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JILL CHEESEMAN

MARCH 2013 copy to
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by 14 FEBRUARY 2013

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the Deddington news

With the benefits of modern technology, the bulk of what you read in *DN* is sent to me via the ether and I sit in my warm office assembling the issue. As I look towards next week and the printing, collating and delivering, I wonder whether our amazing teams will manage to complete their side of things. I know it won't be for want of trying. We are lucky to live in a warm-hearted parish (see pp4 and 11 for confirmation) where mostly our neighbours look out for one another. Let's keep it that way. We can't remain unaffected by outside pressures although there's no news yet from Pegasus but we now have the opportunity to take advantage of high speed internet (p6).

FEBRUARY 2013

- Fri 1 Hempton Social Night: Church Hall, 6.30pm
 Mon 4 Monday Morning Club: Coffee Morning, Holly Tree, 10.30am-noon
 Wed 6 Photographic Society: Roger Tapp, 'My Digital Renaissance', Cartwright Hotel, Aynho, 7.30pm
 Sat 9 Concert: Titanic House Band, Parish Church, 7.30pm
 Tue 12 WI: John Suckling, 'St Helena – A Far-flung Outpost', Holly Tree, 7.30pm
 Wed 13 History Society: Shaun Morley, 'Drunk and Riotous: The Friendly Societies', Windmill Centre, 7.30pm
 Thu 14 Film Evening: *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy* (2011), Holly Tree, 6.30pm
 Wed 20 Parish Council Meeting: Duke of Cumberland's Head, Clifton, 7.30pm
 Wed 20 Photographic Society: Workshop, 'Painting with Light', John Prentice, Cartwright Hotel, Aynho, 7.30pm
 Thu 21 Four Shires Bell Ringing Guild: Parish Church, 2–3pm
 Fri 22 Deddington PTA: Quiz Night, Royal British Legion, 7.30pm
 Fri 22 PFSU: Formula Fast Go-Kart race, 6pm (p17 for details)
 Sat 23 Farmers' Market, 9am–12.30pm
 Sat 23 Friends of Daeda's Wood: Working Party, Daeda's Wood, 10am–1pm
 Tue 26 Hempton Ladies: Church Hall, 2pm
 Wed 27– Primary School: *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour*
 Thu 28 *Dreamcoat*, Parish Church
 Thu 28 Book Club: call Sally Lambert, 338094, for details, 7.30pm

MARCH

- Fri 1 Hempton Social Night, Church Hall, 6.30pm
 Fri 1 Primary School: *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*, Parish Church
 Sat 2 PFSU: Jumble Sale, details tbc
 Mon 4 Monday Morning Club: Coffee Morning, Holly Tree, 10.30am-noon

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DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Wednesday 19 December 2012 at the Holly Tree Club and Wednesday 16 January 2013 at the Windmill Centre

The December meeting was chaired by Cllr Collins and six members of the public were present, none of whom wished to speak. Another long, slow meeting, very few decisions made, most of the discussion was inconclusive or procedural.

Planning

Orchard House, Chapel Close, Clifton: it is proposed to demolish the existing house and rebuild, conditional approval.

Pegasus has informed the PC that no planning application would be made before the new year to allow them the time to review the feedback from the public meeting. The parish meeting was reviewed and the discussion was inconclusive. Fifty letters and emails have so far been received by the Parish Clerk.

Finance & General Purposes

Investments of £535,944 were with Barclays, Santander and NatWest Banks. £4,515 of invoices were agreed for payment in November.

Charles Barker

On a very cold night in January there was a good turnout of councillors and members of the public, together with Paul O'Sullivan, district councillor.

Forum

Rosie Burland asked whether the PC would be discussing a parish development plan.

Environment and Recreation

The noticeboard at Hempton needs to be replaced at a cost of approximately £600. *[This in spite of the fact that DN emailed PC in May 2012 offering financial assistance in refurbishing or replacing the noticeboards in Horsefair, the primary school and Hempton.]*

A lawnmower is to be bought for the village steward, Richard. Until now he has been using his own machine.

A replacement tree will be bought for Gaveston Gardens. The previous one was felled as a branch was broken and it was dying. The policy for maintaining and replacing trees on PC land will be posted on the website.

A dog waste bin was suggested for Cosy Lane at a cost of £120. There was some discussion that some

national parks are removing their bins, encouraging people to clear up after their dogs and dispose of the waste elsewhere. There is an ongoing cost of having the bins emptied. It was agreed that it is a PC responsibility to provide bins.

Highways and Transport

Gates have been considered as a speed deterrent at Hempton although this was not recommended by the working group. In general the Deddington crossroads and High Street – Hudson Street junction are main accident black spots.

Planning

Application: 2–3 Hudson Court: separate into two dwellings for the over 55s, no objection.

Approvals: Geggs Nook, Hempton Road: replace gates, conservatory to rear; Berwick House, New Street: stabilisation refurbishment to barn at rear; 47 St John's Way, Hempton: extension of time limit; Grove House, High Street: tree felling.

No planning application has been received from the Tennis Club. PC is retaining all communications relating to this.

There was a lengthy discussion as to whether there should be an item on next month's agenda on whether a neighbourhood plan should be produced.

Pegasus developers have requested a meeting with PC who have asked them to provide feedback from the exhibition before agreeing to this. Two further letters of objection to possible developments have been received.

PC has two tons of salt and grit and a spreader has been purchased. Agreed to ask volunteers to put some down before Friday's forecast snowfall. Ultimately responsibility of OCC and CDC.

BT Fibre Optic Broadband

The whole parish will shortly have access and people should apply to their service provider.

Bank balances: Santander £215,000, NatWest £280,000.

Next meeting:

20 February, Duke of Cumberland's Head, Clifton
Jill Cheeseman

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

Friends of Daeda's Wood

Do you fancy sawing wood to burn off a few calories? If so, come down to Daeda's Wood on Saturday 23 February, Sunday 3 March or Sunday 17 March, between 10.00am and 1.00pm.

The Friends have been thinning trees as part of

ongoing woodland management and need help in sawing up the felled trees. We will provide the tools if you will provide the brawn.

Elspeth Cox 337635
elspethcox@waitrose.com

BLISSFUL THINKING

There is a certain irony that Ronald Reagan once said 'Concentrated power has always been the enemy of liberty'. Of course he meant a completely different 'concentrated power' to the one he helped unleash on America and the world.

Antitrust legislation was originally imposed to ensure monolithic corporations would be broken up. The reasons for this were both to keep competition healthy and to ensure no organisations became magnets for huge concentrations of wealth, for history had taught us this meant abuse of power and manipulation of democracy and law. After all, when you have already attained great wealth, what is left to acquire but ultimate protection from that wealth being eroded away?

Whether globalisation or the obsession with infinite growth on a finite planet led to these regulations not being effectively applied any more is open to debate, but we, the consumers, have the power to decide what kind of country we wish to shop in, if shopping is indeed still our *modus operandi*.

Instead of apathy and convenience driving us to supermarkets or chain stores, we can make a choice to always support local independent businesses, of which many trade in Deddington. Supermarkets appear to offer more immediate choice, but in the long term eliminate both high street diversity and choice. It is only competition which provokes expansion of choice after all. Do we want every high street to comprise charity shops, bookmakers and a supermarket brand? The power is in our collective pockets. Let's fill the tills of independent stores in the parish and beyond in 2013.

Aaron Bliss
aaronjbliss@hotmail.com



Friends of Deddington Church

PLANNING FOR 2013

Readers may remember reading about FODC in the October and November 2012 issues of *DN*. We introduced ourselves as a broad-based organisation set up to raise much-needed funds for the Church.

The Hook Norton Brass Band did us proud at our launch event on 24 November. Despite the appalling weather – driving rain and heavy flooding – our crucial first event was well attended, and generally agreed to be both enjoyable and successful. The concert programme was nicely varied and beautifully performed. There was plenty of sociable chat around drinks and snacks. Now we are confidently planning for the future. Our first AGM will be in November.

For our next event, we are discussing details of a Valuation Day (like Antiques Roadshow) with Holloway's, the well-known Banbury auction house. James Lees of Holloway's kindly offered to organise this for us. This attractive event is likely to take place on 31 May: we will provide further information as soon as we have it. Meantime, *DN* readers might wish to look around their homes to see if they have any items they would like to have valued for possible sale. Or there may be things you would not wish to sell but might want to have valued for your own interest or for insurance purposes.

