

the Deddington news

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We are fortunate to live in a highly desirable community with terrific amenities, given our local population. We all have a responsibility to support them as much as we can. There is a great deal of work going on behind the scenes on our behalf but please don't be complacent and leave it all to others. See pp 2, 6 and 17. **JC**

APRIL

- Tue 1 Hempton Ladies: Church Hall, 2.00pm
Wed 2 Photo Society: AGM and John Credland, 'Audio Visuals', Cartwright Hotel, Aynho, 7.00pm
Thu 3 Community Concert Rehearsal (Deddington Festival): Parish Church, 7.30pm
Fri 4 Hempton Social Night: Hempton Church Hall, 7.00pm
Mon 7 Monday Morning Club: Coffee Morning, Holly Tree, 10.30am
Mon 7 Writing Competition: Closing date for juniors, see p15
Tue 8 WI: Alan Brewer, 'Above the Clouds and Fluffy Bits', Holly Tree Club, 7.30pm
Wed 9 History Society: Martin Way, 'Roses and Castles', Windmill Centre, 7.30pm
Thu 10 Monday Morning Film Club: Film tba, Holly Tree, 6.30pm
Thu 10 Friends of Daeda's Wood: AGM, Deddington Arms, 7.30pm
Fri 11 Flower Arranging: Pre-workshop, Parish Church, 10am
Fri 11 Baby and Toddler Group: Easter Egg Hunt, Windmill Centre, 10am-12pm
Sat 12 RBL: Cash Prize Bingo, RBL Hall, 8.00pm
Sat 12 1st Deddington Scout Group: Treasure Hunt Competition
Mon 14 Writing Competition: Closing date for adults, see p15
Wed 16 Parish Council Meeting: Hempton Church Hall, 7.30pm
Wed 16 Photo Society: Workshop, 'Sensor Sensitivity and White Balance', Cartwright Hotel, Aynho, 7.30pm
Thu 17 Children's Activities: Parish Church, 10am-12.30pm
Thu 24 Book Club Meeting: Call 338094 for information, 7.30pm
Sat 26 1st Deddington Scout Group: St George's Day Parade, time tba
Sat 26 Farmers' Market: Market Place, 9.00am-12.30pm
Sat 26 Friends of Deddington Church: Calypso Evening with Supper, Parish Church, 6.30pm
Sat 26 Beeches Bowls Club: Skittles evening, RBL Hall, 8.00pm
Sun 27 Deddington Tennis Club: Junior Tennis Tournament, Windmill Centre, 1.45pm
Wed 30 DN collating: Windmill Centre (upstairs), 10.00am
Wed 30 Concert: African Children's Choir, Parish Church, 7.00pm

MAY

- Thu 1 Concert: African Children's Choir, Parish Church, 7.00pm
Fri 2 DOGS: 18 holes and lunch, Wychwood Golf Course
Fri 2 Hempton Social Night: Hempton Church Hall, 7.00pm
Mon 5 Monday Morning Club: Coffee Morning, Holly Tree, 10.30am
Wed 7 Annual Parish Meeting: Windmill Centre, 7.30pm

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

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DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting in the Windmill Centre on Wed 19 March 2014

Present were Cllrs Anderson, Boulter, Collins (Chair), Cox, Day, Flux, Oldfield, O'Neill, Rogers, Squires, Watts, Wood (Vice Chair). Also District Councillor O'Sullivan and several members of the public.

Planning: Some time was spent discussing an application for floodlighting two tennis courts at the Windmill Centre. Representative residents were concerned by the possible adverse effect on their quality of life. They already put up with a significant number of stray balls and would not welcome the intrusion of floodlights in the winter. This matter has already come before the Council and it was agreed that the same response be adopted, ie that lights be turned off by 9.00pm, that telescopic lighting should be investigated, that the Tennis Club make the courts more accessible to the public, and that lights should be restricted to a maximum of four nights a week.

Still on the subject of floodlights, we are reminded that the PC currently subsidises the illumination of the Church by 50%. Special sponsorship in memory of loved ones can be offered to the Friends of Deddington Church.

Finance and General Planning: The Co-op has offered £750 towards the work on the village green.

Lorraine Watling was congratulated on passing her Certificate in Local Council Administration – we now have a super-qualified Parish Clerk.

Environment and Recreation: The new rules for the cemetery have been adopted and will be reviewed in 2015. Fees will be decided at the next PC meeting.

Highways and Transport: Hempton gates have arrived.

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

The bus stop outside the Manor in New Street is having some hard-standing installed by OCC.

Blocked drains in Horse Fair and Market Place have been cleared. The working group will undertake a periodic inspection of drains and gullies. Otherwise, blockages can be reported to maurice.sheehan@oxfordshire.co.uk. Less welcome news is that the OCC budget for transport is set to be cut in half over the next few years (£2 million). This will probably mostly affect bus services. The current Dial-a-Ride scheme runs out on 31 March. Users will need to renew their subscriptions. OCC transport staff would like to hear from disabled bus passengers and others who have difficulty using buses. Are the bus stops user-friendly? What improvements could be made?

The Town Hall (Deddington Charity Estates) is to be rendered in July. This means that there may be problems with the Christmas tree lights again, as no extraneous boxes will be allowed on the new surface.

Local elections for PC and Cherwell District take place on 22 May 2014 at the Windmill Centre. New candidates for the PC would be especially welcome. If you are interested, please speak to the Parish Clerk (337447) or visit CDC's website and follow the appropriate links. There is also information on DOL.

Next PC meeting:

Wed 16 April 7.30pm at Hempton Church Hall

Annual Parish Meeting of Residents:

7 May 7.30pm at the Windmill Centre

Annual Parish Council Meeting:

20 May 7.30pm at the Windmill Centre

Friends of Deddington Library

This week saw significant progress in our battle to save Deddington Library. Following our volunteers evening in January after OCC had firmed up their re-organisation and we had a further gauging of support, the Parish Council led a meeting of the interim campaign committee where a number of key decisions were taken. The Friends of Deddington Library will constitute itself as a charity as soon as a preliminary charter and articles of association can be drafted. (We are looking at documents from other library groups). We will seek a subscription-based membership, which will be payable monthly by standing order or direct debit, and a 200 club has also been suggested. Sponsorship will be sought from local businesses with the advertising benefits this will bring.

We have secured the domain name FriendsOfDeddingtonLibrary.org and will be posting updates, emailing various communications and giving a portal for our community to interact with the group. We will launch a membership drive in the next few weeks and we

hope our currently 'signed up' volunteers can help us increase the membership. We will also open a bank account as soon as the charity registration is complete.

I have used the expressions 'interim' and 'preliminary' because when we have a sufficient body of members we will hold a General Meeting of that membership to agree the constitution, elect a committee and plan the next steps. We currently see the funds raised initially securing more professional Library staff time, thus making the facility available for all. Volunteers will continue to be required to work alongside professional staff (and be available should there be any funding gaps) so we will also be seeking to increase the number of volunteers we have. This is an exciting time for the Library and I certainly feel this gives us a firm direction to build upon. We look forward to seeing you 'on-board'.

Alan Collins
alanraycollins@gmail.com

THE TASTE BUDDIES

We are the Taste Buddies. We lunch out every two months to assess local pubs and restaurants. We hope you will find our observations useful.

WHERE?

The Milk Shed, Manor Farm, Weston-on-the-Green, OX25 3QL, phone 351387

This place is a little hard to find and very badly signposted, but well worth the effort. It is situated in the middle of a farm which has converted many of the buildings into other businesses.

FOOD SERVED

Every day except Mondays

Weekdays: 9.00am–5.00pm

Saturdays and Sundays: 10.00–4.00pm

NB: they do not serve dinners

AVERAGE COST

Starters £5.00–£7.00

Mains £8.00–£10.00

Desserts £5.00

WERE THEY PLEASED TO SEE YOU?

Yes, the staff were very pleasant and helpful.

WAS THE COOKING GOOD?

