

Deddington's house prices need to reflect its hill top position as a NASA scientist predicts sea levels which will inundate Oxford this century. The ambivalence of more or less water is reflected in George Fenemore's article. Derrick Robbins' grandma's frugality with water a century ago contrasts with this generation's profligacy. Should water meters be not just free but compulsory? The earth's atmosphere keeps water from freezing and thus makes life possible. Bryony's

VC10 flight gave her a vision of the country's beauty - a beauty which is under threat from the burning of the very fuel which powered her flight and was being delivered so efficiently, as also by the guzzlers of gas at ground level. If this is not a permissible topic for the *DN's* pages, does not silence itself collude with those of our lifestyles which are on course to deprive our own children of what we so richly enjoy? *CH*



March

Wed	1	Deddington Ladies: Holly Tree, 8pm
Sat	4	Gilbert & Sullivan Concert: Parish Church, 7.30 pm ➡ p.4
Mon	6	Monday Morning Club: Coffee Morning, Holly Tree, 10.30am-noon.
Tue	7	A reception to mark Librarian's retirement, Windmill Centre, 6 pm ➡ p.10
Wed	8	History Society: <i>Twenty-Four Square Miles</i> , & follow-up film, Parish Church, 7.30 pm ➡ p.13
Sat	11	PTA: Quiz Night, Windmill Centre ➡ p.3
Tue	14	WI: AGM, Holly Tree, 7.30pm. ➡ p.13
Wed	15	Parish Council: Meeting, <u>Hempton Church Hall</u> , 7.45pm. ➡ p.3
Sat	25	Deddington Farmers' Market: Market Place, 9am-12.30 pm ➡ p.10
Sat	25	Akeman Singers: Handel's <i>Messiah</i> , Parish Church, 7.30pm ➡ p.2
Sat	25	Deddington Colts: Hands-on Race Night, Windmill centre, 7.30 pm ➡ p.12

April

Mon	3	Monday Morning Club: Coffee Morning, The Holly Tree, 10.30 am -noon.
Wed	5	Deddington Ladies: The Holly Tree, 8-10 pm.
Sat	8	Bowls Club: Race Night at The British Legion, 7.30 pm
Tue	11	WI: The Holly Tree, 7.30 pm ➡ p.13
Tue	11	Monday Morning Club: <i>Mrs Henderson Presents</i> at Chipping Norton Theatre.
Wed	12	History Society: Windmill Centre, 7.30 pm. ➡ p.13
Wed	19	Parish Council: Meeting, Town Hall, 7.45 pm. ➡ p.2
Sat	22	Deddington Farmers' Market: Market Place, 9 am-12.30 pm. ➡ p.10
Sat	29	Warriner Choral Society: Concert, Parish Church, 7.30 pm

Weekly Meetings

Mon:	Brownies: Windmill Centre, 6-7.30 pm.
Mon:	Youth Club: Windmill Centre, 7-9 pm
Mon:	Bellringing Practice: Parish Church, 7.30-9 pm.
Tues:	Craft Group: Holly Tree, 2.15-4.30 pm.
Tues:	Deddington Guides: Windmill Centre, 7-9 pm.
Wed:	Babies & Toddlers Group: Windmill, 9.30-11 am.
Every other Wed:	Friendship Club: Windmill, 2.30 pm.
Wed:	Boys' Brigade Anchor Boys: Windmill Centre, 5 pm.
Wed:	Boys' Brigade Juniors: Windmill Centre, 5.45 pm.
Wed:	Boys' Brigade Company: Parish Church, 7 pm
Thurs:	Life & Portrait Art Group: Town Hall, 10-4 pm.
Thurs:	1st Deddington Cubs: Windmill, 6-7.30 pm.
Thurs:	1st Deddington Scouts: Windmill, 7.30-9 pm.
Fri:	Babies & Toddlers Group: Windmill, 9.30-11 am.
Fri:	Katharine House Coffee Morning: Parish Church, 10-12.
Fri:	Friendly Bridge Club: Holly Tree, 2-5 pm

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of the **DN**
are available at
THE FLOWER SHOP
- with a box for
donations

THE DEDDINGTON NEWS - Copy please to the relevant editor by next copy date: 21 MAR

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Meeting in Town Hall, 15 February 2006

Present: Cllrs Flux (chair), Alton, Collins, Cox, Spencer, Swash, Todd, Watts, Wood, D/Cllr O'Sullivan, the Clerk, the Minutes Secretary and 3 members of the public.

TOWN HALL

Square holes in the plaster signal that a survey on the building is in hand. A status report on the structure is awaited.

ALLOTMENTS

Asignificant increase in demand for plots is welcomed. The waiting list suggests that more land should be made available. PC agreed that a plot not cultivated in the past two years will be cleared and rotavated for a new tenant.

OXFORDSHIRE VILLAGE OF THE YEAR

PC agreed to enter, and welcomed criteria to include wider issues than just physical appearance. Publicity needed to engage commitment of residents to clean-up village.

PAYMENT OF PENSIONS

PC shares concern that the proposed ending in 2010 of the recently introduced system of paying benefits through Post Office accounts could imperil the viability of the village post office. Many recipients do not have and do not want inaccessible bank accounts nor computers for on-line banking.

HIGHWAYS

- Installation of crossings in Horsefair and Hempton Road in progress.
- Highways to be asked to check streetlighting levels in Windmill Street and elsewhere.
- Traditional signposts to be listed for renovation.

PLANNING

PC no objection: (1) Featherton House, Deddington: felling two trees, and reducing two others. (2) Berwick House, New Street, Deddington: re-roof house, alterations to windows & doors, convert carport to garage. (3) 6 Hempton Road, Deddington: 2-storey side and rear extensions, porch to front, new access [unless neighbours object]. (4) Shepherds Cottage, Hempton: garden room to side. (5) Barford House, Hempton: remove lean-to, single storey rear extension. (6) Hempton House, Hempton: single storey side extension, bay window. (7) Merlins Cottage, Clifton: single storey extension.

PC Concerned: OCC depot, Banbury Road: 25metre telephone mast - what evidence that health & safety considerations are to be met?

CDC approvals: Laurel House [Antiques Centre], Bull Ring, Deddington; 2 Murdock Close, Deddington; Holcombe Hotel; OCC refuelling depot.

Upper Heyford: plans to build 1000 houses affected by proposal to declare site a Conservation Area of Cold War period, for which funding is in doubt.

