

the Deddington news

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What a summer we have had! The Festival continued to amaze with the versatility of this talented community; the Library situation is moving towards a resolution, though your help is still needed; this weekend the Parish Show demonstrates another strand to our diversity. Beneath all this we have a strong sense of community. Can you imagine happening here the shocking events seen on our tv screens of the mindless violence, killing and looting witnessed in many of England's major cities in August? The reasons are complex, but are we a 'broken society' in Deddington? I think not.

DIARY SEPTEMBER

Thu	1	1st Deddington Scouts: Autumn term starts
Sat	3	Parish Show, Parish Church, 2pm
Sat	3	Deddington Town Football Club: First match of season
Mon	5	Monday Morning Club: Coffee morning, Holly Tree, 10.30 am–noon
Mon	5	'The History of Christianity in 15 Objects', Bishop of Oxford, Parish Church, 7pm
Tues	6	Badminton Club starts, Windmill Centre, 7pm
Wed	7	Photographic Society: Paul and Celia Hallett, 'Night Photography – How Exposure Really Works', Cartwright Hotel, Aynho, 7.30pm
Thu	8	Monday Morning Club: Film Evening, Holly Tree, 6.30pm
Sat	10	Historic Churches Ride and Stride: Reception all day in Parish Church and St John's Hempton
Tue	13	First Deddington Guides: Autumn term starts
Tues	13	Junior Badminton starts, Windmill Centre, 6pm
Tue	13	WI: 'The Thames from its Source', Russell Cherry, Holly Tree, 7.30pm
Wed	14	RB: Visit to National Army Museum, London
Wed	14	Launch of Deddington OnAir, Windmill Centre, 7–9pm
Wed	14	History Society: 'The Archive of the Cartwright Family of Aynho', Tim McDermott, Windmill Centre, 7.30pm
Sat	17	Cotswold Chamber Choir, Concert, Parish Church, 7.30pm
Wed	21	Parish Council meeting, Windmill Centre, 7.30pm
Sat	24	Deddington Farmers' Market, 9am–12.30pm
Mon	26	Friends of Hempton Church AGM, Church Hall, 7.30pm
Thu	29	'The History of Christianity in 15 Objects', Professor James Dunn, Parish Church, 7pm
Fri	30	Babies and Toddlers: Fundraising coffee morning for Macmillan Cancer support, Windmill Centre, 9.30–11am

OCTOBER

Sat	1	Harvest Supper, Hempton Church Hall, 7.30pm
Mon	3	Monday Morning Club: Coffee morning, Holly Tree, 10.30 am–noon

(more October Diary dates on p. 3)

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DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Hempton Church Hall 20 July 2011

The meeting was chaired by Jim Flux with a good turnout of councillors and four members of the public. An interesting discussion centred on the new planning application at Greencourts, Earl's Lane, and the developments surrounding the threat to Deddington Library.

Open Forum:

David Rollason and others wished to object to the development of six dwellings at Greencourts, Earl's Lane (see Planning). A consultation with CDC and OCC had suggested that because of the number and design of the units, added to the traffic/parking impact, the application in its present form may be refused.

OCC/CDC:

- CDC are withdrawing grant funding for the Dial-a-Ride service from 31 March 2012; the service will stop unless alternative funding is found by October 2011.
- The oak tree by the traffic lights was diseased and was felled on the authority of OCC. No notice was given to DPC and the decision was taken because of the threat to the highway.

Planning:

New applications

- Greencourts, Earl's Lane: Convert and extend existing house to create four dwellings, demolish garage and build two terraced dwellings. For the reasons suggested by CDC in the Open Forum, DPC would object to the development.
- Manor Farm House, Main St, Clifton: Demolition of a single-storey cloakroom and conservatory to be replaced by a single-storey garden room. DPC saw no reason to object.

No controversial approvals by CDC except that approval for a two-storey house at End Cottage, The Style has been given. This is strange because the

original single-storey development was turned down but this larger development has been approved in spite of DPC objections.

Environment & Recreation, Highways and F&GP:

Continuation of work detailed in previous reports. No new developments.

Procedural Matters: Martin Squires reported that he would have to be absent from DPC for nine months but wanted to retain his position on the working group. This is against Council rules; he asked leave to be granted a sabbatical and it was agreed to consider this request.

Deddington Library

Thames Valley Police want to maintain a presence in Deddington with the Neighbourhood Policing Team and the TVP volunteers. The Mobile Library Crew Room at the Library would be suitable and the TVP volunteers would also be prepared to work when required for the library. The move requires a new home for the Mobile Library Crew and this has been found at Deddington Fire Station, where an office is available on the first floor. The mobile Library vehicle would remain garaged at the OCC Highways Depot at Deddington. The possible move obviously strengthens the case for maintaining the library but this is still far from confirmed. Efforts are continuing to raise the significance and social value of Deddington's library with OCC (see p. 3). Some compromise will be required to maintain the library, probably with volunteers.

Invoices agreed for payment £5,794

Investments of £543,266 at Barclays, West Bromwich BS, Santander and Anglo Irish Bank

Next meeting: 21 September, Windmill Centre, 7.30pm

The notes are the view of our reporter Charles Barker (charlesjbarker@gmail.com) and not the official minutes (see <http://www.deddington.org.uk/community/pc/pcminutes>).

Daeda's Wood

After a scare in late April, when the new leaves on the trees browned and withered and we suspected, erroneously, something more sinister than a late frost, the wood has flourished with a good and colourful selection of flowers in the meadow areas. Since problems are developing with oaks throughout the country, we would be grateful if you would let us know if you see anything suspicious on any of our trees. In June we had a stall at the Farmers' Market where we recruited some new members, answered numerous questions and received various suggestions, including the possibility of the Friends arranging lifts to and from the wood for those who would enjoy a visit but



are unable to walk there and back. If this idea appeals, please contact Elspeth Cox on 337635 or email elspethcox@waitrose.com. On 30 July the Friends of Daeda's Wood held their annual walk to the wood deciding, for a change, to walk around the wood at dusk. Twenty people enjoyed this novel experience, although torches were needed for the walk home. We still like to hear of any unusual or interesting sightings in the wood and would welcome more volunteers willing to record the flora and fauna. In either case, please contact Sylvie Nickels, 338995 or email sylvie.nickels1@googlemail.com.

Elspeth Cox, Chairman 337635



SAVE DEDDINGTON LIBRARY

www.deddingtonnews.co.uk/librarycampaign



The Future of Deddington Library

Deddington Library is hanging by a thread – still. True, Oxfordshire County Council has found a little more money and instead of closing almost half the county's 43 libraries has offered a reprieve. But is it enough?

What OCC Proposes

Under the new scheme, none of the libraries would close, rather the staffing would be drastically curtailed. Libraries have been classified as 'Core': in the main towns and still fully staffed by professionals; 'Community plus': to operate with a two-thirds share of a librarian, or library managers as they are called; and 'Community': villages such as Deddington with one-third of a librarian. Library buildings, the provision of books, maintenance and the training of volunteers would remain the responsibility of the County Council.

On this basis, we guesstimate that Deddington library would need 20–40 highly-committed volunteers. Some might be *de facto* assistant library managers.

The 'Book a Future for Deddington Library' group has chewed over this revised scheme, listened to views expressed at a second public meeting and come to a grim conclusion. A library staffed for only a third of its opening hours by a paid librarian is simply not viable (a ploy here may be to shift the blame for closing the libraries from the council to the villages themselves).