The Milk Shed is a very casual farm conversion, rustic with a hotch-potch of home-made furniture. The menu is fairly small, with a specials board changing each day.



The food is mainly all day breakfasts, salads, sandwiches, soups and quiches, plus superb ice-cream and a small range of desserts, cakes and cookies. Everything is home-made and superb quality.

We had smoked haddock chowder with pancetta £6.95, sirloin of beef on a watercress salad on toasted ciabatta with horseradish cream £9.50, hot chicken salad with a selection of

superb salads and basil mayonnaise £8.50.

We had ice-cream at £3.50 for dessert from a huge selection, but there were also knickerbocker glory £5.00, banana split £5.00 and buttermilk pancakes.

There was a range of coffee, tea and soft drinks and a children's menu.

There is a small store selling cheeses and other more unusual delicacies.

Drinks licence is being applied for.

VALUE FOR MONEY?

Most excellent value for money. The portions were large and very well presented. Lucie Greenwood who runs it was a professional chef and it really shows.

WOULD YOU GO AGAIN?

Most definitely. An excellent place for a late Sunday breakfast/brunch or to take children or just a pleasant casual place for a good breakfast or lunch.

Deddington PFSU and Village Nursery

The appearance of some spring weather at last has turned our thoughts to the great outdoors.

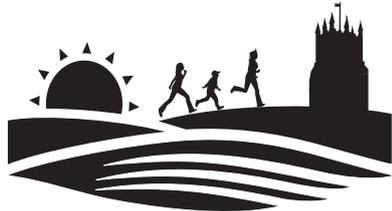
The PFSU children have been out on the School field looking for signs of spring, and we also went for some walks around the village and took photographs of what we saw. The Nursery children are developing their mud kitchen for lots of messy play throughout the summer.

Easter is fast approaching and we have a good take-up of places at our popular holiday club. This runs from 7 to 11 April with lots of Easter-themed fun.

Our jumble sale was a great success with around £1,300 being raised for the PFSU and Nursery. Huge thanks to everyone who helped to organise it or who came to buy. Watch out for us at the April Farmers' Market where we will be raffling an amazing spring hamper.

We are also looking ahead to the Four Farms Challenge on Sunday 18 May. This is a 5K and 10K and children's fun run around Deddington Parish organised in conjunction with the Primary School PTA and the Deddington Fire Service. It will start and finish at Castle Grounds where there will be a barbecue, bar, tombola, cakes and popcorn. No excuse not to train now the rain has stopped.

Lucy Squires
337484



**DEDDINGTON FOUR FARMS
CHALLENGE**

Sunday 18th May 2014

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

Registration is now open
visit www.fourfarmschallenge.co.uk
email: info@fourfarmschallenge.co.uk







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

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

Wed 2 10.00am Eucharist
 Thu 3 2.00pm Squeals and Wheels
 Sun 6 10.30am First Sunday
 6.30pm Choral Evensong
 Wed 9 10.00am Eucharist
 Thu 10 2.00pm Squeals and Wheels
 Sun 13 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
 10.30am Sung Eucharist
 Wed 16 10.00am Eucharist
 Thu 17 2.00pm Squeals and Wheels
 7.00pm Passover meal followed by
 Holy Communion Wesleyan
 Church, Gethsemane Sequence
 Stripping of the Altars and Vigil
 until midnight
 Sun 27 9.30am Eucharist followed by
 10.20am Interactive café
 Mon 28 6.00pm Eucharist: St George
 Tue 29 6.00pm Eucharist: St Mark
 Wed 30 10.00am Eucharist

St John's, Hempton

Sun 6 9.00am Eucharist
 Sun 27 6.00pm Evensong

Barford St Michael

Sun 6 10.30am Eucharist
 Sun 13 10.30am Family Eucharist
 Sun 27 4.00pm Evensong

Easter weekend services for all churches are provided on the enclosed card

From the Parish Registers*Baptisms*

9 March Nelly Nico Spellman
 Ethan Rodney Cattle Montpetit

Funerals

6 March Pauline Farley
 7 March Elizabeth Clarke
 21 March Viv Taylor

Service of Thanksgiving

15 March John Neild
 20 March Joan Measures

For baptisms, weddings, funerals or home visits in case of illness, please contact the Vicar, the Revd Dr Hugh White, 28 Duns Tew (349869), 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**Pastor Isabel Walton 337157**

Sunday mornings at 10.30am: Pastor Isabel Walton except 27 April George Pearce

RC Parish of Hethe with Adderbury**Fr John Burns 277396****Parish Deacon Rev R Hughes 01295 720869**

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

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

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

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

NEWS FROM HEMPTON

On a positive note the new traffic calming gates are now in place at the west end of the village which should slow vehicles as they approach the Duns Tew-Barford road junction. On the downside two vehicles parked near the green at the end of the Duns Tew road have had their bodywork scratched during daylight hours so be on your guard. We still await the new noticeboard.

The table tennis team won three more matches recently but, with the season finishing on 17 April and six more games to play, they could be playing twice a week to finish their matches.

The Parish Council will hold their monthly meeting on 16 April in the Church hall at 7.30pm. Please go along if you have anything to say.

There will be two special Easter services at St John's. On Good Friday, 18 April, there will be a short service of meditation at 12.15pm followed by lunch, and on 19 April there will be the vigil and service of

light at 8.30pm. This is partly outdoors when the new fire is lit, and part in candlelight.

At a recent committee meeting the Friends of the Church decided to have the hall redecorated and to replace the old wooden railings at the front of the Church with galvanised metal ones which will match those already in place on the other side of the building.

A special welcome to some new families who have moved into the village recently. Mary and her dog Stella in Batchelors Row, and Gordon and Donna Newton with their three children, Daisy, Rosie and Jago, who have moved into the Old Barn in College Court, plus others in St John's Way.

As a result of my research about the school, I think it would be nice to refer to the hall as the Old Schoolroom which it was called when I first came to the village. If you have any thoughts on this please give me a call.

Les Chappell 338054

DOWN ON GEORGE'S FARM

What a difference a few dry sunny days can make, as I sit and bash this out between my night duty rounds of the ovine maternity ward. The tide in the Clifton sea has (for the moment) turned and the flood water is draining away, but it will be some time yet before the old dears can return to the river valley meadows as we have a great deal of rubbish to pick up as timber, glass bottles, plastic, tin cans, car tyres and, believe it or not, a fridge have all been dumped by the raging torrent that has poured across our so-called wildlife environmental sensitive meadow land since the beginning of December. But disposing of this visible pollution will be the easy bit. The real question is how long will it take to remove the invisible pollution that has settled out of the river water over the last three months. Our masters, in their wisdom, have come up with a few pearls of advice. We are told, as if we didn't already know, that any land that has been flooded by river water will have been contaminated by sewage and as they put it 'other contaminants' and we should consider selling our livestock and restocking when conditions improve. The fact that these all seeing 'movers and shakers' seem to have overlooked is that a large proportion of the summer feeding land in southern England has been flooded with river water.

Over the last few weeks our Prime Minister has stated that money was no object when it came to protecting homes and businesses from flooding and he announced a £10 million farm recovery fund with the maximum of £5,000 to be claimed by any one farming business. On the face of it a very generous starting point but, as usual, the devil is in the detail. To qualify you must first be in an area designated by the Environment Agency as 'a flood area', all work must be undertaken by DEFRA approved contractors as there is no mechanism to make payments direct to farmers, and no work can be started until the project has been rubber-stamped by the mandarins of DEFRA. In reality £5,000 won't go very far in the recovery of a farming business that has lost everything, but national press headlines of a £10 million farm recovery fund is a nice little earner in political propaganda: nice one Dave.

Over the last month or two I have given a number of press and radio interviews about the effects of the flooding on farming. During one of these open-ended local radio debates, the comment was made that 'it's only farmland' and it should be flooded before homes and businesses, even when they have been built in the flood plain. These comments were by an Environment Agency spokesperson. Perhaps the EA should remember that it's only farmland that keeps the supermarket shelves full.