Do consider joining us if you have not done so already. A good many of you responded to our recruitment drive in November, but we would like many more of you on board. Membership forms can be downloaded from our web page (www.fodc.org.uk) or picked up from the church or from Steve Miller's salon. Our small committee needs to be expanded as we develop our programme. Would anyone like to take on the role of membership secretary? Please contact me if you would like to offer ideas or support.

Lesley Milroy, Chair
 337614 amilroy@umich.edu

Musical Notes

After a quiet January, concerts in the Church will open with a bang on 9 February with a visit from the fifteen strong Titanic House Band of wind, brass, vocals, bass and piano. Their publicity proclaims that they 'actively avoid the port-hole of definition managing to navigate the high seas of Latin, swing, jazz, soul, pop ...' and even popular classical, and aim to have our toes tapping and hands clapping (see www.titanichouseband.org).

One month later on 9 March an equally innovative group, the Moonrakers, will captivate us with Celtic Folk music, their four strong group playing on a range of instruments from fiddle to harp and guitar and, of course, singing along to traditional melodies, (see www.moonrakers.net).

After that we return to more familiar fare with two local choirs in late April (North Cotswold Chamber

Choir) and May (Chipping Norton Choir) and instrumental events in early April (piano recital) and early June (Adderbury Ensemble).

All these events are listed in the flyer included in this month's *DN*. Keep it for reference and, if you would like an electronic reminder in the week before an event, join our mailing list by sending your email to donald199@btinternet.com. It's more enjoyable for performers and listeners alike if there is a good sized audience, so be bold, step out of your comfort zone and come and enjoy.

Finally, for those who prefer locally generated pop music, look out for announcements about a series of gigs organised by Steve Miller.

Donald Lane
donald199@btinternet.com

SINBAD THE SAILOR

Oxford and Cherwell Valley College lecturer, Carl Brook said 'The best laugh I have had for £6 in a long time'. For me, this just about summed up the 21st Deddington Players' pantomime.

I'm not the greatest panto fan (and this may be true of many people over the age of twelve), but it is great to see the community pull together such an entertaining production. It wasn't the most polished piece but the audience genuinely loved the fact that sound effects were on a slight time delay and the odd line was possibly forgotten for a split second, because that's what a village pantomime is all about.

Let's not forget that people do this for free and, as a panto widower during the last few months, I know the time and effort that goes into this.

There were many highlights. The opening number sung by Becky Jones caught a lot of people by surprise, Kelly Scott made a cracking 'baddy', his rapport with the younger cast members was spot-on, as were his vocals. Brown Owl Anne Kent suitably embarrassed her daughter in her role as Limpet, the 'laundry basket on legs' and, I hear, kept everyone in stitches of laughter throughout rehearsals as well as during the show.

The duo of dames played by Jim Flux and Neil Levene was nothing short of genius. It takes a certain talent to play these roles well. Massive respect to Jim Flux who has appeared in all 21 pantomimes for the Deddington Players.

The mad monkeys, apart from looking far too cute for words, were a fantastic distraction, although I am sure for a couple of them, there was no rehearsal required to act like a monkey.

Leading lady Amber took the phrase 'break a leg' a little too literally by actually breaking her leg with just a week to go, yet, never once hinted at possibly finding it hard on stage to perform without her crutches.

The further double act of Phoah (Christopher Manley), Apht (Suzie Upson), who would put the Chuckle Brothers to shame, thoroughly entertained the crowds.

Of course, I am slightly biased, but I have to say how great my wife Trina was in the title role of Sinbad. She might be used to dealing with slightly larger audiences in her day job, but what's a few million people between friends? Being the person that had to read the 'other' lines when she was learning her script and listen to her belting out songs in the shower, it's always great to finally get to see the finished product.

What I also wanted to share is what you don't see on the stage – the people who work behind the scenes. My wife told me that, between them, Joanna Cox and her mum handmade three costumes for each chorus member – that's no mean feat for a cast of 46.

Director Martin, from what I hear, must have the patience of a saint. I know he starts work on the script months ahead of time and held the cast together through injury, illness, not to mention treacherous weather conditions. In fact the entire Squires family were involved in the production and that, again, shows the great community spirit of Deddington.

When everything can be Googled and entertainment is a download away, it's very refreshing to see traditions that stand the test of time. What is wonderful is the spirit of the Deddington community. It's the kind of spirit that means you never want to leave the area. Snow may have challenged the rest of the UK, but not Deddington Players who had a 'plan B' to beat even the worst weather. I found myself wanting to be part of the 2014 production (although to be fair, I am not sure the Deddington Players are that desperate) but I would highly recommend people in the parish consider taking part or, at the very least, especially if you have never been to one of the shows, do make sure you go and see it next year.

David Murray-Hundley

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CHURCH AND CHAPEL

Parish Church SS Peter and Paul

Sun	3	10.30am	First Sunday
			Presentation of Christ
		6.30pm	Sung Eucharist
Wed	6	10.00am	Eucharist
Thu	7	2.00pm	Squeals and Wheels
Sun	10	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		10.30am	Sung Eucharist
Wed	13	10.00am	Eucharist Ash Wednesday
Thu	14	2.00pm	Squeals and Wheels
Sun	17	10.30am	Eucharist
Wed	20	10.00am	Eucharist
Thu	21	2.00pm	Squeals and Wheels
Sun	24	9.30am	Eucharist followed by
		10.15am	interactive Café Church
Wed	27	10.00am	Eucharist
Thu	28	2.00pm	Squeals and Wheels

For baptisms, weddings, funerals or home visits in case of illness, please contact the Vicar, the Revd Dr Hugh White, 28 Duns Tew (349869), the curate, Revd Dr Dan Inman (337893) curatedan@gmail.com, or 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
Sunday 24 February Wendy Manley

RC Parish of Hethe with Adderbury

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

St George's Church Adderbury: Mass Wed 7.00pm and Sun 8.30am.

Confessions at Hethe Sat 5.30–6.00pm and at Adderbury before Mass.

The Eve of Sunday 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.

13 February is Ash Wednesday, not a Holy Day of Obligation but a day of Fasting and Abstinence. (Fasting is defined as an injunction for adults under 60 in good health to confine themselves to one main meal and two light 'collations', while abstinence requires all Catholics to abstain from meat and meat products. Mass will be said at Hethe at 10.00am and at Adderbury at 7.00pm with distribution of ashes at both Masses

St John's, Hempton

February

Sun	3	9.00 am	Eucharist
Sun	17	9.00am	Eucharist
Sun	24	6.00pm	Evensong

Barford St Michael

Sun	3	10.30am	Eucharist BfdStM
Sun	10	10.30am	Family Service BfdStM
Sun	17	10.30am	Family Service BfdStM
Sun	24	6.00pm	Evensong BfsStM

From the Parish Registers

Baptism

30 December Rebecca Lesley Milroy

Thanksgiving for Marriage

12 January George and Phyllis Beazley

Memorial Services

23 January Kenneth Hart

26 January Jean Flux

Information on the meetings of other faith groups can be found at

<http://www.deddington.org.uk/community/church/otherfaithsandbeliefs>.

Pastor Isabel Walton 337157

Fr John Burns 277396

Market Place Tree

We have learnt that the Oxfordshire County Council has offered the Parish Council another oak tree and two rowan trees to replace the diseased oak in the Market Place, and that the Parish Council have accepted this offer. Although the villagers have not been directly involved in this choice of tree, as we had requested, we sincerely hope that most people will be content with this decision. When we were collecting signatures for the August petition letter, a number of residents did express a wish to see another oak.

The oak that has been chosen is a *Quercus robur*, the traditional English oak, and the rowans are *Sorbus commixta* 'Embley', the Japanese rowan. The rowans have been chosen to accompany the oak to increase

the foliage canopy while the oak is still young. Once the oak comes to maturity, which could take 10–15 years, the rowans will be removed. As all these trees are deciduous they will give seasonal interest and also be an attraction for birds. Initially the trees will be 2–3 metres in height and they will be planted any time now before April. The OCC will be responsible for the maintenance of the trees for the first three years, the most important time for establishing them correctly.

Let's hope they will flourish and give the village many years of pleasure.

