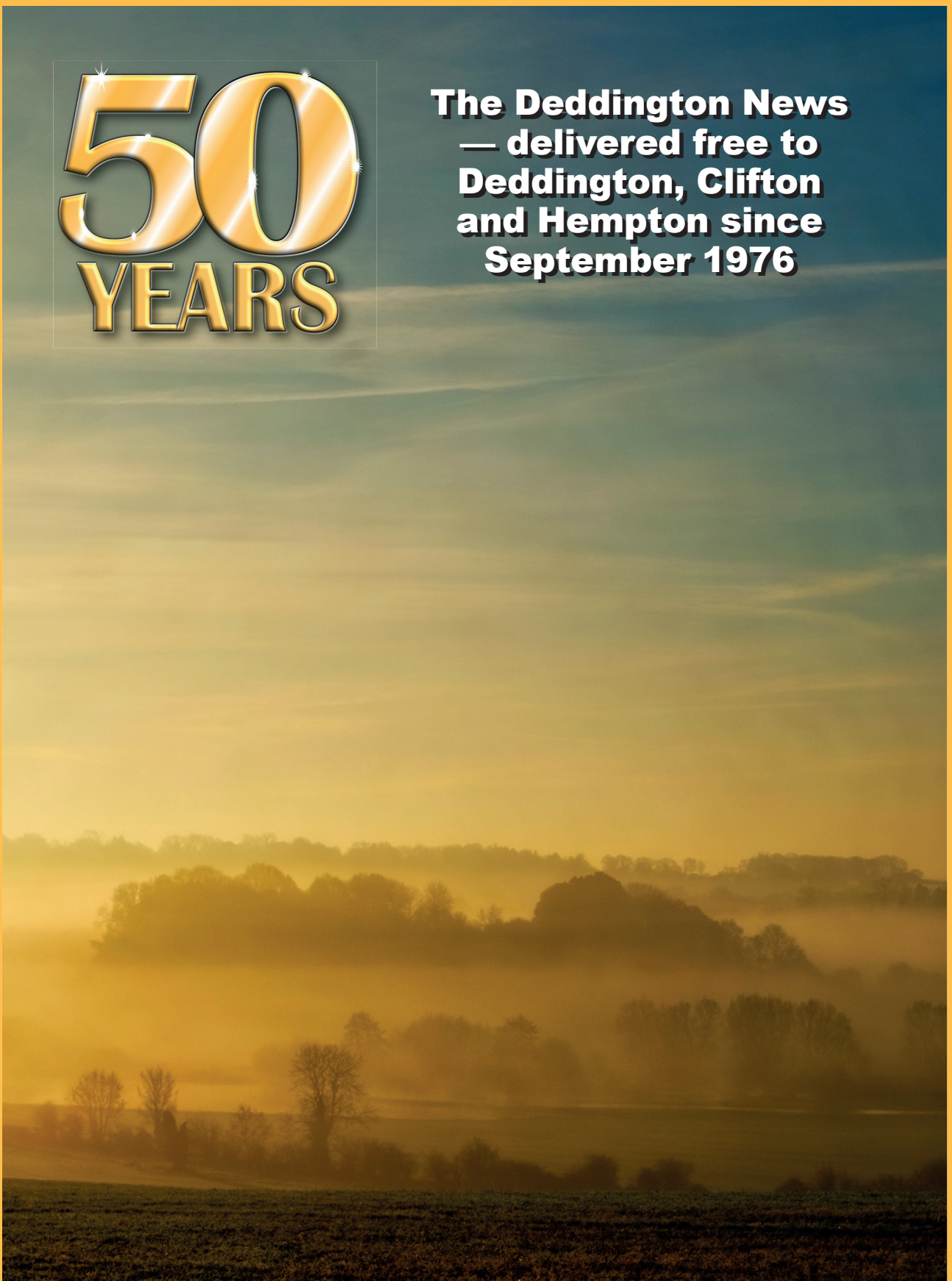


September 2026

The DEDDINGTON NEWS

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THE TEAM

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by **12 SEPTEMBER**

Advertising copy
by **10 SEPTEMBER**

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Find out more

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

The DEDDINGTON NEWS

I feel lucky to have been in Deddington in 1975 when Gerard Sullivan, chairman of the Deddington Hall Management Committee (not the current Windmill MC), proposed to Mary Robinson and me that we start a village or parish magazine. Mary had a background in desktop publishing and I was a reasonably competent secretary. We reviewed a few local magazines and decided that A4 was the size to go for. It was a scratchy start with some being highly sceptical about the need for it (including me) and limited income from advertisers who were prepared to give it a go.

Some parish councillors were deeply suspicious, not least following the first issue. However, they supported the *DN* to the tune of £4 per month for the first three months. Our report of the PC meeting following that first issue, records that complaints that it was a waste of ratepayers' money and some businesses hadn't been asked to advertise. There was a demand that *DN* copy should be vetted by the PC before publication. Happily, the PC now positively welcomes me to their meetings.

Fortunately, these initial hurdles were jumped and the *DN* became self-sufficient, with funding from advertisers. There have been hitches along the way when income did not cover our expenditure but, mainly, this has been an occasional blip on the horizon.

Along the way we have had only thirteen other editors: I returned to the hot seat in 2008. Undoubtedly, it's becoming time for someone – or some two – to take over the reins if the parish wants the *News* to continue.

JC

What's On September

- Wed 2 Photographic Society: Hints and Tips on Wildlife Photography, Jason Parry-Wilson, Adderbury Institute, 7.30pm
- Sat 5 Parish Show: Deddington Church, 2.00pm
- Mon 7 Local Vocals: new term starts, Primary School, 7.30pm
- Wed 9 Women's Institute: The Miracle of Bletchley Park, Gillian Cane, Holly Tree Hall, 2.30pm
- Thu 10 People Planet Pint: George Inn, Barford, 7.00–10.30pm
- Sat 12 Ride and Stride between neighbouring churches: 10.00am–5.00pm
- Fri 11 DOGS: The Cotswold, Chipping Norton and barbecue at Deddington
- Wed 16 Parish Council: Hempton Lounge, Windmill Centre, 7.30pm
- Thu 24 Book Group: call Sally Lambert, 01869 338094 for details
- Fri 25 Community Lunch Club: Windmill Centre, 12.30pm
- Sat 26 Farmers' Market: Market Place, 9.00am–12.30pm
- Sat 26 Craft Market: Deddington Church, 9.00am–12.30pm
- Sat 26 Quiz Night: Windmill Centre, 7.30pm

October

- Sat 3 Deddington Wine Festival: Windmill Centre, 7.00pm
- Wed 7 Photographic Society: Adderbury Institute, 7.30pm
- Thu 8 History Society: The Romans of Oxfordshire, Marie-Louise Kerr, Primary School, 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.

The DN always seeks copyright permission where appropriate. Material is proof read. The editors seek to ensure the material is not scurrilous, offensive or otherwise unacceptable to the public at large. The DN team reserves the right to refuse any material on this basis.

DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting held on 15 July at the Windmill

Present: Cox, Gillham, Mobbs, Oldfield, O'Neill, Robinson (chair), Rogers (District), Timms, parish clerk, two members of the public and the *DN* correspondent.

10 Minute Forum

A resident requested space for a Muslim burial at the Hempton Road cemetery for an immediate relative and non-resident. The cemetery is consecrated land but this does not exclude other faiths. The south-east area of the cemetery was under discussion by the PC and would need clearing of weeds. There has been a recent precedent of a non-resident having been interred there. It was agreed that future graveyard space should be considered in a new Neighbourhood Plan.

OCC suddenly proposed that six new electric vehicle (EV) charging points be installed in the Bull Ring. The PC was not aware that this proposal was going to be made and a consultation launched, with a closing date of 8 August. Some complaints were received about the loss of regular car parking spaces in the Market Place if the installation goes ahead. The PC was generally in favour but a site meeting will be held with OCC and questions raised.

Planning

No objection

RC Spencer, Hempton Road, Deddington: demolish existing building and erection of new office and storage building with landscaping.

Nellie & Dove, The Tchure, Deddington: installation of replacement non-illuminated signage.

Foxgloves, Hopcraft Lane, Deddington: tree works.

Deddington Parish Church: tree works.

Orchard View, St Thomas Street, Deddington: retrospective for single storey conservatory.

13 Hempton Road, Deddington: two storey rear extension and new porch to the front.

There were no other matters discussed at this abbreviated PC meeting as it fell on the same evening as the doomed FIFA World Cup semi-final, hence several absentee parish councillors. The remainder of the agenda was rolled over to the next meeting to be held on Wednesday 19 August at 7.30pm at the Windmill Centre.

Meeting held on 19 August at the Windmill

Present: Councillors ap Simon, Cox, Mobbs, Oldfield, O'Neill, Robinson (chair), Stapley, Swadling, Timms, Watts, County Councillor Epps, the parish clerk and *DN* representative.

Finance & General Purposes

Funding is not currently available from OCC for supervision of the Remembrance Day parade. It was agreed to refer to the RBL chairman and that the PC should fund it, not least considering the monies it received from the sale of the old RBL building.

Additional signatories are to be added to the bank accounts for security in the case of absence or illness. Satin Lane allotment rents are to be decided at the September meeting.

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

Distribution of the PC newsletter was difficult this year. It was agreed the Scouts might be asked to do it or it could be produced on a double sided A4 to be folded and inserted in the *DN*. A decision will be made at the time of sending another newsletter next year.

Planning permission will be sought to erect a 5G phone mast at the Windmill.

Planning

No objection

Oak Tree House, Fardon Way, Deddington: retrospective, additional windows and raised boundary wall.

Large Scale Development

A meeting was held with the new owners of the Deddington Estate which includes Satin Lane Allotments. They are potentially interested in some development in Deddington but have no plans for the allotment area. The PC noted extreme disappointment at OCC's supportive stance of the application for the large rail freight terminal (OxSRFI) and have written again in objection, particularly considering the cumulative effect of several significant proposed developments in close proximity. The PC's comments are supported by CC Epps.

There have been adjustments to the Puy du Fou application but it remains a huge theme park. The PC agreed to send a further letter of objection.

The PC has been advised that Deddington Neighbourhood Plan is not affected by CDC's current planning status. A meeting will be arranged in September with a view to updating it for the future.

OCC will not adopt the roads on the new development north of the fire station without payment of a significant sum of money. No reply has been received from CDC on adopting the play area.

County Council

Discussions are ongoing regarding work agreed on Fardon Way by the new owners and not yet completed.

Environment & Recreation

The RoSPA inspection was generally good without major issues although some safety concerns have been raised by residents. Advice is to be sought on the continued involvement of Creative Play.

A Muslim burial has now taken place at the Hempton Road cemetery and DPC has been warmly thanked by the family.

Ramps and jumps at the Windmill are being removed. The dangers of these were also pointed by the RoSPA inspector.

Highways

EV charging points in the Bull Ring are to go ahead. There has been recent speeding enforcement carried out on Clifton Road.

Next meeting to be held on 16 September at 7.30pm at the Windmill.

Would you know how to use the CPR equipment around the parish in an emergency? Free CPR training is available. Please contact the parish clerk for further information: clerk@deddington-pc.gov.uk.



