

the Deddington news

This month's editor
CATHERINE DESMOND

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by 20 JUNE 2015

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It must be summer, any and all contraindications notwithstanding. The Deddington Festival runs from 12–20 June, the PFSU and Nursery is holding its sports day, the football season draws to a close – and real strawberries are promised for the Farmers' Market.

CD

WHAT'S ON – JUNE

- Mon 1 Monday Morning Club: Coffee Morning, 10.30am
 Fri 5 DOGS meeting: Hellidon Lakes, 8.30am
 Sun 7 Deddington Colts: Presentation Day, Windmill Centre, 2.00pm
 Tue 9 Windmill Management Committee: AGM, Windmill, 7.30pm
 Tue 9 WI: Mary Gregory, Holly Tree, 7.30pm
 Thu 11 History Society: Apsley House and Admiralty Arch
 Thu 11 Monday Morning Club: Film tba, Holly Tree, 6.30pm
 Fri 12 Wriggle Dance Children's Theatre: School Hall, 3.30pm
 Sat 13 Bingo: British Legion Hall, 8.00pm
 Sat 13 Art Exhibition: Deddington Arms function room, 10.00am–5.00pm
 Sat 13 Martin Quinn: Singing Workshop, Parish Church, 1.00pm
 Sat 13 Akeman Voices Concert, Parish Church, 7.30pm
 Sun 14 Oxford Conservation Volunteers: dry-stone walling, Castle Grounds, 10.00am
 Sun 14 Art Exhibition: Deddington Arms function room, 10.00am–5.00pm
 Sun 14 Clive and Dave Magical Act: Windmill Centre, 11.00am
 Sun 14 Deddington Village History Walk: Town Hall, 2.00pm
 Sun 14 Writing Competition Awards, Parish Church, 2.30pm
 Mon 15 Monday Morning Club: Herb Garden lunch
 Tue 16 Tam and Tea: Children's Art Workshop, Windmill Centre, 4.00pm
 Tue 16 *Poetry Please*: Unicorn, 7.30pm
 Wed 17 Farm Walk: Home Farm Clifton, 6.00pm
 Thu 18 *Beautiful Baroque*: Concert, Hempton Church, 12.00pm
 Thu 18 Cotswold Comedy Club: Windmill Centre, 8.00pm
 Fri 19 Deddy Jazz: Parish Church, 7.30pm
 Sat 20 *Taking Part*: Children's Film Workshop, Holly Tree Club, 9.00am and 11.30am
 Sat 20 Deddy Rocks: Market Place, 2.00pm, main concert 6.00pm
 Mon 22 Windmill Centre: Thursday Club AGM, 6.00 pm
 Wed 24 History Society, 200th Anniversary of Battle of Waterloo, Windmill Centre, 7.30pm
 Thu 25 Book Club: Call Sally Lambert (338094) for details

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DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting at the Windmill Centre on Wednesday 20 May 2015

Present: Cllrs Anderson, Collins (Chair), Cox, East, Finnegan, Flux, Oldham, O'Neill, Rogers, Squires, Watts, Williams (CDC) and Wood. County Councillor Fatemian joined the meeting during the session.

This was also the annual meeting of the PC at which officers are elected. The status quo was maintained.

DC Bryn Williams reported that The Duke of Cumberland's Head, Clifton, has been registered as a Community Asset.

Work on the Windmill St car park in Deddington has not been started and the relevant officer at CDC cannot be contacted. A message has been left for him in his office.

CC Arash Fatemian reported that the lighting on the SE corner of the Town Hall should be in hand.

The Annual Parish Meeting on 6 May was attended by thirteen members of the public, eight councillors, the Clerk and the Minutes Secretary. Councillors explained their role on the council and answered questions put to them by residents.

The Parish-wide spring clean led by Cllr Watts on Saturday 9 May collected about ten sacks of litter. Particular thanks were given to the Scouts for their help.

From 31 May the S4 bus service will run half hourly from the Market Place to Banbury. Buses to Oxford will remain on an hourly basis. However, the journey should be quicker as the bus will no longer call at Duns

Tew, Middle Barton and Oxford airport. Duns Tew and Middle Barton will be provided with a shuttle service, S4C, to Deddington

The planter on the west side of the A4260 has been removed. Sponsorship is still welcomed for the planters on the Hempton Rd and at the Fire Station.

A letter is to be written to mobile phone companies and Ofcom to ask about future plans to improve coverage across the Parish.

Another letter will be sent to SSE regarding the frequency of power cuts in Deddington. Individuals may also contact SSE at 55, Vastern Rd, Reading RG1 8BU or customer.relations.England@sse.com.

A letter has been drafted to CDC asking for increased funding for sports' facilities in Deddington.

The coat of arms from the Town Hall has been repainted at a cost of £750. The VE day celebration went well and suggestions are now welcomed for VJ day, on 15 August, and LiberTeas, celebrating Magna Carta, on 14 June.

It was reported that at a recent meeting the School Governors voted unanimously against expanding the school in the foreseeable future. Instead they will focus on improving the present site.

Planning: The application for a proposed agricultural machinery store in Earl's Lane has been refused.

Next meeting: Wednesday 17 June, at 7.30pm in the Holly Tree Club.

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>.

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WHAT'S ON – JUNE

- Fri 26 PFSU and Nursery: Sports Day, School Field, 11.15am
- Sat 27 Farmers' Market, Market Place, 9.00am–12.30pm
- Sat 27 Church Tower: open 10.00am–12 noon
- Sat 27 Live vocalist: British Legion Hall, 9.00pm

WHAT'S ON – JULY

- Fri 3 George Huxley's Jazzmen: *Jazz in July*, Rousham Park, 7.00pm
- Sat 4 PTA School Fête:, school field, 2.00pm
- Sun 5 Piano recital: Viv McLean, Parish Church, 7.45pm
- Mon 6 Monday Morning Club: Coffee morning, 10.30am
- Thu 9 Monday Morning Club: Film, tba, 6.30pm
- Sat 1 PFSU and Nursery: Masquerade Party, Windmill Centre, 7.30pm

MUSICAL NOTES

Look at the Deddington Festival adverts for music in June. In early July the brilliant pianist, Viv McLean, who has impressed us in chamber music ensembles, returns to the Parish Church as a soloist, playing a thrilling concoction of piano greats from Bach via Chopin to Gershwin. There will be more news in the July *DN* but mark Sunday evening, 5 July in your diary now.

Donald Lane

donald199@btinternet.com

NORDIC WALKING COURSE

Bookings are now being taken for a new Nordic walking course being run by the CDC in June. The course, based at Bodicote Village Hall, comprises three sessions: 10.00am on Saturday 20 June, for one hour; 6.00pm on Tuesday 23 June, for an hour-and-a-half; Saturday 27 June, at 10.00am, for an hour-and-a-half.

The course costs £25. Places are limited and must be booked in advance by calling 01295 221803.

AMERICAN POSTCARD

Parking and Fracking

Last week someone left a scrap of paper on my windscreen in the car park of a restaurant saying 'you park like ... no wonder your car is a POS'. I found this to be very funny, and not just because this person obviously carries around neatly cut pieces of paper, but because the carefully printed characters made it look more like a ransom note than an insult. However, it is true, I have unfortunately turned into an American and have forgotten how to park.

When I first travelled extensively in the US, I always backed into parking spaces. It was some kind of superiority complex. I needed to show the whole of America that I could drive and they couldn't. The driving test here in Colorado doesn't involve engaging reverse gear, all parking is done face in, and almost no-one can parallel park. But after nearly three years, I have given in and I panic and rush forwards into vacant slots. Help! My attachment to the cultured world is obviously over.

Stalkers aside, the issue that has been worrying me most this month is fracking. There are Americans who are against it – New York State has just banned it – but the vast majority out here in the West are outraged if you suggest there are any potential problems with it. There are now 88,000 wells in Colorado, over a million across the whole country, and the oil and gas industry is booming.

Secret industry figures show that the failure rate of these wells in the first year is between eight and ten percent, and that 50% fail within their 20 year life. What this means is that a large number of wells have cracks in the cement seal around the drill pipe, and thus gas and oil disturbed by the drilling can rise up into the higher strata of rock, and on into the environment. Pollution from these wells is rife but, this being America, the agencies employed to control these issues have little power to control the problem.

