November 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

The Deddington News

Hooray and thanks to those who paid some attention to my recent pleas. We have a new team member coming on board.

Cheryl Wild is dipping her toes into the *DN* muddy waters to replace Pat Sedgley, who has been our stalwart annual advertising manager since September 2018. Very many thanks to Pat who has kept the show on the road with our important advertisers and, with the help of our amazing treasurer, Jane, they have kept funds coming in to our coffers.

JC

What's On

November

Sun	1	Fireworks: Primary School, gates open 5.45pm, blast off 6.45pm
Sun	1	Hallowe'en Quiz: Deddington Arms, 7.00pm
Wed	4	Photographic Society: Recreating History, Lee Chapman, Adderbury Institute, 7.30pm
Sat	7	Litter Pick: The Green, Hempton, 9.00am
Sat	7	Windmill Film Club, Windmill Centre, 7.30pm
Sat	7	North Oxfordshire Wine Club: Bordeaux Special, Holly Tree Hall, 8.15pm
Sun	8	Remembrance Sunday: gather in the Bullring at 10.30am, march off 10.50am
Wed	11	Women's Institute: Handmade Books, Jane Abbott, Holly Tree Hall, 2.30pm
Wed	11	People's Emergency Briefing film: Windmill Centre, 6.30pm
Thu	12	History Society: Kingerlee – the Family and the Building Firm since 1868, Liz Woolley, Primary School, 7.30pm
Sat	14	Litter Pick: Town Hall, Deddington, 2.30pm
Sat	14	Banbury Symphony Orchestra: Elgar, Britten, Weinberg, Deddington Church, 7.30pm
Sun	15	Music in Adderbury: Piano Quintet, Beethoven, Dvorak, Deddington Church, 6.00pm
Sun	15	Litter Pick: Clifton
Wed	18	Parish Council: Old School Room, Hempton, 7.30pm
Wed	18	Funfair: Market Place
-Sat	21	
Sat	21	Christmas Craft Fair: Deddington Church, 10.00am–2.00pm
Thu	26	Book Group: Call Sally Lambert, 01869 338094 for details
Fri	27	Community Lunch Club: Windmill Centre, 12.30pm
Sat	28	Farmers' Market: Market Place, 9.00am–12.30pm
Sat	28	Craft Market: Deddington Church, 9.00am–12.30pm
Sat	28	Chipping Norton Choral Society: *Petit messe solennelle*, Rossini, Deddington Church, 7.30pm

December

Wed	2	Photographic Society: Adderbury Institute, 7.30pm
Sat	5	Cherwell Choral Society: *Eternal Light*, Howard Goodall, Deddington Church, 7.30pm
Sat	5	Windmill Film Club, Windmill Centre, 7.30pm

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DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting held on Wednesday 21 October at the Windmill

Present: Councillors Cox, Gillham, Mobbs, Oldfield, Robinson (chair), Rogers (District), Stapley, Swadling, Timms, Epps (County), the parish clerk and DN correspondent.

District Council:

It appears that overnight parking charges will not be applied in Banbury for the time being.

CDC is continuing to establish a strong network of Warm Welcome venues where people can go for a warm drink and to meet people, sometimes for a small donation. All such spaces will display the Warm Welcome logo.

CDC's small repairs service is available for a range of minor electrical works such as replacing fuses, minor plumbing works such as changing tap washers and minor carpentry works such as easing doors. The charge is £20 plus the cost of materials for up to four hours.

County Council

No further information has been received regarding local government reorganisation but.

Residents can register a vehicle to access to central Oxford for 25 free passes to avoid filter charges.

Finance and General Purposes

A quotation of £3,800 for tree works resulting from recent parish survey was approved. The PC will apply for ash dieback funding.

Road wardens have been arranged to supervise necessary road closures for the Remembrance Day parade. The purchase of wreaths was approved for £50.

A Christmas tree for the Market Place is being sourced and for its disposal afterwards. It will be erected on 30 November.

£350 was approved for aluminium signs for public areas in the parish.

The purchase of replacement litter pickers and heavy duty waste bags for £150 was approved. Dates are being arranged for village litter picks.

The cost of removing overhanging vegetation in the layby at Tithe Lane, Clifton, was discussed. It was proposed to report it on FixMyStreet as it is OCC land.

Planning

No objection

Windmill Centre & Sports Complex: installation of 5m pyramid net.

Clematis Cottage, Goose Green, Deddington: change of gate entrance.

Folly Cottage, The Lane, Hempton: installation of an air source heat pump.

Carris Lodge, Goose Green, Deddington: tree works.

Affric, New Street, Deddington: fell cherry plum.

Castle End House, Castle Street, Deddington: tree works.

Blue Cedar Homes Ltd, Land Adjoining and West of Stonecroft House, Clifton Road, Deddington: to confirm works carried out on site representing a start of planning permission 23/00276/F.

Broom House, Philcote Street, Deddington: tree work.

Street Trading application, Out of the Grind, coffee and barista drinks: next to Hall Personal Training, Clifton Road, Deddington.

No Comment

Bullring Cottage, Bull Ring, Deddington: regularisation of previous planning applications.

Objection to visible rendered finish but not to remainder

St Anne's Cottage, Main Street, Clifton: construction of additional wing to nursing home, elevational changes to approved application 06/01206/F. There was considerable discussion on this change to a planning application granted in 2006.

Large Scale Developments

The Nursery management team has made several good requests on the layout of the new building.

Development east of Banbury Road and north of Earls Lane, Deddington: it was agreed that pavements should be requested for the square. The PC agreed to support the request from the immediate neighbour on Earls Lane for a pond and path down the side of their property. Councillors are still trying to persuade the developers to have the road adopted. Communications from residents of Fardon Way have been received, complaining that Burringtons have left them with reputedly the worst management company.

Neighbourhood Plan

A new group has met and Councillor Oldfield has been elected chair. A consultant's quotation of £17,950 for a complete package was accepted in principle by the PC.

Environment & Recreation

The saga of the Windmill Wi-Fi is ongoing.

Highways

Councillor Epps is following up on an electronic bus timetable on New Street and hard standing for the accessible waiting area.

Stalemate on Castle Grounds pillar has been reached so settlement has been accepted and the insurers of the driver will carry out repairs.

A resident requested support for a formal review of the 20mph speed limits on the A4260 and B4031 roads. The PC is replying that the evidence suggests that lower speed restrictions have decreased the number of serious inujuries.

Damaged salt bins are being replaced.

Kerb stones will either be replaced or renewed at The Green.

A green bin (by town hall) will be removed by CDC.

A near serious incident at the Berry Road junction with A4260 where white lines have disappeared will be reported on FixMyStreet.

Items for Information

The PC protocol regarding potential incursion by travellers at the Windmill has been reviewed and updated.

Next meeting on 18 November at 7.30pm at the Old School Room, Hempton.

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



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the windmill
DEDDINGTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

Wi-Fi. Don't you just love it … when it works. As most people who have hired the Windmill recently are aware, ours doesn't. It relies on an outdated parish council router; it's slow, it's unreliable. As we are acutely aware, you can't run a public building without providing decent WiFi. It has become as essential as electricity and running water. So, we resolved several meetings ago to install our own router and pay for a robust, future-proofed system that would accommodate up to 300 users at any one time, or so we were promised. Since then, we have been stood up by Open Reach not once, not twice, but four times! Four times, one of us has waited patiently at the Windmill for their engineers to arrive during a 'window' of 8.00am–1.00pm. Nobody, nothing, nada! Apologies for the rant, but we are at our wits' end and, if there is anybody reading this who might be able to help us fast-track our order, we'd be very grateful to hear from you. In the meantime, we will continue to try and communicate with the most uncommunicative of all communications companies. We are really sorry about the inconvenience to our users and hope that everything will be sorted soon–maybe even by the time you read this. Currently, it is our number one priority.

