

## THE TEAM

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by **18 February**

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## the Deddington news

We are sad to report the death of a village stalwart. Jim Flux died unexpectedly on 8 January. After he and his late wife, Jean, settled in Deddington in 1989 Jim became involved in virtually every aspect of life of the village, running the gamut from chair of the parish council to annual pantomime dame. He will be missed in a broad range of activities, from operation of the Windmill Centre to fund-raising for the library. A full tribute will appear in the next issue.

**CD**

### What's On February

- |     |    |   |
|-----|----|---|
| Wed | 1  | Photographic Society: Paul Brewerton, 'A Short Journey through Alaska and the Yukon', Cartwright Hotel, Aynho, 7.30pm             |
| Thu | 2  | Funeral of Jim Flux, Parish Church, 11.00am   |
| Wed | 8  | History Society: Paul Austin Sargent, 'William Smith: The Father of Geology', Windmill, 7.30pm                                    |
| Tue | 14 | WI: Mary Gregory, 'Gorillas and More', Holly Tree, 7.30pm   |
| Wed | 15 | PC Meeting, Windmill, 7.30pm  |
| Wed | 15 | Photographic Society: John Prentice, Basic computing for photographers workshop, Cartwright Hotel, Aynho, 7.30pm                  |
| Wed | 22 | Deddington Ladies Netball: Restarts, Windmill Centre All-weather Court, 6.30pm  |
| Thu | 23 | Book Club: Please call Sally Lambert, 338094 for details  |
| Fri | 24 | Christopher Hall: 'The Practical Prophet: Bishop Ronald O Hall of Hong Kong and His Legacies', 1 Canterbury Road, Oxford, 12.30pm |
| Sat | 25 | Farmers' Market, Market Pace, 9am–12.30pm   |

### March

- |     |    |   |
|-----|----|---|
| Wed | 1  | Photographic Society: Robert Harvey, 'By the Sea', Cartwright Hotel, Aynho, 7.30pm                  |
| Fri | 3  | PTA: Bags to School, collection for charity   |
| Wed | 8  | History Society: Roger Rosewell, 'The Stained Glass of Oxford', Windmill, 7.30pm                    |
| Wed | 15 | Photographic Society: Martyn Pearse, tabletop photography workshop, Cartwright Hotel, Aynho, 7.30pm |

Events in this listing also appear in the DN online calendar: <http://deddingtonnews.co.uk/whatson>

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

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## DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

### Holly Tree Club, 21 December 2016

CDC plans to launch a lottery to help fund voluntary and community organisations. There will be no increase in council tax this year. David Wilson Homes now have full-time facilities for removing mud from construction vehicles leaving the site.

#### Planning Applications

##### Approvals

8 Castle Street: various works.

4 The Paddocks, Deddington: 2 storey side extension.

Ivy Cottage, 3 St Thomas Street, Deddington: fell tree.

Unicorn, Market Place, Deddington: single storey side extension.

Clifton Mill, Main Street, Clifton: new porch and glazed link.

##### Refusals:

David Wilson Homes: 99 houses on land north of Gaveston Gardens, withdrawn.

##### No objection:

Bowler House, New Street, Deddington: fell one hornbeam.

Home Farm, Clifton: erection of farm worker's dwelling with all matters reserved, excluding access.

#### Highways and Transport

The Clifton VAS shows reductions in vehicle speeds. Thanks to Councillor Oldham for delivering the leaflets about the Comet bus service. Stagecoach will improve re-routing signage during the Fair next year. CDC has not responded to concerns about the Keep Clear notice and continued existence of hoarding around the old chapel in High St, Deddington.

#### Environment and Recreation

The grant-funded fitness trail has now been installed at the Windmill Centre. Most of the work at the Windmill has been completed but further grants will be needed to upgrade the kitchen and lighting will only be upgraded in the main hall, with a PC contribution of up to £650.

#### Finance and General Purposes

The parish precept for 2017 was fixed at 5.4% after a proposed 10% increase to pre-empt a probable 2% being imposed by central government failed.

### Primary School, 18 January 2017

The meeting began with a minute's silence in memory of Councillor Jim Flux, who died on 8 January. He will be greatly missed.

The work on Windmill Street and Windmill Close car parks will be inspected on 24 January. Refuse collectors have agreed to reverse into Windmill Street car park to reduce further damage. CDC has confirmed that David Wilson Homes did not breach the agreement on cutting back the hedge at the development site. OCC passed unanimously Councillor Fatemian's

motion that there should be no further centralisation of hospital services. There will be a site visit on 2 February to consider improvements to the junction at the traffic lights.

#### Planning

##### Approved:

Duke Of Cumberland's Head, Clifton: open rear wall of fireplace to link two rooms.

2 Hempton Road: form a dropped kerb.

##### No objection

Deddington Primary School: Single storey extensions to include drama and music studios, group rooms, link corridor and nursery.

Hilary's Hats, Market Place, Deddington: Erection of small temporary sign above archway to show direction to shop entrance.

63 St John's Way, Hempton: Two-storey side extension with single storey rear garden room.

The Cottage, Philcote Street, Deddington: New flat roof extension over existing internal courtyard featuring glazed roof section to make proposed kitchen, dining and utility areas.

#### Applications

The Mallows, Hopcraft Lane, Deddington: Erection of rear and side extension, demolition of chimney breast, alterations to loft to form habitable accommodation, addition of front and rear dormer windows. An amended plan was rejected by CDC and the applicant has requested support from PC which will take advice on the matter.

#### Highways and Transport

Mirrors are not normally recommended by the police or OCC. Therefore the lottery-funded mirror, bought for the Windmill Centre, is likely to be installed at the Chapel Square pinch point.

#### Environment and Recreation

The funfair organiser will be thanked for his co-operation in running the event without any complaints. The 2017 fair is scheduled 15–19 November. Thanks for the Christmas tree arrangements to Cllr Oldfield, Rob Staig (and Michael) and David Hope. This year the PC will cut the grass verge at The Lane junction in Hempton. CDC and OCC will be asked to direct the £360,000 S106 contribution to Deddington Primary School and the Nursery.

*Royal British Legion:* Rob Forsyth informed the council that the Club will have to close later this year as it cannot afford the more than £100,000 structural repairs needed. In the event of closure, the PC will either be offered the building or given the proceeds from its sale. A decision will be made shortly.

**Next meeting: Wednesday 15 February at 7.30 pm at the Windmill Centre.**

**Jean Rudge**

These Parish Council notes are the view of our reporter and not the official Minutes for which go to <http://www.deddington.org.uk/community/pc/pcminutes>.

## DEDDINGTON PANTO – ONCE AGAIN OVER THE TOP



There are things we all take for granted and should not. One annual example is that somehow the inhabitants of our village will, year after year, find the time, energy, dedication and resources to put on a first-class British pantomime. After watching this year's production of *Aladdin*, apparently with our Deddington Players, the exceptional is no exception.

Let's begin with noting some outstanding improvements in new lighting and sound equipment in the able hands of Mark Swadling who is stepping down after many years at the technical helm. Also leaving is Wendy Burrows whose set designs have brought many a panto to life.

The story is set in Old Peking where the street urchin Aladdin (Hannah Westbury) dreams of a way to marry the Princess Lychee (Chloe Reilly), but would lose his head to the Royal Executioner (Robin Nash) were he even to speak of such. Lychee is betrothed to Lei Lo (Annie Rose Jones), son of a wealthy social climber, the Grand Khazi (Kelly Scott). The royal family needs an infusion of money because the Empress (Becky Jones) has a shopping habit that has left the treasury depleted. The wedding is imminent, and is to be officiated by High Priest, Annie Goldthorp. But Lei Lo is secretly in love with the princess's handmaid, Peekaboo (Jemima Scott), and Lychee with Aladdin. As to how the star-crossed find happiness is a secret reserved for ticket holders. The change of scene to pull this off is what you might call Google-Earth-gone-mad, travelling from Peking 2,700 miles to the Thar Desert in India and thence another 2,300 to Egypt, where the arch villain, Abanazer (Steve Moss), of boo and hiss fame, meets his end at the hands of Mummy (got 'im by the pyramids, did yez?).

All pantos need their dames but in this one we have not only a dame, Aladdin's laundress mother, the Widow Twankey, played by Carrick Cameron, but a counter-dame the Grand Khazi. Both these, er,

ladies' acting, singing and dancing did Jim Flux proud.

Then there is the quadruped of choice, this year a flatulent camel (Martin Squires and Jonathan Watts) named Donald of all things. With his ill-fitting blond hairpiece and truly inappropriate behaviour around ladies, I still can't imagine who were they thinking of.

No doubt though as to they were thinking of when we saw a blond fright wig on the Lamp Genie, Vaughan Jones, whose comic asides on Brexit stole the show. The only problem is, his Boris Johnsonesque parody will require some thought if he plans to best it in future.