It is really shocking how the population of this great nation is misled on the issue. The oil and gas lobby presents fracking as an issue of American pride; they promote a great need to become independent of the Gulf suppliers. Thousands of people are being displaced by drilling directly under their homes which pollutes their water supplies and poisons their atmosphere. But these people are obviously not patriots.

America is driven by interest groups – huge amounts of money are invested in getting the population to believe lies. Their next President will be elected in a campaign supported by \$2 billion of TV ads. ITV would love that kind of income.

But at least it is the land of the free. A lunatic is free and wandering the car parks of Greenwood Village, looking for people who park too close to the white lines. And although I have obviously become an American, at least I am one who doesn't believe that fracking is 100% safe. However, I do drive a very wrecked car.

Mike Ward mikew@qsoftware.com

FRIENDS OF CASTLE GROUNDS

The south-facing north bank is almost free of invasive plants and we will continue to keep it as tidy as possible to encourage the wild flowers. The grass in the outer bailey and footpaths will be mown on a monthly basis throughout the summer. The inner bailey will be left to flourish until October.

The high winds we experienced at the beginning of May brought down a mature sycamore tree. Thanks to the quick action of some members it has been safely felled and cut into manageable pieces and cleared to the bottom of the banks just to the right of the Lookout.

On 10 May Castle Grounds hosted the Four Farms Fun Run again with even more runners this year. The rain held off for the actual run and there were bacon butties, burgers, hot drinks and a bar, popcorn and lemonade, together with our two stalls. Thanks to everyone who helped us raise funds for the grounds, particularly the Deddington Arms, the Pie Pub, Hair Razers and the Flower Shop for their donations for the tombola, and to everyone who donated cakes.

Friends of the Castle Grounds are listed under 'Clubs' on the Deddington OnLine website with links to some lovely old photos. You can also download a membership form and join like-minded people who want to preserve and enjoy the heritage of this historic site.

Carol Horlock, Secretary
338935

Masquerade Party

Community event raising funds
for Deddington PFSU
and Deddington Village Nursery

Saturday 11th July
Deddington Windmill Centre
7.30 pm to 1 am

Tickets £20



Live Music from
**BRING THE
NOISE!**

Food, Late Bar, Auction

Tickets available from PFSU, Nursery and
www.deddingtonnurseryandpfsu.co.uk

**Please join us with family and friends to raise
funds for these fantastic village charities**

Charity Numbers: 1100275 & 1117963

MUSIC, MAGIC AND MIRTH 12–20 JUNE

Tickets are now available at www.deddingtonfestival.org.uk for the 13th annual Deddington Festival, a fun-filled eight days of musical, magical and mirth-filled moments. This



year's offerings include a magical morning for children with the Clive and Dave Magic Act, laughter from the Cotswold Comedy Club, a range of music from choral to jazz and rock to Baroque, and other performing and visual arts events. Highlights include:

Wriggle Dance Theatre – Friday 12 June, 3.30pm, Primary School Hall

A dance, music, and storytelling workshop for tiny tots. During the workshop performers and participants embark on a journey to find the moon. They travel through stormy plains, froggy bogs and meet some strange creatures along the way. Finally the performers and participants are reunited with the moon, just in time for a moon dust party. £5 per child or £8 for two children.

Akeman Voices Concert – Saturday 13 June, 7.30pm, Deddington Parish Church

Akeman Voices, North Oxfordshire's leading chamber choir, under its Music Director, Martin Quinn, will present an evening of choral gems. £14 adult.

Clive and Dave Magic Act – Sunday 14 June, 11.00am, Windmill Centre

Award winning duo, Clive and Dave, are a truly original comedy illusion act for children. Using fast-paced comedy twists before their amazing magic, they keep their audience in suspense and in stitches. £10 adult, £7.50 child or £30 for a family of four.

Tam and Tea Children's Art Workshop – Tuesday 16 June, 4–5.30pm, Main Hall, Windmill Centre

Local pottery artist and children's art teacher, Tam Levene, will run her popular children's art session at the

Festival again. Children can paint a beautiful mug which Tam will then glaze and fire. Suitable for young children – think hand & foot prints – and older children can create funky

designs with specialist paint and tools which are all provided. Tea is served at 5.00pm with a cuppa for the adults too. £5 per child.

Cotswold Comedy Club – Thursday 18 June, 8.00pm, Windmill Centre

A big hit at last year's Festival, the Cotswold Comedy Club this year brings Nick Page, Jon Wagstaffe and Jon Coleman, three professional comedians from the world of stand-up comedy, to rural Oxfordshire. £10 adult (over 18s only)

Deddy Jazz – Friday 19 June, 7.30pm, Deddington Parish Church

Deddy Jazz brings contemporary jazz with international influences to the ears of local jazz aficionados and music lovers. £10 adult

Deddy Rocks – Saturday 20 June from 2pm, Market Place

A Festival favourite, with local bands playing live in Deddington's Market Place, this year's acts are Platinum, The Vents, Jump and Melody. This event appeals to all ages, attracting crowds of 500 people with a barbecue, ice cream, beer and bands. Families can rock out from 2.00pm onwards culminating in a children's disco before the main concert starts at 6.00pm. For information on the line up of bands visit the website. Voluntary donations.

For further programme information on other events including an art exhibition, history and farm walks, and a Baroque concert please visit the website. Follow on Facebook and Twitter @DeddyFest.

FRIENDS OF DEDDINGTON LIBRARY

Our subscribers are now up to 95 so we're approaching our half way mark. Our goal still remains 200 which is vital in securing the future of your much loved village library. Subscription forms available at the library or via our website.

Cash for Trash is gaining momentum. This is our ongoing fundraising initiative to collect used inkjet and laser jet cartridges for recycling. We are now also able to include old mobile phones and will be pleased to receive any that you have abandoned in favour of more modern handsets. There are collection points in the library itself, Hamptons in the Market Place and at the Farmers' Market, next to the customer information point, so please take a look at home or in the office for any used cartridges or old mobile phones.

Our latest prize draw winner is Christopher Hall, to whom thanks for his continued support. Sign up for a subscription – you could be next.

Name the Rag Dolly raised £50 for library funds –

her name turns out to be Esmeralda. Grateful thanks to Meriel Flux for making Esmeralda. She proved hugely popular.

During the coming months we are hosting a number of literary events to commemorate the end of World War Two – more in our next update. November will see another Cotswold Comedy Club event to liven up our winter evenings. When a date is confirmed we'll publicise it on our website and in the *DN*.

If you've any 'famous' friend who you think may be willing to be associated with the Friends then drop them a line or give them a nudge in our direction.

As ever, thank you for your continued support. Please spread the word and encourage a friend or neighbour to become a Friend of Deddington Library. It costs as little as £2 per month – less than the price of a coffee – and keep up to date at www.friendsofdeddingtonlibrary.org.

Bryn Williams abw@brynwilliams.com

CHURCH AND CHAPEL

June

Parish Church SS Peter and Paul

Sun 7 10.30am Family Service
 6.30pm Choral Evensong
 Wed 10 10.00am Eucharist
 Thu 11 2.00pm Squeals and Wheels
 Sun 14 08.00am Communion (BCP)
 10.30am Eucharist
 Wed 17 10.00am Eucharist
 Thu 18 2.00pm Squeals and Wheels
 Sun 21 10.30am Eucharist
 Wed 24 10.00am Eucharist
 Thu 25 2.00pm Squeals and Wheels
 Sun 28 9.30am Eucharist
 10.30am Café Church

St. John's, Hempton

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

Barford St Michael

Sun 7 10.30am Communion
 Sun 14 10.30am Family Service
 Sun 21 10.30am Mattins
 Sun 28 4.00pm Evensong

For baptisms, weddings, funerals or home visits in case of illness, please contact the Vicar, the Revd Annie Goldthorp, the Vicarage, 1 Earls Close, Deddington, (336880) 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
 June 28 John Williams

Pastor Isabel Walton 337157

RC Parish of Hethe

Mass at Holy Trinity, Hethe, is said at 9.30am every weekday except Thursday.

There are two Masses on Saturday, 1 at 9.30am in the normal Ordinary Rite and 12 noon in the Latin Extraordinary Rite.

There are two Masses on Sunday, the first at 10.00am in the Ordinary Rite and the second at 12.00 noon in the Extraordinary Rite.