In other news, our Windmill events programme goes from strength to strength. The next film nights for your diary are 7 November and 5 December. There's another quiz night on 12 December – great fun, if you haven't been to one already. Then the building gets taken over somewhat by preparations for the Deddington Players' Panto. This year it's *Alice in Wonderland* on 21, 22 and 23 January. Meanwhile, Gregg and his CookSchool team continue to serve fabulous food at the Community Lunch Club – next date Friday 27 November and then a Christmas lunch extravaganza on 11 December. Plenty to look forward to.

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

Vaughan Jones
chair@thewindmilldeddington.org

News from Hempton

Friends of Hempton Church

By the time this issue of *Deddington News* lands on your doormat, our Pumpkin Trail will be over. It is always wonderful to see the village filled with spooky creations, enjoyed by young and old alike. Thank you to everyone who took part and made it such fun.

We are preparing for our main annual fundraising event, the Christmas Fayre, on Saturday 12 December — save the date. More details will follow next month, along with our usual requests for bottles, cakes and good-quality gifts, so please consider what you can donate. The money raised helps maintain the Old School Room for the village.

Above all, please support the event by joining us on the day to meet other villagers and enjoy lunch together.

Hempton's autumn litter pick will be held on Saturday 7 November at 9.00am. Meet on the green; everyone is welcome.

At The Allotments

It's an exciting time at the allotments: our picnic bench has arrived, giving us somewhere to take a break with a coffee or just sit with another plot holder and plan the next season. Many thanks to the parish council.

The starter plots are just about ready. If you're looking for a small plot to try growing some vegetables or flowers, contact the parish clerk if you are interested. There are a couple of bigger allotments free as well.

The compost bins are being refreshed; no woody plants, please, unless they are shredded first. The bins are for the use of allotment users only.

Book Club

It's a real delight trying books that may be out of your comfort zone; see this month's review in the Clubs section.

History

A while ago I had the idea for a display about the history of the village. If you live in any of the older properties and have any details of their history or the deeds, can you let me know please?

Jo Churchyard
jochurchyard@hotmail.com



WHY IT'S TIME WE STARTED LOOKING AFTER OUR WELLS AGAIN

Over the past year, I've found myself peering down old stone shafts, pulling bottles and decades of rubbish from forgotten wells and becoming increasingly fascinated by what lies beneath the villages and landscapes we pass every day. Once you start looking for old wells, pumps and springs, you see them everywhere. Some are beautifully preserved. Others have been capped, filled with rubbish, hidden beneath vegetation or simply allowed to silt up. I keep returning to the same question: why aren't we looking after them?

For generations, wells and springs were an essential part of village life. Before mains water, these were places people relied on. In parts of Oxfordshire, whole villages were supplied by shallow wells, while limestone aquifers such as the Great Oolite provided plentiful groundwater in some areas.

These wells aren't just pretty relics from the past. They're part of our local history but they're also part of our local water system. There is a practical reason why we should understand where they are and the condition they're in. A well or spring is part of a much wider hydrological system. Water underground doesn't disappear simply because we stop using a well. Springs still rise, groundwater still moves and rain still has to find its way through the landscape.

Some Oxfordshire villages flood regularly and it has made me wonder whether there could be a connection between flooding and some of the old wells, springs and water routes that have been blocked or forgotten. We know that blocked drains, ditches, culverts and watercourses can contribute to local flood risk. Oxfordshire's own flood strategy recognises the importance of monitoring these obstructions and keeping water moving freely. But what about the old wells and springs that once helped water move through our villages? Could some of them still have a part to play?

I'm not suggesting that unblocking one well will magically stop a property or village from flooding. The relationship between groundwater, springs, drainage and flooding is more complicated than that. But where old water routes have become obstructed, surely it makes sense to map them, investigate them and understand where that water historically travelled before we fill them in and forget they ever existed.

Then there is the water itself. Oxfordshire sits across varied geology but much of our groundwater travels through limestone and other mineral-bearing rocks. As it moves underground, the water can pick up dissolved calcium and magnesium. This is one of the reasons water in much of Oxfordshire is characteristically hard. We tend to think of hard water as something that leaves limescale in the kettle but calcium and magnesium are also minerals our bodies need. Calcium helps maintain healthy bones and teeth and supports normal muscle function, while magnesium helps the body release energy from food and contributes to bone health.

A restored well could potentially offer something our ancestors would have thought of as completely ordinary: a local source of water. Private well and spring water must be properly tested for microbiological and chemical safety. The local authority can advise on risk assessments, testing and whether treatment is needed. But if a source is found to be suitable, it is quite remarkable to think that some properties may still have access to their own historic water supply.

I also think we need to look more carefully at how these structures are recorded. Some old wells aren't listed at all. Others may be recorded under descriptions that are worth revisiting when new evidence or local knowledge comes to light.

For example, at Rousham, there is a beautiful Grade II* listed stone structure officially recorded by Historic England as a 'Boat House'. It dates from around 1733–40 and is attributed to William Kent. But from my own investigation of the site, its relationship with the water and surrounding landscape has made me question whether there may be more to its history. Could an older sacred or practical water source be connected with the structure? That is my interpretation and it is something I would like to research further. But it shows why our heritage records shouldn't be seen as the end of historical investigation.

Sometimes local knowledge, archaeology, old maps, geology and simply going out and looking closely at the landscape can lead us to ask new questions and wells deserve those questions.

The chairman of the Bloxham Underground Tunnel Society saw some of the work I had been doing and invited me to join the Society to help research, record and unblock wells in Bloxham and to encourage the guardians of these wells to consider using them again. The response has been really encouraging. Since we began recording the wells, people in Bloxham who have wells on their properties have started talking about bringing them back into use. That is exactly what I would love to see happening across more of our villages: local people becoming curious about the water beneath their homes and wanting to care for it again.

If you have an old well or spring on your land, particularly one that has been neglected, I would encourage you not to see it simply as a hole that needs to be filled in.

Find out how old it is. Look at old maps. Ask older neighbours what they remember. Check whether it appears on the local Historic Environment Record. Have the water properly tested if you hope to use it. If restoration is possible, seek the right advice and consider bringing it back into care.

I research, record, unblock and help restore these wells on a voluntary basis. If you have a well that you would like to understand, restore or possibly use again, please contact me. We're fortunate to live in a landscape with an extraordinarily long human history. Some of that history can be seen in our churches, houses and bridges and some of it is still flowing beneath our feet.

Miri O'Connor
om9033@gmail.com

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CHURCH

November

In October we celebrated our final two harvest festivals: first, in our family service, reflecting on global harvests, where our food comes from and the importance of Fairtrade. We then welcomed the whole school into church for their special Harvest Thanksgiving where they gave us much to think about through the Parable of the Sower. We also enjoyed holding our choral evensong at Barford St Michael's to celebrate their patronal festival of Michaelmas.

