardian in the case of a minor) / company / organisation for this information to be used both in print and online.

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

Disclaimer: The views expressed are not necessarily those of the editors or the committee. Inclusion of an advertisement or insert does not constitute any recommendation or endorsement of the organisations concerned on the part of the Deddington News. The DN takes no responsibility and gives no guarantees, warranties or representations, implied or otherwise, for the content or accuracy of these advertisements.

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## DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL Wednesday 20 May at the Windmill Centre

### *Present:*

Councillors ap Simon, Cox, Gilham, Mobbs, O'Neill, Oldham, Robinson, Swadling, Timms, Watts, County Councillor Epps, the parish clerk and a *DN* representative.

Election of the chair: Councillor Robinson was elected. Councillor Robinson was the only councillor to attend all PC meetings during the year.

Mark Stapley, a new parish councillor was co-opted to the council and was welcomed.

Parish councillors will attend the farmers' market in June to answer residents' questions.

### **10 minute forum**

The *DN* representative requested that the footpath extension white lines in the Market Place/Bull Ring be renewed as people frequently park there, obliterating access for people using wheelchairs, with buggies and mobility walkers. It has already been posted on FixMyStreet.

### **County Council**

Councillor Epps reported that there have been some changes at the county with a new leader of the council. He now has responsibility for transport although the role is now split between transport and highways, following Councillor Gant's resignation.

Some local issues over secondary school transport have arisen as a result of government policy. In particular locally, Clifton has been arbitrarily divided with some children expected to attend Heyford School rather than Warriner. The case has now gone to appeal. The timing of the pedestrian controlled crossing at the traffic lights is due to be reviewed in June.

### **Finance & General Purposes**

Councillor Snashall was thanked on his retirement for his work on this group.

A request from the grass cutting contractors for an additional payment to cover the increased cost of diesel was agreed.

The PC agreed to contribute to maintenance of the church clock at a cost up to £180.

It was agreed to costs up to £120 to produce a parish council newsletter.

Allotment rents will be reviewed after PC members have met with representatives from Storey Homes, the new owners of the land.

New picnic benches for Wimborn Close and Welford's Piece will be installed.

The refurbishment of the changing rooms at the Windmill has now started and should be completed in a few weeks.

### **Planning**

#### *No Objection*

Clydesdale, Market Place, Deddington: erection of a free-standing greenhouse in rear garden.

Stonewalls, Castle Street, Deddington: tree works.

### *Approvals*

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

Eaton House, New Street, Deddington: tree works.

### **Large Scale Developments**

Several meetings have been held between councillors and Lucy Development, the developers of the land north of the fire station. They have confirmed that they will honour their S106 obligations and build the nursery and the car park, handing the freehold to the PC. The drawback currently is that they intend to pass responsibility for all facilities, including the play area, balancing pond and open space to a management company. This would effectively create an additional level of taxation to new home owners on the development and is a common practice countrywide. For OCC to adopt the road on completion of this development, they require an upfront payment of £1m or more which the developers are resisting. The PC agreed to write to OCC requiring them to adopt the road on completion. The PC are also to write to CDC to request the same service be provided to this development as elsewhere in the parish, ie bin collection regardless of ownership of the road.

PC representatives have been advised by the Oxfordshire Neighbourhood Plans Alliance that an updated Deddington NP should allocate some new houses, even as few as 10. The government planning policy is to encourage development of new housing and any NP needs to take account of this. The PC agreed to speak initially to the consultant who assisted them with original NP and to discuss with CDC as to whether their emerging local plan will require more housing.

### **Highways**

A request has been made to OCC regarding availability and cost of a larger sign warning of right turning traffic.

OCC have agreed that the bus layby on New Street should be decommissioned and hard-standing will be installed on the grass verge allowing buses greater accessibility from that stop.

### **Environment & Recreation**

Organisers of last weekend's Four Farms Challenge were congratulated.

The slide mound has been fully repaired and is at long last open for children to use.

The zipwire has been repaired but the roundabout still has not. Creative Play will consult the manufacturers. Revised maps have been sent to the contractors for No Mow May, covering Gaveston Green, Goose Green, Castle Grounds, Hempton Green, Welford's Piece and Wimborn Close.

**Next Meeting Wednesday 17 June at the Old School Room, Hempton at 7.30pm.**



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## DRIVING UKRAINE

At a time when the scale of global events can feel overwhelming and with recent news that Russia has mounted one of the largest attacks on Ukraine since the start of its full-scale invasion in 2022, it is hard for us to avoid feeling powerless. DrivingUkraine offers a simple but powerful reminder that individual actions, when brought together, can still make a meaningful difference. Thanks to the generosity of the community, the dedication of volunteers and supporters, and the commitment of DrivingUkraine's core team, this effort continues to grow, reflecting a shared commitment to helping those in urgent need.

Since the invasion four years ago, 59 convoys have delivered 366 vehicles and over £2.5 million has been raised. Right now Ukraine is experiencing the longest Russian aerial attack since the beginning of the war. *A message from Maxym, head of Ukrainian Operations – DrivingUkraine:*

'The interception statistics of Russian drones are phenomenal. At the moment, the Ukraine air defence is managing to shoot down around 93% of Russian aerial targets. The Ukrainian air defence is proving its effectiveness in practice.

I want to thank every one of you who has joined our convoys. DrivingUkraine has delivered dozens of vehicles for air defence units across Ukraine, and right now these vehicles are working non-stop to protect our skies from the Russians. I can say with certainty that thanks to these dozens of vehicles, hundreds of Russian drones have been shot down.'

On 25 April, our largest convoy yet left for Ukraine — 25 vehicles supported by 70 volunteers. These incredible individuals worked tirelessly to raise the funds needed to purchase the vehicles, ensuring each one reached the frontline, making a life-saving difference at a critical moment. At the same time, they embarked on a journey of a lifetime, knowing they are making a real and lasting impact.

As the need continues, so too does the call for volunteers. Whether you can drive, help fundraise, or support behind the scenes, there are many ways to get involved.

Could you spare five days to join a convoy? See upcoming dates below: 25–28 June; 23–26 July; 27–30 August. Visit [www.drivingukraine.org](http://www.drivingukraine.org) to learn more, complete the application form and get involved.

What convoy volunteers are saying:

*Charlie, Delivery Director at Synapx, Founder, SPPUG*

'During my trip, I met some incredible people and learned some truly valuable life lessons. I am 100% behind this initiative and feel proud and honoured to be part of it, alongside such like-minded and caring individuals. Get involved—you won't regret it.'

*Rob - Founding Partner, Rational Partners*

'This is an incredible experience and anyone who is unsure should absolutely take the leap. You'll be doing something genuinely important while building strong connections with others on the convoy. Spending a short time in Lviv really brings home the reality of the conflict and the impact of your contribution to it.'

Another of our latest fundraising initiatives is to supply Unmanned Ground Vehicles (UGVs) that are now playing a crucial role in logistics and evacuations, helping reduce the risk to human life. These robotic vehicles are the latest innovations in remote controlled technology, evacuating wounded soldiers from the front line trenches without putting human rescuers in danger. Speaking with teams on the ground, it's clear just how vital these capabilities are on the frontline. Please donate via the website to enable us to provide more of these UGVs.

There are many ways to get involved and we welcome all kinds of skills and support: fundraising; UK operations; Ukraine operations; European logistics; press and media and much more. If you're interested, please get in touch—we'd love to hear from you. Visit the website and see the projects DrivingUkraine are currently working on.

[www.drivingukraine.org](http://www.drivingukraine.org)  
**Jenny Soddy**  
**07976 922558**



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We've now installed new blinds which has completed our much needed refurbishment. With a new coat of paint the inside looks bright and fabulous, so please come in to see for yourselves. The final stage of refurbishing is adding hanging baskets with an automated watering system to complement the outside. They should be in place within a month. I'm sure this will enhance the street appeal of our lovely building in such a prominent position in our community.

