

Amid the seemingly ever more depressing horrors of national and international news, it is heartening to report that there remains individual heroism in wartime and in peacetime, and to recognise the selflessness of so much daily living. 'We can affirm the goodness at the heart of humanity planted more

deeply than all that is wrong.' Twice a year the **DN** lists those ready to be Good Neighbours, a network first formed decades ago. Is it needed? Could it do more? Join us/them for coffee in the new 'Living Room' at 7.30pm on Wed 28 Sept. *CH*



September

- Sun 3 Royal British Legion: Harvest Festival at the club. ➡ p.9
 Mon 5 Monday Morning Club: Coffee Morning, 10.30 am-noon. ➡ p.8
 Tue 6 Deddington Badminton Club: season starts; Juniors at 6pm; Seniors at 7pm. ➡ p.8
 Tue 6 Deddington Guides: new term starts at Windmill Centre, 7-9 pm ➡ p.9
 Wed 7 Monday Morning Club: *As You Like It* at Stratford, bus to leave Market Place at 6pm. ➡ p.8
 Wed 7 Deddington Ladies: Holly Tree, 8 pm.
 Sat 10 Historic Churches: Ride & Stride, 10 ~ 6pm, countywide. ➡ pp.6 & 12
 Sun 11 Opening of 'Living Room': by Bishop of Dorchester, Parish Church, 6.30 pm. ➡ p.4
 Mon 12 Deddington Youth Club: restarts, Windmill Centre, 7 pm. ➡ p.8
 Tue 13 WI: *An Introduction to Lace Making*, Barbara Upton & Doreen Watkins, Holly Tree, 7.30 pm
 Wed 14 Deddington Friendship Club: Windmill Centre, 2.30 pm. ➡ p.8
 Wed 14 Boys' Brigade: new session, Windmill Centre - see below for times. ➡ p.9
 Wed 14 History Society: Dr K Tiller, *Chapels, Buildings & People, Dissent in North Oxon*, Windmill, 7.30 pm.
 Sat 17 'Poetry, Praise and Prayer': Parish Church, 7.30 pm. ➡ p.4
 Wed 21 Deddington Deanery Synod: with Bishop of Dorchester, Parish Church, 7.30pm. ➡ p.4
 Thu 22 Harvest supper: Hempton Church, 7.30pm. ➡ p.12
 Sat 25 Deddington Farmers' Market: 9.0 am ~12.30 pm.
 Wed 28 'Good Neighbours': coffee evening, Parish Church, 7.30pm ➡ p.1
 Fri 30 Coffee Morning in aid of Macmillan Nurses, 5 Gaveston Gardens, 10 am-noon
 Fri 30 Babies & Toddlers Group: World's Biggest Coffee Morning in aid of Macmillan Nurses. ➡ p.8



October

- Mon 3 Monday Morning Club: Coffee Morning, 10.30 am- noon. ➡ p.8
 Wed 5 Deddington Ladies: Holly Tree, 8 pm
 Sat 8 LR Project: Concert by Brass Bits, Parish Church. ➡ p.4
 Tue 11 WI: Bring & Share Harvest Supper, Holly Tree, 7.30 pm.
 Wed 12 History Society: Peter Sheasby on *The Swere Project*, Windmill Centre, 7.30 pm. ➡ p.8
 Fri 14 Deddington Players: *Many Hands Make Light Work*, Windmill Centre, 7.30 pm. ➡ p.8
 Sat 15 Deddington Players: *Many Hands Make Light Work*, Windmill Centre, 7.30 pm. ➡ p.8
 Sat 22 Deddington Farmers' Market: 9.0 am ~12.30 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: BB Anchor Boys: Windmill Centre, 5 pm.

Wed: BB Juniors: Windmill Centre, 5.45 pm.
 Wed: BB Company: Windmill Centre, 7 pm
 Wed: Tennis Club: 6.15 pm till dark.
 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: Katharine House Coffee Morning: Parish Church, 10~12.
 Fri: Babies & Toddlers Group: Windmill, 9.30~11 am.
 Fri: Deddington Friendly Bridge Club: Holly Tree, 2-5 pm

THE DEDDINGTON NEWS - Copy please to the relevant editor by next copy date: 20 SEPT

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Meeting in Town Hall - 20 July 2005

Present: Cllrs Flux (chair), Alton, Putland, Rollason, Squires, Swash, Todd, Watts, Wood, C/Cllr Jelf, D/ Cllr O'Sullivan, the Clerk, the Minutes Secretary and 3 members of the public.

PROPOSED NOVEMBER FAIR

Opinion was divided on whether the Parish wants/ would benefit from the proposed 'Pudding-Pie' Fair, which would run from 6pm Thursday 17 November to 12 noon, Sunday 20 November, closing at 10pm each evening. Possible problems - bus re-routing, road closures, parking, unruliness, noise, toilet facilities, overloaded services etc. Possible benefits - 'something to do' for 12 year olds; increased trade for local businesses; revival of old traditions. PC voted 5-2, with 1 abstention, to continue seeking answers to key questions, before coming to a decision.

GATES, FOOTPATHS, CROSSINGS, PARKING

Ralph Grant, Colin Carritt's successor at OCC, has held 2 meetings with Highways Working Group. He will put in a paper on recommended sites for traffic-calming white gates. He will also present a paper on the Clifton footpath.

Crossings at Library and on Hempton Road have been agreed, though exact location of latter has still to be decided. C/Cllr Jelf advises constant pressure on OCC.

Parking experiment is working well at present. Revised scheme for whole parish will be discussed at September PC meeting.

DOG FOULING

From 2006, PC will have power to issue fixed penalty notices and dog control orders, in place of existing bylaws. Other PCs to be consulted on best methods of dealing with people who allow their dogs to foul public places.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Deddington Market Management Group was congratulated on repaying PC's 5-year loan in 2 years.

- CDC will be circulating a questionnaire on local requirements for open spaces/recreational areas.
- Concrete pillar blocking vehicle access to Windmill Centre fields has been replaced.
- PC stated categorically that there is no intention to build houses on land at Hempton Stonepits.
- Hempton phone box will provide a 'no cash' service.
- Action is needed re dead trees in Castle Grounds. PC to pursue.

PLANNING AND PROPERTY

PC no objection (i) Denbigh Place, Clifton - single storey side extension. (ii) Building adjacent to Ashley House, Clifton - change of use (conversion of workshop to dwelling). (iii) Hazel Hedge Cottage, Tithe Lane, Clifton - 2-storey rear extension. (iv) Laurel House, Bullring, Deddington - minor improvement to A1 Retail premises, including re-roofing, installing conservation roof lights and erecting hanging sign. Note: work has already

started in advance of planning permission. CDC to be informed. (v) Deddington School - relocation of carpark within school grounds and replacement of hard play area. (vi) Hempton House, Hempton - reclad garage. (vii) 11 The Beeches, Deddington - 2 storey extension. (viii) Daeda Cottage, Market Place, Deddington - single-storey rear extension. (ix) Monks Court, Deddington - install satellite dish and restore interior party wall. (x) Deddington Manor - fell holly tree. (xi) 13 Mackley Close, Deddington - 2-storey rear extension with 1st floor roof space. (xii) Stone Walls, Hempton - conversion of part attic including new dormer window. Subject to no objection from neighbours.