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DH History Corner

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As gardeners prepare their produce for the annual Parish Show, it is interesting to reflect on earlier years of the original Horticultural Society (est 1837). David French's research into *Jackson's Oxford Journals* includes a series of annual reports on them between 1850 and 1859. The 1858 show was a highlight as the following extract (newspaper quotes in italics) from David's article tell us:

'The 1858 show was a joint celebration of the 21st anniversary of the Horticultural Society and the first anniversary of the Buccleuch Archery Club, Adderbury (Hon Secretary, Mr CD Faulkner (31)). The Great Western Railway Company *in the most handsome manner*, advertised special return fares to Aynho station. The preceding week, the *Banbury Guardian* was anticipating one of the largest and most fashionable gatherings which this town has witnessed for some years. The great aim of the Society was especially to create in the minds of the labouring population that spirit of rivalry, in the cultivation of their gardens, which is so conducive to their happiness, by drawing them insensibly from idle pursuits. When show day arrived the quiet town of Deddington presented a very cheerful and animated appearance. The 1858 show was the largest the Society had held, attracting nearly 1,000 visitors to Castle Grounds. Entertainment was provided by the Band of the Oxfordshire Militia. The archery competition was highly successful. *Nearly all the ladies were in appropriate uniform, consisting of*

a white muslin dress, green jacket, and white felt hat trimmed with green velvet and green feathers. This costume had a very graceful appearance, and when the fair competitors were in the attitude of shooting, it displayed their figures to great advantage, and as they proceeded to and from their targets, they looked quite bewitching, and formed a striking contrast to the gentlemen, not two of whom were dressed alike, and several sported the very extreme of undress. The Oxford Journal report continued, all the interest appeared to be concentrated in the ladies, who not only dressed much better, but shot much better. Miss Caparn, of this town, far out-shot her fair competitors, her arrows, at almost every flight, hitting not merely the target, but the bull's eye, with a precision worthy of Maid Marian. The Oxford Journal's correspondent concluded his report with the following gratuitous observation: It was a source of congratulation that the horticultural shows are no longer held in the Town Hall, which now has more the appearance of a cow shed, and looked extremely ugly, dilapidated, and insecure. It would indeed have been a matter of regret if so much loveliness in flowers, fruits, and last, though not least, the gentler sex, had been driven, as on many former occasions, to waste their sweetness in such an uncongenial shed.

The Oxford Journal correspondent clearly had a good sense of humour, although one wonders if the reference to the attractive figures of the lady archers was not, perhaps, a little risqué for the times.'

The full article is on the History home page.

Rob Forsyth

robert.s.forsyth@gmail.com

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Four Generations of Johnsons of Deddington

Our first advert appeared in the *Deddington News* in 1977. One of the pleasures of advertising in the magazine over many years is that people still come into the yard and say, 'I never knew you were here!' Considering Johnsons of Deddington has been trading since 1937, we still hear that remarkably often. Perhaps it is because our entrance is a little discreet. Perhaps it is because people assume we only sell timber and building materials or that we deal solely with the trade. Whatever the reason, we still enjoy meeting local residents who discover us for the first time, especially those who have lived in the village for years.

Johnsons began trading nearly ninety years ago and remains under the ownership and management of the same family, now into its fourth generation. In a world where businesses often come and go, we are proud to have remained independent, local, and family-run throughout changing times, changing fashions, changing governments and more than a few economic ups and downs. During that time the business has seen everything from a large fire in the yard during the Second World War to the disruption of Covid and, fortunately, Johnsons survived both.

Other than perhaps some of the farms, Johnsons may well now be one of the longest continually family-run businesses in the parish, although we suspect there may be one or two local families willing to challenge that claim.

Over the decades we have seen Deddington and the parish evolve enormously. New homes have appeared, old buildings restored, extensions added, gardens redesigned and countless DIY projects started with confidence and sometimes even completed on budget. Throughout all of that, we have tried to remain what we have always been: a dependable local merchant where people can buy anything from a few screws to the materials for an entire building project.

One customer may come in for a packet of batteries because the Co-op has sold out. Another might need drain unblocker, a paint brush or bag of sand. Meanwhile, someone else is planning a major renovation and orders enough timber and insulation to keep them busy for months. Then there is the last minute Friday afternoon rush when snow or heavy rain is forecast and suddenly residents urgently need rock salt or sandbags.

Many first time visitors are surprised by the size of the yard and the range of products we stock. From the road, we can appear deceptively modest. Once

through the entrance people often discover far more than they expected — timber, hardware, decorating materials, tools, fixings, household essentials and plenty besides.

We have always believed there is real value in having a local business where customers can walk in, explain what they are trying to achieve and speak to someone with practical knowledge and experience. Sometimes people know exactly what they need.

Sometimes they arrive with a vague description involving 'a thingy that goes behind another thingy'. We understand 'thingy'.

Being part of a village community also means that business is about far more than transactions. Over the years we have got to know generations of local families. Some customers first came to Johnsons with their parents and now visit with their own children. Others pop in regularly, not only for materials, but also for a quick chat and a catch-up on local gossip. That sense of continuity matters.

As Deddington continues to grow, with new housing and new residents arriving all the time, we remain grateful for the support the local community has shown us over many decades. Advertising in the parish magazine has always been part of maintaining that connection. People often assume advertising is simply about attracting new business

but for us it is equally about staying visible and reminding local residents that we are here when they need us. Villages change over time. New families move in, others move away and even long-standing residents can be surprised to discover what is tucked away behind our entrance.

The *Deddington News* reaches exactly the sort of audience we value most: local people. Some readers may only need us once a year for WD40, mousetraps or a replacement gate hinge. Others may be planning a major renovation or garden project or even needing plywood for their YouTube projects.

It is also our way of supporting a publication that helps keep local organisations, events and village life connected. Local businesses and community publications have always depended on one another to some extent and we are pleased to continue playing a small part in that tradition.

Of course, we still smile when someone walks in and says, 'I never knew you were here.' After nearly ninety years, we suspect we may still be hearing that for some time.

Paul Johnson



The remains of Johnsons yard after the fire in 1941

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CHURCH

Parish Church SS Peter and Paul

Welcome back after the hot summer break! However you have spent it, we hope you had a chance to rest. We have lots going on for you this month, starting with the Parish Show on Saturday 5 September in church (get your entries ready). On Sunday 6 September, our all-age family communion service returns in the morning, whilst at 6.00pm that day, we welcome our amazing choir back after their break for Sung Evensong; neither are to be missed. Then we head into full-on Harvest Festival season, with harvest services on 20 September at both Hempton and Deddington. In Barford St Michael, the harvest service is on the 27th at 10.30am. What a great start autumn is getting off to. Please come and join us at any or all of our services – the warmest welcome awaits you.

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

September

Mon	8.45am Morning Prayer
Tue	8.15am Morning Prayer
Wed	10.00am Holy Communion (with healing prayer on 4th Wednesday)
Thu	9.30am Tea + Toast and Squiggles and Wiggles (term time)
Fri	8.45am Morning Prayer 5.15 pm Evening Prayer
Sun 6	10.30am Family Communion (breakfast and crafts from 9.45am) 6.00pm Sung Evensong
Sun 13	10.30am Holy Communion
Sun 20	10.30am Harvest Festival with Holy Communion
Sun 27	10.30am Holy Communion

Hempton

Sun 20	9.00am Harvest Festival with Holy Communion
--------	---

Barford St Michael

Wed	5.15pm Evening Prayer
Sun 6	10.30am Coffee and Chat
Sun 20	10.30am Family Service
Sun 27	10.30am Harvest Festival with Holy Communion

Barford St John

Sun 13	9.00am Holy Communion
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From the Parish Registers

Weddings

4 July	Emily Blackburn and Samuel Best
8 August	Anna Cowley and Hang
15 August	Catherine Elvidge and Jay Boose

Funerals:

21 June	Bernard and Verna Lane (interment of ashes)
21 July	Raymond Murrey

For funeral and home visits in case of illness please contact the Vicar, Nick Fielden on 01869 934794 or vicar@deddingtonchurch.org, or one of the Church Wardens – Deddington: Caroline Condon (07821 259092) or wardens@deddingtonchurch.org; Barfords: Sue Addison (07484 718791), Sally Barber (07776 241218) or barfordchurches234@gmail.com.

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



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READING THE RUNES

Will there be a *Deddington News* popping through village letter-boxes in September 2026? You could take a look into your crystal ball or you could ask Google AI. A 'Yes', though, is down to you, yes you, and to our advertisers — climate willing.

You, because we need an audience which touches on changing social mores where the instant gratification of scrolling and streaming are increasingly preferred to turning pages of books, magazines or newspapers. Will there still be a community-minded, literate audience for reading printed words in the future?

Much more crucial is where the volunteers will come from. This does not mean just those editing, dealing with advertisers and advertisements, handling administration and finance, and delivering the *Deddington News*. It also means contributors, those who take the time to sit down and write about what is of interest to readers and what is going on in our community. There are fewer willing to do that than even ten years ago. The search for people to give their time and talents freely is a growing problem, not just for us. The pages of the *Deddington News* regularly carry pleas for volunteers. The parish council, Cubs, Brownies, farmers' market, Deddington Town FC Youth, for example, are constantly asking for hands to fill gaps.

As new homes are added to the parish or people move to the area, the editors regularly receive encouraging and enthusiastic comments from newcomers about how they value the magazine. The pattern of messages suggests that people of 35 and over are those who really appreciate the community value of the *Deddington News*. But those kind words rarely convert into the volunteers we need to keep us going. If we can find them, then there could be a future for the magazine.

Which brings us back to the advertisers. During Covid, when *Deddington News* appeared online only, the message from advertisers was clear: we want the printed word, not an ephemeral appearance online on

Facebook, Instagram or even Deddington OnLine.

The *Deddington News* is not dependent on cover sales, unlike newspapers and magazines which have seen a drastic drop in sales. The *Oxford Mail*, for instance, sold 16,000-plus sales in 2013 but now sells fewer than 4,000. *The Daily Express*, selling more than four million at its peak, now sells just over a hundred thousand. *Reader's Digest* and *The Lady* magazines have vanished from British magazine racks. Instead the *Deddington News* is funded totally by advertising, allowing free delivery to Deddington, Hempton and Clifton. As long as those who advertise prefer the longer lasting impact of print to that found by fingers scrolling across a screen — and are willing to help pay for the increasing costs of ink and paper — then, as long as we can find the volunteers, there may be a future for those who appreciate the value of a community magazine and want more than a totally digital diet.

Costs are going up. Paper and ink are forecast to rise over the next year by anything between 4% and 12%, reflecting global uncertainties over energy, transport and other costs, thanks to an unpredictable United States.

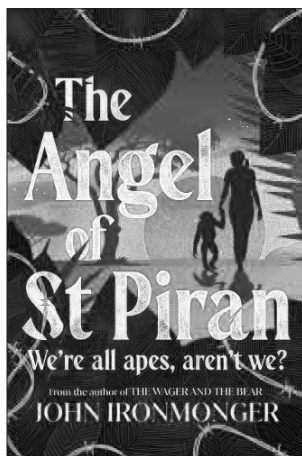
The *Deddington News*, as part of Deddington Media Community Interest Company, also funds Deddington OnLine and so faces increasing costs for web hosting and other internet services for this important and fascinating archive of material, historic and contemporary, photographic and written. Should the *Deddington News* die then it could only be a matter of time before Deddington OnLine degraded and disappeared.