Congratulations to Gail who completed her fundraising journey on 30 April, having visited all of Oxfordshire's 44 libraries over the last year, plus Bullingdon Prison library. She will share her fundraising total in

her own column. Sincere thanks to everyone who supported her – well done, Gail.

Thanks also to everyone who came to the Race Night at the Windmill on 9 May. Our horse 'Gail Force' didn't perform as well as our own Gail force does, but much fun was had by those who attended and funds were raised for our community centre and the library. Thanks to Peter Hogben for organising it. Our next event for your diaries is a Treasure Hunt on 12 July, again in collaboration with the Windmill Centre. Thanks again for your valued support.

**Bryn Williams**  
**[abw@brynwilliams.com](mailto:abw@brynwilliams.com)**

## PIES

I have not always loved and appreciated good food. As a child we ate what we were given, and there was always a variety of fruit to be had and interesting things like cherimoya and ackees.

After leaving school, I went to work for a bank in the City dealing with stocks and shares and it was only after relocating from London to North Wales that my interest in food began. I went to catering college in Wrexham and lived with a Welsh family who became my second family. Catering college taught me discipline, the best way to get the best out of your ingredients and a love for all we have here in the UK. I have never looked back.

Armed with information, my enthusiasm grew and those three years were some of the happiest times in my life. While at college I spent some summers cooking at a gliding club on Walney Island and enjoyed free flights. I stayed in the area, eventually spending four years working in hotels in the Lakes, while attending Blackpool College to enhance my skillset.

From the Lakes I went to the Isle of Man where I worked in a small restaurant with the owner. I was often on my own and I believe it was here that I began to form my cooking identity. Wanting to learn more,



I looked for other opportunities and took a position as pastry chef at the Feathers in Woodstock and enjoyed an exciting four years there ending up as the head chef.

When the hotel was sold, Leo, my husband, and I entered a partnership with the new owner and the Marsh Goose in Moreton-in-Marsh, came into being. We quickly grew into our roles of restaurateurs and, when we won the Sunday Lunch of the Year, sponsored by *The Telegraph*, we stopped worrying and began to enjoy life.

From the Goose, we got together with some friends and bought The Churchill Arms which I loved. It helped me understand that great food can be made from everyday ingredients and imagination. The nature of the business (in our case a pub) did not restrict what I put on the menu – in fact I felt liberated. For me the best way to deal with seasonal UK produce is to buy quality and keep it simple: rhubarb, asparagus, the best seafood, and don't forget the lamb, smoked haddock, strawberries and raspberries, are the best.

**Sonya Brooke-Little**

Sonya is at Heyford House where she and Leo run a very successful B&B in his family home. You can find her scrumptious pies, quiches and more at the market.

## DH History Corner

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

### Deddington Emigrant, John Hyde Harris

The 1808 'Survey of the Dutchy Manor of Deddington ... belonging to William Ralph Cartwright Esq' shows that the property to the north of the Unicorn Inn (now Clydesdale and Wells Cottage and House) was occupied by John Harris and his wife Mary. He is the John Harris (d1828) recorded on the large plaque to the right of the church door on which are also listed his descendants.

Mary Vane Turner in her book *The Story of Deddington* tells us that his grandson, John Hyde Harris, 'lived in the Market Square, Deddington [as in 1808 survey]. Carved on the stone mantelpiece in a room of his house will be found the Harris family coat of arms, three hedgehogs, as on the monument on the south wall of the church. He was the grandson of John Harris and Mary, his wife, daughter of Nathaniel Stilgoe of Deddington. John Hyde Harris died 24 July 1886 at Dunedin, Otago, New Zealand, aged 60 years. He was a barrister-at-law and held an official position there. His house now belongs to Mr H Wells. It used to be called the Grange'.

In 1850 he emigrated to New Zealand where 'The Sad Tale of Mr John Harris' is taken up by John Caswell of Dunedin, South Island, in his website <https://fromasmallcity.nz>, after visiting the town's museum.

'Inside the museum, while wandering past the timeless faces of Dunedin's past, I discovered the fascinating story of one Mr John Hyde Harris. Born in Deddington, England, into an aristocratic family, John Harris seemed to have always had high ambitions – after all, he could trace his lineage back to the first Earl of Clarendon. So, it's hardly surprising that he trained in law before emigrating to Otago, where he arrived in Port Chalmers in 1850. Within a few years, he had married the daughter of one of Dunedin's founding fathers, Captain William Cargill, and went on to hold numerous high-profile public roles. He served on the Dunedin Town Board, was elected Otago Superintendent, became captain of the Otago Light Horse Volunteers, presided over the 1865 Dunedin Exhibition and was a University of Otago councillor. If that wasn't enough to fulfil his illustrious pedigree, he was also considered one of Dunedin's merchant elite and invested heavily in land. However, it all fell apart for the distinguished Mr Harris when he attempted to develop a township called Clarendon at the head of Lake Waihola. The sections [plots] didn't sell, and he lost £28,000, ultimately declaring bankruptcy and being imprisoned for debt in 1885. He died a year later, his estate was worth just a mere £100.'

More about Deddington's emigrants can be found at: <https://www.deddingtonhistory.uk/emigration-andtransportation2/emigration>.

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

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## CHURCH

### Parish Church SS Peter and Paul

#### June

In May we continued to celebrate the joyful Easter season. We anticipated the Ascension at our family service at the start of the month, in which the young ones had fun making lava lamps. On Thursday 14 May we marked Ascension Day itself in our special choral evening service in Hempton church. Ascension Day is when we remember Jesus ascending into heaven and it occurs 40 days after Easter. On Sunday 24 May, we celebrated Pentecost (or Whit Sunday), which occurs 50 days after Easter. Pentecost marks God's gift of his Holy Spirit on the first disciples, a gift which he gives us all when we come to faith through baptism. It's God's special way of being with us all the time in our lives, guiding and strengthening us on our journeys.

Looking forward, Pentecost will also be the theme of our family service on Sunday 7 June, with free breakfast for everyone and fun crafts for the young ones making doves and flame hats. Later the same day will be our beautiful sung evensong service with the choir. We are then into the church season of 'Trinity' or 'Ordinary time', which runs through to the end of October, during which time we celebrate God's

creation and harvest time. We hope to see you whenever you can make it. A warm welcome always awaits,

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 9.00am–4.00pm for anyone wishing to visit, pray, meditate or simply be. Deddington church services are streamed live. Please see the church website or Facebook page for updates, [www.deddingtonchurch.org](http://www.deddingtonchurch.org) and <https://www.facebook.com/DeddingtonChurch>.

For funeral and home visits in case of illness, please contact Nick Fielden on 01869 934794, [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).

#### 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 7	10.30am	Family Communion (breakfast and crafts from 9.45am)
	6.00pm	Evensong
Sun 14	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sun 21	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sun 28	10.30am	Holy Communion

#### Hempton

Sun 21 9.00am Holy Communion

#### Barford St Michael

Wed 5.15pm Evening Prayer  
Sun 7 10.30am Coffee and Chat

Sun 21 10.30am Family Service  
Sun 28 10.30am Family Communion

#### Barford St John

Sun 14 9.00am Holy Communion

#### From the Parish Registers

##### Baptisms

19 April	Jim Hemmings
19 April	Maisie Calcutt-Jones
26 April	Theo Perry

##### Confirmations

26 April	Anne Perry and Theo Perry
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##### Funerals

22 April	Elisabeth (Buffy) Heywood (interment of ashes)
30 April	Peter Latham
1 May	Jane Holiday (memorial and interment of ashes)
8 May	Wendy Burrows (interment of ashes)

## 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

#### 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

#### St Joseph's, Banbury

10.00am Sunday Mass

## Aynho Open Gardens

Four gardens will be open on Sunday 7 June 2.00–5.00pm. All monies raised will go to Katharine

House Hospice. If anyone could make some cakes I'd be grateful. Please contact me on 07749266661.