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. Mass is said at 9.00am on Sundays at SS Peter and Paul Anglican Church, Kings Sutton.

Fr Paul Lester 01869 277630

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

DEDDINGTON COMMUNITY CARES

We started Community Cares in November 2012, having amalgamated the previous church-based Pastoral Group and the Neighbourhood Watch. Since then, over 117 telephone calls have been received from people asking for help. It has always been possible to find a volunteer to fulfil each of these requests from people in Deddington, Hempton or Clifton.

Most of the help we offer involves giving lifts to people who have hospital appointments at the Horton, Radcliffe or Churchill, to doctors in Banbury or to Deddington Health Centre. We also take people to the dentist, optician, hairdresser, dementia events or to visit sick relatives, as well as collecting prescriptions, shopping or sitting with people needing company, either for health or loneliness reasons or to relieve a carer.

We realise that most help is given by family, neighbours and friends apart from Community Cares, but everyone we help is most grateful and what we do is very worthwhile. Our volunteers, all retired village residents, now number 22. Some are drivers and others do not drive, but do local shopping and visiting. However, we need younger people to join us. Would you like to become a volunteer for this worthwhile work? Please phone either Wendy or Brian if you are interested.

We held a six session course on dementia some time ago, which was well attended. Would there be any support for another such course? Please let us know.

Wendy Burrows 338082

Brian Bushell 338715

DOWN ON GEORGE'S FARM

It is said that a dripping June puts everything in tune, but as I sit and bash out this month's offering we are experiencing a wet, windy and cold May, something that according to the weather experts is here to stay as the El Nino has started its five year cycle and we, in this part of the world, are heading back into a pattern of cool damp summers and very cold winters. So what happened to global warming?



Although we were told that 15 April was one of the sunniest on record, the temperatures are well below average and seem set to be so for some time yet, something that is having a devastating effect on the honey bees. The cool daytime temperatures and strong winds have made life difficult for them since they have been unable to fly very far on their foraging trips and what they have managed to collect has been taken down to feed the colony, rather than being stored for me to collect. By this time last year we had extracted almost half a ton of honey. So far this year we have had none, so what we need is a flaming dripping June to get things on the move.

The last of the ewe tegs left the lambing sheds at the end of April, but again due to the weather we are having a job to keep enough grass in front of them. The early-born lambs are doing well but the later-born April lambs are making much slower progress and we have once again this year been subject to fox predation in the paddocks next to the village. It seems as if a vixen with cubs has opted for the 24/7 availability of fresh sweet lamb, rather than hunting the street-wise local rabbit population. After a long, cold, wet night with little to feed a litter of growing cubs the prospect of a lamb tucked up in the warm field shelter is an irresistible temptation. We have always lost the odd lamb or two to the fox, but when it becomes a nightly raid, action has to be taken. I make no apologies to the jabbering sentiments of the fox-watching beards and sandals;

after all I am only protecting my livelihood and the wellbeing of my cubs.

The wildlife are holding their own and we have good numbers of breeding pairs on the farm with the river reed beds alive with our warbling summer visitors. One pair of curlew did make it back, but lost their nest to marauding badgers. However, we had good numbers of brimstone, orange tip, common blue, tortoiseshell, peacock and, believe it or not, a painted lady, all on the wing in April. The difficult weather at the start of the merry month of May has put them all back into hibernation.

We now have eight pairs of swallows nesting in the old farm buildings and the house martins are making good use of the mud puddles in the yard as they rebuild the nests under the eaves of the village houses. As yet no swifts, but the strong cold north-east wind may well have delayed their return.

The cuckoo has yet to be heard on the farm. Although on the RSPB's national 'red list', I have always heard and seen a cuckoo at Clifton, but we still have time to hear him before he flies away. He is a strange bird, featured in poetry and folklore – 'The cuckoo comes in April, he sings his song in May, in the middle of June he changes his tune and in July he flies away'. The cuckoo is a migrant and comes to this country to breed, but is a parasitic bird laying its eggs in other birds' nests, often reed warblers or dunnocks. It will lay one egg in a number of different nests and has the ability to match the egg colouring to that of the host bird although the egg is larger. Once the cuckoo chick has hatched it will remove all the other chicks and eggs, fooling the surrogate parents to rear it as their own. In my boyhood days of carefree wild land adventures of bird nesting the Holy Grail was to find a cuckoo's egg. I never did.

George Fenemore 338203

HOLLY TREE CLUB

The Holly Tree Club is an informal friendly club for the over 60s. Men, women and dogs are welcome and there is an affectionate local cat. Meetings are held from 10.00am to 12.00 noon on the first Monday of every month (apart from Bank Holidays when it is on the second Monday) at the Holly Tree hall, Horsefair, behind the green door, with car parking through the double gates.

The Club provides a good opportunity for people to make new friends and socialise with existing friends while enjoying coffee or tea and well-chosen biscuits. Our AGM is held in May, efficiently run by Terry and Jim, and is considered too long if it lasts more than 15 minutes. Outings are arranged with members able to

put forward suggestions, within reason, as to where they would like to go.

We have a film evening on the second Thursday of each month. Members are given a list of films and vote on which they would like to see – it saves going to the cinema in Banbury. On the first or second Monday in December we have a Christmas meal at a local restaurant.

It is always good to welcome new members (the subscription is a mere £5 annually), so please come and try us out.

Liz Dickinson 337050

Wendy Burrows

wendy.burrows536@btinternet.com

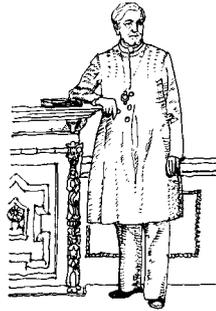
DEDDINGTON 150 YEARS AGO

The following are extracts from the diaries of the Revd Cotton Risley for the month of June 1865.

2nd June – Susan and I went to Oxford by the mid-day train to see Dr. Symonds again. Signed a paper for Sturch [landlord of The Kings Arms] permitting him to sell Beers and Liquors in the Castle Grounds on Whit Monday, the opening day of our Cricket Club. Received by post this afternoon an invitation from Lord Say and Sele for Holford and myself to dine at Broughton Castle to meet the Bishop on Monday next being Whit Monday – obliged to refuse having engaged to be at the re-opening of Fritwell Church on that day after being re-built – and Holford being in Town and obliged to be present at the commencement of our cricket season.

5th June – I went to the opening of Fritwell Church by the Bishop – Susan very poorly.

12th June – Mrs. Peel and Miss Thoyts came from Rousham to luncheon, the Dormers with Miss Agnes Strickland came also later in the day – we showed them the architecture in the Plough Public House cellar – and the Church. We all (with dearest Susan who felt a little better today thank God) went to the Castle Ground and played at croquet.



13th June – We began haymaking – the mowers complained that the beer I had brewed for them was not good enough – a most unreasonable and shameful complaint. Told them to get the quantity allowed from the Plough Public House whilst they were mowing.

14th June – Called on Mr. Stilgoe and he tasted the beer – who said they ought to go without any if they could not drink it.

15th June – I walked down to the hayfield and gave our man Castle a good scolding, and notice to leave my service on Saturday night – afterwards told him he might stop and finish the haymaking if he chose, which he agreed to do. He had behaved extremely ill on two successive days, [at] the Club and following day – abused Mrs. Atwood, wanted to fight her husband and Jones our coachman, was drunk and unable to milk his cows – Jones helped him. Tonight he said he did not like Mrs. Atwood to be his master. I told him she was right in speaking when he was not doing his work properly, which had been the case.

16th June – Castle came to say he should like to leave tomorrow night as I had ordered him. I arranged with a man named Townsend who worked for S. Dean to take Castle's place on Sunday morning.