The community that is Deddington, Hempton and Clifton would be the poorer without the *Deddington News* and Deddington OnLine, the sister service it supports financially. What is absolutely key to their survival is the human input. That is you, the reader, who could also be part of bringing the *Deddington News* to the community.

John Price

BOOK REVIEW

The Angel of St Piran by John Ironmonger



When does conservation mask animal exploitation? That question is at the heart of this thrilling novel, set in Tanzania. Young researcher, Angel, who lives among wild chimpanzees on a forested island, must fight for the animals' survival and her own against an organisation that provides wealthy hunters with opportunities to kill.

Many of us, revolted by images of hunters posing

proudly with their victims, are familiar with the argument that controlled trophy hunting can benefit wild animal populations and habitats. There's no doubting which side John Ironmonger is on; readers will be rooting for Angel and her chimpanzee companions against the pitiless invaders as the situation becomes ever more dangerous. Partly inspired by the work of the great Jane Goodall, the novel explores animal communication and how much we can learn from wild creatures when we're willing to listen. This was my introduction to an author with a thorough knowledge and passionate feeling for animal issues; I'm now eager to read his earlier novel, *The Wager and the Bear*.

Linda Newbery
is Patron of Deddington Library

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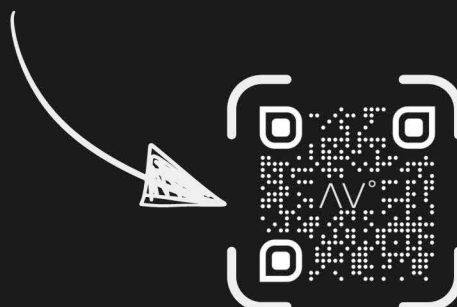


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DRIVING UKRAINE

Since 2022, Driving Ukraine has provided hundreds of vehicles, dozens of unmanned ground vehicles (UGVs), many drone detectors and tonnes of aid: 61 convoys. More than 800 volunteers from over 30 countries have fundraised, driven and delivered vehicles to Ukraine, for frontline heroes to be there for that crucial moment to save lives. This support has changed the course of history. On several occasions our vehicles have helped hold sections of the frontline from being broken through, so that many Ukrainian defenders have been evacuated in our vehicles and survived, incoming drones have been brought down with our air defence vehicles, saving civilian lives. Thanks to our supporters, people came back to their families.

The war is still going on. To keep helping, we need to become systematic. So, we've created the Driving Ukraine Club. It's a monthly donation from £10 per month. You get access to the Club community chat where we share all our work and impact from across Ukraine, deeper and in real time and a monthly newsletter on everything we do. We can't end the war but we can help make sure Ukrainian defenders and civilians survive, whilst letting you know exactly the impact you are making. Your monthly support will go towards making every convoy possible, helping fund planning and coordination, logistics and operations and support the team behind every delivery, plus funding the vehicles, UGVs, and drone detectors. You won't just be funding one vehicle, you will make every vehicle delivery happen. See <https://drivingukraine.org/club/>.

To join a convoy, you don't need an HGV licence, a military background or a huge personal network. You just need five days, a sense of adventure, with age no barrier. Convoy 63 which left on 27 August included Mike O'Brien, John Parkinson and Pete Soddy. They call themselves Team 240 – their combined ages.

Convoy 58, our biggest ever – 26 vehicles, 70 volunteers, UGVs, drone detectors, seven countries, four days on the road and a classic Rolls Royce, took to the road on an unforgettable journey from Oxford to Lviv. Due to other world issues and in order to reignite interest and awareness of the war in Ukraine, YouTube motoring correspondent, Jay Emm of JayEmmOnCars, was asked to cover convoy 58. Jay drove the Rolls Royce to raise the profile of the event, spreading the word amongst his YouTube audience. Search YouTube 'We Just Drove a 1963 300,000 mile Rolls Royce Silver Cloud to Ukraine JayEmm on Cars'. An unexpected journey and a truly amazing and moving video.

A final word from Maksym Stodolia, Head of Ukrainian Operations, DrivingUkraine: 'Hey friends, I remember how the war started and how all of us Ukrainians had this feeling that we would be left alone with this problem, that the world would forget about us, that we would disappear and that we would lose our fight for our place in the sun. But from the very first days of the war, I saw dozens, then hundreds of people like you who gave their time to come to help us directly.

We started as a small organisation of people who simply cared. I can say with confidence that, for the Ukrainian military and for Ukrainians, Driving Ukraine has become an institution that individual units rely on. Thanks to you, hundreds of young Ukrainian men have made it back home alive. You, more than anyone, have proven that every single person can make a difference. Together, we continue to make a real difference in what is happening here. I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for standing with us.'

Jenny Soddy 07976 922558

IS THERE ANYBODY THERE?

We are still hoping to find a new annual advertising manager. It's not onerous and doesn't involve selling. Amazingly, our advertisers come to us. It's essentially an admin job, communicating with our advertisers and nudging them to produce their copy. Please speak to me for further information. **JC**

ROAD CLOSURE

Hudson Street, Deddington, to facilitate water main works. Starting on 7 September with an anticipated completion date of 9 September, 24 hours per day.



COUNTRY LAWNS

AND GARDENS

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The hot, dry weather has taken its toll on lawns across Deddington and surrounding villages, leaving many thin, stressed and full of weeds. Country Lawns is a local, independent business which provides professional lawn care treatments tailored to your lawn, helping restore its health, colour and condition.

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SO WHOSE CHURCH IS IT?

Once upon a time long ago, the parish church of St Peter and St Paul in Deddington had a spire, like most of the surrounding village churches.

Until one day in 1634 it, together with part of the tower, crashed through the roof of the nave, leaving the villagers without the space in which they worshipped every Sunday, as people did in those days, and where they were baptised, married and buried. Deprived of their communal space what did they do? They cautiously decided not to risk another spire but, over the next 50 years, interrupted by the Civil War, they restored the sturdy tower, embellished it with its signature eight pinnacles and reroofed the nave.

I say 'they' restored it. Who were 'they'? 'They' were all the residents of Clifton, Deddington and Hempton who made up the parish of Deddington and whose forebears had built the original church for their use. The whole of England was, and continues to be, divided into parishes so every single person belonged to one parish or another and, therefore, bore part of the communal responsibility for the church, not only the building but also its operation, including hiring the vicar.

2026: the tower still stands and the roof is intact, thanks to Phillip Allan's fundraising drive of some 30 years ago. However, the 35-year-old heating system, a luxury undreamed of by the hardy villagers of the 17th century, but critical for less hardy 21st century residents, has reached the end of its life and can no longer be repaired. An unheated church would leave the community, as in 1634, without its lovely light and airy central village space, of recent years significantly updated with modern kitchen and loos. Not only will worshippers lose out but so will the audience for everything from the wide range of concerts, the variety of groups from the free Squiggles and Wiggles for pre-schoolers to the weekly Katharine House coffee mornings, the monthly craft market, music practice space – and so on.

So, who will solve the problem this time? 'They' will, of course. And who are 'they'? We have come to think of the church building as the responsibility of the active congregation and, by extension, of 'the Church', vaguely assumed to be some wealthy organisation, owning lots of lovely cathedrals etc. In reality the average regular congregation in Deddington is now fewer than 60 and the 'wealth' of the wider Church of England lies largely in its physical assets, ie its buildings – similar to farmers whose wealth lies in the value of their land and equipment, not in any liquid funds. While the Church has overhead costs, unlike a business it does not sell any revenue-making product to meet its ongoing obligations. Its heritage income, generated over time by the sale of ancient church lands and huge vicarages, can only meet approximately 20% of its annual running costs.*Included in these costs are specific grants for building repair but, for local churches, it is solely down to the parishioners to continue, as they have for centuries past, to pay for the regular

upkeep of the building and its running costs, as well as the stipend and the housing of the vicar, who is there to support all residents, regardless of any faith or none. The active congregation, who are a fraction of the population, valiantly soldiers on to meet its responsibilities.

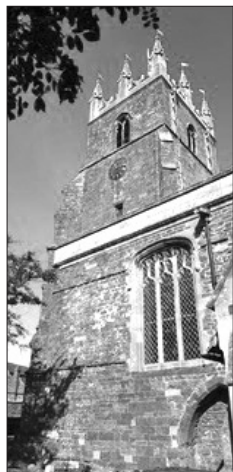
Which brings us to the other 'parishioners': everyone else living in Clifton, Deddington and Hempton (and Barford?) who values the church building in ways other than as a place to worship: perhaps as the backdrop to our trip to the Co-op checking the clock or noting it striking the hour; attending the annual school leavers' service; picking up food from the porch on a Tuesday or Thursday to avoid it going to waste; attending one of the varied concerts, from jazz to chamber music; enjoying the parish show, the Photographic Society's annual exhibition, Nellie and Dove's

charity fashion show; or even as a subliminal reminder of our forebears who built the communities in which we live. Unlike them, the majority of us do not use the church for worship but, in a secular age, nevertheless value the building for so many different communal purposes and need to share responsibility for it.

If we are to continue enjoying year-round use of this great space in the centre of the village, we urgently need to replace the unreliable 35-year-old heating system for which parts are no longer available. The simplest way of helping is by donating to the Friends of Deddington Church, Registered Charity No. 1197482, at <https://www.friendsofdeddingtonchurch.org/contact--donate.html>.

*<https://www.churchofengland.org/media/finance-news/church-commissioners-england-endowment-fund-delivers-8-return-2025>

Catherine Desmond
catmdesmond@gmail.com



PARISH SHOW – FINAL CALL

It's the final call for flights of fancy at this year's Parish Show. Remember: entries must be in by 2 September.

Horticulturally, it may be a challenging year given the unprecedented weather conditions, but there are still plenty of opportunities to get involved. Why not enter your best cookery, flowers, art, crafts, limericks, pork pies or photography? Following a cracking liaison with headteacher Clive, we're especially looking forward to seeing the children's entries. As always, bottles and cakes will be hugely appreciated. Please drop in to any committee member below.

Once again, our local businesses have come up trumps with some very generous raffle prizes, so there will be plenty to enjoy.

Come and make the most of this special community day on Saturday 5 September. Relax over an afternoon tea and the sounds of our own brass band.

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



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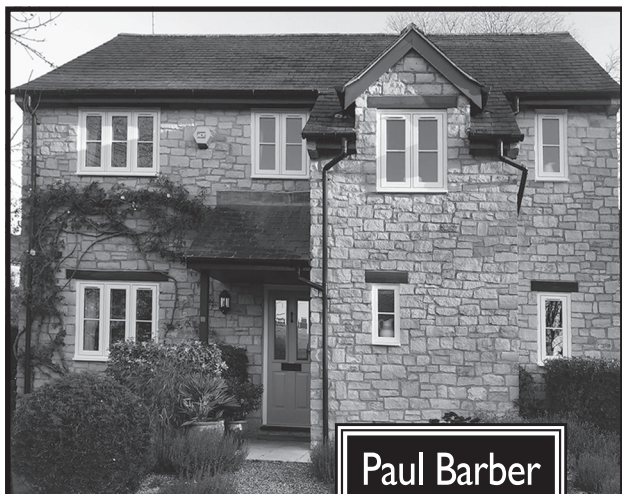
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1977: Finds during a dig at the Castle grounds and a mix-up over mugs for the Queen's Silver Jubilee were topics as The Deddington News reached its first birthday.