By the time this has scraped past the editor's red pencil, the mad scramble in the maternity ward should be coming to an end and the ground that is destined for spring cropping will be warm and dry enough to plant. Although we have experienced a very wet winter period, the wildlife on the farm has come through

in fine form, with many of our farmland birds sorting out their breeding territory. Despite my concerns about the return of the curlew, the water levels dropped off just in time and we have five pairs looking for nesting sites in the valley. The partridge have come through the winter well and we have both grey and redlegs paired up ready for the off, although it is never a good idea to start counting the bees until the 'blackthorn winter' is over. The warm sunny days of late have brought them out to collect pollen from hazel and alder catkins and early spring flowers, which is a good indication that the queens have started to build up their brood chambers. So it won't belong before it's time to dig out the smoker and veil to sort them out ready for the coming season. Well, it's 2.00am and off on another round of the lambing sheds.



George Fenemore
338203

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36 High Street

Banbury OX16 5ER

www.banburyhearingcentre.co.uk

FROM THE EDITOR'S POSTBAG

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

FROM CHRISTOPHER HALL,
PHILCOTE STREET

A Host of Hosts Needed

Host UK <http://www.hostuk.org.uk/> promotes international friendship and understanding by arranging for international students studying in the UK to spend a day, weekend or Christmas in a British home. At any one time there are 600 students waiting for a visit, and some have been on the waiting list since November last year. We know from experience how worthwhile it is to have Chinese students staying with us over Christmas in years past. Festivals are the season when families withdraw into their own circles, leaving visitors from abroad too often shut out. At the most mercenary level it is those overseas students who return home with a warm personal experience of British people who are more inclined to 'Buy British'. If you feel you would make a good host or if you have any questions, do get in touch on 0207 739 6292 or emma@hostuk.org.

FROM GILL CHARLIE AND SUE STEVENS

Josephine Margaret Stevens

Gill, Charlie, Sue and family thank you for your messages, letters and cards of sympathy on the loss of their devoted mother, grandmother and great grandmother. They also appreciated your attendance at her Service of Thanksgiving at St Peter and St Paul's Church, Deddington on Wednesday 26 February. Your presence with them on this sad occasion was a great comfort.

Their thanks are also extended to: the Revd Dr Hugh White for his support and for conducting the services at the Crematorium and Church with such compassion; the Revd Dr Dan Inman and Ruth Johnson for their readings; the organist and choir and their beautiful rendition of the anthem; those who worked in the kitchen; Mrs Gill Cozens for the floral display in the porch; those who prepared the Church; JJ Catering; J and M Humphris Funeral Services; and all who helped to make this sad occasion memorable.

Calling All Employers ...

The Business and Economy topic group of the Neighbourhood Planning team is trying to contact employers across the parish.

We want your views on the benefits and difficulties in running your organisation and we would appreciate your time in completing a short questionnaire to help us understand what works and what doesn't for you as an employer. If you haven't already received this questionnaire, please contact David Rogers, david@blueskyday.biz or 337065.



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

FROM VIVIANE HALL,
PHILCOTE STREET

Traidcraft Cleans Up

In the early 1900s, palm oil was one of West Africa's biggest exports, a major source of income for farmers. Demand far outstripped supply, so vast plantations were developed across the Far East to produce cheaper palm oil. The environment suffers because of these large plantations – whole areas of rainforest, the habitats of endangered species, are still being destroyed.

Now Traidcraft is supporting farmers in Ghana to produce 'Fair Palm' oil in a way that supports small-holder farmers and protects the environment, by launching the 'Clean and Fair' range. Because palm oil is so widely used, there's loads of potential to help poor communities.

Visit the Deddington Fairtraders' stall at the Farmers' Market for 'Clean and Fair' handwash, washing-up liquid, laundry liquid and all-purpose cleaner. Orders for these and other goods in the Traidcraft catalogue should now be sent to me at deddingtonfairtrading@gmail.com.

FROM JUDY WISE, MARKETING OFFICER
BANBURY AND BICESTER COLLEGE

Re: College in the Community

Banbury and Bicester College has worked with and for the local community for many years. In order to further our provision of part-time and adult courses, we have launched our 'College in the Community' campaign.

The purpose of the campaign is to consult as many of our community's schools, businesses, family centres etc as possible, in order to establish which courses they would like to attend in the college or in the community provision.

This is the first time that we have consulted this widely with Banbury, Bicester and the surrounding villages and we hope your readers are able to take part.

The survey can be completed online by visiting: www.banbury-bicester.ac.uk/community.

Every completed entry will be entered automatically into a free prize draw, where entrants could win a three-course meal in our restaurant, cut and style in our salon, or one of many iTunes vouchers.

The survey will close at the end of April, and the information gathered will be used to influence the types of courses that we will offer, starting in the summer term of this year.

We thank everyone for taking part, and helping us to develop and grow our college.

Recipes from the Past

Revealing Some Family History and a Connection to Deddington

The first part of this series was produced in our March issue, available at www.deddingtonnews.co.uk

Part 2

Sisters Catherina Rolls and Mary Weston lived their lives pretty close to each other. The Rolls family lived in Weston-on-the-Green, and Mary initially lived in Bloxham with her first husband, Humphrey Bloxham, whom she had married in 1774. They would have been in close contact with their parents, the Rev Lionel Lampet and his wife, Elizabeth, at Steeple Aston until their deaths in 1796 and 1806 respectively. Catherina's

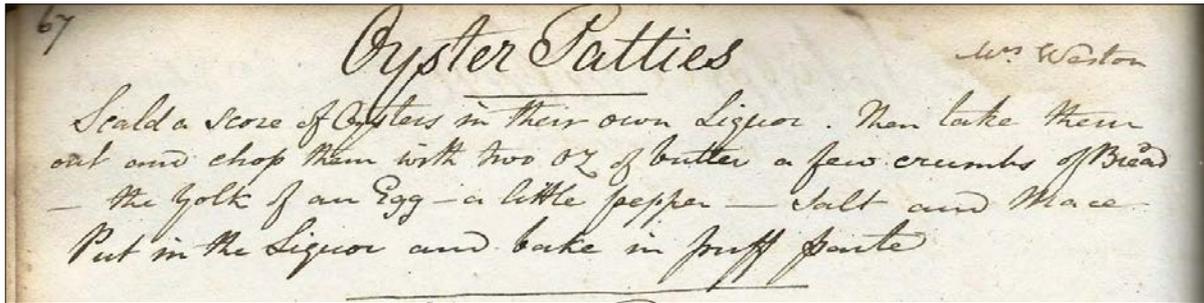
pies, soups and stews. Supplies dwindled into the 20th century and now oysters are highly prized.

After Mary's death in 1831, her furniture and household goods were put up for auction, advertised in Oxford's *Jackson's Journal* in November 1840.

It would be great to identify her home along from the Deddington Arms into the Bullring. If a reader wishes to get in touch about it, I would be most grateful.

Jill Adams

jill@jilltustian.co.uk



husband, Thomas Rolls, also died in 1806, thus bringing the families even closer together.

Mary's husband died in 1782. She then married Robert Weston in 1796 at Weston-on-the-Green. Robert was from an established family in the Aynho and Brackley area. He too had been married before. He had a son who appears to have been working in Deddington with Churchill and Field, solicitors, for a while. Robert was a land agent for the Cartwrights in Aynho and, along with John Davis of Bloxham, was responsible for some local enclosures including Deddington in 1808. Robert and Mary most likely resided in Aynho until his death in 1814, after which she came to live in Deddington. I have found Mary Weston paying Land Tax in Deddington from 1819 until her death in 1831. She was listed as an owner/occupier but actual properties are not generally identified. The present Weston House did appear the most obvious choice of residence for her but recently I found a 'for sale' advert in the *Banbury Guardian* of November 1840 which shows that her property 'late in the occupation of Mrs Weston' was 'near to the Kings Arms and a few yards from the church'. The advert also states that behind the house are a good garden and orchard, the latter backing into a public road. I imagine that to be Earl's Lane. Mary had left her house to her sister Catherina Rolls but she died in 1839 and the property most likely passed to her surviving daughter, Rebecca, who at that time lived well away from Deddington so the house was advertised for sale.