PARISH FINANCES

Invoices passed for payment totalled £1808.83, including £364.25 for repairing tennis pavilion and £684.43 imprest account, mainly stewards' wages.

Investments totalled £545,924.50, of which £4785.24 Barclays @ 0.1% imprest and current account; £255,917.87 Alliance & Leicester @ 4.2% on 30 days; £285,221.39 West Bromwich @ 4.45% overnight.

NEXT MEETINGS

Wednesday 15 March,
Hempton Church Hall, 7.45pm.

Annual Parish Meeting

Wednesday 26 April,
Windmill Centre, 7.30pm
Topics: Parish Plan, Cherwell Leisure
Services, Anti-Social Behaviour

Parish Council Elections -
Thursday 4 May

Official minutes of PC meetings may be seen at the Clerk's office and the Library, on parish noticeboards and the village website:

www.deddington.org.uk/pcminutes



Akeman Voices

Handel's Messiah



St Peter & St Paul's
Deddington

Saturday 25th March 7.30pm

Tickets £10 (under 16's free)

(including refreshments)

Available from

Hayward White

or Ticket Line: 01869 278966

or online www.akemanvoices.org.uk



www.akemanvoices.org.uk

We have had a very hectic few weeks here at school with the final building work being finished off and many children moving to their new classrooms. We really look forward to welcoming the pre-school children and staff to our school and hope they will be very happy with us. A special thanks must go to the Deddington News team for their gift of £3,000 towards supporting communication within the school and especially the new unit. This will go towards the laptop, interactive whiteboard and new notice boards around the school. A final thank you to all the parents who have been so generous and kind with the moving and settling in to our new classrooms - we really could not have managed it so well without you.

Several classes have been busy with trips out and guests coming to school. Year 4 thoroughly enjoyed the visit from the Roman Enactment group where they learnt all about how the Romans lived. They especially enjoyed the Gladiator session with armour and costume. Year 6 learnt a lot about being safe in the wider community with the trip to the Junior Citizen workshop. Miss Bellinger was very proud of them all. Year 6 have also taken part in the Warriner Partnership Indoor Athletics Competition and I am pleased to say they came first. Well done to those who took part.

Congratulations should also go to Miss Bellinger and her new husband after their wedding during the half term break. We look forward to welcoming Mrs Cross back to school.

Judith Tinsley 338430

Deddington PARTNERSHIP FOUNDATION STAGE UNIT (PFSU)

It's hard to believe we are already into our Second Half Term of the year. The past few weeks we have spent getting ready for our move down to school and can hardly believe we will be in our new building by the time this issue of the *DN* is in print. The children, staff and parents alike have all been extremely excited anticipating the move and we wish to offer our thanks to all who have assisted in this transition, it has been a huge team effort.

Our topic for this term is 'Health & Safety' and the children have all been practising putting on their coats and shoes for outdoor play. We have been making 'Valentine Cards' and learning how to make sandwiches and chop up fruit, thus teaching the children some independence.

We are currently seeking a 'Cleaner' for our new premises, to work 3.30-4.30pm daily. If you are interested, please contact Anna.

The BBC will be making a television programme about 'Stay at Home Dads'. If you fancy making your screen debut, more information can be gained from the 'PFSU'.

Our fund raising committee are currently making plans for our annual 'Summer Ball', watch out in future newsletters for further details.

Sarah Payne



PTA

We have been very busy since Christmas organising a fantastic line-up of events for this year.

Our very popular annual Quiz Night is being held on the 11 March at the Windmill Centre, please see insert for full details or call Mike on 338347. We have a licensed bar and a scrummy supper to keep the brain cells ticking over throughout the evening. As always, this is expected to be lots of fun, so please get a team together and join us for the evening! (£6.00 ticket, including supper & quizmaster heckling!!!)

The 2nd Deddington Walk is being held on Sunday 21 May. This promises to be even bigger and better than last year. We have some very ambitious plans to make this a really interesting and exciting event - Come and get some exercise and follow our village through the ages, a real walk through history! More details next month!

Our Summer Fête will be held on Saturday 17 June on the school field. We have received a very positive response to our appeal for help to replace Summer Fête games & props etc. lost in the barn fire before Christmas. Thank you all so much for your generosity and support. Naturally, further offers of help are always appreciated. If you are able to help in any way, please contact me.

Stella O'Neill Chair 338769

NOW OPEN



A subsidiary of Deddington PFSU

- Stimulating environment for 2-3 year olds
- Large outdoor play area
- Early drop-off and lunch club available
- Opening hours:
9.15 - 11.45am and 12.30 - 3.00pm

For more details please contact

Anna Justice on 01869 337383

SS PETER AND PAUL, DEDDINGTON AND ST JOHN, HEMPTON www.deddingtonchurch.org

You will always be very welcome at any service in Church or Chapel

Parish Church in March

Wed	1	10.00 am	ASH WEDNESDAY Eucharist
		7.30 pm	Eucharist with Ashes (Barford St John)
Thur	2	2.00 pm	Squeals & Wheels
Sun	5	10.30 am	All Age Morning Praise
		6.30 pm	Evensong
Wed	8	10.00 am	Eucharist
Sat	11	6.45 pm	Youth Service ' <i>Discovering Your God</i> '
Sun	12	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist & Children's Church
Wed	15	10.00 am	Eucharist
Thur	16	2.00 pm	Squeals & Wheels
Sun	19	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist with Healing Prayers
		6.30 pm	Music and Readings for Lent
Mon	20	6.30 pm	St JOSEPH Eucharist
Wed	22	10.00 am	Eucharist and Healing Prayer
Sun	26	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		10.30 am	Morning Service & Children's Church



For Baptisms, Weddings,
Funerals, hospital or home visits
in case of illness,
please contact the Vicar,
the Rev Dr Hugh White,
28 Duns Tew (349869),
John Dane (07903 478206),
or one of the Churchwardens,
Iain Gillespie (338367)
or Judy Ward (337187).

St John Hempton

Suns	5 & 19	9.00 am	Eucharist
Sat	25	10.00 am	ANNUNCIATION Eucharist
Sun	26	6.00 pm	Evensong

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Funeral Jan 20 Vi Pratley

LENT MEETINGS: Thursdays from 9 March, 7.30pm - "Seven Words for Three Hours" by Ed Newell

BIBLE STUDY GROUPS:

Aberford, Hopcraft Lane, Deddington [Jean Welford 338539] Wed 8 & 22 March, 7.30pm

2 The Leyes, Deddington [Liz Dickinson 337050] Wed 8 & 22 March, 7.30pm

Charity of the Month - February : **CARERS' CENTRE** - please use the special envelope to put donations [if a taxpayer, in a pink **GiftAid** envelope] into the Parish Church chest.