This month is busy. We begin with our All Saints celebration on 1 November at the morning family service, including reflections on how we can be living saints today. In the evening we hold our All Souls service of remembrance at 6.00pm, giving thanks for loved ones no longer with us. On Saturday 7 November we host a special Come and Sing event at Barford St Michael Church to raise funds (see other notices for details). On 8 November we mark Remembrance Sunday with the annual parade, act of remembrance at the war memorial and church service. On Saturday 21st we have a Christmas Craft Fair in Deddington Church from 10.00am–12.00pm. Advent begins on Sunday 29 November, celebrated with our beautiful Advent Carol Service at 6.00pm – a joyous moment not to be missed.

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.

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 1	10.30am	Family Communion (breakfast and crafts from 9.45am)
	6.00pm	All Souls' Remembrance Service
Sun 8	9.45am	onwards – Remembrance Sunday events (parade starts approximately 9.45am)
Sun 15	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sun 22	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sun 29	10.30am	Holy Communion
	6.00pm	Advent Carol Service

Hempton

Sun 15	9.00am	Holy Communion

Barford St Michael

Wed	5.15pm	Evening Prayer
Sun 1	10.30am	Coffee and Chat
	4.00pm	Time of Reflection for All Souls
Sun 8	9.00am	Remembrance Sunday
Sun 15	10.30am	Family Service
Sun 22	10.30am	Holy Communion

Barford St John

Sun 29	9.00am	Holy Communion

From the Parish Registers

Weddings

1 October	Tenisha Ittan and Marcus Cooper
9 October	Kate Forsyth and Matthew Belton

Funerals

22September	Babara Budd (interment of ashes)
30 October	Kathy Odell

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.

RC Parish of Hethe

St John's Church in Banbury will be streaming Mass daily at 9.30am, Mondays to Fridays; at 10.00am on Saturdays; and 11.15am on Sundays on https//www.mcnmedia.tv/camera/st-john-the-evangelist-banbury. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be streamed for 30 minutes at the end of each weekday Mass.

RIDE AND STRIDE



Thank you to everyone who took part in this year's Ride and Stride, walking, cycling and welcoming visitors. Together we raised £1,173.75. Half of this will go to help churches in need throughout Oxfordshire and the other half to our church here in Deddington.

Look out for details of next year's event, the second Saturday in September.

Sarah Liebrecht
s.liebrecht2@gmail.com

DH History Corner

www.deddingtonhistory.uk

November is the month in which thoughts turn to those who gave their lives for our country. It is a sobering fact that, out of a working-age male population of about 220 in Deddington in 1914, over 100 enlisted, and 70 of them never returned. However, it is also worth remembering those who left this small community to fight in France and further afield – some serving in both world wars – and did return. The experiences of Douglas Hopcraft (1892–1975) and Maurice French (1893–1985) reflect the stories of many. Similar in age, they had been friends since boyhood and came from families deeply rooted in the history of the parish.

The Hopcrafts were stonemasons and builders throughout the 18th and 19th centuries. Fifty-five family members, dating back to 1790, are commemorated on gravestones in the churchyard and their legacy is literally built into the local landscape. Hopcraft Lane bears their name; the building firm Franklin & Hopcraft rebuilt the South Bridge at the foot of Danes Hill in 1892; and James Hopcraft rebuilt the Bloxham Bridge over the River Swere in 1859. The Walnut Tree workshops and yard of Hopcraft & Son were located where Hook Norton Vets and Cox's Garage stand today; Douglas was the & Son of the business.

The French family was also deeply embedded in the community across many generations. The earliest recorded member is Nathaniel, a cooper (barrel maker) born around 1715. An 1852 directory of Oxfordshire reveals the extent of their presence in the village, listing family members working variously as farmers, carriers, bakers, butchers and shoemakers. Their farm was located close to The Old Schoolhouse (now Orchards) on Council Lane. In a neat historical synergy, Council Lane later became Hopcraft Lane following the 1921 marriage of Maurice French's sister, Gladys, to Douglas Hopcraft.

Both men enlisted in the army at the outbreak of the First World War: Maurice joined the Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars, while Douglas joined the Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. Both went on to fight in the mud and horror of Flanders Fields.

Maurice contracted pneumonia in December 1914 after the Battle of Ypres. After returning home to recover, he rejoined his company to fight at Neuve Chapelle, the Second Battle of Ypres, Loos, the Somme, Arras, and Cambrai. In 1917, he was blown up, suffering a severe head injury and shell-shock. He returned to England to convalesce in Worthing, marking the end of his active wartime service. Though he had aspired to be an architect, he ultimately joined the family farm. This decision was partly due to his injury, and partly because his elder brother, Loder—who was meant to take over the farm – had died of meningitis three months after leaving Gallipoli. Loder had emigrated before the war and was one of only three men to survive out of 1,200 in his Australian regiment. In 1921, Maurice established the Beeches Bowls Club on his own land, later becoming a county and national player.

Douglas's service in the First World War was highlighted by a Banbury newspaper in August 1918:

'Second Lieutenant Douglas Hopcraft, only son of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Hopcraft, of Deddington, who mobilised with the Oxford and Bucks Territorials on the 4th August, 1914, and served with them on the Western front and obtained a commission in the latter part of last year, and was afterwards drafted to his old regiment and went with them to Italy as a second lieutenant, has recently been raised to the rank of Captain 'for services rendered during the offensive by the Austrians in the middle of June last.'

When in a tight corner, his company officers becoming casualties, he took command and succeeded in extricating his company at a critical moment. The promotion bestowed upon Captain Hopcraft is heartily congratulated by his fellow townspeople, who are very proud of the way in which so many of the boys from the old town have shown their mettle in their country's cause.

Douglas was awarded an MBE for this action. Between the wars, he was instrumental in purchasing the former Axle Tree Factory on the High Street, which became a YMCA Club and later the British Legion Club in 1925.

During the Second World War, both Douglas and Maurice were too old for frontline combat. Instead, Douglas became a Chief Observer for the Royal Observer Corps (ROC), managing the post on Hempton Road while continuing to run his building firm. Recently discovered ledger books from his and Gladys's former home, The Mount on Goose Green (once the Hole in the Wall public house), show the firm employed 16 men in 1940, reducing to eight by 1942 due to military call-ups and a reduction in available work. He sold the firm in 1948 to retire, but continued to serve the community as a Justice of the Peace.

Today, the physical presence of both families in the village has gone. Maurice and his wife, Freda, had one daughter, Joan, who had no children. Douglas and Gladys's only child, Donald, tragically died of polio in 1938 at the age of 14. Gladys was the final representative of both lines—a formidable character who lived at The Mount until the grand old age of 98. Following the death of the property's subsequent owner, a four-inch-thick, somewhat mildewed account book detailing the building firm's wartime work was discovered in the cellar, alongside meticulous records of the ROC's activities.

Nevertheless, the memories of Maurice, Douglas, and the hundreds of other local men who served still linger among Deddington's older generations and their stories remain preserved on the local history website and within the parish archives.

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POSTCARD FROM AMERICA

Citizen, Meeker, Bears, Hawaii, Mid-terms

I need to report some important news: I am going to apply for US citizenship. So, if any of you get a call from the Department of Homeland Security, asking questions about me, please tell them that I am white and that I love King Donald.

One of the things I do love about America is the diversity you see across the country and, with no dog to tie us down, we are travelling a lot right now. Key figures like Musk and Vance push a vision of white supremacy and blame 'outsiders' for the current problems, ignoring the history of this fine and diverse country. We can all benefit from understanding cultural differences.