PC objections (xiii) No 2 Philcote Street, Deddington - raising roof and 2nd floor extension/loft conversion. Plans misleading; loss of light; intrusion; objections by neighbours.

Charter Community Housing, which owns 38 dwellings in Deddington, has £19,000 to spend on general environmental improvements, over 5 years, and is looking for suitable projects. Clerk to coordinate suggestions and find out if there is a specific deadline.

BEST KEPT SECRETS

1. Judges of this year's Best Kept Village Competition commented on the lack of activity in Deddington. PC to refute this, pointing out the richness and variety of local life, and enclosing a copy of Deddington News in evidence.
2. List of qualifiers for Country Life Favourite Market Town Competition does not include Deddington. This omission will be rectified.

ALLOTMENTS

1. Some Satin Lane allotments are wholly or partly uncultivated. Clerk to contact offending plottolders. Underused land may be reallocated
2. Clerk to investigate availability of grants for cutting and re-laying boundary hedges.

PARISH FINANCES

Invoices passed for payment totalled £5,530.96, including £2,597.93 grasscutting and £1,112.08 imprest account, mainly stewards' wages.

Investments totalled £560,817.89, of which £7,058.83 Barclays (£6,092.12 current + £966.71 imprest) @ 0.1%; £252,537.67 Alliance & Leicester @ 4.6% on 30 days; £301,221.39 West Bromwich @ 4.7% overnight.

Interest rates: PC Chairman and Chairman of Finance and General Purposes Working Group were authorised to take advantage of special investment opportunities as they arise, without referring back to PC, so long as the increase in parish income was not less than £1,000 a year, and the commitment no longer than 3 years.

NEXT MEETING Wed 21 Sept Town Hall 7.45pm.

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

Well the end of my first year at Deddington School has arrived and I have to say I have thoroughly enjoyed it. I must say a huge thank you to all the parents, staff, Governors and pupils, who have been so supportive and worked hard to support our vision for the future of the school. We have many exciting plans for the next 12 months, including some curriculum open afternoons, the opening of our new Early Years Unit (planning hiccups permitting) developing the use of our grounds as an outdoor classroom, and forging links with a school in Southern Georgia USA with an exciting writing project.

The end of term celebrations were very exciting and moving as we said farewell to our lovely year 6 class. It was a real pleasure to take part in their Leavers' Service and we all wish them every future happiness at their new schools. We welcome several new families to our school community in September right across the age range and we hope they will be very happy during their time with us.

For those of you who have passed the school during the holiday I am sure you have not missed all the construction work. As you can imagine the children are very excited and I am sure the school council will come up with some ideas for us on how to use our new space. I look forward to keeping you up to date throughout the next school year. *Judith Sinsley* Headteacher 338430



Deddington Pre-School

Welcome back after the summer holidays. We hope you had an happy break and enjoyed the summer. We wish all our leavers well as they start at their new schools and welcome all our new children. We also welcome Sophie Nicholls as a Nursery Assistant this term. She has previously been working with us as part of her work experience.

We ran a series of very successful holiday clubs over the holidays. The children experienced a wide range of fun and games and enjoyed the various themes of each session.

This half term we will be talking about our experiences over the holidays.

The children really enjoyed the regular visits from the vicar last year, where he shared lots of interesting and thought provoking stories. This year, we would like to invite parents who have a particular skill that would be of interest to the children to come to talk to them, either on a one off or a regular basis. If you would be interested in doing this, please speak to Anna.

Welcome to all new parents. There will a meeting for you on Thursday 22 September at 3.30pm.

The AGM is taking place on 3 October at 8pm at the Pre-School.

Rowena Dickerson

School Cleaner

Deddington Primary School urgently require an additional school cleaner from September. The post is for 12 hours per week, term time only, although there will be some overtime available during the school holidays for Spring cleaning. If you are interested, please ring the school on 01869 338430.

Seven years after it was first mooted, the development of the Vicarage site is now taking place. It will end up with a new vicarage, two building plots accessed by a new service road from Earl's Lane, a new playground for the school of appropriate size and design away from the road, and a newly surfaced car park for the school. Completion of the school works is expected for September/October and the Vicarage etc early in 2006. This is a project of Oxford Diocese in conjunction with the County Council.

Hugh Marshall

Record numbers of children attended the holiday activities in the Parish Church in August. Our loyal team of grandfathers, grandmothers, and mothers gathered again, joined by four newcomers and four teenagers to give the children a wonderful time. It is entirely thanks to these helpers' great efforts and imagination that these activities are such a success. A particular feature of this summer's event was the creation of a splendid seaside tableau. Do have a look at it in the Church, with a display of other exhibits. *Jane Green*

DEDDINGTON VILLAGE NURSERY

OPENING JANUARY 2006



- 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 September

Thur 1 2.00 pm Squeals & Wheels
 Sun 4 10.30 am All Age Morning Praise
 6.30 pm Evensong
 Wed 7 10.00 am Eucharist
 Sun 11 10.30 am Sung Eucharist, Baptism & Children's Church
 6.30 pm Choral Evensong
 and Blessing of Living Room Project by Bishop of Dorchester
 Wed 14 10.00 am HOLY CROSS Eucharist
 Thur 15 2.00 pm Squeals & Wheels
 Sun 18 10.30 pm Sung Eucharist ('God's Business' - Harvest Thanksgiving)
 12.00 noon Baptism
 Wed 21 10.00 am ST MATHEW Eucharist
 7.30 pm Deanery Synod Eucharist with Bishop of Dorchester
 Sun 25 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
 10.30 am 'God's Business' - Business Life in Deddington
 & Children's Church
 Wed 28 10.00 am Eucharist & Healing Prayers
 Thur 29 6.30 pm ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS Eucharist



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

Sun 4 & 18 9.00 am Eucharist
 Sun 25 6.00 pm Evensong

From the Parish Registers -

WEDDINGS : 23 July Daniel Peter Raymond O'Donnell & Jennifer Louise Donnelly
 James Edward Realff & Victoria Jane Evans;
 30 July Robert James Horne & Kerry Marie Spencer

BIBLE STUDY GROUPS:

Aberford, Hopcraft Lane, Deddington [Jean Welford 338539] Wed 28 September, 7.30pm
 2 The Leyes, Deddington [Liz Dickinson 337050] Wed 28 September, 7.30pm

Charity of the Month - September : **DEDDINGTON SCHOOL** - 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

Sunday Mornings at 10.30 am Preacher - Pastor Isabel Walton;
 Bible Study/Fellowship every Wednesday at 7.30 pm

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, New Street

Joyce Minnear 338 529

Sunday *morning* services are held together with the Wesleyan Reform Church. Sunday evening services are held at the Chapel at 6.00 pm with Communion on the first Sunday of the month. The speakers will be: Sun 4 to be advised; Sun 11 The congregation will join the Blessing Service for the Living Room Project at the Parish Church; Sun 18 Ross Adkins; Sun 25 Mr & Mrs Eaton.

