



This month's editor  
CATHERINE DESMOND

JUNE 2014 copy to  
JILL CHEESEMAN  
editor@deddingtonnews.co.uk  
by 17 MAY 2014

Next advertising copy date:  
10 MAY 2014

MANAGING EDITORS:  
Jill Cheeseman 338609  
Catherine Desmond 336211  
editor@deddingtonnews.co.uk

PARISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT:  
Jean Rudge 338110  
deddingtoncastle@gmail.com

CLUBS EDITOR:  
Alison Day 337204  
clubs@deddingtonnews.co.uk

DIARY EDITOR:  
Wendy Meagher 336216  
diary@deddingtonnews.co.uk

FEATURES EDITOR:  
Hilary Smith 337813  
features@deddingtonnews.co.uk

CHURCH & CHAPEL EDITOR:  
Frank Steiner 338264  
f.steiner@btopenworld.com

LETTERS EDITOR:  
Jill Cheeseman 338609  
letters@deddingtonnews.co.uk

MONTHLY ADS & INSERTS:  
Debbie Grimsley 336110  
adverts@deddingtonnews.co.uk

ANNUAL ADS:  
Jill Cheeseman 338609  
annuals@deddingtonnews.co.uk

WEB EDITOR:  
Mary Robinson  
web@deddingtonnews.co.uk

TREASURER:  
Buffy Heywood 338212  
bd.heywood@btinternet.com

PRINTING:  
Ruth Johnson 338355  
Pat Swash

COLLATING & DISTRIBUTION:  
Pat Brittain 338685  
and teams

2014 COVER:  
John Price

Spring is happily bursting out all over and so is activity in Deddington, as demonstrated by the abundance of copy this month – club reports and letters especially. My apologies to all those contributors whose material has been severely pruned or, if not time sensitive, postponed until next month.

CD

**MAY**

- Thu 1 Concert: African Children's Choir, Parish Church, 7.00pm
- Fri 2 DOGS: 18 holes and lunch, Wychwood Golf Club
- Fri 2 Hempton Social Night: Hempton Church Hall, 7.00pm
- Sat 3 Cricket Club: Opening game, Windmill Centre, 1.30pm
- Mon 5 Monday Morning Club: Coffee Morning, Holly Tree, 10.30am
- Tue 6 Hempton Ladies: Church Hall, 2.00pm
- Wed 7 Annual Parish Meeting of Residents: Windmill Centre, 7.30pm
- Wed 7 Photo Society: Yin Wong, 'The Evolution of My Photography', Cartwright Hotel, Aynho, 7.30pm
- Thu 8 Monday Morning Film Club: Film tba, Holly Tree, 6.30pm
- Sat 10 Concert: Warriner Choral Society, Bach and Handel, Parish Church, 7.30pm
- Sat 10 RBL: Cash Prize Bingo, RBL Hall, 8.00pm
- Sun 11 Concert: Aronowitz Choral Society, Parish Church, 7.45pm
- Tue 13 WI: Resolutions, Holly Tree, 7.30pm
- Wed 14 History Society: Frank Preece, 'Florence Nightingale and Claydon House', Windmill Centre, 7.30pm
- Fri 16 Film Competition: Deadline for Deddington Festival 2014
- Sun 18 PTA, PFSU, Fire Service: Four Farms Challenge, Castle Grounds, 10.00am
- Sun 18 RBL: Skittles evening, farewell to Rev Hugh White, RBL Hall, 7pm
- Wed 21 Photo Society: Workshop, 'Table-top Photography', Cartwright Hotel, Aynho, 7.30pm
- Wed 21 Annual Parish Council Meeting and Parish Council Meeting: Windmill Centre, 7.30pm
- Sat 24 Farmers' Market: Market Place, 9.00am–12.30pm
- Wed 28 DN: Collating, Windmill Centre, 10.00am
- Thu 29 Book Club: Call 338094 for information, 7.30pm
- Sat 31 Concert: Saltarello Ensemble, Parish Church, 7.30pm

**JUNE**

- Mon 2 Monday Morning Club: Coffee Morning, Holly Tree, 10.30am
- Tue 3 Hempton Ladies, Church Hall, 2.00pm
- Fri 6 History Society: Trip to the National Arboretum, 8.00am
- Fri 6 Hempton Social Night: Hempton Church Hall, 7.00pm
- Sun 8 Concert: Adderbury Ensemble, Parish Church, 7.30pm
- Tue 10 Windmill Management Committee: AGM, Windmill Centre, 7.30pm

Copies of the Deddington News are available at THE FLOWER SHOP with a box for donations.

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## DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

### Meeting at Hempton Church Hall on Wed 16 April 2014

**Present** were Councillors Anderson, Collins (Chair), Cox, Day, Flux, Oldfield, Watts, Williams, Wood (Vice Chair). Also District Councillor O'Sullivan, County Councillor Fatemian and several members of the public.

Apologies to Cllr Bryn Williams for the omission of his name at last month's meeting – he was present.

**Open forum:** The volume of commuter traffic on St Thomas St causes inconvenience to residents and danger to pedestrians. The introduction of 'residents only' parking was suggested. Cllr Fatemian promised to arrange a visit from an OCC traffic expert. HGVs should not be using this road as there is a weight restriction on the bridge at Clifton. Residents are asked to report the registration number of offenders to the police.

A petition was presented to the Council asking for resistance to further applications for large scale developments in the village and expressing concern about the current application (14/00412/F) for 26 houses at 'The Poplars' on the Clifton road. This will be forwarded to CDC and OCC but will only count as one complaint, despite the number of signatures. Residents who wish to express opposition should send an individual letter to CDC.

**Planning:** Some time was spent discussing the above application, which was rejected in a vote of five against, one in favour and four abstentions. The working group will continue to monitor the progress of this application.

**County Council:** Cllr Fatemian reported that the number of houses to be built in Cherwell over the next 25 years is now 22,840 – double the previous forecast. The Parish Council plans to send a letter of objection to OCC.

**District Council:** Cllr O'Sullivan reported that the application for development in St Thomas St mentioned last month is on hold due to changes in the plans. However, if approved by CDC against the advice of Deddington Parish Council it will go to committee for further discussion.

This was Cllr O'Sullivan's last meeting, as he is retiring. Thanks were expressed for his conscientious service as District Councillor for Deddington for 20 years and he was presented with a small token of appreciation.

**Finance and General Planning:** The Council agreed to make a donation of £500 to the Deddington Festival, provided there are no more cars on the green. It also

agreed to spend £200 on investigating the drain problem at the Castle Grounds, and spend £450 to improve the perimeter hedging on the north side of the Satin Lane allotments. This has the approval of the Police who wish to curb anti-social behaviour in the area.

**Environment and Recreation:** The collapsed bin in the Bull Ring is to be replaced (£169+VAT and delivery). Play equipment at the Windmill and in Clifton is to be professionally cleaned to ensure safety (£230+VAT). The perimeter hedges at the Windmill Centre are in need of remedial work. The Council would look at other hedges owned by them in the Parish and instigate a regular inspection for future maintenance. £100 was voted to the Friends of Castle Grounds for weed-killing which is to become an item of regular maintenance.

**Highways and Transport:** The bus stop outside the Manor in New Street now has some welcome hard-standing. However, this is in the form of plastic netting which is less durable than 'Grasscrete' and more likely to be damaged. A polite letter is therefore to be sent to adjacent properties asking that the verge not be used for car parking. It is hoped that householders will comply with this request.

Walkers on the Coombe Hill Farm and Deddington Circular Walk routes are asked to report any obstruction directly to OCC. This will help keep the paths open as local opposition to closures and diversions increases the cost to the landowner and adds weight to the consultation procedure. The link is:

[www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/sites/default/files/folders/documents/environmentandplanning/country-side/access/rightsofway/HAGuidancenotes.pdf](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/sites/default/files/folders/documents/environmentandplanning/country-side/access/rightsofway/HAGuidancenotes.pdf)

The Town Hall rendering is to be delayed for consultation as to the best material to be used.

Local elections take place on 22 May at the Windmill Centre for both Parish Council and Cherwell District representatives. New candidates for the Parish Council would be especially welcome. If you are interested in applying, please speak to the Parish Clerk on 337447 or visit CDC's website and follow the appropriate links. There is also information on DOL's website.

**Next PC meeting:** Wed 14 May 7.30pm Windmill Centre

**Annual Parish Meeting of Residents:** 7 May, 7.30pm, Windmill Centre

**Annual Parish Council Meeting:** 20 May 7.30pm, Windmill Centre

*These Parish Council notes are the view of our reporter, Jean Rudge, and not the official minutes. To see those, go to <http://www.deddington.org.uk/community/pc/pcminutes>.*

## WINDMILL AGM

The Windmill AGM will be held on Tuesday 10 June at 7.30pm in the Windmill Centre. All users, both individual and organisations, are invited to attend to discuss any issues associated with the running of your Community Centre.