1980: The King's Arms, now Deddington Arms, reconstructed as it used to look by Margaret Gilbert. Jill Cheeseman stands down as editor. Jane Rose takes over.

50 YEARS OF FRONT PAGES

September 1976 and The Deddington News

dropped through the letterboxes of homes in Deddington, Hempton and Clifton for the first time. The cover — the parish church's silhouette — was produced by Rob Sansome. Mary Robinson edited and present editor Jill Cheeseman typed the words on to Roneo or Gestetner stencils. Litter in the parish and mistrust of politicians were among topics that filled its pages.

■ Front covers from each September



1978: An ink drawing of Leadenporch House by Ted Robinson made the front with a brief history inside. Horse riding in The Daedings caused concern.



1979: Cover by village pupil Richard Johnson, an issue that reported the school's production of excerpts from Lionel Bart's *Oliver!* and the great aphid invasion.



1981: Jacquie Terry's cover was of the 12th century private chapel in Castle House, then home of the Bouverie family. The room is only about 8ft by 10ft.



1982: Simon Clinch, 9, proved a dogged competition winner for the front cover. Inside much ado about complexities of buying the Windmill site.



1983: Irene Reynolds drew the cover. Readers could catch up with news of Brownies, Holly Tree Club, the WI, and a good neighbour scheme. The editor was Janet Clark.



1984: Wrecking a house in Market Square for BBC's *Blot On The Landscape*, with David Suchet, dominated. Editor Ralph Elsley. Cover by Ken Langatatt.



1985: Deddington Fire Service was calling for anyone 18-30 to volunteer. Deddington Ladies reported on their rainy Garden Party. Marianne Elsley edited.



1986: Belingers reported successfully raising £15,000 to restore the church bells. £1,500 provided by stall holders at Deddington's Grand Country Fair in July.



1987: The shock of a knock on the door at 4am over prowlers, reviews of open gardens, and reminiscences of life before World War I.

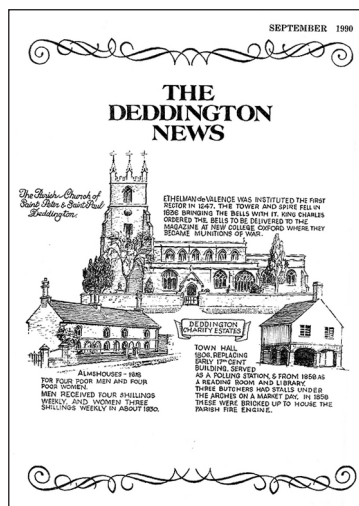


1988: Six electors forced a contentious parish meeting during which the parish council was criticised over the price for the sale of Windmill sports field.

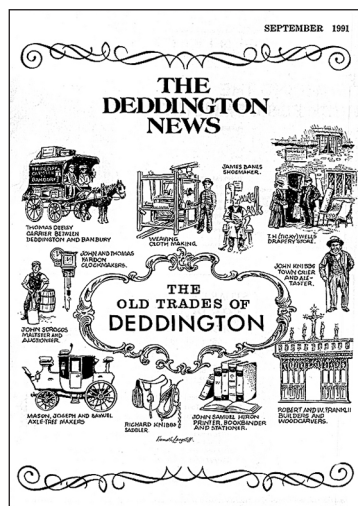


1989: A new deputy headteacher, Lynne Stephens, was welcomed. A handsome victory for the cricket club reported. Buffy Heywood delved into the life of Deddington 150 years earlier. Brownies, Guides and Scouts had stories of adventure. A busy letters column ranged

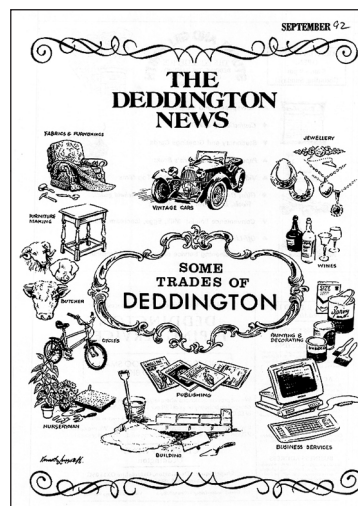
from rubbish skips to lack of a chess club. Ken Langatatt contributed distinctive covers for 16 years from 1984. A graphic artist known for being the illustrator of road safety squirrel Tufty, he retired to Deddington in 1982. He died in 2008, aged 90. Angela and Norman Stone edited.



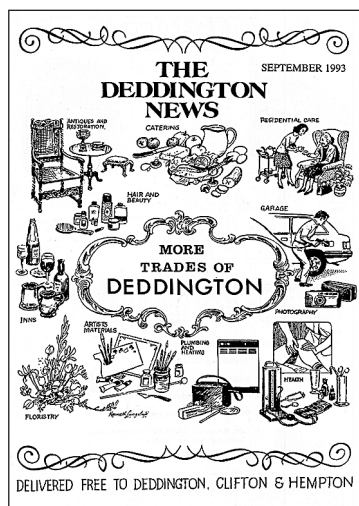
1990: Deddington Charity Estates dominated the front cover. In those days scams had the personal touch: police warned about a spate of bogus callers in the parish with the slogan: 'When in doubt, shut them out!'



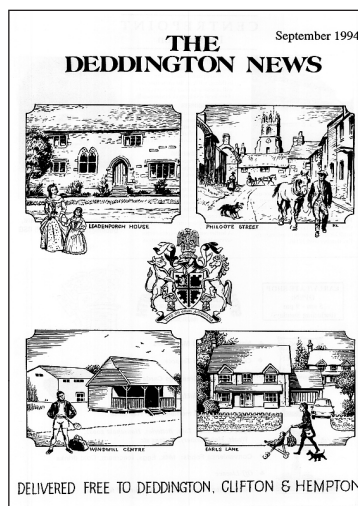
1991: Launch editor Mary Robinson returns with an editorial celebrating 15 years of The Deddington News and writes: 'Long may it survive!' The Guides enjoyed an evening stream-walking at Nether Worton.



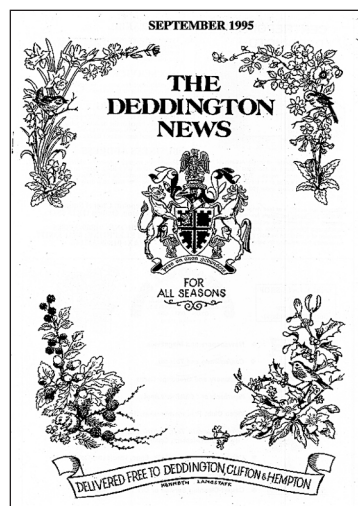
1992: 'Residents clearly show pride in the village and verges were of a high standard,' reported judges for Oxfordshire Best Kept Village contest. The WI offered a recipe for a fruit flan that it records will 'freezes well'.



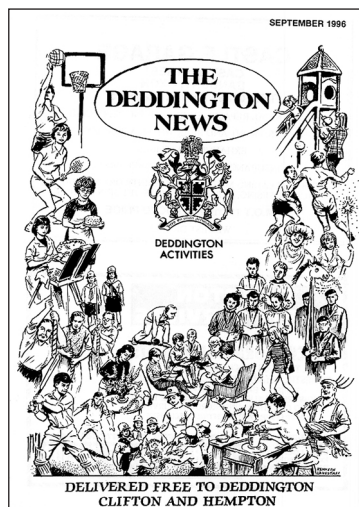
1993: Hempton welcomed 'our long-awaited footpath with great pleasure' but mourned loss of 'shop, pub and bus'. Local bobby PC Dave Keats congratulated on a long service medal after 22 years.



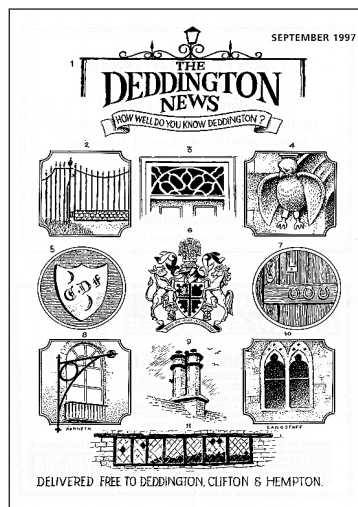
1994: Latest walk by Ralph Elsley took you to Paper Mill Cottages. Meanwhile Down On The Farm by Roger Nobbs started on Page 7. Sylvie Nickels now editor but Ken Langstaff carries on creating his distinctive covers.



1995: Deddington Youth Club announced a 'vigorous and dynamic committee is taking over'. Church launched an appeal for a new heating system. Hempton Road footpath got a seat with a view.



1996: Woodland Trust confirmed the acquisition of the Bloxham Bridge site for Daeda's Wood with a community planting day set for November. The DN marked its 20th year with a piece by founding editor Mary Robinson.



1997: The Brownies headed to Aylesbury county museum to a Roald Dahl exhibition. The church launched an appeal for funds to battle beetles and wet rot. Kristin Thompson took over the editorship.



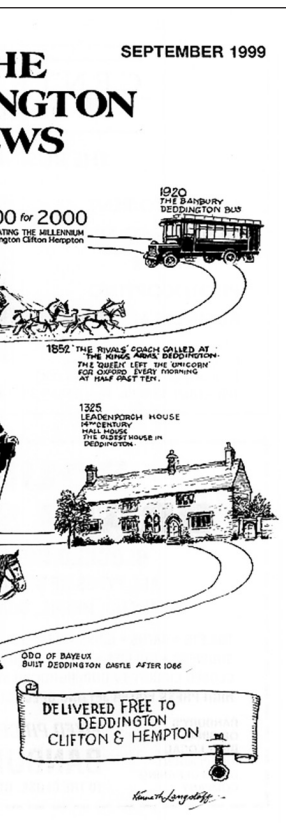
1998: Deddington was the large village runner-up in the Village In Bloom competition. More than 150 people attended open gardens in Hempton. In Clifton 'most of the population' turned out for a Fun Day at Welford's Piece.



1999: The parish council £13,000 for 30mph signs Clifton and Hempton. Kat mornings moved to St John's to repairs at St Peter and coming Millennium celebration.