Jane Green, green-jane@btconnect.com

Wendy Meagher

Wendy Burrows

FARMERS' MARKET

The February Market will be on Saturday 23rd. I always think of February as the end of the winter. March can always have its cold equinoctial gales with a real sting in them, but for me the end of February is like a corner in the year. The new vegetables like purple sprouting are coming on well, and it's a chance to visit the game dealers for that end of season tasty treat.

I have just been to put out signs and banners for the January market. It was snowing as I did it, and the forecast is for a whole week of cold and snow. By the time you read this, January market will have come and gone. How was the weather last market? Right now, looking forward to it, I reckon that you can say it was quite a trial for everyone at the market in January. So a winter warmer may be needed.

Winter Warmer Cauliflower soup – fry onion and cauliflower florets in oil with garlic and rosemary. When the onion is well softened, stir in flour and stock. Simmer for half an hour, then whizz in a blender. Season to taste. If you want it creamy, use milk and stock powder and add some grated cheese. Use paprika for a bit of warmth or cayenne if you like it hot.

Paul Drawmer
paul@drawmer.net

(I can recommend this! – Ed)



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Ultrafast Broadband has Arrived

Thanks to BT Openreach, most households and firms in the exchange area now have access to ultrafast broadband with speeds that are a world away from those previously experienced in the villages.

Deddington-based Dijon Designs was the first business in the village to get connected and Simon Baxter, managing director of the company, is delighted.

Business customers can boost their competitiveness as they enjoy the benefits of a big business fibre capability, allowing collaboration across locations between customers and suppliers and supporting new ways of flexible working. Households can access entertainment and learning opportunities, including school homework networks, educational websites and catch up TV.

BT Retail is one of the communication providers selling a range of services that use this new infrastructure. Further details are available on our website www.bt.com/infinity or call the sales team on 0800 587 4787.

We are now trialling broadband at an ultrafast speed of up to 300Mb. If you are interested in being part of the trial, please contact us as we are looking for a small number of customers to take part.

Dr Joe Walsh
Partnership Director, BT plc
joe.a.walsh@bt.com 020 7777 6426



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Love ... Natural ... Food

What's good to eat right now and inspiring you to eat with the seasons

Happy New Year Love ... Natural ... Food readers!

I love the start of a new year; it's the perfect time to re-evaluate goals and form positive intentions for the year ahead. Why not make eating with the seasons one of your resolutions for 2013? Not only does seasonal food taste better, but it's often cheaper than imported produce and it helps to support local farmers and producers. Each month **Love ... Natural ... Food** will feature a different seasonal fruit or vegetable which I hope will inspire you to eat with the seasons. Little changes make a big difference, so read along with me every month to find out what is good to eat right now.

In February I am eating ... kale. Start off your 2013 healthy eating regime with a bang with this so called 'superfood'. After a bit of indulgence over the Christmas period, kale is a great vegetable to help get you get back on the right track. Its nutritional credentials make it a favourite amongst health enthusiasts, boasting calcium, vitamin A and vitamin C among others nutrients. The good news is that this dark green leafy vegetable is at its best right now, thriving in the cold winter months. Help to keep yourself nourished by adding this versatile vegetable to warming stews and soups, or simply steam and serve alongside your favourite main.

About: Kale is a member of the *brassica* family, along with cabbage and broccoli. It is dark green in

colour, with large leaves. This vegetable comes in a few varieties, the most common of which is curly kale which has distinctive ruffly leaves and a strong, peppery taste. If you can, seek out dinosaur kale which has a more mellow flavour.

Season: Kale is in season in the UK between September and April.

How to choose: Look for kale with dark green leaves and a crisp looking texture. Farm shops will often sell it by the whole leaf; however, for an easy alternative, look for pre-prepared kale in supermarkets which commonly comes shredded. Aim to eat kale within a couple of days of purchase as it takes on a rather bitter taste if left for too long.

How to prepare: Thoroughly wash the kale leaves before preparing. The stalks can be a little tough, so chop off any of the harder, woodier parts of the vegetable.

Why not replace your regular meat version with a Kale and Mushroom Lasagne courtesy of Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall (recipe available in his *River Cottage Veg Everyday*)?

Alternatively, if a tasty side dish is what you are after, try Yotam Ottolenghi's Sweet Kale with Lentils and Pine Nuts, recipe available on the *Guardian* website.

Phillipa Carson

Phillipacarson@googlegmail.com

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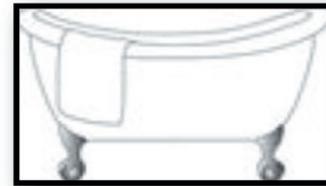
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DOWN ON GEORGE'S FARM



Here we go again. After one of the most difficult farming years, the new year came in just the same as the old one that had ended - mild, wet and with the Clifton sea on the verge of busting its banks. The crops that we did manage to drag into the ground are in very poor condition, with only about

two-thirds of the planted wheat crops being viable. With the soil conditions being almost too wet to walk on, the likelihood of getting any spring seed (if we can find it) planted is beginning to look like a very forlorn hope and we may end up leaving a large part of the farm fallow for the coming cropping season.

Our environmental projects took a big hit from last summer's rain and have struggled to produce much seed for our over-wintering birds and it will be very late into the season before they can be replanted, with the river valley so flooded.

The ewe flock came into their winter quarters some six weeks early, so it will be a long and expensive winter with the hay stocks tight but we should be able to scrape through. Despite all the difficulties it was nice to get the old girls in the dry, as they had not had a dry patch to lie on for a long time and they quickly settled into the twice daily meals-on-wheels service. The main flock will not start to drop their lambs until mid March, but the Cotswolds are already on with the job so spring can't be far behind. Although the first of

the Cotswolds to lamb produced a fine pair of ewe lambs, the next two had dead lambs and we now have to face the fact that we may have been hit by the Schmallenberg virus which arrived from Germany last year, a daunting prospect as there is no cure and, as yet, no vaccine. The virus is spread by a blood-sucking midge and this last autumn produced some ideal midge weather. The effects of the virus do not show until lambing, when the infected ewes are either barren, or drop weak lambs or with deformed limbs, not a pleasant sight at three o'clock on a cold frosty morning, but just another legacy of the 2012 big wet.

The mild weather of late has meant that the bees are active in the hive and we have been feeding them extra sugar syrup to keep up their feedstocks. All the hives that went into the winter seem to be very strong, but it is too early to predict how many will survive, as March is the 'crunch' month for over-wintering losses.

Although the flood level of the Clifton sea has started to drop for now, it has been too deep for our over-wintering waders to turn up, but with any luck March will see the return of the curlew and redshank to prospect for nesting sites. I can only hope that they have better luck than last year as, due to being washed off twice during the season, there were no chicks that managed to survive, so yet another legacy of the 2012 big wet, but this time one that was exacerbated by human intervention with the design and management of the Banbury flood defence scheme which drowned the river valley and its wildlife for most of the summer.

George Fenimore
338203

DEDDINGTON 150 YEARS AGO

The following are extracts from the diaries of the Rev. Cotton Risley for the month of February 1863:

1st February – Sunday, no service here – tho' a sacrament Sunday. Mr. Brogden supposed to have influenza again – wrote to Payne about the Duty here.

2nd February – Holford went to Banbury to preside at his Inauguration Banquet as Master of the Cherwell Lodge of Free Masons for the current year.

12th February – This morning at 1 o'clock a fire broke out at Abel Hopcraft's, the Grocer's, in New Street – how it originated is not exactly known – it was however luckily confined to his premises there being no wind, the shop and its contents and the rooms above being entirely consumed but only a part of the house was burnt. I got up, being called by Emily, our housemaid, who heard the Fire Bell, I went out and did what I could and returned to bed again soon after 4 o'clock. After luncheon Susan and I walked and saw the burnt premises, they were the property of B. Mason and his brother and were partially insured, as were the contents of the shop.

17th February – The hounds met here, Holford

followed them, I walked to see them on the Banbury Road.

24th February – I attended a full meeting of parishioners at the Town Hall – Mr. Sammans, the High Bailiff, being in the chair – to consider how the 10th March, the day fixed for the Prince of Wales's marriage with the Princess Alexandra of Denmark, should be observed. It was agreed that it should be kept as a general holiday, and that the poor men should have a dinner of roast beef and plum pudding with a certain quantity of wholesome beer and that a Bloxham Band be engaged to attend.

