

THE TEAM

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the Deddington news

Time for another of Deddington's annual community events: Deddington Festival 2017 runs from Thursday 8 to Sunday 11 June, thanks to a dedicated band of volunteers. There are old favourites and new attractions. If you are looking for more adventures, visit the gardens open for charity or call 07964 785189 to sign up for the Deddington Day Centre's car treasure hunt on 9 July.

CD

WHAT'S ON

June

- Mon 5 Monday Morning Club: Coffee Morning, Holly Tree, 10.30am
- Wed 7 Photographic Society: Yin Wong on Yunnan, China, Cartright Hotel, Aynho, 7.30pm
- Thu 7 History Society: Parish Church, 8.30pm
- Thu 8 Monday Club: Film Evening, film tba, Holly Tree, 6.30pm
- Sun 11 Deddington Town FC: Youth presentation, Windmill, 2.00pm
- Sun 11 Solar Farm Open Day, Hill Farm, Duns Tew, 10.00am-4.00pm
- Wed 14 History Society: Trip to Farnborough Hall, 7.00pm
- Sun 18 Open Gardens: Weston House, Church St and The Hermitage, Market Place, 2.00-5.00pm
- Wed 21 Parish Council Meeting, Holly Tree Club, 7.30pm
- Wed 21 Photographic Society: Outdoor photoshoot workshop, Cartwright Hotel Aynho, 7.30pm
- Sat 24 Farmers' Market: Market Place, Parish Church, 9.00am-12.30pm
- Sat 24 Bell Tower: Open Day, Parish Church, 10.00am-12noon
- Sat 24 NGS Open Garden: Satin Lane Allotments, 1.00-5.30pm
- Thu 29 Book Club: call Sally Lambert, 338094, for details

Deddington Festival Events

- Thu 8 Tour of Deddington Parish Church, 2.00-3.00pm
- Thu 8 Walk on the Wild Side, Home Farm, Clifton, 6.00-8.00pm
- Thu 8 Molly Davies live at the Deddington Arms, 7.30pm
- Thu 8 Poetry Please, Unicorn, 7.30pm
- Fri 9 Deddington History Walk, meet Town Hall, 7.00pm
- Fri 9 Jazz in the Church, Parish Church, 7.30pm
- Sat 10 Art Exhibition, Holly Tree, 10.00am-5.00pm
- Sat 10 Children's Festival, Parish Church, 1.00-3.30pm
- Sat 10 Deddy Rocks, Unicorn, 3.00pm till late
- Sun 11 Art Exhibition, Holly Tree, 10.00am-5.00pm
- Sun 11 Deddy Car Fest, Market Place, 11.00am-4.00pm
- Sun 11 Writing Competition Awards, Parish Church, 2.30-4.30pm
- Sun 11 Singing Workshop, Parish Church, 5.00-6.30pm
- Sun 11 All the King's Men Concert, Parish Church, 7.00pm
- Sun 11 Dave Arrowsmith Band, Crown and Tuns, 7.30pm

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

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DEDDINGTON FESTIVAL

Not long left now until the big day! Election, what election? We're talking about the start of Deddington Festival 2017. It may be starting on June 8 – the same day as the general election – but we think you'll find our manifesto a lot more fun than anything the politicians can come up with.

As well as old favourites such as Deddy Jazz, Deddy Rocks, A Walk on the Wild Side, the Art Exhibition, Writing Competition and Poetry Please, this year's Festival is welcoming some exciting new events.

Young people will take over the church from 1-3.30pm on Saturday 10 June, as we host our first ever Children's Festival – an array of fun-filled events for families. Children's poet, John Foster, well-known for his performances as a dancing dinosaur and a rapping granny, will be performing his hilarious act. Our younger festival goers are invited to take part in dance workshops run by Deddington Youth Dance Company and photography sessions with the Photographic Society. They can try their hand at jewellery making and even paint a pot or two to take home. There will be a kid's café, balloon modelling, face-painting and lots of opportunity to perfect and display – or perhaps even discover – artistic and musical skills in the beautiful setting of our historic parish church. As if that weren't enough, there will also be an opportunity to sell some old toys and perhaps buy some new ones at our children's 'suitcase sale'.

We will also be running our first ever Deddy Car Fest from 11.00–4.00pm on Sunday 11 June, which is guaranteed to delight all the petrol heads out there. In a celebration of cars old and new, run in conjunction with the amazing Teenage Cancer Trust, we will be filling the Market Place with a dazzling array of classic, contemporary and supercars. As well as being able to look at them, you will be able – for a small consideration – to go for a ride in them.

In yet another first, the Festival is delighted to welcome to Deddington the immensely talented male a capella ensemble, All the King's Men, from King's College London. They've toured the US, produced critically acclaimed albums, won multiple awards and wowed crowds at the Edinburgh Fringe over recent years and now they are bringing their breathtaking vocal prowess, slick choreography and unique showmanship to the church for a concert at 7.00pm on Sunday 11 June, doors open 6.30pm.

But we are not only offering you a chance to watch them in action; we're giving you a chance to sing with them. All the King's Men will be running a singing masterclass in the church from 5.00–6.30pm.

To find out more about any of our events, please visit the website www.deddingtonfestival.org.uk and don't forget to follow us on Facebook and Twitter for all the latest news.

Janet Bird ajbird05@btinternet.com

North Aston Dairy

Local
Fresh

Organic

Beef & Rose Veal

delivered to your door

northastondairyoffice@gmail.com
email josh & graham for further details

we also deliver ice cream

SOIL ASSOCIATION
ORGANIC

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SOS! WINDMILL THURSDAY CLUB ... Now Deddington Day Centre

You may have read the letter in April's *DN* from a very concerned daughter, who feared the Day Centre may face closure. Sadly, she is not wrong. Because of the government's austerity measures, funding from Oxfordshire County Council will cease next year. We have until then to find an alternative way of supporting this organisation which is of such value to the elderly and their families in the Deddington area. The Club, a registered charity, was set up just over 20 years ago on the initiative of Social Services and OCC to meet the needs of the rural frail and elderly. It is run by two trained and salaried co-ordinators with a team of dedicated volunteers and has the reputation in Social Services circles of being 'a shining example of care in the community' which the government is so keen to encourage, but not to fund. It offers fifteen clients a stimulating day out in congenial company with a hot meal, entertainment, activities, conversation and fun.