## FROM THE FIRE STATION

We have been out 60 times since the beginning of the year, which is just about our average. The incidents we have been attending are a mixed bag. We were the second crew to attend the fire at the Banbury Twenty Club cricket pavilion. There was a large thunder storm which happened without warning. Several properties were hit, the pavilion being one of them, and it went from a quiet Friday to a very busy one. When we arrived we knew we had our work cut out for us as the whole roof was on fire and we were also told that there were propane gas cylinders in the building. We called for more fire engines which now made six. With the other incidents happening at the same time this really stretched our resources. We battled the blaze for about six hours but unfortunately lost it and the building turned to ashes.

We were also called to a crash on the M40 where we had to remove the roof from a car to rescue a casualty. Resources were much stretched that day since we were also supporting the Banbury crew. We had just got the casualty into the ambulance when we were called to yet another incident. We can go days without a call and then we can be stretched to the utmost and there is no limit to the times we can be called out.

On our own patch it's been fairly quiet this month. We did go to a small fire caused by a washing-machine in Mill Close. When we attend any incidents involving property we always check that the house is safe, including checking the smoke alarms. On this occasion we found that they were mains-connected but, on further inspection, found they had no battery back-up, meaning that, if the power was to go off for any reason, the smoke alarms would not work. If you have mains-powered smoke alarms we advise that you check to see if there is a battery fitted and replace it yearly. If you find your mains-connected smoke alarms have no battery you should replace them with ones that have.

We are gearing up to have a complete change of breathing apparatus. The new sets are a great improvement on our old ones with more air in our tanks plus wireless communication and digital displays. This involves a huge amount of extra training which we are really looking forward to. Even though some of our equipment continues to change, we still attach string guide lines in large buildings and follow them so we don't get lost. You never know, as we move further into the 21st century they may find a safer way of doing that too.

On a final note, I would like to remind everyone about the Four Farms Challenge which is a 5k and 10k run around the Deddington parish farms. We are organising this event on Sunday 18 May, in conjunction with the PFSU and the PTA. We would hope that everyone in our community will join us either to take part, or just come along and support this event. For an application form and more information visit <http://fourfarmschallenge.co.ipage.com>.

**Tim Parker, Crew Manager**

## PRIMARY SCHOOL

On 24–28 March my Year 6 class spent a wonderful week in the heart of Exmoor. They had a fantastic time and I was proud of their determination to take part in every activity, the respect and care they showed one another, and their sense of fun. We came back exhausted but happy.

Dominik Bagot would like to share his highlights with you.

'On Thursday I woke up really excited because myself and the group were going on the cliff adventure – I'd heard amazing things about it so I could not wait to go. After breakfast we went to get the right clothes on, then went to get the rock climbing equipment. We had two instructors to take us (Shaun and David) and they encouraged us all the time.

When we got to the beach we all went rock pooling, everyone found great things like: crabs, fish, anemones and lots of different shells. We found out that if you touch anemones you get stung 200 times but since you have skin it protects you.

After we had lunch and went rock climbing – have a bit of a fear of heights but David encouraged me and I got to the top. I don't really think anyone noticed that was my fear though. I was really proud of myself.

When it was time to go home, I was very sad because we had so much fun at the cliff adventures. Overall I thought it was a fantastic day and would like to go back!

**Jane Cross, Deputy Headteacher 338430**



**DEDDINGTON FOUR FARMS  
CHALLENGE**

**Sunday 18th May 2014**

The Deddington Four Farms Challenge is a 5km and 10km run around the picturesque parish of Deddington. The event is open to all, and has something to offer experienced runners, fun runners and families alike.

**Registration is now open**  
visit [www.fourfarmschallenge.co.uk](http://www.fourfarmschallenge.co.uk)  
email: [info@fourfarmschallenge.co.uk](mailto:info@fourfarmschallenge.co.uk)







Raising funds for Registered Charities: Deddington Primary School PTA (1052715), Deddington Village Nursery and PFSU (1100275) and The Firefighters Charity (1093387)

## DEDDINGTON DEVELOPMENT WATCH

An application for 26 houses and a 40-space car park at the Poplars site, Clifton Road, was submitted to Cherwell District Council in mid March. Although initially incomplete, it was finally registered in late March and the consultation period began in April.

DDW thought it important, after the Prudential land approval, to establish the views of the village to further large scale development and to bring the views of the village to the attention of the decision makers. We circulated a petition stating that: 'We, the residents of Deddington, call on our PC, following the approval of 85 houses on the Prudential land, to resist all further applications for large scale residential developments on green field sites in, or adjoining, the village which involve building more than 15-20 houses'.

Six hundred and eighty-six residents (52%) of our village signed the petition in the limited time we had available before the PC meeting on 16 April. The response clearly demonstrates the views of the village and, as very few people we approached declined to sign the petition, this is the view of the great majority of residents. In addition, residents in Castle Street, Chapel Square and Clifton Road were given the opportunity to sign a second petition focussing on road safety issues. This petition had the almost unanimous support of these residents and was submitted to the County Council as the Highway Authority.

DDW would like to thank everyone who signed these petitions. Your overwhelming support for our objective – protecting our historic and attractive village from excessive and inappropriate development reinforces our commitment, and helped by our PC, to do what we can to achieve that. We only get one chance – once built on, green-field land and historic landscape is lost, probably for ever. May we apologise to those residents who would have wished to sign the petitions but whom we were unable to contact in the time available.

Both petitions were submitted to the PC at its April meeting and it resolved that CDC be recommended to refuse the Poplars application.

DDW has also distributed a flyer to every home in the parish setting out numerous planning reasons why this application should be refused. The extended deadline for submission of comments is Monday 28 April. If you are able, please send your comments to CDC.

Your views should count. After all, it is our village, but if CDC does not know what we think then others' viewpoints (Pickles/Boles) will be heard.

Meanwhile, the sale of the Prudential land, opposite the Fire Station, is underway and we await the outcome of that process. The appeal decision on that site requires construction to start, in effect, no later than December 2015 and, in all probability, earlier.

**Grahame Handley**  
[grahamehandley@gmail.com](mailto:grahamehandley@gmail.com)

## BADEN-POWELL TREFOIL AWARD

Congratulations to two of our Guides on gaining the highest award in Guiding. Lorna Murray and Ellie Cox were presented with their awards by Division Commissioner Gwyneth Davies at a ceremony in the Windmill Centre, attended by parents and friends of the girls. The girls both live in Adderbury where they first attended Guides, but transferred to the Deddington unit in order to take part in the Oxfordshire Gang Show since rehearsals clashed with their meeting evening.

The Baden-Powell Trefoil is the highest award a Guide can achieve. Each Guide must complete ten challenges from five zones: Healthy Lifestyles, Global Awareness, Discovery, Skills and Relationships, and Celebrating Diversity. Once completed, the final challenge is attending a BP adventure weekend.

The idea is to select challenges that they enjoy but that inspire new skills and challenges them to extend existing skills.

Lorna and Ellie have done some tasks together, ranging from organising a 'ready, steady cook challenge', mini Olympics and international and pamper evenings. Individually, Ellie attended a music workshop and recorded a CD while Lorna extended her drama skills. They ended with a Monopoly-inspired challenge around Cambridge for their adventure weekend, where they joined a group of Guides from Bedford.

**Mariann Young**  
[mariann.young@btinternet.com](mailto:mariann.young@btinternet.com)




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## CHURCH AND CHAPEL

### Services for May

#### Parish Church SS Peter and Paul

Thu 1 2.00pm Squeals and Wheels  
 7.30pm Eucharist: Philip and James  
 Sun 4 10.30am First Sunday  
 6.30pm Choral Evensong  
 Wed 7 10.00am Eucharist  
 Thu 8 2.00pm Squeals and Wheels  
 Sun 11 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)  
 10.30am Sung Eucharist  
 Wed 14 10.00am Eucharist Mathias  
 Thu 15 2.00pm Squeals and Wheels  
 Sun 18 10.30am Eucharist with Baptisms  
 3.00pm Vicar's leaving service  
 Wed 21 10.00am Eucharist  
 Thu 22 2.00pm Squeals and Wheels

*FODC Floodlight Sponsor Week beginning 2 April*

John Parkinson

In memory of my wife, Sue Parkinson

Wed 28 10.00am Eucharist  
 Thu 29 2.00pm Squeals and Wheels  
 Sat 31 10.00am Eucharist: Visitation

#### St John's, Hempton

Sun 4 9.00am Eucharist  
 Sun 18 9.00am Eucharist  
 Sun 25 10.30am Benefice Rogation (Calcutt Farms)  
 Thu 29 7.30pm Eucharist: Ascension Day

#### Barford St Michael

Sun 4 10.30am Eucharist  
 Sun 11 10.30am Family Service  
 Sun 18 10.30am Morning Service

#### From the Parish Registers

*Service of Thanksgiving*

2 April Sue Parkinson

9 April Sue Bliss

For baptisms, weddings, funerals or home visits in case of illness, please contact the Vicar, the Rev. Dr Hugh White, 28 Duns Tew (349869), or one of the churchwardens, Iain Gillespie (338367) or George Fenemore (338203). From 18 May please contact the churchwardens rather than the Vicar on church matters. For further information please go to [www.deddingtonchurch.org](http://www.deddingtonchurch.org).