In classifying the libraries, OCC used a standard local authority ranking system (originally devised by Hackney Council) to assess a rural scenario. In the case of Deddington – rated among the very lowest – the results seem perverse and in some cases downright wrong. For example, by their calculation there are zero shoppers for convenience goods within a half-mile of Deddington Library (have they not heard of the Co-op, Eagles and Foodies?). Nor does the survey recognise the great unlibrariated stretch of villages to the south, some connected by the No. 59 bus, for which Deddington is a hub.

Thank you for your help in saving this valuable parish asset!

Helen Oldfield, helenmoldfield@yahoo.co.uk

OCTOBER DIARY (contd from p.1)

Mon 3 PFSU AGM

Wed 5 Photographic Society: Philip Rigby, 'Lightroom and a Photo from Start to Finish', Cartwright Hotel, Ayhno, 7.30pm

Tue 11 WI: Harvest Supper, Holly Tree, 7.30pm

Wed 12 History Society: 'Apples, the Myth and Magic of England's Favourite Fruit', Windmill Centre, 7.30pm

Wed 12 Fairtrade preview, Parish Church, 11am–7pm

Sat 15 Recital: Young pianists celebrate the new Steinway piano, Parish Church, 7.30pm

Sun 16 Deddington Players: Pantomime auditions, Windmill Centre, 2.00pm

Wed 19 PC Meeting, Holly Tree, 7.30pm

Sat 22 Photographic Society, Exhibition in the Parish Church Living Room, 9am–1pm

Sat 22 Farmers' Market, 9am–12.30pm

Local Fleeces for Local Weaver

Local farmer George Fenemore has been selling honey at Deddington Farmers' Market for nearly 10 years; he was one of the original stallholders. He also breeds sheep. Alison Beaumont, a weaver from King's Sutton, joined the market in March last year. When it became known that she was looking to use more local wools in her rug-making, scarves and other products, she was introduced to George who was thinking about reintroducing some Cotswold sheep on to his farm after a lapse of 250 years. George bought in eight ewes last summer and they produced their first lambs in spring this year. In early July the ewes were shorn and eight fleeces resulted. Alison, who trades under the name of 'Felt Special', is now busy cleaning the fleeces and intends to produce rugs and other items in time for this September's market.



Alison and George examining some of the wool at the Farmers' Market while Alison was weaving some of it into a rug (Pic Geoff Todd)

Geoff Todd 338532

geoff.deddingtonfarmersmarket@yahoo.co.uk

Market Anniversary Celebrations

Deddington Farmers' Market will celebrate its 10th Anniversary on Saturday 24 September. The fact that we have a Farmers' Market at all is the result of some visionary thinking (initially the idea of the late Charles Newey), determination to get things done, and a willingness to put in plenty of effort. There is no doubt that Deddington Market is a success. It brings business into the village, provides a common purpose for the community and has provided significant financial contributions back to village organisations.

During the market, as well as shopping at the 60

stalls offering fresh local produce and crafts, visitors will be able to enjoy Washboard Bill's Jug Stompers, traditional Punch and Judy, a local Morris Team, balloon modelling, owls from Owls Galore, dray horses from Hook Norton Brewery, competitions and refreshment in coffee shops or pubs. A number of other attractions are also promised.

Several of the traders that day will have attended the market since its beginning in 2001. All stallholders are being given a 'rent-free' stall that day and have been invited to refreshments at a reception at the conclusion of trading. Later that evening the Market Management Group will hold a celebratory dinner for its band of volunteer helpers.

To go on for another ten years will require a constant driving force from all the helpers who make it the success it is today, and we will need new helpers to take over from those who have 'done their turn'. Do you enjoy the market? If so, then get involved. The market is a community business; it needs all the skills required in any commercial enterprise. So, whatever skill you can contribute, it will be needed. The next ten years will require support from the community. Don't just stand there, join in!

Paul Drawmer, paul@drawmer.net

More Awards for George: Having come second in the Regional (South of the Wash) stage of the RSPB Telegraph 'Nature of Farming' Award, which celebrates the fantastic work farmers are doing for wildlife, George has been highly commended in the national final. His entry will also go forward for inclusion in next year's award.

CH

STAMP COLLECTORS

If you are a keen stamp collector, why not join the Banbury Club and further your interests by meeting other collectors, and by attending talks and displays on a variety of philatelic subjects?

Meetings are held on the first and third Tuesdays of each month, September to May, starting 6 September

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for more information**

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MARKET PLACE**

This is our main stop

7.20pm Gaveston Gardens

7.25pm The Paddocks

7.30pm Wimborn Close

7.40pm Windmill Street

7.50pm The Daedings

8.00pm Hempton Road

All times are approximate

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Once again – for the ninth year – the Deddington Festival is over. As ever it is important to review what was produced, the reactions and where the festival can be improved and advanced. The profile is thought to be sharper this year with reactions and comments from a much wider base. Reviews of the individual productions follow, and further responses are always welcome. As before the costings of all events are finely balanced – in the absence of local and national grants, budgeting has to be sharp. The standard of each individual entertainment continues to surprise and appeal; the support of the Friends and the Champions of Deddington Rocks is so important. The joining and support of the Nursery and Preschool's brilliant effort created further food for thought for the future of the village community and the Festival. Thanks to everyone for their amazing support and help.

The future is another place; what seems important is to reflect the aims of the Deddington Festival charity statement of maintaining and improving the integration of the communities of the villages of Deddington, Hempton and Clifton and their interests across the board. Planning for 2012 starts now, work on the website is ongoing; we are in urgent need of a minutes and diary secretary who can field the enquiries which are increasingly busy. The shape of Deddington Festival 2012 may include more jazz and rock, perhaps the Open Gardens can return, so very popular previously, and the choice of the excellent choral classical evening is under discussion. Much to do.

Hugh O'Donnell, Festival Chairman, 338350

Community Concert, 30 June

This was a concert by and for the community. From the youngest Brownie to those who perhaps merit the adjective, venerable, performers joined with the audience to celebrate 'The Musical'.

Community talent was displayed in solos, duets, and ensemble singing. The young charmed and moved their listeners with hits from *Annie*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Oliver* and *The Wizard of Oz*. A very young Annie Oakley proved that she could do anything and a mature Chinese gentleman described a plump pullet. Sixteen swaggering males in white caps and fine voice asserted that 'There is Nothin' Like a Dame', while 12 ladies, variously clad in striped tights, seductive wigs, red ankle socks, granny hats, or swigging copiously from a bottle, affirmed their belief that 'Anything Goes'. Sweet singing in the choir was allied to the emotional power of enduring solos, in 'You'll Never Walk Alone' and 'Ol' Man River'. And having once known the two musicals by heart, I revelled nostalgically in 'I Don't Know How to Love Him' and 'On the Street Where You Live'. Others heard their own 20th- and 21st-century favourites come to life.

2011 festival deddington FESTIVAL ROUND-UP 29 June – 10 July 2011 www.deddingtonfestival.org.uk/

Impossible to mention everyone as the evening included songs from 21 musicals, from Ziegfeld and Rogers and Hammerstein to Lloyd Webber and Hans Zimmer with Elton John, performed by a committed cast of over 60 singers.

The concert was conceived and directed by Wendy Burrows with the usual generous and varied help from her creative team. Four narrators augmented the programme notes on the history and development of the genre. The evening justly highlighted local talent and a cheering audience filled the Parish Church.

Kristin Thompson 337052

The Armed Man, 2 June

The gathering together of voices from local and national choral societies for a day of intense rehearsal, followed by an evening performance, has become an established and much enjoyed feature of the Festival. The choice of music this year was *The Armed Man* by Welshman, Karl Jenkins. Subtitled 'A Mass for Peace', it neatly combines four sections of the Mass with poetry and prose from an early French folk song, the Bible, the Mahabharata, Kipling, Tennyson and others. Though the music is contemporary, it has an immediate appeal, with some striking orchestral battle sounds and accessible and singable vocal lines. Notwithstanding the limited rehearsal time, the massed voices rose to the occasion with vigour, tenderness and solemnity in response to the demands of the words. The orchestra, which had opened the concert with the same composer's *Palladio*, a Concerto Grosso pastiche, supported the choir skilfully with some particularly fine playing from the lead 'cello and the wind instruments. The whole was directed with sensitivity and enthusiasm by music director, Martin Quinn, who never allowed the music to flag or become mundane. The audience showed their appreciation of a fine performance with prolonged applause.