26th February – I called at Ellis Bennett's to speak to him about baking the plum puddings for the poor etc. and as to the number of persons he could bake them for – he could bake sufficient for 200.

28th February – I called at old W. Malings at Clifton to talk over the poor's feast, I gave him £5 towards it and promised some pipes and tobacco for the men and snuff for the women.

Buffey Heywood
338212

Is America So Very Different from Deddington?

Baked beans, HP sauce, gravy, suet (jam roly poly didn't work at all) aren't the same, and they just don't understand chocolate. Cadbury are now owned by a US business, but have you ever tried Hershey's?

Driving is a strange thing in America: they have four-way stops everywhere and no roundabouts – it's a mess. And Heather had to pass her test again today which, bearing in mind that almost no-one here can even park a car, is a bit of a joke. And let's not mention guns today.

There is nothing here like the village atmosphere you all understand and love. Our Ben at 12 finds it very difficult, being used to wandering at will. Here in middle America they just don't allow kids those freedoms.

And the rest of us miss the pub. They don't exist here in the suburbs, and if you say you want to go down the pub, then they look at you as if you are a drunk. OK, I own up.

The worst issue is a lack of friends. Americans are reserved although Jake calls it arrogance. It is a mixture of confidence and detachment, but what we consider vulgar will speed their financial recovery.

They don't do cynical, sarcasm is lost, and yes, I am in trouble.

And don't ever use the green pump at the gas station unless you want diesel.

The light switches go the wrong way, and they dim when you switch on a Dyson or a hair dryer: you can have clarity or electricity, but not both at the same time.

And finally, they don't get 'soccer'. We have been to watch the state team (Rapids), and the Deddy Vets would give them a run for their money (well, at drinking anyway).

In the spirit of community we went to the Broncos American Football game last weekend, and an hour of sport took four and a half hours in minus 12 degrees Celsius. That is our commitment to the American dream, even my beer froze.

We are having fun, but we miss our dear friends and the community (and a non-frozen beer in the DA).

Mike Ward

mikew@qsoftware.com

<http://mikeaward.com>

Twitter – [mikeaward](#)

In Celebration of a Life Well Lived – Jean Marjorie Flux

Jean was born in the London Borough of Southwark on 28 April 1936. During the war she was evacuated to Oxford where she started school. On the family's return to London they lived in Wimbledon. She eventually returned to Oxford to attend the university, reading English on a state scholarship, graduating with a first and a distinction in her PGCE. This cemented a lifelong love of literature and teaching which was a clear thread throughout Jean's life. It was also while at Oxford that she met Jim. They married in 1959. With typical practicality Jean wore blue so she could wear her dress more than once.

Married life resulted in a peripatetic life moving from the UK to Germany, back to the UK, again to Germany, then to Canada, Morocco, Switzerland and finally, with retirement, back to the UK and Deddington. Along the way, Jean was involved in amateur dramatics, both producing and directing; helping to run expat English language libraries; tutoring English to many students, entertaining, despite the challenges of getting the right ingredients and always finding practical solutions to 'interesting' challenges, like how to clean sand from every surface inside the house following a sand storm in Morocco.

Once in Deddington, Jean got involved in village life and once again found ways to feed her passions

for literature, amateur dramatics and people. She was involved with the *Deddington News* and the library. For 12 years she collaborated with Molly Neild to write and produce the village pantomime full of 'in' jokes and fun puns. Jean was also a stalwart of the parish; 15 years as treasurer of the PCC as well as treasurer of the Holly Tree club right up to her death. The last few years she took part in the butterfly audit. She also loved to walk and was a constant around the village normally accompanied by one or two faithful Cavaliers.

Jean was devoted to her family and especially her grandchildren, Oscar and Constance. She wrote long entertaining letters and worked hard to keep close contact with family, including her two brothers and two sisters, and friends from around the world. She was always a source of strength and humour.

Jean learned of her terminal cancer in March 2012. She confronted the news with typical bravery and practicality, ensuring her affairs were in order, and providing clear instructions of her wishes at the end. She died on 5 January 2013 at home with her family around her as she had requested. Her ashes will be buried in Deddington church cemetery.

We will miss her.

Jim, Rowena and Meriel



Clifton in the Past

from an account by LE Gardner 1955

The earliest mention of Clifton in official documents was in 1271 when Philip Basset, Baron of Wycomb, bequeathed to the 'Prior and Convent of St Edbury at Bicester, lands in Cliftone, Heentone and Dadyngtone in Oxfordshire'.

In 1536 during the reign of Henry VIII the Priory of Bicester was dissolved and a year later the Manor of Deddington, which included Clifton and Hempton, was granted by the King to Sir Thomas Pope.

The 1605 map of Clifton shows the village at its peak. The subsequent decline in population might have been related to the imposition of two taxes: the hearth tax and the window tax which would have fallen mostly on farmers, publicans, shopkeepers and tradesmen to pay.

There were many tracks and rights of way connecting Clifton Mill with the vital markets at Aynho, Adderbury and Banbury, but communications were difficult in winter when Clifton was often cut off by flooding. Turnpike Trusts did little to help so it fell to locals to maintain the roads which, having no drainage, could be ankle deep in mud. Deep ruts on either side carried rainwater, so flat stones were used as bridges between houses and roads.

Gardner writes:

'During the period 1850 to 1950 Clifton had 302 inhabitants and well over 70 houses and a fair-sized vil-

lage green. It was almost entirely self-supporting. Apart from grocers or general shops, there was a fishmonger, a basket-maker, a hat-maker (the beaver hat factory was at the side of the Duke of Cumberland's Head public house), a baker, a blacksmith and shoe-maker, to say nothing of the manufacturers of agricultural implements. There were also three public houses. There is no actual evidence of a butcher's shop, but there was certainly a slaughterhouse. Not far from the river was a pottery shed where the old-fashioned brown earthenware pans, still used in country districts, were made. People in those days could not afford fresh meat, but almost every householder kept a pig, which ensured a plentiful supply of bacon, ham and fat, and with the various farms supplying milk, eggs and butter they all managed to live very comfortably. As an instance of the changing of the times, the writer knew an old lady who declared that she scarcely knew the taste of fresh meat when she was a girl, but that she used to be "sick of the sight of ham".

Corn was ground at the Mill and the majority of people would go leazing after the harvest was gathered and have their own little bit of leazed corn ground for themselves. Some of the cottages still retain their bread ovens by the side of the chimney corners, although a stove or oven grate now replaces the old time open stone fireplaces.

Money was certainly not plentiful for the farmworkers; on the other hand, farmers could be, and were, a great deal more generous then. For instance, the last little pig of a litter, called the 'dilling' in Oxfordshire, was often given to one of the workers, and one could buy, in Clifton, a quart of milk (skimmed) for half a penny. Wood was a great deal more plentiful and the charity coal cost 6d per cwt, and one has only to live under a thatched roof to know its advantages over slate or tile. Thatch is unequalled for warmth in winter and coolness in summer."

The Post Office opened in 1912 at the corner house of Chase Villas. The Oxford to Banbury Railway was built in 1845. A reaping machine was introduced in 1851 and met with fierce resistance. In 1850 a coal barn stored charity coal for those in need.

St James's Church was built during the period 1851 to 1853, thanks to generous benefactors and work from the local community. The opening was celebrated by 400 people with a meal of 'roast and boiled beef, plum pudding and a plentiful supply of ale'. In 1880 the vicar introduced a temperance drive.

A school was built on a site given by Mr Cartwright of Aynho in 1870 but this was closed in 1945.

For a full account and more information visit the Deddington OnLine website: http://www.deddington.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0005/9590/Clifton.pdf.

Hilary Smith
337813



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FROM THE EDITOR'S POSTBAG

The Postbag, or parts of it, 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 JOHN SAMPSON, HEMPTON
Perforce belated but nonetheless a very sincere thank you to all who generously supported our Hempton Christmas Bazaar on 1 December. With your help we raised over £1,500, a record, which will enable us to undertake essential repairs to the windows in the church and hall. The Friends of Hempton Church are responsible for maintaining both church and hall and focus on keeping the only public building in Hempton in a condition suitable for use as a community venue for all groups within our village.