We visited lovely friends who own a small ranch up in the Rocky Mountains and they took us to a dinner, celebrating the breaking in of wild mustangs by local horse trainers. Over 50% of the attendees wore cowboy hats and many had knives on their belts, but their guns were hidden as required by local law. Half the diners were imports like our friends, rich middle class retirees and second homeowners, for whom ranching is a hobby, not a livelihood, but everyone mixed and got on fine. There was no sign of the billionaires like ex-New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who owns a 4,000 acre ranch nearby with his own golf course and helipad. It was good to see that the old culture was still able to survive if not exactly thrive.

Heather's main problem with this mountain culture is why they need to shoot bears which is legal with a permit. Black bears have been seen in the park at the end of our street. They have come down to the plains because the drought is badly affecting their food supply. I guess us townies will never fully understand country life but we do need to accept the diversity.

The other fun trip this month was a week in the sunshine in Hawaii. We just missed two hurricanes. The Pacific has never had so many in one season but this does not deter migration from the mainland. Eleven per cent of private land on the islands is now controlled by just 37 billionaires. The large estate owned by Altman from OpenAI was 10 miles from our hotel; Ellison from Oracle owns his own island. The result is that house prices are 50% higher than in Colorado. Originally an independent state with close links to the UK, the islands were seized illegally in 1893 by a group of American businessmen. The local culture is still in existence, but it slowly erodes as many young people have to leave to follow their dreams.

As we board a plane to Europe on 3 November, the US will be voting in the midterm elections. In fact, by then most of Colorado will already have voted. It is all postal voting here. Trump's attempts to make this illegal was stopped by the Supreme Court. With his many missteps and the war in Iran raising gas prices, his popularity is at an all time low.

With my great prediction record, I'm not forecasting whether the voters will hand the two Houses back to the Democrats. I'm sure Mr Trump will accept it all gracefully. His gift of $90 arrived in my bank account yesterday. Thanks also to Mr Musk who has so far donated $278m to Republican candidates. I'm sure he doesn't want anything in return either. God save America. God save us all, November is going to be very stressful.

Mike Ward
mikeatcherwell@gmail.com

NEWS FROM CLIFTON

By the time you read, this the Book Club will have enjoyed their coming of age 21st beano down the Oxford road by bus. A full report will follow but is unlikely to include self-destructing shoes, audience participation, dodging ticket inspectors or 'Old Rosey' but will no doubt have its own memorable elements.

There was a surge of curiosity when a mini-digger appeared in the front garden of a neighbour who has become more reclusive of late. The interest advanced to deep concern when neighbours realised they hadn't seen Jo for a while, but all became well when Jo came to a Clifton Ladies event and the digger was removed. More concern arose when the Duke was closed on Wednesday afternoon with a water leak being blamed. It turned out the problem was less water but more whisky as causality.

While we were at the Duck, we all wished Abi a very happy birthday last week, while she is preparing for the Chicago marathon, building on her experience of the Brighton marathon. Many of us wished her all the very best while eating the birthday cake made by the busy kitchen.

This correspondent confidently predicts the third hole in Main Street in six months is coming. There is, at time of writing, a 55mm deep 'funnel type' depression in the road outside the eastern edge of Home Farm. The top of the funnel is more than 300mm wide but this will very soon be a hole. Many of us are confident there is a massive void under Main Street, carved over many years by the uncontrolled floodwater due to the defective drain. Watch this space, but you might want to 'drive around' if you don't want to lose your car in a big hole.

This month CAST (speed watch) reported its 34th HGV breaking the 7 tonne limit. Three have been prosecuted so far and two are pending. Others will be in the throes of the tachometer investigation. This compares with 44 reported all last year.

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

Martin Bryce
martindnbryce@gmail.com

MUSINGS

On 29 September, the US government launched America.gov, an AI platform the White House advises will make it easier for citizens to interact with the federal government and, in the future, access services including renewing passports and enrolling in Medicare.

Embedded on the website is a chatbot which, according to the executive order signed by Trump, is a place where citizens can ask questions and 'receive accurate answers'.

Enterprising early users, including journalists, asked the bot a few obvious and controversial questions:

Q: Who won the 2020 election?

A: Joseph R Biden Jr won the 2020 US presidential election.

Q: Are people twice as wealthy as they were a short time ago, as Trump claimed?

A: No. Federal Reserve data do not show American household wealth doubling since January 2025.

Q: Did the US experience the 'worst inflation ever' under Biden?

A: No. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Consumer Price Index data do not show that January 21–January 25, was the worst inflation ever in US history.

There are more examples. The bot denied Trump's claim that the US and Venezuela have 60% of the world's oil, that there was widespread voter fraud in the 2020 election and refuted his assertion that no president other than he had refused to take a government salary.

It was also happy to weigh in on more trivial matters close to Trump's heart. The attendance at his 2017 inauguration was claimed to have been 'the largest audience ever to witness an inauguration, in person and around the globe'.

America.gov said: 'Official sources do not support that 2017 had the largest in-person crowd of any US inauguration ... The Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies lists Barack Obama's 2009 ceremony as having the largest attendance of any presidential inauguration in US history and the largest attendance of any event in Washington DC history'.

Q: Trump's bizarre claim that turbines drive whales 'loco'.

A: US federal science agencies do not find that wind turbines, or 'windmills' as Trump calls them, drive whales 'loco'. Maybe they are driving Trump and his minions loco.

Who should we believe? A president who, according to the *Washington Post*, made 30,573 false or misleading claims in his first term? Or his AI platform, which draws on 29,000 websites to formulate its answers?

I expect few to find any of the above surprising. My motive was not revelling in the irony. After all, I'm told you should not mock the afflicted, but to highlight the more significant Orwellian (Trumpian) issues raised by what followed. Those asking the same or similar questions of the bot only days later were met with a refusal to answer. Google Gemini powers the bot. If you Google the same questions, it too refuses to return any responses.

Big Brother seems to have let his guard down on this one. Imagine the reaction when Donald was informed – assuming anyone of his fan club dared tell him.

Philip K Dick — 'Reality is that which, when you stop believing in it, doesn't go away.' Unfortunately, this axiom applies to Donald J Trump, even if those who fell for his charms in 2016 and 2024 push their MAGA cap up above their eyes, revealing the total moral bankruptcy and corruption he and his entourage of sycophants represent, will still be making mischief. Beware his legacy!