WESLEYAN REFORM CHURCH, Chapel Square

Pastor Isabel Walton 337157

Women's World Day of Prayer: Friday 2 March 2.00 pm - Speaker - Faith Sharpe

Sunday Mornings at 10.30 am: March 5, 12 & 19 - Pastor Isabel Walton; 26 - John Neale

Bible Study/Fellowship every Wednesday at 7.30 pm

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, New Street

Joyce Minnear 338 529

Sunday morning services are held at the Wesleyan Reform Church together with their congregation. Sunday evening services are now held at The Chapel at **3.00 p.m.**

See **Love Hurts** insert [enclosed] for Lent and Easter services in March and April.

R.C. PARISH OF HETHE WITH ADDERBURY

The Revd A J Burns 277396

Hethe : Mass is said every day [except Wednesday] at 10.00 am. Confessions: Sats - 5.30~6.00 pm.

Adderbury : Mass is said Sundays at 8.30 am; Wednesdays at 7.00 pm; Confessions before Mass.

March 1 is **ASH WEDNESDAY**: Mass will be said at Hethe at 10.00 am and at Adderbury at 7.00 pm.

The Ashes will be distributed at both Masses.

The Saturday evening Mass at St John's Banbury is said at 4.00 pm to allow Catholics from the villages to attend before the last bus leaves town.



"I Have a Song to Sing O ..."
A Gilbert & Sullivan Evening
Saturday 4 March 7.30 pm
Deddington Parish Church
* sing-along with local talent *



Tickets £5 from Hayward & White or 338082

Visit www.deddingtonnews.co.uk & Deddington-on-Line www.deddington.org.uk

**Musical play, 'King Leo'
by Cecilia McDowall
Sunday 25 June, 6.00pm**

AUDITIONS

Weekend of 25/26 March. Venue tbc.

For more information, email Musical

Director Janet on info@choros.org or
phone 232618

Book an audition by 15 March.

Actors/Singers required to audition for
following roles

CHICO, THE MONKEY. (Singer) 1 solo, 2 ensemble
numbers. Strong character role. Acrobatic. Young
adult. M/F

LORD PANTHER (Non-singer). The goodie! Outspoken.
Young adult. M

LORD TIGER (Singer). 1 solo, 2 ensemble numbers. The
baddie!. Smarmy. Young adult. M/F.

GAIA, SPIRIT OF THE FOREST. (Singer, off-stage) 2
numbers. Strong, clear voice. moderate range. F.

MR CHEETAH. (Singer [rap]) 1 number. Teenage up-
wards. M/F

MR JAGUAR (Singer [rap]) 1 number. Teenage upwards.
M/F

SNAKE CHORUS. (Singers) Female close harmony trio.
Any age.

Lots of small speaking roles.

Acrobats, dancers, backstage help.

Coaching will be given to all performers.

REHEARSALS

Workshop Weekend 3 & 4 June, 10am-5pm both
days.

Thursday 8 June 7-10pm

Saturday 17 June, 10am-5pm

NB: Wednesday 21 June 7-10pm [Music rehearsal]

Sunday 25 June 2-4.30pm [Dress rehearsal]

Telephone Janet Lincé on 232618 now!

**Deddington Festival Chorus 2006****Concert, Saturday 24 June, 7.30pm**

Once again local choral singers will be invited to
participate in the Deddington Festival. This year the work
will be Haydn's exciting 'Nelson Mass'
to be performed with Oxford Sinfonia
conducted by Janet Lincé.

All intending participants must be
prepared to attend the following workshop
and rehearsals:

Saturday 10 June 10am to 4.00pm

Friday 23 June, 7.30-9.30pm

Saturday 24 June, 2.30pm

Telephone Fran Maksinski 01869 345689

FRIENDS OF DEDDINGTON FESTIVAL

Total membership of FDF now tops 100. This includes
16 new members. We are delighted - and will be equal-
ly delighted to receive a further membership surge. A
basic aim of the Festival is inclusiveness and the broader
our support base the more that aim is fulfilled.

This year the Festival lasts a week (18-25 June) We
shall need front-of-house staff, ushers, caterers etc.

If you'd like to be involved in any way, please contact
Sue Goddard: 3388122.

Kristin Thompson for the FDF Committee.

DOL

Deddington OnLine

<http://www.deddington.org.uk>

The website contains a new entry on the history of
the original Deddington axle tree factory that is now
occupied by the local branch of the Royal British
Legion. It can be found at [www.deddington.org.uk/
leisure/britishlegionclub.html](http://www.deddington.org.uk/leisure/britishlegionclub.html)

It was reported in the January DN that two Clifton
residents spotted the "puma" in a field east of the walk
between Hazel Hedge and Hazel Hedge Barn on the
Clifton loop. See the location at [www.deddington.org.
uk/leisure/walks/circularwalk7map.pdf](http://www.deddington.org.uk/leisure/walks/circularwalk7map.pdf) DOL would
like to publish a photograph of the big cat along with
your details and where and when the photograph was
taken. You keep the copyright. No family moggies
please!

Finally, a self explanatory note from Australia left
recently on the DOL Picture Gallery. "I have traced
my family history on my mother's side back to a James
W Hopcraft, dob: 6/11/1757 who was a Builder &
Contractor from the address: Brickyard, Oxford Rd,
Deddington, Oxford. I would appreciate if anyone
knows of a connection between A. Hopcraft & Sons'
lorry photo and this person that I'm related to."

colbypetersen@optusnet.com.au
Colin Clark 338064 or Colin.Clark@deddington.net

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tionally to help it maintain a healthier state.

Deddington 150 Years Ago

The following are extracts from the diaries of the Rev.