A recent survey confirms that for many it is their only outing in the week, the only time they share a meal, so important for those who live alone, and something to look forward to in the daily routine. It is also a chance to meet and make friends, share worries and receive information and support. For nearly half our clients, the club also provides a day of respite for carers, knowing that their relatives are in safe and friendly hands.

Having received a surplus minibus with a tail-lift from Social Services, we are able to provide transport even for those with mobility problems, critical when rural bus services are being withdrawn, but the bus itself is elderly and in need of constant maintenance.

We are very generously supported by local organisations in Deddington (*DN*, Farmers' Market, Parish Show, Deddington Players) and individuals, but need to secure a regular income to ensure that we can continue to offer this valuable service. If it does close, it will be lost forever. If every household contributed just £2 per month, we could easily cover our running costs. Should you feel able to commit to a small monthly or annual donation, standing orders can be made to the Yorkshire Bank PLC, 66 High Street, Banbury OX16 8JN, sort code 05-02-16, account number 46046605. Alternatively, cheques made payable to 'Deddington Day Centre' may be sent to our treasurer at 14 Gaves-ton Gardens, Deddington, OX15 0NX.

We meet every Thursday from 10.00am to 3.00pm and visitors or prospective clients are always welcome to drop in.

Thank you for your anticipated support.

Jean Rudge, Committee Vice Chair

01869 338110

jeanrudge@gmail.com

Come and Visit

HILL FARM
Hill Farm Lane
off North Aston Road
DUNS TEW
OX25 6JJ

SUNDAY 11th JUNE 2017
10.00am to 4.00pm

Learn about the 5MW solar farm

'now powering Deddington and Duns Tew'

as well as our Cattle, Crops,
and Woodchip Biomass Heating System.

For further information
please contact Charles Landless
on 01869 347541 or 07946 576348

Admission free ~ Children welcome.

FRITWELL MARKET



SATURDAY 10 JUNE
10am – 2pm

2ND SAT OF EVERY MONTH
FRITWELL VILLAGE HALL OX27 7QA

PLANTS

FOODS

CRAFTS

GIFTS

CAFE

ORGANIC VEG

To enquire about stall availability
email vahibberd@gmail.com

BELL TOWER OPEN MORNING

The church bell tower will be open to visitors on Saturday 24 June, farmers' market day, from 10.00am to noon. Visitors will see the bells, watch them being rung and see the amazing view of the village and the surrounding countryside from the tower roof. Please bear in mind there are over 100 steps up a narrow spiral staircase to the top so sensible footwear must be worn and, due to insurance constraints, children under the age of eight are not allowed.

The tower contains a set of eight bells, six of which are known to be some 225 years old. The original six bells were requisitioned for making weapons by Charles I and not replaced until 1791. The other two date from 1946 and were donated to commemorate the Deddington Home Guard. They are rung on Sundays and at practice times, as well as for weddings and funerals and other notable occasions.

Colin Cox
Tower Captain
01869 337486



WINDMILL CENTRE IMPROVEMENTS

Feedback from the recent Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire made for some uncomfortable reading: 'terrible playground ... very poor compared to some other villages like Steeple Aston'; 'desperate need for additional football and cricket pitches'; 'Centre needs a major refurbishment'. And those were the kinder comments.

The Centre has been open for more than 30 years and it's really showing its age. In 2016 we made a start, thanks to a £40,000 injection of capital from the Parish Council. You might have noticed new doors, double-glazed windows and repainted external woodwork; interior redecoration and new flooring in the entrance hall; and new radiators in the loos. All essential upgrading and maintenance stuff to prolong the life of Centre and increase energy efficiency. No wow factor in there – hopefully that's still to come.

More recently a new Fitness Trail around the edge of the playing field was opened, thanks to a grant from Awards for All and work will begin shortly on regenerating the all-weather court to extend its life in the short term. Looking further ahead a Working Group has been set up, made up of members of the sports clubs, the PC and Windmill management. Its remit is to look at major improvements and possibly extensions, and source funding over the next few years.

Our initial focus is on extending the AWC area and we're keen to know if there might be any additional users out there, either individuals or groups. Please get in touch if you are interested in knowing more. We'll report progress as we go along – more next month.

Mary Robinson, Chair,
Redevelopment Working Group
01869 338272

PFSU AND VILLAGE NURSERY

It has been a short but busy term. The PFSU children have been learning about the World Around Us including watching tadpoles turn into frogs and caterpillars into butterflies. We have been mini-beast hunting on the school field and making bird feeders to attract birds to our gardens.

Looking ahead to next term, we will be preparing all the children for their move up to their new schools and settings from September. There will be two open afternoons at the PFSU for the new September children and families to come and meet us. These will be on Tuesday 4 and Wednesday 5 July from 3.30–4.30pm. There will also be 'move-up' afternoons for the children moving up to the PFSU and to the primary school on Monday 10 July.

Holiday Club will run in the summer from Monday 24–Friday 28 July and Monday 31 July–Friday 4 August, from 9.00am until 3.00pm.

Thank you to everyone who supported the Four Farms Challenge. It was a great success. We are also still collecting Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers and would welcome any donations at either the PFSU or the Nursery.