#### Wesleyan Reform Church, Chapel Square

Sundays mornings at 10.30am: Pastor Isabel Walton

4 May Maurice Nichols

25 May Geoff Lee

*Pastor Isabel Walton 33715*

#### RC Parish of Hethe

*Fr John Burns 277396*

*Parish Deacon Rev R Hughes 01295 720869*

Mass at Holy Trinity, Hethe: Every weekday, except Wed, at 9.30am, Sun at 10.00am.

Confessions at Hethe: Sat 5.30-6.00pm.

The Vigil Mass at St John's Church, Banbury, is said at 4.00pm on Saturdays to allow worshippers from the villages to attend by public transport.

Information on the meetings of other faith groups can be found at  
<http://www.deddington.org.uk/community/church/otherfaithsandbeliefs>.

### BLISSFUL THINKING

'Why did the Easter bunny hot cross the road?' the lachrymose procession asked themselves, as the grisly remnants of the little fuzball were scraped up and deposited for disposal. Some thoughtless motorist had squashed the rabbit that laid the chocolate eggs, yet it seemed as if the Establishment would see to it that nobody would serve justice for the heinous crime. Despite the overwhelming sense of loss, the acolytes of that fluffy giver of chocolate-flavoured treats continued to produce the sickly sweet eggs in its absence, and the world moved on – though not before the remains of the bunny mysteriously disappeared a couple of days after expiration, disappointing many salivating over the prospect of rabbit stew. Hopefully, we've all remembered the true meaning of Easter this year. Happy springtime to all and may all of your chocolate eggs have been Fairtrade.

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

### PFSU AND VILLAGE NURSERY

Our Easter holiday club was a great success with the children enjoying cookery, creative, and other activities with an Easter theme.

This term we will be enjoying lots of time outside, with our activities including mini-beast hunts, feeding the birds and growing things.

Thank you to everyone who supported the Curry and Quiz Night. Our next fund-raising event will be the Four Farms Challenge on 18 May.

We are now offering free places for eligible two year olds at our Nursery. Please contact us on 337383 for further information. We have places at both the Nursery (for 2–3 year olds) and PFSU (for 3–4 year olds) from September. Please contact us soon via our website, email [deddingtonpfsuandnursery@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:deddingtonpfsuandnursery@hotmail.co.uk) or by phone to reserve a place for your child.

**Lucy Squires**  
 337484

## DEDDINGTON FARMERS' MARKET

The market is really getting into its stride with seasonal specials like asparagus and rhubarb. It's also interesting to see whose polytunnel is furthest ahead of the season. So there could be tomatoes. Maybe even a strawberry or two?

And it's not just the produce. The market itself is growing. There were over 2,000 visitors to the March market – that's a lot of people in a three hour period. With increasing footfall and consistently full stallholder spaces the market is thinking about expanding. There are plans to give the stalls a facelift with new awnings, bring in a new layout to give the existing stalls more room, make room for new stalls, and, perhaps, even close the road next to the market. As part of the market improvements there's now a Market Twitter feed you can follow, @DeddingtonFMkt, and a Market Facebook page you can like.

Don't forget to check out the specials board at every market. For more up to date news about the coming market (apart from the specials board which really is last minute) you can listen to the market preview available one week ahead of market day on Deddington OnAir ([www.deddingtononair.org](http://www.deddingtononair.org)) and on the market website ([www.deddingtonfarmersmarket.co.uk](http://www.deddingtonfarmersmarket.co.uk)). BBC Radio Oxford carries a regular market preview every market morning. Or you could just get yourself a personal update (and a chance to win a voucher to spend at the market) by emailing a request to [marketing@deddingtonfarmersmarket.co.uk](mailto:marketing@deddingtonfarmersmarket.co.uk). The market is on Saturday 24 May from 9am– 12.30pm. Good shopping!

*Ian Willox 337940*

## NEWS FROM HEMPTON

The table tennis team has played five matches since I last wrote, winning two and drawing one, but two poor defeats mean they will finish in third place in the Banbury and District League with one game left against the potential champions, Bodicote. The village still awaits the promised Parish Council noticeboard, but the wait seems to go on and the present one is in danger of collapsing. The Friday evening social night continues and the next will be on 2 May from 7.00pm – please keep a look out for the advertising boards in the street.

The Old Schoolroom, as I intend to call the hall, will be used for the Cherwell and Parish Council elections on 22 May. Polling will be between 7.00am and 10.00pm. Although the Rev Dr Hugh White will be leaving in May the usual pattern of services at St John's should continue.

The Old Schoolroom is going to be refurbished; the first stage will see it being decorated at the end of May and should take three days. This will be followed by new furnishings. Looking ahead to June there will be a wedding at the Church which, to my mind, will only be the third since the Church was built but more of this in the next issue.

*Les Chappell 338054*

## DEDDINGTON 150 YEARS AGO

The following are extracts from the diaries of the Rev. Cotton Risley for the month of May 1864:

**2nd May** – Z. Stilgoe came again at my request and reported unfavourably of his poor carter (Coleman) who was injured so seriously on Saturday as the horses were entering our timber yard – the shaft of the timber carriage struck him, broke his arm and crushed him against the gate post.

**3rd May** – Z. Stilgoe's poor carter Coleman died this morning from the injuries he received at our timber yard gate. Ordered Stilgoe to do all that was right and proper for his funeral.

**7th May** – The ostler from the King's Arms came and I granted him a summons for non-payment of his wages against his master (Austin).

**14th May** – I called at the butcher's and ordered divers pieces of meat to be sent to 8 various families in Deddington and Clifton.

**20th May** – I bought an Alderney Cow out of a Drove for £17, three years old and to calve on the 11th June, named her May Fly. Paid W. Brogden 10s sent by his Mother, by Cotterell our sawyer as I was determined not to see him.

**21st May** – Heard a complaint by Mr. Hopkins, the farmer, against a boy in his employ named Harper – ordered him to return to his master's service or I should send him to prison first of all if he refused to do so.

*Buffey Heywood*

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## AMERICAN POSTCARD

### States Bingo

One of our key objectives while in America is to travel. Last month was Spring Break, a school holiday around the country, so we arranged to go to the Pacific North West. Seattle and Vancouver were lovely, and we felt very much at home. It rained. No, it poured. There is a reason we felt at home.

Seattle is well worth visiting; the views from the Space Needle are lovely, but they have a big homeless problem. The combination of hard drugs and lack of a home can be lethal in America. I witnessed them pulling a poor homeless soul off the pavement in a body bag.

Vancouver was very, very, wet, but we managed to fit in a football match. Our adopted Rapids were playing the Vancouver Whitecaps. When we scored the winner, Jake and I leapt up and cheered, and then slowly looked around as the glares of the home supporters rained down on us. To be fair, in the UK we would have died, but Canadians are far too polite for that. I guess there were 20 away supporters in the stadium and we all enjoyed the win. Luckily they

### MUSICAL NOTES

May brings three contrasting concerts to Deddington Church. The first, on Saturday 10 May at 7.30pm, is by the popular Warriner Choral Society, performing Bach's *Magnificat* and *Brandenburg Concerto No 2*. The following evening, Sunday 11 May at 7.45pm brings the renowned Aronowitz Ensemble as part of the Music in Adderbury summer series, making use of our superb piano. They will be playing the rarely heard String Trio in G minor by Sibelius, Mozart's engaging Piano Quartet in E flat major and the magnificent Piano Quintet in the same key by Schubert. The pianist is Tom Poster, as well known locally as to international concert goers; 'an unparalleled sound-magician'. Of the Ensemble the *Daily Telegraph* wrote, 'The Aronowitz works as a true ensemble, listening, responding, moving as one and creating mellifluous, fascinating textures'. The end of the month brings another not-to-be-missed event of quite a different genre. On Saturday 31 May, recent arrival in Deddington, Heidi Fardell, and her friends in the Saltarello Early Music Ensemble, are leading a multi-faceted evening's entertainment titled, '*The Sights and Sounds of Spring*'. The musicians on recorders, viola da gamba and harpsichord will perform 18th century works written to evoke the sounds of nature, especially birdsong. There will be an exhibition of springtime photographs from members of the Adderbury and Deddington Photographic Society, and readings of selected poems written by some of the children who entered the 2012 Deddington Festival Writing competition, when the set theme was 'Spring'. This promises to be a step up on Radio 3's Words and Music, by adding a visual component, so look ahead and make sure you support this enterprise.

**Donald Lane, donald199@btinternet.com**

play in a 50,000 seater indoor stadium. Odd watching football with none of the elements – can it catch on?

From there I moved on to Las Vegas for a conference. Hard work, and, of course I was forced to entertain my customers. I've never had a \$100 steak before – lovely, but how can they get away with charging so much? Vegas.