Buffy Heywood

Aynho History Society
with Adderbury and Deddington
History Societies present

WATERLOO 200 The crucial defence of Château d'Hougoumont

Wednesday 24th June at 19.30
at The Windmill Centre, Deddington

Speakers:
Rupert Clark and Dick Ferguson

Admission £3 Students £1

Afterwards, Waterloo themed
cheese and wine
(donations bar)

Event profits to SSAFA Charity No 210760

Any questions, please contact
Rupert Clark 01869 810603
or ru-clark@btinternet.com

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FROM THE FIRE STATION

There have been a lot of changes for Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue over the past month. Previously, every station had its own area. Now three merged counties have one regional control room which will send the nearest fire engine to an incident. All the communications with the control room have changed and most of it is done through the computer in the front of the appliance. Even though it has been a real challenge for the front line, I think it has improved service to our communities. The control centre knows where a fire engine is at any one time and can now direct it to an incident, saving valuable time. Another change is to our Breathing Apparatus (BA) procedures. Again I feel that this will improve and simplify our service. The crew has done amazingly well with all the changes and I know that it's because they are the type of people who can adapt very quickly to sudden changes in an ever-changing environment.

The biggest incident we attended this month was the fire at the Randolph Hotel in Oxford. The fire had started in the kitchen by an over-enthusiastic chef who put a little too much brandy in his cooking and the fire got into the extractor ducts. I am speculating that there must have been a coating of grease in the ducts for it to spread so rapidly into the roof. What stopped the whole hotel from being lost was the fire doors which prevented the fire spreading to the rest of the building. It is really important to remember to shut all your doors, even if they are not fire rated, before you go to bed. It's the difference between us having to put out a fire in a room or your whole house.

It has also been a busy month for our work in attending charity events and I would like to thank all of our crew for the many unpaid hours they have given to help support our community. So far we have attended a fête at Lower Heyford, the lighting of the beacon for VE day on the Hempton road, and marshalled for the Four

Farms Challenge. This was a massive undertaking and helped raise money for the Fire Fighters' Charity and the Primary School. The organisers for this event were Chris Fenemore, Neil Skinner, Juliet Morris and Lucy Sydenham. The work that they put in to make this event go so well is, to say the least, impressive, with 270 people running the course. I was talking to my Watch Manager, Chris Fenemore, on the day and was surprised when he told me that he had to write over 15 different risk assessments for the event. The run was a huge success and I'm sure that it will be a regular event for many years to come. I apologise if we have not been able to attend your fête so far this year as we get inundated with requests and cannot attend them all, but we do try to attend as many as possible.

Training is always on at Deddington. We have a water training day at the end of the month which involves rescuing people from open water, rope techniques, wading and using our life raft. This is a really good training event. Barney Alton has now been given a date for his BA training in June and that will mean all of the crew are BA qualified. The rest of the month will be taken up with learning new BA search techniques. This will not replace what we do now but will add an extra skill we can use. The way we search buildings now is to send crews in teams of two and do a left hand and right hand search, meaning two teams can search a whole building. The new skill we are learning is called compartment searching. This means one BA team searches the whole room before moving on. Both methods are very effective and we are looking forward to doing this training.

Don't forget to check your smoke alarms every week.

Tim Parker
Crew Manager

NEWS FROM CLIFTON

I was touched watching Deddington's very simple VE 70th commemoration beacon ceremony. Cllr Collins said a few words while a number of young people attended to the needs of our oldest World War Two veteran, Ted Johnson, MC who lit an impressive beacon while being kept safe at all times by members of the Explorer Scouts and Boys Brigade. Well over 100 people came along. The beacon shone bright and the bonfire kept burning up to midnight. Our Retained Fire Service kept all attendees safe and made sure all the wood was burnt, making cleaning up next day a lot easier. £100 was informally collected for the Royal British Legion and Katharine House Hospice.

The Sally season has started well with both A and B teams getting wins and having fun, although Tim has deserted Lower Larkrise, having been seduced by the bright cheerleading pom-poms and lights of Candleford's A team. However, he and Lucy kept our end up in the brilliantly organised and well supported recent

Four Farms Challenge when many people visited our corner of paradise and are the richer for it, I'm sure.

Contact has been established with Harry over the Duck and the 65 supporters will have received an update that is far from black. If anyone feels they should have received an update and haven't, please contact Cllr Collins as I understand his email program crashed and burnt lately and a number of addresses and groups were lost. He should really take more care.

Cllr Collins asked me to say that plans are being drawn up for a Parish wide commemoration of VJ 70 day and the end of the Second World War and suggestions are required. So far a themed literary festival and a parade with many of the Parish's groups and military vehicles are among ideas being considered, but if you have any better ideas, or like the sound of these, please let Cllr Collins know.

Martin Bryce
martindnbryce@gmail.com

FARMERS' MARKET

Gilding the Strawberry

One of the true delights of the English summer is the strawberry. There's nothing like a sun-ripened berry picked warm from the plant. But if you don't grow your own, or if you do and the squirrels and birds get to the fruit before you, don't despair – the Farmers' Market will provide.

Once you've got your strawberries home you have to decide what to do with them. Most sensible people just eat them as they are as soon as possible. The fridge kills their candyfloss aroma and they don't usually improve on keeping.

Some people swear by a twist of black pepper or a drizzle of balsamic vinegar on their strawberries. Others go for the traditional double or clotted cream. You can even smash the berries into an Eton Mess with some shards of meringue and whipped cream. But for me, the essential pleasure is the strawberry itself and it shouldn't be messed about with more than absolutely necessary.

This month's recipe – Nigel Slater's suggestion – is about as far as I would go to gussy up a bowl of English summer strawberries (imported supermarket strawberries, on the other hand, deserve everything they get).



Strawberries with Fromage Blanc serves 4

bowl of good ripe strawberries

150ml double cream

100ml thick natural yoghurt

1 large egg white

about a tablespoon of icing sugar

Chill a large mixing bowl in the fridge.

When it is cold whip the cream in it until the cream stands in soft folds. Gently fold in the yoghurt. In another bowl beat the egg white until it stands in stiff peaks, then fold it into the cream and yoghurt. Taste and add sugar as you wish. Chill. Serve with the strawberries.

Use as soon as you can. It won't keep. A glass of Prosecco or Champagne can do no harm with this dish.

For more information you can visit the Market web-page www.deddingtonfarmersmarket.co.uk, listen to Deddington OnAir www.deddingtononair.org or BBC Radio Oxford.

The Market is on Saturday 27 June from 9.00am-12.30pm.

Good shopping!

Ian Willox
37940

ian@deddingtononair.org



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first Wednesday of every month



Daily activities - from 10:00am
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PARK FARM: 22 HECTARES

Spring has sprung and there are many new hooves and paws on the ground here at Park Farm Stud. It is, as I'm sure you'll understand, a very stressful time of year even under the best of circumstances. This season held its share of ups and downs, particularly with the horses.

Horses, in common with other members of the Equid family, including zebra and donkeys, are fairly leggy. They are born at roughly 60% of their adult height, a fact that can cause problems in parturition (labour). Added to this, Thoroughbreds constitute an almost artificial breed. Dams and sires are chosen for their racetrack prowess before any breeding aptitude. The pelvic anatomy of a good racing mare may be entirely different from that of an 'easy breeder' for example.

Compounding these issues is the relative lack of hybrid vigour that is inevitable considering all living Thoroughbreds can be traced back to one of three stallions in the 18th century. These factors, together with multiple other influences, lead to a live foal rate of just 66% of Thoroughbred mares sent to stud, despite ever-evolving veterinary research and techniques. These are odds that most sensible people would not take, particularly people as emotionally affected by the species as we are.

A horse has no precise gestation length, roughly 320—360 days is common, although the longest on record resulting in a live foal is 445 days. During the first stage of labour the mare is likely to roll to help move the foal into position. She can then delay the second stage for days until she feels safe; a trait held in common with many prey animals. However, once the second stage begins, the power of a mare's contractions means it may often take only 15 minutes for the whole process to be finished so the mare requires close scrutiny, because if things go wrong, they go wrong very quickly. We had watched as closely as ever this season, with regular checks for weeks before our

first foal was born. Because 80% of mares foal at night, it has been said, 'If you want to guarantee a mare will foal, book something expensive and non-refundable on the night in question'.

So it was that, in my absence, Jason, noticing a foal was malpresented at the beginning of second stage labour, was lucky to be able to call, at 2.00am, on Hughie Stilgoe of Grounds Farm, who arrived within five minutes, almost an hour before the vet. Jason and Hughie managed to deliver the foal without injury to the mare. They performed the CPR necessary to the foal, it having been born without a heartbeat. The vet, when he arrived, did not believe it would survive. It was very weak and could not stand, even aided.

