

This month's editor
JILL CHEESEMAN

OCTOBER 2014 copy to
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by 20 SEPTEMBER 2014

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the Deddington news

Whilst some of us have been away the rest have been hard at work on our behalves. In particular, please support two important initiatives: the Friends of Deddington Library have taken great strides but need your support (p5), and the Neighbourhood Plan is well into its stride and will need everyone to reply to the questionnaire (p3).

SEPTEMBER

- Mon 1 PTA: Happy's Circus, Primary School, 2.00pm
 Mon 1 Monday Morning Club: Coffee Morning, Holly Tree, 10.30am
 Tue 2 Hempton Ladies: Church Hall, 2.00pm
 Wed 3 Deddington Branch RBL: Visit to Royal Navy Submarine Museum, leaving RBL Hall 9.00am
 Wed 3 Photo Society: Club Evening, review of Adderbury Gardens photoshoot, Cartwright Arms, Aynho, 7.30pm
 Wed 3 Parish Show: Deadline for entries, 10.00pm
 Thu 4 Monday Morning Film Club: *Captain Phillips*, Holly Tree Club, 6.30pm
 Fri 5 Hempton Social Night: Hempton Church Hall, 7.00pm
 Sat 6 Parish Show: Parish Church, exhibits 9.00–10.30am, doors open 2.00pm
 Sat 6 RBL: Cash Prize Bingo, RBL Hall, 8.00pm
 Tue 9 WI: Jacob Stone, 'Volunteering in Malawi and Uganda', Holly Tree Club, 7.30pm
 Wed 10 History Society: Richard O Smith, 'Oxford's Eccentricity Over 900 Years', Windmill Centre, 7.30pm
 Sat 13 Ride & Stride: Parish and Hempton Churches, 10.00am–6.00pm
 Sat 13 RBL: Live Music with Miss Vicky, RBL Hall, 9.00pm
 Sun 14 Deddington Players: Action Day, Windmill Centre
 Wed 17 Parish Council Meeting: Windmill Centre, 7.30pm
 Wed 17 Photo Society: Studio Photography Workshop, Cartwright Hotel, Aynho, 7.30pm
 Sun 21 Friends of St John's: Table Top Sale, Old School Room, Hempton, 11.00am
 Thu 25 Book Club: please call 338094 for details, 7.30pm
 Fri 26 Concert: Gould Quintet, Parish Church, 7.30pm
 Sat 27 Farmers' Market: Market Place, 9.00am–12.30pm
 Sat 27 Photo Society: Members' Eighth Annual Exhibition, Adderbury Institute, 10.00am

OCTOBER

- Wed 1 DN: Collating, Windmill Centre, 10.00am
 Wed 1 Photo Society: Mark Buckley Sharp, 'The Work of the Royal Photographic Society', Cartwright Hotel, Aynho, 7.30pm
 Fri 3 Hempton Social Night: Hempton Church Hall, 7.00pm

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 the Holly Tree Club on Wed 16 July

Present were Councillors Collins (Chair), Cox, Day, East, Finnegan, Flux, Oldham, O'Neill, Rogers (Vice Chair), Squires, Watts, Williams (CDC), Wood (Vice Chair).

District Councillor Williams reported that the flooding of the Windmill St car park was being dealt with – remedial work will cost £7,500–10,000, a complete refurbishment £24,000. CDC will decide which to proceed with.

The new Ward boundaries have been fixed – our ward will in future have three councillors rather than three-and-a-half. There may be an election in 2016.

Planning: Deddington Tennis Club has applied for a third night of floodlighting, to be terminated at 7.30.

Outline planning permission for land to the rear of Orchard View and Valley View in St Thomas St has been refused.

The following proposals for funding from S106 (contribution from housing developers) has been drawn up for consideration: Fitness trail at Castle Grounds, play area for juniors at Castle Grounds, War Memorial refurbishment, general improvements to Windmill Centre, children's playground at Hempton, new pre-school/kindergarten building to replace existing, new land/land preparation for football/sports pitches, library funding for a fixed period, speeding prevention measures/better road safety for the parish, telescopic electricity supply in Market Place for community events, purchase of Satin Lane allotments, purchase of Library building, anti-vandalism fencing and access system for all-weather court, addition of another sports bay at the Windmill Centre, landscaping to increase cemetery capacity, provision of grit bins in locality of development.

Environment and Recreation: There was discussion concerning the problem with the drain at the entrance to Castle Grounds. The PC does not own this land, but is willing to contribute to remedial work in the interests of the parish.

It has been proposed to dedicate an area in the Cemetery for the scattering of ashes. This would be delineated by a small box hedge.

Hedges that front the Hempton road are to be managed and repairs to the entrance gate have been approved.

Following the fall of a tree onto cars parked near the boundary hedge of the allotments in St Thomas St, it was agreed that this hedge should be repaired 'to prevent encroachment and trespass'.

£250 was approved to buy hardware to test a battery pack for the existing Christmas tree lights.

The School noticeboard is next on the list to be repaired. Two others are in storage awaiting attention.

Highways and Transport: The right turn markings at the traffic lights have been re-instated.

Overhanging trees on the bridle way at The Daedings have been trimmed. Volunteers are required to monitor public footpaths in the Parish. Please apply to the Clerk (337447) if you are interested in helping. Vegetation around the Clifton bus stop has been cut back.

Finance and General Purposes: All accounts were balanced and agreed.

A grant of £120 to the British Legion was agreed for plastic covering for the WW1 Memorabilia exhibition. These perspex sheets will be available for use by other organisations in the future.

Tertiary grants of book tokens to the value of £50 each were made to Ellen May Williams and Jessica Bryony Williams.

Emergency Winter Planning: A ton of salt has been ordered for each village and storage has been arranged. This is for the use of the snow wardens only. A grit bin is to be installed at Goose Green.

War Memorial: The gravel will be renewed and the gates rehung. The missing cast iron gatepost will be replaced.

The cobbled footpath to the Church is to be cleaned.

There is to be a School Governors' meeting in September to discuss the possible expansion of the school.

Meeting at the Duke of Cumberland's Head, Clifton, on Wed 20 August 2014

Present were Councillors Boulter, Collins (Chair), Cox, Day, East, Finnegan, Flux, Oldham, O'Neill, Williams (CDC)

Several members of the public were present to express their concerns about the negative impact of the planning application for 24 Windmill St, Deddington. The PC subsequently objected to this on the grounds of restricted vehicular access, particularly for agricultural machinery, a situation of which they had been previously unaware. It was suggested that CDC take more note of local intelligence before making planning decisions.

It was noted that internally illuminated shop signs in the Market Place will not be welcomed.

The drain at the entrance to Castle Grounds is to be cleared. The PC does not own this land, but is willing to contribute to remedial work in the interests of the parish, as access to the Grounds is impeded in wet weather. The problem is exacerbated by the dumping of grass-cuttings in the area which is not acceptable.

Pea shingle is to be spread around the War Memorial on 21 August.

**Next meeting:
Wed 17 September at 7.30pm in the
Windmill Centre, Deddington**

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/pcminutes>.

QUESTION TIME

At last the Neighbourhood Plan steering group has its questionnaire ready to roll. We should be delivering it to every house in the parish in the next two or three weeks. At the time of going to press our plan is to provide a form for each adult member of the household to complete. But, in any case, the questionnaire will be available online on Survey Monkey as well – plus we'll have spare print versions. In one way or another every individual parishioner should have the chance to have their say.

We're hoping for a huge response – Adderbury had replies from more than 60% of the parish to their survey and we'd like to top that. They attribute their success to the team of street captains they had knocking on doors, chasing people up to complete their forms and offering help whenever anyone needed a hand. We intend to use the same system. So expect a neighbour to be calling at your door soon.

In fact, if you could spare a little time to be a street captain yourself, please be in touch – we'd be delighted (contacts below). The aim for our final plan is to reflect opinion across the villages of Deddington, Hempton and Clifton as accurately as possible and for that we need to hear from everybody, not just the activists and enthusiasts.