Lucy Squires
Deddington PFSU and Nursery
01869 337484



Middle Aston House

**We have the following vacancies at
 Middle Aston House**

**Monday - Friday
 or
 Saturday - Sunday**

**Housekeepers required, early mornings
 8.30am to 1.30pm or 9am to 2pm**

**Waiters/Waitresses required to serve
 breakfast, lunch, dinner. Shifts to suit**

Bar person required 5pm to 11pm

**For further information please call
 Bobbie Mardle on 01869340361**

CHURCH AND CHAPEL

June

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 the fourth Wednesday of the month)
 Thu 2.00pm Squeals and Wheels

Sun 4 10.30am Family Service and Little Saints
 All Family Services will now include Little Saints (previously at 9.30am).
 6.00pm Choral Evensong
 Sun 11 8.00am BCP Communion
 10.30am Holy Communion
 Sun 8 10.30am Holy Communion
 Sun 25 10.30am Holy Communion (said service)

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 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.

St John, Hempton

Sun 4 9.00am Holy Communion
 Sun 18 9.00am Holy Communion
 Sun 25 6.00pm Evening Prayer

Barford St Michael

Sun 4 10.30am Family Service
 Sun 11 9.00am Holy Communion
 Sun 18 6.00pm Evening Prayer
 Sun 25 9.00am Holy Communion

Please note: the Family Service on 2 July will be for the whole Benefice, as we will welcome Paula Smith, our part-time curate, who will have been ordained Deacon at Christ Church Cathedral the previous day

From the Parish Register

Funerals

May 11 Peter Coe
 May 26 Elaine Blencowe

Wesleyan Reform Church, Chapel Square

Sunday mornings at 10.30am Pastor Isabel Walton
 25 June Maurice Nicholls

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.

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

BUS ROUTE CHANGES SUNDAY 11 JUNE

Because of the car show in the Market Place on the 11 June, the S4 bus service to Banbury and Oxford will be diverted. Instead of turning into Hudson Street or Horse Fair and going through the Market Place, buses will go straight along the main road, to both destinations. Buses for Oxford will stop at the junction of Hudson Street with High Street, and buses for Banbury will stop on the other side of the main road, opposite Hudson Street.

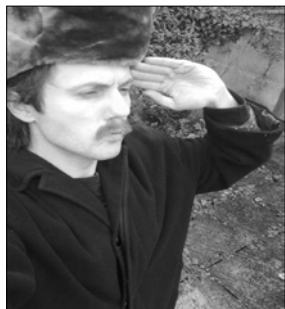
Remember, you won't be able to get on or off at Horse Fair, and no buses will stop in the Market Place.

On Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, 8–10 June the buses will run as normal.

There is, traditionally, a good deal of confusion when the S4 route is altered because of events and road closures and information has been in short supply. We intend to make sure that in future everyone involved knows what the plan is and that passengers are told what is happening well in advance. Keep your eye on the *DN* for information

James Reeve
jameshreve@outlook.com

BLISSFUL THINKING



I've recently found myself entranced by the soap opera of garden birds. It struck me one day, talking on the phone, as my eyes drifted towards movement at the window and I noticed a couple of pigeons perched along the telegraph wire. One of them, the alpha male presumably, kept wait-

ing for the other to settle beside him, only to leap at his partner and cause it to hop further away. This pasquinade lasted until they'd reached the telegraph pole and the victim took evasive action to put the wooden buttress between them ... only for bully pidge to continue his assault. They do this on roofs too.

The carrion birds playing 'chicken' with cars, darting away in the nick of time with not a stir of panic, only seem to back up my long-held theory that, being the true descendants of dinosaurs, far more self-aware of their origins than we give them credit for, perhaps imbued with the knowledge of the ancient gods, were gifted flight in order that they observe our new 'dominant species' with mockery and amusement and report back to their omnipotent progenitors.

A little sparrow (I think) managed to thunder through my kitchen window a few weeks back, luckily enough on my lunch break. Courteous enough not to defecate all over the house, the little guy nevertheless led me a merry dance up the stairs and through three rooms, before finally succumbing to the promise of food and hopping on to my hand. I could almost hear him chuckle as I guided him out of the window to freedom once more, now armed with an anecdote to make them squawk at that night's tree poker with all the plastered chaffinches and card-counting magpies. If you don't believe that behind every jackdaw's vacant eyes twinkles the primal frustration of a tyrannosaur, well, you're not going to see it coming. They will. And they'll be watching it all safely from above.

Aaron Bliss

aaronjbloss@hotmail.com

DEDDINGTON LIBRARY

We've had another busy month in the library. Rhyme-time continues to be well attended for the most part, although some weeks are very quiet. The sessions are hosted by an excellent team of highly committed volunteers who put a lot into the sessions, making sure they are varied and interesting. Your regular support is much appreciated, so please come along and join us.

The Bookworms are a lovely group of people who usually meet on the first Monday of the month at 6.30pm and would love new members. If you'd like to join them, please let me know or call in for a chat about it first. The meetings aren't stuffy or overly intellectual, each member of the group chooses a book so the material covers a wide range of genres, and your thoughts and opinions are as valid as everyone else's, so don't be shy. The next meeting is on Monday 5 June in the library.

Don't forget that we offer adults' and children's DVD hire and have a regularly changing collection to choose from – not only current movies and classics but TV series, foreign films and old Ealing films too. If we don't have one you want, we can order from another library for a modest fee. It's much cheaper than going to the cinema and yet another service we provide (except for the popcorn) right on your doorstep.

Our Home Library Service has gone from strength to strength over the last year. We have a great team of volunteers working out of the library, providing a valuable service to housebound members of our parish and the wider community. If you, or anyone you know, would benefit from having books or audio books delivered to their home, please get in touch for more information. We would love to hear from you.

Stella O'Neill Library Manager

01869 338391

deddington.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk



FRIENDS OF DEDDINGTON LIBRARY

Sign up and support us at

www.FriendsofDeddingtonLibrary.org



PHOTO COMPETITION

FoDL invite entries of photos of Deddington, Clifton, Hempton and the surrounding countryside

The winning entries will be included in a new and exciting 2018 Parish Calendar

There are no age restrictions

We will award 1st, 2nd, 3rd prizes and all published entries will receive complimentary calendars and a photo credit in the calendar

Image files min of 5Mb, 300dpi saved as high quality JPGs

Deadline for entries 18 August 2017

Submit your entries by email to abw@brynwilliams.com or on a CD/DVD to Stella at the library

For more details, visit www.FriendsofDeddingtonLibrary.org

GOOD LUCK!