Donald Lane 337199

Deddington Rocks, 8 July

Singing in the rain was the order of the day at Deddington Rocks. Despite the weather, around 300 people turned out to enjoy the concert. What a great village we have for people supporting the concert in these numbers despite continuous downpours! The Children's Disco suffered the worst of the rain but Kelly Scott kept the music going for a growing number of children who braved the torrent to boogie on down. The Breakfast Men played the opening set to great acclaim and enhanced their growing reputation no end. Indigo Child's expanded line-up just gets better and better with some great additions to their repertoire. As always, the Blue Meanies took the crowd by storm and we all forgot about the rain as we rocked the night

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away. The rain cleared in time for the Beach Boys tribute band to finish the night in grand style.

Thanks to the many volunteers, the Market Square was cleared soon after midnight. Thanks are due to those living in and adjacent to the Market Place who put up with the parking restrictions and the noise. Deddington Rocks can only happen with the support of our champions and our advertisers.

Classical Guitar, 10 July

For the second year running, Joe Newman provided a recital of classical guitar music in the church. With style and touch to match the best in this genre, we are privileged to have this young man living in our village. His unassuming manner belies the quality of his performance.

Deddington Jazz, 10 July

A small but appreciative audience witnessed a superb evening of modern jazz in the church. The Stekpanna line-up was enhanced by trumpet and flugelhorn, alto and soprano sax and piano. The group demonstrated their superb ability to evoke emotions and landscapes in the mind. This was particularly true with 'Moscow Night Train' reflecting the band's tours through Eastern Europe. Solos throughout the evening showed the real depth of skills possessed by every member of the band. A duet by father and son on piano and soprano

sax was so tender and moving it brought the house down. Everyone there, jazz lover or not, experienced a great evening.

Mike O'Brien 338668

Writers' Competition Awards Evening 1 July

Awards were made to those authors who could be present at a presentation in the Church. First prizes were awarded to:

Open Competition – Stories (49 entries)

Avalon, A Fruity Romance, Rosemary Pope, Woodley

Open Competition – Poems (19 entries)

Tent Hospital in Helmand Province, Don Nixon, Albrighton

Junior Competition (11–16 years) – Stories

Colonel Gaddafi, Emma Begnor, Hook Norton

Junior Competition (8–10 years) – Stories

My News, Elen Squires, Deddington

Junior Competition (5–7 years) – Stories

Alien News, Freya Smith, Tackley

Among Deddingtonians shortlisted were Maureen Dew for *Choice Matters*, and Susie Upson, *First Day*. The winners' entries are on the Festival website.

Festival Fund-Raising Event

This year we held another 'safari lunch', on 27 May, which again was a resounding success, due to the hosts who very kindly donated and then gave of their time and talents to produce an excellent meal. Our thanks to Linda Lake-Stewart, Althea Wood and Donald Lane for their generosity.

Heather Nason, Chair FDF, 338494



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CHURCH AND CHAPEL

Services for September

Parish Church SS Peter and Paul, Deddington

Thu 1	2.00pm	Squeals and Wheels
Sun 4	10.30am	First Sunday
	6.30pm	Evensong
Wed 7	10.00am	Eucharist
Thu 8	2.00pm	Squeals and Wheels
Sun 11	10.30am	Sung Eucharist with Healing Prayer
Wed 14	10.00am	Eucharist Holy Cross
Thu 15	2.00pm	Squeals and Wheels
Sun 18	10.30am	Eucharist with Baptisms
Wed 21	10.00am	Eucharist St Mathew
Thu 22	2.00pm	Squeals and Wheels
Sun 25	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	10.30am	Harvest and Farmers' Market celebration service
Wed 28	10.00am	Eucharist St Michael
Thu 29	2.00pm	Squeals and Wheels

St John the Evangelist, Hempton

Sun 4	9.00am	Eucharist
Sun 18	9.00am	Eucharist with Baptism
Sun 25	6.00pm	Harvest Evensong

St Michael, Barford St Michael

Sun 4	10.30am	Eucharist
Sun 11	10.30am	Family Service
Sun 18	10.30am	Family Service
Sun 25	4.00pm	Harvest Evensong

From the Parish Registers

Baptisms: 17 July William James Morris, Jonathan Richard Morris; 21 August Millie Alina Friday
Weddings: 30 July Benjamin Carson and Phillipa Lambert; 31 July Joseph Newman and Rebecca Hart; 13 August Jason Herbert and Nicola Shepherd
Service of Thanksgiving: Anne Bradshaw

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 churchwardens, Glynne Bianchi (337743) or George Fenemore (338203)

Wesleyan Reform Church, Chapel Square

Pastor Isabel Walton 337157

Sundays at 10.30am: Pastor Isabel Walton
Sun 11 September David Good

RC Parish of Hethe with Adderbury

Fr John Burns 277396

Mass at Holy Trinity, Hethe: Every weekday except Wed at 9.30am, Sun at 10.00am
St George's Church, Adderbury: Mass Wed 7.00pm and Sun 8.30am

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

The Eve of Sunday Mass at St John's Church, Banbury, is said at 4.00pm on Sat 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>

The Tastebuddies Eat at the Great Western Arms, Aynho

The Taste Buddies lunch out every two months to assess local pubs and restaurants. They are an independent group with no connection to either the *DN* or the hostellers visited.

Where? Great Western Arms, Aynho Wharf, OX17 3BP (tel: 338288)

A very busy, casual and informal pub near the canal with a nice, friendly pubby feel. The entrance porch was slightly scruffy and the flowers on our table were dead. An eclectic collection of heart-shaped notelets with comments about the pub pinned up all over the toilet! Dogs allowed in bar and there are two small gardens for sitting out.

Food served: Every day, Mon–Sat Lunch 12.00–3.00pm, Dinner 6.00–9.00pm, Sun all day 12.00–9.00pm

Average cost: Starters £5.50, mains £10–£20.00, desserts £5.50

Were they pleased to see you? Yes, they were very

welcoming and service efficient and attentive.

Was the cooking good? Yes. Home made with large generous portions of basic, well-cooked pub grub.

Our starters were: goats cheese salad with pistachios and cherry tomatoes, tomato and basil soup and a smoked salmon and prawn cocktail which had rather too much sauce for our taste, and a rather odd salad of large lettuce leaves, capers and sweet corn. Mains were: rib eye steak which was generous and excellent, deep fried haddock and chips and sea bass with a

prawn sauce, all very well cooked. A good choice of desserts. The wine list was good with several choices of wine by the glass.

Value for money? Excellent value for money with large portions and we especially liked the fact that a 10% gratuity was not automatically added to the bill.

Would you go again? Yes, ideal for a casual lunch or supper, but it was very busy when we were there, so booking is advisable.



DEDDINGTON 150 YEARS AGO

The volume of William Cotton Risley's diary covering 1861–2 is missing, so to cover the gap we are printing extracts from *Jackson's Oxford Journal*. This was founded by William Jackson, the Oxford University printer, in the early 18th century as a Saturday weekly. Its name was changed to *Oxford Journal Illustrated* at the end of 1908 and it ceased publication in 1928.