**Margaret Axon**

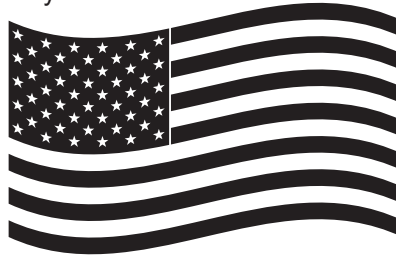
## POSTCARD FROM AMERICA

### Charles, Milk, Black Representation, Palm Springs

The US has a strange fascination with its old ruling class which was brought into focus by the visit of King Charles. Numerous locals asked me what I thought of his two speeches. He used a very English approach, making his points with historical references, comedy and irony. Many wondered whether a lot of it had passed over Trump's head. He certainly 'mentioned the war' and yet was cheered by both parties. I hadn't realised that Charles had this ability but it certainly reinforced my view that most Americans love the old country and admire royalty. Can we please give a knighthood to whoever wrote those speeches?

You might well be right in thinking that I have an obsession with British foodstuffs but ordinary milk is one of the strangest things I find in America. When we visit new friends they always politely offer my dear wife a drink but this seldom leads to a happy result. Heather hasn't drunk alcohol for eight years and drinks around 14 cups of tea a day but it has to be Tetley's teabags with 1% milk. Our hosts might not have a kettle and most will only have fully pasteurised long life milk and seldom understand the difference. We are currently away with Heather's travel kettle, and the convenience store had real milk so she is happy lying beside the pool with her brew.

We have escaped for two weeks, trying to ignore Trump's absurd attempts to prove that he will be the most remembered President ever. He sees it as a positive to put his name on buildings and his face on bank notes, but I am certain he will be remembered as the most corrupt and uncaring leader this country has ever had. This month he is going to pardon an Indian billionaire accused of fraud because he has 'promised' to invest \$10 billion in the US. The price



of these pardons has gone up more rapidly than the price of gas. Sorry, petrol.

The race by southern states to remove representation for Black people is accelerating. This month the Supreme Court ruled it was legal for these states to redraw their electoral maps in order to eliminate black majority districts. They do this by taking an urban black majority district, cutting it up into several slices which they then carefully merge with large rural areas thus ensuring a white Republican majority in each seat. The *New York Times* is reporting that this will probably eliminate all black majority seats in the south in the November elections. This is a terrible slide back to racism which will not end well.

Palm Springs is my wife's happy place. It is situated in an oasis in the desert east of Los Angeles and has been home to the rich and famous since the early Hollywood studios mandated that their stars live within a two hour drive. In the 19th century the town did a very interesting deal with the local Native American population who were obviously here before Bob Hope and Frank Sinatra. The area was split into one square mile lots with the Agua Caliente Indians owning every other square, which gives them power and income which simply doesn't happen in other reservations across America. This is a very accepting community. Everyone is friendly, the openness of expression is life affirming for me in these difficult times. But the shops are full of very small shorts and string vests. Our 18 holes of golf in 35C was probably a mistake. It made me wish I'd bought a vest. They must be very cool in the sun.

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

### PFSU and Nursery

A big thank you to everyone who supported Deddington Four Farms Challenge last month. It was a fantastic day.

This term at Pre-school our topic is 'Keeping Fit and Healthy'. We are practising for sports day and hope to visit Castle Grounds.

We will be welcoming new parents on Friday 26 June for our PFSU open afternoon which will allow them to meet the staff and see the setting before their child joins us in September.

At Nursery our topic is 'Around the World'. We will be having lots of fun learning about England, Africa, Lithuania, Australia, France, Hawaii, Italy and Iceland. There will be plenty of role play, food tasting, dressing up, learning songs and taking part in traditional dancing. We will be welcoming dads and granddads into the setting for our Father's Day breakfast.

**Shrene Saleh-Gillett**  
*info@deddingtonnurseryandpfsu.co.uk*

### Tower Open Day

**Saturday 27 June, 10.00am–12.00pm**

Deddington church bellringers invite you to come and see how the bells are rung, see the actual bells and, weather permitting, go to the top of the tower to see the amazing countryside around Deddington.

All we ask is a small donation to help maintain the bells in good order. There are a few rules to access the ringing chamber and these are: children must be aged 8 and over and accompanied by an adult; sensible footwear must be worn due to the uneven stone spiral staircase (ie not flip flops or loose footwear); please do not attempt to visit if you suffer breathlessness or are prone to dizzy spells or fear of heights as there are 56 steps to the ringing chamber and a further 64 to the tower roof.

Otherwise we welcome everyone who wishes to experience an art which has been going on for over 300 years.

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## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL, 6 MAY

### Neighbourhood Plan (NP)

The value of our 2024 NP became clear when it was cited in the planning inspector's rejection of the 'Hempton 9' planning appeal as the site was outside the settlement boundary. Outline consent for the NP's chosen site for 90 houses north of the Fire Station was approved in October 2025. The site has been sold to Lucy Developments, an Oxford based family-owned company. We are determined that the generous gifts to the parish from the Fuller family of a built nursery and a car park should be honoured by the new owners.

However, the NP has a five-year lifespan, so by 2029 an updated version will be needed if we want to continue to control future housing development, rather than be open to speculative developers, some of whom are sniffing around already. Crucial to the process will be Cherwell DC's new Local Plan which will say whether our future housing allocation has changed. We reckon it will take two years to review the NP, not so big or costly a task as last time, but we're already looking hard at exactly what needs to be done. We'll write more on this, with an appeal for parish residents to join a new NP steering group, very shortly.

### Large-scale Planning

We continue to monitor the four huge proposed developments in the area: the Strategic Rail Interchange terminal near J10 of the M40; 9,000 houses at Heyford Park; Puy du Fou, a monster 400-acre historical theme park; and warehouses at Baynard's Green. If approved, any one of the applications would bring substantially more traffic through Deddington and, if all four were approved, it will be a tidal wave. Considering their cumulative effect, we have emphasised that there should be a strategic approach by CDC and government.

### Planning

We referred last year to a possible situation brewing with Burringtons, developers of Hempton Gate and Clifton Gate. As we feared, as soon as the last market house was sold, they went into liquidation, with only half of their community benefit obligations fulfilled. So half of the expected money for sport and play improvements and, more importantly, unfinished roadways in Clifton Gate. Just recently some funds have been found for this work to be finished. But the five affordable houses were sold at a bargain price on the open market, despite the PC coming up with a last-minute solution that would have benefitted our community.

### Highways

The build-outs in Hempton have been successful in reducing the speed of traffic passing through the village, particularly from the west. We're still working on a solution to allow wide farm traffic to get through without incident.

### Environment & Recreation

Projects this year have included installing a 20kW battery back-up for our 56-panel solar array. The primary purpose is to ensure the Windmill has power if it is called into use as our main emergency centre;

it will also help reduce the Windmill's electricity bills. Funding for this was a £13,250 grant from SSE's Powering Communities to Net Zero Resilience Fund, and we are immensely grateful to SSE for this. We've also repurposed the old bowls pavilion as a hangout for teens and work is currently underway to refurbish the showers and floors in the changing rooms.

Some of the magnificent avenue of horse chestnuts on the Hempton Road have suffered from canker and were cut down by OCC. Understandably this caused considerable upset among Hempton residents, but I'm pleased to say agreement has been reached on a way forward for replacements of a mixed variety.


### Finance & GP

There has been a bit of a rollercoaster of resignations in the last year because of work commitments or health problems, but we were fortunate to welcome Denise Mobbs, Nick ap Simon, Nick Gillham and, briefly, Nick Smith and Ed Palin, into our ranks. We're still two councillors short, so will continue to advertise in the hopes of attracting new younger faces.