FROM THE FIRE STATION

The crew was called out 28 times in the past month. One call-out was to a thatch fire near Swindon in a 17th century cottage and I believe the cause was an electrical fault in the loft. Unfortunately, most of the building was lost but we did manage to save about a third of the property. Fire crews worked tirelessly to fight the blaze and at the same time sent multiple crews inside wearing breathing apparatus to salvage as many belongings as possible. The local community turned out in force to help store all their belongings, filling their sheds and garages. It is wonderful to see how a community comes together in times of hardship.

Another incident was a derelict building in Witney. This was a former office building, two storeys high with a very large floor area. The building was completely destroyed by the fire whose cause is unknown but believed to be arson. Closer to home our crew was called to a fire at the Great Western Arms at Aynho. This was a small fire thought to be caused by a cigarette discarded in a timber flowerpot on the decked roof of the first floor. Early intervention stopped it spreading into the main building although the fire did destroy a section of the decking and the felt roof below, but was extinguished before it could get into the roof joists.

Deddington crews have attended several road traffic collisions in the past month. A notable one happened on the A4260 just outside Deddington towards Adderbury. It happened early on Bank Holiday Monday morning on a clear road. The driver was a young woman on her own. The car left the road, narrowly missing two large trees and ending up in the hedge. The crew removed the side of the car and the driver was taken to hospital by ambulance. Her condition

was not believed to be serious but it is difficult to tell when your main aim is to rescue someone from the car whilst the paramedics look after the casualty.

Training this month has been quite intense. There was a drill in Banbury involving two cars with one on its side. The crews have to ascertain the quickest and best way to extricate the casualties from the vehicles. A new training procedure is to put countdown timers on the casualties so that you assess how much time you have to get them out of the car. Some of the crew went to Moreton-in-Marsh for their breathing apparatus (BA) assessment. These assessments are now completely different from how they used to be run. In the past, they would just run drills and you would wear BA exactly how you were trained. This kind of assessment showed if you could wear BA safely but not how you performed at incidents as a crew. Now you train as a full crew with your own fire engine and all its equipment to assess how the whole incident is run. The transformation in the crew is amazing with everyone passing with flying colours.

The crew attended a fête at Lower Heyford. This was a great little fête with lots of enthusiasm from the organisers. They had dog shows, stalls and lots of events to keep everyone entertained. They even managed to get our crew to take part in a relay race. The big event this month was the Four Farms Challenge which is a huge undertaking. There were 320 people running either a five or ten kilometre race. The crew did the marshalling for the event and helped set up the stands. The day was a big success raising money for Deddington School and the Fire Fighters Charity.

Tim Parker, Crew Manager

DEDDINGTON 150 YEARS AGO



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

5th June – Went to London by train and had a long interview with Mr. Upton on the state of my affairs. I went to Westminster Hall afterwards and visited the Courts of Law.

11th June – Mr. Bowen, the Inspector of Police, came and I remanded a man from Steeple Aston for assaulting two policemen – one of them had his leg broken.

14th June – Holford and I heard the case of assault against a policeman – sent him to the House of Correction for two months with Hard Labour.

18th June – I, Holford, Willy and Robert all went to the Cuddesden Anniversary – there were at least 100 clergy present, I met many old friends there.

24th June – I and Holford went to Oxford for the Commemoration.

30th June – I went to the re-opening of North Aston Church by the Bishop who preached in the morning.

Buffy Heywood bd.heywood@btinternet.com

DEDDINGTON'S SWIFTS



Swifts are one of our very special summer birds. Many of us eagerly await their return and enjoy the few short months of seeing and hearing them around our towns and villages. Sadly, swift numbers are declining. However we can help those that remain by taking care of their nest sites and looking out for chances to provide nest places in new developments as well. Fortunately there are still swifts in Deddington.

For the last ten years I have been running a project in Cherwell District to find out just how many we have and where they are. For instance, we know that Bloxham has over 50 nesting pairs but in Kirtlington, where I live, there are fewer than ten. Will you please help me find out more about Deddington's swifts this summer? If you know of a swift's nest site or see swifts' screaming parties around the village, please send me an email with some information about where and when you saw them.

Chris Mason
mason@cando.eclipse.co.uk

DOWN ON GEORGE'S FARM

As I bash this out, the farm office is incommunicado as our fibre optic connection has gone down and it will take at least five days to get an engineer out to look at the problem so this may well have to go off to the editor as hard copy (*it didn't, Ed*). We have used modern communications technology for many years but it is only when the system fails that we realise just how much we have become a slave to modern technology. The farm office is now equipped with two banks of computers as everything now has to be on so-called flash drives or memory sticks so the old man has been made redundant and a much younger farm secretary, who understands these things, has been put in place and I am very pleased to say that she did not leave the office screaming after the first day. Although the premise for leaving the EU was a reduction in 'administration control and paperwork', the opposite will be the result, as most of the online farm administration is generated by Defra and the green Taliban, not the EU, and there is no way that our masters are going to give that up.

The 2017 lambing season came to an end in early May – well, almost, with a few stragglers left to produce: not the best of seasons but we have a lamb crop, although we have seen some fox predation, always a problem but one that can be dealt with.