Emerging outdoors after five days is very disorientating, but that might just have been alcoholic poisoning. We stayed in the Venetian, one of the largest five-star hotels in the world, with over 8,000 rooms. The casino covers 120,000 square feet, perhaps 50 restaurants, an indoor canal, and St Mark's Square.

This is probably one of the best examples of American excess. They have re-created Venice in miniature inside the hotel. A good answer to my continuous rant that Americans don't know the world outside the US is that they can visit Vegas and see all they need. Remember that 50% of American adults don't have a passport.

As usual I made a classic Mike Ward error. Without thinking, I asked the lady on the check-out desk when her baby was due. Nope, just slightly overweight like most of the visitors to Vegas. However, another couple of ticks for my states bingo – Louisiana next. That will be very different, but no doubt I will insult someone. Let's hope they don't shoot me.

**Mike Ward mikew@qsoftware.com**



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## ON GEORGE'S FARM

At long last the ewes and lambs are back out on the river valley meadows and despite all the worries about the effect the flooding would have on the grass growth they have a nice 'bite' to go at.

As I put finger to keyboard the ewe tegs (they were lambs themselves this time last year) are just starting to drop their first lambs and it is a case of so far so good. The main flock has produced a good crop of lambs, well up to our normal lambing percentage, but the real test is how many we get away to market.

Our winter-planted crops have had a good winter and are growing away well, with the spring crops of oilseed rape, oats and barley all getting into the ground just before copy date. So, what with the lambing, the spring planting and sorting the bees out, it has been a busy few weeks. I am pleased to report that the bee colonies have all come through the winter in very good condition and are hard at work with the oilseed rape and other spring forage, so it won't be long before the extractors are spinning, I hope.

Now that the blackthorn winter has come to an end the hedgerows are beginning to thicken up and will soon be festooned with May blossom. And, now that the swallows have returned to their farmyard nesting sites, the house martins and swifts can't be far behind. Once they are back summer can really start. The mild winter and early spring have given us a good show of butterflies with brimstones, orange tips, commas, peacocks, red admirals and tortoiseshells already on the list so we could be in for another good butterfly year. As yet the nights are still rather too cold for the moths to come in any numbers to the light traps.

Now that the evenings are drawing out the sheep are out at grass and our wildlife is going about the task of rearing the next generation. Perhaps it's time to give a reminder to the many people who enjoy walking the footpaths with their dogs to please keep them on a lead. I have already had words with two dog walkers whose pets were, as they put it, 'just playing with the sheep and having a good old run about'.

These two were not local but sadly there are some locals who should know better, who regularly walk their dogs off the lead across the farm. One pair of dogs frequently ranges well beyond the sight or control of their owner, hunting out the hedgerows and wildlife strips. It is only a matter of time before they flush out one of the many deer or hares on the farm and give chase, ending up in among one of the sheep flocks with fatal consequences for both dog and sheep.

For the past forty years we have been involved with not only food production for our fellow man but also environmental projects. The farm was one of the first in Oxfordshire to be awarded higher level environmental



status under a government project some eight years ago and, over the years, has received a number of awards for the wildlife projects at both the local and national level. We are not 'board acre' landowners, but tenants – sadly the last tenants on the Deddington Estate that once stretched from Clifton to well beyond Hempton. As tenants we are obliged to pay rent on every acre we farm, whether it is for food production, environmental protection, the many rights of way, or the 'overgrown

hedgerow'. That rather rough-looking headland grass strip is not, as some think, abandoned farmland where their pet can have free range, but a carefully managed wildlife haven where a free-running dog can do a large amount of damage to ground-nesting birds and their chicks. So please do your bit to help our diminishing wildlife by keeping your pet on a lead and staying on the designated rights of way.

If the protection of farm animals and our wildlife is not a good enough reason for keeping your dog on a lead, perhaps contracting bovine TB is. It is well known that the fireside cat can and has passed it on to the human species, so it is well within the bounds of reason that the dog, with its habit of investigating anything unmentionable, can also pass the infection on to its human owners. We have a large population of badgers on the farm and they are well known to use open 'latrines' well away from their setts, many of which are situated along the rights of way and headland strips. As there have been cases of bovine TB in the area and some cattle have been destroyed as reactors to the TB test, it is reasonable to say that some of the badgers on the farm may be carrying the infection, so it's up to you. How many times have you given a bath to a smelly pet after a walk in the countryside?.

**George Fenimore**  
338203

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## CALLING ALL LANDOWNERS

Neighbourhood plans are all about land – whether it be a small strip between two existing houses or wide open meadows. The next set of people Deddington's neighbourhood planners wish to meet are the farmers and landowners whose fields surround the villages. Agriculture is by far the biggest local business, so what are their hopes and concerns for the parish? There are landowners, too, who may want their land considered for development. We want to hear from them all – so please get in touch with the chair of the housing group, Bryn Williams, [abw@brynwilliams.com](mailto:abw@brynwilliams.com).

Meanwhile, events on the homes front are racing ahead of our neighbourhood plan. Arguments are stirring, passions are flaring and petitions flying at parish and county level. The planning application for 26 homes on The Poplars site alongside the Castle Grounds on the Clifton Road came before the parish council at its 16 April meeting and, alongside it, a petition organised by Deddington Development Watch and signed by 686 parishioners calling on the Council to resist any proposed developments of more than 15–20 houses.

The PC actually has no power in planning matters, but it can make recommendations to the District Council. The Council is not as uniformly hostile to the Poplars plan as the campaigning group (DDW), but the petition, supposedly representing 52% of the electorate in Deddington, very likely had an effect. In any case, as reported elsewhere, the PC resolved to oppose the Poplars plan.

Another petition, actually more of a call to arms – came from the Campaign to Protect Rural England. They are outraged by the latest report on housing need in the county – SHMA, it's called – the assessment by a firm of consultants that Oxfordshire will need 100,000 new homes by 2031. This breaks down to 1,140 new homes per year in Cherwell – about twice as many as currently envisaged. The report says the aim is to accommodate population growth, young people wanting to set up new households, businesses requiring local staff, and the need for affordable housing.

All very laudable, but the CPRE describes its figures as 'unsound, unachievable and unwanted'. In particular they reckon the estimate of how the workforce will increase over the next ten to 20 years comes from dreamland. They urge councils, organisations and individuals to resist, and Deddington PC rallied to the call.

'Unsound' or not, the report did have points of interest. For instance, it makes explicit that nowadays there is really only one source of new affordable housing, and that is as part and parcel of a larger commercial development by way of S106 contributions. By SHMA's calculations, aside from Oxford City, Cherwell has a more acute need of affordable housing than anywhere else in the county.

So here's another of these planning paradoxes.

At present, in any development of three houses, one house has to be affordable to conform with CDC's S106 rules. Now the government is floating the idea that the threshold should be raised to ten houses before S106 contributions kick in – another escape route for developers wishing to avoid providing affordable housing.

There are two things I've discovered since immersing myself in neighbourhood planning: first, a whole world of new and hideous acronyms, and second the great generosity of the *Deddington News*. Not only does it afford us space in this excellent magazine but it is also making a cash donation to the Neighbourhood Plan steering group to help us carry out our task on behalf of the community. We are very grateful.

**Helen Oldfield** [helenmoldfield@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:helenmoldfield@yahoo.co.uk)

## NEWS FROM CLIFTON

Our fine lads and lasses who play 'Una Stubbs' are reeling from the news that, for the second time in two years, they have 'won' promotion. They will now ply their talents in division five and, while visiting some old friends at the Joiners and the Blinking Owl to name but two, they will travel further afield meeting Cricketers and Lampet Arms (whatever they are).

We celebrated a milestone birthday recently. I'll spare naming the lady concerned or the number achieved, but Maureen knows who I'm talking about. Many a parishioner enjoyed the soirée and was very impressed by a fabulous cake. The other wedding of the decade will have passed off by the time you read this as Annie finally succumbed to Steve's incessant pleading and married him on the 26th. The Clifton Ladies Sporting Club gave Annie a warm and civilised send off with fine haute cuisine at the Duck in the grand salon on the 20-seat dining table. One or two of the younger waiting staff were abashed at the 'adult' themed accoutrements. Well done Ange and Maureen!

Now, sadly, I have had one or two reported complaints, of course none made in person, but I am led to believe that there are a few people who don't appreciate my 'dog whistle' journalism and think I should be writing about other stuff more supportive of the village. Well they aren't Book Clubbers, Ladies Sporting Clubbers or Sallyites, I know, but, burying my disappointment that these people can't find a fraction of the time I spend writing this guff to chat this over with me in person, I say to them that if they ever sent me any copy of the type they crave I'd happily put it in. I, as everyone can see, need all the help I can get. In fact I'm grateful this month that they have given me something to write – so, thanks.

I must finish with some more dog-whistling I'm afraid and say a sad goodbye. The writer, Bob Larbey, has died recently and the more erudite of you will know what he meant to me and this column.