Our amazing clerk, Susan Fuller, is stepping down at the end of June, and we will miss her competence, local knowledge and commitment to Deddington. We have an assistant clerk, Vanessa Oliveri, in post so we are underway with our succession planning. The full draft minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting will be on the PC website from the end of May.

**Mary Robinson, Chair**

[cllr.mary.robinson@deddington-pc.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.mary.robinson@deddington-pc.gov.uk)



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## DEDDINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

As the days grow longer and the village comes alive with the colours of spring, it has been an especially busy and rewarding time at the school. There is a sense of energy and it has been wonderful to see the pupils embracing every opportunity with enthusiasm, determination and pride.

At the start of April, we welcomed three OFSTED inspectors into school. I look forward to sharing their findings with you soon. I would like to thank parents, pupils and my fantastic staff for their continued support and hard work, both during the inspection and throughout the year.

Pupils continue to show great commitment to their learning, particularly evident in Year 6 who approached their end of Key Stage 2 SATs with maturity and a positive attitude. They demonstrated resilience and focus throughout the process and we are proud of their approach.

Beyond the classroom, the wider life of the school has been thriving. Excitement is building as auditions have begun for our upcoming school production of *Joseph and the Technicolour Dreamcoat*. The children are eager to begin rehearsals and we look forward to what promises to be a colourful and entertaining performance showcasing their talents.

There have also been opportunities for pupils to engage in enrichment activities. Year 5 children recently took part in Bikeability sessions, equipping them with essential skills to stay safe while cycling on the roads. Meanwhile, we are grateful to Ed Toll from the Tennis Club, who has been delivering sessions across different year groups, inspiring pupils and helping them develop their tennis skills.

### PARISH SHOW Saturday 5 September

Every year, just when we think the bar couldn't possibly be raised any higher, our talented entrants prove us wrong. From prize-winning preserves to vegetables of suspiciously enormous proportions and beautifully baked cakes to crafts created with patience, flair and probably a little mumbling, the Parish Show never fails to surprise and delight.

Collecting rosettes is a bonus with the usual friendly rivalry, especially amongst the legendary Pork Pie brigade. It's all about celebrating the creativity, skills, humour and community spirit that make Deddington such a special place.

Whether you're a seasoned show veteran or a first-timer, wondering if your Victoria sponge is good enough – it probably is – we'd love you to take part. One item is all it takes.

As always, the ever-popular bottle stall, cake stall and raffle will raise funds for village projects so your generous donations make a huge difference. Just let us know. Entry forms will be available from the end of May.

**Parish Show Committee:**

**Stan Nelson, Cheryl Wild, Sue Ayles, Terry Timms, Angela Everett, Maureen Robinson**

We recently marked a very special occasion, celebrating the 100th birthday of Sir David Attenborough. Children took part in a national online event and were encouraged to wear natural colours for the day. Through a range of activities, they learned about his remarkable life and reflected on how they can help protect our planet and local environment — an important message that resonated strongly with all.

Sport, creativity and community continue to be central to school life, from engaging lessons and hands-on experiences to performances and physical activity, pupils are given opportunities to succeed in a variety of ways.

Looking ahead, we are excited to invite the whole community to our annual school Summer Fête, which will take place on Saturday 13 June from 12.00–3.00pm. It promises to be a wonderful afternoon of fun, bringing families together while raising valuable funds to support the school. We welcome everyone to come and join us.

The school continues to go from strength to strength, with every class full we remain oversubscribed for places. We look forward to welcoming 30 new children to the school in September as they begin their educational journey with us.

As always, we are grateful for the support of families and the village. Your encouragement and involvement help create the inclusive environment that makes the school such a special place.

**Clive Evans, Headteacher**

# Deddington Summer Community Lunch Club

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Our Monthly Lunch Clubs are built on a foundation of community engagement, bringing people of all ages together to share great food, great conversation, and even better company. Each month, we create a warm and welcoming space, where friendships flourish over home-cooked meals.

So, whether you're working from home, reconnecting with familiar faces or meeting new friends, why not come along to share time together.



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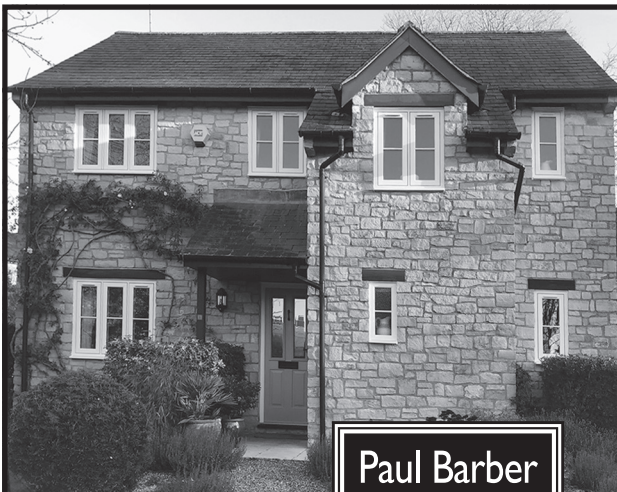
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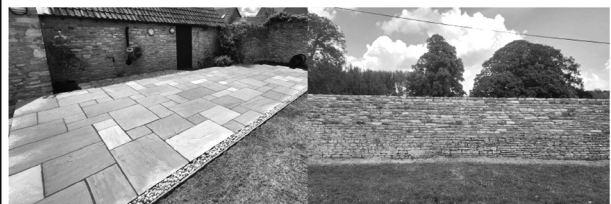
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## NEWS FROM HEMPTON

**Y**ou cannot have failed to notice the many reports and articles concerning issues associated with Thames Water Utilities (TWU), our monopoly water utility.

TWU was privatised lock, stock and barrel by the Thatcher government in 1989 along with the other nine English regional water authorities. In common with other national assets flogged to the private sector, TWU was floated on the stock exchange at an undervalued price to encourage shareholders with the prospect of an instant profit. The government kindly wrote off all the water authorities' £5bn debt and further sweetened the deal with an injection of £1.5bn from public funds, plus capital tax allowances worth about £12bn. The deal included a 25-year monopoly and allowed them to increase charges by a set formula above inflation to fund infrastructure investment. The Government received about £7.6bn in total, essentially paying private investors to take the entire water industry off the government's (our) hands.

In 2001 RWE, a German multinational company, bought TWU for £4.3bn plus £3.2bn debt incurred since privatisation. In 2006, following criticism about failed leakage targets, RWE sold TWU for £8bn to Kemble Water Holdings Ltd, a consortium led by the Australian Macquarie Group, funded by £2.3bn equity and £6.2bn in third party debt. Highly leveraged (debt) buyouts allow investors to offset the debt interest against tax, increasing retained profits and avoiding tax. Macquarie stumped up 48% and other investors contributed 52% of the purchase price. Macquarie set up a labyrinthine ownership structure and, with lax financial reporting requirements for private equity funds, created an opaque accounting black box.

In a typically highly leveraged buyout, who do you think ends up financing this debt. You might think that the debt redemption obligation resides with the investors. Macquarie pushed down most of their debt obligation onto TWU's own balance sheet. £2bn of the original £2.8bn in debt they used to acquire TWU was repaid to Macquarie through a Cayman Islands subsidiary, raised on new borrowings by TWU itself secured on water bills. With a bond profile extending to 2062 water users will still be paying for Macquarie's financial engineering for the next 36 years even if the company is re-nationalised. The UK's water regulator said the £2.8bn acquisition debt 'would be fully ring-fenced from Thames Water as the regulated company'.