We've prepared a separate questionnaire for school age children to fill in – and the Primary School has carried out a project with the younger ones – but there may be several young people who have slipped through the net because they attend a school we have not approached, or have left school. Please let us know if your family needs copies of the junior questionnaire.

The finishing touches have still to be made to the main questionnaire because at the time of writing we're awaiting publication of Cherwell's revised Local Plan. Their previous plan was suspended by the government inspector on the grounds that it didn't take account of

the latest assessment of housing need in the district. The upshot is that CDC is having to identify sites for an extra 6,000 new homes to be built between now and 2031 – over and above the sites for 16,000 homes already earmarked. This may or may not have implications for Deddington – and hence for the questionnaire. The date of 18 August was set for the new draft Local Plan to be made public.

At the moment the questionnaire contains around 75 questions – not too daunting, we hope, because most of them simply require a tick in a box. There'll be space too for any additional comments you wish to make. And there'll be details of how to return the completed form, plus a prize draw for the lucky respondent. So please do fill in the questionnaire, encourage your family, friends and neighbours to do the same – then return it by the closing date, which will probably be two weeks after the date of delivery.

Helen Oldfield

helenmoldfield@yahoo.co.uk

www.deddingtonneighbourhoodplan.org

Friends of Daeda's Wood

An information table was manned at the June Farmers' Market and a number of people joined and a good deal of interest was shown about the proposed bat and moth evening in Daeda's Wood. Unfortunately we have not, as yet, been able to schedule this event; it might happen in September, in which case the people who expressed an interest will be phoned or emailed.

The dates of the working parties in the autumn are: Saturday 18 October, Sunday 23 November, Saturday 17 January 2015, Sunday 22 February and Saturday 14 March.

Annette Murphy

annette-orchard@live.co.uk



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THE TASTE BUDDIES EAT AT THE KING'S ARMS HOTEL, WOODSTOCK

We are the Taste Buddies. We lunch out every two months to assess local pubs and restaurants. We are an independent group with no connection to the *DN* or any of the establishments visited.

Where?

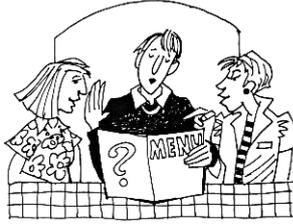
The King's Arms Hotel, 19 Market Street, Woodstock, Oxford OX20 1SU, phone 01993 813636, www.kingshotelwoodstock.co.uk.

This hotel is in the heart of the town so it is perfect to combine with a browse around the shops and a walk in Blenheim Palace gardens. The hotel is modern but cosy and opens up into an airy and bright restaurant, which was cool on a hot day. There is also seating outside.

Food Served: All day

Breakfast: 7.30am–10.30am, Lunch: 12.00–2.30pm
Sandwiches, teas and ice creams are available in the bar until 5.00pm. Dinner: from 6.00pm

Average Cost: Starters: £5.50–£9.50, Mains: £11–£22
Desserts: £6. There is also a varied set lunch at £11.75



for one course or £14.75 for two courses.

Were They Pleased To See You?

Yes, we were warmly greeted and attentively served.

Was The Cooking Good?

We were all pleased with our choices which were attractively presented and well cooked. Our starters included smoked salmon and dill paté with caper-

berries and melba toast, seared scallops with shallot and tomato dressing, and crispy pig cheek and dandelion leaf salad. Mains included a slow-cooked duck leg, grilled pork chop with mustard cream sauce, and oven-roasted Cornish pollock with lemon butter sauce. For dessert we recommend the truly delectable dark chocolate almond cake with nut brittle and sour cream. It is possible to mix and match the à la carte menu with the set menu. The wine list is varied with several choices available by the glass.

Value For Money?

We thought it was excellent value for money and would definitely return.

DEDDINGTON 150 YEARS AGO

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

19th August – I called at Mr. Churchill's office and signed my Income Tax paper.

22nd August – I heard from poor old Mrs. Field and my friend Dr. Hodges enclosing donations of £1 each for the poor woman Clarke and her babies.

24th August – J. Gibbs, a farmer from Over Worton whose ricks etc. were fired yesterday causing £600 of damage, came over to say it was the wicked act of a boy named Grimsley, between 8 and 9 years of age only. Later in the day he was brought before me and I remanded him until 12 o'clock on Friday, Inspector Bowen appeared with him. Holford went to a Pic Nic

(sic), Croquet Party and Ball at Mr. Grisewood's of Daylesford House.

25th August – Holford was busied in the Castle Ground overlooking and aiding the ornamentation of the Pavilion for Col. Bower's Ball, which passed off admirably. 130 persons were present, if not more, I left at 4 o'clock a.m. Holford, friends and Robert got home at 6 o'clock.

26th August – I heard the arson case against the boy Grimsley from Worton at the Town Hall, committed him for trial at the next Assizes.

29th August – Our Annual Cricket Dinner took place in the Castle Ground.

Buffy Heywood 338212

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CHURCH AND CHAPEL**September****Parish Church SS Peter and Paul**

Wed 3 10.00am Eucharist
 Thu 4 2.00pm Squeals and Wheels
 Sun 7 10.30am First Sunday
 6.30pm Choral Evensong
 Wed 10 10.00am Eucharist
 Thu 11 2.00pm Squeals and Wheels
 Sun 14 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
 Holy Cross
 10.30am Sung Eucharist
 Wed 17 10.00am Eucharist
 Thu 18 2.00pm Squeals and Wheels
 Sun 21 10.30am Eucharist: St Matthew
 Wed 24 10.00am Eucharist
 Thu 25 2.00pm Squeals and Wheels
 Sun 28 9.30am Eucharist: followed by
 10.20am Interactive Café Church
 Mon 29 6.00pm Eucharist: St Michael and
 All Angels

St John's, Hempton

Sun 7 9.00am Eucharist
 Sun 21 9.00am Eucharist
 Sun 28 6.00pm Harvest Festival Evensong

Barford St Michael

Sun 7 10.30am Eucharist
 Sun 14 10.30am Family Service
 Sun 21 10.30am Morning Service
 Sun 28 4.00pm Harvest Festival Evensong

From the Parish Registers

Baptism: 28 May Arthur Fawcus
Wedding: 23 May Sam Baldwin & Kathryn Gander
Funerals: 6 June Michael Coleman
 9 June Roger Callow

For baptisms, weddings, funerals or home visits in case of illness, please contact one of the church wardens, Iain Gillespie (338367) or George Fenemore (338203). For further information please go to www.deddingtonchurch.org.

Wesleyan Reform Church, Chapel Square

Sunday mornings at 10.30am Pastor Isabel Walton
 28 Sept John Neale

Pastor Isabel Walton 337157

RC Parish of Hethe

Mass at Holy Trinity, Hethe every weekday at 9.30am, Sun at 10.00am. Confessions on Saturday 5.30pm–6.00pm. Mass also in the Anglican Parish Church at Kings Sutton at 9.00am. 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.

Fr John Burns 277396

Parish Deacon Rev R Hughes 01295 720896

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

**FRIENDS OF DEDDINGTON LIBRARY**

www.FriendsofDeddingtonLibrary.org



The Friends of Deddington Library (FoDL) met on Tuesday 12 August to review the progress so far in raising funds and attracting support for the continuation of full library services for Deddington and the surrounding villages. Everything is moving in the right direction and we are feeling very positive about the future of the Library. However there is still more work to do. To date we have 43 monthly and 12 annual subscribers signed up but require a minimum of 100 monthly subscribers to reach our target. Therefore your support is still very much sought and welcomed.

We will have some exciting news to report soon regarding a new patron for the campaign and there will be an event held at the library to announce this in the coming month. In addition to this FoDL will have another presence at the October Farmers' Market where

people can pick up subscription forms and information about the campaign. We have held two raffle draws to date, the winners of which are to be found on our site, complete with a list of the prizes on offer.