The recipe book offers the following from Mary Weston:

In the 19th century, oysters were plentiful and cheap. They were used to bulk out dishes such as

Friends of Deddington Church

Floodlight Sponsor

Week commencing 21 April

In memory of Rhona Rogers



Preparing for Spring Activities
for primary schoolchildren aged 5-11
at Deddington Parish Church, 10-12.30pm

**Crafts, cooking, chess
and other games**

Thursday, 17 April

Cost £2 per child

Application forms and inquiries to:

Sarah Boss 338536

Liz Coppin 338721

Ingrid Robey 337347

Additional forms at the Church

**To guarantee a place, applications to be
returned by Monday, 14 April**

2014 festival deddington

Deddington | Clifton | Hempton
"THE SPIRIT LIVES ON"

The 12th annual Deddington Festival will take place between Thursday 12 June and Sunday 22 June 2014. It will be a fun-packed ten days with many new additions to the programme. The Festival offers a range of innovative music, performing and visual arts events. This year for the first time the Festival has introduced three new talent competitions, appealing to all ages and interests. Highlights of this year's programme include:

World Scary Film Premiere

9pm Friday 13 June, Deddington Parish Church

Deddington was the location for the filming of a comedy horror film in 2013 and the director, Tony Joppia, is a resident. The film will receive its world premiere at 9pm on Friday 13 June at Deddington Church, certificate 15. *Free*

Deddington Rocks

Saturday 14 June from 12pm, Market Place

One of the Festival's major events returns, with a line up of bands playing outside in the Market Place in front of audiences of 300+ people, with a barbeque, beers

and bands from 5pm onwards. This year Deddington Rocks starts earlier, from 12pm with street food stalls, supporting bands and acts, in the lead up to the main concert that evening. *Free*

Cotswold Comedy Club

Thursday 19 June, 8pm, Windmill Centre

Cotswold Comedy Club brings three professional comedians from the world of stand-up comedy to rural Oxfordshire. You might not have seen them on the television, you may never have heard of them but they will make you laugh. *Adults £10, £6 for under 16s*

Jazz & Jam

Friday 20 June, 8pm, Deddington Parish Church

'Jazz and Jam' offers jazz fans a selection of music from Sweet Chorus, a tribute to Stefan Grappelli and the Hot Club of France, plus Stekpanna and Friends - contemporary jazz with English, Swedish and Russian accents. *Tickets: £10*

Komedy of Errors

Sunday 22 June, 5pm, Windmill Centre

Presented by Circus Berzercus, Komedy of Errors is a mad-cap family circus show, starring Gerald the gentleman juggler, precise, short-tempered and vain, and Wallace the circus trainee, inexperienced, irreverent and child-like. The show contains music, dazzling juggling, daring unicycling, mystifying magic and hilarious comedy ... audience participation required. *Tickets: £8, discounts £6, children £5, family ticket £25*

For the full list of art, poetry, musical and family events and ticket information please visit www.deddingtonfestival.org.uk. Follow us on Facebook and Twitter @DeddyFest.

Amalie Craig

amalie@amaliecraigpr.co.uk

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BLISSFUL THINKING

You're not able to surf social networks these days without a tidal wave of 'personal advertising' based on your browsing preferences. NASA can track a small robot's movements on distant planets, cold callers know exactly when you're having dinner, the NSA and GCHQ can examine your questionable adult content in the name of 'counter-terrorism', but apparently a passenger jet can vanish into thin air without explanation.

There have been a number of rational and outlandish potential reasons postulated for the mystifying evanescence of MH370: pirates; mid-air disintegration; alien abduction; flying through a rift in the space-time continuum; but the investigation is seemingly no closer to conclusion, and the langoliers are rumoured to be on their way. Some ribald wags have suggested the pilot may have been less than a consummate professional, hurling jet fuel on the fire of speculation as to possible contributors to the mystery.

Far be it for this impartial commentator to note that the diligent licensing folks at the BAA would surely not have let such an allegedly disreputable figure get past their excellent filters. Scooby Doo, where are you?

Aaron Bliss, aaronjbliss@hotmail.com

NEWS FROM CLIFTON

I start with some grave news. Chris, who was introduced to you in the last *DN*, has so far failed to arrive at book club. When cycling to Kings Sutton station on 18 February at 5.10am he was knocked down by a metallic green SUV of the Rav4/Hyundai type. We still have the green mirror can. Fortunately he is on the mend. Despite Chris looking like an accident in a day-glow paint factory, he was laid low by some poor driving. But the driver not stopping – this is a serious crime. Not stopping to assist Chris is a breathtaking lack of humanity and if the driver didn't realise they hit someone then they need to hand in their keys and start taking the bus. Someone knows something and, if it's you, do the right thing as you would hope others would do if it was you or one of your loved ones.

Steve's stag weekend was truly epic. Read this with *Little Green Bag* playing in your head to protect the guilty.

It started badly with minibus driver, Micky Chan, being an hour late. This gave Mr Blue and Mr White the chance to buy some Jägermeister and Red Bull

DEDDINGTON 150 YEARS AGO

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

8th April – The new Vicar, the Rev. James Turner, made his appearance here and was shown over the Vicarage by Mr. Scroggs, the Churchwarden. Willy saw him twice during the day, but on the whole was not favourably impressed by him.

M. Tudor, formerly of Little Tew, had previously called and said he had been sent by the Dean of Windsor to see the place but he declined it, having described the Vicarage and premises as a howling wilderness.

16th April – I wrote to Mrs. Brogden again informing her of her son William's arrival here for the purpose of throwing himself on the Parish. Since his Father's death and his own liberation from Cold Bath Field's prison after two years incarceration therein – for daring a robbery. We were aroused between 3 & 4 o'clock this morning by a Cry of Fire on the premises of Power, the Cooper, which was in due time subdued, having consumed his workshop and tools – the property of Mrs. Williams, widow. The loss to Power was from £90 to £100 for tools and stock in trade consumed. I called and promised to give him something towards his loss, and set a subscription on foot for him.

23rd April – Our new Vicar, Mr. James Turner, arrived by the midday train and was duly inducted to the Living by the Rev. A. Malcolm [from *Duns Tew*]. He is of Dublin University, a married man with 4 children, he lunched with us and agreed to dine with us tomorrow.

27th April – I called on Mr. Turner and gave him a proper receipt for the money the Bishop ordered the Churchwardens to pay me for our services during the vacancy of the Living, he came and lunched. I wrote to Mrs. Brogden again and informed her of her son's illness.

Buffy Heywood

that was drunk by the first 'comfort stop'.

Shirley Bassey's birth place saw dancing until the early hours when hunger pangs required a visit to Dorothy's on Charlotte Street, or Chip Lane as it is known locally for its internationally acclaimed chicken curry and chips.

A roll call on Saturday by brothers White and Blue accounted for stragglers. The arrival of Mr Yellow before breakfast saw us going off to 4x4, quad bikes and shooting. Mr Grey showed his cultural expertise with firearms while two Land Rovers were stuck in the woods. The first contained the stag and there was concern as to how losing or breaking the groom could be explained to Annie – but he was returned smiling. Then off to the comedy club and Oceania where Mr Pink gave dancing demonstrations and by the end only Uncle Mustard didn't dance. Cardiff is a friendly and welcoming place and the memories will last a long time.

Book club has a new book, *As I Remember* by George Harris, a roller-coaster tale of living in Clifton in the early 1900s, up to and beyond working at Cowley before emigrating to Australia in 1969. This was introduced to us by Rob Forsyth. It is a must read for Clifton residents and local historians and is available for £10 next Farmers' Market or ask me.