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.

✠ On Sunday 11 September there will be an extra Mass at 12 noon, at which, on behalf of His ✠
 ✠ Holiness the Pope, Canon Tom Farrell, Episcopal Vicar for Oxfordshire, will confer the Order of ✠
 ✠ Knight of St Gregory on Francis Steiner. [Many Congratulations, Frank - "not an Angle, but an ✠
 ✠ Angel" as Pope Gregory the Great said 15 centuries ago !!! Ed] ✠

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

An evening of Poetry, Praise and Prayer.

Saturday 17 September 7.30 pm Deddington Church
 'A Journey through Life' is our theme, when a team of readers will take you through life's tapestry in prose and poetry.

Do join us on this journey of celebration.

Tickets £5.00 at the door to include a glass of wine.



More dates for your diary. The return of our popular local **BRASS BIRTS** to entertain you on Saturday 8 October in church, and a Craft Fair on Sunday 27 November at the Windmill Centre 3.00 to 6.00pm. Details from John Sampson 33873

This year's Festival programme packed about a dozen events into 4 days in June. But planning began in August 2004 and it's been non-stop action ever since. Fund-raisers, generous donations from local businesses, revenue from advertising and a whacking great contribution from Friends of the Festival, and what do you have? - money in the bank before the Festival programme itself even started.

And what a start! Music Hall, presented at the Windmill Centre by Wendy Burrows and Deddington Players, showcased a galaxy of local musical and dramatic talent. The Mayor of Banbury and Mrs Brooks certainly enjoyed it, as did we all, audience and performers alike.

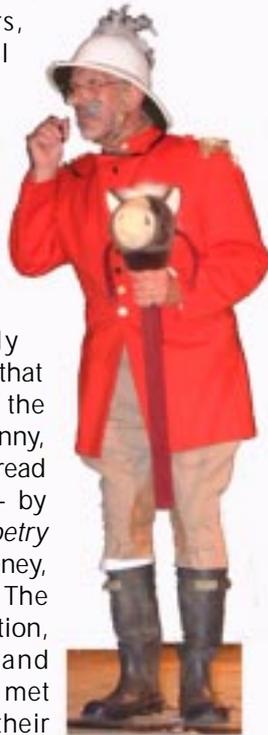
Next a lunchtime Organ Recital in the Parish Church showed Andrew Patterson's flair and musicianship, nicely complemented by the lunch that followed. In the evening, at the Unicorn Inn, we had poems, funny, sad, dramatic and emotional, read - and in some cases written - by members of the audience in *Poetry Please*, presented by John Cheney, local poet and genial host. The winners of the Writing Competition, run by Sylvie Spenceley and Deddington Writers Group, met their readers and collected their prizes.

At the Holly Tree, the Art Exhibition organised by Peggy Baker showed local artists in their true, and sometimes rather surprising, colours. Led by Viv O'Donnell, Annette Murphy and Sarah Robertson, the Saturday morning Arts Workshop for Children, proved that glue, glitter, poster paint and creativity can do magic. Two concerts, a Craft Group exhibition, a cricket match and Jazz evening, completed the programme - all reported here, on page 6, or last month.

Was the Festival a success? Artistically, yes. Socially, yes. Revenue, mainly from ticket and programme sales, more or less balanced production costs of concerts, printing, site rents etc.

Since March this year we have been a Limited Company, and audited accounts will be filed at Companies House, where they will be open to inspection by anyone interested. We are non-profit, our objectives and procedures are charitable, and we hope that the Charity Commission will accept Deddington Festivals Ltd as a registered Charity. Now, as we plan next year's Festival, we would welcome your ideas and comments for 2006. Contact the Festival Secretary, Eileen Anderson 338325, as soon as you can, please.

Norman Stone



Rossini's Petite Messe Solennelle

Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle* could not be described as being either 'small' or 'solemn' - it is in fact an exuberant celebration of the words of the Mass for choir and soloists, and the performance on the Saturday evening of the Festival perfectly captured the joyful, lyrical mood of the piece.

The excellent Choros was joined by local choral singers who much enjoyed the opportunity of singing under Janet Lincé's inspiring musical direction. The four soloists (Helen Morton, Helena Newsom, Martin Quinn and Giles Dawson) sang beautifully, both individually and as an ensemble, with tenor Martin Quinn perhaps the most effective in communicating the operatic quality of the music in the delightful aria *Domine Deus*. The accompaniment provided by pianists Clare Clements and Malcolm Pearce was outstanding, their delicate touch and musical playing in evidence especially in the instrumental *Prélude Religieux*.

From the precise rhythms of the opening *Kyrie* and the drama of the *Gloria* to the two technically demanding but very well executed fugues and the controlled, sensitive singing of the *Sanctus*, this was a confident and accomplished performance which made a significant contribution to the Festival.

Elsa Williams

Saint-Saëns & Prokofiev

Oxford Sinfonia with Janet Lincé, conductor and Janine Elton, narrator, presented a children-friendly concert in the church on the final afternoon of the festival featuring two time-honoured favourites: Saint-Saëns' *Carnival of the Animals* and Prokofiev's, *Peter and the Wolf*. The Carnival lived up to its reputation with an ark full of screeching, roaring, jumping, swimming and generally cavorting animals, as well as extinct dinosaurs and scale-practising pianists. The spoken verses about each animal carried subtle humour. Perhaps the quirkiness and wit of the music could have been exploited more effectively, but the vivid portrayal of the animals from gentle swan to fierce lion was well realised.

The fable of *Peter and the Wolf* was beautifully played by the orchestra and expressively spoken by Janine Elton. The poor amplification and the enthusiasm of the musicians meant that some of the story was lost to those hearing it for the first time. Some means of creating a visual accompaniment to the events would perhaps have helped bring the story to life. None-the-less the children were clearly listening intently and taking it all in, as evidenced by the high score rates in the quiz Janet had organised. The Festival committee will have to search long and hard to match musical gems such as these in ensuing years.

Donald Lane

FRIENDS OF DEDDINGTON FESTIVAL

Our second Newsletter will sum up the 2005 Festival and contain suggestions for 2006. We shall also be seeking renewals and recruiting new members. As always, input from the Friends themselves is vital. If you have any ideas for next year - fundraising schemes, improvements, modifications - please get in touch with Sue Goddard - 338122.