Cotton Risley for the month of March 1856:

- 4th March - I and Willy attended a Court Baron of the Lords of Deddington Christ Church Manor, and had our lives renewed in the Interest of an acre and a half of land - 1 acre, 2 roods & 9 or 11 perch situate on Plumdown in this Parish, and I was admitted tenant thereto by the Lord on payment of £28 as a fine and Court Fees.
- 6th March - Attended the Crown Court, and at its rising dined with the High Sheriff and some brother magistrates and Clergy at The Star - slept at the Mitre.
- 10th March - Susan gave the cook notice to quit in a fortnight - she is the worst cook we have ever had.
- 12th March - We dined at 1/2 past 5 o'clock without candles.
- 28th March - Returned from Monmouth (*where he had inherited an estate*) and attended Vestry at the Town Hall for the election of Parish officers for the ensuing year - passed off quietly.
- 31st March - Intelligence reached us here this afternoon that Peace was proclaimed in Paris on Saturday - a most blessed event. May a kind and merciful providence render it perpetual - so that neither Russia or any other country shall be permitted again to disturb the peace of the world. The bells here rang out a merry peal of triumph and rejoicing. The Ringers called and I gave them 5s. - to drink all good wishes for the stability of the now established peace - between Russia and the Allies.

Buffy Heywood

Nostalgia Rules

Derrick Robbins memoirs continued:

"Grandma Bull was a rum one" writes Derrick, probably searching for an apt word to describe this charming old lady who died before WWII when he was but a young child. "She always wore a black dress down to the floor and as a child I thought she had no legs because I never saw them. She wore a man's flat cap and an apron at all times, even when out shopping or going to church. Granny Bull used the daily newspaper as a table cloth, it saved washing and could be used each morning to light the cooking range. On my visits to her I was delighted to read "Rupert Bear" from the table cloth".[†]

"I remember well Mr Hall, publican of THE KINGS ARMS. He ran a bus service for civilians before the war but during the war drove 2 small utility buses with uncomfortable wooden seats in which he took workers to the two Aluminium factories, one in Banbury and the other beside the railway station south of Adderbury. All day long trailers would pass through Deddington on their way to these factories, carrying parts of crashed or damaged aircraft, British and German. On windy days parts of these planes were blown off the trailers and we children would race each other to see what treasures could be found. My biggest souvenir was a bomb release switch off a German bomber. I believe these two factories built wings for the R.A.F. One day we came

"Deddington"

Music and Lyrics by Dave Gibbs

First one back in a hundred thirty years.
Did you know what was behind the tears?

Long time gone, Tea is on,
Welcome to Deddington.

To the fields of yellow and green.
There's the path that will take you to the stream.
Honey brick tell me what have you seen?
All those years in England's history.

Stile to Arms, Chapel and Tuns,
Sunshine on in Deddington.

Through the church, over village green,
Take our friends we'll roam every scene.
Did you see the one with brown eyes?
Down the Tchure, it's all of our lives.

Now we're home, where we're from.
We'll sing strong in Deddington.
Now we're home, where we're from.

We'll sing strong in Deddington.

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On his web site Dave Gibbs describes his '**Welcome to Tomorrow**' CD as: "Like a volume of short stories, a cluster of tales, both real and fiction." He has paid a bunch of good Indianapolis musicians to record his own voice singing his own songs on his own record label, Folk Pop Records Inc. The connection with Deddington comes from his family history: his forefathers left here 130 years ago - hence his first line.

He calls the music 'Folk-Pop'. Its 'pop' nature is demonstrated by the repetitive musical phrases, but here they are never quite strong enough to become memorable hooks. The 'folk' part of the description is apt. Dave Gibbs' voice, mostly singing solo, would be heard better if accompanied by just one acoustic guitar. But we have many of his full rock band arrangements, with heavily fuzzed guitar, requiring a stronger voice.

Folk music, for me, is about words that happen to be set to music, and I would have appreciated the printing of the words within the CD's literature. He describes the title track '*Welcome to Tomorrow*' as a "contemporary anthem to the Lord about hope, justice and love." O that it had been! Instead it is a heavy rock number, with a specially commissioned piccolo trumpet solo in the middle, that "took '*Welcome to Tomorrow*' from Indy power pop to symphonic anthem". In fact the solo took a reasonable arrangement and appeared in the middle sounding like a child's toy piano.

Rob Collins

More information about Dave Gibbs on <http://www.davegibbs.com/>. '*Welcome to Tomorrow*' is available @ \$12 there or from <http://www.amazon.com>, where it receives a more positive appraisal. *Ed*

out of school to find a repaired and rebuilt ME109 in the Market Square. We children were allowed to crawl all over it and I sat in the cockpit letting my imagination fly..."

Ruth Johnson

[†] *Maybe she was a rum character in 1930s terms, but in 2006 her eccentricity could be thought very wise and forward looking. Recycling paper, saving water, and what fun to have a tablecloth on which to draw or from which to enrich your word power! RJ*

E-MAIL FROM HELEN ANDERSON, CHAPMANS LANE, DEDDINGTON

This coming June my sister Jennifer and I will be participating in the Cancer Research UK Race for Life in University Parks, Oxford. We will be running in memory of our godfather, Allan Mann. Allan was from Tyne and Wear but was a frequent visitor to Deddington, spent 12 New Years' Eves in the Market Place and came to the Deddington Festival. He was very fond of the village and made many friends here. He sadly died from cancer in November last year. Cancer Research has set up a sponsorship website for us in his memory and we have already raised over £500.

We would like to thank all our friends in Deddington who have donated so generously and would be extremely grateful for any further donations. The website is: www.raceforlifesponsorme.org/helenandjenny. We would be extremely grateful for any donations and will try our hardest to do everybody proud! If anyone is interested in joining the Race, the website is: www.raceforlife.org



Please address all letters to:
KRISTIN THOMPSON,
5 THE LEYES, DEDDINGTON
e-mail: op@kristin.demon.co.uk
and include your name and address,
even if they are not for publication.

E-MAIL FROM SALLY WILSON, THE LEYES, DEDDINGTON

I have recently gained a place in the London Marathon on 23 April and will be running for Diabetes UK. If you would like to sponsor me, you can do so via my web page: www.justgiving.com/wizlon By donating to the charity via this site, Diabetes UK can claim back the tax benefit. I would be very grateful for anything you can give to help the charity.



WELL REMEMBERED

MARGARET BAGOT (née McDermott) was born in 1931 in Clydebank, one of a family of 11 children. She attended a Convent School, where she excelled both in the classroom and on the games field. Her career with the Inland Revenue brought her to London where she met her husband, Denis. A son, Christopher, was born in 1965, but not long afterwards Margaret's health problems began. These Margaret took with grace and a determination not to allow sickness to prevent her pursuing her interests. A clever and cultivated woman, Margaret enjoyed travel, theatre and music and was highly proficient with crosswords and quizzes. She also had great sensitivity and practical wisdom, which she directed into the loving nurture of her family.