Oh, and Una Stubbs is coming back into our lives and not just as Sherlock Holmes' housekeeper.

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



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From The Fire Station

Things have started to calm down now after the hectic time we have had since the beginning of the year, with only two chimney fires so far this month. We have been called to a few nasty road traffic crashes (RTCs). One was between a car and a Luton van on the hill just outside Deddington going towards Adderbury. I have been asked by several people why we had three fire engines at this incident. At all incidents we will always over resource rather than under because you never know how an incident will develop and, when lives are at risk, we have to build in safety margins. To my knowledge we have never had someone that we have rescued ask why there was so many fire fighters there. We had to remove the roof of the car for two older adult casualties who went off to hospital. This all happened within the golden hour, which is the statistical life-critical time in which to get a casualty from time of injury to hospital. The van driver who ended up in the field luckily managed to walk away without injury.

We were also called to a fuel leak at a local petrol station. The turnout ticket read 'vehicle leaking fuel - one vehicle has left the pump whilst still attached. What actually happened was the vehicle had a trailer and had caught it on the pump hose whilst leaving the station. The station attendant quickly managed to isolate the pump from inside the building which made our job of cleaning up the spillage a much easier task.

We have been doing quite a lot of RTC drills and

training recently and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone at Smiths recycling yard and Banbury Plant Hire for allowing us to come down and make a real mess of the cars there. They will bend and buckle them to make it hard for us to gain entry. Without these guys it would make life very difficult for us do the training we need and they do it all free of charge, so a big thank you to them.

Watch Manager Chris Fenemore has just had his two yearly assessment on incident command and passed with an average mark of 90% which I can tell you is a very high pass mark for this kind of assessment. You have to watch a video of an incident which is interactive. You can walk around the incident and make decisions and deploy resources as you see fit. People play different roles and the incidents are never straightforward. There is usually someone trapped in a burning building and there is always a moral dilemma, created by introducing a gas cylinder or a building in a state of collapse, something that will go against our policies and procedures. Our risk philosophy is, 'In a highly calculated way we will take some risk to save saveable life. We may take some risk to save saveable property. We will not take any risk at all to try to save lives or property that are already lost'. So a big well done to him because if you don't pass, you can't take the fire engine out in charge until you have done lots of training and re-taken the assessment.

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

Crew Manager Tim Parker

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Musical Notes

With the Easter celebrations in the Church and the spring holidays not far off, April will have no formal musical concerts. There is a Friends of Deddington Church event at the end of the month, Saturday 26 April, which combines supper with a lively Calypso Band.

There is much to look forward to in May. A weekend of music on the 10th and 11th starts with the Warriner Choral Society bringing Bach's *Magnificat* and Handel's Coronation Anthems, followed by the Aronowitz Ensemble on the Sunday evening. We are fortunate indeed to have this outstanding international septet of strings and piano coming to Deddington. It includes local pianist Tom Poster. Put this in your diary now.

More details of these and other events in the May DN.

Donald Lane

Donald199@btinternet.com

HOUSING THREAT TO THE CASTLE GROUNDS



Picture Richard Broadbent

A planning application by Banner Homes Limited to build 26 houses on the field called 'The Poplars' between Clifton Road and the Castle Grounds has been submitted to Cherwell District Council. No further information was available on the CDC website at the time of writing, so the housing mix is uncertain, as it was at the November exhibition.

The proposals raise various issues:

- The dangerous precedent of seeking to build on a green open space within the Conservation Area.
- Harm to the setting of the Castle Grounds which are a Scheduled Ancient Monument: the rural northward outlook from the Inner Bailey mound and the northern embankment, which directly overlook The Poplars, would be replaced by regimented modern housing and the sight of rear garden clutter (eg sheds, washing lines, junk).

- Does Deddington need another, most likely 'dormitory', housing development when the Prudential/Pegasus site, allowed on appeal, will provide 85 houses, including 29 'affordable' homes?

- The housing would block the fine view from the Clifton Road of the tree lined bank (see above) marking the outer fortifications of the Norman castle.

The feedback from the Neighbourhood Plan 'drop-in' event last November indicated a widespread feeling that the Conservation Area and the Castle Grounds should continue to be protected.

More detailed guidance will be posted on <http://www.deddingtondevelopmentwatch.org> by the time this issue of the *Deddington News* is distributed. It currently looks as if the deadline for making public comments will be relatively early in April.

Deddington Development Watch

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CALLING ALL CLUBS

1st Deddington Guides

Well, we hope that you did not miss our performance of 'Snowella'. It was a terrific success, well written, auditioned, rehearsed, coached, directed and produced by our senior Guides, Ellie and Lorna. There were some super performances and a great sense of fun and just having a go. The Guides were then busy running the raffle and serving refreshments. Thank you so much to everyone who came. We raised £167 to be shared between charities of the Guides choosing: Katharine House Hospice, Dogs for the Disabled and a charity in India aiming to build a school for deaf girls. All very worthy causes – well done, Guides.

Maggie Rampley 01295 810069

Marian Trinder 340806

Catherine Blackburn 01295 258008

1st Deddington Scout Group

The group is organising a children's competition, a treasure hunt involving dragons, between 12–26 April to coincide with St George's Day. Entry forms will be available from the Primary School and the Library. Keep an eye out on Saturday 26 April for our St George's Day Parade complete with dragon and knight.

Cubs

Thank goodness the rain has stopped and we can

start thinking about going outside. The Cubs finished their Emergency Aid badge and followed this with an evening of junk modelling, producing some impressive models. We sent four teams to the district 'Make It' competition where they had to make catapults and then compete to see who could ping a paper ball the furthest. Although we didn't win, the boys all tried very hard and their models performed well. Next, growing a bean in a jar and cress guinea pigs.

Jo Churchyard CSL

jochurchyard@hotmail.com

Scouts

The Scouts have been looking at Fairtrade Foods and the Commonwealth to see how the two are linked. We visited the Co-op at Queensway to search the shelves and sample Fairtrade goods (mostly chocolate); they had a great time some even having a turn on a till. We also took the opportunity to invest Dominik, in one of the chillers. Next, survival skills day and Sport Relief.

Pete Churchyard SL

pete.churchyard@btinternet.com

Explorers

The explorers are planning to hold an auction in the village and were treated to a visit from an auctioneer from JS Auctions in Bodicote, who gave them lots of valuable advice. We hope to hold it later in the year. They will also be helping at the Market with a football survey. In the planning stage, a bell-ringing experience.

Pete Churchyard SL

pete.churchyard@btinternet.com

Women's Institute

Our AGM was held on Tuesday 11 March 2014. The previous officers were all re-elected and our finances are in a stable position.

Jane Miles, Chief Executive of Katharine House Hospice, gave us an excellent talk. We were told how many hats she has to wear in her post, and also how many different strands she has to knit together. They have some plans for the twenty-fifth anniversary in 2016 that we should all look out for.

After Jane's talk we had a pleasant cheese and wine party with some excellent cheeses.

The next meeting is on 8 April when we shall have a talk from Alan Brewer: 'Above the Clouds and Fluffy Bits'. Visitors are always welcome. Please call the secretary, Angela Sones, on 338027.

Julia Hobbs

Deddington Baby and Toddler Group

Group members are springing into spring with an 'egg-citing' Easter egg hunt on Friday 11 April. We would like to extend a warm welcome to babies and toddlers in Deddington and surrounding villages to join us, and their mums and dads too, of course. You don't have to

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CALLING MORE CLUBS

wait until Easter to come and join in the fun. The group meets every Friday from 10am to noon and newcomers are welcome. As well as a range of toys for children to play with, there is a craft table and each session ends with a sing-along. Admission, which includes snacks and juice for little ones and tea or coffee for grown-ups, is £2 for families with one child and £2.50 for those with more.

The first Friday of every month is a 'messy play' session, so get out your glitter and glue and come along. For more information, please contact me.