So, TWU effectively borrowed to sell itself to the investors, Macquarie are getting an income from the debt and TWU can offset the debt interest against their tax liabilities. Thus, the customer pays to sell the business and the investors get a very handsome return from financial engineering without even fixing a leaking tap.

Investment in utilities should be a long-term commitment with ongoing income supporting the needs of investors with ongoing funding obligations like pension

funds and insurance companies. Macquarie established several investment funds into which investors pledged their funds and these funds were used by Macquarie plus debt to buy TWU. Investment funds are of two basic types: open and closed funds. Open funds have long repayment terms; closed funds have a defined exit date and divestment phase. Macquarie funds invested in TWU had a divestment phase in 2017 or earlier. Macquarie sold its investments in TWU in two stages in 2011 and 2012, and the remaining 26% in 2017. You might describe this as a smash and grab.

During Macquarie's co-ownership, debt jumped from £3.4bn at the time of purchase to £10.8bn by the time of sale, while TWU paid dividends exceeding £2.5bn between 2007 and 2017. Since privatisation more than £7.2bn has been extracted in dividends. TWU is now struggling with £18bn of debt. Other major private investors use similar financial engineering techniques to those employed by Macquarie.

The net effect of all this: some overseas pensioners are a little better off, other investors enjoyed an attractive return on their investment, Macquarie and others made a massively disproportionate return on a minimal, almost riskless investment, making a few extraordinarily rich partners even richer. Consumers stumped up this largess through higher water rates and suffered from the impact and liability of inadequate funding for investment, maintenance, repair and tax avoidance.

All the above is said to be entirely legal. Our politicians set the rules governing financial conduct and it was their dogma that allowed and perpetuates the situation. The Inland Revenue tax the profits or 'carry' on the share of profits paid to hedge fund and private equity fund managers at lower income tax rates rather than the capital gains rates we all pay. Asset managers and private equity funds are plundering the economy; in the care sector your Granny and Grandad are selling their homes and using life savings and pensions to fund the excesses of billionaires who appear to have little interest in the companies they buy, other than profit and lots of it.

This 'inward investment' looks more like wealth appropriation to me. I recall an episode of the *Goon Show* when Major Dennis Bloodnok, swearing in new recruits, instructs them to repeat: 'Open your wallets and say after me, help yourself.'

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

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### Road Closure

6–14 July, 9.30am–3.30pm, temporary road closure at Barford St Michael and Barford St John for CCTV investigation and jetting of the drainage system.

Exemptions will be in place for access to properties and emergency vehicles.

## NEWS FROM CLIFTON

A spectacular event that replaced Book Club in late April was our very own drone show. This was heavily trailed at Book Club, with a weather suppressed run through causing great anticipation on Wednesday. When it happened on a Thursday in late April many neighbours were surprised and delighted to see 300 drones assuming flowers, conical spirals, eye balls, floating boxes (apparently the gold standard of drone shows), a scary face and firework spewing drones in procession. It was spectacular and greatly enjoyed by villagers 'who just happened to see it'. The reason for this was Jonathan, from t'Mill, head honcho at a drone manufacturer, took over the Duck for an internationally attended sales demonstration event attended by people from the Middle East and across the Pond, as well as many Europeans. The event finished with multiple pillars of light reaching to the stars that the good burghers of Candleford may well have noticed.

Kathy's London Marathon time was 6 hours 38 minutes and she raised £4,700 in donations, and Gift Aid increased this total by £1,000, so the charity Breast Cancer Now receives £5,700 in total. A huge well done to Kathy from all of us here, showing what can

be done, with determination, to repay organisations that have helped you.

While once again displaying my 1982 passport as ID at our recent democratic duty, I discovered that the Clifton electoral region is BS. Well, this column I can proudly say is happy to live up to this reality.

Iron Man Mayo had another go at the mad Severn Bridge running race. Now taking it as lightly as recently having open heart surgery dictates, he limited this race to a mere 40 miles but he only squeaked in fourth – and that, folks, is taking it easy. Well done, mon ami. A great effort.

And it was a huge welcome home to our Yorkshire founding father with his other half after his wintering Down Under return. The only drawback is, it seems, the state your acre and a half garden can get into, despite Chris's most heroic efforts. Time, he says for a gardener. See what we're doing down here for the national GDP.

If you have any news or comments you want to share please let me know.

**Martin Bryce**  
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## LETTERS

FROM DEMENTIA OXFORDSHIRE

*Free Information Session*

*For Anyone Diagnosed with Dementia*

Receiving a dementia diagnosis can be upsetting and overwhelming, so Dementia Oxfordshire's friendly and expert Dementia Advisers are running a two part information session to help you better understand what a diagnosis means, how to find the support you need and explore options for planning for the future.

The sessions will be held at Windmill Community Centre, Hempton Road, Deddington: Wednesday 5 and 12 August at 2.00–4.00pm. Contact [education@dementiaoxfordshire.org.uk](mailto:education@dementiaoxfordshire.org.uk) to book a place.

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## DEDDINGTON LIBRARY

A big thank you to everyone who sponsored me in my challenge to visit all 44 libraries. I made 45 including Bullingdon prison and will let you know the final total next month. There is still time to sponsor me and all monies go directly to Deddington Library. There is a display in the library. It has been very interesting to see how different our libraries are: one or two smaller than Deddington but many much bigger, old buildings, newer buildings, rooms in leisure centres, purpose built, a café available in some; different colours and layouts. We all have the same aim, to serve the public providing books, audio, computers, printing, photocopying, scanning, information and help to the public. The larger libraries help with bus passes and Oxford with immigration forms and 3D printing, local and family history. There's an amazing range of activities. Please come and ask questions to find out what else is available here.

The children's summer reading challenge starts on Saturday 4 July at 9.30am.

We continue to fundraise for the library by selling second-hand books, postcards, notelets, pens, pencils, notebooks, maps and local books. Every penny counts. Cash is preferred and small loose change is welcome.

Please come and visit us. Opening times are printed on the back cover of every *DN* and my contact details are given below. Thank you all for your continuing support.

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

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## Friends of the Castle Grounds

*Capturing the Castle Grounds Photo Competition*

When you arrive at the Castle Grounds and walk up the shady slope below the tall overhanging sycamores, are you ever struck by the view as the site opens up in front of you: the green-copper-green of the three huge beeches across the field, and the earth banks topped with trees, undergrowth and wildflowers all around? Or from the moat, with the path winding narrowly ahead between the tree-lined banks like a picture from an old fairytale, or up through the immense roots and

## BOOK REVIEW

***Wild Dark Shore*** by Charlotte McConaghy

This could be described as an eco-thriller, but more than that, it's a compelling tale of survival, love, loyalty and courage. It's set on a remote island between Tasmania and Antarctica where a research team, now depleted in number, is forced to abandon its project because of rising sea levels. Central to this work is a subterranean seedbank designed to last far into the future, but now threatened.

Various disasters, slowly revealed, have left the Salt family – Dom, teenagers Raff and Fen and nine-year-old Orly – as sole inhabitants of the old lighthouse until a shipwreck survivor, Rowan, is rescued from the sea. Sabotage of the communication equipment has left them unable to summon help; they can only wait for the evacuation ship to arrive in six weeks' time.

Both Rowan and the Salts have potent secrets to hide. Strong characterisation brings us close to each character in turn, the twisty plot keeps us hooked to the end, and the focus on landscape, wildlife and climate adaptation makes the setting very real. Highly recommended.

***Linda Newbery is Patron of Deddington Library***

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branches of the horse chestnut clinging to the bank, stunning at any time of year? Do you sometimes notice how the same view changes depending on the angle of the sun and clouds?

If so, do you ever grab your phone or camera to capture the moment? Between all of us who visit the Grounds, we've probably got year-round photos. If you use Google photos or similar online storage and you search 'trees' from your account, you might well see some that you recognise as the Castle Grounds.