JEAN LAW was born in Lanarkshire and began her working life as an optician before embarking on a career in the Police Force. Jean's considerable talents meant she became a pioneer in the advancement of women in the Force, where she finished her career as Assistant Chief Constable in Birmingham, an extraordinary achievement for a woman some thirty and more years ago. She was awarded the Queen's Police Medal and the OBE. Her compassionate nature found expression in her dealings both with those at odds with the law and with colleagues in difficulties. She commanded the respect and affection of those with whom she worked, and she drew similar responses from the residents and staff at Featherton House where she spent her final years.

VI PRATLEY, one of four children, was born in 1927 in Middle Barton, her father being a gamekeeper on the Barton Abbey Estate. On leaving school Vi went into service at Barton Abbey for a short period and after war work with the Land Army, embarked on training to be a nurse. However, Vi gave up her proposed career when she returned home to look after her ailing mother. In 1952 Vi married Stan; there were no children, but Vi was much loved by nephews and nieces and others who called her 'Auntie'. She worked at Deddington School as a cook and at Tuckers. She liked tending her garden and enjoyed knitting and baking for others. Many experienced, and many will miss, her attentive, practical kindness in matters large and small.

HW

**North
Oxfordshire
Windows**



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Walking around the Satin Lane allotments recently, I was cheering to see how many barrowfuls of well-rotted farmyard manure had been spread in some of the gardens, ready to be dug in when the soil had thawed and could be worked again. "The old methods are usually the best" may be a cry from the heart of an older gardener, but it is sometimes true.

Compare that sight with the rows of proprietary fertilizers that fill the shelves of the garden centres, or are featured in magazines, and you might think that we are woefully out of date.

But at the same time three out of every four families in the UK buy organic food. Not always and not all their food, but the organic movement has become mainstream and cannot be ignored. At a time when so many of us are aware of the effect that quite small traces of pesticide or other residues in our diet can have on health and development; when the nation spends vast sums to remove harmful chemicals from drinking water and when the effects of additives, preservatives and sweeteners in many foods are being recognised, it is little wonder that an authoritative standard such as 'organic', backed up by reputable certification, is highly regarded.

An added bonus is that very often fresh organic produce from the market, the shop or, better still the garden or allotment, has much better - if old-fashioned - flavour.

Hugh Marshall



The Flower Garden

The older I get, the longer the winters seem to be. The present one seems unending. The beds have looked colourless and untidy for months. But cheer up, there are signs that the bulbs are active, a couple of inches of green are poking through here and there. One friend told me proudly that he has one snowdrop[†] in bloom, so there.

We emptied the compost bin this week. Apart from the nice crumbly brown tonic for the flower beds, Paul unearthed a pair of best quality secateurs, a hand fork and a Sabatier kitchen knife. The last two presented no great problems, they cleaned up well. But the secateurs looked beyond rescue. However, now, after much oiling and soaking they look better and are ready for another season.

The annual competition for the first *Iris stylosa* [above] has taken place. As usual, Christopher Hall won and I was given two delightful blooms which are now on the mantelshelf and give me much pleasure. That was a fun thing started by Madeline Allen, and we remember her with affection.

So come on spring, and a bit more light. Next time I hope to be able to comment on Crocuses and the early Narcissus.

Marianne Elsley

[†] 2½ year-old Matthew, when first introduced to them, called them 'Snowdrips'. ED

Gardening with Wildlife in Mind

If you feel active at this time of year, it's a good time to:

- Plant a hedge, if the ground is soft. Use young, bare-rooted trees (whips) and choose wildlife-friendly native species like hawthorn, hazel, wild privet and guelder rose. When these are established, add climbers like the invaluable ivy and honeysuckle.
- Prune established hedges. Do it now before early-nesting blackbirds set up home.
- Clean old bird-boxes and put up new ones. If the birds didn't use them last year, move them to a different place. Entrances should not face strong sunlight and should also be positioned away from the prevailing wind. North-facing entrances may be best. Birds won't nest in boxes attached to feeders as there is too much disturbance in their vicinity.

Extract from English Nature Magazine, January 2006

The March Hare is Here! Spring into action now . . .

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On The Farm

As I pen this, copy date and St Valentine's Day are just a few hours away and there is still little sign that February will live up to its fill-dyke reputation. The experts tell us that we now need 8 weeks of continuous heavy rain in the south-east to avoid water shortages during the summer. But in reality 8 weeks of heavy rain at this time of year would cause us more problems than it would solve, as the soil would not be able to absorb that amount of water and we would end up with most of it being washed out to sea.

In this country a plentiful supply of water and a never-ending supply of food are considered by many a right which should be provided for them at all times. The press and media have of late given a lot of air time and column inches (or should that be cm) to the possible effects of reduced rainfall, with global warming being portrayed as the most likely culprit. Yet in this country our masters still have no cohesive agenda on water management for the future, other than to spend vast amounts on flood defences when it would be better to spend the money on building reservoirs to hold the rain when it does fall. The same complacent attitude is taken with our domestic food production capacity by the powers that be, who are prepared to allow our home production to be sacrificed to the dubious aims of free trade and political correctness.

I wonder just how much column space will be taken up by the next shortage story. We have already seen a lot about fuel and water being in short supply, so just how



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far are we down the road from food shortages? After all, food production is reliant on both fuel and water. The hardships of food rationing are still something which is within living memory in this country, and just could be seen again if we allow our farming industry to be destroyed and expect others to feed us in the same way that we expect others to supply us with gas and oil.

Anyway, enough of this for now. Spring is just around the corner and we are in that pregnant pause awaiting the first lambs to put in an appearance. We have at long last been given the go-ahead to start work on the higher level environment stewardship scheme for the farm, so anyone walking the footpaths across the farm over the next two years will see a lot of changes. Some of these may seem rather savage, but, as Mr Brown keeps telling us, there is no gain without pain and the end result will be big improvements to the wildlife on the farm.

Last month's *DN* reported the sighting of a big cat around Clifton. This is, in all probability, the rather large handsome black dog Fox which has taken up residence in the area, who as far as I am concerned will be left unmolested providing he does not develop a taste for spring lamb.