A new menace has appeared, in the shape of the raven, a protected bird that will crowd round a ewe giving birth and attack the newborn lamb and its mother before the ewe has time to get up to defend itself and its lamb. We now have an increasing number of these birds in the valley. They may be iconic at the Tower of London but, thanks to the green Taliban, they have become a major farm and environmental predator, like the red kite, again a protected species that was reintroduced some years ago and is now the cause of the fall in numbers of the brown hare and other farm wildlife. Although the kite would be unable to take on an adult hare, the leverets are much more vulnerable, as the hare is not a burrowing animal but sits vey still in a form on the ground, with the doe visiting her young at intervals during the day and night to suckle them. I have actually watched a doe at very close quarters giving birth to twins, which she quickly moved into the cover of a crop of spring beans. I was very careful when I cut the crop a few weeks later and delighted to see them both, and again the next spring in the same field. Another bird iconic to the river valley is the grey or English partridge. For many years they have been part of our farm conservation project, but the numbers have started to fall again with the rise in numbers of protected raptors, so it's a case of over-protection leading to less diversity, ho hum.

According to a report in the local free press we 'land managers' and farmers have been polluting



things again. The conservation charity, Wild Oxfordshire, is calling for volunteers to help out with its WaterBlitz programme testing local rivers, streams, lakes and ponds for nitrate and phosphate content as these natural elements leak into the rivers and streams from fertilisers used on farm land. The truth is that we are all in it together, even the water testers, as every time we fill up the dishwasher, washing machine, take a shower or sit on the loo, you are adding nitrates and phosphates to the water system.

Yes, it goes through a treatment works, but just how much of our everyday household chemicals are actually removed? Before the 'clean water' is discharged into the river, perhaps these testers should sample the water coming from the outfalls.

On day six of our IT blackout, we came back online, thanks to Openreach/BT fitting a new cable. It seems that a little bit of 'domesticated' wildlife took a liking to the cable where it passed through a cavity wall. Ho, the joys of living close to Nature in a 400-year old listed farm house.

As part of the Deddington Festival, the Walk on the Wild Side will yet again be hosted on the farm. It is an event I have been involved with for many years, but this year it will be led by the younger generation as I have other unavoidable Deddington duties. I have been a church warden for more years than I care to remember and each year we have to take an oath of allegiance at a service, the Archdeacon's Visitation. The service is moved around the deanery each year and it's our turn to host it this year and it's on the same evening as the farm walk. Ho hum! Just think of me after the ceremonials, with a glass of red in one hand and a plate of finger food in the other, making small talk to the Archdeacon, Rural Dean and the bewigged Chancellor, as you enjoy your walk. Cheers.

George Fenemore
01869 338203

OPEN GARDENS

Area residents have the opportunity to satisfy their curiosity as to what lies behind a couple of Deddington houses when two private gardens open for charity for one day only in aid of Katharine House Hospice. Weston House, Church Street, and The Hermitage, Market Place, will open their gates and offer teas, from 2.00–5.00pm on Sunday 18 June.

In addition, the Satin Lane allotments will be spruced up and offering light refreshments on Saturday 24 June from 2.00–5.30pm as an National Garden Scheme *Yellow Book* garden. The NGS which celebrates its 90th season this year, provides major support to a number of nursing charities.

CD

DEDDINGTON FARMERS' MARKET

A GLUT OF STRAWBERRIES

The British weather being what it is, there is no certainty about when the first strawberries will arrive but they will, sooner or later. The newer varieties now being cultivated have a deep intense flavour and aroma that far eclipse the all-the-year-round woody supermarket standards.

The trouble with even the freshest strawberries is that they don't stay fresh for long and should never be kept in the fridge. So either eat them immediately or make jam.

Strawberry jam is best made in small quantities so that you don't boil out the flavour. The addition of a few geranium leaves or a twist of black pepper makes the jam extra special.

Scented Strawberry Jam

from Sarah Raven's *Food For Friends And Family*

Makes 2 x 450g jars

900g fresh strawberries, hulled

Four scented pelargonium (geranium) leaves or a good grinding of black pepper

Juice of two lemons

900g granulated sugar, warmed in the oven

Put a saucer in the fridge, ready for when you come to test the setting point later on.

Put the strawberries and pelargonium leaves (or pepper) into a large, heavy based, stainless steel pan and use a potato masher to squash the fruit slightly.

Don't push too hard – you just want some of the fruit to release a little juice, not to be completely flattened.

Stir in the lemon juice and bring to the boil for two–three minutes. Stir in the sugar and boil for another 10–15 minutes. Remove the leaves.

Pull the pan off the heat and test for setting point. Put a teaspoonful of jam on the chilled saucer from the fridge. When cool, it should wrinkle when you push it with your finger. You could alternatively use a jam thermometer. When it reaches 104–105C the mixture will set.

Cool slightly and pour into warm, dry, sterilised jars. Cover with a wax disc, then seal and label with the date. This jam will last for several years. Once opened, store in the fridge.

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.

The market is on Saturday 24 June from 9.00am–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, 6.00–8.00pm.

More details at www.market.adderbury.org

Good shopping!

Ian Willox 01869 337940
ian@deddingtononair.org

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DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Meeting and Parish Council Meeting

Windmill Community Centre, Deddington, 17 May 2017

Annual Meeting

There was a good turnout of parish councillors and our county councillor.

The parish council performs a vital role in the success and smooth running of Deddington. The annual parish meeting elects the principal parish council officers and allocates working group responsibilities and representation on local organisations.

David Rogers was elected chairman and Don Anderson and Brian Wood as the two vice chairmen. The Council appoints members or representatives to serve with the school governors, Deddington Charity Estates, Friends of the Castle Grounds, Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils, library, Holly Tree Club and Windmill Centre. Jo Eames, who has lived in New Street since 2001, stepped forward to fill the vacant seat and has been co-opted on to the Council. The internal auditors and insurers were re-appointed and all the standing orders were confirmed.

There then followed the monthly regular Parish Council meeting.

Finance and General Purposes

The internal audit has been completed and will be formally approved at the next PC meeting for submission to the external auditors. The school has asked for £7,500 to prepare a development plan, repayable against funds to be raised. With more information the request would be sympathetically considered. The parish university book grant award is to be wound up. The road closure costs for the Deddy Car Fest part of the festival will be underwritten by DPC.