We're running a competition with a prize – but to be honest, the main thing is a community effort to gather some photos to celebrate the wonderful space.

The photos could be recent – a range of times of year and different places and angles would be great. And any old photos (digital or from film, to be scanned) would also be really interesting. We'll share some on our Facebook page, Deddington OnLine website and a small poster that we'll display around the village. As there won't be a Deddington library calendar competition this year, we'll post a monthly photo on the village Facebook group.

Send your favourite photo(s) of the Castle Grounds to [info@friendsofcastlegrounds.co.uk](mailto:info@friendsofcastlegrounds.co.uk) or [www.facebook.com/FriendsCastleGroundsDeddington](https://www.facebook.com/FriendsCastleGroundsDeddington) by the end of June for the competition. If your photos show identifiable people in them, please get their permission first, unless it's a big public event like the Four Farms Run.

We hope you enjoyed Four Farms – and thanks to the organisers for their donation to our charity's work. We also remember Richard Lehman, a lovely soul and a much valued Friend of the Castle Grounds, who made a huge contribution in far too short a time.

**Charlotte Holmes**  
**[charlottemegholmes@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:charlottemegholmes@yahoo.co.uk)**



DEDDINGTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

It has finally come to pass! The Windmill changing rooms and showers are, at last, being upgraded. Like many of the building improvement projects we have on our list, it would have been nice to tick this one off sooner. But, as a management committee of volunteers, we can only take on one or two major jobs per year. This one had to bide its time and we are grateful to the users, particularly the football and cricket clubs, for their patience. We are not sure if it will improve your performances on the pitch but at least you'll return home sweeter smelling. The upstairs toilet block is now the only major refurbishment job remaining in our quest to bring the Windmill out of the 1980s and into the present day. We hope to get that done next year. And then, like the Forth Bridge, we'll probably start all over again.

Windmill Events go from strength to strength. After two thoroughly enjoyable quizzes, Peter hosted our first Windmill Race Night early last month. I wasn't able to attend but I understand it was a fabulous evening, hopefully the first of many. Next up, for all you cinema enthusiasts, we're intending to establish a Windmill Film Club – please see the following item. If we can get this and all the other community initiatives up and running, it'll be a real boost to the cultural activities on offer in our village. And don't forget that all proceeds from these events are divided between the Windmill and our chosen charity for this year – Deddington Library.

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

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

## WINDMILL FILM CLUB

In April this year we had a screen and projector fitted at the Windmill Centre, giving us the facility to show films. Looking into how this might be legally achieved, I have discovered that there are two options: either we can pay separately for each film that we show (together with its correct licence) or we can take out a different type of licence for a year which enables us to show in public anything that could be viewed in private. This second way is much cheaper but comes with conditions: we cannot advertise to the general public and we cannot charge admission.

To get around these conditions we plan to start a monthly film club at the Windmill. A year's membership to this club will cost £20 or £10 for concessions. This price will entitle members to come to up to twelve films

during the year, so less than £2 a film. The Windmill Centre hall is only available on Saturdays, so the plan is to show a film in the evening of the first Saturday of each month starting with 4 July. Members will be sent an email poll a week before the showing with a list of possible films and the one with the most votes will be shown. These films will be recent releases and I will try to include a range of different genres including family friendly films. Children can come free of charge, if the film is age appropriate, but they will have to be accompanied by a member.

If you would like to become a member of the Windmill Film Club, email me and I will add you to the membership list and send you a link to pay. You will be issued with a membership card when you attend your first film and your membership will last a year from that date. With enough members, we might even raise some money to put towards more comfortable chairs.

**Peter Hogben**  
[events@thewindmilldeddington.org](mailto:events@thewindmilldeddington.org)

## Road Closure

There will be a temporary road closure 30 May–3 June on A4260 Middle Aston dual carriageway from 4.00am–6.00pm.



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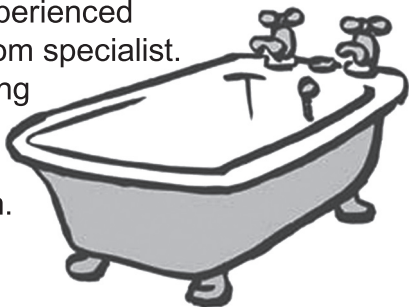
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## CALLING ALL CLUBS

### Royal British Legion

Our president, Major David Hood MC, accompanied by me and branch secretary, Tony Lowe, attended the Scouts club night in the Windmill Centre on 23 April when Major Hood presented RBL affiliation badges to the 20 Scouts present and talked with them afterwards.

The nationwide 2025 RBL Poppy Appeal, whose accounts have recently been formalised, raised an incredible £56.6 million, including £2.57 million raised by Poppy Scotland. This outstanding result means RBL can continue to provide life-changing support to veterans, serving personnel and their families, whenever they need it. From helping people through welfare challenges and providing urgent grants, to offering later life care, running recovery programmes and building vital community connections, this funding will make a real difference.

From September, the National Memorial Arboretum will be known as the Royal British Legion National Remembrance Gardens. The RBL has been the arboretum's parent charity since 2003, and the two charities recently merged as one. We will invest in the site's long-term future, enhancing it as the nation's year-round place for everyone to remember. It will continue to provide a dedicated space to commemorate service and sacrifice by members of the armed forces, emergency services and civilian organisations for generations to come.

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

### Photographic Society

At our May meeting, we welcomed renowned photographer Lisa Rendall via Zoom. Lisa began by sharing aspects of her life that led to her nickname, the Rebel. Her journey started in the world of break-dancing, where she won numerous awards and had the opportunity to meet and choreograph for several well-known artists and groups 'back in the day'. More recently, she has turned her creative focus to photography.

By her own admission, Lisa does not concern herself with technical camera settings; instead, she embraces experimentation and enjoys discovering the effects that can be achieved, both at the point of capture and during post-processing. She works without rigid rules, often taking thousands of photographs and then selecting those that resonate with her. Using Affinity, she applies her preferred editing techniques to create her distinctive results. Some images are sharply in focus, while others deliberately are not.

She has developed an instinct for identifying the best spots for street photography. She possesses what photographers often describe as a 'seeing eye' — a natural ability to spot compelling characters, interesting places and, most importantly, the moments when the two come together. Her intuitive approach allows her to recognise what works and enhance it

in her own unique style. The quality and originality of her work have earned her widespread recognition, including accolades and awards from around the world. It is, therefore, no surprise that her diary is filled with invitations to exhibit her work and speak to photography clubs.

Our monthly topic was 'food' and boy, do our members really know how to photograph food and love to blur the lines between human food and insects dining out on flowers.

Come along and enjoy inspiring talks from our wonderful guest speakers. At our next meeting, Aleks Gjika will talk about his trip to China. All are welcome. We meet on the first Wednesday of the month. Meetings start at 7.30pm at the Adderbury Institute.

**Courtney Killpack**  
*www.addphoto.co.uk*

### Local Vocals Community Choir

I am sure most people at some point have found themselves humming or singing along to an Abba classic. It's not until you sing their songs in three parts that you get an understanding of the complex harmonies and realise you don't know the tune as well as you thought. *Thank You for the Music* is one of the latest challenges our choir leader has presented us with, and we are doing our best to make sure it is ready for our Friends and Family evening on 13 July. Fingers crossed!

To find out more about our choir, which meets at 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

Tim Healey, a popular speaker with the History Society, returned in May to talk about The Green Man Trail in Oxfordshire. Lady Raglan, a passionately interested English folklorist, first coined the term 'Green Man' in 1939. The Green Man is a mysterious leafy mask found on and in Oxfordshire buildings dating from mediaeval times, ranging from parish churches, historic houses and Oxford colleges to terraced houses, pubs, shops and banks. There are many mysteries surrounding the leafy face of the Green Man but, in 1990, William Anderson published a book about the subject examining how the symbol is a representation of oneness with the earth. Its image is now widespread, including at the bottom of the invitation to King Charles III's coronation, and is a popular motif with modern artists such as John Piper and Nicholas Mynheer.