A great comic counterpoint to this was a Chinese version of the Keystone Cops, Kung Fu and Tai Chi, played to the hilt by Neil Levene and Anne Kent. When, after their relentless pursuit of Aladdin, Kung Fu snatches away Tai Chi's mustache, she shrugs it off and vows a return to her day job at the Co-op.

The song solos were a treat, especially when Aladdin put away the old-fashioned flying carpet in favour of motorised hoverboards and pulled off a duet aboard these contraptions with Princess Lychee. Other hits were Lei Lo and Peekaboo singing *All of Me*, the Empress with *Material Girl*, the Grand Khazi with *Footloose*, and all the players who sang in the Queen favourite, *This Thing Called Love*.

Special mention to sidekicks, like Shish Kebab (Elize Anderson) who served the villain Abanazer, and apprentice Genie Wai, So Dim (Penny Higham), to players Wishee and Washee (Suzie Upson and Amy Watson), to the Spice Girls (Ella Upson, Lois O'Brien, Lizzie and Katie Hogben), news anchor reporter James Reeve, the dancers, musicians, stage hands, scene painters, costume makers, and worthy others whom I'd cite but for lack of space.

For those who didn't see the panto this year, try harder next time. To miss it is to miss out.

**Dan Desmond dessr@outlook.com**

## HAVE YOUR SAY

There are three significant areas in which your input is being sought.

### **NHS Consultation**

The Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group wants to know what you think of its proposed changes to:

The use of its hospital beds.

Planned care at the Horton General Hospital in Banbury (including tests and treatment planned in advance and not urgent or emergency care).

Acute stroke services.

Critical care at the Horton General Hospital.

Maternity services including obstetrics, Special Care Baby Units (this also affects emergency gynaecological surgery).

Full details are in the consultation document at: <http://tinyurl.com/hekt9s2>, you can get a printed copy by calling 01865 334638, emailing [cscsu.talkinghealth@nhs.net](mailto:cscsu.talkinghealth@nhs.net), or from your library. Clinicians and senior NHS Leaders will be in Banbury on Thursday 16 March, 7pm–9pm to discuss the proposals. Places will be limited so please book ahead by calling 01865 334638. Information is available at your GP, on our website, [www.oxonhealthcaretransformation.nhs.uk](http://www.oxonhealthcaretransformation.nhs.uk) or email [cscsu.talkinghealth@nhs.net](mailto:cscsu.talkinghealth@nhs.net).

### **Horton Hospital Campaign**

A campaign has been launched by Banbury MP, Victoria Prentis, and backed by Cherwell District Council, to collect data on travel times from the Banbury area to hospitals in Oxford. Patients with appointments at Oxford hospitals are being encouraged to record their travel time as part of the ongoing protest against plans to downgrade services at the Horton General Hospital.

An online survey asks people to record the name of the hospital they were visiting, the day of the week they travelled and the time of their appointment. Patients should specify if they used public transport or a private car, the start and end time of their journey from home to reception and how long it took to park their car or travel on the Park and Ride system. A comment box is available to add any additional comments. Responders have the option of submitting their name or not.

The survey is available at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/HQ55BQB> or by searching the hashtag #Banbury2JR on social media.

### **Change to a Single County Council**

Oxfordshire County Council wants to know what you think about its draft proposal to replace the current six regional councils with a single, 'unitary', council to achieve savings necessary to compensate for central government cuts. As a member of an 'area board', one councillor, representing an existing district and accountable for all services, would take decisions affecting their community and also the whole county. Bringing all services together is intended to join up

planning and avoid service cuts by reducing overhead costs.

To find out more and have your say, go to [www.oneoxfordshire.org](http://www.oneoxfordshire.org) or come to a drop-in event at your library – dates are available on the website.

Cllr Barry Wood, leader of Cherwell District Council, disagrees with the unitary council proposal as failing 'to take into consideration the individual challenges and successes of each district; ... if a county-wide unitary model were adopted the specific needs of each district would be ignored in favour of the needs of the county, with a sterile uniformity and local voices would be lost in the distance'. He maintains that CDC has consistently succeeded where the OCC has failed: 'Under the current two tier model Oxfordshire County Council has consistently failed to manage its own budget and has axed vital services to residents whereas Cherwell has protected its services while also managing to thrive and grow. By increasing the county council's control of Oxfordshire this would only increase the opportunity for more failings and would remove Cherwell's ability to innovate, step in and put right what the county continues to do wrong.'

Full details on both consultations, the travel time survey and Cllr Wood's statement can be found on [www.deddington.org.uk/news](http://www.deddington.org.uk/news).

CD

## DEDDINGTON PARISH SHOW ...

### **SATURDAY 2 SEPTEMBER**

This year's show programme and entry form can now be found on line, so you have loads of time to plan your planting, create lovely exhibits of art and crafts, make marmalade, jam, chutney and home-made alcoholic drink (this was a very popular class last year) and plan what other cooking you might do. More children's entries would greatly enhance this annual community event – everyone loves the children's sections.

**Wendy Burrows**

[wendy.burrows536@btinternet.com](mailto:wendy.burrows536@btinternet.com)

## WINDMILL COMMUNITY CENTRE

**Urgently needed – Treasurer**

**Can you help?**

**Contact Mark Tyler**

**for further information**

**07836 615887 [mark4709@gmail.com](mailto:mark4709@gmail.com)**



## CHURCH AND CHAPEL February

### Parish Church SS Peter and Paul

Mon-Fri	8.45am	Morning Prayer (also on the first Saturday of the month)
Wed	10.00am	Holy Communion (with prayers for healing on 4th Wednesday of the month)
Thu	2.00am	Squeals & Wheels
Sun 5	9.30am	Little Saints (informal service for babies, toddlers, young children and parents)
	10.30am	Café Church (informal gathering, preceded by breakfast at 10.00am with talk, craft activities)
	6.00pm	Choral Evensong
Sun 12	8.00am	BCP Communion
	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sun 9	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sun 26	10.30am	Holy Communion (said service)

### Hempton

Sun 5	9.00am	Holy Communion
Sun 19	9.00am	Holy Communion
Sun 26	6.00pm	Evening Prayer

### Barford St Michael

Sun 5	10.30am	Family Service
Sun 12	9.00am	Holy Communion
Sun 19	4.00pm	Evening Prayer
Sun 26	9.00am	Holy Communion

### From the Parish Register

#### *Wedding Blessing*

17 December

Victoria Elliott and Christopher Aspinall

#### *Baptism*

15 January Jago David Newton

#### *Thanksgiving Service*

16 January Vivien Pleydell-Bouverie

#### *Funerals*

3 January Anthea Clifford

21 January Angela Waller

For baptisms and weddings please speak to the Vicar, the Revd Annie Goldthorp, after a service. For funerals and home visits in case of illness please contact the Vicar at [vicar@deddingtonchurch.org](mailto:vicar@deddingtonchurch.org) or on 01869 336880 except on Fridays, her day off, or one of the church wardens, Iain Gillespie (338367) or George Fenemore (338203). For further information please go to [www.deddingtonchurch.org](http://www.deddingtonchurch.org).

### Wesleyan Reform Church, Chapel Square

Sunday mornings at 10.30am Pastor Isabel Walton  
26 February Margaret Hall

**Pastor Isabel Walton 337157**

### RC Parish of Hethe

**Fr Paul Lester 01869 277630**

Mass at Holy Trinity, Hethe, is said at 9.30am every weekday except Thursday. There are two Masses on Saturday, at 9.30am in the Ordinary Rite and at noon in the Latin Extraordinary Rite. There are two Masses on Sunday, at 10.00am in the Ordinary Rite and at noon in the Extraordinary Rite. Confessions are heard at Hethe during the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Sunday between 5.00–6.00pm.

Mass is said at 9.00am on Sunday at SS Peter and Paul's Anglican church in King's Sutton. 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.

Saturday 4 February, in St Philips Hall, at 11.00am, Dr Anthony McCarthy speaking on 'Ethical Sex: Bringing Philosophical Clarity to Our Thinking'. The rise of the transgender agenda and the insistence that it be taught and socially accepted raises concerns about sexual choices and their effects.

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

### Extra Time

**A new features page on DN OnLine with supplementary stories and pictures**

**February highlights:**

■ Anthea Clifford, and full version of Vivien Pleydell-Bouverie 'Well Remembered'

■ What's new in DOL History:  
[The Henry Churchills of Deddington](#)

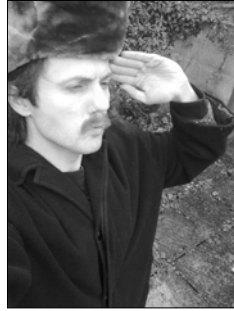
**Make Time for Extra Time – visit [www.deddington.uk/news/extratime](http://www.deddington.uk/news/extratime)**

## BLISSFUL THINKING

In the spirit of contrariness and defending the maligned, I'd like to stick up for a popular punch bag this month: regulation. We hear a lot about 'Health and Safety culture', generally thought of as a combination of local authorities having to tiptoe around the clumsy and fussy, private companies suffering from the dreaded 'red tape', or dubious figures abusing the legal system for financial gain.