DPC funds as of 30 April totalled £559,308

Planning Applications

Approved

Windmill tennis courts: floodlighting.

2 St Thomas Street, Deddington: replacement windows.

Philcote Street, Deddington: variation of conditions.

Stonewall, Castle Street, Deddington: felling five Leylandii.

Rowan Cottage, High Street, Deddington: demolition and reconstruction of rear extension.

Mallows, Hopcraft Lane, Deddington: erection of rear extension and associated works.

8 The Daedings, Deddington: conversion of garage into two storey extension.

Town Hall, Market Place, Deddington: installation of external advertising signs.

Refused

Bunkers, Philcote Street, Deddington: single storey rear extension.

2 Chapmans Lane, Deddington: improved access.

Environment and Recreation

An Italian street market operator has shown an interest in holding an event in Deddington. The Windmill fitness

trail has opened. Defibrillators have been ordered. The eucalyptus tree forcing the wall out at the entrance to the Satin Lane allotments is to be felled. The parish noticeboard at the Health Centre is to be refurbished.

Mary Robinson briefed the council on the re-development plans for the Windmill Centre. After consultation and analysis of the Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire, it was obvious that the Centre is looking tired and needs to be brought up to date to meet the expanding needs of the community. Work will focus on the pitches, the children's play areas and the hall. Each will be dealt with separately and work scheduled to minimise its impact. Individual committees will be responsible for consulting interested parties and researching funding to develop affordable plans. The all-weather court area is to be reviewed to make sure best use is made of the land, and the children's play area could be moved to the area vacated by the bowls club. Regular updates and progress reports will be issued by leaflet to the immediate neighbours and published in *DN*.

Photographic evidence of persistent dog fouling of the pitches will identify owners who will be held responsible.

The next meeting will be held at 7.30pm on 21 June at the Holly Tree Club.

Charles Barker

charlesfjbarker@gmail.com

These Parish Council notes are the view of our reporter, Charles Barker, and not the official minutes. To see those, go to <http://www.deddingtonparishcouncil.org/2017.html>.

NEWS FROM HEMPTON

Once again the Old School Room will be open for voting on Thursday 8 June from 7.00am–10.00pm, this time for the general election. Please go along and cast your vote.

Many thanks to Tim Parker for repairing a portion of the ceiling which had come down in the church. It was a difficult job given the height of the building. Plans are still going ahead for the re-ordering of things in the church but it all takes time.

Our best wishes go to Pam Dodd as she recovers from a recent fall which resulted in her receiving a new hip at the Horton General Hospital.

Please remember this is a village column and more news, other than church affairs which I know about, would be appreciated. Many thanks to those who do contribute but it would be nice to have more each month. Please give me a call.

Les Chappell
01869 338054

LETTERS

FROM MERIEL FLUX,
THE DAEDINGS, DEDDINGTON

I am writing in response to a letter in May's *DN*. I was saddened to read that the author felt that Deddington was on its way to becoming a village with no community. It is regretful when something, be it a building, society, or tradition that has been part of a community, is lost or changed and there will always be those who

retain precious memories. However, my experience is that the village has retained a community spirit and welcomes newcomers, whether or not they are trendy yuppies. If you reach out to the village it responds in kind. Part of the community of Deddington is allowing individuals to be themselves.

A fact of modern life is that the working day is getting longer and everyone is busy. My experience of the village is very much one of a community that supports individuals on their terms without being intrusive or pushy. Following the death of my father, the Deddington community reached out to me gently and with great compassion. I may not have lived in



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

Deddington until recently but have visited the village regularly over the years and have fond memories of several institutions and buildings that no longer exist. I can remember in my grandparents' time going to Tuckers, the grocer, where Otters and Foodies are now, and attending my sister's wedding at the Holcombe Hotel, now a private residence. I was aware of the birth of Deddington

Players and remember Daeda's Wood being planted.

Life, whether your own or others, goes on. It grows, changes and develops. I can remember the outcry when the old vicarage was sold and the new one built, and hearing all about the discussions of creating the kitchen in the church, let alone removing the pews. These changes have affected the greater community, allowing it to grow. The library remains, thanks to the community who reacted to its proposed closure with vigour. Tradition, clubs and buildings cost money and sadly not everything can be preserved. Surely it is positive that funds go to the parish to continue to grow the wider and developing community of Deddington.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

One of the by-products of new estates being built is the financial contribution the developers must make to the surrounding community, either in the form of S106 money or the more recent Community Infrastructure Levy. If the Neighbourhood Plan is honoured there won't be much coming our way in the future from small developments but there should be richer pickings from the David Wilson Homes development going up on the School Ground.

This will include 85 homes, a fairly hefty number. When planning permission was granted, numerous S106 contributions were agreed in a Deed of Covenant, mostly ratified by the examiner who granted the appeal. The idea of S106 money is that it 'mitigates' the effects of new developments and finances improvements to local facilities to cater for the new residents.

Unfortunately development companies are notorious for trying to wriggle out of their S106 commitments once construction is under way – protesting that their profit margin is at risk, which might or might not give us cause concern for the S106 contributions due from the School Ground developers.

Under the covenants agreed between the two local authorities, Oxfordshire County Council and Cherwell District Council, and the then owners, M&G Property, a variety of sums should come the way of the parish, for example £21,000 towards improving the Windmill Centre, a similar amount or more to the library; some £85,000 for off-site outdoor sports, which we hope

will go towards expanding football and other sports facilities at the Windmill; and, crucially, a goodly sum towards the rebuilding of the nursery alongside the primary school – which will be very handily located for small children on the new estate. Around £73,000 is promised for public transport, probably for the S4 bus, a sum which might persuade Stagecoach to make the Deddington to Oxford stretch of the S4 route half-hourly as it has the Banbury to Deddington route.

Although the roads are not likely to be adopted by the OCC, there is an agreement in place for the play areas on site to be handed over to the CDC a year after completion on payment of £1 for the freehold, rather than the residents having to pay for the upkeep themselves.