There are two types of faces for the Green Man. Leaf Masks have faces turning into foliage with examples found in New College Chapel (14th Century) and St John's College, Oxford, as well as various Roman sites in temples to Bacchus or Dionysus. Faces disgorge weeping foliage from the mouth (St Mary's Church, Kidlington), eyes or nostrils (Chipping Norton

## CALLING ALL CLUBS

*Continued from p25*

Church). A third design has an ordinary human face but foliage hair. There are also a few Green Women with a fourteenth century example at Great Rollright Church and at St Frideswide's tomb in Christ Church Cathedral, as well as Green Beasts with disgorging cat-like or leonine figures (Iffley Church). No one has categorically established what the Green Men represent. There are many examples in churches – could they have been to ward off evil spirits or for protection? Were they warnings against sin or representations of God in Nature? There was a revival for Green Men in the eighteenth century Age of Elegance including the door knockers at Blenheim Palace and in Victorian times such as at the Old County Hall in Oxford (1841) and more locally the Green Man on Adderbury Church, placed in the Edwardian period. Tim noted that it is very easy to miss seeing Green Men but when you know what to look for there are many examples in the county.

On 11 June, Alastair Lack will talk on JRR Tolkien and his friendship with CS Lewis. This year marks the 70th anniversary of Deddington library, being opened by JRR Tolkien, and we look forward to seeing you. Please note this meeting will start at 7.15pm to accommodate a very brief AGM. Members free, non-members £5 cash on the door.

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

### Hempton Book Club

Elizabeth Strout – *My Name is Lucy Barton*

Although this was a Booker prize nominee, we found

it lacked a clear storyline and wasn't engaging, just a series of self-indulgent meanderings. We waited for something to happen, but it didn't. We had no empathy with the main character because she lacked substance; were her memories true, did her mother really exist? In the end, did we care?

We did all finish it as the simple prose made it easy to read and it was short but as the first in a series of books about Lucy Barton, it wouldn't tempt us to read the rest. Recommend it – no.

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

### Book Group

Len Deighton is best known for his spy novels but he also produced some historical works. *Winter* follows the lives of a fictional Berlin family and is played out against momentous events in German history, including two world wars and the rise and fall of Nazism.

The book is nearly 550 pages long and many of us found it quite hard going. We didn't find the characters very convincing and so were less interested in the family saga. However, we were impressed by Len Deighton's meticulous research. The chapters devoted to the history of the zeppelins are fascinating. Whether describing the experience of trench warfare or how the powers of arrest were intensified by the Third Reich, his use of detail gives a thought-provoking insight into the German experience of living through the first half of the twentieth century.

**The Book Group**

## SPORT

### Deddington Original Golf Society

The first sojourn for DOGS this year was to Newbury Crookham GC. Seventeen brave DOGS ventured forth on what started as a rather cold wet May morning ... mercifully the rain didn't last long. This was a new venue for most of us and the course proved both undulating and difficult. However, the course was tamed by the more tenacious players and the results were: Nearest the Pin – Andrew Gerrard (proving there's hope for us all); Longest Drive – Lyn Talbot; Team Prize – Returning DOGS Barry & Jan Pawley and Russell & Lynn Andrews; Individual prizes – 2nd Place Barry Pawley; 1st Place – Lyn Talbot.

Mon 8 June	Northwood GC
Tue 11 August	Leamington & County GC
Fri 4 September	tba plus barbecue evening
Fri 11 December	Tadmarton Heath 9 Hole Competition, Christmas Dinner and party

If you're new to the area and play golf, you would be most welcome to join the Deddington Original Golf Society. Please email me for further details.

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

### Deddington Cricket Club

League cricket is back at the Windmill. Both Saturday

sides began with a win, the Firsts beating Chipping Norton IIs and the Seconds away at Swinbrook. Debutant Chris Bhagwandin starred for the Firsts with an unbeaten 46 and 4 wickets, while the veteran Paul Smith and his newly stickered bat was also in the runs. There will be a fixture every Saturday at the Windmill through to early September. Further details and results are available on the Cherwell League website.

The Ladies team has started their Super 8 fixtures that continue on Sundays through May and then switch to the league format in June. Home league games are on 12 June and then 12, 19 and 26 July.

Outdoor net practice sessions are also up and running, generally on a Thursday for the men and Fridays for the ladies but can be altered to fit around the weather. Feel free to turn up if you are interested or contact us for more details. All are welcome.

All Stars and Dynamos sessions for children are also running on Friday evenings at the Windmill.

We're always on the lookout for new players, supporters, scorers and umpires. If you'd like to get involved with us in any capacity, then we'd love to hear from you.

**Richard Munro, 07917 208190**  
**[richardmu.ssl@gmail.com](mailto:richardmu.ssl@gmail.com)**  
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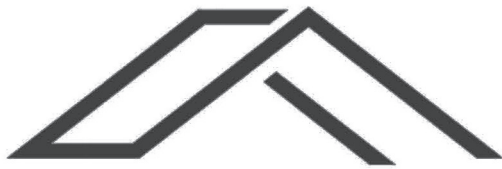
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**SPORT***Continued from p26***Deddington Tennis Club**

On the first May bank holiday, we played a one-day tournament. It's called *Play Your Way to Wimbledon* and is a national competition with county finals, followed by national finals played on the grass courts in SW19. It was a great day with lots of good tennis on display, as well as Pimms, and strawberries and cream in the clubhouse. Well done to the ladies' winners, Sian Westbury and Clare Taylor, and the men's winners, Will Ward and Justin Sims, who will be representing the club at North Oxford for the county finals in June. Last year our ladies won that round and went on to Wimbledon, so no pressure this time round all of you.

Do we have any tennis players in the village who have not tried the club yet? We're really keen to welcome new members, old and young, beginners and experienced players alike. On Sunday 28 June, we're running an Open Day from 10.00am to 2.00pm where you can come and see what is on offer. Whether you're interested in some casual social tennis, you'd like some coaching on your own or in a group, or whether you are interested in competitive tennis, we have it all. There will be sessions you can try out on the day, and anyone joining as a result of the Open Day will get a discount on their annual membership. You can sign up to attend via our website, [www.deddingtontennis.com](http://www.deddingtontennis.com), or just come along on the day and we will try to fit you in. For potential younger tennis players in particular, it's worth checking the time slots as we will run sessions catering for particular age groups. If you do have to wait, there will be cakes, drinks and a barbecue, as well as some club members to chat to.

Look out for the banners at the club and we'd love to see you on Sunday 28 June – you can find us at the Windmill on Hempton Road for anyone who doesn't know.

**Becky Jones****Deddington Town FC***First team results:*

11.4.26 Hook Norton (h) L 2–3 Arnold, Hayward

*Reserve team results:*

18.4.26 FC Kayi (h) L 1–3  
 24.4.26 Kings Sutton Res (n) (CUP) D 0–0  
 (lost 4–5 on pens aet)  
 2.5.26 Longford Park A (h) L 0–3

It's been a hugely disappointing month, with no wins for either side and an agonising Geoff Wilson Cup final

defeat on penalties for the Latics. Sadly, both sides picked a particularly poor time to get their sheets so soiled while struggling to score. Needless to say, this only further cements the need for a raucous crowd to lift our flagging warriors' spirits up to scale new heights!