JS

CONGRATULATIONS ...

to Glynnis Eastwood, Sally Haslam, Tony, Catherine & Jonathan Elvidge - the intrepid skydivers. See the pictures and read Glynnis' personal full account of the highs and lows of the experience by visiting www.deddingtonnews.co.uk/skydive.html



The Festival Craft Exhibition

As part of the Deddington Festival, the Town Hall was chosen for mounting a craft exhibition. Stella Marmion who founded this group planned a colourful variety of works of art to be shown. As the visitors puffed up the stairs a riot of colours and patterns came into view. Modern quilts are more often wall hangings and cushions, and they are easier to handle than the old fashioned bed quilts. The group's quilting teacher is Bridget O'Connor. She brought some unusual and delightful pieces to show us, the visitors obviously enjoyed seeing them. The centre piece of the exhibition was a bed quilt made by the whole group. Bridget's choice of colour and design were used. She also put the blocks together and quilted them. This item was raffled for Katharine House. It was won by a delighted local lady. There was also on show a variety of embroideries, a "rainbow" which consisted of squares of colours of the spectrum, wall hangings with beads and gold thread, jewellery and there was a demonstration of lace making. The



Visitors Book has entries such as "a wonderful display", "a beautiful collection - amazing talent" and "so much imaginative work, I am overwhelmed." We agree. Our thanks to Stella Marmion and all her helpers for giving us so much pleasure. *Marianne Elsley*

This year's Deddington Festival drew to a close with an atmospheric night of jazz held in the Parish Church. A group of professional musicians, led by Oxfordshire jazz musician and teacher Tim Dawes, came seamlessly together for the first time and performed superbly.

The instrumentalists were Simon Colam (piano), Martin Shaw (trumpet), Mike Smith (drums) and Tim Dawes (double bass). Jacqui Hicks, the glamorous female vocalist, gave a polished and charismatic performance with her interpretations of a varied and challenging programme which included many familiar standards and more eclectic fusions of Jazz and Latin music. Hicks also showed great generosity in welcoming Deddington musician Jennifer Anderson onto the stage to perform in the second half of the programme.

The evident enjoyment of the audience was commented on by the band who expressed their own appreciation for the reception they received.

There was marvellous, unrehearsed dancing from Mrs Thompson, and the Vicar bought the Secretary a drink - quite a night!
Eileen Anderson

Ride or Stride

Sat 10th Sept 2005

A sponsored event to raise money for:

- The church of your choice and
- The Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust

Your contribution will be divided equally between the two

Sponsorship forms available from:
Dorothy White, 20 Gaveston Gdns - 337530
County Organiser: John Hewitt (01865)735180 Registered Charity 235644

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Now try the best.**

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**New Street,
Deddington,
Tel: 01869 337733**

Come along and let us treat you like Royalty

**Opening Hours
12 noon – 2.30pm
5.30pm - 11 pm**

FROM DR HUGH O'DONNELL, CHAIR, DEDDINGTON FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

May I thank all those who attended any or all of the Deddington Festival events at the end of June? The organisation and effort put in by the Committee were well-rewarded by the reaction of the audiences. The Friends of the Festival gave outstanding support. Now we start again for next June, when we hope to broaden the Festival's appeal and include even more of the community. To this end, we welcome constructive suggestions. To those who have helped in any way, large or small, I extend my warmest thanks.

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 JANET WATTS, OLD PLOUGH WALK, HEMPTON

I am concerned to read in the Banbury Cake (4 August) that our MP and our County Councillor, Ray Jelf, are supporting a permanent ban on HGVs in South Newington. This implies that lorries will come off the A361 west of South Newington onto the B road through Hempton and its pinch-point, past the Pre-School and the Windmill Centre and then negotiate a tight left turn at the lights in Deddington.

What about road safety through Hempton and Deddington? It is already very narrow at the traffic lights and lorries mounting pavements are the last thing we need when taking our children to and from school. Have our representatives considered the impact on Hempton and Deddington? I fully sympathise with South Newington but sending HGVs onto the B4031 is not the answer. Perhaps our MP and County Councillor can reassure us that our views are not being overlooked? I would be interested to hear other residents' thoughts.



JULY STRAW POLL RESULT

1. Should the Parish Council find ways of providing permanent facilities for long-stay parking so that the Market Place and Bullring are kept free for resident and short-term parking? YES: 9 NO: 0

'It would be a long term investment for the well-being of the community, and the benefit of local employers, employees, businesses, shops, shoppers, residents and visitors (unless and until car ownership stops increasing, and/or 4x4s and their like go out of fashion). Therefore an increase in the precept should be acceptable, to make good the loss of interest on the parish's reserves.'

'I would welcome non-residents (office workers) being accommodated elsewhere/encouraged to find alternative transport into work. HOWEVER, a blanket zero long term policy would only force them to park outside other local households beyond the main square. Therefore suitable arrangements need to be provided so as not just to move the problem elsewhere in the village causing conflict with other residents.'

'We need better parking as at the moment it is unsafe with all the cars parking all over the market place and backing out on to the main road from the coop This should not become a scheme to make yet more money out of the motorists.'

2. Does the present policy of partial mowing of the Castle Grounds meet the needs of the community? YES: 1 NO: 4

'The main use of the Castle Grounds is by dog walkers. The current policy of a few paths is lower cost, lower maintenance perfect for dogs. I would be happy to see a few trees planted as well.'

'The grass when long and wet is very awkward for small children whose wellingtons are not sufficient - I will not and cannot buy a 4 year old chest waders ! This area of the village is often used by family's and people wanting a kick around or general play.'

'It looks a mess and doesn't warm residents or visitors to spend time there.'

'The grounds are great; I walk there most days but the long grass and the weeds spoil it.'

All the participants said they are residents.



During August the DOL website came under a concerted spam attack, probably from Mexico. This compelled us to take the Forum offline on a number of occasions and we apologise for any inconvenience to parishioners.



During our ongoing maintenance of the free entries for businesses and community organisations, we have discovered a number of entrants who have not advised us of their change of email addresses or telephone numbers. This is particularly frustrating, as we aim to be as accurate as possible with regard to the information posted on the site. Please advise Celia Clark by email on celia.clark@deddington.net or telephone Deddington 338064 of any changes, particularly when you change your email details.

Colin Clark 338064 colin.clark@deddington.net

Advertisement for A J FOX Agricultural Contractor. Includes a tractor icon, the text 'A J FOX Agricultural Contractor', and a list of services: 'Paddock maintenance, Fencing, Hedgecutting, hay & straw sales plus many other Agricultural services'. Contact information: 'Call Andrew on 07901868214 or 01869 337524'.

Deddington Friendly Bridge Club

The Club begins its fifth year this month. It began in response to comments such as "I would like to play if I could have some practice" or "I would like to learn more about bidding and playing" etc. In the past four years we have met every Friday afternoon from 2 to 5 pm at The Holly Tree and have enjoyed a pleasant afternoon of congenial bridge and socialisation. We can accept a few new members, and anyone interested should contact Kenneth Holt or Dorothy White (337530), or come and meet us at The Holly Tree on a Friday afternoon.