People who have volunteered will soon start their training which, by all accounts is great fun and not onerous at all; travel and parking expenses will be covered by OCC. If you can't get along to any of our meetings, then please go to our website, www.friendsofdeddingtonlibrary.org where the minutes of previous meetings can be read and where you can find subscription forms, and express a wish to be kept informed of our progress as well as news of upcoming events. Thanks once again for your support both as subscribers and volunteers, it is very much appreciated.

Bryn Williams
abw@brynwilliams.com

DEDDINGTON FARMERS MARKET

AWARDS AND PREMIERES



FOURTH SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH
www.deddington.org.uk

It is all too easy to take the Farmers' Market for granted. But it is one of the parish's greatest assets. It's there every month, come rain or shine, displaying a diversity, range and quality of local produce that is the envy of any market

(and some supermarkets come to that). That's why each Market attracts over 2,000 shoppers in just four hours. And each Market tries to improve on the last.

For example, Shaken Oak Mustard has spent the last year developing a Mustard Rub and testing versions at the Farmers' Market (you might have tried it – immensely versatile and keeps forever in the kitchen cupboard). It's just won Gold at the 2014 Great British Taste Awards. The Market gives you local excellence with a quality that is the best in the country.

Look out for modernisation of the stalls – and for yet more stallholders.

In the pipeline are:

Blakesly Hill Cakes: their speciality is a savoury muffin - called a "Buffin". Silly name – sublime eating.

Crissel's Kitchen: they'll be selling Brazilian street

food (made locally from local ingredients of course).

And still on the ethnic theme, Ellie's Kitchen will be offering sweet and savoury Greek foods.

If none of that floats your boat the September market has the additional attraction of face painting by Funky Faces from 10.00 til noon.

This preview is written a long way ahead of market day due to copy deadlines. You can get more accurate news nearer the time.

If you're internet averse you can get the latest Market news on BBC Radio Oxford every Market morning or look out for the specials board at the Market itself. For the more electronically accomplished there is a Market preview on the parish radio station, Deddington onAir (www.deddingtononair.org) for the week before each Market; there is the Market website itself (www.deddingtonfarmersmarket.co.uk), there is the Market Facebook page (please like); and there is the Twitter feed @DeddintonFMkt.

Or you could let the Market do the work for you by signing up for a personal email update by emailing your request to marketing@deddingtonfarmersmarket.co.uk.

The Market is on Saturday 20 September from 9.00am to 12.30pm. Good shopping!

Ian Willox
337940



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Deddington Festival 2014 Round Up

The 12th annual Deddington Festival was a fun-packed ten days with many new additions to the programme. This year, for the first time, the Festival introduced three talent competitions, appealing to all ages and interests, plus a variety of new family, music and comedy events.

Emma Noon, Chair, Deddington Festival Committee, said: 'The 12th Deddington Festival was the best yet with over 1,000 people attending 19 events over the week, from Deddy Rocks, a comedy night, a kids circus, an art exhibition and history walk, to a Baroque concert and a Jazz & Jam evening. The support from our sponsors and volunteers was fantastic, which we're going to build on to make the 2015 Deddington Festival even better.'

A great record of the 2014 Festival is available on the photo gallery on the Deddington Festival website: <http://www.deddingtonfestival.org.uk/2014-gallery/>.

Highlights of this year's programme of 19 events included:

Deddington Rocks – Saturday 14 June

One of the Festival's major events returned this year, starting at 2pm for family fun with supporting bands and dance acts, in the lead up to the main concert that evening. The evening line up featured *Dance à la Plage*, *the Dirty Flaws*, *the Shady Bunch* and *the Knights of Mentis*.

Cotswold Comedy Club – Thursday 19 June

The Cotswold Comedy Club brought three professional comedians from the world of stand-up comedy to Deddington. Andrew Bird, Laura Lexx and Dave Arnold had the audience rolling in the aisles at the Windmill Centre.

Jazz & Jam – Friday 20 June

Jazz & Jam offered jazz fans a selection of music from Sweet Chorus, a tribute to Stefan Grappelli and the Hot Club of France, plus Stekpanna and Friends – contemporary jazz with English, Swedish and Russian Accents.

WW1 Community Concert – Saturday 21 June

Marking the centenary year of the start of the First World War, this community concert featured war-time songs, poems, memories of the war by relatives of those who fought, Olde Tyme music hall songs and other popular songs of the time.

Komedy of Errors – Sunday 22 June

Presented by Circus Berzercus, Komedy of Errors was a mad-cap family circus show for all ages, containing music, dazzling juggling, daring unicycling, mystifying magic, comedy and plenty of audience participation.

To keep up to date with Festival news and dates for 2015 visit www.deddingtonfestival.org.uk. Follow us on Facebook and Twitter @DeddyFest.

Amalie Craig

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Old School Room redecoration

COME AND SEE WHAT WE'VE
DONE SO FAR

Please call Les Chappell 338054
or John Sampson 338739



BLISSFUL THINKING

Familiar characters, this one like a perky snake, that one like a wheel with a kickstand propping it up are punched, scrawled or scratched onto meticulously pulped tree and arranged in composite bunches which, in combination, are deciphered as descriptions, promotions, ruminations, opinions, whimsy, instruction or command, and absorbed.

At times the information is processed and applied, maybe it is ruthlessly discarded; perhaps it is even destined for the ages. Whatever happens, we have created ... paperwork. In the wrong hands, this is dangerous stuff. Whether I post, email, photocopy or facsimile, the communiqué is almost irrelevant. What is important is its relentless movement. Paperwork is ceaselessly transient: pushed from one folder to another, postbox to freight carrier to letterbox to shredder, copied and scanned, attached and forwarded into oblivion.

How far we have come from its original purpose of conveying important information is unclear, much like the location of my counterpart driving-licence and final tax demand. Our lives are dictated by documents and, even if much becomes digitised, we will surely never entirely cast off paperwork's proverbial shackles. Those ancient Sumerians have a lot to answer for.

Aaron Bliss aaronjbliss@hotmail.com

FLOWER ARRANGING IN CHURCH

This is a general invitation to anybody who would like to help with decorating the Parish Church for the 10.30am Harvest Festival service on Sunday 5 October.

This is a great occasion where we make use of fruit, vegetables, flowers, foliage, grasses etc to decorate practically every flat surface in the Church, save the altars and the floor.

It is always enjoyable and no special skills are needed – just bring anything that you want to use (including your own container if you wish). There is no special style of arranging – feel free to experiment. A group of us will be in the Church on Friday 3 October from 10.00am, but you could do your arrangement at another time.

If you would like to help decorate the Church for Christmas, look out for details of the free flower arranging workshop to be held on 23 or 24 December where people of all abilities (or none) are warmly welcomed – no flowers are required, just your enthusiasm.

The Church is a great place to display flowers because it is lovely and cool and they last very well; it goes without saying that people really appreciate everybody's artistic efforts.

For more information please contact me.

Annette Murphy
336195

annette-orchard@live.co.uk



RIDE AND STRIDE 2014

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Deddington PFSU and Village Nursery

We had a busy few weeks in the run up to the summer holidays.

Our sports day was a great success. Each child ran in several races and all won stickers and a medal. Afterwards there was an opportunity for the parents to take part in the parents' race before we all enjoyed a relaxed picnic in the PFSU garden.

The PFSU children have produced their own film. We recorded the children telling and acting out a favourite story, *Take a Walk Little Bear*. We are delighted with the final result and extremely grateful to the talented Emma and Andy Spellman who gave up their morning to film us.

The PFSU children sang in the service in Deddington Church on 6 July and we were very proud of their effort to learn and perform *Who Put The Colours in the Rainbow?*

Our summer fund-raising event, 'A Night at the Movies', was a fantastic night with a great band, lovely food and the Windmill Centre looking amazing. Thank you to everyone who supported the evening and to the organising committee who made it such a successful evening.