7 September 1861

Although some people may think Deddington somewhat behind its 'day and generation' in some things, yet if they pay it a visit they will find it not to be so in many. It was always a loyal town, and so it shows itself at the present day for out of a population of 2,000 has it not its Rifle Corps. Yes, and a good one too. The butt, so admired for the distance of range, near proximity to town, etc. by all who use it, will on Monday next, to travellers on the Oxford Banbury turnpike road, present a most animated scene as a rifle contest is advertised to take place.

This year was also the 24th anniversary of the Deddington Horticultural Society, where the quiet town of Deddington presented a scene of unwonted animation and gaiety.

The only feature of an opposite character was the disgraceful town pool, situated in the Market Place [on the green nearest to Philcote Street] which presented a more disgusting appearance than heretofore. Pots, pans, bottles, old hats, shoes, and other rubbish had been thrown into it, and a few ducks were revelling in the muddy stream, and set in motion an odour

Deddington PFSU and Village Nursery

Whilst it seems a while ago now, the headline news this month must go to the 'Night at the Moulin Rouge', our fund-raising party held back in July. The band were great, the food was tasty, the Windmill Centre was transformed for the night, and as for the Can-Can dancers ... ! Most importantly everyone's efforts raised £7,122 for the PFSU and Nursery. With potential matched funding we could have a grand total of almost £8,500.

This kind of income makes an enormous difference to both settings and so huge thanks go to everyone who was involved in organising the event and to everyone who came along and supported us on the night. Over the summer we have had lots of fun at our holiday club. In the new term in September some of our children moving up from Nursery to the PFSU and others are joining us at both settings for the first time. Welcome to all our new children – we hope you enjoy your time with us. Our AGM is on Monday 3 October, so please put the date in your diary.

Lucy Squires 337484

anything but agreeable to the passer-by. We doubt very much whether any town in England is inflicted with such an eye-sore, and that in as specious a market place as can be met with anywhere. Yet strange to say, all the efforts which have been made from time to time to cover this pestilential

pool and substitute a reservoir or fountain with a never-failing supply of pure water, have been defeated by the obstinacy and miserable economy of a certain portion of the rate payers. The nuisance appears likely to remain and to stand as a perpetual blot on what would otherwise be one of the cleanest and prettiest towns in the county.

28 September, *The Town Pool*

The state of this pool, which caused so much strife and ill will in the parish when the subject was brought forward at a vestry meeting held in 1854, and which then was decided by a poll of the parish being taken against any alteration being made that was likely to put the parish to any expense, has very recently assumed a different and considerable change, in consequence of public attention being drawn to its present disgraceful state in an article which appeared in the Journal of the 7th instant in which it was then denounced in severe terms. The matter was considered at a vestry meeting held in the Town Hall on the 28th instant presided over by the Rev. W.C. Risley. The subject being fully discussed, it was agreed to do away with the nuisance by filling the pool up and erecting a town pump on the site by a voluntary subscription which, we doubt not, will be speedily raised, a committee being formed to carry it out.

Buffy Heywood 338212

A Parish at War

Four years ago Michael Allbrook began to research the background to the names on our War Memorial. In the process he discovered the names of men who appeared to belong to the parish but were not mentioned. I joined him later to help place Michael's research on to Deddington OnLine and then continued researching WWII and up to the present day.

We are now publishing this wealth of information, much of which previously known only to the families of those who served, in *A parish at war: a military record of three villages – Deddington – Clifton – Hempton*. This 200pp book, with over 150 illustrations, contains the details and many of the stories and experiences of some 600 men and women from this parish who served their country in the armed, emergency or voluntary services.

More information on how to order is on the insert in this issue of *DN*. We do not intend to make a profit but should one arise then it will be donated to local charity.

Rob Forsyth 338384

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 CLIFF SMITH, PRESIDENT,
DTFC, THE DAEDINGS

On behalf of the senior football club (DTFC) I need to correct some of the statements made in the *DN* report of the PC meeting of 15 June, concerning the use of the Windmill playing field. DTFC, the Cricket Club and the Colts football teams *share* use of the field. *No* football is played on the cricket square.

The southern touchline of the DTFC pitch is some six metres from the northern edge of the cricket square (which is fenced off throughout the football season). There is a long-standing agreement between DTFC and the Cricket Club that the former have use of their pitch between 1 September and 30 April, while the cricketers have priority from 1 May to 31 August. The 2010–11 season was no exception: our goal posts were removed before the 30 April deadline and several home matches, delayed by earlier severe weather, were relocated (to DTFC's disadvantage) to opponents' pitches in order to observe the agreement.

DTFC has always and will continue to recognise its responsibilities in relation to the Windmill facilities. These concern the maintenance of the goalmouths which are outside the cricket boundary and thus have no bearing on the cricketers. The drought in April and May delayed work this year but they were successfully seeded in early June. As regards the football outfield, DTFC regularly arranges rolling of its pitch when necessary and the club's heavy roller is available, free of charge, to the Cricket Club. DTFC will continue to co-operate with the Cricket Club to improve the outfield.

The Windmill Committee exists to run the Centre and its facilities, and participating users have the opportunity to attend meetings. Perhaps the Committee provides a more appropriate (and better informed) forum for discussion about the use of those facilities.

FROM PAUL DRAWMER, THE DAEDINGS

Why does the Deddington Parish Council not tell everyone what it's up to? I don't mean that our councillors are doing anything that they shouldn't; I mean that it is difficult to find out all the good work that they do on our behalf. The internet appears to have missed the PC completely.

I found some information on the Deddington On-Line website. The latest PC minutes are from March 2011 and the next newest item is a list of dates of PC meetings in 2010, and a Council Newsletter from May 2009. There is also a Forum on Deddington OnLine and I see that the PC used it to advertise a vacancy for a councillor in June 2009. On this evidence, it almost



Please address all letters to:
KRISTIN THOMPSON
5 THE LEYES, DEDDINGTON
letters@deddingtonnews.co.uk
and include your name and address
even if they are not for publication

looks as if there's a policy of NOT using the internet! I've heard that there is sometimes a shortage of people interested in becoming parish councillors. Maybe if more people knew what the PC did, then maybe more would be interested in giving their time.

What prompted all this was a search for some sort of energy policy or plans – needless to say

I couldn't find any.

FROM JOHN AND GAY BREWER, PHILCOTE
STREET, DEDDINGTON

Thank you, Deddington, for the amazing help and support you have given our family during our daughter, Vivienne's, serious illness. There are too many people to thank personally, but with your prayers and good wishes, dog-walking, prepared meals and drives to the hospital, we are able to manage during this difficult time. Vivienne is now improving and with luck, should soon be convalescing in Deddington. We are so grateful.

FROM DELPHINE SAMPSON, SHEPHERD'S
COTTAGE, HEMPTON

The Deddington Craft Group were very appreciative of the support given when they raffled the quilt they had made this year. They were able to send £370 to Help for Heroes. The winner of the quilt was Mrs Guard of Bloxham. There was no exhibition at the Deddington Festival this year but work was shown at Sulgrave Manor in August and will be on display at the Parish Show in September. The group meets most Tuesdays at the Holly Tree, 2.00–4.00pm and always welcome new members. Contact Delphine Sampson, 338739.

FROM CHRIS WHEATCROFT, BRITISH RED
CROSS COMMUNITY FUNDRAISER

We are recruiting volunteers to place and manage collection boxes in local shops on behalf of the British Red Cross. This fundraising is extremely valuable and can help generate funds that enable us to continue our vital work here in the local community and further afield. The Red Cross is often best known for the work we do abroad but we are also actively involved in the local community here in Oxfordshire through services like: Home from Hospital, Transport Service, Mobility Equipment Loan, Fire and Emergency Support, Emergency Response, Humanitarian Education. Your support would be much appreciated.