FROM CHRISPOHHER HALL, PHILCOTE STREET
Much has been made in the *DN* and elsewhere of keeping Deddington as a village. What is the village concept we wish to preserve? Is it a convenient geographical location? Is it a pleasant rural dormitory? Or is it much more? Is it about being a community to which each of us makes his or her contribution? If it is that, and that is what most of us value in living here, then should we not welcome people for their potential contribution to our common life? What Deddington needs is 'village-makers' – just as it was the volunteer 'games-makers' who ensured the success of the Olympics and Paralympics. Deddington needs village-makers: customers who meet and chat at the Post Office and village shops, volunteers to help with the market, the library, the *DN*, as school governors, as fire officers, as Deddington Players, helpers with the youth club, youth groups and sports clubs. That is how they and we will keep Deddington as a village.

FROM JIM FLUX, MERIEL FLUX AND ROWENA PULLEN

We want to thank everyone for all the cards, letters, and emails that have been arriving at the house after Jean's passing. The memories you shared have been a marvellous window on Jean and her impact in the village and on many of you. We have been sustained and comforted by all the kind thoughts and support expressed by so many people.

FROM JEAN WELFORD, HOPCRAFT LANE

I'm sure I represent many Deddington residents when I write a big thank you to the wonderful people who offered to do shopping and cleared pathways during the 'freeze up'. I personally was very moved by the many telephone calls I received offering help, and very surprised to see a gentleman clearing a path up my drive. We all think Deddington is a good place to be, but I feel that we are very privileged to live here. (*Wholly endorsed! KT*)

FROM HUGH WHITE, VICAR

It's good to be back at Deddington after my months in Sweden. I'd like to express my thanks particularly to Dan Inman, our curate, Sarah Green, our children's and youth worker, and the two churchwardens, George Fenemore and Iain Gillespie, as well as to Les Chappell at Hempton, for taking charge so capably during my absence. A general

thank you to everyone who made sure that activities in the churches went on as usual. I even want to thank those who tried to burn down the parish church because they created such a wonderful advertisement for our web-streaming operation. 'The lady in Somerset who saved our church' deserves a special place in Deddington folklore.

It was great to come back to the new retractable screen in the church and to hear that it had been successfully used at a parish meeting. We shall be exploring ways to exploit this new facility to the full. I'm intending to show pictures of my time in Sweden on Sunday 3 February at 7.30pm. You'd all be most welcome to *Tongue-tied in Växjö* at which light Swedish-style refreshments will be served.

Dag Bjärnhall, a Swedish priest, will be with us for some of February. He can quite safely be approached and spoken to. Friendly opening gambits would be 'Hej!' or 'Hur mår du?' and don't worry about being unable to cope with his reply – he's here partly to practise his English.

FROM COLIN RENNISON, MILL CLOSE

It is now possible for most people in the parish to be able to order the new high-speed fibre broadband service, assuming your Internet Service Provider (ISP) can provide it – not many can.

BT Openreach came to connect my house to the new fibre system recently. Apart from the small brown box on the wall, you wouldn't know they'd done anything. It's a two-stage process – first is this connection, with a second visit to install an internal box.

The external box is installed where your phone line comes into your house. Stage two will install the internal box, to a degree where you want it, but it will have to be within 25m of the external box. So, if like me the external box is at the front of the house but your main set-up indoors is at the back, a 25m cable may not reach.

So you may be faced with moving your equipment or using something like a 'power over ethernet' adaptor.

The Editor's Postbag is continued on p12

From the Editor's Postbag *Continued*

FROM RICHARD KELTIE, tich.keltie@ntlworld.com
I wonder if anyone has any old photographs, or knows who I might contact, of the Plough Inn at Hempton (not the Plough Inn in Deddington). I gather it was demolished in the 1960s. My great-grandfather ran the place over 100 years ago.

The only photos that I've seen so far are the two images on the Oxfordshire County Council website under its Heritage Search facility. Please contact me by email if you can help.

My great-grandfather was John Thomas Butler who, from 1895 to 1902, ran the Plough. Sadly he took his own life in February 1902. (This was reported in the Northampton Mercury of 21 February 1902 – 'Distressing Suicide of an Innkeeper near Banbury').

CHRISTMAS EVE CAROLS

Many thanks to the all those who helped with the arrangements for the carols in the Market Place: the band, Deddington Brass, together with all fetchers, carriers, lenders, servers, conductors and collectors, and to the Unicorn for the use of facilities. Particular thanks to contributors: Peach Pubs, British Legion Club, Deddington Arms, Mid-Counties Co-op and the Crown and Tuns, especially Anton at the Crown and Tuns for the loan of his equipment when the Unicorn's gas went off!

Most of all, thank you to everyone for the generous donations – £1,013 was raised for Katharine House Hospice.

Michael Liebrecht
liebrecht@1gc.com

DEDDINGTON FESTIVAL – 2013 AND BEYOND

This year the Deddington Festival is celebrating its eleventh birthday. Originally the inspiration of the Rev Dr Hugh White, Janet Lincé, Dr Donald Lane and Dr Hugh O'Donnell, their vision was to enhance the community spirit of the parish and surrounding villages through an annual festival of music, performing arts, visual arts and community events which entertain and inspire.

It opened in 2003 with Britten's Noye's Fludde, in which local school children performed. Conductor, Janet Lincé, and Hugh White were responsible for the first event and their involvement continued until 2009. Then at the end of 2012, Hugh O'Donnell decided it was time to hang up his artistic boots after 11 years of chairing the Festival, followed by Mike O'Brien who has also stepped down from the committee.

The organising committee are forever in their debt for their vision, dedication and hard work in giving the parish the opportunity to enjoy some memorable times together and we look forward to carrying on their good work.

So as we begin 2013, the Festival's organising committee is evolving. Hugh has handed the chair over to me, a founding member of an arts association in France. I have joined committee members Ralph Stewart, Kath Morris, Kelly Scott and Althea Wood. We are committed to putting on an exciting, vibrant festival for the parish and would like to hear from anyone who is interested in getting involved. You may have a passion for the arts, you may want to give something back to your community, or simply, to meet new people. Whatever your reason, if you would like to join the committee or just be involved in a fun programme of events, please contact me.

With the changes in the committee comes the opportunity to review our festival programme for 2013 and beyond. The 2013 programme will include established favourites like Deddington Rocks, Deddington Jazz, Poetry Please, and the art workshop. But what else would you and your children like to experience?

We want to ensure that the programme is relevant to the people who live in the parish, so we would love to hear your views on what should be in your village arts festival. We are lucky to have an arts festival so what would you come to see?

To make this quick and easy we have compiled a short online survey where you can register your views. Go to <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/6HQ87FD> and complete by 15 February. For those not online, a survey is included in *DN* and is available at the Co-op, Library and Eagles. Please complete it as we really need some feedback on the direction in which we should take the festival.

Once again we hope that the local business community will continue to back the festival which contributes so much to the dynamic environment of the parish. We are a charity so we need commercial input to keep running, whether this is through sponsorship, donations of services/products or advertising.

We look forward to the continued support provided by the Friends of the Deddington Festival. This is an established group of about 100 people who volunteer to help with running stalls, fund-raising, publicity, ticketing, providing refreshments etc. The Chair of the Friends, Althea Wood, represents the group at committee meetings. The cost of membership is £10 per year which is invaluable in providing the festival with some financial continuity. If you would like to become a Friend, please contact the membership secretary, Elspeth Cox, at elspethcox@waitrose.com or telephone 337635 and visit the Festival's website for further information: www.deddingtonfestival.org.uk (which is just being updated).

We will keep you informed on the progress of the Festival and, of course, we will provide feedback on the results of the survey and what we are going to incorporate into the 2013 programme and beyond.

Emma Noon
337848
emmanoon1@gmail.com

CALLING ALL CLUBS

1st Barford and Deddington Rainbows

Eleanor from the Thames Valley and Chiltern Air Ambulance came to see us in November and gave a very interesting talk about the work of the ambulance. She explained that it is entirely funded by charitable donations, so we helped her out by buying up her entire stock of bouncy balls and other merchandise. It almost made up for the disappointment that she couldn't bring the helicopter with her.

We got ready for Christmas by making wool-wrapped star decorations, easily as good as the ones in smart Cotswold shops for £4 each! Our best meeting though was Giant Junk Modeling. Two huge cardboard tubes from a carpet shop became the masts of a ship, and while some of the girls assembled the outline of the boat in boxes, others created a 'skull and crossbones' from a biscuit box and some cardboard tubes; a treasure chest full of egg-box treasure, telescopes, seats and even bottles of rum. We all squeezed in to sing the pirate song before dismantling it to be remade into fantastic seesaws, cars, trains and a tiny dolls' house. Possibly the most fun though was squashing it down to be recycled.