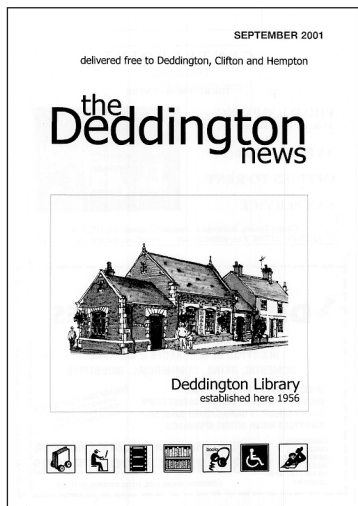
2000: Pupils performed a Man at the Apollo in Oxford. Club reported on season's Born and Bred in Deddington. 'Nearly' Parish Born and club Millennium video he



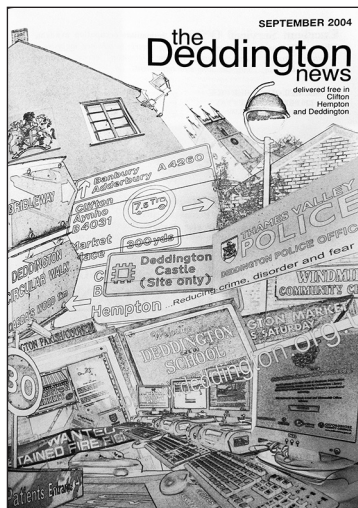
agreed to pay up to and 'sharks teeth' at Marine House coffee shop's in Hempton due to Paul's. Plans for the celebrations were highlighted.



musical Along Came Lord. Beeches Bowling Club's end. A debate over Deddington versus those of Bred was aired. A youth band led at the Windmill.



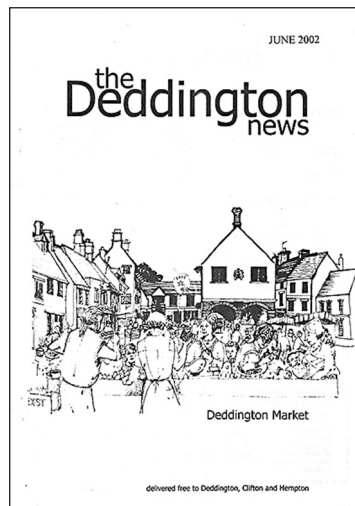
2001: A Village Market launched. Deddington wins Best Kept Village award. You could read a selection of poems from the DN's 25th birthday competition. The library was celebrated on a front cover by Maureen Dew.



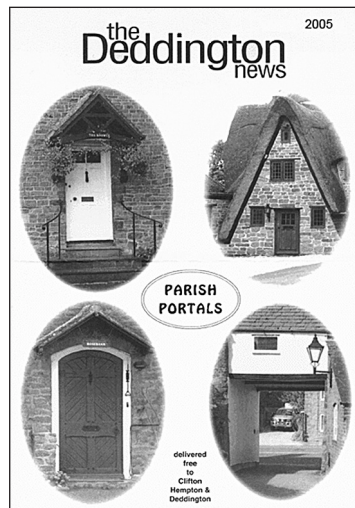
2004: Parking taskforce created. George Fenimore's On The Farm recorded rain hindering haymaking. Children's garage sale in Clifton raised £100 for charities. Montage cover from Colin Robinson.



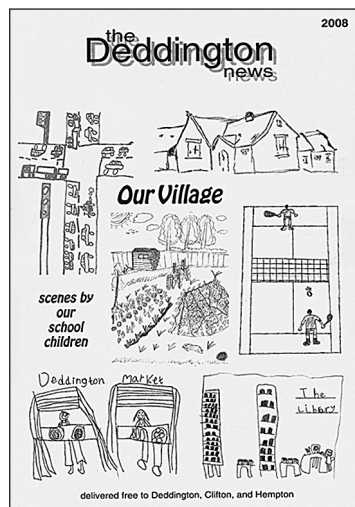
2007: Launch editor Mary Robinson back sharing the editor's chair with Jill Cheeseman, who also worked on the DN in the early years. Front cover by the primary school was 'Celebrating 1,000 years in Deddington'.



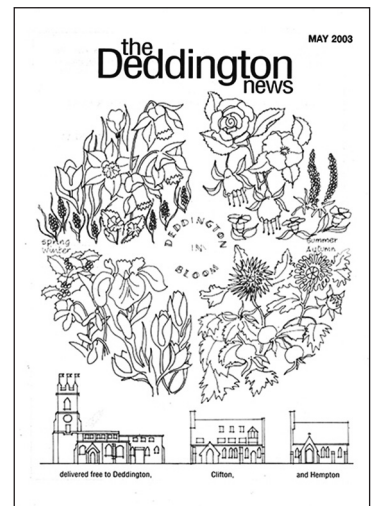
2002: Reported that Queen's Golden Jubilee events raised £5,800 for local causes. The farmers market celebrated its first anniversary. Pre-School mixed with Shire horses in Stratford. Christopher Hall edited.



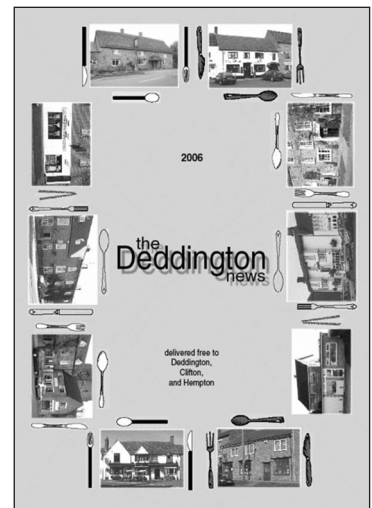
2005: Two pages full of reports from the 2005 Deddington Festival. Straw poll result on whether the Market Place and Bullring should be kept parking free for residents. John Cheney featured four entrances for the cover.



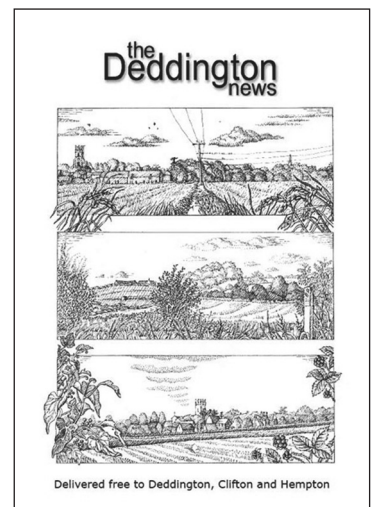
2008: Festival writing competition attracted more than 220 entries. A lesson in compost making. Flu clinics announced. Sixty species found by moth-hunters in Daeda's Wood. Cover by the primary school.



2003: Concerns raised about repeated vandalism at the Windmill. Volunteers have tutored more than 70 people at 'Computing in the Library' sessions. Cover by Bill Dickinson and Jo Mace celebrated Deddington in Bloom.



2006: Planning was the big issue over homes that were 'beyond the reach of people with local roots'. A who's who of parish councillors. Front featured a choice of ten places to eat in the parish.



2009: Hempton raised concerns about speeding traffic and flooding at the crossroads. The year-old Allotment Society reported its successes. A new dog bin for the Castle Grounds requested at a cost of £300.



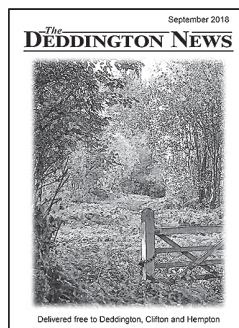
2010: Colin Robinson used the *Preo on an an gebundene* motto from Deddington's coat of arms for a startling front cover. The language is early English, not Latin, because there was a settlement here



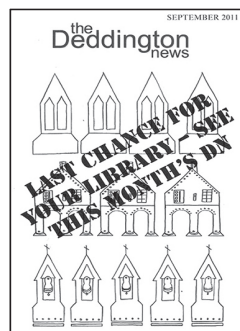
well before the Norman Conquest. It means 'three joined together in one', which refers to the three manors or the parish and probably also to the villages — Deddington, Clifton and Hempton.



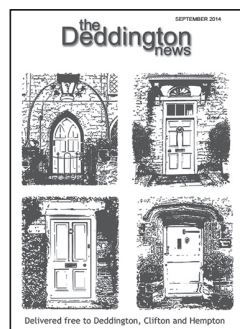
2017: The school sought new governors. The church took a full page to appeal for more funding. Four defibrillators were installed in the parish. Front by Martin Sealby.



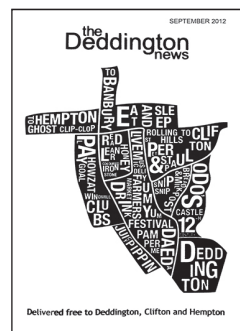
2018: Parish council consider a playing fields ban on dogs. Unpopular changes at the surgery pharmacy. Jane Wilson's cover featured Daeda's Wood.



2011: The campaign to Save Deddington Library was in full spate with Katrine Scott-Mitchell's cover emphasising how close the parish was to losing the facility.



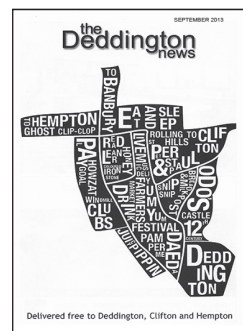
2014: Tennis club juniors proved victorious. The Neighbourhood Plan steering group questionnaire ready. A history of Hempton's Old School Room.



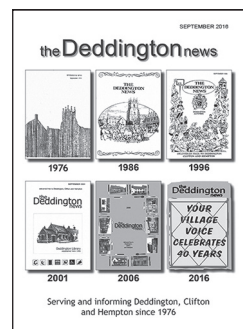
2012: Deddington News and Deddington OnLine joined forces as Deddington Media Community Interest Company (CIC). Cover by Mark Newnham.



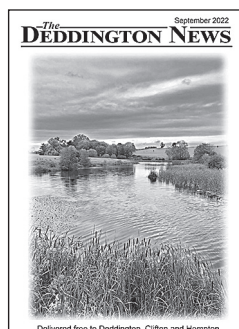
2015: A Green Goddess made an appearance. VJ Day commemoration reported. Krokodiloes said 'Thank you'. The bold graphic front by Jo Watt.



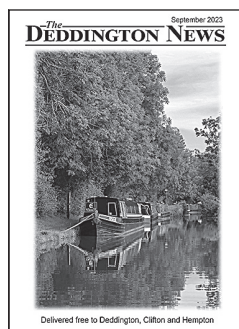
2013: Planning started on Festival 2014. The Book Club delivered a surprise verdict on Pride And Prejudice. Open Gardens raised £820.50. Catherine Desmond now co-editor.



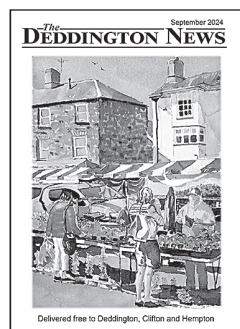
2016: The primary school produced the Andrew Lloyd Webber musical Cats. Fire station had a record 35 calls. Cover marked 40 years of the DN.



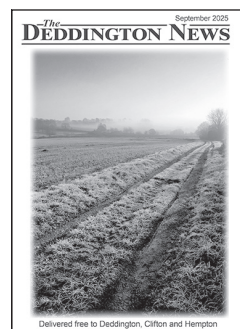
2022: Carbon footprints and home energy were to the fore. Bell tower open day. Places to visit featured on the covers, this of Compton Verney by Alison Day.



2023: Women take on the cricket pitch. Anne Hunsley's cover was one of a series this year from members of Adderbury, Deddington and District Photographic Society.



2024: A memorial to an unsung WWII hero. Clifton's court victories in its speeding battle. Farmers market is the latest cover in a series by Steve Waterman.