Then began several days of hand feeding. Extraordinarily, the mare did not reject the foal despite its weakness, nor did she become upset when we handled it. Seemingly understanding our intention to help, she stood quietly as we milked her into a baby's bottle, hour after hour, and allowed us to lift the foal to its feet to help it build muscle. When the foal had gained enough strength to stand, it took several more days before she accepted that milk was available from the mare, not just from human bottles. Then, just when we felt that we were out of the wood, the mare developed colic – her large intestine became wrapped around her spleen – resulting in emergency surgery. Beating the odds again, she was whinnying for her foal as soon as the anaesthetic began to wear off. It is highly likely that this foal proud behaviour gave her the strength to fight for life.

Now, both dam and foal are doing well, and, following the stress-free birth of our other foal, Jason and I can go back to sleeping through the small hours. People often ask us why we almost never bet on racing; perhaps having read this, you'll agree we gamble hard enough off the track.

Beatrice Bathe
parkfarmstud@gmail.com

NEWS FROM HEMPTON

Congratulations to Jenny and Torx Pyper of Benmor on the Duns Tew Road, on the birth of baby Holly who arrived quickly at home on Monday 27 April, a little sister for Lauren.

Please remember the AGM of the Friends of Hempton Church will be held on Thursday 4 June, at 7.00pm. Members and non-members are welcome to come along to this important meeting as the building relies on the organisation for its ongoing maintenance and upkeep. The Church and Old School Room are the only community spaces in the village so their survival is vital. The Old School Room is being used quite regularly but please give me a call if you have a func-

tion to hold. There are nice kitchen and toilet facilities and hiring rates are very reasonable at £4 per hour.

The VE Beacon was successfully lit on Friday 8 May in a field on the edge of the village at 9.15pm.

There will be a *Beautiful Baroque* concert in the Church on Thursday 18 June between 12 noon and 2.00pm as part of the week-long Deddington Festival. You can buy the £5 tickets online or find out where you can get them in the village by visiting the ticket page at www.deddingtonfestival.org.uk.

Les Chappell
338054

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM WENDY BURROWS,
MARKET PLACE

I am sure I am not the only one who was impressed with the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group's display for the drop-in sessions in the church on 24 and 25 April.

It must have taken a great deal of work to analyse all the information from the questionnaires and to create such a well presented, clear and interesting display of the facts together with up-to-date maps, photographs and space for residents' comments. Congratulations to all the group and thank you.

FROM IAIN GILLESPIE, MILL CLOSE

The Deddington Housing Association Ltd manages the four Holly Tree Cottages on the corner of Earls Lane. We are a small committee of volunteers, normally about seven in number, but because of a recent resignation we are in need of one or two people to join us. We are particularly in need of a secretary. The committee meets about four times a year, plus an AGM, and the secretary's duties are setting up meetings, taking the minutes and circulating them to the other members, completing the Association's annual return to the Financial Conduct Authority, and dealing with a small amount of correspondence. Details of the aims and objectives of the DHA can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/ptsdtf3>.

If anyone is interested in helping with this important village resource, please contact me on 338367 or iain@gillespie.org. Even if you do not fancy being the secretary you may find that we can use your talents in other fields, so please get in touch.

FROM CHRISTOPHER HALL, PHILCOTE STREET

The *DN* reported that the Parish Council at its April meeting registered an objection to the proposed 5MW solar farm between Deddington and Duns Tew on the grounds of 'visual intrusion on the landscape and loss of valuable agricultural land'. I understand that councillors were under pressure of time to respond to the application.

The project planning consultant states: 'The site is one of the least productive arable fields within the ownership of the landowner making it suitable for grazing and diversification.' (The soil quality is 3B – at the bottom of the agricultural fertility scale.) 'Should the proposed solar farm obtain planning permission, [the farmer] would relocate ... sheep back to the site of the proposed solar farm where they can graze in and around the rows of solar panels without causing any disturbance to the operation of the solar farm.'

Rather than being a 'loss of valuable agricultural land', the proposed solar farm would make the land doubly productive. A farmer in Wadebridge, Cornwall,



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

says: 'As a sheep farmer I am very happy to be able to continue grazing my livestock within the same fields amongst the rows of panels, with minimal loss of agricultural land. My sheep keep the site looking fantastic and prevent any overgrowth shading the panels.'

In a time when the viability of small family farms is under financial pressure because of low farm-gate

prices, this diversification project would help keep one of our neighbours in the business of putting local food onto our plates, as well as injecting extra revenue into the local economy. By staying in the business of farming he will be able to continue to make his contribution not only to protect rural England but the planet too.

The proposed site is tucked away. The 'visual intrusion on the landscape' of the field is minimal from any angle used by the general public. Solar panels are far less obtrusive than oil-seed rape or polytunnels which do not need planning permission. The Duns Tew Parish Council has registered no objection to the proposal.

We should be proud of this project on our doorstep. The proposal is not only not 'to the detriment of the nation' as the PC asserted; it is an asset. 5MW solar panels will power 1,515 homes each year – 50% more than the homes of this parish – and also save 2,150 tonnes of CO₂.

The Arctic is warming twice as fast as the global average. The extent of Arctic sea ice in March was at its lowest level for March since it began being monitored in 1981. The ice is also thinning as David Shukman has been reporting on BBC News. Its thickness reduced by 65% over the period 1975–2012. This warming in the Arctic affects weather conditions elsewhere. As the ice melts permafrost is already releasing climate-changing methane into the atmosphere. That is to our detriment and to the detriment of our grandchildren. 'What happens in the Arctic doesn't stay in the Arctic'.

BELLS, BELLS, BELLS

Hearing the church bells ringing out during practice on a Monday evening or on Sunday mornings before church, have you ever wondered what the bells look like, where they are hung or how they are rung?

Now you have a chance to answer all your questions.

The Church bell ringers are opening the tower on the morning of Saturday 27 June, Farmers' Market Day, from 10.00am–12.00 noon. This is your opportunity to climb the tower, see the bells themselves, watch them being rung and, for the really adventurous, go to the top of the tower for a great view over the village.

Colin Cox

cldcox@btopenworld.com

WELL REMEMBERED

SHEILA MARY BROCK 1933–2015

Sheila's parents, Thomas Arthur – known as Sam – and Emily May, were living in Bodicote when Sheila was born in 1933. As a child she went to St Mary's Primary school on the Southam Road in Banbury, an experience she obviously enjoyed as she always pointed it out every time she drove past it, delighted that it was still there.

In 1957, aged 24, She married Percy. They lived for a while in Worton before moving to Deddington, originally to The Paddocks and then, in June 1960, to the family home in Victoria Terrace.

Sheila and Percy had three children, Stephen, Barie and Mandy, as well as Sandra, who she brought up from the age of nine. There are five grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

One of the things Sheila really liked to do was holidaying abroad. Up until 1995 Sheila enjoyed holidays in Austria, Bulgaria, Malta and Spain to name but a few. After 1995, she still liked to visit different places, but these were now in the UK – the Isle of Wight and Charmouth in Dorset. The Isle of Wight was a particular favourite for family holidays, especially around Christmas. Days out were equally important, with the Malverns and the Forest of Dean being very special to her, but one of her absolute favourites was eating fish and chips on the banks of the River Severn.

One of the reasons for visiting these lovely places was the shopping. The shops in Pershore and Ross-on-Wye held particular appeal for Sheila. This was neither clothes shopping nor any sort of retail therapy: this was a close examination of the local charity shops and what bargains there were to be had. These could take the form of ducks, china boxes, teacups and many other things but her absolute passion was collecting teddy bears and Sheila had hundreds of them. I'm not sure if they each had a name but they did all have a place in her home.

Sheila had a very special treat for her 80th birthday in 2013: her family took her for a trip on a steam train in the Forest of Dean, an experience she loved very much. Something else that Sheila loved dearly was dogs. The house was never without a pet dog in it. Over the years there must have been six or seven and all of them very special to her. The latest dogs have all been named after moons and I see Stephen walking lo pretty much every morning.

Sheila was a lady who loved life and everything it had to offer. She enjoyed her travelling and her family holidays, her charity shop collecting and her dogs. Sadly though, life was never the same after she had a second stroke around six months ago, and her mobility, and life in general became much more difficult. She died at the Horton Hospital on 12 April, Easter Sunday. May she rest in peace.