Kenneth Holt 338154

Book Club

There was no meeting in August, but we get together again in September to share our thoughts on 'The Line of Beauty' by Alan Hollinghurst. Here is a summary of our discussions on 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time' by Mark Haddon: "Very well researched and written with the style and point of view of a child with Asperger's Syndrome. An interesting insight into disability, highlighting the strain that such a condition can bring on a family. The book gave us a sympathetic view, but with irony and humour." We always welcome new members. Next meeting 29 September. Call ...

Sally Lambert 338094

Deddington Art Group

A busy group - Frank Palmer is in Wales on a painting holiday and I am off to Looe soon. Others continue to enjoy life painting on Thursdays and we look forward to exhibitions and Christmas. Phone me for advice.

Ken Wilkinson 337256

Deddington Youth Club

The committee is delighted to find a new Youth Leader. We feel we are very lucky to have found a person who is not only highly qualified in youth work but also someone with a huge amount of enthusiasm. We are looking forward to welcoming back all our members after the summer holidays. We will also be very pleased to welcome any new members between the ages of 10 and 15 years who would like to join us. Our first meeting is on Mon 12 September at 7 pm at the Windmill Centre and then weekly thereafter.

Maurveen Forsyth 338384

Deddington Friendship Club

The club starts again on Wednesday 14 September when we shall discuss future plans for the next 6 months. Indoor bowling is now available every Wednesday as well as the planned activities for the Friendship Club on alternate Wednesdays. We will be pleased to welcome more members, and, now that bowling is available, possibly more men would be happy to come along. Meeting time 2.30 to 4 pm.

Joyce Minnear 338529

Monday Morning Club

This is to remind you that from September our coffee mornings will begin later, at 10.30 am. The bus for *As You Like It* on 7 September will leave the Market Place at 6 pm as usual.

Jean Flux 338153

Deddington Babies & Toddlers Group

We are joining in with the World's Biggest Coffee Morning, in aid of Macmillan Cancer Relief, on Friday 30 September. Donations of cakes very welcome but, just as importantly, come and spend your money! We are arranging an outing for the children during October - watch this space for more details. It has been great to see so many new faces recently. If you care for a baby or toddler, why not join us? We meet every Wednesday and Friday at the Windmill Centre, from 9.30 to 11.30 am. Cost per family is just £1.50 including refreshments. Just come along at any time during the session.

Lucy Squires 338442

Deddington Players

We are pleased to announce that our autumn production will be 'Many Hands Make Light Work', a comedy set in a lighthouse. Rehearsals are about to start and the dates to put in your diaries are Friday 14 and Saturday 15 October. Ticket includes wine & refreshments. More details next month, but make sure you keep the dates free. It promises to be a great evening.

Lucy Squires 338442

Deddington & District History Society

The summer activities that began two or three years ago as casual, almost spur-of-the-moment events seem now to have become a regular, planned part of the Society's programme. This summer we began with a memorable social as guests of Heythrop Park, followed by a guided visit on a glorious summer's evening to South Newington, where members of the History Society hosted us. The weather favoured us again in July during our annual historical walk, this time around the Great Tew estate. We also found time to show members of the Chalgrove History Society around Deddington.

In September our new season of meetings commences. Dr Kate Tiller will give an illustrated talk on *Chapels, Buildings and People: Dissent in North Oxfordshire*. The date is Wednesday 14 September, 7.30 at the Windmill Centre. On Wednesday 12 October Peter Sheasby will talk to us about what has become the celebrated *Swere Project*.

Moirá Byast's family history group has got off to a most encouraging start. If you would like to know more about researching family history, please contact Moira on 338637.

Chris Day 337204

Deddington Badminton Club

After a fantastic season last year that saw Deddington winning 3 trophies in the Banbury Town League, we are raring to go! Our first club night of the season is Tuesday 6 September at 7 pm: we have single, couples and family memberships, so why not come along! Our junior session starts at 6 pm. So that some of our improved youngsters can play matches this season, we have entered another men's team. We take juniors from 8 years and upwards and equipment is provided; however numbers are limited. Call ...

Janine Beckwith 347539 or *Mark Tyler* 338056

1st Deddington Guides

We had a very active summer term. Ten-pin bowling was a huge success. We enjoyed the outdoors whenever we could. We invited the Brownies to join us for a sausage sizzle, and enthusiasm was not dampened by a bit of rain! We went to Horley and, amongst other activities, made shelters in the woods and hiked about 4 miles in some very dramatic weather, just getting back before the full force of the storm struck. Traditionally we conclude our meetings with river walking and this never fails to provide some adventures!

Sadly we are losing Glynnis Eastwood as a leader. From next year pressure of work and studying will be too great for Glynnis to devote any time to guiding. We will miss her reliability, commitment, enthusiasm, terrific support, companionship and sense of fun. At our last meeting we thanked her and wished her well and received a surprise visit from our District Commissioner, who gave Glynnis a gift on behalf of Deddington District.

We start afresh on Tuesday 6 September at the Windmill Centre from 7-9 pm when we hope to welcome several new guides. Any girl 10 or over is very welcome and any adults who would like to help at meetings, however part time, please call me.

Maggie Rampley Guider 01295 810069

Royal British Legion Branch & Club

We had a busy summer and the club has been extremely well supported. The clubroom was re-painted, new window blinds were installed and we are installing a new plasma large screen television and have decided to install Sky. All we need now is for our members to come in and enjoy these new facilities and to receive any new members. Our membership year runs from 1 October, but anyone joining before 1 October 2005 will have membership until 30 September 2006. Membership is open to all over the age of 18; being a member of the armed forces past or present is NOT a condition. Partners of members may use the club facilities free of charge when in their company. Membership for the year is £15.50 and that includes full membership of the worldwide RBL, which entitles you to visit other RBL clubs in this country and abroad.

We celebrated the 60th Anniversary of the end of the Second World War on 10 July with a Service of Commemoration. We paraded the standard of the Deddington Branch of the RBL from our headquarters to the church and this was followed by a very moving service conducted by the Revd Dr Hugh White and Pastor Isabel Walton of Deddington Wesleyan Reform Church. We are most grateful to the vicar, the church bell ringers and church officers for their help in celebrating this very special anniversary. We also thank members of the Deddington Fire Service, representatives of Deddington Parish Council, veterans and the villagers of Deddington and district for their wonderful support, as well as the Deddington Boys' Brigade Band for their support on the parade.

We were invited to join with the Bodicote Branch of the Burma Star Association in commemoration of the 60th anniversary of VJ day and were proud to join 12

other branches of the RBL in parading our standard. Our President Norman D West and Dennis Freeman, who retired as standard-bearer earlier this year, escorted our standard, carried by Dave Keats.

Our annual Harvest Festival at the club is on Saturday 3 September.

Raymond Morris 338143 DeddingtonRBL@aol.com

1st Deddington Boys' Brigade Company

On 10 July our brass band led the VE Day Church Parade in Deddington and later that day they opened Duns Tew Village Fete.