**Aaron Bliss****Deddington Town FC Youth**

The Under 15s who play in the B League of the Oxfordshire Youth Football League had a 2–1 defeat at Radley, 1–5 home defeat to Bicester Town Colts, 1–1 home draw with Chelsey, 2–1 home win over Watlington, and then 2–1 away defeat to Watlington, and 3–1 away defeat at Chadlington. The Under 14s playing in the Witney and District Youth League had a 0–2 home defeat to Chadlington, 0–2 home defeat to Charlbury, 2–0 away defeat at Banbury Irish, and 8–1 away defeat at Charlbury. The Under 13s playing in the Witney and District Youth C League had a 2–4 home defeat to Faringdon, 3–1 home win over Wychwood and 1–3 away win at Adderbury Park. The Under 12s playing in the Witney and District Youth B League had a 2–10 home defeat to Longford Park, 4–3 win over Kingston, 5–2 win over Grendon Rangers, 3–0 away defeat to Longford Park, and 2–3 home defeat to Wychwood. Congratulations to the Under 11s who won the Under 11 Champions Cup in a penalty shoot-out over Bloxham. Well done to the players and coaches and support from all the parents!

Our presentation day is at the Windmill on Sunday 7 June to celebrate the achievements of all our players and the work put in by managers and coaches throughout the season. We are looking for a sponsor for each of our awards: Most Improved Player of the Year; Sportsman of the Year; Manager's Player of the Year; and Player's Player of the Year. The sponsorship amount we seek is £250 for each award and a sponsor will get their logo on the front cover of the programme and next to the award section in the programme, logo on 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/](http://www.deddington-townfc/) or visit us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/DeddingtonTownFc](http://www.facebook.com/DeddingtonTownFc).

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

**YOUTH****1st Deddington Guides**

Firstly, we'd like to thank everyone who supported our fundraising efforts last term. Our show and raffle raised £80, so both BARKS and the Firefighters Charity were very pleased to receive £40 each. Well done, Guides!

We're enjoying this summer term and the light evenings. So far, we have been challenged with a

quiz around the Market Place following various clues. We have also enjoyed our first cookout, thanks to the Fenemore family's kind hospitality. We have also learnt about putting up a tent and had a lovely evening for our hike. We've been very pleased to welcome Lilia at her promise ceremony. We're off to camp at half term so hoping for good weather.

**Maggie Rampley 07957 600755**

## YOUTH

*Continued from p29*

### 1st Deddington Scout Group

#### Cubs

It's been a busy and exciting month for our Cubs. We enjoyed a lovely hike from Aynho Wharf to Souldern, walking under the viaduct and exploring the countryside together.

We celebrated Sir David Attenborough's 100th birthday by making bug hotels and planting sunflower seeds to support wildlife.

Finally, our older Cubs showed great leadership by creating their own playground games using loose parts and teaching them to the younger Cubs — everyone had lots of fun joining in. Well done to all the Cubs for their enthusiasm and teamwork.

**Tina Deacon**  
*deddingtoncubs@gmail.com*

#### Scouts

Light, dry evenings have allowed us to be outside for many of the recent meetings. The Scouts practised

tent erection by putting up an old giant ridge tent which, as we don't have a use for it, we will pass on to another youth group. Lots of pegs were hammered, luckily no fingers or toes were involved.

We made 'Buddy Burners' from tin cans, cardboard and old wax candles. They worked remarkably well, and a variety of foods were cooked over them: bacon, sausage, pancakes and the ever-popular Scout food – pot noodles. The burners are free, re-usable and recycled – what more can you want?

The group was delighted to receive their affiliation badges from members of the British Legion who visited us one evening. We hope to work closely with them in the future.

**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, please contact Jo Churchyard on deddingtonsl@gmail.com.

## BLISSFUL THINKING

They say every day's a school day which is presumably why I'm constantly late and misbehaving. It also explains why my general disdain for authority figures has never really relented. In an ideal world, we would of course, all be compassionate or at least thoughtful to each other without the need for authority figures to get involved but, in the current version of the world we've made, the mind is so preoccupied with a million different tasks that psychological cues are more crucial than ever to restrain bad decisions or coerce good decisions. My 'lesson' this month came at the Clifton entrance to the village, where the white gating had sprung up without warning behind the 'Deddington' sign at the village's eastern boundary. Subconsciously I think I knew why this was and it was confirmed to me that these 'village gateways' give psychological cues to drivers that they are entering a space where people live, to encourage driving cautiously. Strangely the appearance of actual living people (or animals) doesn't seem to provoke the same psychological cue for the usual minority of motorists who seem to believe they're at Le Mans while unwitting spectators believe them more at home under the Big Top, replete with garish face paint and a big red nose. Pit stop at the Headmaster's Office.

**Aaron Bliss**  
*aaronbliss@hotmail.com*

### Deddington Festival is back again this year – Saturday 18–20 June – and this year it will be even bigger and better!

On Saturday 20 June there's live music, played by local bands and artists, including Seven O'Clock Junkies, Whiff of Horse and Til Dawn, followed by DJ DaddyFT. The main stage is in the Market Place, surrounded by a variety of stalls run by local businesses.

There's a second stage at the Red Lion that will include music and a broader range of arts and enter-

### Saturday 6 June: 7.00pm

#### Charity Concert in the parish church on behalf of the Friends of Deddington Church, artist Nicholas Doig, Tenor and Piano

Nicholas Doig was born and grew up in Oxford and was a chorister at Magdalen College. His home was later in Deddington. Having studied music at Cambridge University and then voice at the Conservatoire in Bremen, Germany, he is coming back to Deddington to give a concert to raise funds on behalf of the Friends of Deddington Church for replacing the decrepit heating system.

He will sing music for the 'chamber', that is songs for the music room, the salon, and the home. Composers featured will include Dowland, Purcell, Handel, Beethoven, Schubert and more.

Nicholas's website is [an-die-musik.de](http://an-die-musik.de).

tainment: local singer Jillian Drewitt and the Adderbury Ukulele Group, plus some talks by local councillors and other exciting events.

On Thursday 18 June will be the very first 'Daddy Laughs', live comedy in the Deddington Arms. It will be hosted by Andrew Bird and will feature Matt Richardson and TV stars Shappi Khorsandi and Hal Cruttenden.

On Friday 19 June evening we are having a festival 'pub crawl', when we will follow live music being hosted at each venue, one after the other, followed by a sing-song in the Bengal Spice, in Deddington's very first Curry-oke!

There's 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 and make sure you join us for Deddington's community event of the year.

If you would like to be involved or help out on the day, please email us at [deddingtonfestival@btinternet.com](mailto:deddingtonfestival@btinternet.com). See you there!



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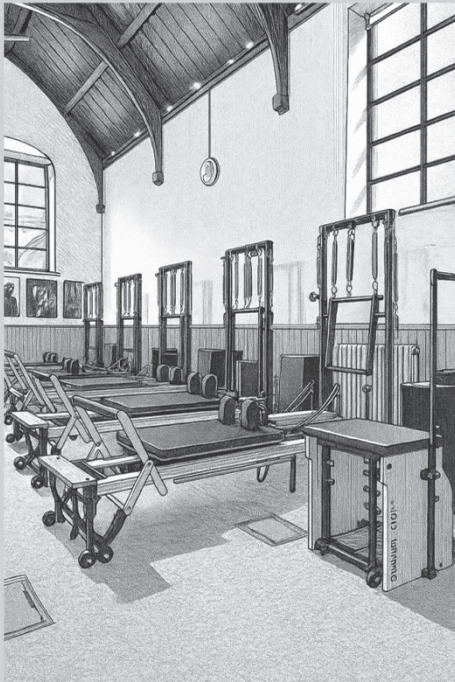
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 Oxford, The Manor (Private) 01865 307777  
 Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre 0300 304 7777  
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 NHS Non emergency 111  
 PARISH CLERK 01869 337447  
 (Monday 9.00am–1.00pm, Wednesday 9.00–5.00pm,  
 Thursday 9.00–12.30pm)  
 POLICE (non-emergency, 24 hrs) 101  
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 WARRINER SCHOOL, Bloxham 07720 834006  
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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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