Janet Bird 337428

Deddington Beeches Bowls Club

Everyone at the dinner held at the Red Lion, Adderbury, on 1 March had a good time, with more than thirty members and spouses attending.

The prizes for 2013 were presented as follows:

Men's singles: Steve Lydon, runner-up Pete Miller

Open singles: Chris Twomey, runner up Pete Miller

Club pairs: Trevor Stevens & David Gibbard, runners-up Keith Anderson & Graham Cheetham

Mixed pairs: Pete Miller & Steve Lydon, runners-up Yvonne Twomey & John Washburn

Deeley Triples: Albert Humphries, Keith Anderson & Graham Cheetham, runners-up John Washburn, Steve Lydon & Yvonne Twomey

Beeches Cup: Nigel Morgan, runner-up Trevor Stevens

The player of the year was Jan Dean.

An indoor game was played on Saturday 8 March at Banbury Borough between Oxford Fire and Rescue and Deddington. Six teams played for Deddington with Fire and Rescue winning 112 to 93.

The first game outside is on the 24 April away to Adderbury at 6.15pm and on Tuesday 29 April we play at home to Banbury Borough.

New players are welcome and the first year's membership is free. Spectators are also welcome.

Frances Morgan 338897

Deddington Town Colts

Junior football

The Under 11 Sharks had a 2–2 draw at home to Bampton Town, followed by a defeat to Banbury United Youth. The Under 11 Cobras played just one game, a narrow 2–1 defeat to Chadlington. The Under 12s lost heavily at home to Hook Norton and had a narrow 2–1-defeat way at Kingston Colts. The Under 13 Cobras had a 6–0 victory away at Tower Hill, followed by a 4-1 home win against Banbury United. After losing heavily at Bicester Town Colts, they bounced back with a 5–0 home victory over Bourton Rovers to remain on top of the C League. The Under 13 Sharks recorded a convincing 5–2 home win against Redditch United with goals from Tyler Lloyd, Nick Dawkins, Riley Clarke, Piers Walton and Adam Megarity. This was followed

by a 1-0 loss to Novo Soccer Academy. With very little to choose between the two sides Deddington were unlucky not to have been awarded a penalty with five minutes to go. The Under 14s continue to search for that elusive win after defeats to Garden City, Grendon Rangers and Launton Athletic. The Under 16s are having a stop-start season with long gaps between games. They played one recently which they lost 3-2 against Banbury, but they still came off the pitch smiling which is what it's all about.

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

Roger Sykes 337034

Deddington Tennis Club

Summer club nights start from Wednesday 2 April at 6.00pm so come along for friendly tennis. Tuesday morning tennis continues as usual from 10.15am. Any tennis players who have time on their hands during the day are welcome to come and join in. Non-members can come and play for three sessions before joining. The membership subscription has been held down once again and is one of the lowest in the area. New members are always welcome.

If you are a beginner wanting to play, talk to our club coach to arrange either individual lessons or join in a group session.

The summer season of junior coaching for children starts again after the Easter holidays (first session Tuesday 22 April). Racquets are provided. The first of four junior tournaments is at the Deddington courts on Sunday 27 April at 1.45pm. For further details see the club website.

A further application for permission to install floodlights on two of our courts has been made to Cherwell District Council. Lights will enable us to continue coaching older juniors throughout the winter rather than losing them to other clubs.

The club has entered four teams in the Banbury and District Summer League. These matches are played in the evenings. We have also entered one ladies team in the Oxfordshire League that plays at weekends. Any members interested in playing matches please contact our match secretary for further details. It is proposed to resume match practice from Saturday 5 April before junior coaching.

For further details about the club see www.deddingtontennis.com.

Sue Watts 01295 722229

Deddington Town Football Club

First Team results

22.02.14	Bishops Itchington (a)	L 2–7 Hall (2)
27.02.14	Abba Athletic (a) (CUP)	L 0–3
01.03.14	Steeple Aston (a)	L 0–1

CALLING MORE CLUBS

08.03.14	Heyford United (h)	L 0–2
<i>Reserve Team results</i>		
22.02.14	Sinclair Utd Res (a) (CUP)	L 0–2
25.02.14	Highfield OB Res (CUP)	W 3–2
	Gibbs M, Kaye (Josh), Kaye (Jordan)	
01.03.14	Hornton (h)	D 2–2
	Charles (2)	
08.03.14	FC Langford (a)	L 2–3
	Gibbs M, Gray	

Remember the feeling when you get up in the dead of night to go to the toilet, only to step on a plug, stub your toe on the wall and face-plant the door? A combination of disorientation and cold starts has seen both teams stink the place out following their enforced lay-offs. One might reason that other teams had the same disadvantage, but then Deddington teams have always been best when match-fit and lucid. Only one win between the two this month, though the Reserves still have an impressive cushion at the top by virtue of their blockbusting opening weeks, while the First Team will soon need snookers to climb out of danger. Now the weather's improving, be sure to lend your throat to the cause.

Aaron Bliss 07909 642882

1st Barford and Deddington Rainbows

We celebrated Thinking Day with an international meeting. We spent it playing a game from Africa, making lamingtons from Australia, which involves lots of chocolate spread, making Welsh daffodils, and creating our own Mehndi designs (on paper not our hands).

Thanks to a generous donation, Experience Chocolate visited us for a really fun meeting. The Rainbows shaped chocolate truffle mix into lollies and then dipped them in white chocolate. They packaged them in cellophane bags and tied them with ribbon, making them look very professional. The lure of the bowl of soapy water led to lots of hand washing, so nobody

got too messy. Well done to Simon for coping with Rainbows and WI in the same evening.

Fiona, one of the Rainbow mums, and her daughter Phoebe, helped us make felted soaps. It involves lots of water, so it was fortunate it was a lovely evening and we could make them in the garden. We wrapped brightly coloured merino wool around a bar of soap and felted it, resulting in a colourful soap that's slightly exfoliating. The girls all went home extremely clean if a little damp.

Hazel Neal 337822
hmkn@sky.com

Deddington Original Golf Society (DOGS)

The DOGS have recovered from the winter floods and are now polishing the golf clubs in readiness for the coming season. On that note, our first 2014 event is on Friday 2 May at Wychwood Golf Club in the beautiful Cotswolds. This will be an 18-hole event followed by lunch.

David Darst
338589

1st Deddington Boys' Brigade

The Anchors Battalion five-a-side competition was a really fun event with teams coming from Bloxham, Kings Sutton, Wallingford and, of course, Deddington. Due to smaller numbers of boys attending Kings Sutton and Wallingford, they agreed to play as a combined team. This is one of the things I like about BB; there's nearly always a solution to getting everyone involved. Our five played well and won the competition, so well played 1st Deddington and thanks to everyone who turned up to support their teams and helped with the organisation.

The Juniors have been working hard on their marching and team games for the competitions on 29 March. We'll let you know the results in May's *DN*.



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... AND FINALLY

Joe joined us in the Juniors in March so a very warm welcome to you.

Last month's Company section pancake fun didn't disappoint. James showed a rare talent for pancake flipping (more than 20 continuous flips) and, much to my surprise, Olli managed to flip his pancake onto the ceiling by the south door of the church. Fortunately it didn't stick. After much tasting of flavours, the view was that melted chocolate was very good and avocado and bacon can be recommended.

With the weather finally on the turn we'll be aiming to get outside a lot more and I'm thinking about a long walk.

Jen Childs 337481

Jen.childs@btinternet.com

Book Club

In February we read *The Grandmothers* by Nobel prize-winning and recently deceased Doris Lessing. The book consists of four long 'short' stories, each embracing a different subject and set in diverse times and locations. Aspects of the stories feature places or situations that the author has known, giving them a heightened reality without being truly biographical. There are some well-written and vivid descriptions, most notably in one of the stories of grim conditions aboard a troop carrier during World War Two. We had a wide range of opinions among the group with some wanting to explore more of her work and others finding her writing less appealing.

The next book is *Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity* by Katherine Boo and the next meeting is on 24 April.