On 30 July, Josh, Tom, Mark, Ben, Max W and William L travelled up to East Runton in Norfolk for a week's camp with boys from 12th Enfield and 12th North Suffolk BB companies. All had a great time.

The new BB session starts on Wednesday 14 September when we will launch a new programme of activities and badge work and, as a result, there are some changes to our weekly timetable: Anchors (open to boys in years 1, 2 and 3) 5 ~ 5.45 pm, Juniors (open to boys in years 4, 5 and 6) 5.45 ~ 7 pm, and Company (open to boys in years 7, 8 and 9) 7 ~ 9 pm. All meetings are at the Windmill Centre.

Our first church parade of the new session is on Sunday 2 October.

Brian Bushell 338715

Deddington Town Football Club

Preparations for the new season are going well, with training and friendly matches now taking place. The 1st team are hoping for another successful season in the Premier Division following a top half finish last season. The Reserve side hope to regain their Division 1 status following relegation last season. The new season kicks off on the 10 September. All home matches kick off at 2.30 pm at the Windmill Centre and your support would be very much appreciated by the club.

75 Club Winners – All Winning £50: 1/7/05 H.Olubaji; 8/7/05 M.Freeman; 15/7/05 J.Keys; 22/7/05 M.Freeman; 29/7/05 M.Alexander; 5/8/05 Mrs M.Bradley; 12/8/05 Mrs M.Simons; 19/8/05 Mr C.Smith.

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WELL REMEMBERED

RON BERRY, who died on 14 August aged 74, lived in The Paddocks for most of his life, taking on the tenancy after the death of his mother. A quiet man, who enjoyed his own company, he will be missed by his three sisters and one surviving brother. Those who knew him, describe him as a lover of cricket, which he played at North Aston and Barford St Michael, and will remember his good sense of humour, especially when enjoying an evening of games at the Royal British Legion Club. His funeral took place on 19 August at Deddington Cemetery. *J.M.*

KEN WOODD was born in 1931 in Exeter, but spent much of his early life in Manchester from which his parents came. He started work as a rubber technologist and then, after National Service with the Intelligence Corps in Berlin, moved eventually into sales. Working for Wright Machinery, Ken became something of a pioneer in developing unexplored markets in Eastern Europe and elsewhere. As proprietor of George's Café in Oxford's Covered Market, Ken, again the pioneer, was the first person in Oxford to sell take-away sandwiches and fresh pasta. He earned the nickname 'The Sandwich Man', and later ran operations under that name in Banbury and Cheltenham. What he particularly liked about his catering businesses was his relationship with his customers, for Ken had a gift for friendship, much enabled by his old-fashioned, gentlemanly charm. He exercised that gift to the benefit of many in the Deddington he so richly enjoyed. *J.W.*

**Francis Steiner KSG**

The elevation of Frank to Knight of the Papal Order of St Gregory the Great was approved by John Paul II and confirmed by Benedict XVI. Gregory was the pope who, according to Bede, saw flaxen-haired

Anglo-Saxon children being sold in the market in Rome, saying "Not Angles but Angels". So he sent Augustine to Canterbury in 596 to refound the Church in England.

Please don't trip over your sword, Frank! *C.H.*

**Farewell to Ron Webb**

Ron has been a member of our post office team in Deddington for over four years, previously having run the grocery store/P.O. in Middle Barton as a family business, which he joined after leaving school. After a well deserved holiday in Spain, the father of three and grandfather of three is joining the ground staff at Middle Aston House where his wife also works. He is tapering off gradually into retirement by doing those things he enjoys most; dry stone walling and repairing and servicing the garden machinery. He fondly recalls restoring the family's old Austin van many years ago. Ron has enjoyed his time here immensely, describing his Deddington customers as 'Brilliant'. Thank you, Ron, and our best wishes for your future. *J.S.*

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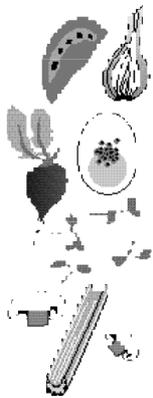
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THE FLOWER GARDEN

We have had a poor season with the flower gardens. The rain has made the plants with big leaves too heavy. And, I have to admit it - we have been much too late with the tying up and staking. None the less, the garden has looked pretty. The Begonias in containers have been outstandingly showy, no complaints there. A little word of praise for the hanging basket: a lot of people don't like them but I think they are such fun to put together. Once they get settled they give a wonderful splash of colour. This year I have tried a new lining. It looks and feels like wool and is certainly very easy to unwind into the inside of the basket, and so far they have held the moisture well. This year, as in previous ones, Busy Lizzies are somewhere on the list. This is simply the best bedding-out plant for the ordinary garden and deserves a prize, no arguments. None the less, when it comes to prizes, I must put the Begonias first. Incidentally, they are very easy to keep over the winter. My method is to take them out of their pots and dry off the soil. I then wrap them in three or four layers of newspaper. The trick here is to label them very carefully. The parcels then go into a cardboard box, and wait until March. Then I unwrap them and at this stage they can be cut into three or four pieces before they are planted. They make shoots and leaves at an enormous rate. Planting out time is end of May. So there we are, there are still a few things to be done before we pack up for the winter. The merry-go-round of bulbs, containers, pansies and all the rest of it goes on.

Marianne Elsley



In our temperate climate the profusion of natural growth is at its most obvious at this time of year. In the fields the grain has mostly been harvested, whilst in the gardens there is a profusion of vegetables of many varieties coming to maturity and very often providing more than are required. Fruit trees are dropping their crops and, if recent years are anything to judge from, boxes of windfalls appear on doorsteps with an invitation to passers to help themselves.

Elsewhere, there are likely to be more shiny bright conkers on the chestnuts than most children would know what to do with. Even the birds find that the berries in the hedges are more than they need - though this might not be the same for them later on. The extravagance, or even wastefulness of nature is something that we take for granted and cease to be amazed by. Not so in other situations where the weather is less favourable or social conditions harsher. Even locally there are those who have little to live on and some who have no shelter at night. So any surplus foodstuffs, including vegetables, fruit and other garden produce might well be shared and can be very valuable to Polly whose continuing work amongst Banbury's homeless people is supported by suitable gifts placed in the "Polly Box" in Deddington Church. (But not too many vast marrows, please!)

Hugh Marshall

Around mid-August, Kristin Thompson and I did our annual botanical survey. No new species this



year, but a great proliferation of the meadow cranesbill. The vetches and knapweed are doing well; the yarrow less so. And the tall grasses are rampant. Tom Curtis, our Woodland Trust Officer, has been considering whether this suggests a need for a change in the cutting programme, but prefers to wait a season or two as variations may simply reflect the evolution of the wood.

The butterflies have been rampant, too. Kristin comments: "Sunny days in May and June yielded a good quantity of butterflies feeding or on the wing. There was the usual dominance of large whites and meadow browns. Then in July tortoiseshells, peacocks and commas came out in numbers. The main attraction was the much-maligned creeping thistle, clearly the Blenheim Palace of lepidopteral summer outings. Also seen: marbled white, common blue and small copper."