To find out more, please do get in touch. My direct Line is 01235 552680, mobile: 07834 745739, email: CWheatcroft@redcross.org.uk.

Carbon Conversations in Deddington

Do you want to cut your carbon footprint? Do you need convincing that you should? If so, you might like to join a group for Carbon Conversations, a supportive group experience that helps people halve their personal carbon footprint. They deal with the difficulties of change by connecting to values, emotions and identity. 'Carbon Conversations is brilliant – it doesn't preach, tell you what to do or make you feel guilty. It asks stimulating questions, provides clear information and fun exercises and then helps you make your own decisions' (carbonconversations.org).

The groups provide space for people to explore what climate change means for them; opportunity to share their hopes, doubts and anxieties; reliable, well-researched information and practical guidance on what will make a difference; support in creating a personal plan for change.

We have provisionally booked facilitators for a CC Group in Deddington. There will be six sessions of two hours. The dates proposed are 5 and 19 October, 2, 16 and 30 November and then 11 January 2012, 7.30–9.30pm, venue tba. The facilitators ask that group members should commit in principle to attending all the sessions, though it is recognised that circumstances may arise which mean participants have to miss an occasion. Places are limited. Contact me for further information or visit carbonconversations.org.

Hugh White, vicarhugo@hotmail.com, 349869

News from Hempton

Saturday 10 September is Oxfordshire Ride and Stride. St John's will be open as usual between 10am and 6pm to welcome participants. Last year we had over 100 visitors, the third highest in Oxfordshire. We are well known for our catering but are also on a good cycle route. If anyone would like to ride for us I have the necessary forms. People are also required to be in Church to welcome others. We have had several grants over the years so it is nice to give something back.



The Harvest Festival Service is on 25 September at 6pm. Gifts of produce will be most welcome and can be left in the Church over that weekend. Let's hope for a good congregation.

The AGM of the Friends of the Church will be on Monday 26 September at 7.30pm in the Church Hall; please support this meeting which is open to everyone. The Harvest Supper will be on Saturday 1 October at 7.30pm followed by bingo, which gets everyone involved. We now have more space in the Church and hall with the new doors pushed back. Tickets are £10.00 per head and can be obtained from me.

Congratulations to Helen and David Carter of The Old Chapel on becoming grandparents for the third time: this time Alice Isabella born to their daughter Anna in Australia. **Les Chappell 338054**



RIDE AND STRIDE 2011

in aid of
Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust

SATURDAY 10 SEPTEMBER

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and other historic churches
in Oxfordshire

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Well Remembered: Robert Huntingdon – A Host Like no Other

The tragic death of Rob, the landlord of the Duke of Cumberland, stunned and saddened the Clifton Book Club. While we brought forward the Book Club evening to allow us to pay our respects to Nick, Rob's father, and his dear wife, we also took the book we are writing and gave pages over to record people's favourite reflections of Rob. Here are a few.

Alan Collins reflects on ... a night CAMRA had a meeting at the Duke. Nick was away in town and Rob was holding the fort. A few of us in the Book Club were doing what we do best, propping up the bar, as the meeting broke up. One of the committee members (an aficionado of the real ale world known to many came up to thank Rob for his hospitality and said that the beer was obviously well kept (a fact that the Book Club will certify to anyone who'll listen), as this was the best pint of Hook Norton he had ever tasted. Later that evening Nick returned. At the end of the evening he finished his rounds and returned to his traditional stool behind the bar with a forlorn sigh: during the day Rob had put new barrels on in preparation for the CAMRA visit and had piped the Archers from Swindon into the Hook Norton pump and vice versa!

If this portrays Rob as a host somewhat light on detail he was huge on vision and he planned many spectacular events, one of which had me playing football with Freddie Windsor, the Queen's nephew! We are all far richer people for having known Rob.

Kevin Mayo remembers ... an evening when Rob had booked an acoustic group to play in the garden one summer's evening. This was fine until Morris Dancers turned up for a prior (but forgotten) arrangement. They ignored the band, and did what they do.

At this moment a coach pulled up carrying African

missionaries on an exchange visit who had come to see their first English pub. After taking refreshments they decided the Morris Dancers needed a dance off and the band provided the backing track. An image that could only be in Clifton with Rob in charge!

Tim, Luce and the boys want to say: ... our favourite memory was you charging access to your vegetable patch during one of your famous firework parties and running for cover after setting off the firework display. Rob will be deeply missed but we will raise a glass to celebrate the exuberance he brought to the village.

André Tansley recalls ... a classical trio one Friday evening at the pub just before Christmas as the food critic from *Four Shires* magazine came to dine. What could possibly go wrong? Well the trio had compressed the seating plan somewhat and one of the waiting staff just brushed the Christmas tree that wobbled and fell on the critic. The fact that he still wrote a great review showed what a lovely evening was on offer.

Ian, Sarah and the boys want to ... thank Rob for many great book clubs, a kind host with a great selection of beers, good company and a very flexible approach to calling time – sorely missed.

Gaz says ... a great guy. I will always remember he could still smile and laugh even when the Scouser left next morning without paying his bill – twice.

And Lorna (next to the Cheeky Girls II, the Book Club's favourite bar staff) ... I will never know such a charming, witty, gentle or caring person. You were my employer, but also my friend. You made me laugh out loud so many times and there was never a dull moment with you around. I will miss you so very much and love you forever.

Martin Bryce, martindnbryce@aol.com

PTA

Back after the summer break, please look out for the notices in school [and the *DN* Facebook posts and Tweets – *Ed.*] giving the date for our upcoming AGM in mid-September. It is so important that this meeting is well attended by parents and carers. Just to entice you along the proceedings include a glass of wine.

I will be stepping down as Chair at this AGM as my children have moved on to secondary school and would like to take this opportunity of thanking everyone – PTA committee members and helpers, parents, teachers and all those who have supported our events over the last five years – for all their generosity. We have had great fun and have raised over £60,000 during this time so well done everyone. The new chair will be elected at the AGM, details next month.

During the last academic year we raised £10,700 which is a fantastic sum in this harsh economic climate and we would like to thank everyone who contributed. We will be purchasing outdoor seating and shade for our top playing field which will be used as an outdoor classroom amongst other things. We have also bought an iPod docking station for use in music and dance

lessons, as well as in our fabulous productions; brass lessons for year 5 and a number of other items which are being used throughout the school to enhance our children's education. We are looking forward to another successful and fun-packed fund-raising year and, as always, thank you for your continued support.

A note for your diaries – our bigger and better firework display will be held on Friday 4 November.

Janet Watts, PTA Chair, 337135

Deddington Media

You frequently see references in *DN* to Deddington OnLine and now Deddington OnAir. Together we are Deddington Media (no not Deddington News International!), aiming to get information, news, and views out across the Parish to people of all ages and by any means, printed, web, Facebook, Twitter and now our own radio station. Deddington OnAir launches in the Windmill Centre on 14 September, 7–9pm. Come and find out what it is all about.

Our quarterly meetings now have representatives of all three interest areas. Come and join us – these are very exciting times ... !

MR

A MAGICAL SUMMER EVENING IN DEDDINGTON

Imagine a lovely evening at the end of July, put well over 100 people into Christine Blenntoft's beautiful garden, add 12 young Krocodiloes and you have the setting for a perfect evening.

Who or what are Krocodiloes? They are an acapella (unaccompanied) singing group from Harvard University, undergraduates or postgraduates in almost anything but music, who were ending their 10-week summer tour, not just Europe, but of the world. Why were they in Deddington? Back in 1989, Barrie Smith met a Krocodiloe while on business in the USA and agreed to arrange for them to sing in Geneva where he was then based. We were the fortunate recipients of what turned out to be a long relationship between Barrie and the Krocodiloes who, as an honorary Kroc, joined them for one number. There was a 14th member when Harry, the dog, decided it would be fun to join in.