Sally Lambert 338094

Photographic Society

At the March club night, Chris Palmer FRPS APAGB gave a presentation entitled 'The Prints and the Paper'. A judge on the panel of the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain, Chris is a skilled and experienced international photographer whose main interest lies in taking photographs that appear to be entirely natural and which capture the subtlety and mood of his subject matter. His aim is always to show an image that both attracts the eye and draws the viewer into the subject matter of the photograph.

Chris then showed a large number of prints from his personal collection that demonstrated his approach. While he occasionally uses gloss photographic paper to bring out the sharpness of an image in a print, his preference is for lustre and particularly matt papers. Chris now uses papers exclusively from the Fotospeed range to obtain the correct ambience that he seeks in an image. This was a most interesting presentation by a photographer at the top of his profession, who answered the many questions put to him in a comprehensive and frank manner.

The AGM will be at 7.00pm on 2 April, and this will be followed by a presentation from John Credland

on 'Audio Visuals'. On 7 May at 7.30pm Yin Wong will return to the Society to give a personal presentation entitled 'The Evolution of My Photography'. Both events are at the Cartwright Hotel, Aynho. Everyone is welcome to attend, and you can be assured of a warm welcome.

Wendy Meagher 336216

www.adandd.co.uk

Deddington and District History Society

Our March speaker was Shaun Morley who made a welcome return to talk to us about 'Oxfordshire's Swing Riots: rural unrest in 1830'. The introduction from the late 1820s of threshing machines deprived already lowly paid farm labourers of one of their traditional means of autumn and winter employment. Protests and disturbances broke out, especially in the south and east of the country, often in the form of threatening letters to farmers signed 'Captain Swing' accompanied by rick burning and machine breaking. Protests in Oxfordshire (which was less affected than other counties) took place from November 1830 to the following January, outbreaks being recorded locally at Hempton, Steeple Barton, Bodicote and Banbury. The authorities, thoroughly rattled, reacted savagely: nationally several men were executed and 483 were transported. The labourers gained little, the long-term effect being increased rural depopulation as desperate families moved to industrial towns or emigrated.

On Wednesday 9 April we welcome back another popular speaker, Martin Way. On this occasion he will speak on 'Roses and Castles', that is on canal boats and the people who worked and lived on them. No promises, but if past experience is anything to go by Martin will bring along some marvellous objects for us to look at and handle.

Some places remain on the trip that the Society is organising on 6 June to the National Arboretum, which commemorates all service personnel who have lost their lives fighting in wars from WWI to the present day. Anyone interested, please contact Moira Byast. All are welcome though Society members will be given priority.

Chris Day (Chairman) 337204

Moira Byast (Secretary) 338637

Writing Competition 2014

It is not too late to send in an entry for the annual competition organised by the Deddington Writers Group as part of the Deddington Festival. Closing dates are 7 April for the Juniors and 14 April for the Open (adult) competition.

Entry forms are available online at <http://www.deddingtonfestival.org.uk/what-s-on/writing-competition>. You will see the Microsoft Word symbol to download the entry form and competition information sheet.

Donald Lane

Donald199@btinternet.com

ANTEDILUVIAN SOIL

Those of us fortunate to live high on the marlstone Deddington ridge were nonetheless mindful that in nearby towns and counties to the south, unrelenting winter rain had changed not only the landscape but perhaps the thinking of those trying to cope with the flood. At least among government officials on the nightly news there were repeated assurances that afterwards, new lessons would surely be learned about how better to prepare for and manage future flooding risk. Understandably, most of the focus has been on people and property; one cannot help but be concerned for those who have lost so much. However, there is a neglected lesson that is literally underfoot.

Soil is seemingly everywhere but, except for farmers, soil scientists and some in the environmental community, most of us take it entirely for granted. What we know is that it's where trees, crops and gardens grow. But soil can also store an immense amount of carbon, which is present there in amounts twice that of the atmosphere. Strange that we've heard so much about the unwanted surplus of carbon (dioxide) molecules in the atmosphere and practically nothing about the decline of their beneficial 'humic substance' cousins in the soil. High carbon soils can store 20 times their weight in water and are quite resistant to being dissolved and washed away when submerged, as in floods. They also sequester nutrients and keep them available in soluble form for uptake as needed by plants.

Unfortunately, these antediluvian soils are becoming the exception. The photograph here shows two soil samples from an agricultural research center in the US. The one on the left is a high carbon soil that is also rich in organic matter, including a host of beneficial micro-organisms that nurture and protect plants. By using some bespoke tractor implements, windrow composting and nitrogen-fixing winter cover crops, this farm produces all manner of crops, inexpensively and at yields equal to conventional methods - except in drought years, when it does better. We can find soil just like it here in many gardens. The sample on the right is from an adjacent strip of land that represents the norm for modern, industrialised chemical agriculture. That is to say, it is farmed and tended exactly as advised by mainstream agronomists.

Of course, many soils here and abroad look like the dissolving sample. If instead they were high in carbon and associated organic matter, a reasonable person

might conclude that in retaining more water and nutrients, there would be much less run-off in heavy rain. That in turn would help reduce flood damage in low lying areas. The next reasonable question might be why, if this is really possible, it is not widely adopted. The answer to that question lies at some distance from landowners and farmers, many of whom are on the receiving end of incoherent land use policies and regulations, some of which may have worsened the damage and extent of recent floods. Also, those who make policy and promulgate regulations are at some historical distance from the root causes that affect our thinking in regard to soil.

We really need to review the work of one of chemistry's 19th century giants, Justus von Liebig. It was he who in 1840 discovered the inorganic aspect of plant nutrition, namely that water soluble compounds of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium were irreplaceable for plant growth. Out of this came the 'Law of the Minimum', which says that in any complex system needful of multiple nutrients, that single nutrient which first falls to the point of insufficiency will delimit the well-being of the whole. It is an essential concept, but has over-emphasised the value of chemical fertiliser and helped foster neglect of high carbon organic material in living soil.

The second two-edged sword was the work of 20th century chemists Fritz Haber and Carl Bosch, who 100 years ago developed the means to synthesise nitrogen fertiliser and who won the Nobel Prize for their achievement. Nitrogen fertiliser at an industrial scale made agriculture so much more productive that, along with modern medicine, it is the main reason global population went from 1.6 billion then to over seven billion today. That tearing 'success' became the only way forward for many.

So the premise that we can't have productive, economic and competitive agriculture without industrial quantities of fertiliser, herbicides and other things that can actually destroy high carbon soils became an *idée fixe*. We could indeed, but it would not be easy to up-end those soil use 'habits of mind' that have persisted for the past one-and-a-half centuries. On the other hand, a growing severity of weather may jolt public senses to the point that all options are put back on the table, including the importance of increasing soil carbon to help mitigate damage from floods.

Dan Desmond
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Neighbourhood Plan Wanted – A Planning Champion

Are you a planning expert? Are you wise to the wiles of developers? Have you some free time? If so you could be the very person Deddington parish will need when the Neighbourhood Plan is complete.

One of our parish councillors and the clerk attended a meeting called by Thame Parish Council last month. It was to be an eye-opening and alarming experience.

Thame began its Neighbourhood Plan in 2011 – three years and £100,000 later the plan is complete. Admittedly, Thame, with a population of 11,000, is far bigger than Deddington and has greater funds at its disposal but its message for other parishes embarking on a Neighbourhood Plan is stark. The work and the expense doesn't stop with the completion of the plan: the next step is to ensure the plan is enforced. At that point parishes have a choice – trust the district council to look after their interests or appoint their own representative to fight their corner when planning decisions are made and the horse-trading with developers begins.

Thame has employed a professional planning consultant. Help of this kind is almost certainly beyond the means of Deddington PC which has an annual budget of around £32,000.