Personally, it's never bothered me, beyond rolling eyes at the sometimes infantile instructions on very straightforward devices and procedures, because I'm always aware that nothing is created in a vacuum. If something exists with a particularly patronising warning label apparently aimed at imbeciles, it's because imbeciles have enacted the very behaviour the company are attempting to discourage. Once said warning is proliferated, the idiotic can lament their stupidity without being able to blame others.

But regulations were not just created to protect us against the dim-witted, but against the greedy and selfish too. It sends a chill down one's spine to recollect that fire exits were only demanded following an unacceptable number of victims trapped in burning buildings, apparently because of the utter greed of



the proprietors in neglecting to create them without threat of sanctions.

Perhaps I hold a very dim view of human impulses, but the repeal of the Glass-Steagall Act in America, which was supposed to prove that the banking sector could be trusted not to crash the economy again (after the Great Depression), seemed to have the opposite effect. Sit by a window watching the crossroads in Horsefair for an hour to see what happens when there is either inadequate regulation or it is not actively enforced. A friend of mine was almost cut in half by an impatient car which had jumped a red light, then mounted the pavement to get around stationary vehicles waiting to turn. Another friend parked her car perfectly acceptably by the green outside the shop, only to return later and find a miscreant had struck the vehicle and fled the scene.

So, in a world-weary tone, I declare that 'Health and Safety culture' and 'political correctness gone mad' will always be preferable to me than the demonstrable alternative!

**Aaron Bliss**

[aaronjbliss@hotmail.com](mailto:aaronjbliss@hotmail.com)

## YOGA ॐ

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## FROM THE FIRE STATION

Happy New Year to you all and thank you for supporting our fire station in 2016. The crew was called out 332 times last year, compared to the 212 call-outs the previous year, which is a significant increase. This makes us one of the busiest one-pump stations in the county. I think the reason for the large increase is that Oxfordshire fire control went regional and the new mobilising system will now send the nearest available appliance to an incident. This can only be a good thing as it means that it is a more effective service. Our busiest month was November with 42 call-outs. Deddington fire station has been available for over 99% of 2016 and that deserves a big thank you to the crew who put in a lot of extra hours to make this happen.

We have had more than our fair share of chimney fires in the past year. Our advice is to get your chimney cleaned once a year for light domestic use but if you use it on a daily basis or burn non-smokeless fuel, then you should consider getting it swept more frequently. Your chimney sweep will give you advice on how often.

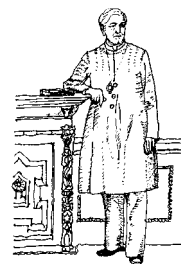
Deddington fire crew was on call over the Christmas period, attending a fire in the open on Christmas Day. Luckily this was a small incident that was dealt with very quickly. There was also a house fire in Duns Tew where the fire in an adjoining garage was contained because the fire door between the house and the garage was closed. If it had been left open the whole house would have been lost. Our advice is to always shut every door in your home before you go to bed or leave your property. If a fire breaks out this will give you an escape route and contain the fire in that one room. Having all windows and doors shut, the fire will have no source of oxygen and will go out. Never open a door that has a fire behind it because air will rush into the room re-igniting it and causing a back draft. When the room is full of combustible smoke and hot embers and mixed with a fresh supply of oxygen the resulting fire ball will probably kill you.

Training has been as intense as usual with our BA (Breathing Apparatus) annual refresher upon us. Half the crew has already completed this, with the other half having theirs in February. All our BA training is now at the Fire College in Moreton-in-Marsh. This is a much better facility and we have already been using it for the past year or so. Our own new compound, where we practise car cutting procedures, has been put to good use. Having the compound means that cars can be kept safely at the station and the crew can practise without making arrangements and having to go off station.

I would like to finish with thanking our community for supporting their local fire station. Our parish is very lucky to have such a valuable resource right on their door step. Watch Manager Chris Fenemore who is in charge of Deddington fire station asked me to thank all the crew for their hard work in the past year and making our station one of the best in the county.

**Tim Parker, Crew Manager**

## DEDDINGTON 150 YEARS AGO



The following are extracts from the diaries of the Revd Cotton Risley for the month of February 1867:

**12th February** – I walked up to the Church – they were beginning to put the roof on the new South Porch.

**15th February** – I heard a window smashing case with Mr. Dormer – convicted the men in both cases

for damage, fine and costs or 14 days imprisonment in each case if not paid by 1st March. Holford and his friends got home from the Bicester Ball between 5 and 6 am. The concert in aid of the Reading Room funds took place this evening at the National School.

**18th February** – I heard a coal stealing case from South Newington and committed the two men for trial at the Assizes.

**23rd February** – Poor Thomas Matthews of The Plough destroyed himself by hanging – he had for the last year or two become intemperate to an excess.

**27th February** – Holford went to a Turnpike Meeting at The Holt.

**28th February** – Bowen, the Inspector of Police, came with a tramp named Knibbs from Oxford, he having committed a larceny here, stealing labourers' tools. I went up to Oxford for the Assizes tomorrow, dined at The Mitre.

**Buffy Heywood**

## DEDDINGTON 23 YEARS AGO

No, nothing to do with the Rev Cotton Risley, the retired clergyman who lived in Deddington Manor and tried to rule the village as a self-appointed squire. In 1993 Buffy Heywood, the current owner of the Squarson's house, volunteered to serve as the *DN's* treasurer and has continued in that capacity for an astonishing 23 years.

With rigorous accuracy she has invoiced our advertisers, deposited their cheques in the bank, pursued late payers with steely resolve (no delinquent accounts here), tracked our outgoings ream by ream, ink cartridge and electric stapler, and calculated each year how much was left over for the *DN* to donate to local good causes. Buffy was always here for the *DN*; even holiday trips were calculated so as not to miss a monthly *DN* committee meeting where she gave us a real-time, not accountant-speak, assessment of our financial situation. Would that every community were so fortunate in their volunteers.

Finally Buffy has decided that it is time to put away the double entry ledger and let someone else keep us in the black. So now the *DN* team list on the front page notes Jane Wilson as treasurer. Thank you Jane for taking on the role – and thank you Buffy for your long, self-effacing and steely efficient service.

**CD**

## DOWN ON GEORGE'S FARM

**A**s I put together the first offering of 2017, the ewes are still 'out' but by the time this has passed muster they will need to be inside to allow them to settle down for lambing, and on their Meals on Wheels service. It has been a difficult start to the year with the loss of a number of old friends I have worked with in a number of village community capacities: a stern reminder of our own fragility.



Despite the doom and gloom weather warnings about snow and ice, spring is not far away. The primroses and snowdrops are out the garden and it won't be long before the first lambs appear and the Old Man can get on with rebuilding the badger-ravished Home Farm beekeeping enterprise. Just how things down on the farm are going to work out after Brexit is way beyond me, as there seems to be no coherent strategy as to just how our masters intend to feed the nation. Whatever happens we will all still need food and wherever it comes from it will cost a lot more. It's not just down on the farm where the loss of your EU food subsidies will hit hard. Our much beloved environment will be a big loser as most of the environmental groups receive large amounts of EU funding, but that's what the nation voted for, even if they didn't know it at the time.

The green manure cover crops of mustard have now been mulched off and turned in. These fields will now be left until soil temperatures rise and then be planted with spring barley. The last of the 2016 lambs are eating off the last of fodder rape which will also be turned in to await a spring crop and with any luck they will be off to market before we start the 2017 lambing season. It will be nice to get the ewes back inside for

a few weeks and meet up with a few old friends who will always come for a head scratch and a handful of sheep cake when I do the night rounds. I have been a lambing shepherd for over 60 years, 43 of them at Home Farm, but just how many more seasons I have left is up to the gods and the local council planning department – much the same thing. Although I have stood back from much of the day-to-day farm management, I can still do my bit. We applied for permission to build a farm worker's house adjacent to the Appletree Farm buildings, to take the pressure off me, improve animal welfare and security in these days of increased animal theft, but it seems as if the CDC 'agricultural expert' has come out against the plan so it's down to the committee. Ho hum, we await the outcome.