AG

FREDERICK JAMES ELLIS 1923–2015

Fred was born in Birmingham, one of six brothers and sisters. He joined the RAF in 1943 as a Master Signaller and met his wife, Val, at Collaton Cross in Devon while recuperating from a hand injury. They married in 1950 and had a son, David, in 1951. Fred travelled extensively with the RAF – Aden, Malta, Gibraltar and Cyprus – and was stationed on various RAF camps including Tangmere, Ripon, Stornoway, and Abingdon. Fred was very proud of his RAF service, in particular being a crew member of one of the Lancaster bombers that escorted Queen Elizabeth II back from East Africa after the death of King George VI. He famously gave an interview on Radio Oxford on the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

He retired from the RAF in 1965 and he and Val became landlord and landlady of the Unicorn in Deddington. They were very successful in this venture and were popular tenants, attracting a large number of regular customers. Sadly, Val died in 1987 and Fred retired less than a year later. He was given a huge send off and the Unicorn was packed to the rafters, the occasion being a fitting tribute to his (and Val's) popularity.

He moved to his cottage in Philcote Street where he lived for 28 years. During this time he enjoyed his two major passions in life, horse-racing and fishing. He always remained a supporter of the Royal British Legion and kept in touch with his 99 Squadron, regularly attending their reunions.

In July 2014 he became increasingly frail and moved to St Anne's Residential Care Home in Clifton where he was cared for until his death last month.

David Ellis



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CALLING ALL CLUBS

Deddington Original Golf Society

May Day and the first DOGS full-day outing to an oasis in the City of Oxford, Oxford Golf Club. Admittedly, not the easiest place to find on a Friday morning close to rush hour. Undeterred, 22 stalwarts arrived on time. There should have been 25 but sadly the father of one of our members, John Stiff, passed away the day before. Condolences have been sent to John and his family. Mike and Pat Durant were also missing: they arrived in plenty of time but at the wrong golf course – North Oxford. The prize for the team with the highest points went to Barbara Lowe, Keith Spengler and Barry Pawley; for longest drive and nearest the pin, to Keith Spengler, who had thought of purchasing some golf balls to distribute to these winners. However, Keith found two wooden carriage style clocks from stock and decided to substitute these. DOGS chairman took great delight in awarding Keith with two well-deserved clocks. We may see more of these as the year proceeds. A bottle of wine went to Tony Round, the guest with the highest points who was ‘persuaded’ to join DOGS that afternoon. In tier one runners-up were, 2nd, Barbara Lowe, and 3rd, Steve McDowell. In tier two runners-up were, 2nd, Tony Herring, and 3rd, Pat Durant. The overall winner was Peter Curtis. All winners had their handicaps adjusted by our own Attila the Hun, John Dauphin. A special prize, a dodgy watch, was awarded to Mike Durant who, being a man, had naturally blamed his wife for being at the wrong golf course.

Next DOGS day out is 5 June at Hellidon Lakes, details to be distributed soon.

Tony Lowe 337108

Deddington Town Colts

As the season draws to a close, there is just a handful of games to report on. The Under 14s playing in the Midland Junior League lost 5–1 to Heath Hays, followed by a 3–0 victory over Coventry Sky Blues and a 4–1 home defeat to Redditch United. In the Witney and District Youth League the Under 14s won their last game 3–0 against Easington Sports to end the season in third place in the B League. This was a great result and inflicted the only defeat of the season on champions, Easington.

Presentation day for the Colts teams is on Sunday 7 June at the Windmill Centre with a barbecue and licensed bar, starting at 2.00pm.

If you want to get involved with the club as player, volunteer, sponsor or fundraiser, please do get in touch. Further information about the club is on our website with contact numbers for team managers – <http://www.deddingtontownfc.com/>.

**Roger Sykes, Club Welfare Officer
337034**

Deddington Town Football Club

1st Team Results

14.04.15 Heyford Ath (h) L 1–3

18.04.15 Steeple Aston (a) L 1–2 Cook

Rarely has there been a more miserable dénouement to a season for either team, with a full house of defeats in April and May for both sides. Your proud correspondent has therefore decided to set up a change.org petition to lobby for the season to end in March from next year. I'll let you know how it goes. Meanwhile, get signing up to be part of next year's escapades. Both teams are in need of players, and at least one manager. Fill your boots!

Aaron Bliss 07909 642882

1st Deddington Scout Group

Cubs

The Cubs made special woggles for St George's Day and George was chosen to play St George; it seemed only right and he fitted the costume. The parade went really well although we were a bit short on numbers this year due to a clash with football. We are all looking forward to camp at Horley: let's hope for sunny weather and tired Cubs.

**Jo Churchyard CSL 338071
jochurchyard@hotmail.com**

Scouts

Scouts have continued with their fundraising efforts for Special Effects and spent an evening litter picking for the great village clean up. It's amazing what is thrown from cars on the Hempton Road; we ended up with four dustbin liners full. The Scouts formed the head and body of St George's dragon and did very well considering that only the head could see where they were going. We even paid a visit to the church before re-taking our promise in the Market Place. Coming up – 24-hour camp, aqua camp and geocaching.

**Pete Churchyard SL 07793013046
pete.churchyard@btinternet.com**

Spartans Explorer Scout Unit

We have been really busy in the past few months. We gave out flyers to see if we could attract more helpers at the parade. No luck yet but we're still hoping. We also helped with the village litter pick, clearing the main road to the depot and back.

During the Easter break some of the Explorers staged a six hour gaming marathon and raised £121 for Special Effects, a local charity helping handicapped young people participate in activities that the able-bodied take for granted. VE Day saw three of the Explorers helping the veteran to light the beacon. They talked to him about his wartime experiences and were a credit to the organisation.

Janet Duxbury GSL 01608 737959

CALLING MORE CLUBS

We took a total of 35 Cubs, Scouts, Explorers and parents to Brownsea Island. It was a fine day, if an early start, and we all had a great time: the boys skimmed stones, climbed trees and rolled down banks much like the original scouts at the first camp there. Many thanks to the Farmers' Market for the donation towards the trip, which was free to everyone who came.

1st Deddington Guides

The St George's Day Parade in Banbury was a huge success, well supported by many Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Rangers, Young Leaders and Leaders, with a terrific turnout of girls and a large crowd on a sunny afternoon, all celebrating St George and Guiding. Catherine Blackburn, a Deddington Guider, was the lead organiser. She received the Oxfordshire Lozenge (badge) for good service from the Guide County Commissioner in a surprise presentation in the church. It was well deserved and a proud moment for us all. Keeping up the Deddington connection, Tilly Neal, a Young Leader with Deddington Brownies, carried the standard with two Deddington District Young Leaders from Middle Barton (one an ex-Deddington Guide). As a District, we gave our presentation on the history of Guiding, *104 Years in Five Minutes*. It was lively and fun and finished on a high note with over 60 Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Senior Section on stage singing. Congratulations to Amy Upson, Chloe Boxhall and Libby Morris for starring roles on stage or as flag bearers.

We started the term with a quiz around the Market Place – some real brainteasers. Then our first cookout: aah, the smell of the wood smoke, great fun. We were impressed with how accomplished our Guides are at organising themselves, fire lighting and cooking.

We also practised putting up various kinds of tents, ready for summer and our Senior Guides shopped and prepared supper on a budget. We hiked from Steeple Aston to Upper Heyford on a beautiful evening, with stunning views of the surrounding countryside.

All girls over ten are welcome to join the troop.

Catherine Blackburn 01295 258008

Marion Trinder 340806

Maggie Rampley 01295 810069

1st Deddington Boys' Brigade

Better weather has meant all sections have been outside and our programme for the rest of the year will try to incorporate as much outdoor time as possible. The Company section has been looking at various 'awareness weeks' and we reviewed the work of the Red Cross – very informative and thought provoking. At the other end of the scale, we had huge fun with national doughnut week and a favourite BB challenge of eating a doughnut without licking your lips. They were surprisingly good at it.

We were very honoured to be asked to participate in

the lighting of the beacon for the VE 70th anniversary commemorations, together with the Venture Scouts. This was a fascinating event to be involved in and made us think again about the impact of conflict and war. Well done to Kieran and Malachy who took part. A special well done also goes to Lewis for sounding the *Last Post*.