The parish council has been badgering OCC and CDC since February, requesting reassurance that the monies will be paid and in good time. So far we have received no satisfactory reply.

Contribution for primary and secondary education and affordable housing are the big budget items facing developers. The sums we're expecting for the library, the community centre and the sports pitches are small beer by comparison.

Let's hope David Wilson Homes is a company that honours the agreement it has inherited from M&G Property and that we have some good news soon.

Helen Oldfield helenmoldfield@yahoo.co.uk
Deddingtonneighbourhoodplan.org

DEDDINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Last month Years 4 and 6 went on their residential visits; this is what they thought in their own words.

Year 4: Grendon Hall

Before Easter our class spent three days and two nights at Grendon Hall, an outdoor residential learning centre in Northamptonshire.

Before we went most of us felt a mixture of emotions. There were so many challenges that we had to face. Many of us had never stayed overnight, anywhere without our families. We wondered if we could cope.

We surprised ourselves with the things we were able to do – like make our own beds, no, not just pull the cover over, actually put a duvet cover on a duvet and a pillow-case on a pillow! We had to keep our rooms tidy, which was a challenge for some of us but with daily room inspections we got into the habit of keeping our belongings organised.

The activities were really challenging but with lots of perseverance and team work we were able to do our best. Since we have been back in Deddington, we have been writing about some of the feelings we had whilst we were away and the things we achieved.

'I was super excited, I could burst! Tarzan was my favourite activity (a high rope course) because we worked together. I love heights so this was awesome. The best part was my team chanted my name and it gave me more confidence. As usual, once I had done it, I wanted to do it again. I had the best experience ever.' *Ella*

'At Grendon Hall I was looking forward to everything. When I got there I realised there was a high rope course, so I became really scared because I don't like heights. My nerves made me shake as I took my first step, then another one and another until I was in the middle of the wire and I knew I could complete the course. I breathed. Hard pride swelled up inside me. I had done it! I faced my fear and just did it.' *Will*

Year 6: Yenworthy On Monday 24 April we said goodbye to our parents and set off for five days at Yenworthy Lodge which is situated on Exmoor National Park. During the week we became closer as a team and found out even more about each other and ourselves. We loved the freedom we were given to explore the grounds and the Exmoor area. We even loved having to do a lot of things that our parents usually do for us, for example making sandwiches, doing the hoovering and keeping our rooms tidy. We discovered new talents which we never knew we had. Some of us found out we were good at rock climbing, surfing, and map reading.

All the staff were really friendly and encouraging, helping us to fulfil our potential. Through them we learnt about: the wildlife (even catching a rare eel at an old Victorian outdoor pool in Lynmouth never seen in that part of the world before); the geology of the coast line; the geographical features of the moors and even



more about the folklore behind the story of Lorna Doone – a favourite of ours – which we even got to re-enact. The views and scenery were beautiful. We could see right across the Bristol Channel to Wales and after a hard day exploring we knew we could rely upon the evening meal being delicious. It certainly kept us going.

Yenworthy was a very memorable experience because we got to do a lot of unique activities – it's amazing what you are capable of with just a little self-belief.

Lily, George, Izzy, Annie-Rose, Dylan, Alfie, Rosie and Benjamin A.

Finally we are really proud of Alfie Barbeary, an ex-pupil, who was recently chosen to play for the Under 16 England Rugby team against Wales. Alfie went on to score a try to contribute to a winning score for England. Fantastic!

Watch out for our next school production, *Bugsy Malone*, at the Windmill Centre on 5–7 July. Posters will appear around the village and ticket details will be on the school website.

This is my last copy and I will be leaving you in the capable hands of Mrs Welch who will keep you in touch with all the happenings at school.

Anne Hunsley
01869 338430



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POSTCARD FROM AMERICA

Prom, Nimbyism and Pence

It worked out well again, we managed to avoid getting locked up. For some crazy reason we agreed to have the after-prom party at our house. The festivities started with photos at 6.00pm. The park was full of at least 250 kids getting their photos taken in their posh dresses, with dates looking surprisingly good in suits and bow ties. This part of the event took an hour.

Ben had organised a bus for his party of 24, which then took them to dinner, prom, and after-prom, before arriving at our house at 1.00am for the after-after-prom. I gather they finished at six in the morning and one of the boys insisted on clearing up before they went to bed.

Heather had received a call in the afternoon from a dad insisting that she needed to search everywhere for drink. Apparently they even hide it in the restroom (sorry, toilet). You might well ask why this is an issue but, round here, if a police car is passing and has reason to believe that a person under 21 is drinking alcohol, they can come in and arrest us. Good job we did a lot of searching.

We live in a posh suburb of Denver called Greenwood Village. It was formed in the 60s to stop the creep of Denver southwards, creating a little island of tranquillity, but it is not quite as upmarket as the next suburb over. Cherry Hills is where the football players live in vast gated houses worth millions. The

town council wants to allow a large multi-functional development in the center of the 'village', providing a focus that I think the area lacks. The gardens round here are covered with Vote No banners. I got 12 mail pieces this week and the local social media is full of argument and personal insults.

Interesting parallels, but this really isn't a village, and they are not infringing on green space. The designs look overblown, but they are no bigger than elsewhere in the area.

I guess people hate change everywhere in the world, but I do find these arguments difficult in the home of Costco, Walmart and the shopping mall. However, I am going to support my neighbours, who have bribed me with beers and threats.

Which naturally brings me to the role model that is the President. It has certainly got beyond crazy. Every day is another peculiar story about sackings, denials, and happy Russians. Trump is never off the news agenda and my neighbours are finally giving up on him in droves. There is a growing belief that President Pence is just around the corner.

I'm not going to predict impeachment, my track record isn't good and Trump would probably send the FBI round to get me, or he will Tweet an insult at least. Conspiracy theories abound.

Mike Ward

mikew@qsoftware.c

NEWS FROM CLIFTON

As I file this June copy, I recognise the year is close to the down slope. As a major endurance milestone approaches for this community – more of that later – where does the time go?