The wildlife on the farm seem to be having a good winter. The new scrapes that were put in by the RSPB on the meadows back in the autumn are working well and holding water which allows our resident small waders to feed. Over the next few weeks the curlew should return for their breeding season. It will be very good to see them back as the Cherwell valley is a nationally important inland breeding area for them. The farmyard birds are enjoying their daily feeds of grain cleanings and await their meals by bucket each morning. The grain cleans consist of small broken grain and weed seeds which are taken out of our grain before it is sold and the cleanings kept to feed the farmland birds both in the farmyard and the other winter feeding stations around the farm. The next project for the Old Man is to make yet more nesting boxes, so there is always something going on down on the farm.

**George Fenemore 01869 338203**

## DEDDINGTON LIBRARY

The library's year has started with great sadness at the loss of Jim Flux, one of our most loyal and hardworking supporters, as detailed in the FoDL report. However I shall miss him on a personal basis too: Jim would often call into the library to catch up with ongoing events, plan future ones and occasionally borrow a book and have a cuppa with me. Deddington Library has lost a great friend but we are so grateful for all the time and dedication he gave us.

There can be no greater tribute to Jim than continuing to ensure the future of our library for the next generation and so we start this year with sadness but also with positivity.

Rhymetime for under 5s and families began again in January after the Christmas break. Do join us on Monday afternoons at 2.30pm. The relaxed and friendly Bookworms meet on the first Monday in the month at 6.30pm and would welcome new members – just come along, no obligation, no arm twisting. Our Home Library Service is going from strength to strength

delivering books and audio books every three weeks to those who are housebound, either permanently or temporarily, perhaps having just come out of hospital. You just tell us what you like to read or we can choose for you based on your preferences. If you have questions about any of these library programmes just call me on 01869 338391.

Moving forward for 2017, I'd like to start local history and ancestry sessions in the library. We have a volunteer, highly experienced in online genealogical research, who is willing to give an introductory talk and provide subsequent hands-on, individual, help using Ancestry.com (free access from the library). If you would be interested please contact me.

**Adderbury library fundraising events:**

11 Feb Family rock and fossil day, Oxford Geological Trust  
24 Feb Meet the Author – Anne Watts

**Stella O'Neill  
01869 338391**



## SHIRLEY: WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Just south of Birmingham there is a place called Shirley. We might wonder why it has this name. We might think that it is named after some famous woman, perhaps Shirley Temple, the former child actress. However, if we go to the dictionary, we find that it goes a long way further back – to Anglo-Saxon times in fact. It's not originally a person's name; it's an old place name: there are Shirleys in Derbyshire, Hampshire and Kent as well as the West Midlands Shirley. The place name appears as early as 1086, and in various Middle English spellings in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. It's derived from Old English *scir* (pronounced like 'sheer') meaning 'bright' and *leah*, a clearing in woodland.

Names of locations are actually the most frequent source of surnames: Derbyshire, Hampshire and Kent, for example, can all be surnames. Presumably, an ancestor of a person called Kent – or London or Bristow (the historical form of Bristol) – actually did come from one of those places, and someone called Green has an ancestor who lived by the village green.

Sometimes a surname is used as a given name. I once knew a young man named Wilson Johnson, and my father had a cousin named Dunlop Stevenson. Dunlop was his mother's original surname, and I suppose it must often happen that the mother's surname is adopted in this way. Dunlop, actually, is a village in Ayrshire so, like Shirley, it's originally a place name, and Shirley, of course, also becomes a surname. For example, there was a seventeenth-century literary figure named John Shirley. When surnames like Shirley

are used as first names, they are usually male names rather than female. Shirley seems unusual in so far as it's a female name and it has a rather interesting history in this respect.

In 1849, Charlotte Bronte, using her male pen-name, Currer Bell, published her second novel, *Shirley*. In the novel, Shirley is a woman but it is explained that this was the name that her father had originally intended to give to a son. Before that time it seems that, although not particularly common, it was a male name. Because of the popularity of the novel, however, it subsequently became a distinctively female name, and I must say I wouldn't want to be called Shirley now (call me old-fashioned).

It is rather interesting, however, that male given names quite often become female, and sometimes such a name is for a time used roughly equally by males and females. One example is Leslie/ Lesley. Hillary/ Hilary is another, but I feel that it is now more favoured as a woman's name. I'm sure you can easily think of others. So names can move from male to female, but it seems that after a while they become exclusively female, like Shirley and, perhaps, Evelyn. Apparently, when the gender is ambiguous, it gradually stops being given to males. However, names don't move in the other direction. You're never going to meet a man called Bridget or Catherine. That doesn't seem fair: why is it so one-sided?

**Jim Milroy**  
**01869 337614**

(with special thanks to Lesley for her help)

## DEDDINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

We have made a great start to the New Year, setting ourselves goals on what we want to achieve and improve in the next term. This might mean trying a new club or activity and we have a broad range of clubs for the whole school; some take place at lunchtime but most happen after school. There is something for everyone, including the performing arts where children gain experience in singing, dancing and drama and produce a show for an audience at the end of the term. The children work together, in their age groups, with such enthusiasm and confidence. The choir learns contemporary songs; it is really wonderful to hear voices soaring when the rest of school is quiet and peaceful at the end of the day.

For those who want an active club the choices include the usual football, netball and multi-skills but also our brand new game for this year, 'Four Square', a group game with a grid on the floor and a ball. It is a fast and furiously active game that is great at developing sending and receiving skills. Everyone who gives it a try loves it and gets fit into the bargain. For younger children there is a new creative dance class that will allow for lots of wonderful expression. The gardening club is surprisingly active, digging all the weeds whose

roots seems to go on forever. Everyone gets busy and dirty and when harvest time finally arrives it is great to try and taste new vegetables and fruit grown with care and love. We still haven't discovered what happens to our apples that are growing well in July but have all disappeared by September when we return. Maybe this year we will have some to try.

Developing an inquisitive mind is very important to us and the science club allows children to learn whilst experimenting. Just like scientists in a laboratory white coats and safety glasses are compulsory.

We owe a huge thank you to the farmers' market for their kind donation to our reading project, improving the range of books available in school and enhancing our library collection. We received a splendid donation for our book fund from the Red Lion which held a music evening before Christmas. Thank you for your generosity. Finally we had an amazing donation of an almost new desktop computer that is now in use.

We wish everyone a very happy and successful new year – and remember to check our website for lots more information about our school,

[www.deddingtonprimaryschool.co.uk/](http://www.deddingtonprimaryschool.co.uk/).

**Anne Hunsley 01869 338430**

## NEWS FROM CLIFTON

A warm welcome to Lower Larkrise to Julie and Gary Baker who hark from East Pangbourne, Nottingham and Suffolk. As you can imagine the Stiffs are delighted to have more Suf-folk in their midst. Julie has already been dragged into Clifton Ladies Sports Club whose members made the heroic and magnificent door wreaths on show during the festive period that became the terror of people trying to access letter boxes. A fond farewell to Drs Sanjay and Tarunya, Aayush and Abha who have made way. We all wish them well as we do in saying goodbye to the Prestons who've lived amongst us for 10 years and are moving fairly locally.

More pub news in a press release from the Duck. Planning permission has been resubmitted for the essential internal and, to many, trivial changes to the wall separating the main bar area from the side room. Very many letters of support that the community wrote to CDC will be considered by the authorities although the need to resubmit them for this application was shared about. An April opening is now planned, following this delay but a lot of good work has already been done – especially to the benefit of paying guests in the future. We all wish Tim and Rebecca well and they would like to thank all the letter writers for their support.

The Clifton loop was a favourite post-Christmas dinner stroll for many and it was great to meet neighbours walking off the seasonal excesses. We are very lucky having such beautiful part of the world so close to our door steps, with the added bonus of a chance chat with the Fenemore custodians as you go.

In case our gratitude isn't properly presented elsewhere in this esteemed organ may I add Clifton's gratitude to the Deddington Brass and the organisers of the Christmas carol bash in the Market Place. Thanks also go to the supporting crew without whom it wouldn't happen and to Hope Electrical who installed the new independent electrical system for the tree. Finally many thanks to the generous donations given by the clientele of local licensed premises who grew the support for the Katharine House Hospice.

Any news – please keep it coming,

**Martin Bryce**  
[martinbryce@gmail.com](mailto:martinbryce@gmail.com)

## DEDDINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL



We would like to update the community on our plans for the future of the primary school. At our meeting of September 2016, the governors passed a formal resolution confirming our desire to convert to an academy. Conversion to academy status is basically just a change in administration – as an academy you receive your full budget directly rather than having to give a percentage back to the Local Education Authority (LEA). Over the last few years, County Council support for schools has gradually eroded and alternative suppliers have to be sourced and paid to provide the central services historically provided by the LEA (although the percentage of the school's budget given to it remains unchanged).