Jen Childs, Leader

07774 608715

Jen.childs@btinternet.com

Book Club

Last month we read *The Cuckoo's Calling* by Robert Galbraith. This is the first in a series of crime novels featuring the detective, Cormoran Strike, written by JK Rowling under her pen name. Sales of the book are reported to have soared when the identity of the author was revealed. In this first book, Strike is tasked with investigating the mysterious death of a young supermodel who has fallen to her death from a balcony. The characters of the detective and his sidekick, Robin, are quite well drawn, but it was generally agreed that it was too wordy and unnecessarily long. We concluded that the author, in view of her success with Harry Potter, may have had a film script in mind and, indeed, it has now been reported that the stories are to be made into a BBC drama. The majority said that they had enjoyed the book and would like to try *The Silkworm* which is the next in the series.

The next book is *We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves* by Karen Joy Fowler and the next meeting is on 25 June at 7.30pm.

Sally Lambert

338094

Deddington and District History Society

Our May speaker, Richard Ratcliffe, gave a charming, humorous and insightful talk on the subject of elementary education in Victorian times. Before 1800 virtually the only education available to poorer children was in charity schools, often of lamentable quality. From 1811 the Church of England established National Schools, a move matched by nonconformists. Pupils paid a penny or two to attend. Children learned, if they were lucky, basic reading, writing, arithmetic and religion, taught by unqualified teachers. The first teacher-training college, Battersea, opened in 1840. The Forster Elementary Education Act of 1870 established partly state-funded schools for the first time, for children aged five to ten. Only from 1880 was education compulsory. Slowly, in piecemeal fashion, education was made free, the school-leaving age raised to 15 and publicly-funded Local Education Authorities created in 1902. Richard enlivened his talk by reading extracts from Flora Thompson and from the lives and careers of a Warwickshire pupil-teacher and a Cambridgeshire schoolmistress before finishing with a hilarious list

... AND EVEN MORE CLUBS

of excuses submitted for missing school. Education might have changed, but one wonders how much the children have.

Our lecture season has now finished until September but we have a special event on Wednesday 24 June at 7.30 pm in the Windmill Centre to mark the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo. There will be talks and a chance to view a museum-quality diorama of the battle. Cole's Bookstore from Bicester will be there offering an opportunity to buy books on the subject. Admission is £3 (£1 for students) with cheese and wine available afterwards. All are welcome. Proceeds will go to the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association (SSAFA). Do come along to what promises to be a fascinating event.

Chris Day, Chairman 337204
Moira Byast, Secretary 338637

Deddington Players

The Deddington Players held their AGM on 13 May with 15 members attending. We discussed ways to continue improving the quality of performances we bring to the village, as well as keeping costs down and making sure everyone enjoys the experience. We might even drag ourselves into the 21st Century and offer online ticketing.

Some dates for your diary: auditions for the pantomime, Sunday 18 October at 2.00pm, Windmill Centre; pantomime performances, 21–23 January 2016, Windmill Centre.

If you would like to become a member or get involved in the pantomime, please contact suzieupson@mac.com.

Deddington Beeches Bowls Club

For the month of June the Club will be open weekly on Wednesday evenings from 6.30pm onwards for anyone who would like to give bowls a try. Appropriate shoes and equipment plus a qualified coach will be available at no cost so please come along. You are assured of a warm welcome.

Yvonne Twomey 337213

Royal British Legion

We marked the 70th anniversary of the end of WW2 in Europe on Sunday afternoon with a well-supported special service, drafted by the Vicar. It included an Act of Remembrance with a two minute silence, recollections read by three of our members, and the *Last Post* and *Reveille* superbly played by a member of the Deddington Brass Band which also accompanied the Branch Standard from the Market Place. We are most grateful to the Revd Annie who gave an uplifting address, the organist, churchwardens and the Brass Band.

Jean Morris, Branch Secretary
338143 mrsjeanmorris@gmail.com

BLISSFUL THINKING



The ship of experience sails on a vast ocean of stimuli. Sometimes we lean back and enjoy the waves, point at a dolphin shoal or have our arms broken by unexpected barracuda. You may laugh at the drunken sailor falling overboard early in the morning, but what if the captain asks you to describe the textural congruity of the marine coral? Or you are requested to be the keynote speaker on sea anemone-algae symbiosis in coastal areas? No amount of harpoon horseplay will get you out of this one. What you need are some anchors to cast when the time is right, to dredge the seabed of your recall synapses. When I'm lost in a swamp of chemical alkanes, I simply conjure the image of My Enormous Penguin Bouncing Pretty High to retrieve their names. My knuckles remind me of the days in a month, my awareness of the moon's behaviour is triggered by a cat fleeing a room at the entrance of a dog, and when I flash an FBI signal with my right hand, I'm looking for the movement of electric motors, not extradition! Forget scrawling urban hieroglyphics on your arm, tying a knot round your finger or tattooing the periodic table on your thighs; mnemonics indubitably put the fun into functional.

Aaron Bliss aaronjbliss@hotmail.com



Deddington School Fete

Saturday 4th July 2015

Gates open 12.30 - 4.00

Enter by the school gates

Tombola, Raffle, BBQ, Teas, Coffee and Cakes, Competitions, Music & Games, Traditional Tug of War, Stalls, Licensed Bar, Face Painting, Kids' Corner for the under 4s with Kids Cafe.

Put the date in your diary and come along, it is going to be a really fun day.

Email us at www.deddingtonpta@gmail.com



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THE TASTE BUDDIES

We are the Taste Buddies. We lunch out every two months to assess local pubs and restaurants. We are an independent group with no connection to the Deddington News or any of the establishments visited. We hope you will find our observations useful.

WHERE?

The White Horse, 2 The Square, Kings Sutton, OX17 3RF, phone 01295 812440, www.whitehorseks.co.uk/.

A very pleasantly decorated pub in traditional style, with a good website.

FOOD SERVED:

Tuesday–Friday 2.30–2.30pm and 6.00–9.00pm

Saturdays 12.00–9.00pm

Sundays 12.00–4.00pm

Closed Mondays

AVERAGE COST:

Starters: £6.50–£7.50, mains £10.95–£23.00, desserts.£4.50–£5.95

Fixed price menu: 2 courses £10.00 and 3 courses £12.95, with a sandwich alternative at lunch time.

There is a good wine list including dessert wines and port and a children's menu. Dogs are welcome

WERE THEY PLEASED TO SEE YOU?

We received an exceptionally warm welcome. All the staff were delightful and nothing was too much trouble.



WAS THE COOKING GOOD?

It was exceptionally good; well presented, with locally sourced ingredients and the homemade bread was superb.

For starters we had mushrooms with wild garlic and truffles on toast, crispy pig's head with pancetta, black pudding and rhubarb and pistachio, boar and venison salami, air-dried ham, roasted artichokes and black olive tapenade.

Mains were Cotswold white chicken with chateaufort au gratin and pommes boulangère with truffle, tenderloin of pork with malt-braised cheek and bean and barley cassoulet, and fillet of beef with triple-cooked chips and Béarnaise sauce and salad.

For dessert there were raspberry and pistachio trifle, sticky toffee pudding, vanilla crème brûlée, organic ice cream and a cheese board.

VALUE FOR MONEY?

Everything was faultless.

WOULD YOU GO AGAIN?

A positive 'yes'.

PFSU AND VILLAGE NURSERY

The first half of the summer term is over already and the time for most of our children to move on to their new schools and settings is on the horizon. On Tuesday 7 and Wednesday 8 July we will be holding two open afternoons for families with children moving up to the PFSU, offering an opportunity to have a look round and meet the staff. There will also be a 'move-up' afternoon in July for the new children to spend time in the PFSU.

Our joint Sports Day will be held on the Primary School field on Friday 26 June at 11.15am. Bring your lunch for a picnic in the PFSU garden afterwards.

The PFSU held a well-attended parents' evening which we hope everyone found useful. If you missed it and would like to view your child's profile folder then please ask the staff. Thank you to everyone who supported our spring hamper raffle which was drawn at the Farmers' Market on 25 April. We raised over £400.

Our Summer Masquerade fund-raising party will be held on Saturday 11 July and tickets will be on sale soon. Don't miss what promises to be a great evening.