We finished the term with a game of ten-pin bowling in Banbury, which was long but good fun and then a party, complete with musical bumps, pinata, pass the parcel (thank you Deddington Guides) and a chocolate eating game. Milly especially was very good at throwing sixes on the die, but I'm not sure how much chocolate she ate after she'd put on a hat, scarf and mittens and then tried to cut the chocolate bar with a knife and fork.

Thank you to all the mums and dads who've helped out over the term – we couldn't run the unit without you.

Hazel and Nikki
01869 337822

1st Deddington Scout Group

The group has had quite a few changes since the start of the year. Harry and Jamie have moved on to Scouts and four new Cubs have started: Ollie, Lewis, Jack and Sam. We have several boys on the waiting-list for Cubs so, if you have a child who would like to join in the future, please put their name down when they are seven years old.

Last term the boys busied themselves with fundraising. The Cubs raised over £200 when they displayed their guys at the market. The annual Christmas card delivery raised £233, thanks to everyone who took advantage of the service. This will be used to insure our equipment.

Many thanks to Eagles, Deddington Library and Barford Post Office for having our post boxes.

The Scouts finished their £1 challenge and, from an initial investment of only £20, they raised over £400 – a fantastic result. Their efforts were many

and varied: car washing, cake making, sweet selling and even a gymkhana. Very well done to everyone who contributed. The money raised, plus the £200 from Cubs, will pay for a complete Shelterbox. We also hope to have spawned a new generation of entrepreneurs.

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

Art Club

The Sunday papers reported on fish not feeling pain, even when caught, and therefore fishing is not a cruel sport. They have receptors that work out the effect of bumping into rocks or swimming too close to others. I always liked painting fish ever since childhood days in Seaton, sea and rivers. Society depends on 'receptors' in art; different styles please different people.

I mourn the loss of Mr King who died before Christmas and who taught me much about polymers, polo ponies and sailing.

The club has models (male and female) booked for 2013 and artists are welcome –Thursdays at the Holly Tree, 9.45am for 10am and 1.30–4pm. Cost £7.50 per half day. Parking. Bus S4.

KD Wilkinson 337256

WI

On 8 January our first meeting of the new year with speaker Margaret Thomas proved to be light, interesting and entertaining. Margaret called her talk 'Aspects of Love – an entertainment', and with some love songs, monologues and conversations with appropriate accents she characterised the scene for us. Margaret gave a very relaxing talk, which was enjoyed by members. Maureen Cox gave a vote of thanks which was followed by refreshments.

Rene Mahoney 338438

Photographic Society

There was no workshop in December and, to start off the new year, the Society held a members' evening in early January when we were invited to select and present one of our own photographs. Each member was encouraged to review their image, commenting on where and how it was taken, and what they had attempted to capture and convey in the photograph. The audience then offered their comments, often with a great deal of humour, on how the image might be improved, all which proved to be both illuminating and interesting. The evening concluded with the usual review of the monthly photographic subject which, for December, was either 'birds' or 'End of the World'.

At the workshop in January, members calibrated the colour settings of their laptops, while Simon held a discussion on various photographic techniques.

... AND MORE CLUBS

The Society's next club night is on 6 February, when Roger Tapp ARPS will give a presentation entitled 'My Digital Renaissance' with monochrome and digital prints. This will be followed on 6 March by a presentation from Roger Crocombe LRPS on 'High Dynamic Range,' a process whereby photographs are given greater intensity between the lightest and darkest areas of an image.

Everyone is welcome to attend the club nights which are held at 7.30pm in the Cartwright Hotel, Aynho. Just come along, you can be assured of a warm welcome.

Richard Broadbent
338173

Deddington Original Golf Society (DOGS)

The DOGS had their Annual General Meeting on 17 January 2013 at the Deddington Arms and on a cold snowy evening nineteen DOGS turned out. It must have been the free wine!

As an outcome of the AGM the following DOGS events are planned for 2013:

Friday 3 May 2013, Tadmorton Heath Golf Club

Monday 10 June 2013, Burford Golf Club

Friday 9 August 2013, Kirtlington Golf Club

Friday 18 October 2013, Badgemore Park Golf Club

At the AGM, our Golfer of the Year for 2012 was announced. Ron Colley played particularly good golf in 2012 and his handicap will reflect this. Well done Ron.

The AGM is pleased to announce Ron Colley will be our new social secretary. Pay back already!

David Darst
338589

Deddington Town Colts

Mini football

The Under 7s and Under 6s continue to enthusiastically enjoy their football training. The Under 7s are eagerly anticipating their first friendly matches in January. The Under 9s had defeats at Bourton Rovers, Witney Vikings and Garden City but enjoyed a 3–1 win over Marsh Gibbon. The Under 10 Sharks had a good run into Christmas and are unbeaten since mid-November. This run started with a game against the league leaders, Bloxham, who were soundly beaten 3–0 thanks to a well-disciplined display of teamwork. This was followed by a goalless draw with Bourton Rovers in driving rain (it really was Bourton-on-the-Water) and a disappointing 1–1 draw with Carterton Colts. Happily the winning habit was regained for the final game of 2012, a comprehensive 6–0 victory over Charlbury Town, which included a hat-trick from Harvey Machin and a brace from Dom Bagot. There was also a straightforward cup victory to take the Sharks into the Quarter Finals, an 8–0 disposal of Hook Norton. Lucas Lluna weighed in with a hat-trick

among five different scorers.

2013 has started well. A hard-fought victory against a well-drilled Highfield side got the year off to a winning start when the Sharks scored the only goal of the game with five minutes to go, and this winning run was continued with a 5–2 victory over Ducklington to put the Sharks on top of the table outright for the first time this season. The Under 10 Cobras had an excellent run at the end of the year – a 2–2 draw with Bloxham Rangers, a 6–0 win over Brackley Athletic, and a 4–0 win over Tower Hill. In January, the Cobras had a narrow 3–2 defeat to Hanwell United and were well beaten by Launton Boys the following week.

Junior football

The Under 11s had convincing wins over Brackley Town (7–0) and Banbury Irish (5–0) and narrow defeats to Chadlington and Banbury Irish. In January the team had an entertaining 4–4 draw with Bloxham. The Under 12 Cobras have been improving, playing well as a team and always scoring goals. The lack of a permanent goalkeeper means that leads are rarely held for long, but Ben Haynes, in particular, always tries to outscore the opposition.

The Under 13s have had a poor run with heavy defeats to Grendon Rangers and Kingston Colts. This was followed by closer games, with 3–1 defeats to Brackley Athletic and Bloxham with defensive errors and poor finishing costing the team the points. The Under 15s drew 2–2 with Bampton and beat North Leigh 2–0, but suffered a 3–1 defeat to Bloxham in the knockout cup. The team also suffered a 4–1 defeat away at A-league current front runner, Tower Hill. The North Leigh result was particularly pleasing as the whole team performed to a very high standard, Chay Buckingham scoring both goals – one a penalty when he was brought down.

Sadly, the Under 17s have had to withdraw from the A-League. When the league reached a critical point before Christmas, with only five teams remaining, the team was struggling to get eleven players out on a Sunday due to work commitments and Saturday football. Many thanks to all the players who have played for the team over the past eight seasons. The effort, commitment and desire has been excellent. The trophy haul in that time was a runners-up medal from B-A league during our Under 12 campaign, and who can forget the memorable 1–0 win versus a heavily fancied Carterton at Clanfield Town FC. Will Preece performed heroics in goal and Ben Leigh provided poachers' finish, giving us the U12 League Cup ... brilliant memories! Thanks to parents for all their support over the years, it's very much appreciated. It hasn't been an easy decision to finish, but after a restless night and a few tears, the youth football journey comes to an end. Next chapter is senior football with Deddington Town FC. Good luck to all the lads in the future.

... AND EVEN MORE CLUBS

If you want to get involved with the club as player, volunteer, sponsor or fundraiser, please don't hesitate to contact us. Further information about the club is on our website – <http://www.deddingtontownfc.com/>.