In September or October we plan a meeting of the Friends of Daeda's Wood to review and plan. Our numbers have shrunk with the departure of one or two stalwarts from the parish, so if you are interested in joining us please let me know. Being a Friend is hardly taxing: a meeting or two a year, and voluntary participation in the occasional clearing-up operation. (On that subject many thanks to the Boys' Brigade for their on-going removal of the trees' discarded plastic shields.) If you would like some input into discussions on how to celebrate Daeda's tenth birthday next year (yes, really), I should be glad of the views of all those who have any.

Sylvie Spenceley 338995

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The Royal Humane Society is giving its Award for Bravery to Deddington's Acting Detective Superintendent Phil Littlechild. In April last year he was with a party from Banbury Rugby Club in Biarritz. In the ebbing tide from the steeply shelving beach, two of them surfing in wet suits gave a surfboard to help a young girl in difficulties, and then were in trouble themselves. Phil, who used to train the Thames Valley Police Life Saving team, went into the freezing water, with his son Stephen and others in the party in support. From 50 yards out Phil brought them both to land where medics were on hand to resuscitate them. Phil is embarrassed by all the attention: "I was just the right person in the right place at the right time." His Testimonial on Vellum – the society's third highest honour – will be presented by its president, Princess Alexandra. *CH*

NEWS FROM CLIFTON

Linda Davies has won a place in the New York Marathon to be held on Sunday, 6 November 2005. She can be seen around Deddington as she trains for this event! Linda is currently able to cover a distance of 14 miles, and her ultimate aim is to be able to run the full distance. By running in this marathon Linda is hoping to raise money for the Early Years Unit at Deddington Primary School. Should you wish to sponsor her, please do so either by email: Linda.page@ic24.net or call Linda direct at 01869 337 360. We wish Linda every success in this most challenging marathon.

Carol Drauwer, Eleonore Bruyere

PREVIEW for CHRISTMAS

Holidays are hardly over and the Christmas catalogues are appearing already!

But for many people now is a very good time to be looking at some of the vast range of charity Christmas cards and gifts that are on the market. Deddington Fair Traders once again have a wide range of cards, calendars and gifts, some of which will be on sale during the monthly Farmers' Market but all can be ordered and delivered locally, post free.

This month a PREVIEW will be held in Deddington Church on Wednesday 21 September when the wide range of Traidcraft Christmas cards (jointly produced on behalf of several agencies working in developing countries) will be on display and can be ordered or purchased. The Traidcraft Christmas catalogue will be available and there will be a BARGAIN BOX of discontinued Christmas cards at greatly reduced prices. Come and taste fairtrade wine or have a free coffee at any time between 11 am and 7.0pm.

Every purchase or order supports a worker in a developing country to earn a fair wage.

Enquiries, orders or catalogue requests to ...

Hugh Marshall 337761



Traidcraft

NEWS FROM HEMPTON

The church bell has been repaired. It is now much easier to ring and makes a more pleasant sound. As an experiment it is being rung as a 'Sanctus' bell at the point of consecration in the Communion service, so that those unable to be physically present can join in at home. Many thanks to everyone, both in the village and further afield who donated money towards the cost of the repairs. The response was amazing and the money raised over only three or four weeks shows how much people wanted the bell to be part of the Church.

St. John's Church will be open on Saturday 10 September between 10.00am and 6.00pm to welcome cyclists and striders who will be taking part in the Annual Oxfordshire Historic Churches Ride or Stride event.

The Harvest Supper will be in the Church Hall on 24 September at 7.30pm. Tickets are £7.50 per head which includes food and soft drinks. Please bring your own wine and glasses if you require anything else.

The Harvest Festival service will be on 25 September at 6.00pm. Gifts of produce, flowers etc. may be left at the Church over this weekend. Produce will be auctioned after the service and the proceeds given to a nominated charity. The Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Hempton Church will be on 26 September at 8.00pm. This meeting is usually poorly attended, but we hope to see more people this time. New Committee members are needed.

The allotment holders now have water laid on, so thanks to everyone who was involved in this process.

As I write this, the Chipping Norton to Banbury road is closed at South Newington, thus diverting traffic through Hempton making it very busy. There is a suggestion that heavy goods vehicles are permanently diverted. If you have any thoughts on this matter, please contact Cllr Ray Jelf at Oxon County Council, County Hall, Oxford OX1 1ND, or on ray.jelf@oxfordshire.gov.uk.

Les Chappell 338054

From the Fire Station.

We have received 25 calls in the last 2 months, various fires, a caravan, a car, Bloxham Primary school, a house fire, a lightning strike, a fence fire, 3 rubbish fires, and two calls to standing crops on fire.

In addition to this we have attended two road traffic collisions, a few standbys at Banbury and Bicester and 4 false alarms with good intent.

The crew have also been busy in the community safety department, fitting smoke alarms and doing home risk assessments for those at risk, the elderly and vulnerable, in the Middle Barton and Barford areas.

On the fund raising front, the sum raised for the 999 Challenge Row, in conjunction with the Police & the Health Centre, was over £2,600 to be divided equally between Helen House Hospice and the British Heart Foundation. Thank you to all who sponsored and supported us, especially Kathy & Anton in the Crown & Tuns.

Think you might like to join us? We still have a couple of spare kit pegs! Recruitment Hotline 0800 5 870 870.

Anne Waters 338281.

"The Last Parade" - 60th Anniversary of the end of WWII.

Sunday 10 July was a most memorable day for Ted and me. We were able to share with thousands of veterans of WWII, by invitation of the Prime Minister and Her Majesty's Government, the Service of Prayer and Thanksgiving in Westminster Abbey in the morning and touring 'The Living Museum' - exhibits scattered over a wide area in St James' Park London, depicting the experiences of the war generation.

Stepping through the Grand West Door of the Abbey, bags searched and car keys bagged (for obscure reasons), we were escorted to Poets' Corner where a television screen had been placed to let us see the many Processions on their way to the North Lantern, the Quire and Sacarium - alas, not high enough for us to see from the 10th row when all were bidden to stand! But when seated we could see everything and everybody, and hear the most majestic organ play, sometimes accompanied by the Choir, sometimes trying, but failing, to outdo the powerful singing of that chosen elderly congregation. Surely 'Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation' has never sounded with such conviction from old soldiers, who, united in memories of very stressful times, outdid each other in raising their voices in song. The fanfares by the State Trumpeters of The Blues and Royals as always sent shivers down my spine! To be part of this gathering of Veterans, Royalty, the Government and representatives of many religions, presided over by the Dean of Westminster and addressed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, had to be the highlight of that day - with the sound of the Bells of the Abbey Church being struck simultaneously ('fired') on our way out. What an impressive clangour, apparently used on occasions of great celebration!