Lucy Squires
37484

FOOTPATH UPDATE

Last month we mentioned the appearance of notices posted on footpaths in each of the Parish's three villages. They stated that a developer, in this case the Prudential Group, has applied to take action which may 'prevent deemed dedication of public rights of way'. To a non-legal eye this appeared somewhat alarming. However, the legally qualified inform us that the purpose of making such a 'landowner deposit' is to enable landowners to formally acknowledge public rights of way across their land and, in doing so, create a presumption that they have no intention of dedicating

any further public rights of way across that land and to bring to an end any period of recreational use 'as of right' over the land, which could give rise to a claim for a village green. The bottom line is that the action behind the posting of the notices poses no threat to the existing paths.

For anyone interested in more detail, information can be found at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/protecting-against-future-claims.

CD

LOCAL ARTISAN'S WORK IN V&A MCQUEEN SHOW



Photo courtesy Anthea Simms

Anyone who has visited the V&A's sell-out Alexander McQueen exhibition, *Savage Beauty*, will have seen a breathtaking display of imagination and craftsmanship from this visionary fashion designer. McQueen often collaborated with artisans to bring his extraordinary designs to life, and one whose work appears at the V&A in several stunning pieces, including punched metal skirts and fine steel crinolines, is local Deddington craftsman, Alex Moss.

Alex lived and worked in London for many years but now runs his business, Forged & Found, from his Philcote Street workshop, open on market days or by appointment. His talents are now in demand for everything from elegant gates and bespoke furniture to striking sculptures rather than rigid high fashion.

CD

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE CENTENARY

There has been considerable media coverage of the Centenary of the Womens' Institute. Locally, some of our members joined the handing over of the Centenary Baton on its way through the counties of Wales and England to the National Centennial Meeting at the Royal Albert Hall. *Home Fires*, televised on Sunday evenings, was based on the book *Jam Busters* by Julie Summers which researched the valuable work of the WI members during WW2.

At its last meeting the local WI branch recalled its wartime efforts. Apart from preserving fruit and jam-making, the combined effort of Deddington Parish and North Aston yielded 131 pounds of rosehips for

syrup; lacking imported citrus fruit, rosehips were a crucial source of vitamin C. Members also collected horse chestnuts and nettles. The horse chestnuts were used as a substitute for grain in the production of the gun propellant, cordite, and nettles were eaten as a vegetable and herbs were collected, too, for medicinal purposes.

And, yes – they knitted socks for soldiers and also made 'slippers for soldiers on leave on the continent', as well as raising money for the Prisoners of War Fund with bring and buy sales and a very successful dance. Provisions were not only collected and sent to soldiers but also to the badly war-damaged area of Poplar in London, and any spare kitchen utensils, equipment and furniture items were also sent to Poplar housewives.

In the 1940s food shortages affected everyone and potatoes often replaced flour in recipes, vinegar and milk could substitute for eggs and jam for sugar. Members frequently shared recipe ideas – one was apple juice marmalade. It is recorded in the Minutes for April 1945, 'We had a talk from Miss King. She told us of vegetables and flavours new to many of us and suggested substitutes which made some of us a little apprehensive of taking a cold supper with any of our friends.'

As well as being the Centenary of the WI this year it is also the 90th anniversary of the formation of Deddington with Hempton and Clifton Institute. Hopefully we will not restrict our Celebration Tea Party solely to the fare available in the 1940s.

Beryl Suckling

berylms@tiscali.co.uk

DOWN AT DAEDA'S WOOD

The bluebells, which have been reluctant to reveal themselves in past years, have put on an excellent show this May and begun to colonise the sunnier parts of the wood, perhaps because of the increased light resulting from the Woodland Trust's carefully managed lopping. The Trust is very firm that no plants are to be introduced into the wood without their supervision to assure that they are native plants. Consequently the daffodils now there will be removed, together with any other plants not of guaranteed provenance.

We hope to meet new Friends at our information table at the Farmers' Market on 27 June and are looking for help in updating *A Diary of Daeda's Wood* for its 20th birthday. What experiences have you had between 2006–2016? Did you take part in the willow workshop at the Holly Tree Club? Have you been down to the wood for a walk, picnic or celebration? Do you have any photos? We'd like to hear from youngsters, some of whom have built dens in the wood. Please share your memories with us by sending them to sylvie.nickels1@googlemail.com.

For more information about joining the Friends of Daeda's Wood please contact me at annetteorchard@live.co.uk.

CONGRATULATIONS FRANK!



Frank Steiner and Sarah Thornton go out together! At 92 Frank Steiner is finally quitting employment of any kind. After 20 years as the Church and Chapel editor for the *DN*, Frank gave up that voluntary position last year. Now, after ten

years' service, Frank is giving up his last remaining position, as a volunteer with Thames Valley Police. He became a volunteer in his 80s, working first in the Force's Kidlington headquarters and subsequently in the Deddington branch office.

He was given a Long Service Award by Sarah Thornton, Thames Valley's Chief Constable, at a commendation ceremony on her last day in the post. Sadly, due to ill-health, Frank was not able to attend. Ms Thornton had, however, entertained Frank and two other nonagenarians three years ago at an official tea, in recognition of their service at an age when most of their contemporaries had long since put their feet up.

We wish him the best for this 'retired' phase of his retirement.

CD

HARWELL OPEN DAY

On Saturday 11 July the Harwell campus, a leading science, innovation, technology and business campus, located just south of Oxford will be open to the public.

Visitors will have access all areas with opportunities to learn about the UK's involvement in space explorations, supercomputing and exciting experiments with powerful X-rays and neutrons, as well as live link-ups with the Laboratory's partners at the Large Hadron Collider at CERN, Geneva, exploring the Vulcan laser – a laser so intense that it is similar to taking all of the sunlight shining on the Earth and focussing it onto a pin head.

There will be demonstrations, talks and activities suitable for all ages – whether it's writing a computer program, making a comet, extracting DNA from strawberries, rocket building and launching, finding out how X-rays help us learn about dinosaurs, witnessing an exploding mini volcano, programming mini robots to navigate around a map or bursting balloons with lasers. Doors open at 9.30am and the last entry is at 4.30pm with the site closing at 5.30pm.

Entry to the campus and all activities are free. For more information go to <http://harwellcampus.com/open-days> or to register go to <http://tinyurl.com/ozor3zs>.

THE MESSAGE OF THE DROP-INS

Around 150 people turned out for the second round of the Neighbourhood Plan drop-in sessions. We'd have preferred more, especially from the western end of the village but the comments posted by those who did attend suggest the steering group is on the right track, and only a few tweaks will be needed to the proposed goals and objectives.

The same broad themes have emerged. If there is to be new housing, the preference is for small developments, in traditional ironstone style and, above all, mainly comprising two- or three-bedroom homes to accommodate older downsizers and young couples starting out. Energy efficiency is also a top priority. The Conservation Area, the historic features, green spaces and rural ambience of the villages are all valued highly and the Neighbourhood Plan should aim to preserve them. If there is any money to be spent to the benefit of the community, once again the message is loud and clear – improve the Windmill Centre and sports facilities, expand the sports fields and update the playgrounds.

The post-its reveal division as well as agreement, concerning the Castle Grounds, between those who want the Castle Grounds left exactly as they are, and those who would like wider use made of them.

Familiar themes cropped up in the Movement and Transport section – the wish for a car park close to the village centre, 20mph speed limits and cycle tracks. However, the wish for more frequent bus services has, astonishingly, already been granted, at least partially. From May 31, the S4 bus between Deddington and Banbury will be half-hourly, which means about a dozen more buses each way daily and the last bus from Banbury will leave at 7.20pm, rather than 6.45pm. These extra journeys will not be subsidised by OCC, so we'll have to use them regularly to make sure we keep them.

In the Business and Employment section there was the usual demand for better mobile phone reception – maybe someone will take note, this time; more food shopping opportunities either at an expanded Co-op or another shop elsewhere; and better broadband. This last is a puzzler. Some parishioners are evidently not aware that since BT Openreach installed fibre optic cable in Deddington a couple of years ago, the whole parish has access to Superfast broadband (at speeds up to 330mbps, whatever that means). If you weren't connected then, Zen, Plusnet, Sky and BT all provide services (see www.uswitch.com). If you encounter any problems you can contact David Rogers on 337065 who may be able to help.

For those who like the detail, you can see all the post-it comments transcribed on our website.

Helen Oldfield

helenmoldfield@yahoo.co.uk
Deddingtonneighbourhoodplan.org