Our children have visited their new schools and pre-schools and we wish them every success as they move onwards and upwards in September.

Lucy Squires
337484

Deddington Parish Church: A Great Place ... to Clean

We are lucky to have such attractive churches in our village although now only two are in use for worship. Our former energetic vicar, Hugh, was keen to open the Church for occasions other than worship and this has proved extremely successful as witnessed by the many events that take place, regularly and occasionally. Not only has this generated much-needed income, but has made Deddington a great place in which to live, work and visit.

The team of people who clean the interior has shrunk to quite a small number. All users of the Church respect the building and there is not usually much deep cleaning required. Professionals are engaged when this is needed. This is an urgent plea for more helpers to come forward and give perhaps half an hour a week (on a regular basis but whatever suits) to help keep the church attractive. If you could help in some way, please give Christine or me a call or email. It would be a pity to have to pay someone to do what is not an onerous task: it is, in fact, quite enjoyable – especially knowing that other people will enjoy using the clean and dust-free facilities.

Christine Gillespie 338367
cegillespie@btinternet.com
Annette Murphy
336195
annette-orchard@live.co.uk



Ladies & Girls

Experience

**Tadmarton Heath
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Call 01608 737278 to register or
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10.30 ~ 6.00

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A Short History of the Old School Room, Hempton

St John's church with School Room was built in 1850, the Rev William Wilson of Over Worton purchasing a site, formerly known as 'The Swan', Hempton's second public house; this comprised a bakehouse, outbuildings, garden and orchard. The north aisle of the Church served as a National School with perhaps an average attendance of about twenty children. An OS map of 1882 shows an Infant School attached to the Church and the school portal is still present in the original position.

The village of Hempton during the latter part of the nineteenth century had the Plough Inn, a carpenter, dairyman, baker, coal merchant, nurseryman and four farms so, despite its modest size, perhaps forty children of primary age were living locally.

There was a cottage for a teacher on site; this fell into disrepair and was demolished in the early 1960s. At the same time communicating arches adjoining the north aisle of the Church were blocked in but the integrity of the original design was restored in 2010 with a double door in each arch in indigo timber with arched, panelled glazing above.

The 1851 census shows Elizabeth French, a widow aged 48 from Bourton-on-the-Water, to be the teacher. She had three children, Phillip aged 15, Elizabeth 9 and Clara 7. Clara is registered as born in Hempton which suggests that the French family were living in Hempton c1842–3 or earlier since Clara's birth year is 1844. The date and cause of the father's death is yet to be determined. The population at this time of Barford St Michael was then 400 and Barford St John 125, but that of Hempton unknown.

The 1861 census places sister Elizabeth, 19, as the teacher and Clara, 18, as a seamstress. Also resident in the household are Eliza Clements, 8, as step-sister and two male lodgers, 67 and 31, possibly agricultural workers. Elizabeth (mother) had remarried during the mid–1850s. It is a reasonable assumption that the young girl was in better care with the French sisters, perhaps for improved educational opportunities and that William Clements with new wife Elizabeth had sought improved work prospects some distance away.

By 1871 the whole family were again together in Hempton. William Clements 55, step-father, Elizabeth 66, William Clements 20, step-brother, Eliza Clements 18, step-sister, and Elizabeth and Clara French. Possibly the agricultural depression of the 1860s had driven William, Elizabeth and young William to seek work elsewhere. During this time daughter Elizabeth and probably Clara had continued to run the school.

In 1881 the census clearly shows Clara at 37 years of age as head of the household, occupation schoolmistress, and again in 1891. By 1901 Clara is registered as head of household with 14 year old Ethel Slatter as servant with further Slatter family members also living in Hempton. No record of Clara French is shown for 1911 but is known that the School closed in

1915, except for Sundays and all children then went to either Barford or Deddington.

One must pay tribute to the dedication of Elizabeth French and her daughters who undertook the education of the Hempton children from 1851 until certainly 1891, that is for 40 of its 60-plus years' service as a village School.

The Deddington Parish magazine writes that in August 1882 the Rev PR Egerton (founder of Bloxham School) and his wife 'accompanied by the Misses French took the scholars of the Sunday School to tea and games at All Saints School, Bloxham'. There is an identical report for September 1888.

An 1887 report on the parochial schools' records 'The children were evidently well taught. In the oral examination several answered creditably and the written work on the whole was good. Hymns, prayers etc were nicely repeated. The needlework was very good for such young children'. This is perhaps a reflection on Clara's experience as a seamstress when young.

Historically, prior to the Education Act of 1870 introducing compulsory education between ages five to twelve, any primary education was provided in Voluntary Schools conducted on (mainly Anglican) principles and funded by private subscription. One can assume that the Rev William Worton, having built the Church with provision for a School Room in the north aisle was mainly responsible for providing teaching salaries and classroom requirements with perhaps a very small grant from the (Anglican) National Society; hence Church Schools were often referred to as 'National' Schools. Further land purchased in 1850s was sold and the proceeds invested 'for the purpose of furthering the religious and other charitable work of the Church of England'.

I am grateful to Les Chappell for much of the research for this history. Further information would be always welcome.

John Sampson

338739

himnspout@btinternet.com

Summer Fun Activities in the Church

For three Thursday mornings in August this summer a bunch of eager children aged between five and eleven, and energetic adults together with a number of teenage helpers, met up to make various crafted objects, cook, play games and generally have fun with friends.

The final session ended with a swim for children and their parents in Christine Blentoff's pool. Our warmest thanks go to everybody who attended, helped or allowed their gardens to be used for the games and the fun.

Some of the children intend to enter their masks and models in the Deddington Parish Show on 6 September ... look out for the talent.

Annette Murphy 336195

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.

FROM KATE OLDROYD, CHAIR,
DEDDINGTON VILLAGE NURSERY
AND PFSU

If you didn't know or weren't sure, the Deddington Pre-school and Nursery are two not-for-profit charities. We are independent of the Primary School and operate under a single voluntary committee structure. Whilst the staff are paid professionals, the committee members are volunteers and have directorship responsibility for the management of both settings. Without people volunteering, the Pre-school and Nursery will cease to exist – and none of us wants that.

This coming October, after three years, a number of other committee members and myself will be standing down, making way for new parents. We are therefore keen to extend this fantastic opportunity of running a small business to parents and the wider community. If you have commercial business expertise, people management, organisational skills and are keen to roll up your sleeves and get involved to support the next generation we would love to hear from you. We are currently looking to fill the roles of Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Fundraising Officer and general committee members, so there are lots of ways you can get involved.

If you are interested in any of the roles and supporting the PFSU and Nursery or would like to join the committee, please email me on kate_oldroyd@yahoo.co.uk.

FROM EDNA SEWELL, DEDDINGTON

May I convey grateful thanks to Wendy Burrows and her team and all involved with the WWI Community Concert on Saturday 21 June. It was a wonderful evening of laughter and tears – what talent we have in this village. Thank you all for giving your time for the many rehearsals.

Thanks also to the Brass Band. It was wonderful. As a Lancastrian I enjoyed every minute they played. Hopefully we may get the opportunity to hear more.

We are allowed to use our lovely Church for so many varying events, thanks to the Rev Dr Hugh White who, with various members of the Church, had the foresight to open it up in this way.

Thank you all for a wonderful evening's entertainment and, for some, memories.

FROM MAUREEN FORSYTH, NEW STREET

Save the Children is holding an Autumn Fair on Thursday 23 October between 10.00am and 4.00pm, at Rye Hill Golf Club, Milcombe. There will be an ex-



Please address all letters to:
JILL CHEESEMAN
37 THE DAEDINGS, DEDDINGTON
letters@deddingtonnews.co.uk
and include your name and address
even if they are not for publication

citing range of stalls for all the family including books, gourmet food, accessories, charity Christmas cards and lots more. Refreshments will be available throughout the day.

The committee hopes that at a time when the charity desperately needs all the help it can get to alleviate the terrible situation in the Middle East many people will support this very worthwhile charity.