**Martin Bryce**  
[Martindnbryce@aol.com](mailto:Martindnbryce@aol.com)

## ‘IT’S A FAIR COP BUT SOCIETY’S TO BLAME’

At least that was the excuse given by Eric Idle in Monty Python’s *Dead Bishop* sketch, even when identified as the guilty party by the finger of God pointing down at him from the heavens. It is also the broad implication coming out of the UN’s recent *Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change* report, <http://www.ipcc.ch/>. There are compelling data that give a sense of urgency; for example, of all the greenhouse gas emissions between 1750 and 2010, half have occurred in the past 40 years. If this rate persists, we will almost certainly overshoot the average temperature beyond which we face a grim and doubtful future.

The report has engendered a new round of consensus in the environmental community that time is running out and the world needs to act now and move away from the use of fossil fuels. The presumption is, as ever, that surely human society will act in a rational manner to ensure a liveable planet for future generations. For those who believe that this great hope will be realised, the history of human society is a poor witness to defend their argument. Solzhenitsyn put it well when he said that we are not moved by timely warnings but only by the ‘pitiless crowbar of events’.

The late professor Albert A. Bartlett was a bit more charitable in trying to understand human behavior, especially regarding our understanding of our impact on environment. His finger of blame is directed, surprisingly, at school maths curriculum. He is especially remembered for his quote, ‘The greatest shortcoming of the human race is our inability to understand the exponential function’. He argued that if we recall nothing more beyond elementary arithmetic, we should at least remember ‘70’. The number 70, he explained, is a close approximation of the natural logarithm of the number two times 100. That arcane fact is extremely useful because it allows ordinary people to calculate easily the doubling time for any stated rate of growth. For example, if we read that China’s economy is growing at a rate of seven percent per year, we divide seven into 70 and find that, at this rate, its economy will double every ten years.

Now it is one thing to read that something has increased by seven percent because it doesn’t seem to be all that much. It is quite another to contemplate what will happen to the world if China, which is already the world’s greatest consumer of energy, the largest consumer of coal and among the largest consumer of raw materials, were to go on doubling its economic output every ten years. And this presupposes that a billion Chinese will remain in a subsistence economy whilst supplying us with no end of goods that we used to produce ourselves. Because energy use and economic well-being are tightly correlated, if they aspire to live as well as Europeans they will increase their energy consumption by a factor of three, or, if as Americans, by a factor of six. Add to this the projected

economic growth rate and aspirations of another few billion people in so-called ‘developing nations’, and we see that the simple number 70 can do more to inform us than the next 100 portentous reports on the future of our world.

Of course, our next folly is to believe that any exponential function continues forever or without consequence. Many things that once grew exponentially can start to wobble – house prices, the money pump from central banks, the global economy and even reality TV shows. In fact, we may now have begun to move away from the exponential growth scenarios of our industrial revolutionary past and on to a new, non-linear era where it will be much harder to see where we’re headed. For example, ten years ago China’s consumption of coal was increasing at 17.5% per year. This year it will be around three percent. The reason why is manifested daily in China’s cities where, increasingly, air pollution could become a limiting factor in the economic output of those regions. Or, let’s move away from China and look at the economic health of the private sector oil industry. In recent years, capital expenditures for exploration and production have risen by 11% on an annual basis. But since the year 2000, productivity per dollar invested has fallen by a factor of five. Behind this is a growing need to seek out unconventional oil from more expensive resources like shale rock. As a consequence, conventional oil production has been nearly flat since 2005. Our real challenge going forward is to understand the difference between those things that continue in exponential mode and those that can no longer do so.

Two observations: first, that the intersection of global economic aspirations with a changing climate is moving us into a non-linear world of unanticipated consequences, not all of which may be detrimental. Second, and perhaps not so obvious, is that it is politically impossible for the international community to discuss in public all the implications of a non-linear world, although in secret, nation-states are surely doing just that. And where does that leave the rest of us – encouraged, as Latimer said to Ridley ‘to be of good cheer’ even as things are heating up? As it happens, several cheerful initiatives are underway, such as the Transition Towns movement that began here in England and is now spreading to towns and cities around the world, <http://www.transitionnetwork.org/>. This is where ordinary citizens are taking charge of their community’s environmental and economic future. We don’t really have to choose between the exponential and non-linear extremes. Look at what they’re doing and you’ll see that we already have some aspects of a transition town underway here in Deddington – like a thriving market for local goods and services. While there is more to be done, we have a good foundation upon which to build.

**Dan Desmond**  
dessor@outlook.com

## FROM THE EDITOR'S POSTBAG

*The Postbag, or parts of it, now appear on the website Forum (<http://www.deddingtonnews.co.uk/forum/>). This enables readers to comment without having to wait until DN appears the following month. If you would prefer your letters not to appear online, please tell us when you write. Thank you.*

REV DR HUGH WHITE

DUNS TEW

As some of you will know, I shall be standing down as vicar of Deddington, Clifton and Hempton at the end of this month. I have greatly enjoyed my time in the parish and would like to thank parishioners for this. You've been very kind to me. That I've spent rather more than thirteen years in this post – nearly twice as long as I've spent in any other job – indicates how happy I've been to be here but I sense a certain staleness creeping in and it's time for a change. I shall be moving to a half-time post in the Ironstone Benefice (eight villages north-west of Banbury) and spending the other half of my working time trying to develop the link between Oxford Diocese and the Swedish Diocese of Växjö.

I hope that people in the parish in general are, by and large, happy with how the Parish Church and Hempton Church function in relation to their communities. I sense that the changes we've made to the ordering of the Parish Church, and in particular the introduction of chairs rather than pews, have made it more useful to the community. From the Church's point of view, it's wonderful to have so much going on by way of community activity in the building: Farmers' Market, Parish Show, School performances, Homework Club, Holiday Activities for Children, Deddington Festival events, many concerts, Age UK footcare, Katharine House Coffee Mornings and so forth. I'd like to think that people feel the Parish Church is theirs and entirely open to them and that there's no difficulty, no barrier encountered, in going into the building. I hope also that what we do outside the Church building, for instance in the School, at Boys' Brigade and through Community Cares is helpful. I know that our internet broadcasting has been appreciated in relation to baptisms, weddings, funerals and memorial services and it's wonderful to be able to cyber-link families and their friends for these important occasions.

My last service in Deddington will be on 18 May at 3.00pm. Before that there's a lunch at 1.00pm in the Church. Anyone who wishes to come to either of these occasions would be most welcome, though I realise it's also the Four Farms Challenge. Later in the day (7.00pm) there's skittles at the British Legion Club – again, all welcome.

It will be a great wrench for me to stop being your vicar, right though the move is. It will be made easier by my still living at Duns Tew and therefore, I'm sure, being around a bit in Deddington. The central Church doesn't like former vicars lingering on – but I shall need the Co-op, Eagles, Johnson's, the Farmers' Market, the restaurants, the Cricket Club, those concerts and



Please address all letters to:  
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37 THE DAEDINGS, DEDDINGTON  
[letters@deddingtonnews.co.uk](mailto:letters@deddingtonnews.co.uk)  
and include your name and address  
even if they are not for publication

so on. I shall love keeping in touch. So it's not a clean goodbye, I'm glad to say, though it's a goodbye to my vicaring. Do keep using and looking after your Parish Church and please be as nice to my successor as you have been to me. Thank you.

FROM KEVIN ADKINS

(Name and address supplied)

I travel daily between Deddington and Hempton and often see an old gentleman cycling between the two villages. He apparently does not realise that there is a cycle track only a few feet from him as he never uses it. A couple of weeks ago, in thick fog, he was cycling towards Hempton wearing his usual dark clothing and no lights on his bicycle, with several vehicles queuing behind him. He was very unstable and wobbling about. Under such circumstances he could easily be knocked down by a perfectly cautious driver, causing serious harm to both.

FROM MAGGIE ETHERIDGE, BICKLEY, KENT

On Friday 21 March, having spent the night at a hotel in Aynho before attending a wedding nearby, my friend and I decided to explore the countryside, having a couple of hours before the ceremony. We settled for coffee and croissants in Deddington and spent far too much time enjoying the atmosphere. Imagine our horror when we discovered the car wouldn't start. We had arrived a day early to be there on time and now were stuck in the middle of nowhere.

I stopped a guy to ask if he had jump leads in his car but no luck. However, he thought there might be someone in the village who did MOT work; he was sure he'd seen a sign. 'Take the road on the right, continue on that road until you reach another. Follow that road around to the right and on the left, before a main road you ought to find a sign. Ought only to take about ten minutes.' All dressed up in wedding finery, I set off in the drizzle with only 25 minutes to reach our destination. Asking further directions, I was told there were no mechanics in Deddington. Undaunted I continued and there was the magic sign: Cox's Garage. Up an alley was a little garage and it was open. Paul Cox listened to my woeful tale and, without a word, picked up a booster charger, locked his garage and drove me back to the Market Place. Within seconds our car leapt into life. 'Keep the charger until after the wedding celebrations and bring it back to me then.' I couldn't believe anyone could be so amazingly trusting – he didn't even ask my name.