In this context, the governors undertook a long period of due diligence, looking at different academy options and also considering the possibility of carrying on as we are. We feel that the best route for Deddington Primary School is to become an academy as part of the Oxford Diocesan School's Trust (ODST). Looking at the current situation and context nationally and locally, we feel the services and support they offer best fit the current and probable future needs of our school. The governors consider that joining OSDT will bring many advantages; it will support us in our continued journey of improvement, with access to high quality school improvement services; it will help us ensure that the ethos and values at the core of our school remain intact; it will give staff and governors more freedom of choice about how the school develops, and we believe it will help us to better withstand educational changes at a national level.

We are holding a period of open consultation, so if you have any queries about what academy conversion will mean for the school, please look on our website <http://www.deddingtonprimaryschool.co.uk/> where there is information in the form of *Frequently Asked Questions*. If that fails to give you the answers you need, Mr Evans or I would be happy to answer emails on the subject.

**Becky Jones, Chair of Governors**  
[becky@englishlanguagematters.com](mailto:becky@englishlanguagematters.com)  
**Clive Evans, Head Teacher**  
[head.3452@deddington.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:head.3452@deddington.oxon.sch.uk)

## FRIENDS OF DAEDA'S WOOD

If you go down to the Wood today ... you will probably think it has shrunk! Or is it the case that everywhere was much vaster when we were younger? Worry not, as it is nothing to do with the passing of the years but all to do with seasonal changes. Now that the deciduous trees have lost their leaves we can see right through the formerly impenetrable greenery and appreciate the true size of the plot now known as Daeda's Wood. Some of you might recall the plant-

ing of the saplings on that snow-covered bitterly cold day twenty years ago? What you will find new are the vibrantly coloured bat boxes just installed.

The Friends welcome new members, so if you are interested please contact me. Our AGM is approaching so committee positions are up for grabs. Why not try something different in 2017?

**Annette Murphy, Chair**  
[annette-orchard@live.co.uk](mailto:annette-orchard@live.co.uk)

## LETTERS

FROM DAVID ROGERS, CHAIRMAN,  
DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL  
On Sunday 8 January, we lost one of our finest. Jim Flux MBE died suddenly, surrounded by friends, almost exactly four years after his wife, Jean, passed away.

Jim will be an impossible act to follow and his death is a great loss to the parish as Jim and Jean filled their retirement serving this community in many ways both seen and unseen.

Jim was the chairman of the Parish Council on several occasions and served as a councillor for many years. He was also a trustee of the Holly Tree Club, the treasurer of the Windmill Centre, trustee of the Thursday Club and treasurer of the Friends of Deddington Library.

He contributed to many teams, clubs and societies within the parish, his support, advice and fundraising acumen were well received and well regarded. As a member of the Deddington Players Jim was a familiar figure on the boards and thoroughly enjoyed his time entertaining us all.

He was also active further afield. Jim helped to set up the first care centre in the country at Banbury for the Princess Royal's Trust for Carers. He also invested a lot of time with Cherwell Community and Voluntary Service and helped to run a furniture recycle store in Banbury which, in 2007, earned him an MBE.

On behalf of the Parish Council, thank you Jim for your enormous contribution to all our lives, and our condolences to his family. He will be sorely missed.

FROM DIANA MARSHALL,  
THE DAEDINGS

A big thanks to friends in Deddington and beyond for the amazingly generous donations given in Hugh's memory towards the Matabeleland Mothers' Union's project to sink a borehole at their HQ.

### DEDDINGTON PFSU AND VILLAGE NURSERY

A belated happy new year to you all. Our Christmas festivities were lots of fun and we were delighted to raise over £1800 at the Christmas Fayre in Deddington Church. Thank you to everyone who supported us. This term we are thinking about various topics including animals and Chinese New Year. The PFSU children have been welcoming a number of pet visitors to pre-school including kittens, dogs and even a horse! We hope to visit the May Fu II restaurant, as part of finding out about Chinese New Year, later in the term.

**Lucy Squires**  
**01869 337484**



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

To date £3,549.45 has been given which is more than three-quarters of the estimated cost of \$6,956.50 (around £4,500.00). A wonderful sum and one for which we (Hugh's family), the Mothers' Union and Diocese of Matabeleland are incredibly grateful and one we hope to add to with a share of raffle money from the Deddington Players' pantomime and other sources.

The MU started making hand-stitched church linens 26 years ago for Hugh to sell in the UK. The money raised enabled the MU to fund much needed projects around the Diocese of Matabeleland. Hugh handed over the running of the church linens charity a few years ago but it remained very important to him. He would be delighted.

FROM COLIN COX, DEDDINGTON CHURCH  
BELL RINGERS

In last September's *DN* the Deddington Church Bell Ringers appealed for help in raising funds to buy a new set of bell ropes. The existing ropes were becoming very worn and needed replacing. As a result of the donations received following this appeal and funds raised from a tombola stall in the church on farmers' market day we reached our target to cover the full cost of the ropes which have now been fitted. The contributions we received from the community were absolutely amazing and we would like to say a very special thank you for their generosity.

### NEWS FROM HEMPTON

It seems a while now but 'wow', what a fantastic Christmas bazaar. Lots of families came and enjoyed everything that was on offer, with Santa's Grotto proving a big attraction and I was very impressed with the lovely Christmas stall there. It was great that several new families took over running the event. They all deserve a pat on the back, as do the people who donated prizes and items for the stalls. Approximately £1,900 was raised which is a record and goes towards the ongoing maintenance and running of the building.

The carol service later in the month was well attended, with the Deddington church choir leading the singing, followed by mulled wine and mince pies. Well done to all the families who read lessons as well as to everyone who decorated the church and Christmas tree for the festive services.

I end with my apologies to Andrea Spooner whose name was misspelled in the December column.

If you have any items of village interest, please give me a call.

**Les Chappell 01869 338054**  
(The spelling error was ours. Eds)

## NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

### Question Time

The main news from the Deddington Neighbourhood Plan steering group is that we have definitely decided upon a mini-survey of the parish focusing on the two matters aired in the December *DN*: namely what the parish thinks about the possibility that, first, homes on new developments might be sold on 999-year leases rather than freehold, and, second, that the roads and play areas on these estates might be non-adoptable, that is, to be maintained at the new residents' expense.

Each home in the parish will have at least one leaflet containing the questionnaire delivered to their door so you can fill it in the old-fashioned way but we would prefer it if you could respond to the questionnaire online on Survey Monkey. It makes it easier and quicker for us to collate the results.

The only question that remains to be decided is the date. When should we launch the survey? We had been hoping that by early January Cherwell District Council would have published their Local Plan part 2 consultation which should tell us how many new homes they are expecting Deddington parish to accommodate over the next 15 years, together with a list of sites they consider available for development.

If these conflict with the neighbourhood plan we have ready to roll, there may be more questions we'd like to pose to the parish and it seems sensible to

include them in the same mini-survey containing the two questions outlined above. However, Cherwell has delayed publishing the two documents and there is no guarantee they will even appear in February.

If nothing emerges from CDC 24 in the next few weeks, we will probably go ahead with the two-question survey without hanging fire any longer. This of course means we might have to send out yet a third questionnaire when the Cherwell documents finally emerge.

Please bear with us and continue to give us your support. We would like a really convincing response to the questionnaire (or both questionnaires) because we want a clear picture of the parish's views and because we want to make the neighbourhood plan as watertight as possible, immune from challenges from the men in wigs (as our chairman calls the property barristers who tend to zoom in when developers want to impose their will at an appeal).

In the meantime, we have joined an informal group of parishes which are drawing up neighbourhood plans of their own, with a view to sharing horrible warnings and, we hope, success stories.

**Helen Oldfield**

[helenoldfield@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:helenoldfield@yahoo.co.uk)

[www.deddingtonneighbourhoodplan.org](http://www.deddingtonneighbourhoodplan.org)



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Follow us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/deddingtononline](https://www.facebook.com/deddingtononline) and Twitter @DeddiOnLine



## CALLING ALL CLUBS

### Deddington Original Golf Society

A record 27 DOGS members attended the annual general meeting on 5 January when the committee was elected en bloc, comprising:

Tony Lowe	Chairman
Keith Spengler	Secretary
Ralph Stewart	Treasurer
Ron Colley	Captain
Mike Housley	Vice-Captain
John Dauphin	Handicap Secretary
Nigel Oddy	Head of Corporate Hospitality!

#### Programme of Events for 2017

The secretary received several suggestions for courses to play in 2017 and the following have been booked.

Ladbrook Park	Mon 8 May	1.30pm
Coventry Golf Club	Fri 23 June	11.00am
Buckingham	Fri 18 August	10.00am
Naunton Downs	Fri 22 September	10.30am

Our new Head of Corporate Hospitality, Nigel Oddy, is organising our annual weekend away with the Bournemouth area sounding the favourite. This Dorset town boasts a selection of excellent golf courses and interesting sights for the non-golfers to explore.