Please contact me for further information on 338384, maureenforsyth@gmail.com.

FROM AGE UK OXFORDSHIRE

Monday 21 July saw the end of an era when exercise tutor Frances Gittens said goodbye to the gentle class she has run in Deddington on a Monday afternoon for many years. The class bid her a long and happy retirement as she moves to Cornwall.

However the exercise class will not be stopping but will be changing slightly. It will become slightly more dance-based and will be taken over by Paula Bailey who is a very experienced tutor. She also runs a class in Middle Barton for Age UK Oxfordshire.

Maybe you are a little hesitant at the thought of going to an exercise class because you are not sure what to expect. So here's a quick guide to the session: it's fun, it's friendly, the routines are easy to pick up, no special clothes are required – just wear something comfortable and non-slip shoes. It will improve your fitness, strength and balance and there's no age limit.

The class lasts for one hour every Monday from 2.15pm–3.15pm at the Windmill Community Centre and you'll come out feeling better for it. The first session is free to newcomers and thereafter it will cost just £3.50 per class.

The class will resume on 8 September so come along, bring a friend, and be assured of a warm welcome. For further details contact Age UK Oxfordshire on 01235 849403.

FROM MONICA MORO, SOUTH CENTRAL AMBULANCE SERVICE NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

South Central Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (SCAS) is looking for six public governors in Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Hampshire who must be 16 or over and reside in (or have a connection with) these counties. We are encouraging people to put their names forward as candidates at our autumn 2014 election. The Trust is looking for people who want to channel their passion for healthcare to help shape the future of the local ambulance services.

Continued on p12

Please contact the Membership Officer at getinvolved@scas.nhs.uk or call 365126 to register your interest.

FROM THELMA DOVER, DEDDINGTON

To all the very kind and thoughtful friends, neighbours and customers who sent Get Well cards and messages, a big thank you. A special thank you to Bob Dales, June and Dave Foster, Sophie Burton, and everyone in the team at the Co-op, including the Post Office.

FROM JILL BROOKS, RURAL HOUSING ENABLER, ORCC

Affordable Rural Housing

We are all aware of the recent Strategic Market Housing Assessment and Report and the increase in new housing provision across the county as a result of this.

The Oxfordshire Rural Housing Partnership would like to remind you that although some communities will fill their affordable housing need by new development, some smaller parishes will not be affected in the same way. Yet you probably do still have an affordable housing need from local people with a local connection to your parish.

The reason for this letter is to highlight that we are still very keen to see affordable homes for local people in order to keep villages vibrant and growing and to improve community infrastructure. Rural Exception Sites are still sought in parishes where a housing need has been found and we want landowners to come forward if they would like their land considered as a Rural Exception Site. A Rural Exception Site is normally attached to, or within, a village, but wouldn't be considered for normal development. The developments are only built if there is a local need and the parish supports the idea.

You may also consider joining a parish near yours (clustering) in order to provide affordable housing for local people on a Rural Exception Site.

If you know of a landowner who may be interested in making their land available for the good of the community or you feel you may have an affordable housing need in your parish and would like to talk about a housing needs survey, please contact me on 01865 883488 or email orcc@oxonrcc.org.uk.

FROM OXFORDSHIRE CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND

Did you know that current plans for the county include 80,000 new jobs, 90,000 more residents and 100,000 more houses – all within the next 17 years? This proposed growth in housing is the equivalent of every town and village increasing in size by 40%.

The Oxfordshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England is concerned about how the speed and scale of this development could cause irretrievable damage to our landscape and local communities, and the impact it will have on already over-stretched

services and infrastructure particularly in rural areas.

It has launched a campaign – Protect Rural Oxfordshire (PRO) – to fight for a more sustainable vision for the future of the county.

To find out more see our website (www.cpreoxon.org.uk) or follow us on Facebook, www.facebook.com/CPREOxfordshire, or Twitter, @CPREOxfordshire, and sign up to our monthly e-news bulletin by contacting administrator@cpreoxon.org.uk or 01865 874780.

FROM JEAN MORRIS, DEDDINGTON BRANCH RBL

We were very disappointed to see that several of the posters advertising the World War One exhibition in the Parish Church had been removed by someone days before the event. The particular ones noticed were in the Co-op, the Windmill Centre, and along the Hempton Road. Apart from being a somewhat cowardly action, the posters were laminated, and so cost the Branch money. If the person removing them had a problem with the event, surely they should have taken it up with the organisers of the exhibition.

FROM GILL BOYD, THE PADDOCKS

Who do the rabbits belong to which are always loose and roaming free in Mill Close? Could they please take more responsibility for them? The rabbits, will be eaten by a fox, run over by a car or killed by a dog. They will breed with wild rabbits and could catch myxomatosis and die a nasty death – not good.

Also some people grow vegetables and enjoy doing so and benefit from it. We do not want the veg eaten by tame rabbits on the loose. They should be secured in a hutch and run. It isn't rocket science to keep rabbits in and happy. We did it for years when our family was young, without any escapees.

And another thing – why don't people pick up after their dogs on the playing-field? That's not difficult either. Bins are provided after all.

FROM LES AND SUE LANE, ST JOHN'S WAY, HEMPTON

Thank you to all the Hempton villagers who came out to support our daughter Nicola when she married Tom Morgan on Saturday 28 June. We would also like to thank all those connected to Hempton Church – for the beautiful flowers, Deddington Church choir, the Reverend Dr Hugh White, Heather Nason, organist, and special thanks to Les Chappell for all his help. Even the bus shelter and the Hempton village sign were decorated with bunting and flowers by our good friends and neighbours, Kay and Chris Clayton.

Last but not least, we would like to thank Gillian Durham of The Daedings whose catering business, Mange Tout, pulled out all the stops to provide a most wonderful reception and bar in our back garden. Gill, her husband and catering staff were magnificent.

The sun shone and we enjoyed a truly memorable day. Once again, many thanks to all.

CALLING ALL CLUBS

Women's Institute

We had a well-attended meeting on 12 August when Lindsay Pickering gave us a very interesting talk on 'Working with Leather'. Following foot and mouth disease a few years back she went to Walsall for four years to learn about all aspects of leather working. She now makes bespoke saddles and harnesses and we were shown all the stages in making saddles from the bare bones to the finished article, as well as a wide range of leathers. Lindsay is diversifying into bags and satchels: she comes to the Farmers' Market and shows her wares in the church.

Our next meeting is on 9 September. The speaker, Jacob Stone, will talk on 'Volunteering in Malawi and Uganda'. Visitors are always welcome; please contact Beryl Suckling on 337385.

Julia Hobbs

Photographic Society

At the beginning of July our most veteran member, Randall Miles, gave a presentation on 'A Pictorial Philosophy – Become a Better Photographer'. Now retired, his professional experience was as a studio lighting director in the television industry.

Espousing the philosophy that photography is best appreciated by looking at prints rather than projected images, Randall took his audience through a large number of landscape and other prints that summarised his approach to photography. He also demonstrated his portrait lighting skills by showing personal photographs of various television celebrities that he had worked with over the years. Overall, this was a most interesting and interactive presentation, very much appreciated by Randall's audience.

In August, we welcomed Linda Sharp, who gave a presentation on 'Landscapes'. A comparative newcomer to photography, Linda acquired her first camera in 2005 and immediately became fascinated with the opportunities offered by digital photography. Her preference is for photographs that lead to abstract images and, like Randall above, she is interested solely in prints – not projections. This was an absorbing and thoughtful presentation, which elicited many questions from the audience, to which Linda responded willingly and openly.

There is a workshop on studio photography on 17 September and the next club night is on 1 October when Mark Buckley Sharp will give a presentation on 'The work of the Royal Photographic Society'. Both events are at 7.30pm in the Cartwright Hotel, Aynho.