**Roger Sykes, Club Welfare Officer
and Under 13 Manager 337034**

Book Club

Widely regarded as an American classic, January's book, *Revolutionary Road* by Richard Yates, is a very thought-provoking novel. The story is set in the Connecticut suburbs of New York City in 1955 and provides an interesting snapshot of the culture of this era where excessive drinking and smoking were the norm, even during pregnancy. Frank and April Wheeler, the main characters in the novel, are bored of their banal suburban lives and desperately try to extricate themselves, yearning for something better.

Yates is a good observer of people and describes them very well and there are some brilliant exchanges of dialogue between husband and wife as their marriage starts to unravel. None of the characters is particularly appealing and the storyline is rather depressing but this book is powerfully written, occasionally funny and holds your attention with some superb sentences.

The next book is *Black Diamonds* by Catherine Bailey and the next meeting 28 February.

**Sally Lambert
338094**

Deddington Town Football Club

First Team results

17.11.12	Highfield OB (a)	L 0–1
01.12.12	KEA (h)	D 2–2 Hall, Carter D
08.12.12	Woodford Utd (h)	W 2–1 Thornton L (2)
15.12.12	Swiss FC (h) (CUP)	W 3–1 Anderson, Large, England
05.01.13	Heyford Ath (h)	W 5–1 Cook, Freeman, Thornton J (3)
12.01.13	Slade Fm Utd (a) (CUP)	L 0–3

Reserve Results

17.11.12	Highfield OB R (h)	D 1–1 Kaye
08.12.12	Heyford Utd (a)	L 1–3 Dugdale
05.01.13	F Compton (a)	L 0–5
12.01.13	Bloxham (h)	L 1–3

Snow, snow all around but not a drop to drink. The orange ball, much lamented, has, alas, not been utilised, though we are sufficiently advanced in the fixture calendar to render it no more than a slight inconvenience.

The First Team still sit as pretty as a glacé cherry atop a birthday cake, waving like an indulgent monarch down at their submissive subjects. They are now three points clear of the also-rans, with second place having played two games more. A

hat-trick from Joe Thornton assisted a merciless demolition of strugglers, Heyford Athletic, the third of a triumvirate of victories that fortified the First Team's mountain stronghold. A shot across their bows was felt when eliminated from the Lord Jersey Cup by Slade Farm United, but their biggest threat seems to be complacency, or perhaps next season having an Alexander the Great-style epiphany.

The Reserves continue to plough a grinding furrow, and are kept afloat chiefly by virtue of the ineptitude of Sinclair United Reserves and Kings Sutton, who have just eight points between them, making the Reserves' eleven points from as many games look like championship form. Scoring just two goals and conceding twelve in four games is abysmal form at this stage of the season, and the season's conclusion cannot come fast enough for our struggling second team.

**Aaron Bliss
07909 642882**

Deddington Players

The show went on! *Sinbad* set sail over a snowy Oxfordshire due to the massive efforts of so many people. We'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone who helped to keep us afloat; to the cast and crew who made the unanimous decision to carry on regardless and who got out shovels and four-wheel drives to get themselves there, to the Deddington Arms and people in the village who offered accommodation for our stranded actors and actresses, to Deddington OnLine and others who publicised the fact that the show was going ahead, and of course to our audience, because without you what would be the point? Despite the weather even more people came to see us than last year. We had particular reasons for wanting to go ahead with the show this year. Deddington's 21st pantomime was a cause for some celebration. More sadly, we recently lost a founder member of the Deddington Players, director and writer of previous pantomimes, Jean Flux, and we dedicated this year's show to her memory. I hope she would have been proud of what the Players have achieved.

**Lucy Squires
338442**

Deddington and District History Society

At our January meeting we welcomed back the ever-popular Tim Healey. On this occasion his subject was the Green Man, with particular reference to depictions within Oxfordshire. The Green Man takes the form of a head with tendril-like branches emerging from eyes, nostrils, or mouth. Unlike other mythical figures such as centaurs or satyrs, which are referred to in literature, the Green Man is known only through carvings, in this country usually inside or outside

CALLING ALL CLUBS *Continued*

churches. They are among the oldest carvings that we have.

Leaf-mask figures feature in Indian temple art, which is where Tim believes that the Green Man began his existence. Depictions are also found in Greek temples dedicated to Bacchus. The Green Man probably became known in western Europe through contact with the sophisticated Islamic culture of southern Spain and north Africa. He then became westernised as the figure with which we are familiar from our churches. He fell out of favour in churches at the Reformation, only to be domesticated as a decorative feature on furniture, musical instruments and garden ornaments. He reappeared in Gothic revival churches and has enjoyed another vogue more recently with some modern artists, John Piper being a notable example. This was a fascinating talk, delivered with Tim's customary enthusiasm and panache.

On 13 February Shaun Morley will speak on 'Drunk and Riotous: the Friendly Societies of Oxfordshire'. The Deddington district is likely to feature largely in this.

We welcome anyone who cares to come to our meetings which take place on the second Wednesday of the month, 7.30pm at the Windmill Centre.

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

Three Steps to a Greener Home

Holding on to more of the heat that you pay for is a sensible way to reduce your energy bills. In an older home three key steps will help to achieve this:

Start by draught-proofing doors, windows, letter-boxes, keyholes and cat-flaps. Install extractor fans in kitchens and bathrooms so that you don't need to open windows.

You've put 270mm in the loft. Now to the walls. If they aren't cavity walls which are easily insulated, solid wall insulation may suit. Adding it externally should be easier following a recent change in planning advice. If not, internal wall insulation adds real comfort and is best installed just prior to redecorating. All these approaches are supported by the government's Green Deal.

Energy efficient glazing is now available to replace single glazing, even in original sash window frames. If upgrading isn't affordable, consider removable secondary glazing. Failing that a thick pair of curtains helps!

You can see these and other improvements in exemplar homes in March and September when SuperHomers host free events around the country. For more information and to meet a homeowner who has already had the work done, see www.superhomes.org.uk.

Gordon Glass, Gordon@superhomes.org.uk

NEWS FROM CLIFTON

Things got lively in the run up to the Druid festival of the dying sun. Councillor Collins apparently has plans for a new ATM in Clifton – at least he's got a 'hole in the wall', following a very welcoming evening the Clifton Lads 'n' dads spent in Candleford visiting five hostelrys and a restaurant. Erecting the market the next day was a subdued affair.

The cultural tour of Upper Heyford was a great success and thanks must go to Iron Man Mayo's organisational skills as fifteen of us spent three hours exploring what is set to become a major Cold War museum. Our guides took us to the Hardened Aircraft shelters where once F111 bombers stood with live nuclear weapons on six minutes' notice as part of the MAD policy of the day. Despite the Americans' constant refusal to confirm or deny that nuclear weapons were present on the base, we saw the remnants of a mural of a bomb overlaid with the atomic orbital icon used on the International Atomic Energy Authority flag.

From there we went to the Command Centre where one wall of a room was covered in aviation maps of northern Europe up to the maximum range of an F111. Many European visitors are sobered to see their own towns on the map. Then to the Central Control Centre where we reviewed rows of desks with warning lamps, switches and telephones in front of a strangely unsterilised ops board showing the call signs and crew members of the last mission. Strangely evocative and casting our minds back to a time when a few of us, starting our diplomatic careers in the sub-continent became convinced that this was how life in western Europe was going to end, and some of us would bear the responsibility of eventually returning home to rebuild and repopulate a nation. Hey ho! A full account and photos can be found on the *DN* website at http://www.deddingtonnews.co.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0015/10266/CBClub.pdf.

The traditional Clifton New Year's day walk was a sun-kissed affair as we walked along the banks of Lake Aynho, past the raging torrents of Bowman's Bridge falls and up the hill to Leadenporch Farm. Slightly fewer in number this year, no doubt affected by the fact that no business in Deddington seemed to want our money enough to open (or at least answer the phone calls) but plans for a Market Place frying of bacon sandwiches on a primus gave way to a scenic loop home.

Lastly, in line with Kevin Mayo's ability to bring torrents of rain to the Sahara, how proud were we to see Farmer George on television lecturing how Banbury's new flood defences have passed the water on to us. Just as he clearly made this point to all on *South Today*, the waters dutifully receded to give his sheep a change of address.

Martin Bryce
Martindnbryce@aol.com

My Little Linguist

It's as easy as un, deux, trois! January 2013 at Deddington Windmill Centre saw the arrival of a new toddler group where the children are learning to speak French, the youngest student being 17 months old. They sang nursery rhymes, counted to 12 and listened to stories, all in French. It may have been the first time that the children (and some of the Mums) had heard the language spoken. However it did not concern them one bit.