Stuart Oldham
sj_oldham@btinternet.com

PARISH SHOW

The Parish Show committee would like to express our sincere thanks to everyone who supported the Show in September and to confirm this year's beneficiaries:

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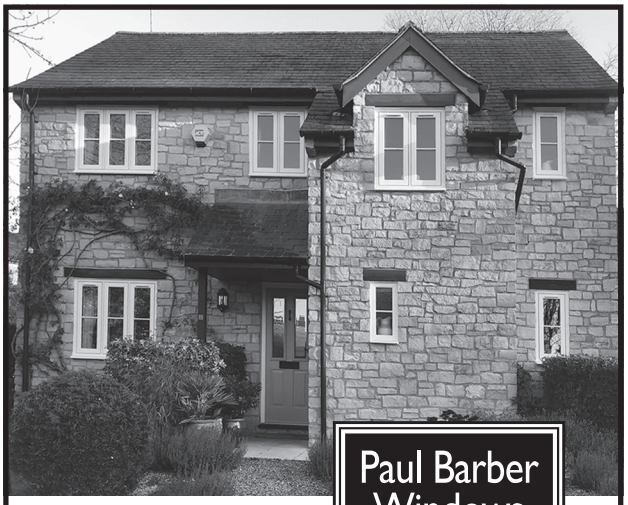
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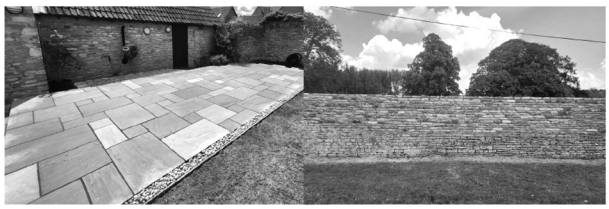
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UKRAINE UPDATE

17 October – yet another bombardment by Russian drones on Ukraine's energy sector, at the same time as the USA puts on hold a sweeping new sanctions package targeting the Russian economy which, according to President Zelenskyy 'only encourages Putin to keep attacking'. Sometimes the news is so dreadful that ordinary words seem completely inadequate for what has happened. Behind every headline is a human being, a family, a lifetime of memories and a future that should never have been put at risk.

Yet, even in the darkest of times, the courage, dignity and compassion shown by ordinary people remind us of the enduring strength of the human spirit. Maksym, our Ukraine-based Driving Ukraine operations manager, wants to remind us of something.

'Back in 2022, when the full-scale invasion had just begun, Ukraine's very existence as a state, the freedom of its people and the future of our democracy, were all seriously in question. But we held on. We survived a day, three days, a week, a month, a year. For four years now. We launched counter-offensives and liberated most of the Kharkiv region. We launched another counter-offensive and liberated most of the Kherson region. We held our ground in Donetsk. We stopped the Russian advance in Zaporizhzhia. We even brought the war onto Russian territory, into the Kursk region.

'Ukraine developed its own technologies and, in just a few years, made it possible to strike Russia's military machine deep inside its own territory, hundreds of kilometres behind the front lines.

'I am convinced that Europe is united, strong, and understands what we are fighting for every single day. This is a fight for freedom, democracy, and the European way of life, a fight against the totalitarianism of Putin's regime.

'I am confident that things will get better. I am confident that everything will be alright. The fight goes on and it is thanks to people like you and Driving Ukraine that we still have hope. Hope that we are not alone.

'We can and must continue fighting for what is right. The final bell hasn't rung yet. And this fight will continue until we win ...'

If you want to help in any way, join a convoy, fundraise, join the Driving Ukraine 'club' and donate a small amount monthly to ensure that we can continue to provide vehicles, drone detectors and UGVs to save lives on the front line. Thank you.

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DEDDINGTON LIBRARY

After a beautiful summer and a great reading challenge, everyone is settling down for the autumn.

I now have magazines for you to borrow, or come and sit and browse, have a coffee or tea and a chat with us. It would be lovely to see you.

As you read this, I will have had Hallowe'en decorations up and sold maps for Deddington Nursery's and PFSU's Hallowe'en trail around the village. I am looking forward to their weekly visits to the library.

In November, the library will be celebrating Baby Week, a new initiative supported by the libraries. I will be holding a coffee morning on 18 November 9.30–11.30am for all mums with babies and toddlers and of course child minders, nannies, carers and grandparents. It will be a great chance to meet and socialise at this free event.

Our library is looking fab and the hanging baskets look a treat. The outside space is coming along nicely. It is a bright and cheerful space and I love having visitors and my loyal readers in.

During these autumn and winter months we are a warm space for you. You are all welcome and coffee and tea is available – just ask.

Thank you for your support.

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

BLISSFUL THINKING

They say one man's trash is another man's treasure. After every global financial crash the bailiff industry booms. So in that vein, perhaps intrepid survivalists who enjoy scavenging tarmac-squeezed cuisine from source are living high on the hog right now, but for me (and I suspect many others) it is devastating and repugnant to see. A menagerie of perished critters line the roadside like Hallowe'en props. But they were all living, breathing creatures who just wanted to cross from one field to the next.

I witnessed a veritable hedgehog holocaust on the Hempton Road one morning this September. Two of the little mites had perished within a few yards of each other. I can't remember the last time I saw a living hog; just their prematurely pressed pelts. Accidents *do* happen although there is surely less excuse when these motorists should be driving at 20mph. If they can't spot movement in the road at that speed then they arguably shouldn't have a driving licence at all.

Hedgehogs, badgers, grouse, muntjacks, foxes; these remorseless treads don't discriminate. Maybe it's time we consider coming up with serious proposals to alleviate this growing blight. Villages might be too small for wildlife bridges to be appropriate but what about under-road culverts? We surely owe our diminutive cousins the kind of safe crossing points we all take for granted.

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A Battery to Keep the Lights On

The Windmill Centre was lucky enough to receive grant aid from SSE's Powering Communities to Net Zero Resilience Fund earlier this year. The £13,251 grant funded the installation of a 20kW battery and 15kW inverter at the Windmill to maximise the use of electricity from our 56-solar panel array. In the three months since installation, it has already, produced savings of £600 on the Windmill's electricity bills.

The Windmill is the parish's main emergency centre, so it satisfying to know that, in the event of a major emergency, the lights will be on in the Windmill. It also gives us energy security in an increasingly volatile world – and we're happy to do our bit towards Net Zero.

We are immensely grateful to SSE for this grant – we will use it well.

Mary Robinson
Chair Deddington PC

News from Deddington Health Centre

What would you think after staying in all day for a delivery that didn't arrive?

The group was shocked to realise the number of missed appointments, by speciality, in the last year. The department with the highest percentage, at 37%, was the nurse/care coordinators, with GPs scoring 23.2% and the health care assistants/health checks at 23%. Altogether this totals more than 400 missed appointments. Whilst it is accepted that life can get in the way and circumstances change, please make sure you cancel any appointment you know you cannot attend. Another patient could benefit.

At the last meeting the group was pleased to meet Matt Winser, the advanced clinical practitioner (paramedic)/urgent care manager, at the surgery. As a paramedic with more than 20 years' service, Matt has completed a master's degree and a prescribing qualification to enable him to treat patients with urgent needs each day. His wealth of experience and training means he can make referrals to hospital with the exclusion of referrals for X-rays and imaging.

If you need help to start accessing the online advice and appointment hub or the NHS app, the PPG will be arranging sessions at Deddington Library soon. Look out on the PPG Facebook page for further details.

You can contact the PPG via the email below or, if you are visiting the surgery, collect a feedback form from the noticeboard and pop it in the collection box when you have completed it. If you require an answer, please supply your contact details.

Anne Hunsley
Deddington Patient Participation Group
Ppg.deddington@gmail.com

YOUR PLANET NEEDS YOU

Armistice Day, 11 November, is the day we remember the many thousands of men and women who answered the call to sacrifice their lives in Two World Wars. They bravely did so in order to secure a safe, peaceful and prosperous future for their children and grandchildren – generations which they would not live to see.

In the 20th century allies came together to confront and ultimately defeat the threats to civilisation as they knew it. Some recognised the loomimg threats and made preparations; others kept their heads in the sands.

A powerful 50-minute film is being screened in the Windmill Centre on 11 November. It features ten of the UK's leading experts on the climate and nature crisis. They spell out what extreme change means for our health, food, economy and security and why there is still hope if we come together as allies and act together. That alliance is growing apace: 10,000 people registered for a recent webinar on the imminent threats of El Nino.