Our eighth annual exhibition of members' photographs is on Saturday 27 September from 10.00am to 4.00pm at the Institute, Adderbury. If you are interested in photography, please come along to any of our events - you will be assured of a warm welcome.

Richard Broadbent
www.adandd.co.uk

Deddington Original Golf Society (DOGS)

We convened for the huge summer event on Friday 15 August. The day started with 46 golfers playing 18 holes at Studley Wood Golf Club. Steve Westley was the 'Top DOG' with 42 points.

Following the golf we gathered at the Forsyth's lovely home in Deddington for our annual pig roast. This social event is always well supported and 2014 was no different as 80 folk ate and drank all evening under cloudless skies.

Our next and final outing of the year is the 'Autumn Classic' on Friday 17 October at Stratford-upon-Avon Golf Club.

Finally, a quote from Dean Martin: 'If you drink, don't drive. Don't even putt'.

David Darst
338589

1st Deddington Scout Group

The end of the summer term was a season of trips and camping. The Scouts went on their annual jaunt to Stratford, which coincided with the River Festival. They travelled independently by train and explored the town following a quiz trail before meeting up for lunch and a peek at one of the street magicians: he was very funny and managed to involve Jack in one of the tricks.

They also went for their summer camp at Blackwell Court, near Bromsgrove, a fabulous site with loads to keep them occupied. They stacked crates, kayaked, climbed and whizzed down a really steep hill on grass sledges. The weather was spectacular and we all had a great time.

Just before the end of term we sent out four batons to see how far they would travel passed hand to hand before the start of the Commonwealth Games. Well, what a triumph! One was pictured outside a hotel in Washington (DC, not Tyne and Wear), one in a bob sleigh in Calgary, Canada, and many photos of 'CW' as he trekked across the States, last seen at the Grand Canyon.

The end-of-term barbecue was well attended, thanks to all the parents who helped out, especially Andrew, the king of the grill.

Jo Churchyard CSL
jochurchyard@hotmail.com
Pete Churchyard SL
pete.churchyard@btinternet.com

Deddington Branch Royal British Legion

We wish to thank everyone for a well-supported World War One exhibition in the parish church on the 2-3 August. We also thank the *DN* and the Parish Council for their financial support. We would also like to thank the Parochial Church Council for their organisation of the commemoration service on 3 August and all who attended.

CALLING MORE CLUBS

The response to the submarine visit on Wednesday 3 September has been excellent with all 25 seats booked. We are trying to get two or three more people so that we can organise a bigger bus so if you would like to go, please ring or email me for further details and the current situation.

There is a skittles evening on 4 October against Bodicote Branch at the Deddington Club at 7.45pm – all are welcome.

Jean Morris Branch Secretary
338143
mrsjeanmorris@gmail.com

Deddington Beeches Bowls Club

Members have had a warm summer out on the Beeches green.

The season is coming to a close for the winter; a fun race night is to be held on 25 October at 8pm in the British Legion, Deddington. Horses are now for sale – contact Chris Twomey if you would like to buy one or donate a raffle prize.

Frances Morgan
morfran54@btinternet.com

Deddington Town Football Club

After spending their summer break being rubbed down and fed figs by sumptuous robed strumpets, our Spartan warriors have been spending the last month swimming lengths in crude oil and jogging up hills with cars on their heads, all to be in tip-top condition at the dawn of a new campaign. You are implored to attend and demonstrate your commitment to the cause every Saturday at the Windmill Centre playing-field from 2.30pm for what promises to be another unforgettable season of high jinks for DTFC.

Aaron Bliss
07909 642882

1st Deddington Boys' Brigade

We hope everyone has had a lovely summer break and is raring to go.

Our weekly Wednesday meetings for BB start on Wednesday 10 September. We still have some space in the Anchor section for boys between the ages of 5 and 8 and we are looking forward to seeing the new faces who have already contacted us.

Our Junior section is pretty much full from September as we have lots of Anchors moving up, but if you do have a boy interested in joining, please contact me and I can discuss options with you. I am looking forward to seeing Joe and Jack who are moving up to the Company section this month.

Finally, congratulations to Ollie who, following his A Level success, is off to the University of Bath. Well done and have a fabulous time!

Jen Childs, Leader
337481 Jen.childs@btinternet.com

Deddington Tennis Club

Deddington Juniors continued their success in the Junior Orange tournaments held in July between Banbury West End, Deddington and Bicester. The final of the Junior tournament was contested by two Deddington players, Tom Browning and Tom Rymer, and resulted in Tom Rymer successfully winning to defend his title last time out. Mees Camoenie did really well in the Orange tournament, narrowly losing in the final to a player from Bicester. Congratulations to both Toms, Mees and the whole Deddington team (including Wayne Ellis for coaching these successful Juniors).

Great news - our planning application to allow more floodlit evenings has been successful so we are now able to use them three nights a week. Invitations to tender for the supply and installation of the lights have been sent to a number of suppliers and the committee is considering applying for a grant from Sport England.

If you would like to know more about the Club don't forget you can visit our website at www.deddingtontennis.com. New members are always welcome.

Sue Watts
www.deddingtontennis.com

Deddington and District History Society

We look forward to welcoming old friends and new to our 2014–15 season. We have put together an interesting and varied programme, beginning on Wednesday 10 September with Richard O Smith's light-hearted look at 'Oxford Eccentrics over 900 Years'. Richard is best known as a scriptwriter for such BBC programmes as *the Now Show*, *the News Quiz* and *Dara O'Briain's Science Club*.

On 2 October Roger Rosewell, a noted authority on medieval stained glass, will give a gloriously illustrated talk on 'Painting on Light: the History of Stained Glass'.

In addition to the usual monthly talks we hope to arrange a special visit in June 2015 to Apsley House, the London home of the Duke of Wellington, to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo.

All are welcome at our meetings which are held at the Windmill Centre on the second Wednesday of each month. Annual membership is just £11 for individuals and £20 for couples. Existing members should already have received their printed programmes for 2014–15. Copies are also available at our meetings or they can be picked up at Deddington Library.

Chris Day (Chairman) 337204
Moiria Byast (Secretary) 338637

The Deddington Players

It's only September but this year's panto plans are already underway. We have chosen a great script with loads of fun characters as well as our regular favourites.

Auditions will be held on the afternoon of Sunday 19 October in the Windmill Centre. Come along if

... AND EVEN MORE CLUBS

you want to get involved, whether that be on stage or backstage.

For further information email suzieupson@mac.com.

Book Group

In July we read *Last Friends* by Jane Gardam. This is the final part of a trilogy and, while it stands fairly well on its own, it would be enjoyed more after reading the first two in the trilogy, *Old Filth* and *The Man in the Wooden Hat*. It was generally agreed that *Last Friends* is the weakest of the three but, like the others, it is well written, entertaining and humorous.

The trilogy spans the lives of three colonials in the Far East and London, with each part padding out the previous one and a different character taking the central role in each book. We highly recommend all three and they would make excellent summer reading.

Our next book is *Life after Life* by Kate Atkinson and the next meeting 25 September.

Sally Lambert 338094

1st Deddington Guides

Last term we enjoyed 'backwoodsman' cooking, sleeping under the stars, and sausage sizzle, walking from Milton to Barford, decoding secret messages, and a fashion show including onesies and party dresses.

We had stream walking where it's essential for 20-plus Guides to get very wet and muddy, followed by hot chocolate and a game of rounders. Camping at Wigginton was brilliant, thanks to Mr and Mrs Plunkett.

We look forward to seeing you all on 9 September.

Maggie Rampley 01295 810069

Marian Trinder 340806

Catherine Blackburn 01295 258880

News from Clifton

What a summer of sporting disappointments: football, rugby, tennis, cricket, Frome and Cavendish, but now also an Aunt Sally sporting record is shot. During the mid-season rest a friendly was again arranged with Candleford's Red Lion. A perennial fixture with the side a division above always played in great humour and rivalry, but the Red had never won a beer leg. Well, the teams were even after a six-stick leg, and even again after a three-stick reprocharge. One stick per player saw the brave Duck boys score two but the Lion struck those off with aplomb. Well done lads and the Duck team asked me to thank the Lion for the great food and evening all round. Even Cllr Collins riding his bicycle through the bar at the end and falling off as he left couldn't dampen the evening of bonhomie.