To conclude the business of the evening the DOGS chairman, Tony Lowe, was delighted to present the Arthur Kennedy Memorial Trophy to our 2016 golfer of the year, Lyn Talbot. A very worthy recipient.

The Deddington Original Golf Society continues to grow and we now have 73 members. The youngest, Joseph Housley, 22 years of age, and our eldest, illustrious honorary member, Geoff Hillman a sprightly 97.

We hope all our members will continue to support their golf society and look forward to meeting up throughout the year.

**Tony Lowe, Chairman**  
[Tonylowe0772@gmail.com](mailto:Tonylowe0772@gmail.com)

### Deddington Town Football Club

#### First Team results:

12.11.16	Woodford Reserves (h)	L 0–1
19.11.16	Bloxham (h) (CUP)	W 1–0
	Thornton J	
26.11.16	Broughton and NN (a)	L 0–1
03.12.16	Chacombe (a) (CUP)	W 6–0
10.12.16	Croughton (h)	W 4–3
	Cook, Hall S (3)	
07.01.17	KEA (a)	W 4–1

#### Reserve Team results:

19.11.16	Bodicote Res (a) (CUP)	L 1–3 Cumming
26.11.16	Broughton and NN Res (h) (CUP)	L 1–2
03.12.16	Wroxton Res (a) (CUP)	W 2–1 Hall, D., Paroussis C
17.12.16	KEA Reserves (a) (CUP)	W 2–1
07.01.17	AFC Bicester 1st (h)	L 1–5

The First Team has had a decent couple of months, with the goals flowing at one end, and a relatively tight

rearguard at the other. Progress in cup competitions and a steady rise to the upper reaches of the division represents a good return. The Reserves are unfortunately still in a bit of a tailspin, with a couple of cup victories no consolation for propping up the division as the year begins afresh. Lend them your support and perhaps the tide can be turned. It wouldn't be the first time.

Don't forget to check out [www.deddingtontownfc.com](http://www.deddingtontownfc.com) for more match reports and stats.

**Aaron Bliss 07909 64288**

#### Youth Section

There are fewer games to report on over the Christmas break. A Happy New Year to all players, parents and coaches from the club.

The Under 16s playing in the Midland Junior Premier League had a 4–1 home defeat to Heather Juniors, a 3–0 defeat away at Stratford Town Juniors, and a narrow 4–3 defeat to Tividale, despite being 0–3 down at half time. Two trips to the West Midlands before Christmas saw a fine 3–1 win at Solihull, followed by a narrow 5–4 defeat to Coventry Jaguar. In the Witney and District Youth Football League, the Under 15s had a 1–0 victory away at Hook Norton, followed by a 2–2 draw away at Grendon Rangers. The Under 13s playing in the C League had a 2–0 defeat at home to Carterton followed by a 3–1 defeat at Chipping Norton. However, the New Year brought some festive cheer with a 15–2 win over Yarnton Blues with Sam Godfrey scoring six goals, and hat-tricks each for Lucas Barber and Adam Court. The Under 12 Cobras playing in the C League had a narrow 1–2 defeat to Garden City, followed by a 0–2 home defeat to Launton. The New Year brought a heavy 11–3 defeat at Moreton Rangers. The Under 12 Sharks playing in the B League had a 1–4 home defeat to Hook Norton, but bounced back with an 8–2 win at Middleton Cheney with Freddie Murfitt scoring a hat-trick, and a 7–1 win in the return fixture with Middleton Cheney with both Freddie Murfitt and Felix Norman scoring hat-tricks.

#### Assistant Club Secretary

We are seeking an Assistant Club Secretary to help the Club Secretary with the week-to-week running of the Youth Section of the club. Duties would involve liaising with the league, club managers and coaches, and performing administrative tasks to support the successful running of the club. Full training would be provided.

If you are interested in the role or require more information, please email [martin.hovard@btinternet.com](mailto:martin.hovard@btinternet.com) or [deddingtontownfootballclub@gmail.com](mailto:deddingtontownfootballclub@gmail.com)

#### Deddington Town FC club web shop

We have a dedicated online club web shop. If you want to purchase any branded Nike kit, then go to [www.clubwebshop.com/a-z/clubs/deddingtontown](http://www.clubwebshop.com/a-z/clubs/deddingtontown)

If you want to get involved with the club as player, volunteer, sponsor or fundraiser, please do not hesitate



## CALLING MORE CLUBS

to get in touch. Further information about the club is on our website -[www.deddingtontownfc.com](http://www.deddingtontownfc.com) or visit us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/DeddingtonTownFc](https://www.facebook.com/DeddingtonTownFc)

**Roger Sykes 01869 337034**  
**Development Officer, U7/U6 Coach**

### Deddington Cricket Club

The 2017 cricket season begins in just over three months' time but we'll soon be warming ourselves with weekly sessions at indoor nets. For a small village club we are proud of the fact that we can field two teams in the Oxfordshire Cricket Association league every Saturday through the summer. However, at certain times such as holidays, particularly in August, we struggle a bit to raise 22 players. We are always looking for new members to join our very friendly club. If you are interested, please contact me or Sam.

It's with great sadness that we say farewell to Jim Flux who was very supportive of the club and, as a Vice President, was very generous. He will be missed.

**Derek Cheeseman 01869 338609**  
[derekfcheeseman@gmail.com](mailto:derekfcheeseman@gmail.com)  
**Sam Shadbolt 07747615814**  
[sam.shadbolt@googlemail.com](mailto:sam.shadbolt@googlemail.com)

### Deddington Ladies Netball Club

Netball Club is back on 22 February after our winter break. Dust off your trainers and join us on Wednesdays, 6.30–7.30pm at the Windmill Centre all weather court, £3/session. We are a friendly group of all ages and abilities who get together for a game of netball and a good run around each week. Sessions are informal but we would welcome any coaching or general fitness training on an ad hoc basis. If you're interested in joining us or can lend some occasional coaching or fitness support, contact Suzie Upson on 07717 205051 or [suzieupson@mac.com](mailto:suzieupson@mac.com)

### Deddington Bookworms

The Bookworms latest read, *Before I Go to Sleep* by A S Watson, was another cracking read. It was this author's debut novel and didn't disappoint. Mysterious at the start, the story soon gathered pace and drew you straight in to a strange but believable scenario. With little twists and truths coming out as the storyline developed the reader was drawn into the book, knowing that there would be a seismic turn of events but having to wait to the very end to find it. Some of the group felt the plausibility was somewhat stretched at certain points and the timeline wavered a little, but all in all a great debut novel scoring between 8 and 9 out of 10. We meet next on the first Monday in February with new members welcome.

**Deddington Library**  
**01869 338391**

### Women's Institute

In December nearly all our members came to an excellent Christmas lunch at Otters.

At our January meeting, the first since November, we welcomed four new members. It was unusual in that the speaker hardly spoke. Tim Bryce, a professional photographer, had taken photos of trees through the seasons with some quite breathtaking pictures. This was accompanied by some delightful music by Mozart.

At our next month's meeting on 14 February Mary Gregory will talk about 'Gorillas and More'. We shall also make a donation to Associate Country Women of the World which, in turn, donates to various women's groups and communities worldwide. Visitors are always welcome. If you feel like coming, call Beryl Suckling on 01869 337385, or the secretary, Jenny Gross, on 01869 337613.

**Julia Hobbs**

### Deddington Players

This year's pantomime *Aladdin* was a hugely successful show. If you were involved in it, helping or in the audience, we hope you enjoyed the experience. As ever, it's been tremendous fun and hard work but we love it. This year was particularly emotional after we lost our favourite pantomime dame, Jim Flux, but we hope we did him proud. We are looking forward to planning our next show with our talented group of adults and young people who all support the Deddington Players. If you are inspired to get involved contact Suzie Upson on 07717 205051 [suzieupson@mac.com](mailto:suzieupson@mac.com). Keep an eye out for details of an additional production in early autumn.

### 1st Deddington Boys' Brigade

Christmas has been and gone and we had lots of fun at the Anchors and Juniors Christmas party, enjoying pizza and chips. The evening then continued with a chill out session with the Company Section who made their own pizzas. Both events rounded off a good term.

At our first meeting of the new year on 4 January our Anchors were warmly welcomed into the Junior section and Alfie, Jake and Jonny have moved up to the Company.

Many thanks to Revd Annie for officiating at our Enrolment Service in church on 11 January and to our friends and families who came to support in what can only be stated as very cold conditions in the church.

Battalion competition season is in full swing. We are busy working on our skills for this month's Company Section First Aid Competition as we really want to win this one. The 5-a-side football competition for Juniors and Company sections took place on 23 January – results to be provided in March's edition.