PEOPLE'S EMERGENCY BRIEFING, WINDMILL CENTRE, WEDNESDAY 11 NOVEMBER, 6.30–9.00pm

Discussion panel – Rob Forsyth, former nuclear submarine commander;

Dr Louise Ringrose, practising medic with the Immigration Service;

Councillor Gareth Epps, Deddington's County Councillor;
Chaired by Al Kitchen, former director the Low Carbon Hub.



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PRIMARY SCHOOL

It continues to be a wonderful start to the academic year at the primary school. The children have settled into their classes with enthusiasm and kindness, giving a warm welcome to new pupils and families. Across the school, learning has been full of variety, from investigating forces by making parachutes to building boats in Forest School. Our youngest children are enjoying making friends and exploring school life, while outdoor learning continues to help pupils develop confidence, independence and teamwork.

Fairtrade Fortnight brought plenty of fun, alongside an important message about fairness. Children hunted for Fairtrade logos, created colourful posters and enjoyed assemblies led by our enthusiastic pupil Fairtrade group, including a memorable appearance by some dressed as bananas! Our Harvest Communion Service in church was another opportunity to think about others. The Worship Group shared the Parable of the Sower and led the prayers. Generous donations from families were delivered to Banbury Food Bank. Thank you to everyone who contributed and to Fiona Stilgoe for transporting the food.

We are celebrating our young athletes' achievements at the Warriner Cluster Cross Country Event. All our runners showed determination and encouraged one another, with one Year 5 girl achieving an outstanding first place. Three school teams qualified for the final at Sibford in December, with a boy also qualifying individually after finishing sixth. Beyond the sports field, a group of pupils represented the school wonderfully through their volunteering at the Festival of the Girl in London, helping with preparations and welcoming visitors.

Creativity is taking centre stage with our planned Arts Week inspired by Maurice Sendak's *Where the Wild Things Are*, bringing together art, design, writing and outdoor adventures. Looking ahead, we will welcome prospective families to school open mornings on 17 and 19 November. Prospective parents can book an appointment to join us on those days by contacting the school office.

Thank you to our families, volunteers and neighbours for supporting school life and helping the children to 'Let Your Light Shine'.

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

PFSU AND NURSERY

Thank you to everyone who took part in our Hallowe'en trail around the village. We hope you had lots of fun. A special thanks again to Gail and Deddington Library for her continued support and helping to sell trail maps.

This month at Nursery we will be focusing on shapes and looking for signs of winter. We will be celebrating firework night, Diwali and Thanksgiving with our own Thanksgiving feast and line dancing.

At Pre-School we will be marking Remembrance Day with a special creative activity and starting our nativity rehearsals.

Shrene Saleh-Gillett
info@deddingtonnurseryandpfsu.co.uk

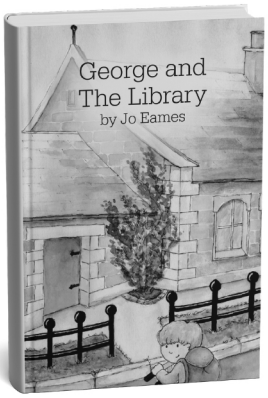
What We Can Know by Ian McEwan

This is, in part, a literary mystery, reminiscent of AS Byatt's *Possession,* though here combined with clifi. It is set almost a hundred years into the future, in which the climate emergency and rising sea levels have brought about drastic changes to everyday life. At the start, narrator Tom Metcalfe travels from Port Marlborough to the Bodleian Snowdonia Library to research the life of a poet of our own time, Francis Blundy, said to be as significant as Seamus Heaney. We circle back to a pivotal night in 2014 when Blundy read aloud his great work, a lengthy poem written for his wife, Vivien, but what happened to the only copy of the poem after that? The significance of the dinner party, who was there, and what led to the writing of the poem, is slowly revealed in this cleverly structured novel.

Linda Newbery
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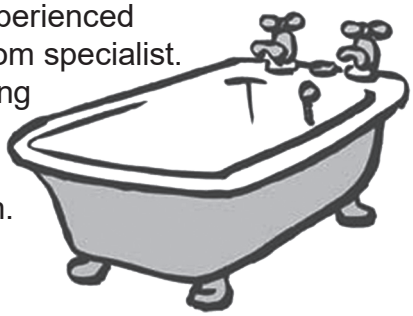
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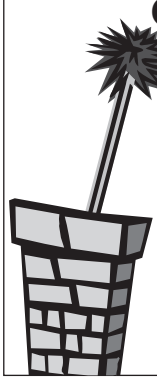
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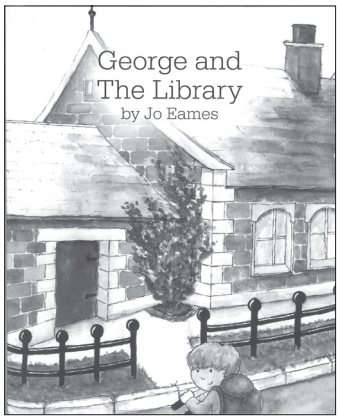
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Thank you to the many photographers in the parish who've continued sending in their calendar images. They're very much appreciated. However, as you may have gathered, we're not producing a calendar this year as we've a new and exciting project to celebrate the library's 70th anniversary.

Local author, Jo Eames, has kindly donated her children's book, *George and the Library* to the Friends to publish as our 2026/27 fundraiser. In this, the National Year of Reading, it's the ideal gift for Christmas. The book tells the story of George's attempt to save the library. It's a charming tale with a serious heart: a child's first encounter with bureaucracy, unfairness and the importance of standing up for the people who matter. It sounds familiar doesn't it?



Books are priced at £10.00 with all proceeds going to support the Friends of Deddington Library. Copies will be available at the November farmers' market and from our retail partners, Nellie & Dove, Hamptons, Fenemore Farms Clifton, Mark David and, of course, the library. As always, your support is greatly appreciated, thank you.

Bryn Williams
abw@brynwilliams.com

I'm a relative newcomer to the village but, with four years under my belt, I already know how important the monthly market is, not just as a focus and hub for villagers but also as a magnet to draw others into the village.

And the market certainly has a powerful pull. Only recently I learned that one visitor travels three hours each way to attend our market; not a stall-holder but a visitor. Now that's impressive.

What was also impressive was what was, in my experience, the best market ever last month. Not just because the sun shone and there were record numbers of visitors but it was also the market's 25th anniversary and there just seemed to be a very special magic in the air.

It was also the occasion when Tei, who has long been involved in the market and chair for the past three years, stepped down. She's done a stellar job in maintaining and building on the market's award winning record and high standards of produce and presentation.

I know some of you know me but many won't yet and I look forward to becoming more and more part of the fabric of the market as I've recently been appointed chair with Tei stepping down and handing the baton over to me.

If I have a profile in the village, it's perhaps as the crazy guy who decided turning the old antique centre back into a house was a good idea. Yeah, that guy, the one who thought painting googly eyes on the boarded up windows might make a few people smile.

Perhaps I'm less well known as knowing a thing or three about food and drink brands and hospitality. And so picking up the reins of the award winning farmers market makes sense to me. Let's hope it does to you too.

Mark Gandy
chairman@deddingtonfarmersmarket.co.uk

Friends of Castle Grounds

Mid-October and things are relatively calm on the Castle Grounds. No Mow May, adopted by the parish council, has overrun by what appears to be the customary five months or so but is now officially over and the roughly one-third or so of the Outer Bailey given over to NMM has been mown. In case you're not aware of the purpose of the campaign, this is it: https://www.plantlife.org.uk/campaigns/nomowmay/.