So far the steering group has spent nearly £1,000 on setting up a website, hiring venues for public meetings and drop-in sessions, distributing leaflets and posters. Luckily we have received a grant of around

£900 from Locality, part of the Supporting Communities in Neighbourhood Planning Programme. But there's a long way to go yet: a questionnaire, a referendum and a final plan to be financed, even without calling in expert planning advice.

Here lies one of paradoxes in the planning arena. On one hand the government is promoting localism and the creation of neighbourhood plans. On the other hand it has brought in legislation to enable developers to challenge local decisions. So the scene is set for a stand-off between their highly-paid planning consultants and lawyers and ours – professional in the case of Thame, more likely amateur in the case of Deddington.

Whether localism and democracy should come with a price tag is questionable, but that's the way it is. So we would be delighted if a planning expert who lives locally and cares about Deddington were to step forward: someone equipped to take on the developers, keeping them to their commitments to affordable housing and S106 contributions – and keep an eye on Cherwell's planning decisions.

This is for the future. At the moment the steering group is consulting local stakeholders. These include businesses and clubs, bus companies, local authorities, emergency services, English Heritage, and landowners. What are their aspirations for Deddington parish?

Helen Oldfield, helenmoldfield@yahoo.co.uk

DEDDINGTON FARMERS MARKET

A MARKET FOR ALL SEASONS

April's At The Market will offer free veterinary advice and – a must for all pet owners – a pet first aid demonstration. There will be two demonstrations – at 10am and 11.30am. You can also get microchip scanning, a free dog dental check and veterinary staff will be on hand to answer your questions.

Once again Tools For Self Reliance will be accepting donations of old equipment. They ship tens of thousands of high-quality refurbished tools and sewing machines to their partners in Africa and pay for much-needed skills training. All old tools accepted. The TFSR drop off point will be at this and the May markets.

The best of local and seasonal produce will be available across a mouth-watering range of stalls in the Market Square. If the weather is good, just walking around the Market Place is a delight in itself (especially if you take advantage of the many offers of morsels to taste). But if the weather is bad (or you are a more discerning shopper) you might also like to wander across to the Church where the other half of the market lives. Not only is there a surprising mix of crafts and goods to buy, there is the opportunity of a cup of tea, a cake and a sit down well out of the weather.

Finally, don't forget to check out the Specials Board at every market. There's always a selection of tempting bargains and it saves you carefully investigating

each and every stall (though that may be part of the pleasure of market shopping).

For up to date news about the coming Market (apart from the Specials Board which really is last minute) you can listen to the Market preview one week ahead of market day on Deddington OnAir (www.deddingtononair.org) and on the Market website (www.deddingtonfarmersmarket.co.uk). BBC Radio Oxford now carries a regular preview every Market morning. Or you could just get yourself on the email list for a personal update (and a chance to win a voucher to spend at the Market) by emailing a request to marketing@deddingtonfarmersmarket.co.uk.

The Market is on Saturday 26 April from 9am to 12.30pm.

Ian Willox 337940

Flower Arranging

A pre-workshop meeting will be on Friday 11 April in church at 10.00am, followed by a free flower arranging workshop on Easter Saturday, from 10am–12pm, the aim being to explore different styles of flower arranging to decorate the Church for Easter. Please contact me to book in. It will be possible to 'buy' a lily in memory of a loved one for £1.50. Please put your money in an envelope with your name and the name of the loved one in the chest by the church door.

Annette Murphy 336195

WELL REMEMBERED

JOSEPHINE MARGARET STEVENS (NÉE WEST) 1927–2014

Josephine (Jo) Stevens died peacefully on 12 February at the age of 86 following a major stroke several days earlier. She was born on 9 August 1927 at the Red Lion, Deddington, the eldest of Charles and Gertrude West's three daughters, and continued to live in the village to which she was so proud to belong for all of her life.

Jo attended Holcombe House School and then went on to Banbury County School. On leaving there she trained as a shorthand typist and bookkeeper, securing employment as secretary to the RAF at Hopcrofts Holt. She then became manager at Deddington Requisites and subsequently worked at the Holcombe Hotel, both businesses being founded by her parents. On New Year's Eve 1949, Jo married Bob Stevens, a teacher at Deddington's Windmill Secondary School and later at the Warriner, enjoying 54 happy years together.

Deddington Church was very important to Jo: she was christened and married there; helped as a Sunday School teacher; was church warden and member of the Parochial Church Council; and remained to the end of her life thoroughly involved with both worship and social aspects including stalwart membership of the kitchen team. But she also contributed significantly to other areas of local life. Jo was a teaching assistant at Bloxham Primary School and served as both governor and governors' secretary at Deddington Primary School. She helped at the Health Centre's Baby Clinic and organised Meals on Wheels for twenty years. She was also elected as a Parish Councillor. After Bob's death she fundraised for Katharine House Hospice and latterly made a strong contribution to the Village at War project initiated by Michael Allbrook and Rob Forsyth. However, above all else, Jo was always devoted to family: as daughter, sister, wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother, to all of which roles she brought so much love and happiness.

Charlie and Gill Stevens

LIZ CLARKE 1949–2014

Liz was born in Deddington on 31 January 1949 and, except for a few years in the seventies, lived here all her life. She was the sixth of nine children born to Iris and Bill Boyd. The family home was 8 The Paddocks. Liz went to Deddington Primary School and then to the Windmill School. She excelled at ballet. After school, Liz worked in the offices of a number of businesses. She was at Alcan in Banbury, at Prescott's, the insurance company, and then moved into the free local newspapers, working for the Banbury Focus and later as office manager at the Banbury Cake for ten years. After that came a job with Power Isolators, another Banbury enterprise, where Liz stayed for seventeen years. Her last job, held for nine years was with Vodaphone in Adderbury.

Liz married Brian Clarke, a near neighbour, in 1969. They lived first in Chipping Norton but moved back to Deddington in due course. There were no children and this helped to make possible a lively social life for the couple in the village. However, the marriage had its difficulties and Liz and Brian became estranged. They eventually divorced in 2005.

Having no children also meant that Liz spent a good deal of time on her hobbies. She drew and painted water colours, animals often being the subjects, she gardened and she made chutney using her own home-grown vegetables. There were her cats too, on whom she doted. Following the loss of her job with Vodaphone, Liz became less socially forthcoming than she had been and was happy to stay home at Mackley Close where she lived with her sister Judy. She liked, though, to follow the careers of her nephews and nieces and remained close to her loving and supportive family. *HW*

SIDNEY MUNSON 1934–2014

Sid was born on 11 Feb 1934, the sixth of nine children born to Dora and George Munson. The family lived in West Ham but during the war the family was evacuated to Knowle Manor, Timberscombe, on Exmoor. After that a council house in Dunster became their home and Sid attended Minehead School.

At the age of 17 Sid joined the Fleet Air Arm and served on HMS Eagle as a pilot's mate. He remained a proud Navy man all his life. When stationed at Culdrose Bay Sid met Brenda and the couple married in Bodmin in 1957. After a period in Croughton they came to Church Street, Deddington, and then to 4 Windmill Street as its first occupiers in 1961.

Sid had a varied working life. He was a fireman in Banbury and Kidlington, and then worked for CSE Aviation at Oxford Airport. He became a safety officer for Cherwell District Council and then worked as an inspector for the Severn Trent Water Board. A heart attack at the age of 56 led to his retirement.

Sid and Brenda had six children but their second, Angela, and their last, Helen, both died in childhood. The eldest, Robert, was killed in a motorcycle accident in July 2011. A real hands-on grandparent, Sid adored the eleven he had and he taught them a great deal. He was a disciplinarian: never unkind, but firm. He liked neatness and order and good table manners. He enjoyed family seaside holidays featuring the legendary camper-van; he loved to watch the birds and quietly to contemplate the sea. In his retirement he took up bowls and was greenkeeper at the Deddington Club, something of a contrast to his earlier sporting life which centred on boxing.

Firm in his opinions, Sid didn't tend to stand corrected, but this didn't prevent him being held in affection by many. A good neighbour, Sid's passing is a loss for the whole community. *HW*