The wonderfully quirky Krocodiloes in full flight in an English country garden (Pic Jenny Anderson)

From the start, this was a slick show and I use those words quite deliberately because it was not just about singing, it was well choreographed, fast-moving entertainment. Each item was introduced wittily but concisely, and accompanied by some very smart footwork and acting. The singing itself, whether the whole group or solos or smaller ensembles, was excellent with all the voices blending extremely well. The variety of material from musicals, spirituals to English and Scottish folk songs showed their great versatility and ability to make one laugh one minute and cry the next.

Above all, they created a memorable and magical evening. They performed for free, but a collection, split between the group and local charities of the host's choice, resulted in £255 being divided between the Friends of the Castle Grounds and the Deddington Festival. **Elsbeth Cox 337635**

Parish Conservation Update



The wildflower patch

at the cemetery is nearing its first birthday. It was most attractive in June, when almost all the varieties sown or planted made an appearance. Bees and insects loved it – I counted six varieties of butterfly in 15 minutes, including a marbled white. The area was cut at the beginning of the month and the hay taken off and given to various poultry and small animals – let me know if you would like some next year. Seeds were collected where possible and have been sown to provide plants to colonise new areas in the parish. Desperately needed are willing gardeners to grow them on – a greenhouse is not necessary, but a cold frame is ideal. In order to extend the nectar season the PC has ordered bulbs of native species to be planted under the trees in October. There are several hundred, so any help would be much appreciated. I am also planning to introduce some woodland species – bluebell [the English variety, I hope? – *Ed.*] and wood anemone – in the coppiced area of Windmill copse, just to give nature a helping hand. Snakeshead fritillaries (*fritillaria meleagris*) are planned for Welford's Piece in Clifton; they should enjoy the damp location and, hopefully, multiply. Suggestions for planting areas in Hempton are welcome.

Swift nesting boxes have been installed at the school and the Windmill Centre – many thanks to Chris Fenemore and his colleagues at the Fire Service. Swifts were swooping around while we were doing this – I hope they have taken note for next season!

Jean Rudge 338110, jeanrudge@hotmail.com

Using the DN Diary

A diary covering events throughout the Parish is available on the DN website. Organisers of village events – clubs, groups, festival, pantomime, parish show, anyone – are urged to consult the diary to avoid clashes of dates.

Please email: whatson@deddingtonnews.co.uk or phone Alison Day on 337204 to publicise an event; the diary is updated just as frequently as there is material to add. There is a link to this diary from both Deddington OnLine and DeddingtonOnAir. As you will see there is always a lot on in Deddington, so reluctantly we restrict diary entries to events within the Parish. Sorry, outside world ...

MR

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Down on the Farm

It is said that August is the first month of autumn, so that was the summer that was. After the spring and early summer drought, we have managed to scrape enough hay together to see the ewes through the winter, but we are still very short of grass. The oil seed rape came in during the first week of August, a good crop with only the first loads needing to be dried. Then a stop for ten days while we waited for the wheat to become fit to cut, and that's when it all went pear shaped, with periods of damp weather that produced just enough rain to keep me out of the combine cab. When we did manage to cut a few loads it all needed to go into the dryer – a 'bachelor's harvest' (get it when you can). We are once again waiting for the moisture content to fall below 20% before venturing out to grab another load or two. We have already burnt over three tons of gas to bring the crops down to a safe storage level of 15% moisture and we still have another 65 acres to cut. But it's not over once the combine is back in the barn, as the straw has to be baled and carted before we can start getting the ground ready to plant next year's crops, and we shall need dry weather for that.

The lambs were weaned during the break between the end of the oil seed rape harvest and the start of the wheat, but with little or no hay to 'finish' them on, they are all on a bought-in ration in the hope that we can get them away before Christmas. So a year that

started off with a shirt-sleeve lambing has become a little difficult.

The honey season got off to a good start, but with a cold July and damp August we stopped extracting to make sure they had enough food stock to see them through. If we get a good 'back end' there will be some late honey to get off before we put them to bed for the winter. But the down time caused by the difficult weather conditions has not been wasted as I have refurbished the honey room and it is now all fitted out with stainless steel work surfaces and storage cupboards, with another honey extractor to speed up the operation.

The Cotswold ewes and lambs and the Apletree flock have all done well. In a few weeks' time I take delivery of a few more Cotswold 'thaves' (one-year-old sheep) to boost the flock numbers up to 25 which should give me a few to show and sell next year.

Our summer visitors have had a better year with all eight pairs of returning swallows bringing off two broods, and they will soon be off back to the sun. The insect scene has been very disappointing. After a good start it has not been a good butterfly summer, and the numbers of moths coming into the light traps has been poor as well. Although the numbers of insects seen has been down, the species count is about the same. There is always next year to look forward to – even if I am now an OAP! **George Fenemore 338203**



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DEDDINGTON
health centre

2011 FLU CLINICS

**Time to book
your flu jab**

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**Starting from 8 September,
every Thursday 2-3pm and Monday 5-6pm**

PLUS

Saturdays 10 & 17 September, 9am-12 noon

Those who are eligible for a flu jab are:

- the over 65s
- those with chronic diseases
- anyone who is pregnant
- carers
- anyone who has had a transplant or is immunosuppressed
- health workers
- social workers

**Please phone for an appointment
on 01869 338611**

CALLING ALL CLUBS

1st Deddington Guides

We enjoyed all our outdoor activities last term: backwoodsman cooking – no pots and pans – we even tried nettle tea. An incident hike – by the river – in the beautiful surroundings of the Barfords that was great fun with all the challenges, activities and quizzes on the way. Thank you to Martin and Rachael for the refreshing fruit punch and crisps in the garden at the George afterwards.

Lots of Guides are working on badges and the senior Guides on their Baden-Powell award. We had a great evening building shelters at Horley Woods.

The annual patrol competition for the whole division was at Horley campsite. Our two patrols enthusiastically tackled all the outdoor challenges and came second and third out of about 20 patrols! Well done to Jasmine, the two Sophies, Elen, Olivia, Tilly, Alice, Lucy, Ella and Rachel. A special well done to the six who stayed overnight. They had a brilliant time, enjoying breakfast in the morning sunshine with 50 other Guides.

We had a sausage sizzle with the Brownies, stream walk and welcome promise ceremony for Maya, Emily, Ella and Maddy; and summer camp of course.

The first meeting of next term is Tuesday 13 September, 7–9pm.

Maggie Rampley 01295 810069
Marian Trinder 340809, Guide Leaders

Photographic Society

In August Karl Harrison gave a presentation on 'The Panoramic Stitching of Photographs'. Karl explained that his interest is in 360° panoramas of buildings and other subjects. He showed live examples of his work using a Google map of Oxford, which contained various points of interest. Interrogating these revealed the subject, which could be viewed through 360°. A virtual tour of the Ashmolean Museum's exhibition rooms showed the items on display.

Karl also discussed gigapixel photography, involving panoramic photographs of around one billion pixels. He showed an example taken of a university degree ceremony, which contained 702 pictures stitched together; and gave a practical demonstration of taking a panoramic photograph of the meeting that comprised 12 separate photographs stitched together to form a 360° panorama. He ended the evening with a review of stitching software currently available, and showed results achieved from popular cameras.

Clive Jones returned to give the Society a presentation on 'Street Photography'. Explaining that this type of photography is all about capturing the moment, Clive showed examples of his work taken mainly around Oxford where the unconscious involvement of people in a street or indoor environment can produce some compelling photographs. Illustrating the use of

light, shade and reflections, he also demonstrated the use of everyday backgrounds including street furniture, advertisements, skylines, graffiti and even discarded rubbish. A presentation that opened up new photographic possibilities for many in the audience.