One of the fruits of our loins who has left these shores to show the 'sceptics' of San Francisco the true pleasure of Una Stubbs has recently completed three challenges to raise awareness and money for Brain Cancer research. Sam Colley recently did a bit

of paddling – a 444-mile race down the Yukon River in a kayak, with his team-mate Chris. They completed the challenge in three and a half days coming 47th out of 68. The first challenge in June was a 100-mile canoe race in Northern California and the last was just a half marathon at the end of July as part of the San Francisco marathon. Come on Sam, man up! Iron Man Mayo, twice your age, ran 40 miles last month. Sam has raised £1,200 so far for this worthy charity. If you would like to donate go to <https://www.justgiving.com/Sam-Colley1> where you can make a small donation.

Woody has a son, as a juvenile greater spotted woodpecker has been seen in our gardens showing a small red knap indicating he is also a boy.

Martin Bryce Martindnbryce@aol.com

Musical Notes

There will be plenty of music to entertain and delight you this autumn. Whilst much of it is scheduled for November, there are two outstanding concerts before then featuring musicians of international acclaim.

In September Lucy and Kate Gould with friends present the *Ironstone Chamber Music Festival*, a sequence of three concerts over one weekend in north Oxfordshire churches. Deddington has the first on Friday 26 September at 7.30pm in the Church. Viv Mclean, whose piano playing has enlivened several concerts here, will join the string players in music by Mozart, Janacek and Brahms. There will be tickets on the door. Other concerts will follow in Kings Sutton and Horley the following day. For further information and to book in advance for these concerts please phone 01295 738313.

Then on Sunday 19 October at 4.00pm, as part of the Music in Adderbury autumn season, there is a welcome return visit from pianist, Tom Poster. Those who heard him playing in the Aronowitz Ensemble in May of this year will know that this will be a concert not to be missed. Look out for more about this concert in the October *DN*.

The excellent acoustic of Deddington Church, and the gifting three years ago of such a beautiful instrument as the Steinway piano, has attracted musicians of great talent who want to perform here. Yet somehow we seem to be unable to attract the size of audience that they deserve. Poor publicity may well be an important issue. The Church Arts Group, formed to encourage such concerts when the piano arrived, started with a membership of seven but now has just three. If there is anyone out there who has the time and skills to help with this enterprise, please do contact me. One simple action for anyone would be to send me your email address. I send out a reminder to over 100 contacts about a forthcoming concert a week in advance (should it be two?). The more who hear about these events, the better, and any ideas or comments will be most welcome.

Donald Lane 337199

donald199@btinternet.com

DOWN ON GEORGE'S FARM



So what happened to summer? After a hot June and first half of July, we seem to have experienced a rapid decline into autumn and we are now faced with the harvest becoming a salvage operation, or as the old boys at home would call it 'a batchelor's harvest' (get it when you can). As I predict-

ed in July, we were attempting to do the hay-making and cut the oil seed rape at the same time.

We started cutting the hay after 15 July which is the magic date after which our environmental agreement says we can start the hay-making in the river valley meadows. After consulting the weather auguries, the auspicious day to bring the mower out was decided and the first meadow knocked down, something that seemed to get the weather gods into a tat, but we managed to get it into the bales and under cover before we were hit by a spectacular thunder storm which culminated in a very near strike which took out all the trip switches and disabled the farm generator. After suitable libations to the gods (a good drop of malt), we left the hay and cut the oil seed rape, a change of direction that seemed to please those on high as we took a good crop with very little that needed to be put through the drier. The Green Goddess flew through the crop with only a short amount of 'down time' to repair the side knife which is a vertical reciprocating cutter-bar mounted on the side of the header to cut through the thick tangled crop. We had to replace two sections after it picked up a shed fallow deer antler but all was not lost as I was left with a very nice 'shaft and brow tine', just the right length for the top of a walking-stick so once the leaves are off I shall have to find a suitable blackthorn shaft to put it on. Once the rape was in the barn, it was back to the hay and a matter of storm-dodging but, with the ever-threatening clouds and the wheat ready to cut, it was a matter of getting it into the bales as quickly as possible and leaving it stacked under sheets in the fields to give it some 'field room' before carting.

We started the wheat harvest on 29 July, the earliest start since 1976 but, unlike 1976, it was very much a stop-start affair as the grain was ripe but the straw was still sappy which made for late starts and early finishes. But as the tail end of 'Big Bertha' was predicted to plough straight through us, we left the last of the wheat to get the hay up out of the flood plain before the 'Oxford worthies' slammed the flood-gates shut and backed up the river again.

As I put finger to keyboard the last of the wheat is in the barn but with the after-effects of 'Bertha' it needed to go through the drier. In harvest terms, we are not out of the woods yet, as we still have the spring-planted crops to cut, although we came off lightly with Bertha giving us a near miss. Our spring planted oats look as if a demented dwarf took a steam-roller to them but, with a bit of luck and a few dry days, we should be able to get them in and then it's all about turn to get next year's lot in the ground. Before then I shall have to find time to extract the last of this season's honey and put the old girls to bed for the winter and give the ewe flock a sort through before the rams go out.

It will be sad to see them go but as we descend into autumn our summer visitors are preparing to head south. The swifts and some of the river valley warblers have already gone and, with the swallows and martins beginning to gather on the electric cables behind the farm buildings, it won't be long before they too start their long migration to Africa. They have had a good season, with many bringing off two or more broods, so it is nice to think that many more will be heading south than arrived in the spring. I wish them well and look forward to their return next spring.

George Fenimore 338203

Friends of the Castle Grounds

It has been lovely to see the youngsters enjoying the space at the Grounds over the summer. The PC has removed the goal-posts to make them safe. We have had a report of another wasps' nest that has now been dealt with but please adhere to the signs as they have been very aggressive giving some nasty stings. Please advise the Parish Clerk (337447) if you see any more. They are usually in the ground and the only evidence, other than a hole, is the activity of wasps flying in and out of the entrance.

The Grounds are a beautiful place to enjoy the late afternoon sunshine. The benches are currently being painted to ensure that they last another winter.

The grass is being regularly cut but you will also see that we are clearing the area near the ramp so that we can prepare it for wildflowers – apologies if the noise of the machines are disturbing but it won't last too long.

If you walk the path along the northern boundary, you will notice that the dry stone wall has been cleared of ivy and is being rebuilt. Oxfordshire Conservation Volunteers have made several visits to help repair the it and the PC is arranging for them to return next spring.

The mound has become overgrown over the summer but will be cut soon and the outer bailey is being regularly cut throughout the summer months.

May we remind all dog walkers to clean up after their dogs to keep the area safe for all those that choose to visit such a stunning area.

Carol Horlock 338935
carol.horlock@hotmail.co.uk

WELL REMEMBERED

ROGER CALLOW

Roger was a Deddingtonian born and bred. His parents were Cyril and Anne Callow, whom Roger looked after devotedly in their declining years, and he had an elder sister, Gillian. After school in the village Roger worked at the Morris Motors car plant and later as kitchen porter and assistant in the restaurants of the village and the surrounding area. He became a true village character, one of the Deddington Old Boys; with his shambling swagger of a walk, his wonderful crooked and crinkly grin and all his mannerisms of conversation and behaviour he added colour to the community. A regular in the pubs and the Legion, he was good company, up for the banter - and even the boogieing.

But there was a deeply serious side to Roger too. He became a faithful member of the Parish Church, where he sat on the PCC, and he understood himself in classic Christian terms as one who frequently fell short of the ideal but who wanted to draw nearer to God, to understand God better and experience God more fully. He would often drive to a quiet spot where he could seek out God in the beauty of the countryside and the song of the birds. He would debate the deepest theological questions with his discussion-group friends and he would find particular solace and strengthening in Wednesday morning Communion services. All this helped him to put faith into generous and helpful practice as a good neighbour and friend to many.