**Jen Childs [Jen.childs@btinternet.com](mailto:Jen.childs@btinternet.com)**

## ... AND EVEN MORE CLUBS

### 1st Deddington Scout Group

#### Cubs

Before Christmas the Cubs finished their Environmental Conservation badge by looking at renewable energy. We made a solar tower, with the sun replaced by a light bulb, and windmills – just for fun. Bird feeders were fashioned from plastic bottles, sticks and string.

The highlight was our candle-lit parade from the Windmill to the Town Hall to celebrate the 100 years of Cub Scouts. We carried both our current flag and our old Wolf Cub flag and these were accompanied by Charlie dressed in an ancient Cub uniform, and very good he looked too.

We have started this term by making catapults.

**Jo Churchyard**

[jochurchyard@hotmail.com](mailto:jochurchyard@hotmail.com)

#### Scouts

The end of the autumn term found the Scouts finishing the home skills section of the Skills Challenge badge, ironing, plug wiring and the mysteries of the train timetable. We followed this by making voodoo dolls (not as nasty as it sounds) and challenging the Explorers to an evening of games and puzzles, everything from space-hopper racing to a fiendish dice game.

We finished the term with our usual Christmas film night.

**Pete Churchyard**

[pete.churchyard@gmail.com](mailto:pete.churchyard@gmail.com)

#### Spartans Explorer Scout Unit

Before Christmas we challenged ourselves to complete the Bloxham Circular Walk in the dark. No one was lost and the smell of our chip supper brought us to where the leaders were checking on us. The Scouts challenged us to various activities for an evening. In most cases we managed to beat them, hooray!

This term a group of us are acting as the committee and arranging all our activities. We're looking forward to doing some musical and physical challenges.

Contact Janet Duxbury 01608 737959 [spartansexplorers@gmail.com](mailto:spartansexplorers@gmail.com).

Thanks to everyone who supported and delivered the Christmas Post this year, we raised £218, which will go towards our equipment insurance.

### Book Group

In November we read *Love, Nina: Despatches from Family Life* by Nina Stibbe. The book is in the form of conversational letters, sent by a young nanny to her sister, about the people she meets and the details of day-to-day trivia in a quirky, literary family in 1980s London. Many of the conversations take place around the dinner table and there are some irreverent but very funny moments featuring Alan Bennett and other famous names.

Opinions varied among our group with some of us finding the letters a bit repetitive after a while. It is,

however, possible to skip sections and dip in and out without losing the thread.

The next book is *Love Me* by Garrison Keillor and the next meeting is on 23 February.

**Sally Lambert 01869 338094**

### Deddington and District History Society

Our first speaker of the New Year was Stephen Wass, novelist, poet, traditional musician but also archaeologist, and it was about his excavations at Farnborough that he spoke to us. Stephen's introduction to Farnborough's landscape history included the important information that the manor house, previously near the church, was removed at the end of the Middle Ages to higher ground across the valley. It was rebuilt again in the 18th century as Farnborough Hall, in whose grounds remarkable garden features were created. They included an amphitheatre, a serpentine stream and a cascade, but the showstopper was a large raised oval pool which, at what must have been ruinous expense, was created above ground level; there is (perhaps understandably) nothing comparable in the whole country. The park fell into disuse in the late 18th century and its features had largely disappeared from sight and from memory until Stephen became involved. Because of his discoveries the National Trust is now beginning to restore some of the features (though not, one imagines, the pool). This was a fascinating and entertaining talk and was the perfect preparation for the guided visit that we shall make there on 14 June. This will be a popular trip, so make a note in your diaries.

Our next event, at 7.30pm on Wednesday 8 February at the Windmill Centre, will be a talk by Paul Austin Sargent on William Smith, the Enstone-born founder of modern geology and one of Oxfordshire's greatest sons. All are welcome.

**Chris Day, Chairman 01869 337204**

**Moiria Byast, Secretary 01869 338637**

### Photographic Society

In December, Gail Girvan presented 'From the Shadows into Colour: Pastels to Camera'. By the age of 12 Gail was selling her pencil sketches in cafés, garden centres and small stationery shops and was able to sell her pastels whilst living in the Middle East, where women are restricted in their work options. On returning to the UK, she began to merge her artistic talents with her developing photographic skills. Her series of vibrant and colourful abstract works clearly demonstrated this.

In part two, 'Pastels to Camera', Gail moved on to recent photographic work, influenced by her early graphic arts background. Her superb collection of pictures included stunning seasonal landscapes taken in the UK and Namibia. Particularly outstanding were

## ... AND FINALLY

photographs of deer in the early morning mists and the subtle autumn colour palette of British woodlands. Her work was greatly admired by her fellow club members, and the applause indicated the appreciation of her interesting talk.

The January Club Night was a members evening, entitled 'My Three Best Images of 2016', with members explaining why they had selected the subject, where it was taken, and what had been learned from taking it. Subjects ranged from close-up macro shots, portraits and wildlife, to broad landscapes, taken in a wide range of geographic locations.

The Society's next Club Night is on 1 February, when Paul Brewerton will give a presentation, 'A Short Journey through Alaska and the Yukon'. The workshop on 15 February, 'Basic Computing for Photographers' (Windows based), will be led by John Prentice. All meetings start at 7.30pm, and are held in the Cartwright Hotel, Aynho. Everyone is most welcome to attend.

**Richard Broadbent 338173**  
[www.addphoto.co.uk](http://www.addphoto.co.uk)

## FRIENDS OF DEDDINGTON LIBRARY

We were deeply saddened at the sudden death of Jim Flux. He was instrumental in setting up the Friends of Deddington Library and in negotiating our contract with OCC. While treasurer he gained us both charity status and gift aid registration and helped with everything from selling raffle tickets to calendars. James Hazlewood, OCC's Community Libraries Manager, noted Jim's influence at the county level: 'Jim challenged us on things; ... His input on the way that we set up the Community Library model at Deddington certainly led to a more robust and secure arrangement (at Deddington and other branches), and I know the Friends will miss his leadership and experience. Please give my condolences to his family, and to the Friends and volunteers'.

Thanks to everyone who supported the library by buying the Deddington parish calendar. Sales raised almost £2,500 which will go some way to meeting our current contractual obligations with OCC. Based on this initial experience we are running the photo competition again for a 2017 parish calendar, this time without age categories although we strongly encourage entries from younger photographers. Images are to be taken within our parish, to include Clifton, Hempton and surrounding countryside. File sizes are to be a minimum of 5Mb, 300dpi and sent as JPGs – if you're unsure just send them in and we'll get back to you if they need revising. The entry deadline is 18 August, later than last year, allowing for shots taken during the holidays. Send entries to me by email or to the library on a CD.

**Bryn Williams**  
[abw@brynwilliams.com](mailto:abw@brynwilliams.com)

## 14 FEBRUARY!

### Valentine

I love the long, strong planes of you asleep.  
 My hand confirms the power of your spine  
 and muscle rigging, solid in your athlete's leg.  
 I love to sense and smell your skin on mine.

Awake, your eyes reveal a sharp intelligence.  
 Their cool blue gaze belies a generous heart.  
 Its stable beat secures the night for me.  
 Three decades of delight we've shared – but we must part...

I cannot stand another night of SNORING!  
 If only you'd stop shuddering like a drain...  
 My twitching fingers soon may be a fist – WAKE UP!  
 and be my perfect Valentine again.

**Maureen Dew, 1998, For Alan**

## THE TASTE BUDDIES



*We are the Taste Buddies, an independent group, with no connection to the Deddington News or any of the establishments visited.*

### WHERE?

The Falkland Arms, Great Tew, OX7 4DB, 01608 683653, [falklandarms@wadworth.co.uk](mailto:falklandarms@wadworth.co.uk)

The village is tucked away on the Great Tew Estate, surrounded by thatched cottages. The pub has a traditional cosy feel to it with low beams and an inglenook fireplace. Pets are allowed and there are walks close by.

### WERE THEY PLEASED TO SEE YOU?

We had a friendly welcome and were shown to our table promptly, with a smile.

### WAS THE COOKING GOOD?

Yes. There was a good variety of dishes on the menu, nicely cooked and well presented.

### Starters

A choice of six dishes. Ours were delicious. £5.50-£7.50.

### Boards and Salads

Seven choices, great combinations, £10-£14.

### Main Courses

A very tempting menu with nine choices. £12-£14, £19 for sirloin steak.

Smaller portions were available for children and those with smaller appetites which impressed us.

Sandwiches and ciabattas are available at lunchtime for around £8.

### Puddings

Five choices, around £6, Cheeses £8.

All meals appeared tempting and sensibly priced. The ones we chose didn't disappoint and we will be going back..