The Society next meets on Wednesday 7 September, when Paul and Celia Hallet will present 'Night Photography – How Exposure Really Works'. Everyone is welcome, just come along at 7.30pm to the Cartwright Hotel, Aynho.

John Branton 01295 811071, www.adandd.co.uk

1st Deddington Scout Group Cubs

We finished our year with a mad game of 'Vampires' down in Daeda's Wood, and have said goodbye to Elliot, Cameron, Fynn, Barney and Rhys, some of who will be joining Scouts in the new term.



Jo Churchyard CSL 338071
jochurchyard@hotmail.com

Scouts

The Scouts finished their term with our annual summer camp, this year a return to Phasels Wood near Hemel Hempstead. We had a great weekend: the Scouts tried the climbing wall (which is huge), went down the potholes (which are dark), shot at targets (which was hard), balanced on crates (which were wobbly) and flew down the Cresta run on trolleys (which was fun).

Looking forward to loads of new stuff next term.

Pete Churchyard SL 338071
pete.churchyard@btinternet.com

Autumn term starts back on 1 September due to Cub camp starting on 9 September.

Deddington Original Golf Society (DOGS)

The DOGS have been a busy bunch this summer. Our annual weekend away was in July at Tracy Park, near Bath. This beautiful venue included two golf courses, which we attacked with vigour! The evening raffle raised £150 for the Katharine House Hospice. Once again one of our outstanding lady golfers won the overall prize. Congratulations to Sue Oddy.

In August was the golf and barbecue day. This year we changed everything: the golf was at Cherwell Edge Golf Club (new venue) and the barbecue became a pig roast. All went very well. In the evening we raised £82 for the British Heart Foundation.

Full details are available on the DOL forum.

David Darst 338589

More on p. 15 ...

CALLING MORE CLUBS...

Deddington Town Football Club

Having offloaded their booty and evaded justice, much of the Deddington player pool has now returned to ensure the Devil does not make more work for idle feet. The gruelling pre-season programme has meted out its share of punishment, blood and ritual humiliation. Only the strong may survive, with a few weaker ones retained for banter in the changing rooms. Not long now until it all kicks off again, both literally and figuratively, so warm up those air horns, steel drums and flares to give them the welcome back they deserve on the first Saturday in September. We are one.

Aaron Bliss 07909 642882

Deddington Toddlers and Baby Group

We have enjoyed the past few summer months and welcomed many new members to the group. A big hello to our youngest recruits, our new babies, who joined us at only a few weeks old.

Congratulations to Caterina, Sarah and other helpers who managed to raise over £80 at the group with their strawberry-themed fundraiser for Breast Cancer Care. Strawberry jam, red jewellery, books, magazines and delicious fresh cakes were all available for sale. Our children made sparkly strawberries and then tucked into some delicious fresh strawberries and yummy cakes.

We have also been busy with our arts and crafts. Our children have painted their favourite animals and made collage pictures of their families. These will be entered into the Deddington Parish Show on Saturday 3 September. Good luck to our budding artists! To see photos of the children's entries and all of the messy fun, visit our Facebook page.

Our toiletry raffle raised over £80. Thank you to all those who donated prizes and bought raffle tickets. Congratulations to Keren who won first prize, a hamper of pampering beauty and bathing goodies.

We are organising a coffee morning on 30 September to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support. Please join us in raising some money for this important charity.

If you are a mum, dad, carer or grandparent living in Deddington or the surrounding villages and look after a child aged 0–5 years then we would love you to come along and join us. We meet every Friday morning from 9.30am to 11.30am at the Windmill Centre, Deddington. If you would like to know more about the group or would like to join us but are nervous about turning up without knowing anyone then please give us a call on the number below. We look forward to meeting you.

Rebecca Moss 336298

Deddington and District History Society

Our new season of talks and events will begin on Wednesday 14 September with a talk by Jim

McDermott on the archive of the Cartwright family of Aynho. The Cartwrights' extensive landholdings in the area included much of Deddington so not surprisingly their archives, held in the County Record Office at Northampton, contain a large amount of Deddington material.

Members should by now have received an email containing details of this year's programme. As usual, a meetings card will be available for collection at the first meeting. The membership fee for 2011–12 remains unchanged at £18 double, £10 single. It will help considerably if members would bring with them to the first meeting an envelope containing a completed membership form (attached to the email) and their membership fee.

For our second meeting, on Wednesday 12 October, we have invited Tim Healey, leader of the Oxford Waits and a noted folklorist and local historian to talk to us on the subject of 'Apples! The Myth and Magic of England's Favourite Fruit'.

Everyone is welcome at our meetings, which take place at the Windmill Centre at 7.30pm on the second Wednesday of the month. We look forward to greeting friends old and new.

Chris Day (Chairman) 337204

Moira Byast (Secretary) 338637

Contact List

The *DN* Contact list 2011–12 covering the Good Neighbour scheme, local and national helplines and club contacts is being compiled ready for publication with the October *DN*. If any clubs are holding AGMs in September and have a change of contact name, please contact Jean Flux (jeanflux@tiscali.co.uk, 338153) so that our list can kept up-to-date. **MR**

Calling all Silvertops!

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Blissful Thinking



Legend has it that Piers Gaveston cocked a snook at the court of King Edward II, currying favour

and being allowed unparalleled access to the great man, prompting the nobility to conduct a smear campaign against him and force him into exile not once, not twice, but thrice. Whether Gaveston was indeed the King's pamour, it seems some things never change.

The industrial revolution and age of machines have not quelled the insatiable thirst inside the human condition for scandal and the politics of envy. The notion that our 'social superiors' are every bit as flawed and prone to bouts of irrationality, greed and adultery as the rest of us is a somewhat consoling thought for those of us born into less hereditary privilege. We fling

rocks and spears of derision their way, safe in the knowledge that our own indiscretions are irrelevant as long as they are only known to us. It is this hypocrisy that keeps us warm in the sense of our own alleged superiority.

But is this hypocrisy refracted equally through the opposite end of the social prism? We all extol the importance of positive role models. The most basic and some would suggest vital element in a child's social development is surely an older person to admire and emulate. But who do the children of today admire? Parents? Pop stars? Footballers? Footballers' wives? Reality television celebrities? Politicians? Bankers? Entrepreneurs, dreamers and social mobility champions make uncomfortable media bedfellows, unless perhaps it is a *ménage à trois* interrupted by a terrorist threat.

Back to our hero Piers, who followed his heart and paid with his life eventually, being pilloried and

vilified and chased down, before being cut down in his prime by two unspecified Welshmen. Yet not before he had been allegedly bitten by the Earl of Warwick for calling him a 'black dog', an accusation he hardly seemed to refute with his actions, though further allegations that he marked his territory on Gaveston's leg and buried his nose in the rear of his loins have been subsequently discredited by historians.

The lesson we can learn from Piers seems to be that sometimes it's just not enough to court the favouritism of the boss. Power is only maintained through the mutual respect of those all around you, or at least the mutual apathy: the man who aspires to sit at the right hand of God must not affront the left hand, nor give those at his feet reason to unite against a common enemy. Lest we forget, the Gardens which bear Piers' name also bore his head on a pike to remind us of his folly which, over the centuries, has evolved into a concrete ball pier cap.

Aaron Bliss, 07909 642882

Piers and 'the Deddington Nun'

And talking of Piers Gaveston, in somewhat lighter vein next month we start the serialisation of the story of Piers Gaveston and 'The Nun of Deddington', written in 1849 by one Georgiana Bennet and published in the *North Oxfordshire Monthly Times and Agricultural Advertiser*. We plan to run all 10 episodes in successive issues of DN, with the full 'unexpurgated' version on the DN website.