One of the consequences of the hot summer seems to be a very poor harvest on what is generally agreed to be the best apple tree on the site in normal circumstances. In the past, the apples have been big and juicy and chin-wipingly tasty (and much approved of by canine friends) but this year's crop are not much bigger than a ping-pong ball. Some look more like radishes, small and wrinkly and I'm not inclined to taste one. It was put to me a couple of days ago that the tree had been stripped of its apples, something that has happened in the past but, it looks to me as if only apples up to just above head height have gone, which is fair enough. Maybe they are so unprepossessing that a would-be pippin pincher didn't fancy the idea.

ODO UPDATE: Your correspondent has visited the Bayeux Tapestry/Embroidery in the British Museum to see if any more light can be thrown on his Excellency's involvement in the conquest of England which, in a manner of speaking, led to the construction of Deddington Castle.

SPOILER ALERT: According to the illuminated animation, it was he who urged William to invade and to hold a celebratory feast after the victory at Hastings but it was, unfortunately, pretty much downhill after that.

James Reeve
jameshreeve@outlook.com

CALLING ALL CLUBS

History Society

In October Marie-Louise Kerr gave a lively talk on the Romans of Oxfordshire. She first set the scene of the early invasions of England by the Romans. They found that England was not an 'unsophisticated backwater' – there were already tribes with a hierarchy who were neither uncultured nor barbarous. In 55BC an expeditionary force led by Julius Caesar was pushed back by united tribes. The following year his troops made some progress through Kent but had to return to Gaul. Claudius invaded in 43AD and, as tribal Britain was falling apart, was able to march through Kent and eventually develop 'Londinium' and push northwards.

Marie-Louise went on to portray the lives of everyday Romans, citing examples of Oxfordshire Roman settlements. North Leigh Roman villa housed a prosperous farming family. The villa had under floor heating, 16 rooms with mosaics and three bath suites. The outbuildings were for farmworkers. From excavations in 2017, the Roman villa in Cholsey, Wallingford, was thought to have been an Iron Age settlement that evolved into a small rural farming villa in Roman times. Gatehampton Roman villa, near Goring-on-Thames, was more of an early British design; it was an aisled villa with a main corridor and rooms either side. At the Wittenham Clumps, near Dorchester-on-Thames, evidence of 15 Iron Age round houses has been found in addition to a Roman villa.

Finally, Marie-Louise described the villa at Broughton Castle. This large courtyard villa is thought to have been built between the 1st and 4th century AD and was the subject of a Channel 4 TV programme in which the Time Team worked in 2021–2022. Mosaics on the floor, a water management system, Roman coins, as well as a sarcophagus of a high-status woman, indicate that it was an important settlement. The talk concluded with an opportunity to handle some Roman artefacts.

On 12 November, Liz Woolley will talk about the longstanding Oxfordshire construction company Kingerlee.

deddingtonhistorysociety@gmail.com

Photographic Society

At our October meeting, Sue Sibley spoke about photography with a difference. Sue lives in the New Forest which provides endless inspiration. She has been a member of Southampton Camera Club for 13 years and chairman of the Southampton International Exhibition for more than seven years.

Her creative journey was inspired by a photograph she saw in America, the image displaying a striking level of grain, sparking her interest in exploring different photographic techniques. For many years, she worked predominantly in monochrome. However, a recent trip to India, with its vibrant colours, encouraged her to embrace colour photography.

She particularly enjoys visiting Blists Hill Victorian Town and the Black Country Living Museum, where she captures a wide range of images. She often takes elements from these photographs and combines them with carefully selected backgrounds to create new compositions. She takes pleasure in mixing and images that share similar themes, moods or colour palettes to produce imaginative photographic artwork.

At our November meeting Lee Chapman will be talking about Recreating History. 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

Hempton Book Club

Carys Davies – *Clear*

This is a novella based around the Highland Clearances, hence the title. It is a story of loss, loneliness, love and friendship.

Ivar is the last inhabitant of a distant Scottish island, having chosen to stay when his family and other islanders left, tempted by offers of a better life on the mainland. He has an old horse, a cow and some chickens, and farms what he can of the land. His life is basic but he is content. The arrival of John Ferguson to evict him, throws his life into confusion after he rescues John from the sea and nurses him back to health. As they do not share a common language, Ivar speaks only Norn, John cannot explain why he is there. With some difficulty they begin to learn to communicate and John records Ivar's language (this does get a bit wearing). Their friendship soon develops into physical love. But then John's wife comes to find him. It is a



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CALLING ALL CLUBS

Continued from p26

simple story beautifully told, full of tenderness.

Recommend – yes, with reservations. Read another by the same author – yes, but wouldn't necessarily go looking for it. Marks out of 10 – 7.

Jo Churchyard
jochurchyard@hotmail.com

Local Vocals Community Choir

How quickly things can change. Our very loved choir leader Rachel is once again taking time away from us to receive further cancer treatment. We hope that she will return after Easter. Having had a few weeks of no singing we are now under the experienced guidance of Cassie. An adjustment for us, but her energy and humour will definitely bring out the best in us. Christmas carols, here we come.

Our choir meets at 7.30pm at the primary school each Monday during term time. Please see our website www.localvocalscc.co.uk.

Alison Grieve

Windmill Film Club

After a gap of six weeks due to other people booking the hall, the club met again on 10 October to watch an Irish film called *500 Miles,* with Bill Nighy attempting the accent. Members chose this over films with dinosaurs, zombies and animated toys and those present had an enjoyable evening as a result.

Going forward, all our meetings will be on the first Saturday of the month which should make planning easier. As usual, I will send out a list of four films to choose from and we will watch the winner on 7 November at 7.30pm. If you are not a member but would like to join the fun, email me.

Peter Hogben
events@thewindmilldeddington.org

Royal British Legion

Weather permitting, Remembrance Sunday parades and service on 8 November will follow the usual procedures. Gather in the Bull Ring at 10.30am with march off just after 10.50am for a service of Remembrance at the war memorial, followed by a service in the church. The parade will then return to the Bull Ring, giving an 'eyes right' as it passes the memorial garden on the little green. Both parades will be led by Piper Stewart Carnegie, who will also play a lament in the churchyard after the two minute silence. In the event of bad weather, a decision will be made whether to just hold a church service, in which case all parties should proceed to the church from the Bull Ring by 10.30am.

I am sad to report the death of Irene Bailey who died during the summer in South Wales. Irene supported our branch for many years by playing the *Last Post* and *Reveille* on Remembrance Sundays. She is sadly missed.

Rob Forsyth
robert.s.forsyth@gmail.com

Women's Institute

Our October meeting was on the Mitford sisters. The family was an ancient one with the ancestral title of Redesdale. The six Mitford sisters were born in the early 1900s and their political beliefs were very different. The eldest sister Nancy was a well-known novelist, the next was Pamela, a farmer. Diana was a fascist married to Sir Oswald Mosley, whilst Unity was a Nazi and friend of Adolf Hitler. Jessica was a Communist, and Deborah became Duchess of Devonshire and lived at Chatsworth House. The variety of their beliefs are astounding, especially in an era where women were not expected to be politically active.