## FARMERS' MARKET



February can be the darkest month of winter; just the dregs of January's resolutions and the certain knowledge that spring is still a while away. So I'm going to suggest an easy to make and cheering treat – a Sri Lankan curry. Indian curries, very broadly, tend to be based on lots of onions slowly cooked down to a dark gold crust that will form the basis of the gravy. So they take time to make properly. Sri Lankan curries instead use coconut milk as their signature; lots of calories but also lots of flavour and they can be made very quickly. The quality of this one relies on proper, mature, fresh spinach. You can get away with a pillow pack of supermarket baby spinach if you must but a bunch of real spinach, easily obtainable at the market, makes a big difference. Unusually for a Sri Lankan curry, this is neither spicy nor hot (unless you go to town on the green chilli, which I recommend you do).

**Dahl and Spinach Curry** – serves 4–6

1 tablespoon of butter or oil  
4 shallots, finely chopped  
1 garlic clove, finely chopped  
1 sprig of curry leaves (fresh if you can get them but dried will work too)  
½ cup (125g) red lentils, washed and drained  
2 green chillies, finely chopped (use the mild Jalapeno or the hotter bird's eye depending on taste)  
½ teaspoon turmeric  
1-2 400ml cans of coconut milk  
1 bunch fresh mature spinach (or 250g pillow pack if you have to) – washed and roughly chopped  
salt and pepper

Soften the shallots and garlic in the oil in a heavy frying pan over a low to medium heat. Add the curry leaves and lentils and cook for another 3 minutes. Add the chilli, turmeric and coconut milk and cook for 8 minutes or so until the dahl is soft and pulpy. (If you're worried about calories you can use light coconut milk.) If you like your dahl soupy you can add a second can of coconut milk. Add spinach and simmer for another 3 minutes. Taste. Season with salt and pepper. Serve with a flat bread or rice as a main, or as a side dish.

For more up to date information about the market (and contact details for all the stallholders) you can visit the market webpage [www.deddingtonfarmers-market.co.uk](http://www.deddingtonfarmers-market.co.uk).

The market is on Saturday 25 February from 9.00am to 12.30pm. If you can't wait till then, there's always the Adderbury market on the second Thursday of each month at The Institute, The Green, Adderbury, 18.00-20.00. More details at: [www.market.adderbury.org](http://www.market.adderbury.org)

Good shopping!

**Ian Willox 01869 337940**  
[ian@deddingtononair.org](mailto:ian@deddingtononair.org)

## POSTCARD FROM AMERICA

*Police, Modesty and a Strange Choice for President*  
It's been an exciting Christmas: the wife got a visit from the Greenwood Village police. In passing I will mention my key rant over the festive period. Over 70% of the citizens of the US say they are practising Christians, the number for all other faiths is very low at six percent. Forty percent attend church every week, more than four times the UK number. This is a very Christian country but they will not wish each other Happy Christmas. Needless to say I never said 'Happy Holiday'.

Anyway, the doorbell rang and Heather answered in her leopard-skin pyjamas, and the police interrogation started. It all came about because our neighbours have been gathering stray deer in our front garden. I have to stress that these are not real deer. The folks round here like the kind that you plug in and light up, and they have just appeared in our garden.

But, following a few stubbies, the Aussies decided it would be a laugh to mount the two baby deer on top of the adult deer. Oh how we laughed, until the following day when our elderly neighbours called the cops. Luckily the lovely GV police lady thought it was all very funny.

Middle America can be a very strange place, there are a lot of stuffy people and some very old fashioned attitudes. Toilets are rest rooms, toilet paper is bath tissue, and every urinal has a modesty screen. The really odd thing is that the toilet cubicles have gaps down the side, so as you stroll to your chosen place of contemplation, you have to work hard not to see sights that should not be seen.

The other big news this month has been a bunch of students playing a game that they call football. The college football championship final was this week, with 75,000 in the stadium and 25 million watching on TV. The coaches are paid millions, the kids get nothing, but it is the colleges that are really coining it. They do a terrible job by confusing education and sport.

Meanwhile the White House is about to be invaded by a lovely Slovenian model and the biggest egotist ever elected to office. I have to admit up front that if anyone wants any gambling advice, do not ask me; I got this one completely wrong. However, if I owned a house I would bet it on this guy not serving out four years. There is so much that is wrong and it will be his own party that takes him down.

Despite his failing to gain a majority of the popular vote, most around here want to give Trump a chance. There are many things here that are unprecedented; the lack of transparency about his business dealings is a huge problem, and he still thinks he needs to bully people despite now being the most powerful man in the world. But this is the Twitter generation, truth has given way to image and I am thinking of repairing the deer so they will light up and flash rude messages at the neighbours.

**Mike Ward [mikew@qsoftware.com](mailto:mikew@qsoftware.com)**

## WELL REMEMBERED

### Vivien Pleydell-Bouverie MBE 1940–2016

Vivien was born to Sir Richard Keane and his wife Olivia, followed by brothers, Charles and David. With her father in North Africa, the family moved to Cappoquin, Donegal, to live with her paternal grandparents. Her father's service obligations finished in 1948, they moved into Cappoquin House and bought a home in London.

While Charles went to boarding school, Vivien's education was left to a series of governesses and her love of reading. Otherwise it was a life full of self-reliance, catching and skinning rabbits and riding and hunting ponies: most famously a Connemara called Bluebell (not allowed to be ridden until she had pulled the milk cart round Cappoquin on the daily round) and a beautiful skewbald known simply as The Pie.

Finally, at 13, she, too, went to school, at Downham. After the relative isolation of Cappoquin, she initially found the company of so many girls her own age daunting, but academically caught up in a year. However, her very good brain was not to be challenged beyond 16 when she was sent to a finishing school in a remote corner of Denmark where she was the only foreigner and no-one spoke English. Here she learned to speak Danish, care for babies and cook very skillfully. She then acquired some secretarial skills, did the Season (being in the last group of girls to be presented at Court), worked for an MP and met Simon. Twelve years her senior, he was very much a gentleman about town, who allowed himself an annual budget for taking girls out to dinner. Within a few weeks he had blown the lot on Vivien who reciprocated by agreeing to marry him. For the next 51 years they were hardly ever apart.

They married at Chelsea Old Church when Vivien had just turned 21. Grania was born the following year and Archie two years later. In 1965 they moved to Deddington where Juliet and Alice followed quickly. They settled into the familiar pattern of Simon's work, raising the family, schools, Brownies and Guides. The year always seemed to be marked by Cheltenham, Wimbledon, summer at Gregganore in North Berwick and Christmas in Ireland. There were always lots of ponies and lots of sport. In keeping with the family's competitive spirit, Vivien finally overcame her early disdain of golf, going on to become a ruthless strategic player for whom the score, not style, was all important.

As the children grew up, Vivien took tremendous pride in their many achievements. She was their champion and fierce protector and never stopped caring for them, even in her last days, and she especially loved spending time at Gregganore in the company of a throng of grandchildren to whom she strove to impart her high standards.

Vivien came to care passionately about Ireland in general and the countryside in particular. To broaden Vivien's horizons, her mother gave her the first volume of Stella Ross-Craig's masterwork *Drawings of British Plants* and Vivien went on to collect all 31 volumes,

containing over 1300 plates of exquisite botanical line drawings of all Britain's flora. It became her lifelong hobby to find as many of these plants as possible and then colour the plates from life, using watercolour. It reflected so much of her personality; her dedication to the cause, her tenacity, her adventurousness, her enthusiasm, her competitiveness, her energy, sense of humour and fun, and above all her love of nature.

Her other passion was Guiding. She became involved in 1969 as District Commissioner for Deddington, having had no previous experience of Guiding. She held numerous posts, beginning in 1983 as County Commissioner for Oxfordshire, and subsequently chair of finance for Anglia Region, chair of finance for the whole Guide Association, and President of the Anglia Region. For her services she was given a Laurel Award for Services to Guiding and later an MBE. Locally, she ran the Deddington Brownies from 1973 until 2001, as well taking on temporary positions to avoid other units closing. Castle House hosted the Guide Shop for many years, as well as countless events, meetings, trainings, garden parties, fund-raising events and camps.

She was stoic through her final period with cancer, never complaining and, if asked, always made light of any discomfort, an attitude which, as a Deddington neighbour commented, 'makes it easy for us'.

**David Keane and Vivienne Smith**






## DANCE TO MUSIC

Exercise, feel energised and socialise!

**Day:** Monday

**Time:** 1 - 2 pm

**Place:** Holly Tree, Horsefair, Deddington, OX15 0SH

**Cost:** £4 \*\* first session is free\*\*

Please call to book your place

01235 849403  
[info@generationgames.org.uk](mailto:info@generationgames.org.uk)  
[www.generationgames.org.uk](http://www.generationgames.org.uk)

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