Also in last month's *DN* I reported the low returns we get for wool. Last week when Mrs F. came home with the weekly shopping there was a packet of a well-known breakfast cereal made from oats. It cost £1.48 for a kilo box, which equates to £1480 a ton. The farm gate price for oats is £70 a ton!! *George Fenemore 338 203*

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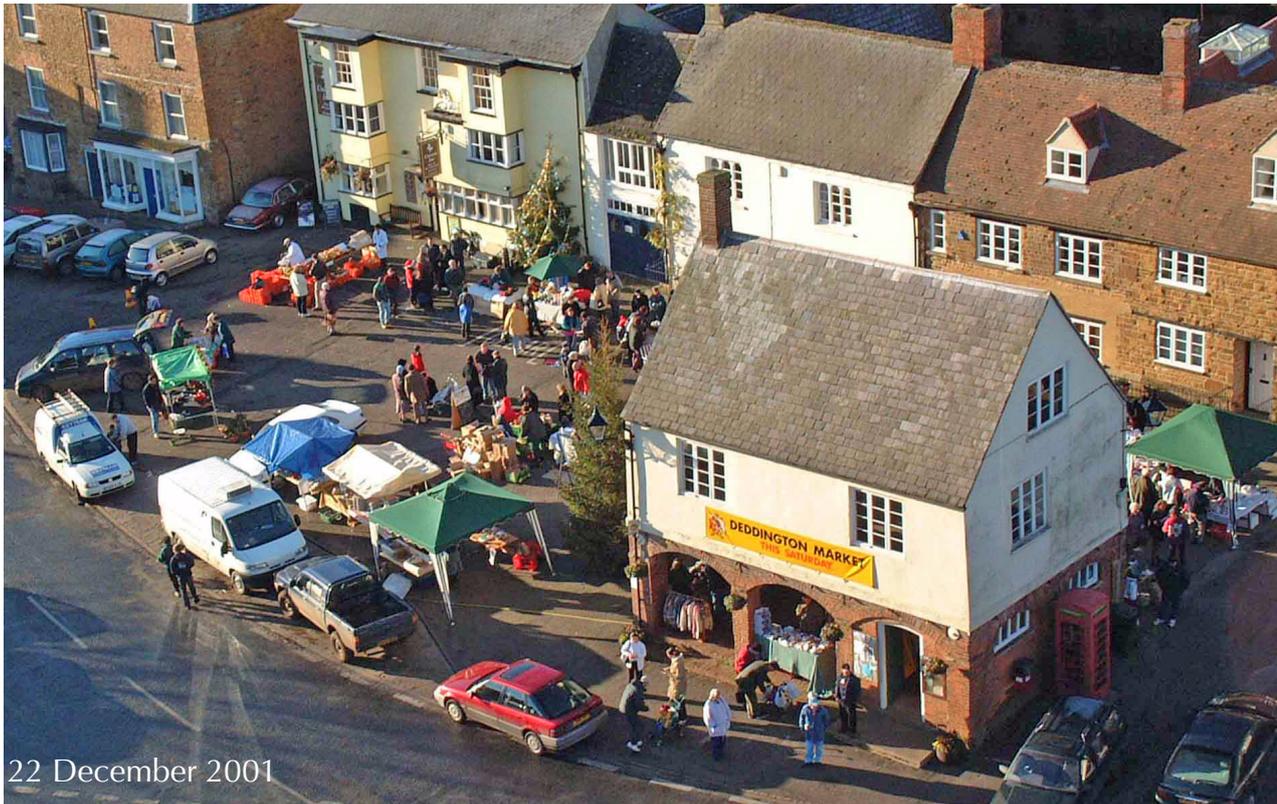
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Farmers' Market Photographic Competition 2006

Deddington Farmers' Market is organising a photographic competition to support the Deddington Festival. The theme will be "Deddington Farmers' Market and its Producers". We are planning to have three classes: Deddington Parish residents only, those living in the Banbury Guardian circulation area and an open one. The first two classes will be split into two categories, a General one and a Junior one for under 16s. The Open class is aimed at more experienced amateur photographers. We are running the competition in conjunction with the Banbury Guardian and sponsors for prizes are being sought. Entry forms will be available from the Market Information Point (under the Town Hall) at the March, April and May markets and will be reproduced in the Banbury Guardian. So it's time to get snapping if you want your pictures exhibited at the end of June.

Geoff Todd (D.M.M.C.) 338532

Friends of Deddington Library

Rosemary Arnold retires from the Library

As announced in last month's *DN*, Rosemary Arnold will be retiring at the beginning of March, and the Friends of Deddington Library have organised a farewell reception for her at the Windmill Community Centre, Hempton Road, Deddington on Tuesday 7 March from 6.30 till 8.00 p.m. All library users, past and present, are invited to join in marking the occasion.



If you intended to contribute towards a present for Rosemary, it is not too late to do so and contributions can still be sent to The Knowle, Philcote Street, Deddington OX15 0TB (cheques payable to 'Canon A.C.Hall'). Alternatively your contribution can be handed to any FoDL member or myself. We look forward to seeing you when we can all say a well-deserved 'Thank You' to Rosemary for her contribution to our community and the villages around it.

Geoff Todd (Chairman FoDL) 338532



Age Concern Oxfordshire are delighted to announce the opening of a new Sole Mates Footcare Session due to start soon at St Peter & St Paul Church in Deddington on a Friday morning, once every 6 weeks.

The service aims to provide basic toenail cutting for older people who find it almost impossible to cut their own nails safely, usually due to poor eyesight, arthritis or an inability to bend or move freely.

Each treatment will start with a warm footbath, then the toenails are trimmed and filed, finishing with a very gentle foot massage.

As the service will be by appointment only, please contact Amy or Ann at our Age Concern Head Office for further details. Tel. no. 01235 849400.

We look forward to hearing from you!



On St Valentine's Eve Bryony Fenemore of Home Farm, Clifton was in heaven, or as near as she has got to it - yet. The RAF invited fifteen members of the staff of the Leonard Cheshire Homes to be the guests of No 101 Squadron on board a refuelling flight from Brize Norton over the North Sea.

The 40-year-old VC10s are still in daily use as tankers. They have a capacity of 78 tonnes of fuel. The hoses on each wing deliver 1000kg of fuel a minute to refuel small aircraft such as Tornados. The hose under the fuselage can deliver twice as much for heavier aircraft.