Moira Byast 07467 067883

Book Group

Our latest book choice was *Blackberry Wine* by Joanne Harris. Anyone who has read *Chocolat* by the her will recognise the fictional French village which features in both books. This novel is narrated by a bottle of wine but the main character is Jay, a young Englishman who purchases a dilapidated house and garden in the village. His constant inspiration is Joe, a figure from his childhood, an eccentric old man and maker of jams, wines and potions. The storyline expands to include an attractive and reclusive neighbour and a controversial plan to increase tourism in the village. We really enjoyed the rich descriptions of village life and characters mingled with Joanne's ability to conjure up scents, tastes and even a little magic.

The Book Group

SPORT

Deddington Tennis Club

We're now into the winter season at the Club, with lots of teams entered in midweek and weekend competitions. But this month, I am going to talk about the end of our summer internal competitions. Club finals day were held on 27 September, the culmination of our summer competitions that run each year from May to September. As well as the usual ladies' and men's doubles and singles and mixed doubles, this year we included a new open seeded doubles competition where players could choose their partner. Having had unprecedented good weather all summer, finals day was plagued by a few rain delays. The men's singles warm up included sweeping puddles from the courts, but we managed to get all the matches played. A big thanks and congratulations to everyone who took part. In the open seeded doubles competition the finalists were two father/son teams – Will and Geoff Ward and Tjin and Andy Camoenie. Here is the list of the winners – you can see photos and the full draws on our website. Men's singles: Justin Sims; ladies' singles: Kathryn Hampshire; men's doubles: Will Ward and Clive Hamilton-Gould; ladies' doubles: Sian Westbury and Jane Jana; mixed doubles: Cheryl Lydon and Adam Kaznowski; open seeded doubles: Tjin and Andy Camoenie.

Fancy joining in next year? There's information on the website, www.deddingtontennis.com. We have

SPORT

Continued from p29

tennis for all levels and ages and we'd love to hear from you.

Becky Jones

Deddington Original Golf Society

Another summer has flown by and what a summer it was. The common denominator of all the venues played this year was the Sahara-like condition of the fairways with very little in the way of green to be seen. Mother nature being an amazing parent, she again rose to the challenge and after several spells of 'just the right rain' the grass is now back to its normal self.

Our last event for 2026 is the now traditional trip to Tadmarton Heath GC on Friday 11 December for our Christmas alliance competition, followed by Christmas dinner. Details will follow shortly.

Our AGM will be held on Monday 18 January. Notice and agenda will be distributed nearer the date. Thanks to all the stalwart DOGS who turned out for the venue this year. Your support was much appreciated.

Tony Lowe, Secretary
dogsgolf23@gmail.com

Deddington Town FC

First Team Results:

12.9.26	Watlington Town (a)	L 0–1
19.9.26	Kennington Athletic Res (a) Fountain, Whitrow	W 2–1
26.9.26	Hanwell Utd (a) (CUP)	L 0–2
3.10.26	Carterton A (a) Fountain (2), Gibbins (3), Hardy (2), Hayward	W 9–0
10.10.26	Chesterton (h) Fountain (3), Gibbins (2), Welch	W 6–0

Reserve Team Results:

12.9.26	Union Street (a)	W 2–0 Cox, Newton
19.9.26	Yarnton A (h) Lewis, Taylor (2)	W 4–2 Cox,
26.9.26	Chesterton MBLS Res (h) Jackson (2), Jones, Taylor, Lewis, Cook	W 7–1 Cox,
3.10.26	Charlton Utd Res (h)	Home walkover
10.10.26	Steventon (a)	L 0–2

Well, well, well. The Dedd Reckoners have been blazing impressive trails in their new dominions, with the Humbugs getting over a brief stutter to Blitzkrieg the whimpering tons of Carter and Chester. Josh Gibbins' hat-trick outdid Jack Fountain's brace in the first demolition job, with roles reversed the game after, leaving Jack with a run of 6 strikes in 4 games.

The Latics had their own annihilation of a different flavour of Chesterton, as they hit the top of the table, with Jake Cox proving an effective marksman. It's all looking promising for our intrepid glory hounds as they sniff out their own place in the storied history of D-E-DOUBLE D-I-N-G-T-O-N!

Aaron Bliss 07909 642882

Deddington Town FC Youth

The Under 16s have had a perfect start to the new season, winning all four league games to sit top of the Oxfordshire Youth League C Division. They had 2–5 win at Oxford Blackbirds, 2–3 away win at Hinksey Park, 2–0 home win over Watlington and 1–3 away win at Purley. They also had a 3–1 win over Grendon Rangers in the county cup. The Under 15s had an 8–0 away defeat at Tower Hill, 1–1 draw with Witney Vikings, 10–0 defeat at Witney Viking Warriors, and 1–4 home defeat to Banbury Irish. The Under 14s had a 0–1 win at Hook Norton, 8–1 win over Carterton, 3–2 defeat at SWIS, and 2–0 win over Wychwood. The Under 13s had a 6–1 defeat to Ducklington, 2–4 home defeat to Clanfield, 2–3 away win at Easington, 2–3 home defeat to Kingston, and 1–4 defeat to Ducklington. They also had a 1–6 defeat to Kidlington in the county cup.

Roger Sykes, Club Development Officer
carsykes@btinternet.com

YOUTH

1st Deddington Scout Group

Cubs

This term has been exciting for Cubs. We have welcomed new Cubs, getting to know one another through activities and learning about the Cub Scout laws and values.

We have played lots of team games and have particularly enjoyed playing 40–40 in the woods, which has quickly become a new favourite. The Cubs have also taken part in a range of fun challenges. They made jumping beans and built the tallest towers using only spaghetti and marshmallows.

As part of our disability awareness activities, we played blindfold games using ropes to help us understand some of the challenges faced by visually impaired people. We learned about Braille and enjoyed writing secret messages to be decoded. It has been fantastic to see the Cubs developing their teamwork and problem-solving skills while having fun. We are looking forward to more exciting adventures this term.

Tina Deacon deddingtoncubs@gmail.com

Scouts

In October the Scouts worked on aspects of their World Challenge Award. *Someone Like Me* made them look at the problems a child from another culture may face when trying to become part of a new community. In this instance, how could we welcome them to Scouts. We then looked at the pros and cons of renewable and non-renewable energy sources. Both topics raised some interesting views.

An evening of problem-solving/team building saw them trying to erect a tent blindfolded (hilarious) and reverse a tarpaulin that they were all standing on.

With the Poppy Appeal approaching the Scouts lent a hand compiling trays of poppies for distribution. They completed the task in 25 minutes under the supervision of members of the RBL. A good job well done; next job the street poppies

Pete Churchyard
deddingtonscouts@gmail.com

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Horton General	0300 304 7777
John Radcliffe	0300 304 7777
Oxford, The Manor (Private)	01865 307777
Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre	0300 304 7777
Katharine House Hospice	01295 229940
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Careline (over 60s)	0800 833 408
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WINDMILL CENTRE	07720 834006
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DEDDINGTON LIBRARY 01865 816010

Monday	2.00–7.00pm
Wednesday	9.30am–1.00pm
Thursday	1.00–5.00pm
Saturday	9.30am–1.00pm

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

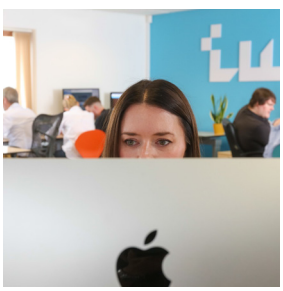
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