Children have an incredible ability to absorb new sounds and distinguish different languages from each other. It's a fact that the earlier children learn a second language the more likely they are to attain language proficiency, especially if the early learning is based on having fun.

It is good 'childhood mind medicine', say linguistic experts at Cornell University. Not only does it contribute to a child's future academic success, learning languages at a very young age gives the child a distinct advantage before starting school where, from 2014, learning a foreign language will be compulsory from the age of seven. As founder of 'My Little Linguist', I am excited about this push for earlier modern language education in our primary schools as I know that it really does work. I've seen with my own two children that from just a few months old they were able to understand and then communicate in two languages. This new fun-based development in primary education will help encourage cultural awareness, as well as give children the desire to learn other languages throughout their school life and maybe beyond.

'My Little Linguist' classes for toddlers up to the age of five years are at 2pm every Tuesday at the Windmill Centre. Visit www.mylittlelinguist.co.uk for more information.

Joanne Soddy
mylittlelinguist@yahoo.co.uk

News from Hempton

What a great bazaar for the village! The weather was cold but dry and people came out to enjoy the fare that was on offer. A record total of almost £1,500 was raised towards the running and upkeep of St John's church and hall. This money together with other funds will be used to replace several windows in the church, for which plans are already in hand, but permission has to be obtained from the diocese. Many thanks to organisers, helpers and customers who made the bazaar a profitable and enjoyable occasion.

The carol service was again well attended, with a congregation of 75, and enjoyed by everyone. Deddington church choir led the singing. Many thanks also to our team of readers, some of them children. Many stayed after the service to enjoy festive refreshments. A collection was taken and donated to Helen and Douglas House Hospice in Oxford.

The social evenings will continue on the first Friday of each month from 6.30pm. Please look out for the advertising board on the Green.

The table tennis team is once again playing in division 3 of the Banbury and District League. They have reached the halfway point in the season and their record to date is P7, W4, D1, L2, 45pts, somewhat better than last season.

Congratulations to Amy and Andrew Brent of Batchelors Row in The Lane on the birth of a daughter, Poppy, during December; also to Emma Marsden and Ashley Morrell of Middle Corner Cottage on their recent engagement.

Please be aware that thieves are once again operating in this area so lock up doors, windows and outbuildings at all times.

Les Chapell
338054

Deddington PFSU and Nursery

Christmas was celebrated with parties and decorations, crafts and performances. Thank you to everyone who joined the nursery children for their 'Journey to Bethlehem'. The room was transformed into an inn, sheep corner, angel heaven and a nomad's tent. Lots of Christmas crafts were made and everyone was able to chill out at the inn.

The PFSU children joined their friends in the F1 class for a delightful performance of *Hey Ewe* in Deddington church. Thank you to everyone who came along. We'd also like to thank the parents and grandparents who came in to nursery to share Christmas stories, the Fenemore family for the donation of our Christmas tree, and everyone who attended the PFSU decorations days. Our amazing fund-raising team raised £689 from the Christmas hamper raffle and well over £1,000 from the Christmas Fayre and Pamper Night. Huge thanks to everyone who supported us.

Not ones to rest on their laurels, the team's plans

include a jumble sale in Deddington church on Saturday 2 March (please bring items for sale to the church on Friday 1 March after 1pm), and a quiz and supper night on Saturday 2 February at 7pm (note new venue: Deddington Village Nursery). Tickets are £10 in advance from the Nursery or PFSU and include supper.

We are repeating the Formula Fast Go-Kart race on Friday 22 February at 6pm. Please contact Neil Skinner at neilskinner2011@gmail.com if you would like more details.

This term the nursery children will be thinking about people, animals and plants, and moving on to talk about people who help us. The PFSU children are learning about animals and Chinese New Year. We hope to have visits from a number of real animals so if you have a friendly pet that you could bring in to meet us, we'd love to hear from you.

Lucy Squires
337484

PRIMARY SCHOOL

The months following Christmas are usually quiet but with the term being so short and our annual school production to rehearse it is anything but quiet in school.

Our school hall is full of the sound of children singing, encouraged as always by the irrepressible Alicia Rumsby. This year we have decided to return to the first musical we performed six years ago, but this time Alicia is being even more ambitious with *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*. Alicia and staff are busy rehearsing children, making scenery and costumes, and encouraging the cast of about 150 children to make it one of the most memorable events of the school year.

Our performances, in the church, will be on 27 and 28 February and 1 March. Tickets will go on sale nearer the time.

At the time of writing the snow has stayed away although it is forecast, but we hope there will be little disruption to the smooth running of the school.

Jane Cross, Deputy Headteacher
338430

What's New on DOL in the History Section?

Parish Registers contains links on

- (a) how to obtain copies of the registers between 1813 and 1845 on CD from the Oxfordshire Family History Society (OFHS);
- (b) the chapter in Mary Vane-Turner's *A History of Deddington* with a wealth of interesting information about these old registers – including records of raising money in December 1668 ... 'for the Redeming of the Slaves in Turkie – 5s. 2d';
- (c) a BBC article on the subject of some 10,000 white slaves in the Mediterranean area in the 17th Century.
- (d) Gifts and Enhancements to the Parish Church in the 19th century.

Graves and other Memorials contains links to

- (a) list of graves and locations in the new graveyard (lower churchyard from 1907–72)
- (b) locations of all military graves in the parish.

The OFHS has recently completed a major exercise recording all memorials and graves in the church and both of its adjacent churchyards, ie not including the Hempton Road cemetery. This will soon be available for purchase on an OFHS CD or will be viewable in the church at the internet café. Watch this space for notice of when it becomes available.

Gallery

Mary Robinson has undertaken the massive task of loading hundreds of pictures acquired via *DN* and *DOL* over the years into the Gallery in a number of new albums. So far they include Activities Miscellaneous, Clifton (inc a sub-album of pictures from Donald Wel-ford), country fair 1938, craft group, hunts, Hempton, parish flower shows and WI.

More will follow.

Rob Forsyth
robert.s.forsyth@gmail.com

PRIMARY SCHOOL PTA

Happy New Year! We hope that everyone has had a lovely holiday season. We would like to thank everyone who supported Santa and his helpers as they made their way around Barford, Hempton, Clifton and Deddington over the weekend of 8-9 December. We managed to collect a whopping £851.19 which, when added to the money raised at the Christmas Farmers' Market and from selling the children's Christmas cards, has brought our festive fund-raising to a great total of more than £1,400. At the time of writing the snowy weather is a good deal more festive than the perpetual rain that we endured over the Christmas period, so huge thanks to everyone who turned out to help or support us.

So onward into the new year and a host of fantastic upcoming events – some new and some old favourites. We have our annual quiz on Friday 22 February in the British Legion. Tickets will be £5 which will include a delicious selection of snacks. Please contact Annabelle at ask@cherry-lets.co.uk for further information or to register a team. It's bound to be a great evening so book early to avoid missing out.

On 16 March we are organising an evening of music featuring Tim Friers and the Mercenaries. Doors open at Barford Village Hall at 7.30pm. Come and join us for an evening of entertainment. More information and tickets are available from Lucie.

On 23 March we will be running an Easter Egg Hunt and Teddy Bears Picnic for the children at school - chocolatey, eggy and lots of fun! Hopefully by then, spring will be well and truly sprung and we can look forward to some sunshine.

Lucie Sydenham and Jo Watt
Co-Chair Deddington PTA
luciesydenham@aol.co.uk

Christmas Card Recycling

Deddington Library is collecting Christmas cards for recycling into gift tags by Katharine House Hospice. From now until Saturday 9 February just drop off your unwanted old cards at the library and drop into our collecting box. KHH make a significant amount of money each year from recycling cards into gift tags which are then sold; this is one small way of helping raise money while having a clear out.

There are only two things we ask:

Please only bring your cards during opening hours; do not leave them at the door or post through our letterbox when we are closed. The cards will be ruined either by rain or pests, and this will create more work for us.

Please remove the back of the card with the printed greeting and written messages. Only the front of the card with the picture will be used. This saves the volunteers who make the gift tags valuable time. Your co-operation is greatly appreciated.

Happy New Year!

Stella and Joelle