Obviously we returned the charger and a note of thanks at the garage later that evening. We arrived at the wedding in time for the ceremony and spent the

**THE EDITOR'S POSTBAG** *(Continued)*

rest of the day telling all our friends of our incredible adventure and our good fortune in meeting such a kind, generous and trusting individual. And now I want everyone in Deddington to know about this wonderful act of chivalry. Deddington does have a garage and a wonderful mechanic and I want everyone to know just how lucky they are having Cox's Garage in their village. Thank you Paul.

FROM MICHAEL FEBEN SMITH BY EMAIL

Kenneth James Feben Smith (11.01.1922–27.11.2013) Many of you will have heard the sad news of the death of Ken Smith last November. His close family and relatives will be attending a simple service of celebration of his life and interment afterwards on 30 May at 3.00pm in Deddington Church. He spent many happy years living in the village and loved singing in the Church choir. We invite anyone to come if they can. Peter and I look forward to seeing you.

FROM PAUL O'SULLIVAN, SOUTH SIDE, STEEPLE ASTON

It is with a heavy heart that after 20 years of service I am stepping down as your Cherwell District Councillor for Deddington.

It has been a pleasure to serve the parish. I have made many friends throughout the years and have thoroughly enjoyed representing you. I am relinquishing my position at the District Council elections on 22 May where my successor will stand for the Deddington ward. I hope you will afford him the same loyalty and support that you have given me over the years, thank you.

FROM JAMES PRIVETT, THE STILE, DEDDINGTON  
We may have all heard of 'Disgusted of Tunbridge Wells', but there are a few 'Disgusted of Deddington'.

There is a matter which has been blighting us for at least couple of years, and has only recently fully come to light. This is the removal of posters around the village that advertise village events with the aim of raising much needed funds for a range of community groups, including the Nursery, School PTA, Katharine House, Charity Cricket match, Farmers' Market – and most unbelievably – the Parish Council Annual Meeting. These organisations, apart from the PC, rely on fundraising to continue their good work. That one or more individuals have taken it upon themselves to remove the advertising from around the village is extremely disappointing and reflects a complete misunderstanding of the community and how it operates. Whilst many people use social media in its various forms, not everyone does, and it is key to the continued success of all entities that their message is visible.

Whilst there is some control on the PC noticeboards with regard to the advertising of commercial events, the placing of posters for community events is a different matter. We live in a place with some beautiful vistas, and honey-coloured cottages and maybe the organis-

ers in the past have been slow to remove advertising material after the event, but I and many others are astounded that anyone has behaved in this fashion and removed such material prior to the event taking place and on such a regular basis.

If you are reading this then please seriously consider how it hampers local groups and desist. If you feel very strongly why not send a proper letter to the *DN* and explain your reasoning, then maybe a proper discussion can start? If you are not prepared to explain your actions, please stop.

FROM JENNIFER BLAND, THE PADDOCKS, DEDDINGTON

I am a 52 year old Deddington resident and have taken up the challenge to trek 100km across the Sahara Desert to raise funds for the Alzheimer's Society.

I decided to trek 100km across the Sahara Desert from 2–9 November after my father-in-law was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and sadly passed away in December 2005. It was really hard on the whole family watching him deteriorate and particularly hard on my mother-in-law who was the main carer and unbeknown to us was suffering from cancer and sadly passed away in hospital in November 2005.

I am hoping that by raising funds for the Alzheimer's Society more support can be provided for carers, as well as allowing the Society to continue its search for a cure.

I am training hard for the challenge and try to get out whenever I can. As part of the training, on 27 April I will be walking the three peaks in Yorkshire, 25miles in 12 hours, 5,249ft of ascent and descent, with my father, Tony, 75 years, and my sons, Matthew and Ashley.

One in three people over 65 will die with dementia. It is more than just a memory loss, it robs people of their lives and has a devastating impact on families and loved ones. Please back me in my fundraising efforts so that the Alzheimer's Society can continue leading the fight against dementia. I am hoping to raise £5,000.

To sponsor me please call 07931 782050 or donate at [www.justgiving.com/jennifer-Bland](http://www.justgiving.com/jennifer-Bland), or to donate £10 text YVOJ71 £10 to 70070.

FROM MOLLY NEILD, PHILCOTE STREET

The Neild family would like to thank the many kind and sympathetic friends who sent beautiful flowers, cards and letters at the death of John. They made us feel warmed and comforted.

FROM CHRISTOPHER HALL, DEDDINGTON

Christian Aid Week (11–17 May) is approaching, and we look forward to making it even more successful than last year when our total for the parish was £1,886 – our share of the £12 million raised in the week by 20,000 British churches. Over the last 13 years you have collectively given the door-to-door collectors more than £24,000. That is in no small measure due to the persevering efforts of Hugh and Diana Marshall with Pat

## ... MORE POSTBAG

Brittain over that period. Hugh has now handed over to me the role of Christian Aid contact for the parish.

Since last May Christian Aid's partners worldwide have needed to respond to the devastation caused by Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines, and to the desperate needs of the millions displaced by the unending civil war in Syria, in addition to their existing commitments. The needs of people living in poverty increase as climate change causes longer droughts which, for instance, threaten African livestock and crop yields.

When the red envelope drops through your letterbox, please think of putting the cost of one meal into it, and, if you can, please sign the Gift Aid declaration ready for the volunteer collector to call for it.

FROM ANTONIA BARISTOW, COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE DESK, THAMES VALLEY POLICE  
**Community Policing Awards 2014**

Have you been impressed with the service given to your community by a member of your neighbourhood policing team? Residents of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire are being asked to nominate community police officers, Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs), volunteers, and Special Constables who have had a positive impact on their local community.

The Community Officer of the Year Awards recognise staff who have made the greatest contribution to addressing the concerns of local residents over the past year.

If you would like to make a nomination, go to <http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/newsevents/newsevents-events/newsevents-events-cpa.htm>. The form is also available from your local police station

## WELL REMEMBERED

### SUE PARKINSON 1943–2014

Sue was born in Banbury in 1943, the only child of Bob and Sue White. She attended Banbury Grammar School where she met John. They married in 1964 and Ian – Spike as he became better known – was born in 1965. The Parkinsons lived first in Banbury, then Adderbury and came to Deddington some 40 years ago.

Sue worked for local businesses as Accounts Secretary and was very well-regarded. The esteem was not just for her meticulous double-entry bookkeeping, but more for her warm and considerate personality. She had a great gift for friendship.

Sue loved travelling, preferably adventurously. Forty years ago she drove a Land Rover across Kenya with two other girls, camping by night at waterholes listening to the wild animals. She spent holidays over many years exploring Greek islands on the back of a motorbike with John, enjoying the scenery, the beaches and the tavernas, the remoter the better. Latterly holidays were camper-van trips in Europe.

Her many friends remember Sue as a lovely, loving, caring lady who had time for everyone. She was a central member of the self-styled Saga-louts of the village, and, dedicated to the Saga-lout cause of growing old disgracefully in happy company with others, she started up the monthly Ladies' Champagne Nights for those without partners. Her New Year's Eve parties were legendary. But there was a more serious side to this generosity of Sue's – she was a woman of principle and would stand up for anyone she felt had been wronged. She was also a fine example of uncomplaining bravery in the face of sickness, of which she had to endure much. The community of Deddington and the spirit of Deddington owe a great deal to Sue and she will be greatly missed.

HW

### SUE BLISS 1959–2014

Sue was born in Banbury in 1959, the only child of Ann and Bob Mitchell. The family moved to Swindon in 1963 when Bob came out of the Army. Visiting her Deddington grandparents, Sue met Pete Bliss in the British Legion Club. They married in Deddington Parish Church in 1979, and set up home in Adderbury where two sons, Martin and Andrew, were born. The family then moved to St Thomas Street in Deddington where they settled.

Sue's natural ability as a wife and a mother was second to none. She was a perfect role model in every aspect of life; her infectious smile warmed any situation and will be remembered by everyone. She never had a bad word to say about anyone, and was always kind and caring in every situation, lending an ear and advice to anyone who needed it.

In the mid 80s Sue became a helper at the nursery at the Windmill Centre, and then a few years later with Deddington Cubs and Scouts. Returning to work, she started at Solar Designs in Hopcraft Lane and then went on to join the team at Hayward and White estate agents, her perfect job.

Travel was a passion for Sue. She was always planning a trip somewhere sunny, or a weekend away. It was her planning and organising abilities that led to the nickname 'Leader'. Her other passion was the gym. She joined Spiceball to get fit and healthy, but she stayed for the social aspect: she made so many great friends.

After her terminal diagnosis in 2012 Sue carried on with life as if nothing was wrong. Brave, modest and selfless, she enjoyed every moment she had left. She worked as long as she could. She was determined to be at Martin and Joanne's wedding and she was, bright and cheerful. She spent her final days in Katharine House, laughing and joking still, as sociable as ever with the staff and her many visitors alike.