2025: Several groups cried out for volunteers. Hempton and the superfast Bentley. Stefan Wathan's latest cover captures the mellow month perfectly.

WANT MORE?
Why not visit Deddington OnLine — there you can find DN back copies, a fascinating history archive, glorious pictorial gallery of the area and much more. Jump in and explore deddington.org.uk

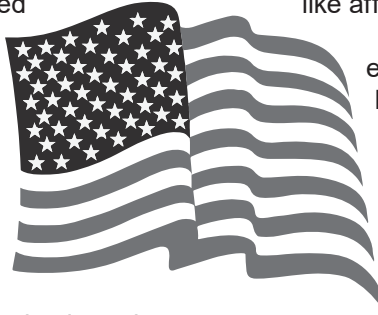
POSTCARD FROM AMERICA

Truth Social, Crypto, Election, World Cup, Fifty Years

I just received an email from a lovely English lady who commented that it all seemed quiet in the US right now. *The New York Times* says that Trump posted 12 times on his 'Truth' social feed last night, so I guess that means there is a lot going on in his head. I am trying to ignore it.

The level of corruption that this administration is involved in right now is beyond belief. Trump announced that he had made over \$600m from his crypto business but it seems that he didn't care that a million investors had lost a combined \$3.8bn in this scam. The latest Trump family money-making scheme has been to sell early access to his social feeds. For instance, at 6.00am two weeks ago, a post on Truth Social disclosed that a new tariff would affect a public company. When the markets opened the company's stock was down and those who had received the news early profited handsomely. This is insider trading and it is fraud in plain sight.

The biggest issue in the media in the US is not a war that Trump has said is over 38 times. We are back to America's favorite biennial spending spree. The current projected cost of the midterm elections in November is \$11bn. The good news about the World Cup being over is I can stop watching broadcast TV channels which are full of political ads. The current stage is called the primaries, a process whereby the parties in each state hold elections to decide who their candidate will be in the big event in November. This month's Democratic party primary to decide who will be their candidate for the Senate seat in Michigan cost \$60m. Who is pumping this money in, what are they expecting in return? Do these very rich donors



want what is best for the majority of the population, like affordable food and housing?

We will be visiting Europe when the election takes place on 3 November, but I will be astounded if Trump accepts the hammering his party is going to get. He is back spreading uncertainty about the integrity of the electoral system. Will he seize voting machines or will he send in his militia?

I know many people in the homeland boycotted the World Cup but, despite the ridiculous pricing and open corruption, I had to join in. Several of my neighbours watched football for the first time. It really did generate a good buzz across the country. We went to games in Boston and Miami and, despite the variable quality of the football, they were great trips. One of the joys of living in America is the diversity of the people. Boston has long term associations with England and Ireland, but in Miami the majority of the people speak Spanish. The welcome given to the different nations was excellent, we rowed with Norwegians and sang with Ghanaians. After all I did live in Ghana for nine months so I felt some love and comradeship for them. The idiotic Argentinians are a different matter.

It is obviously a time for celebrations. Fifty years is a fine achievement. The whole state of Colorado has only managed 150. If the Republican candidate for the post of Colorado Governor wins in November we are in big trouble. He claims he killed someone when he was a kid and, in his spare time, he performs exorcisms. It might well be us that is coming home rather than the World Cup trophy.

Mike Ward
mikeatcherwell@gmail.com

BRIAN BOWAN WOOD 1935–2026

Brian was born in Middlesbrough in 1935 to Robert and Eleanor, the elder of two boys, alongside his brother, Denis. His father was a successful insurance agent and the family moved to Newcastle when Brian was in his early teens. Both boys attended Heaton Grammar School where Brian was head boy. After National Service, Brian read history at Pembroke College, Oxford, where he rowed for the second college boat. After university, he joined the graduate training scheme at United Steel before changing tack and joining Creasy, Son and Wickendon in Chancery Lane, London, where he studied for his chartered accountancy exams. After qualifying he joined TI Group and was based in South Wales for two years before relocating to Manchester and then London.

Brian subsequently enjoyed a varied and exciting career as a managing director of various international businesses including Associated Leisure, UK Optical, LMI and finally Blue Boar. He travelled extensively for business in North America, Asia and Europe. Having

lived in East Anglia for the majority of his professional career, the family moved to Bloxham when he joined Blue Boar, his final professional position.

In 1961, Brian married Althea Fry who he met while at Oxford. They had two sons, James and Ben, and a daughter, Lucie. All the children were educated in East Anglia at Kings Ely, Felsted and Felixstowe College respectively.

In retirement Brian and Althea enjoyed travelling and were members of the Tadmarton Golf Club. In 2001 they moved to Pound Court in Deddington, where they became very involved in village life. Althea ran the farmers' market for many years. Brian brought his vast financial experience and acumen to many local organisations including Deddington parish council and Oxfordshire CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England). Brian loved the countryside in Oxfordshire and took great pride in being treasurer (15 years) and chairman (8 years) of Oxfordshire CPRE.

The Wood Family



DEDDINGTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

Scorchio! (A reference to a 90s *Fast Show* sketch that may be lost on some of you.) I write this in the middle of what I think is our fourth official heatwave – I've lost count. The Windmill playing fields are yellower than I have ever seen them and the ground is rock hard. Rain has not stopped play once this summer for Deddington cricketers, but I fear for the footballers' ankles and knees as they start limbering up for the new season.

We are limbering up for a season of events at the Windmill over the coming months. The Windmill Film Club goes from strength to strength – over 50 members now and counting. Join up for £20 (£10 concessions) and you get access to 12 films over the year. The next film will be shown on 10 October and thereafter it's the first Saturday of every month. By popular request, Peter is holding another Windmill

OPEN GARDENS

The Friends of Deddington Church raised a very satisfying total of £3,212.50 as a result of their open gardens on 21 June. I'm sure those who came will remember that it was another of those very warm days although, at that stage, we hadn't even started to get used to them.

We are very grateful to our local gardeners who either volunteered their garden for viewing or had their arms twisted. But we're also grateful to everyone who came to look round them all. And what a delightful variety there was – and just in the nick of time before everything shrivelled to a brown crisp.

Our thanks to these two lads as well who added their own contribution.

JC



Teddy and Charlie ap Simon raising extra funds with their own cake sale

Quiz Night on Saturday 26 September – this one with a 'back to school' theme. Enjoy a thought-provoking, fun-filled evening in the knowledge that your participation is also raising money for Deddington Library. For all Windmill events and films, the doors open at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start. More information from events@thewindmillededdington.org.

Talking of raising money, we are very proud to host the third Deddington Wine Festival on Saturday 3 October from 7.00pm. 'Cheers to Charlie' is a very popular annual fundraiser inspired by and in memory of Charlie Elvin, a much-loved member of our community and enthusiastic wine expert. This year, all proceeds will go to Katharine House Hospice – our amazing local facility that cared for Charlie during his illness. Look out for the ad in this issue with more information about the Wine Festival and how to buy tickets.

Finally, we are looking to recruit a minutes secretary to join our team. The minimum requirement for this voluntary role would be for you to attend the six full committee meetings we hold during the year and record the minutes. But there is always potential for you to get involved in a myriad of other ways if that appeals. Please contact me using the email below if you are interested.

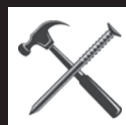
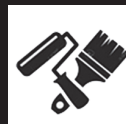
As always, if you want to book the Windmill or just see what's going on, visit our website www.thewindmillededdington.org or our Facebook page or call our bookings secretary, Julie, on 07720 834006.

Vaughan Jones
chair@thewindmillededdington.org

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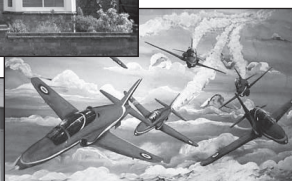


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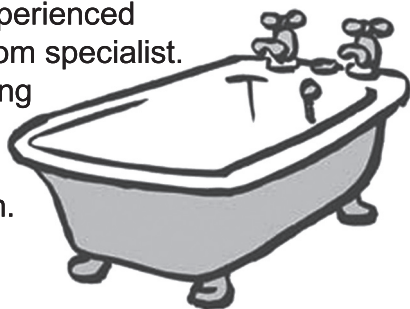
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NEWS FROM CLIFTON

Dave and Katie are in the throes of moving into Hartwell Cottage while renovating one of our older and well-loved houses. Now known to many of their neighbours, we wish them all the best for the project ahead and reaffirm the offer of help and tools.

The start of Candleford Festival saw the pub crawl begin in Lower Larkrise, with music from our own Molly (daughter of Bev and Gary), who sang Beatles' hits and many other bangers for 90 minutes in front of the 50 plus guests at the 'Duck' and were no more eclipsed by the many more established bands later on the card 'up the road'. Sadly, this correspondent was discharging his ECB responsibilities, but I don't understand why more neighbours weren't keeping John, Paul and his gang company. Shame on you.

This correspondent has received a flood of communications correcting my labelling of the soon-to-be-missed Alan, the 'father of the village', in the last DN issue. You see, Farmer Chris was born here and therefore pre-dates Alan by some years. There is another candidate but to put her forward means questioning a lady's age and we won't be doing that any time soon.

CAST (Clifton Speed Watch) is currently seeking a new chair, as Peter is moving to be closer to his family. This inevitable development still saddens many here as Peter has been a vital engine, driving the combatting of speeding and other illegal driving through our corner of heaven since CAST was established. He steps down having achieved the guarantee that OCC will install traffic calming in Lower Larkrise. The exact nature and timing is currently unknown but CAST will pursue this relentlessly.

With Peter's departure, a revival of the Book Club trip to Hooky Brewery is a tradition that will be revisited. This time we are sure Iron Man Mayo will arrange a 'drink' in a brewery and not leave anyone behind. Anyone else fancy coming along, please register your interest at the 'Duck' any time after 7.30pm any Thursday.

I think I had previously talked about the Tithe Lane sinkhole that, while only 450mm deep was very extensive under the surface, but the new one by the eastern gate is growing. Despite only being 150mm deep, the diameter of the hole was 38mm when first observed. It was 100mm after the 'Fixmystreet' was raised in late July but is now wide enough that my fist fits easily into it on copy day. If a car drives over it when it fails, the car will lose its wheel so keep a look out.

We would like to welcome Alex and his partner (who is currently unknown to us) as they join us down here. Alex isn't moving in without knowing anyone as there is a resident here he's known all his life. We look forward to buying Alex a pint at Book Club soon.

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

Martin Bryce
martindnbryce@gmail.com

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We desperately need the help of our community to ensure our vital services continue. Without your support, we couldn't keep the heart of the hospice going. We simply wouldn't exist without the donations you give, the money you raise and the support you provide.

Our events calendar over the next few months features many opportunities for those who fancy a fundraising challenge – they include skydiving, Oxford half marathon, Snowdon Sunrise walk, Great Wall of China Trek, Santa Fun run and, of course, the annual KH Tractor Run on 12 December.

What about volunteering? If you are looking to do something meaningful, Katharine House has a range of rewarding volunteering opportunities. From volunteering at the hospice and supporting events to driving and working in one of the retail shops, or play the

weekly lottery to be in with a chance to win one of our 20 weekly cash prizes. When you join the lottery, you'll be supporting local people with life-limiting illness as well as their families and loved ones. Visit www.khh.org.uk/volunteer-opportunities.