In pub and church alike, but also in the community at large, in the Deddington where he has been so long such an inevitable and welcome presence, Roger will be greatly and sadly missed. **HW**

GROUP CAPTAIN JAMES C MARMION, OBE

James died on 8 June 2014, in Instow, N Devon. He was born in Liverpool, the oldest of five children, educated in the local primary school and then St Xavier's College. He worked for Carlyle's Sugar Company until his 18th birthday in 1942 when he volunteered for the RAF. After pilot training in the USA and Canada he was put on active duty in the Pacific as a navigator/bomb aimer flying Catalinas out of Cocos Island.

After the war he served on a variety of squadrons in Bomber Command, one posting being at RAF Chivenor in Devon as the station adjutant, and it was here that he took a shine to Stella Hustwayte, a young teacher in the village school. They married in Instow in 1948, and their two sons were born in 1949 and 1953.

He had several interesting postings, including 138 Squadron flying Valiants, the first of the UK's nuclear capable V-bombers, one to Dayton, Ohio (USA), and another to Singapore. His final posting was as Assistant Chief of Staff (Intel) in Ramstein, Germany, under the NATO command structure.

When he retired to Weston Favell, Northants, he accepted a post as a Crown servant which he followed for five years until his final retirement in 1984. Shortly after that Stella and he bought a house in Deddington, near

MICHAEL COLEMAN

Michael was the first of eight children born to Elizabeth and John Coleman. He grew up on a farm in Ireland with his five brothers and two sisters, for whom he was an ideal eldest brother, gentle and kind. When he was seventeen he came to England, first working with his uncle in Manchester and then serving in the Military Police. Posted to Barford St John airbase, he met Doris at a dance in Bloxham. After their marriage they lived first with Doris's mother in Hempton and, in due course, having started their own family, moved to 21 The Paddocks, Deddington, which became a stable and happy home for what were to be eleven children.

Michael had a successful business as a building contractor. He worked hard, leaving the house before the children were up and usually not getting back home until after their bedtime. He also - he liked to work - kept a large vegetable garden and calves which, drawing on his early dealings with livestock on the farm in Ireland, he reared for market. His fuller presence in the family at weekends was greatly enjoyed by Doris and the children - and his family meant everything to him. He had to suffer the hard blows of losing Doris early and then the deaths of his children Micky and John. Strong in spirit as well as body, he bore what came with fortitude.

Michael continued to lead an active life into his early eighties, still chopping wood and doing the garden, loving the outdoors and being out and about, usually in a pub meeting old friends and making new ones. He was from first to last a people person. He had a way about him that made him easy to be around.

Michael was his own man with his own integrity and his own particular goodness. Despite the downs, he was very conscious of the ups in his life. During his later years he often said that he'd had a great life, a great family, great friends - and he didn't owe anyone a penny. His was a life well lived, a life enjoyed to the full, a life which enhanced the lives of others and contributed much to the community of which he was part. **HW**

to the Venerable and Mrs Hewitt Wilson, the parents of Kathryn who married their eldest son Robert in 1975.

In 2007 they made their final move to Instow, which Stella considered her home town.

James developed Parkinson's disease some time in the early 1990s, around the same time as his eyesight failed. However, he held sternly on to his independence until he physically could not sustain himself. He also retained his razor-sharp intellect, dry sense of humour and his steel trap memory until the very last.

James is survived by his wife, Stella, his two sons Robert and Roger, their wives Kathryn and Janet, his three grandchildren and one surviving sister Angela. He is dearly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Robert Marmion

NEWS FROM HEMPTON

The twenty-eighth of June dawned dark and wet, the weather improved during the morning and by lunchtime the sun appeared and it was a fine afternoon for the wedding of Nicola and Tom at 2.00pm in St John's Church. Some of the party arrived in cycle-driven rickshaws – that was definitely a first for this village. A lovely service conducted by the Reverend Hugh White was followed by a small reception in the Church grounds and a larger one in St John's Way. The couple spent their honeymoon in Morocco and are making their home in Oxford.

Congratulations to Annie and Simon Boulter of Top Thatch on the birth of a daughter, Molly Grace.

Several dates for this coming month are the annual Church Ride and Stride on Saturday 13 September from 10.00am–6.00pm. Several families are riding for us and people are needed to welcome other striders and to serve our great refreshments.

On Sunday 21st a Table Top Sale will be held from 11.00am in the Old School Room and grounds. Please see our advert on p7. Sunday 28th is the Harvest Festival Service at 6.00pm. Any produce will be most welcome and may be left in the Church that weekend and will be auctioned following the service and the proceeds given to charity. Let's hope for a good congregation as we will have a visiting vicar, Glyn Evans, to take this service.

On Monday 29th the Friends of Hempton Church will hold the AGM at 7.00pm in the Old School Room. Please note this meeting is open to all, members and non-members alike.

There may not be a Harvest Supper this year but possibly a special evening later when all the refurbishments are complete.

Les Chappell
338054

Vodafone Rural Open Sure Signal Programme

Vodafone has announced a programme for 100 rural communities to apply for this scheme. It involves the installation of a number of small, low-powered mobile phone 'femtocell' transmitters on buildings across the parish. The scheme will boost mobile coverage for Vodafone customers without requiring the installation of a large phone mast. Before considering an application in September, the PC has appointed a lead councillor, David Rogers, to investigate if there are building owners willing to host these units.

If you would like to read any more about this, the details and a series of comprehensive FAQs are available at <http://www.vodafone.co.uk/our-network-and-coverage/what-affects-your-coverage/rural-open-sure-signal/index.htm>.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact David Rogers on 337065 or david@bluesky-day.biz.

Postcard from America

Rant on Politics

Heather tells me that I shouldn't rant, but I've never been good at being calm.

A very brief visit back to the village has brought back all the contrasts - too many people asked me whether I enjoyed living in America. It's a very complex answer, America is a big place.

There are six times as many people in America as there are in the UK and 23 of the 50 states are bigger than England. America is vast, with so many different types of people, diverse communities, and dramatic scenery. So generalising about America is dangerous, but hey, I've never been one to give up a chance to be opinionated.

I think it is very difficult for any Englishman to understand the American obsession with invading places. Even after several bruising years in Afghanistan and Iraq, there is a large minority that wants to send troops into Ukraine. But almost none of them know where Ukraine is, let alone what the politics of the region are about. Putin is some kind of Stalin-like figure to them; they don't understand what is going on, they just think he has absolute power and is the devil incarnate.

And some of them think their President is the devil or at least evil. There have been several Prime Ministers I have ranted about, but the things they invent about the first black President are quite unbelievable. Apparently his wife has dozens of servants on over \$100k per year and he is on the take. They call him a communist but in reality his politics are slightly right of the Tory party.

All strangely uneducated and biased. This is down to the pressure groups who effectively buy people's belief systems. The majority of the people I meet are certain that global warming doesn't exist because the energy industry makes sure that this is the common message. Similarly if I ask them why they think America spends as much on defence as the next 12 countries put together, most see the argument as unpatriotic. The defence industry is too strong, they have very successfully built on breast-beating: they sing the anthem everywhere and any time.

So why did I get the plane back? For the first time in my life I am parking the big issues and ignoring opportunities to launch into a rant. I want to enjoy the good things, the immense diversity, the scenery, and some really nice people. Denver is a truly great place to live and my life as a salesman is much easier out here. It is a land of opportunity, not so much for an old man like me, but certainly a great experience for the children.

But if you open this fine newsheet one month and find that I'm not here, the answer will be easy. Mike finally argued with the wrong man at the wrong time. But rest easy, I have a good, and extremely expensive, health insurance policy. God bless Merika.

Mike Ward
Mikew@qsoftware.com