A real 'penny dreadful', it can very loosely be called an historical novel ... so until next month's thrilling instalment! **MR**

Free Electric Blanket Testing

Electric blanket testing is offered free of charge on an appointment basis in Banbury on 4 October. To make an appointment telephone 01865 815607 or email: trading_standards@oxfordshire.gov.uk.



Who Are They?

A picture published in *Four Shires* magazine recently. Nothing is known of its subject matter, except that the file name says 'motorcycle club 069'. It's not 1969 as we know the thatch on what is now Stone House on the corner of the Market Place was replaced before 1966; Mary Valentine suggests in the 1950s.

Can anyone throw light on who the motley crew might be? What was the occasion, and when?

A gallery of Deddington pictures – buildings, events and people – can be seen on DoL (<http://www.deddington.org.uk/gallery/main.php>) and, quite separately, a comprehensive catalogue is being compiled which will eventually also be posted online.

George Spenceley's 90 Years

One of George's early memories is from the age of six when his father took him to the top of Ingleborough Fell in Yorkshire. Far below was the camp of a famous mountaineering club. His father told him that one day he would belong to that club. And so he did, and still does. He dreamed of and read about adventurous journeys into unknown places, and was lucky enough to get the opportunity to start climbing – at first in the UK, later in the Alps, and finally in the Himalaya.

In between, there was the Second World War, during which he was a bomber pilot and the sole survivor of a crash, followed by three years as a PoW. After the war, he started climbing again and in the mid-1950s was invited to join a survey expedition to South Georgia. Later, on an expedition to the Himalaya, he was the sole survivor of an avalanche. Later still he went to Greenland and experienced their worst summer weather in 40 years. All this material was used to make a living as a lecturer and photographer to societies and schools all over the country.

From his first marriage he has three fine sons. In 1977 he married again, to writer Sylvie Nickels, and they moved to Deddington in 1992. Since then they have canoed the full length of both the Danube and Mississippi rivers. If George were a cat with nine lives, he might start worrying about how many he had left!

Colleagues from the climbing and mountaineering worlds joined local friends in Peppers on 2 July to

celebrate George's 90 years, to share a glass and to reminisce.

SN

The Surgery Bus Service

The Tuesday and Thursday Dial-a-ride bus is under threat. This is a service organised by the Health Centre to bring patients who don't drive, or have access to a car in the daytime, to the surgery from surrounding villages. From the end of March 2012, CDC is withdrawing funding from the charity that runs the bus service. Although the number of users has declined over the years, it still provides a valuable service.

Would villagers be interested in forming their own car scheme along the lines of that run by Tackley? In their system, people with cars and spare time volunteer to act as drivers, and then volunteers take it in turns to be the village co-ordinator, matching up requests for lifts with drivers, co-ordinating people who need to get to shops, the surgery, library, etc. with those who are available to give a lift. In Tackley, the person requesting the lift pays the driver 45p/mile travelled. In Deddington we are fortunate enough to have the Health Centre on our doorstep. Might there be drivers out there willing to help other villages?

Is this something the Parish Council could take up? To find out more, please contact the Health Centre Practice Manager, Sue Johnson on 338611 or www.deddingtonsurgery.co.uk>Questions and Comments.

MR



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Seven Men, a Boat and a Bit of a Stroll

Many of you will be aware of Iron Man Mayo's achievements, but what you won't know is how he gets in shape for these activities. When in training Kevin regularly takes the bus to work in Oxford and runs back up the Oxford Canal. At 21 miles it is shorter than most of his endeavours, but it keeps him out of trouble. While making one of these 'jogs' Kevin thought this would be another suitable Book Club cultural trip.

And so it came to pass that Kevin Mayo, John Catania, Alan Collins, André Tansley, Tim Sydenham, Gary Preston and myself queued for the Oxford bus one Saturday morning with scripts in our pockets for specific talks to be given along our route.

The route started at the Canal Basin in Worcester Place with the history of the canal from 1790 to the present day, as told by Kevin, and off we set. The talk included a fascinating detour to the rail swing bridge still very much in existence (if not use) behind Oxford Station; it is planned to relocate this to the Buckinghamshire Steam Preservation Railway in Quainton.

Further north we were in Philip Pullman and Lara's Oxford as described by John with tales made even more famous by the recent film *Golden Compass*. This was followed by the history of Lucy's Iron Works by Alan (who once applied for a job there in the 1990s) that went back nearly 200 years. On again until Port Meadow opposite St Edward's School where Kev told of grazing rights granted by Alfred the Great as recorded in the Domesday Book, and Revd Charles Lutwidge Dodgson (aka Lewis Carroll) and the Revd Robinson Duckworth who, while taking three girls for a boat ride made up a story that became *Alice Through the Looking Glass*. Young girls on a boat trip with an older man clearly

struck a chord with Alan as we will see later!

An overview of the Duke's Cut gave way to a spiritual moment as we piled into the Church in Shipton-upon-Cherwell to see a fabulous stained glass window designed by William Turner and a 12th-century cross in the churchyard.

We then pushed on to the site of the Shipton rail disaster of Christmas Eve 1874, and the origins



Kevin Mayo, André Tansley, John Catania, Alan Collins, Tim Sydenham, Martin Bryce and Gary Preston. We are confident many people will see Martin and say 'I know 'im!' (Pic Martin Bryce)

of the term 'slip shod' brilliantly described by our rail enthusiast André. Then on to the cement works and another of Alan's lectures. Then on to the satellite earth station at Bletchingdon with a fascinating talk by Tim about how this is only one of two of its type in the UK. Then lunch at the Rock of Gibraltar (the third refreshment stop if I hadn't already made this clear!).

While continuing on our way we came across a group of damsels in distress (well young women on a hen do on board a narrow boat called Dream Maker!). They were having trouble winding (turning) their boat 'about' and asked for any help our group could give. Well, like a rat up a drainpipe Cllr Collins was on board before you could say 'Mad Hatter', boasting of his experience with this type of tricky situation. He did actually manage to turn the vessel around and allowed the colourful bunch to continue on their way. However the boat was slower than the party walking, and many photographs are available

of this undignified episode, much to the chagrin of the cabin boy as he came ashore again!

On we walked and met the Memsahibs and offspring at Kizzies in Lower Heyford (where André forced even more beer on us). Then our final departure took us to Tim's talk on Rousham House, built in 1635 by Sir Robert Dormer and still in the Cottrell-Dormer family. This research was from an interview with his lordship himself whom Tim met thinking he was the gardener! From here on to learning that Upper Heyford Airbase dates back to the Royal Flying Corps of 1916 and no bombs from it were dropped on Tripoli in 1986 – the aircraft were on an ECM mission (Google it – Alan did I'm sure).

The final slog to Aynho gave a couple of our party a challenge and Alan sloped off with his wife at Somerton where a car was handily parked (he hadn't walked the whole route anyway) and he missed the last fascinating talk on Somerton Deep Lock given by Kevin. The final beverage was at the Great Western. It was a very magical day and we have now all written into estate agents' details of our houses that they are 'within walking distance of the Dreaming Spires', except Cllr Collins of course, the lightweight!

Martin Bryce,
martindnbryce@aol.com

Electoral Roll

The annual forms are being sent out now to enable residents to register on the electoral roll. There are two registers: 'full', a legal requirement used for elections, referendums, etc; and 'edited', a version which CDC can and does quite legally sell to commercial marketing companies. If you don't want your details to appear on the 'edited' version, make sure you tick the appropriate box on the registration form (this can be done online).

MR