Finally we are delighted to be the chosen charity for 'Cheers to Charlie' – The Deddington Wine Festival 2026. For the third year running, inspired by and in memory of much-loved local man and enthusiastic wine expert, Charlie Elvin, Deddington has staged this popular event and this year all proceeds will go to Katharine House Hospice. It's on Saturday 3 October at 7.00pm at the Windmill Centre, an evening you won't want to miss. See the Festival advert for more details and book your tickets by scanning the QR code.

Jenny Soddy
07976 922558

NEWS FROM HEMPTON

Friends of Hempton Church

Once again, the Old School Room will welcome Riders and Striders with refreshments on Saturday 12 September from 11.15am. This annual event, organised by the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust, is its main fundraiser and helps provide grants to churches across the county. We hope the Trust will support Hempton's fundraising for a new roof in the near future so it is important that we support them too. Full details are available at <https://ohct.org.uk/ride-and-stride>. Everyone is welcome to take part, whether individually, as a family or with friends. It is lovely to see people walking or cycling between churches, enjoying the outdoors and stopping for much-needed refreshments along the way. If you would like to support our cyclist, Lydia Watts, please donate at www.goodhub.com/go/lydia-watts. Any amount will be gratefully received. Alternatively, please visit the Old School Room on 12 September and donate using the forms available.

At the Allotments

Although the allotments are looking parched, we are still harvesting, thanks to careful and persistent watering. Our onions were excellent; the runner beans are coming thick and fast and the soft fruits on other allotments were abundant. Like everyone else we are hoping for rain. Let's hope it comes soon before we resort to dancing round the plots at full moon.

Book Club

Book Club is still thriving – see the latest reviews in the Clubs section. We have also branched out by organising some silver crafting sessions.

Community Speed Watch

We're having a break during the exceptionally hot weather and holiday season but we will be back soon.

Jo Churchyard

Fifty years ago, as the *DN* team was launching the inaugural edition of this august publication, Hempton, in common with the rest of the UK, was sweltering in what was to be recognised as the warmest year so far with record temperatures, drought and water

shortages. Sitting roughly 490 feet above sea level along a high Jurassic marlstone ridge, Hempton felt the heatwave acutely. The exposed terrain made its surrounding agricultural fields highly vulnerable to drying out completely under the blazing sun. Such is the influence of the *DN*, a repeat, with interest, was ordered for the semi-centennial, Golden Jubilee celebration.

Hempton did not feature in the first edition in September 1976 but a worthy piece on the fate of the corner cottages at the crossroads appeared in the October edition. Having fallen into disrepair, there was talk of removing them before they succumbed to years of neglect, thus improving the appearance of the village. Partial collapse of the end cottage into the roadway left a bedroom open to view by passersby and some voyeuristic llamas grazing in the paddock opposite. In stepped the Campaign to Protect Rural England Oxfordshire Buildings Preservations Trust who bought the cottages for £12,000 and restored them for sale to the public.

The summer of '76 saw Hempton's sporting prowess exorcised with a Dwile Flunking match between the Hempton Harvesters and the Pheasant Pluckers at the Great Western Arms in Aynho. Despite their inexperience, the Harvesters held out against the Pluckers until the last throw which they sadly lost.

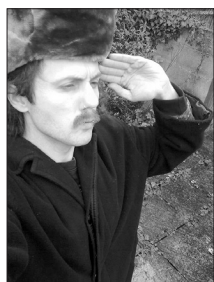
Meantime, Hempton residents' committee was striving to resolve the problem of the overflowing cesspit servicing (or not) St John's Way, contemplating the enduring problem of the Gap, maintaining access to the playing field below St John's Way, repairing of the churchyard gate and fencing off the grassy mound at the crossroads, whilst organising wide-ranging social activities and events.

Further afield, Harold Wilson had resigned as UK Prime Minister in March 1976 and was succeeded by James Callaghan in April. Déjà vue!

Stuart Oldham

sj_oldham@btinternet.com

BLISSFUL THINKING



Maybe it's just fever from the heat talking, but the Clifton Everglades became the Serengeti. The island where it never stops raining howled for tears from Heaven to quench the cracked earth and parched riverbeds. Despite scientists at ExxonMobil famously demonstrating from the 1970s that their own activities were causing

climate change, a disturbingly large cohort of people, not on their payroll, continue to theorise that the scientists were presumably lying, while the executives who directly profit from continued fossil fuel burning (through the politicians they bankroll) are, inexplicably, the real truth tellers!

Now that the grim warnings of catastrophic weather patterns are no longer speculative but established reality, might we at least take some action to retrofit our public and private spaces to protect the vulnerable, as well as our future food and water supplies? We're all going to get used to discussions of 'wet bulb temperature' very soon. I don't think most of the public like living in a bad disaster movie; I know I'd rather not.

Kings of the past were often relieved of their heads for pursuing courses of action that hurt the majority of their people. Nobody wants it to come to that but what exactly is being done about this gigantic iceberg we're all sailing towards while the captain plays a mean Vice-Admiral Nelson with his telescope?

Aaron Bliss

aaronjbliss@hotmail.com



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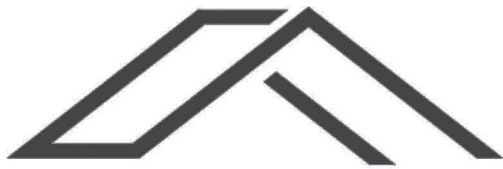
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WHERE WERE YOU 25 YEARS AGO ON 9/11?

Most people of a certain age know exactly where they were 25 years ago on 11 September 2001. It was a sunny day in New York that Tuesday and all seemed well in the world save that economies and markets were still feeling the effects of the crash that was the bursting of the dot-com bubble.

It had started as a normal day and, like my American colleagues, I had arrived at my desk on the second floor of a 54-floor building in Lower Manhattan, 1 Liberty Plaza, at around 7.30am. I worked as a corporate banker for Royal Bank of Canada and our offices were immediately adjacent to the 110-floor South Tower of the World Trade Center.

Suddenly, at 8.46am, there was an enormous explosion outside and those of us near a window looked out. We could see people in the street looking up, but the Twin Towers were so tall we could see nothing. Pretty quickly an announcement told staff to move to the core of the building as bits of the tower were apparently raining down. We could see on an adjacent televi-

sion monitor that news reports were just coming in of an aircraft hitting the North Tower with initial images showing some flames. It was unbelievable. I called my wife, Sally, on a then rather basic cell phone (mobile). 'Turn on the TV. There are pictures of the North Tower at the World Trade Center. There's been an explosion and it's on fire.'



The errant Buzz Lightyear

Seventeen minutes later at 9.03am, there was a second huge explosion. We had no idea what was happening although there were police, fire and ambulance sirens coming from all directions. Almost immediately, the Tannoy ordered the evacuation of our building. 'Do not return to your desks. Take nothing with you.' Could our building be next to be blown up?

Outside it was absolute chaos on the street, with onlookers, craning their heads to see what was happening, mixing with the emergency services. Someone said an aeroplane had hit the North Tower – no, that's not possible – maybe it was a light aircraft? It was so chaotic I decided to move on and get the subway

to midtown and the first train home. I attempted to call Sally again to give her an update on my whereabouts but the cell phone system had crashed.

Halfway home, at 9.59am, someone blurted out that one of the towers had collapsed. I had studied engineering at university and was pretty convinced this had to be wrong. Needless to say, when I walked in the door of our house, I found everyone in tears as they hadn't heard from me and wondered whether I'd been caught in the catastrophe of the collapsing buildings.

The Twin Towers had pancaked in place, with the steelwork encased in the surrounding plaza, although the dust clouds caused immense damage, blowing in windows and depositing a six-inch layer of sand and debris throughout lower floors of adjacent buildings.

It turns out that cleaning up the sand in these buildings was 'relatively' straightforward. The real problem was the asbestos distributed throughout the air-conditioning ducts and other less accessible areas: a nightmare to remove. It took six months for authorities to approve the return to our desks – six months of working from offices spread around Connecticut, New York, New Jersey and Toronto.

Personal belongings, including passports and wallets and, in my case, Buzz Lightyear were returned to us within a few weeks. Buzz had been a birthday present a few years previously and was sitting on my desk when the towers came down. He is a survivor and is on my desk today. *'To infinity and beyond!'*

Colin Lambert



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DEDDINGTON LIBRARY

A big thank you to my casual relief worker, Lynden, being able to cover July for me. Having consistency and someone who loves the library as much as I do and understands my readers is a great help.

I held a craft session on 10 August and a lovely turn out, making musical instruments. The grownups seemed to have as much fun as the children. Thank you to Evie and Julia for their help.

There's very little to report on the the Summer Reading Challenge: 'Read to the Beat' continues until 5 September but you can still claim your rewards after this.

We may be a small library but offer so much, from free computer use, scanning, photocopying, printing, family history, Oxfordshire Libraries app, Libby for magazines, Press-reader free newspapers, audio books, e-books. Books in large print, different languages. Books for sale, postcards, notelets, pens and pencils for sale. I would like to offer a free magazine swap box starting in September, as these can be very expensive. If you have any, please could you consider letting the library have them?

I congratulate the *Deddington News* on 50 years of production; we have a copy of every issue here in the library, all beautifully bound and you are welcome to see them. I am supporting them with a small display here as well from September.

Wishing all the children a safe return to school on 3 September. Many thanks for your continuing support.

Gail Cripps
Gail.Cripps@oxfordshire.gov.uk
01865 816010

FROM THE HEALTH CENTRE

Patient Participation Group

It was a pleasure to speak to WI members on a very hot afternoon in July. During the presentation Lindsay and I spoke about the workings of the Patient Participation Group and the targets for the coming year. We also took away responses from the floor such as more help to access the Advice and Appointments Hub and the NHS App. Reaching out to groups for feedback about the health centre and how it works for patients, is important to the group.

At the quarterly meetings there are discussions about any emails and feedback sheets received (available from the surgery reception area) to ensure patients receive the best service possible from the surgery team and to look at any improvements to processes. Recent feedback involved the new automated answering service, Jackie, and a patient trying to connect with the dispensary. The PPG was able to forward the feedback on to the surgery to investigate.

Autumn is on its way so look out for your invitation to book flu and/or Covid vaccinations. If you are eligible, you will receive a communication in the coming weeks.

Next time find out about the role of the Advanced Clinical Practitioner and the concerning number of missed appointments in the last year and what to do when the 24-hour Pharma self-collection machine for medicines is out of order.

Anne Hunsley
ppg.deddington@gmail.co.uk

FARMERS' MARKET

This month is the 25th anniversary of Deddington Farmers' Market. The late Charles Newey, who lived in Clifton, felt that our local farmers needed support from their community during the foot and mouth outbreak and the idea of a market was born.

The current market wasn't the first market in Deddington. The first probably dates from the laying out of the borough in the 12th century. No royal charter creating a borough is known, but presumably one of Deddington's lords instituted burgage tenure and a market in order to profit from increased rents and tolls.