Before seeking shelter from the hot sun to relax with an iced drink in the NAAFI (Navy Army & Air Force Institute), we chatted with many present day soldiers, all dressed up in 1940s uniform. They demonstrated weaponry, re-enacted gruesome work done in primitive Field Hospitals, deciphered codes, gave gas mask training and generally turned back the years for the many visitors, many of them able to re-live their own experiences. Old soldiers proudly wore their medals, which together with their regimental ties gave those in the know a clue in which campaign they had been involved. Ted and I had also, on cue, stepped out into the Mall to see the magnificently groomed horses and soldiers of the Sovereign's Escort trot by, followed by the Queen and Prince Philip waving from an open carriage on their way to Horse Guards Parade. But now, many of us 'fêted' veterans (we were even given free ice cream from a stall) had decided to retire to the NAAFI and watch the show on Horse Guards on a huge television screen to end a great, and never to be forgotten visit to the Capital. It was absolute bliss to kick off my shoes and settle into a comfortable armchair in the comparative cool shade of the huge NAAFI tent.



Ruth Johnson

DEDDINGTON 150 YEARS AGO

The following are extracts from the diaries of the Rev. Cotton Risley for the month of September 1855:

- 3rd September - I ordered the Policeman to summons Wm. Bliss of Souldern Mill to the Meeting Place here for sending two horses into the Town for two loads of wheat, cart loads, with their shoulders raw - from ill treatment and badly fitting harness - whereby they must have suffered excruciating pain - the skin was rubbed off on each shoulder for a space as big as the palm of your hand - one of the animals had also the pole evil. I sent the horses home and desired he would send others to draw the corn home.
- 8th September - Our annual Flower Show took place in our Park for the first time - the show was a good one and well got up - a fine large new tent was erected for the first time which cost nearly £40 I believe. Finch, our gardener, had 10 first prizes.
- 11th September - The bells rang this evening for the good news from Sebastopol, the south side of which is now in the hands of the Allies.
- 12th September - I went over to Calcotts and sat again (in canonicals this time) to Mr. Cooper, the photographer, as he said several respectable persons had wished him to ask me to do. He said he should get the likeness lithographed. I was obliged to send the Mason from Banbury home again as he promised Mr. Gardner, the Ironmonger, to be here at 8am. But he never came till 3pm. and then from The Red Lion Public House here where he had been idling his time away.
- 29th September - We all started for Warwick to see the Castle by mid-day train - and returned home to tea by 6 o'clock train having walked about Leamington and dined at The Regent.
- 30th September - I buried poor old Thomas French, the Sexton, aged 81 years.

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"Another Kind of Loving"

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I normally think of myself as the last person to review any fiction, let alone a romantic novel by a woman writer. But this is not a typical novelist but a practised travel writer branching out into literature; and she speaks whereof she knows, as this first novel is set partly in a South Midlands village which we can all recognise and in a continental country she knows well and on which she has written extensively. And this is really where I come in when I recognise in the expertly described backgrounds memories of my own.

The heroine who reminisces nostalgically about the golden wine of Mostar reminds me wistfully of my late wife and I enjoying that very Zilavka in Mostar on our honeymoon; and the oldest character among the dramatis personae who can remember being taken as a child to what eventually became Yugoslavia could equally be myself. Such personal reflections should not obscure my appreciation of what I find is a very good book. Someone with my lack of any imagination can only marvel at the writer's skill in creating credible characters and a multi-layered plot line with involved but believable sub-plots. I for one found this little book a thumping good read. *JS*

Any Questions?

A packed Windmill Centre hosted Radio 4's "Any Questions?" on Friday 8 July. The invitation was suggested by Frank Steiner.

The panel were: Alan Johnson, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, MP for Hull West and Hessle since 1997; David Cameron, Shadow education secretary, MP for Witney since 2001; Simon Hughes, President of the Liberal Democrats, MP for Southwark North and Bermondsey since 1983; Brian Eno, musician and music producer, dubbed 'Professor Eno'.

The chairman Jonathan Dimbleby commented that the agenda of the G8 at Gleneagles was squeezed by the horrors of the London bombing the day before. This was reflected in the selected questions.

Richard Symes asked: "Are we starting to reap that which we have sown?". Kate Pitts asked: "How would identity cards have prevented the bombs in London?" The overwhelming majority of the audience were against identity cards. Colin Cohen asked: "How can we make terrorism history?" Chris Rose asked: "Will the agreements made by the G8 at Gleneagles really solve Africa's problems for good?" The majority of the audience were disappointed that the G8 had not gone far enough. Jenny Rice asked: "Was America's refusal to comply with G8 requirements on climate change good economic sense or short-sighted stupidity?" Charlie Champion asked: "In what sport would the panel feel best suited to represent the country in the 2012 Olympics and why?" *CA*

BIRDS IN THE GARDEN

Certain birds - the robin is one - are dressed for a party; they are more a townie than a rustic, in attire and deportment. The robin, for example, hovers without teetering between approach and retreat; he is always presentable, and never overstays his welcome. My aunt used to say to visitors, in jest of course, "Come back when you can't stay so long!" But if the robin goes away for too many days, we are eager for his return.

I have never seen the greater-spotted woodpecker in our garden - he is one of those birds who come to an ordinary afternoon tea overdressed, as if it were the Queen's affair - but Bette and Peter Terry have. The largesse of species is not evenly distributed. Only once we saw a sparrowhawk. It was a female; she had caught a feral pigeon, and overmantled her prey during a late breakfast on our lawn.

In speaking of birds, we cannot say 'personality'; we say 'behaviour'. It would be anthropomorphic, one is told, to say grackles have aggressive personalities: they exhibit aggressive behaviour, as do other birds, the starling foremost, but also the robin and hummingbirds. Aggression is essential in defending a territory, fending off a competitor, and for the female bird, in saying No to a male.

Those wanting to see the seabirds of the British Isles - the puffin, shearwater and guillemot, for example - will travel far afield, and face the roaring sea. Most of us enjoy birds in our garden - they contribute to our contentment. One day, as I visited Ronald and Daphne Canning, a robin came to the sliding porch door. The door had been opened, on purpose, for this visitor, and breadcrumbs sprinkled on newspaper. The robin comes every day, Mrs Canning said.

A pair of wood pigeons nest in our conifer tree. Although they live within earshot of the Oxford Road, they are wild; but they have acquired a taste for town life. Along South Brook, on the other hand, wood pigeons drink in the brook, tremble as one approaches the wooded edge, then fly out in an explosion of whirring wings.

Wood pigeons are delicious because they maintain a whole-grain diet, shun meat, leaving worms to the blackbird. There is no sleekness in a wood pigeon. In flight, the small head accentuates the stocky form of the body. On the ground, our pair look plump, and we fear town life is too easy. But this is true of all wood pigeons, and not an effect of television. The key difference is this: feral birds are more wary, perhaps they question the purity of their motives in living on Mr Calcutt's farm, whereas their suburban cousins trust that when a man walks to the shed it is not to get a shotgun.

Walter Meagher