For Bryony it was her first flight ever. There she was on a three-hour trip at 25,000 to 30,000 feet, over and above cloud nine, snapping away with her brand new digital camera - seeing anew the planet's incredible beauty from above.

It was appropriate that the Leonard Cheshire staff should be flying in a VC10. When Leonard

Cheshire was awarded his VC, an eight-year-old boy remembers the cheers at school assembly when the award to a former pupil was announced and celebrated with a half day holiday.

Bryony says that volunteers are always welcome at the Cheshire Home in Adderbury - welcome to read to the residents, or to help with outings. Contact Susan Woodward at the Home on 01295 810679. The reward will be the satisfaction of widening someone's limited horizons rather than the chance of a trip in a VC10.



The *DN* in print does not do justice to Bryony's pictures. Visit the *DN* website to see them in colour. *CH*

1st Deddington Guides

Thank you to everyone who supported the annual Christmas Post fund-raising venture. Special thanks to Scout/Cub leader Jo Churchyard who masterminded it and worked so hard and all the youngsters and parents. We raised over £150.

Our last event before Christmas was helping at the Wardington House Christmas party – well done to Claire Isted and Kate Calcutt who worked with the staff assisting the residents with tea and helping with activities. We are very proud of you.

What a start to the new term - the Pink Panther patrol organised a cinema evening complete with popcorn and we welcomed Maisie, Olivia and Anna. We have made some super plans for the term ahead but, in the meantime, we have rediscovered some games to keep us on our toes. We have found out more about the nature around us, learnt about the dangers of winter weather, and how we can help our neighbours.

Girls over 10 - come and join us.

Maggie Rampley, Guide 01295 810069

Deddington Colts FC.

The season presses on for all, from the mini teams to the U17s. The main season draws to a close for most teams and all have performed well, with the U14s in with a chance of winning their league and the U12s pushing for promotion. We need managers next year for the U15s, 16s and 17s so if anyone is interested please let us know.

Socially the club is preparing to run another fun evening with the popular 'hands-on' race night at the Windmill on Saturday 25 March. The paddock bar opens at 7.30pm and entry is £1, which includes a lucky draw ticket. Everyone is welcome and the more the merrier, so please come along, enjoy yourself and support your local football team. *Mike Watling (/ Martin Howard)*

Tennis

All 3 teams have a few matches left to play in the winter floodlit league. The B Team is doing especially well, having lost only 1 match although they did have to concede another due to a shortage of men players.

The ladies' Friday morning coaching and the younger children's indoor lessons carried on through the winter. We are now looking forward to a more comprehensive programme on 2 evenings a week. Details/booking from Steve Ashby 01295 263855.

The clubhouse balcony was vandalised, sadly, and had the railings knocked out, but they have been fixed up nicely. Once the new locks are fitted on the court gates everyone will have to get a key to play, either by renewing membership or booking at Cyclogical in Hudson Street. *Katie McGovern 338771*

1st Deddington Scout Group - Cubs

This term we have invested 5 new cubs, - Alex, George, Luke, Ollie and Sam - welcome to all of them and we hope they enjoy their time with us.

The Cubs have recently gained their Home Safety badge by looking at such things as fire safety, calling the emergency services and being aware of possible hazards

in the home. We had a special Australia Day evening to say farewell to Lewis who is emigrating. We looked at Cub Scouts in Australia and took our promise Aussie style; the Anzac cookies went down well too.

We had a great night at the panto - well done to everyone for a very entertaining performance. 22 February is Founder's Day and the 90th anniversary for the Cubs. To mark the occasion we will be studying the start of the movement and Baden Powell, and The Jungle Book on which many of our rituals are based.

Coming soon – first aid, St George's Day, and camping.

Scouts

The Scouts are pleased to have 2 new members; Seb and Jake moved up from Cubs and they seem to have settled in well.

We have been creating chess sets from a vast amount of nuts and bolts which, though impressive, are rather heavy to carry around – don't drop one on your foot.

The evening spent inventing, creating and eating new types of chocolate bars was successful if a little sticky. Well done to Robbo, who was elected judge and had to sample all the bars.

Next year will be the centenary of Scouting; we would like to hold a campfire evening for anyone who has ever been a member of the organisation. We will need somewhere to have the bonfire - any ideas?

Jo and Pete Churchyard 338071

jochurchyard@hotmail.com



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Deddington Town Football Club

1st Team Results :-

Hethe (h) Lost 5-8	G.Gilkes (4), T.Alexander.
Steeple Aston (a) Lost 1-3	B.Durrant.
Broughton & N.Newington (h) Won 1-0	J.Flemming.
Kineton (h)(Benevolent Cup) Won 3-1	T.Alexander, K.Laird, J.Flemming.

The 1st team ended their recent poor run of results and won their last 2 matches. John Flemming scored the vital league goal against BNN; this victory has lifted the side back into a comfortable mid-table position. A Benevolent Cup semi-final against Barford awaits the team following an excellent win against Kineton. Keith Laird was one of the goal scorers.

Reserve Team Results :-

Wroxton Res (a) Lost 2-5	A.Gray, A.Kite.
Heyford Ath Res (a) Lost 2-3	A.Kite, D.Keys.
Ruscote (a) Lost 1-3	A.Gray.

The Reserve side found their run of away games not to their liking, losing all 3. Adam Kite continues to score on a regular basis, but unfortunately his goals have not been rewarded with any league points. The team have slipped to the lower reaches of Division 2. On a brighter note, there is a possibility the team will have won through to 2 finals by the time you read the March *DN*.

*Steve Plumble 01295 278258***Deddington and District History Society**

On 8 February Tim Marshall treated us to a lightning excursion through the little-explored history of North Oxfordshire Quaker clock making. What would anyway have been an interesting talk was made the more so by the speaker providing a tableful of clocks from his own collection and borrowed from generous local owners. They were only made in this style in this corner of North Oxfordshire, with pockets near Charlbury and Burford.

On 8 March we celebrate the 60th anniversary of the famous film *Twenty-Four Square Miles* a remarkable record of life in this area. The evening should be special, even if you have seen the film before, because we shall

show also the follow-up made by Central Television ten years ago. There will be a commentary by Graham Nottingham, who has identified many of the locations and people featured. Please note that because we expect this to be a very popular event, we shall meet, for this evening only, in the parish church at 7.30. All are most welcome.