Sue's premature death has brought great sadness to many – but this is a tribute to the grace and beauty of her life.

HW

## CALLING ALL CLUBS

### Photographic Society

In March, members Simon Lutter and Gail Girvan led a successful workshop on high-speed photography, concentrating on water droplet and crown photography. Some of these images can be seen on the Society's website, under Gallery. April saw the Society's AGM, followed by the welcome return of John Credland, professional photographer and teacher of creative, practical and digital photography, who gave a presentation on 'Audio Visuals'. This involved leading his rapt audience through the steps of how to make an audio-visual presentation, using as his basis photographs that he had taken of unsuspecting members at the beginning of the evening. John then proceeded to put together a selection of these images, editing them as he did so, and then added graphics and sound track to make a pleasing work. He ended by showing some of his stunning work, which included 'Venice-2005' with music by Vivaldi, 'Screeeam (if you want to)' with Gerri Halliwell, and 'Cliffhanger' with Vangelis. One could easily see how successful John is as a presenter and teacher – he was amusing yet to the point, willingly answered questions, and several members of his audience came away feeling inspired to try it at home.

Since 2010 Society members have provided photographs for display in the waiting-rooms of the West Bar Surgery, Banbury. The Surgery selected a further 21 photographs which are now mounted, framed and hanging in their waiting-rooms for patients to enjoy.

Looking ahead, on Wednesday 7 May, there is a presentation on 'The Evolution of My Photography' by associate member, Yin Wong, and the next workshop is on Wednesday 21 May on 'Table-top Photography'. Everyone is welcome to attend these events – just come at 7.30pm to the Cartwright Hotel, Aynho, and we shall be pleased to see you.

**Wendy Meagher, 336216 [www.adandd.co.uk](http://www.adandd.co.uk)**

### Deddington Beeches Bowls Club

The AGM was held at the British Legion hall on 3 April. Eight members attended with two sending apologies. A working party on 17 April prepared the green for the coming season. A skittles evening was held at the British Legion Club on the 26 April for the memorial shield.

Posters are being put up to promote the club and new members are welcome.

**Frances Morgan 338897**

### 1st Deddington Scout Group

#### Cubs

Having tried cooking and studied healthy eating we thought it would be fun to try growing some food. The Cubs grew a runner bean in a jar (fascinating to see how it all works) and made a cress guinea pig with a hollowed out potato. My bean is doing very nicely on the kitchen window sill.

We had a visit from a local artist who helped the boys make book marks for Mothers' Day presents and

flags for the St George's parade.

We are now looking forward to spending a lot of time outside.

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

#### Scouts

The Scouts took part in a mammoth relay cycle ride to Youlbury campsite to raise money for Sport Relief (£122), but as it was a bit dark we let them use an exercise bike in the Windmill Centre. We followed this with an evening decorating shopping bags for Mothers' Day, helped by the same artist who worked with the Cubs. They were unusual and striking. Several Scouts attended the district survival skills day at Horley. The weather was good and fun was had.

**Pete Churchyard,  
[pete.churchyard@btinternet.com](mailto:pete.churchyard@btinternet.com)**

#### Explorers

The Explorers have all undergone their moving-on ceremony by completing the 'walk of pain', which consists of trying to find a uniform while blindfolded and being pelted with tennis balls. You have to be tough to join our group! We also helped out at the market with a footfall audit.

A lot of work is being done to prepare for the auction on 21 June. We are currently looking for items to sell; please contact one of us if you have anything suitable.

**Pete Churchyard,  
[pete.churchyard@btinternet.com](mailto:pete.churchyard@btinternet.com)**

### Women's Institute

On 8 April we had a really lively evening with Alan Brewer, giving a talk titled 'Up in the clouds (with some fluffy bits!)'. It was a canter through his life, starting in catering, doing the donkey work for Fanny Craddock, no less. Afterwards he joined BOAC in the relaxed days of lengthy stopovers and finishing up as a senior steward, flying with royalty and prime ministers. There were some nice anecdotes about famous people, and how some people book 'cattle-class' and work hard for an upgrade.

Anne Neal gave a report on the half-yearly meeting at Oxford Town Hall for the Oxfordshire Federation of Women's Institutes.

On 13 May we are going to Otters after the meeting to see a demonstration by Mike Whiteley.

For more information, please call the secretary, Angela Sones, on 338027.

**Julia Hobbs**

### Deddington Original Golf Society (DOGS)

By the time you receive this issue of the *DN* the DOGS will be preparing for the first golf event of 2014 at Wyckwood Golf Club on Friday 2 May. There is an 18-hole format with both individual and team competitions. The result from the day can be found at Deddington OnLine under 'Clubs'. Following on from that is our

## CALLING MORE CLUBS

ever-popular fixture at Burford Golf Club on Monday 9 June. We will include fundraising for the Katharine House Hospice in memory of Arthur Kennedy, a DOGS founder. A big turnout is expected.

Finally, a quote from poet William Wordsworth: 'Golf is a day spent in a round of strenuous idleness'.

**David Darst 338589**

### 1st Deddington Guides

Bringing the spring term to a close we had a table games evening which actually became very lively. The Penguin Patrol invited us to take part in their slumber party with onesies being the dress code. Well done to our brand new patrol who also did some very tasty experiments with fruit cocktails.

Elen, who is working towards her Baden-Powell award, made a presentation about Fairtrade products, followed by a quiz. Some older Guides are working on their World Issues badge and learning all about paper recycling, so we all made Mothering Sunday cards using recycled bits and pieces.

Well done Amy, Charlotte, Connie and Sasha who attended the Mothering Sunday service in church. They did a grand job helping to take the collection and forming the colour parties.

We finished with a very exciting evening. Firstly the Guides took part in a quiz trail round the Market Place. Much more to see and discover than you realise. Then back to the hall before dark. And a lovely ceremony where Mrs Gwyneth Davies, Division Commissioner, presented Lorna Murray and Ellie Cox with their Baden-Powell awards.

**Maggie Rampley 01295 810069**  
**Catherine Blackburn 01295 258008**  
**Marian Trinder 340806**

### Deddington Cricket Club

Our 2014 season begins on Saturday 3 May when we entertain Kennington and will end on Saturday 13 September. We are looking forward to a successful and enjoyable season and are pleased to welcome a number of new players who will, we hope, inject some much-needed youth and energy into the Club.

Our Summer Ball is on Saturday 21 June in a marquee at the Windmill Centre ground. Apart from being a really fun evening, we are able to raise thousands of pounds for the charity, ROSY, and for the Club. You are welcome to join us and bring along some friends. The cost is £50 per person which includes bubbly and canapés on arrival, choice of four hot main courses and dessert, live band and disco, a fabulous auction and raffle, not to mention a few silly games. For further information and tickets, please contact Clair Stevens on 07905 104510 or 337431.

As you are probably aware, apart from running two adult sides, we have a junior section and enter teams in the South Northants Junior Cricket League.

We are in urgent need of help from parents of children (boys and girls) aged between eight and fifteen who might be able to assist in coaching and transport to matches. If you are interested, please contact James Ransom on 07769 264446 or me. On the subject of help, is there anyone who would be able to help with providing teas and umpiring? We are a very friendly club and everyone is welcome. There is a match on the home ground on most Saturdays.

**Derek Cheeseman**  
**derekfcheeseman@gmail.com 338609**

### Deddington Tennis Club

Congratulations to three club juniors who were successful in the last Junior Tennis Tournament held at Banbury West End. Harry Critchfield won the boys section and Tom Browning was runner-up. The runner-up in the girls' section was Hannah Westbury. Four further Junior Tournaments are planned, the first on Sunday 27 April. There was a tennis camp 14–17 April and two further camps are planned for August: see the club website for more information.

The Banbury Winter and Floodlit Leagues have ended and we have done really well:  
 Deddington A, Runners-up, Floodlit League Division 1  
 Deddington B, Winners, Floodlit League Division 3  
 Deddington, Winners, Winter League Division 3



**DEDDINGTON CRICKET CLUB**

**GRAND SUMMER BALL**

in support of the

**Cricket Club  
and ROSY**

**Saturday 21 June 2014**

**7.00 for 7.30pm**  
at

**the Windmill Centre Marquee**

**Black tie - Tickets £50**

available from Clair Stevens  
07905 104510  
or Derek Cheeseman 338609

## CALLING EVEN MORE CLUBS

Match practice sessions take place on Saturday mornings before junior coaching. If you are interested in playing in a team we would love to hear from you.

Adult summer club nights are on Wednesday evenings from 6.00pm. New members are always welcome. For further details about the club see [www.deddingtontennis.com](http://www.deddingtontennis.com).

**Sue Watts 01295 722229**

### Deddington Branch Royal British Legion

The fourth of August marks the 100th Anniversary of the day Britain entered one of the costliest conflicts in history, the First World War, that ended on 11 November 1918, Armistice Day. The Royal British Legion was founded by British war veterans in the aftermath of the First World War and will be at the forefront of centenary commemorations.