Burgage is a plot of land in a borough. When a lord wanted to make money, he would lay out a new street or market place – in Deddington, that's New Street and Philcote Street around the Market Place. He'd then carve it up into long, narrow plots with a short end facing the street. That frontage is where you put your shop or house. Then he'd rent it to a burgess, a townsman, for a fixed cash rent, usually 12d for a whole burgage, 6d for a half, as they recorded in Deddington in 1447. You can still spot these burgages on maps. Look at those long, thin garden plots running from the Market Place and New Street. Those are the fossilised burgage plots from the late 12th century.

Deddington started strong in the 12th century –

new borough, new market, a castle next door to protect it at the crossroads of two ancient routes. By 1086 it was worth twice as much to its lord as Banbury.

However, Banbury got a very early charter and just exploded – by 1225 it had over 200 burgage tenants, Deddington probably had only 30 or 40. Once Banbury pulled ahead, Deddington settled into being a decayed borough, still a market centre for the villages around with its portmoot (a type of court dealing with market disputes) and market tolls, but never getting city walls or a guildhall on the scale of its rival.

Originally it sold essentials like grain, bread, animals, wool and leather. There is documentary evidence that in 1623 nine tailors, five mercers, four glovers, two weavers, a fuller, and a collarmaker, plus five carpenters, four slaters and four smiths were trading. It was very much a working farmers' market.

Today our current market with one exception sells food produced and created by local farmers and people who mostly live within 30 miles. So there you have it. We are celebrating 25 years on a site that has hosted a market for almost 800 years, give or take a decade or two. Now that's worth celebrating.

Tei Willox
marketing@deddingtonfarmersmarket.co.uk



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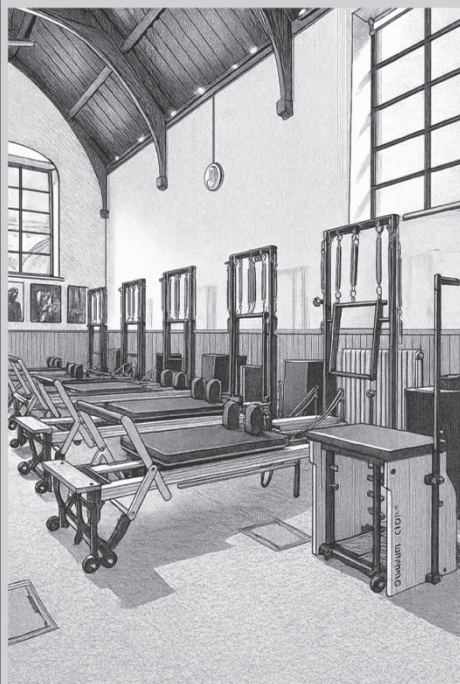
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CALLING ALL CLUBS

Photographic Society

At our August meeting we were delighted to welcome the respected photographer, Rachel Wallace, who presented an inspiring talk entitled *Altered Images*.

Rachel's gained her City and Guilds qualification and Licentiatehip of the Royal Photographic Society. Working from home, Rachel creates her distinctive images. Although she remains passionate about film photography, her first digital camera, a Nikon D70, opened new creative possibilities. She prefers to carry out much of her image manipulation in-camera, creating unique and often unpredictable results. She has a particular affinity for textures and colours found in everyday objects. She combines these elements to create images where all the components work together. Her work is heavily influenced by photographers and artists who encourage a different way of seeing. She also enjoys experimenting with Intentional Camera Movement. Rachel concluded by discussing more sustainable darkroom practices and alternative photographic processes. Her experiments include lumen and chlorophyll prints, made using plants and moss, cyanotypes and Cliché Verre. She demonstrated how glass and mirrors can be used creatively.

Rachel's presentation was fascinating, showcasing her creativity, technical skill and willingness to experiment. It provided members with inspiration and new ideas to explore in their own photographic journeys.

Our monthly topic was 'Blue' and our members demonstrated just how creatively they can interpret a theme. The variety of their images showed imagination, skill, and individuality, proving that our photographers really know how to make each monthly challenge their own.

In September Jason Parry-Wilson will talk about hints and tips on wildlife photography. Come and enjoy inspiring talks from our guest speakers. We meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm at Adderbury Institute.

Courtney Killpack
www.addphoto.co.uk

Windmill Film Club

We launched the monthly Windmill Film Club in June to make use of the new projector and screen that we had installed. We now have more than 50 members and have successfully shown three films. Each month I email members a list of four films to choose the one they prefer.

We have watched *Mother's Pride* and *H is for Hawk*, both low-budget British films which won out over the Hollywood blockbusters that were on offer. Refreshments are served before the film and the chairs are just about comfortable enough to see us through the couple of hours of viewing. If this appeals, then why not join us? A year's membership costs £20 less than £2 a film. Contact me to find out more.

Peter Hogben
events@thewindmillededdington.org

Hempton Book Club

Susan Stokes-Chapman's *Pandora* is set in the Georgian era and is a mystery woven through with Greek mythology. A young girl is trying to find her place in the world and solve the puzzle left by her archaeologist parents, plus the enigma of the vase in the basement. Georgian London is described in all its squalor and poverty. The characters are believable; you love some, hate others, and a few are exasperating. Some members felt that there was a little too much mythology but, on the whole, we enjoyed it.

Jonas Jonasson's *The Distinctly Competent District Councillor* is a quirky little book. If you have read *The 100-Year-Old Man Who Climbed out of a Window and Disappeared*, then you'll love this. Set in Sweden, it tells the tale of a failing town trying to attract a German bed manufacturer to build their new factory there. The characters are unbelievable but amusing, and you can guess what will happen, but you're happy when it does. A great book for a heatwave, sit in the shade and while the afternoon away, it's a very short book.

Jo Churchyard
jochurchyard@hotmail.com

Local Vocals Community Choir

Firstly, thank you to everyone who came to our Friends and Family evening in July. We enjoyed singing for you and your kind comments afterwards were appreciated. Our collection in aid of Lawrence Nurses, who care for people in their own homes, raised £480.60. We now look forward to singing again. Our new term starts on Monday 7 September and I haven't been advised of the new songs yet so it's still to be revealed.

We meet at 7.30pm at Deddington Primary School each Monday during term. To find out more please visit to our website www.localvocalscc.co.uk.

Alison Grieve

Book Group

Theo of Golden is a first novel by author, Allen Levi. It was originally self-published but has now become an international bestseller, praised for its themes of kindness, tolerance and generosity.

The main character, Theo, is a gentle and slightly mysterious old man who comes to stay in Golden, a town in an unnamed southern US state. After seeing sketches of many locals on display in a café, he decides to gift these to the various individuals, to get to know them and maybe to help them later. The novel proceeds with depictions of Theo's sympathetic conversations with a variety of characters. These are thoughtful and enjoyable, although we occasionally found them rather sentimental.

However, Theo has another compelling and secret reason for coming to Golden. Obviously, that cannot be revealed here without spoiling the whole story.

The Book Group

SPORT

Deddington Original Golf Society

DOGS latest visit was to Leamington and County GC. On 11 August we braved the heat to played on what turned out to be quite an undulating and parched course. Very much the norm at the moment.

Winners were:

Nearest the Pin: Peter Mahon

Team Prize: Bel Appleby, Ken Appleby and John Dauphin

The last venue for the summer is the Cotswold at Chipping Norton on Friday 11 September followed by a barbecue in Deddington. If you're new to the area and play golf, you would be most welcome to join us.

Tony Lowe
dogsgolf23@gmail.com

Deddington Town FC Youth

It is great to be back for another season with the Club running ten teams playing league football from Under 7s up to Under 16s. We also have Wildcats for Girls taking place on Friday evenings, as well as Under 6s training. We have 156 children registered for the

season ahead – a great success for a village club run entirely by volunteers.

Good luck to the Under 8s as they play their first season in the Witney and District Youth Football League and the Under 7s in the WDYFL who play the new 3 v 3 format introduced by the FA across the country.

A special mention of the Under 6s coaches who start their football coaching journey on Saturday mornings at the Windmill: Bruce Hiley, Tom Hoverd and Adam Minks.

The youth committee has a new look for the season ahead; welcome to Paul Godfrey, chair; and to Claire Damm and Beth Brown, sharing the club secretary role. They join existing officers, Keith Tong, treasurer; Joe Ryan, club welfare officer; Harry Adams, media and website officer; and Roger Sykes, development officer.

Further information is on our website www.deddingtontownfc or Facebook, www.facebook.com/DeddingtonTownFc.

Roger Sykes 07899 914425
carsykes@btinternet.com

YOUTH

1st Deddington Scout Group

Cubs

Over the last few sessions, we enjoyed an amazing trip to Fenemore's Farm where the Cubs learned all about different crops grown on the farm and the animals that live there. One of the highlights of the visit was a tractor tour across the fields, which gave them a great opportunity to see the farm in action. They thoroughly enjoyed the experience and learned lots along the way.

For our final Cub meeting of the term, we said goodbye to some of our older Cubs as they prepare to move on to the next stage of their Scouting journey. To celebrate their time in Cubs we gathered around a campfire, shared some memorable moments and enjoyed a variety of fun games together. It was a lovely way to finish the term and we wish our departing Cubs all the best for the future.

Tina Deacon
deddingtoncubs@gmail.com

Anyone interested in helping at Cubs or Scouts, come to a Thursday meeting and see what it's all about.

Jo Churchyard
deddingtongs1@gmail.com

Scouts

For the first time I can remember, we had to cancel a meeting because of the heat. This was during the first heatwave and I realise we've either got used to it or are complaining bitterly about the rain.

It was still hot when we went to camp at Horley. The Scouts spent a their time in the woods or hanging about in their hammocks. We cooked very carefully over open fires – a bucket of water always to hand, and they enjoyed a session of rifle shooting – something the Scouts have been doing since 1912. Perhaps the most memorable thing was watching England in the World Cup on a laptop in a field. Many thanks to Gilly for setting it up. Most made it all the way through although one or two fell asleep.

Our last meeting was, as usual, held at Nell Bridge Fishery. What a great evening, to see the looks on the boys' faces catching their first fish – priceless. And what fish they are, huge! Many thanks as always to Matt and Jo and the parents and anglers who helped.

Pete Churchyard
deddingtonscouts@gmail.com

Stewards for Concerts in the Church

Deddington church is for everyone to enjoy and throughout the year is the venue for many community occasions for residents and visitors alike.

However, we need a couple of stewards to oversee our concerts; a member of the church will always be present. Without two stewards these events will not go ahead. If you enjoy them and feel that you could help, please contact me. There isn't a rota, simply an email to ask if you are available as each booking approaches. Training and support will be given.

Vanessa Loach
bookings@deddingtonchurch.org

PFSU and Nursery

Deddington Nursery and PFSU are looking forward to welcoming our new starters in September. Our autumn topic at both settings will be 'All About Me'.

Last year's Pre-School cohorts were very busy at the end of the summer term creating artwork for the parish show. Please go and check it out on Saturday 5 September in the church.

We would like to thank everyone who has supported our fundraising efforts over this past year. We have raised a fantastic £4,727.

Shrene Saleh-Gillett
info@deddingtonnurseryandpfsu.co.uk



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