*Chris Day 337204***Youth Club**

Under new leadership, the club is flourishing and new activities are being planned, which require equipment. We have been promised a DVD player from the family of one of our members and we also need a large screen TV (24" minimum). Does anyone have one they no longer need and would be willing to donate to the club? 5-a-side football team matches v. Middle Barton Youth Club (2 boys' and 1 girls' teams) have been arranged for Monday 27 February.

A club outing to Oxford Ice Rink is planned for Monday 27 March, instead of the usual club session.

*Wendy Burrows (Secretary)***W.I.**

14 February - Beryl Suckling gave members a fascinating glimpse of life in town and country through a review of Oxfordshire Biographies from 1850 to 1950, one or two giving a sad reminder of the 1914-18 war and its effect upon village life, but there was a lighter and more humorous side to others. Beryl's collection of these books, together with her many observations, made a pleasant and interesting evening.

18 August Outing - This year members elected to go to Longleat and to include friends and family. If you wish to go, please let either Angela Sones (338027) or Yvonne Twomey (338213) know as soon as possible.

14 March - Annual Meeting with cheese and wine.

Rene Mahony 338438


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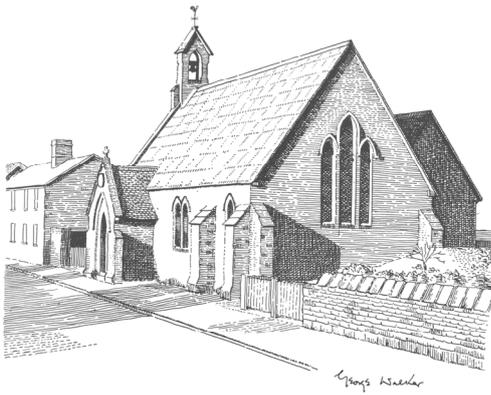
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Friends of Daeda's Wood

Daeda's tenth birthday celebrations are coming along apace. The Family Picnic is now a firm fixture for June 11, with tug-of-war and treasure hunt as on earlier occasions. This year we plan some additional treats. More about these in due course. Our anniversary book, *A Diary of Daeda's Wood*, will be launched at the May Farmers' Market. It will be a 'must-have' addition to your library of Deddington publications, as well as a great souvenir to give your visitors who will, of course, have visited Daeda's Wood. We are very grateful to the Woodland Trust for giving us a grant for its production. At the moment we are minus a Woodland Officer, but hopefully this won't be for long.

Sylvie Spenceley 338995



News from Hempton

The Parish Council will hold their next meeting in the Church Hall on Wednesday 15 March at 7.45 p.m. This is the first time that it has held the regular monthly meeting in Hempton for many years. There is normally a ten-minute open forum for people to put questions to the Council so it is hoped that members of the community will gather and show the Council that the meeting is viable in Hempton from time to time.

The Lady Day eucharist is to be held at St John's at 10.00am on 25 March.

The Highways Department has said that the village sign at the west end of the village should be back in place by 26 March. The telephone box has been vandalised once again. This is the second time in a few weeks. The cash box was forced and other structural damage done. BT has taken all the damaged parts away. One wonders whether this kiosk is viable in the village when 99% of people seem to carry mobile phones these days.

St John's Church, which has undergone major repairs over the last twelve months, has now been redecorated, along with the hall, which makes it more pleasant for worshippers and for events in the hall.

The Friends of the Church propose holding several events over the year to raise money for the ongoing maintenance of the Church. As these events are organised I will publish them in this column. Among other activities it is hoped to hold a coffee morning in June, an event on 1 July, Harvest Supper on 23 September and a Bazaar on 2 December.

Les Chappell 338054

Got the FT habit, yet?

Every day the British public drink over 3 million cups of Fairtrade hot drinks and munch almost half a million Fairtrade bananas. A significant number of these might be found in Deddington! Statistics do not record how many glasses of Fairtrade wine are drunk each day, but with local people finding some of the best FT wine shopping in the village or in Banbury, it is highly probable that wine, from some of the 500 producer organisations and 400 traders worldwide where the Fairtrade labelling network is operating, will be in many drinkers' hands each week.

This month Fairtrade Fortnight – 6-19 March – is less about statistics and more about highlighting more than 1,000 Fairtrade products which are already available

News from Clifton

It's been a quiet month in Clifton. Roll on Spring!

As mentioned in the last issue of the *DN*, the Clifton Crew's Easter Extravaganza will take place on 15 April. The event will be raising money for the Katharine House Hospice in Adderbury. There will be homemade cakes, tea and coffee, a raffle and the children's egg hunt. If anyone has any items they would like to donate to the raffle, or would like to bake a cake for the cake stall, they would be more than welcome. Please contact me. Look out for more news about the event in next month's issue!

If anyone has any further news they would like me to include in the future please contact me.

Alex Jardine 337235

FROM THE FIRE STATION

14 calls so far this month. 3 chimney fires, 1 van fire, 1 car fire, 1 shed fire, 1 hedge fire, 5 standbys at other stations, 1 road traffic collision on the M40, and a serious house fire in Banbury. This fire destroyed the first floor and roof space; thankfully the occupants were out at the time.

On the move for pastures new is fire fighter Arfi. Ahcene has been with us about 18 months and has now decided to move to Banbury. It won't be a complete loss to the brigade, as he is now going to work at Banbury Fire Station instead. We will miss Ahcene, Becky and family, and we wish them luck and best wishes for the future; no doubt we'll be meeting up with Ahcene on the fire ground.



For the romantics out there who like to cosy up by the fire with the candles flickering away in the background having a quiet night in, please make a few safety checks first.

Get your chimney swept, never leave candles unattended, keep matches and lighters out of the reach of children and check your smoke alarm. It takes two minutes to check your smoke alarm. Only TWO minutes. Loose two minutes of your time, not the rest of your life.

Thankfully several people have been arrested by the police in relation to the arson attacks over the last few months, so hopefully things will calm down again now.

Until next time, keep safe.

Fire fighter James Britchford

in British shops. By then Banbury may have qualified for Fairtrade Town status. A 'Fair Feast' event is being planned for Saturday 11 March in Banbury Town Hall, with Prue Leith on the menu. If you would like to know more, give me a call on 337761 or visit at the Traidcraft stall during the Farmers' Market on 25 March. "Get the Fairtrade Habit" – 5 million farmers, workers, producers and their families worldwide will thank you!

George Fenemore is launching Candles-Direct. If you can't beat 'em, join 'em!

Hugh Marshall