As the UK's custodian of remembrance and as the largest armed forces' charity, the RBL continues to provide care and support to serving personnel and veterans of today's conflicts. Over the next four years there will be commemorations of many major events of the First World War. This year our branch will have an exhibition of artifacts and memorabilia from the war. It has been coordinated by our President, Maj David G Hood, MC, and will take place on 2 and 3 August in the Parish Church.

The branch held a successful skittles match recently with the Bodicote Branch of the RBL and excursions are being planned to RAF Brize Norton and to the Royal Navy Submarine Museum at Gosport. Full details will be announced soon. There is also a 'Race Night' at the Legion Hall in the near future for fundraising.

**Jean Morris, 338143**  
[mrsjeanmorris@gmail.com](mailto:mrsjeanmorris@gmail.com)

### Deddington Town Football Club

#### First Team results

15.03.14	Cropredy (h)	W 2-0	Gamage, Large
22.03.14	KEA (a)	W 5-0	Thornton L (4), Hall
29.03.14	Bishops Itchington (h)	L 1-2	Taylor
05.04.14	Steeple Aston (h)	L 0-2	
12.04.14	Heyford United (a)	L 2-3	Dennison, Hall
15.04.14	Sinclair United (a)	W 3-1	(unknown)

#### Reserve Team results

15.03.14	Banbury Rangers(a)	L 1-4	Kaye (Jordan)
22.03.14	Bodicote Sports(h)	D 1-1	(unknown)
28.03.14	Sinclair Utd Res (h)	(CUP) W 3-1	Gamage, Gray, Kaye (Jordan)
05.04.14	Chesterton (a)	W 2-1	Gray, Kaye
08.04.14	Highfield Old Boys Res (h)	W 4-1	Charles, Hall (2), Kaye (Jordan)
12.04.14	Middleton Cheney ((h)	L 0-1	

A couple of wins for the Firsts and a couple of defeats for the Reserves have made all the difference in this

dizzying season of unpredictable thrills. The Firsts look to have slain the spectre of relegation, or at least dismembered it, while the Reserves have potentially blown their chances of the title, after dropped points against Middleton Cheney and old rivals, Bodicote, saw their other conquerors, Banbury Rangers, usurp them at the top on goal difference. Progress has nevertheless been made in the Cup, and it looks like yet another frenetic and congested dash for silver for Deddington Town, so keep the faith and show yourself.

**Aaron Bliss 07909 642882**

### Deddington Town Colts

#### Mini football

With the Under 8s, the weather has got in the way and they haven't played many matches recently but the boys continue to develop their skills.

The Under 11 Cobras finished up the season second in the league. The last match against Yarnton was a 7-1 win that included a hat-trick by man of the match, Kieron Smith, and a brace from this season's top goal scorer, Dom Bagdot. The match finished a brilliant season for the team. The Under 11 Sharks had a narrow 2-1 defeat to Garden City. The Under 12s had defeats at Hook Norton and Ducklington. The Under 13 Sharks finished their first season in the tough Midlands Junior Premier League on a high. Unbeaten in the final four matches, the Sharks recorded a convincing 1-6



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## ... AND STILL MORE CLUBS

away win at Worcester Olympic, a very credible 2–2 draw at home to Birmingham City, (a game we should have won), but Birmingham got an equaliser with just two minutes to go. A 2–2 draw away to local rivals, Middleton Cheney, with Cheney scoring in the last minute and then a superb 0–4 away win at Redditch United. The Under 13 Cobras had three convincing wins – 7–1 at Brackley, 6–0 at Chadlington, and 5–1 at home to Chadlington to sit second in the C League. The Under 14s had a convincing 5–0 win over Hook Norton, followed by defeats to Tower Hill and Bampton. In the last game of the season they narrowly lost 2–1 to Brackley Athletic after leading for much of the game and hitting the post in the dying minutes.

The Deddington Town Colts presentation day is on Sunday 8 June 2014 at the Windmill Centre. If you want to get involved with the club as player, volunteer, sponsor or fundraiser, please do not hesitate to get in touch. Further information about the club is on our website with contact numbers for team managers - <http://www.deddingtontownfc.com/>

**Roger Sykes 337034**

### 1st Deddington Boys' Brigade

At the end of March the Juniors went off to Witney for their marching and team games competitions. They didn't win either event but put in great performances and it must be noted that the standard of marching at

the competition was especially high this year. So well done to the five who went and everyone agreed that it was a fun afternoon.

Mothering Sunday seems a long time ago now, but we hope that all the mums enjoyed their cards or plants. Many thanks also to the boys and parents who attended the Mothering Sunday service at Deddington Church on 30 March.

This month sees us participating in two events; we have the Battalion Church Parade on Sunday 11 May at Wallingford and then the Juniors are back in action with Top Team competition on Friday 16 May. The latter is on home turf with Deddington hosting it. Further information will be going out directly to parents.

**Jen Childs 337481 [Jen.childs@btinternet.com](mailto:Jen.childs@btinternet.com)**

### Deddington Badminton Club

Table topping treble for Deddington Badminton club. The Club has just completed a season of record-breaking success culminating in the men's team and the mixed A and B teams all winning their respective division titles. When you think we're the only league team in Oxfordshire still playing in a one-court village hall, with limited playing numbers, compared to teams from Banbury, Bicester, Brackley, Towcester and Chipping Norton, this is some achievement. Despite our size we punch well above our weight, not just winning titles, but also producing county representatives and developing the next generation of badminton players through our vibrant youth section. Although this season is drawing to a close, we have our last club night on Tuesday 22 April and are already looking forward to next season. If you're a seasoned old campaigner, we have a good few of them, or someone who hasn't played for a while but would like to start again, please get in touch as we'd love to have you along for a game once the season starts again in September.

**Barry O'Connell, [barryocmail@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:barryocmail@yahoo.co.uk)  
338988**

### Deddington and District History Society

On 9 April Martin Way, whose talks are looked forward to by all our members, returned to speak on the subject of canal boats and the people who worked and lived on them. Martin firstly outlined the history of water transport in general. Of particular interest to members were the 80-foot, flat-bottomed, shallow-draught barges used on the Thames. Amongst many other things, they transported Taynton stone to London for the building of St Paul's Cathedral. The scale model that Martin brought along attracted much admiring attention. The narrow boats with which we are familiar were much smaller. Of exceptional interest was Martin's description of the hard-working, socially isolated and fiercely independent barging families, illustrated with some marvellous photographs. To round off the evening we were able to examine and even handle the extensive barging memorabilia from Martin's collection.

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### ... AND FINALLY

Our final talk of the season is on Wednesday 14 May at the Windmill Centre at 7.30pm when Frank Preece will talk about Florence Nightingale and her links to Claydon House. All are welcome.

Some places remain on the Society's trip on 6 June (70th anniversary of D-Day) to the National Arboretum, which commemorates all service personnel who have lost their lives fighting in wars from WWI to the present day. Anyone interested, please contact Moira Byast.

**Chris Day 337204**  
**Moira Byast 338637**

### Book Club

At our last meeting we read *Stoner* by John Williams. First published in 1965, it did not become a bestseller until 50 years later, caused almost entirely by word of mouth. This is the story of a humble character leading an unremarkable life as an academic at an American university. His career is ruined by a malevolent head of department, he suffers a failed marriage with a demanding and difficult wife, and his daughter, whom he adores, is turned against him. Written with great sensitivity, the story flows along quietly from the first page and is beautifully written. This book is highly recommended by the group.

The next book is *The Secret History* by Donna Tartt and the next meeting 29 May.

**Sally Lambert 338094**

### Deddington Library Still Needs YOU!

Do you remember a couple of years ago there was a major campaign to keep Deddington Library open? Well, Oxfordshire County Council has finally finished its internal re-organisation and now it's our turn for action.

To assist our library manager in keeping the Library open we must find volunteers to: co-ordinate, administer and account for the volunteers and funding; service the Library with housekeeping tasks; help raise funds; and be front of house helping the community to access the world of books and other resources.

Following our volunteers evening in January, after OCC had firmed up their re-organisation and we had a further gauging of support, the Parish Council led a meeting of the interim campaign committee where a number of key decisions were made and actions undertaken. The Friends of Deddington Library will constitute itself as a charity and seek a subscription-based membership, who will be able to pay a modest membership monthly by standing order or direct debit, should people prefer, and a 200 Club has also been suggested.

We have secured the domain name, FriendsOfDeddingtonLibrary.org, and will be posting updates, emailing out various communications and giving a portal for our community to interact with the group. We will launch a membership drive in the next few weeks and hope our currently signed-up volunteers can help us increase the membership base. We will be opening a bank account as soon as the charity registration is complete where membership funds and donations can be deposited.

Please sign up and support your local library.

**Alan Collins**  
**alanraycollins@gmail.com**

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