This has been a month of trials and tribulations for some. I've been asked to give praise to Alistair of Leadenporch Farm who is engaged in a long-running battle with those we used to call the authorities but we can now call blood-sucking privately-owned shareholder-funding utilities, as he endeavours to resolve the source of flooding down here. Some are very grateful for his tenacious and eloquent engagement and want credit paid where credit is due. Thank you, Alistair.

More trials and tribulations for the Duck where Rebecca and Tim seem to be aping Jonty Rhodes and Greg Wallace with a take on a Master Chef competition where each week another chef faces the test of satisfying the customers before they move on elsewhere. Industry commentators lament how difficult this profession is to manage these days, with more jobs than cooks. With very many happy customers so far (social media has been alive with compliments from recently departed punters) we pray that Rebecca and Tim keep the judging going and those few who have had a bad experience give our wonderful pub another chance once the winner has been crowned.

Lastly the trials and tribulations for Una Stubbs (newer readers might not realise that this actress played Aunt Sally in *Wurzel Gummidge* many years ago on TV and so is a sobriquet for our 'chucky sticky' exponents). They lost their 100% beer leg record when Cap'n Ron agreed to combine the third leg with the beer leg during the third game of the season. This was a big mistake but one fuelled no doubt by the fact the opponents were a team member short and no one was going to buy Ron a beer. The team was rocked to its very core by the theft of the Roy Cropper bag during the second week in May. For those not in the know, the first set of sticks the Duck's team ever had were donated by 'Colonel' Dave Clinkard and were carried in the type of 1960s shopping bag that Roy Cropper could be seen carrying – hence the sticks were called the 'Roy Croppers'. The bag was the self-same bag used by Mrs Colonel to bring Neil Clinkard's nappies home from the shops and its historic significance is clearly massive. Well before the second game of the season these sticks were found in the shed, with clear evidence that they'd been thrown by amateurs, not using the protective carpet on the concrete, thereby damaging the sticks beyond use and, more shockingly, removing this bag which was the subject of an English Heritage conservation application. 'Nuf said?

Martin Bryce martinbryce@gmail.com

CALLING ALL CLUBS

Women's Institute

We met on 9 May to discuss and vote for the Resolutions. The first was for recognition of loneliness and to lobby the government to set something in motion. A big task. The second was to try and alleviate the problem of plastic soup. This is fragments of plastic and other synthetics washed from clothes and into rivers and oceans. Again a big lobbying effort with manufacturers.

Beryl Suckling, our president, gave an amusing talk on the 1940s and wartime, plus immediate post-war memories. Some of our younger members were amazed at registration with one grocer, butcher, etc. Somebody even found an old ration book. Some of us were either evacuated or remembered evacuees. This all ties in with our June outing to the 1940s tea room in Stratford upon Avon.

Julia Hobbs

Deddington Ladies Netball Club

We meet on Wednesdays 6.30–7.30pm at the Windmill Centre all-weather pitch, £3 per session. Pull on your trainers and join us. Contact Suzie on 07717 205051 for further information.

Suzie Upson

1st Deddington Guides

We began everybody's favourite term with a reminder of safety practice around open fires and an opportunity to rekindle (sorry!) our fire-lighting skills. We love to cook in a variety of ways out of doors but we started small by toasting marshmallows and making 's'mores' – marshmallows between two biscuits on mini-fires – 's'mores' because you'll want s'more.

Our next challenge involved knotting skills – to make a net in which to carry an Easter egg in a relay race. The race was fun and chocolate eggs were enjoyed by all, but I think our knotting needs more work.

Thanks are due to Mr and Mrs Fenemore who gave us space to have our first cookout of the year! Bangers and beans. Ah, the smell of woodsmoke! We had the added bonus of seeing our first swallows of the year.

We are already planning tent pitching, first aid, hikes and shelter building. We are looking forward to lots of fine Tuesdays.

Maggie Rampley 01295 810069

Marian Trinder 01869 340806

Catherine Blackburn 01295 258008

Deddington Players

We are pleased to announce that we will be holding an additional production this year, as well as our ever popular pantomime. Join us on 6–7 October for a '007-themed' evening including a hilarious one act James Bond spoof and Bond musical performances from our talented members. Ticket details will be available in due course. Contact Suzie on 07717 205051.

Deddington Town FC Youth Teams

The Under 16s, playing in the Midland Junior Premier League, finished in mid-table. In the Witney and District Youth Football League the Under 15s, playing in the A League, finished the season with a 2–1 win over Yarnton Blues, followed by a 4–3 home defeat to Grendon Rangers and 6–1 defeat to Banbury Irish. The Under 13s, playing in the C League, completed their fixtures in March. The Under 12 Sharks, playing in the B League, ended the season in third place with just two league defeats all season. The Under 12 Cobras, playing in the C League, finished their season with a 5–2 defeat at Stonesfield Strikers. Congratulations and commiserations to the Under 11s who reached the final of the Under 11 Trophy Shield, narrowly losing 1–0 to Ducklington. This was a great achievement from the coaches, players and supporting parents.

Thank you to Gary Dawkins and Mike Lewis, grass root heroes. This is their last season managing the Under 16s. For the past 11 years they have made the perfect coaching partnership, with excellent technical knowledge, the ability to motivate and develop players, and always working closely with parents. They have also helped the club grow with positive contributions at managers' meetings. Three players have been there all the way through, Ollie Broughton, Nick Dawkins and Dan Lydon.

Our annual presentation day is on Sunday 11 June from 2.00pm at the Windmill Centre. We will have a bar, barbecue, beat-the-goalie, tug-of-war and other stalls. If you are interested in finding out more about the club, come along and support your local youth football team.

If you have ever wanted to get more involved in helping your local football club, then Oxfordshire FA have produced an excellent booklet about what is involved. You can download it at <http://www.oxfordshirefa.com/>. Whether your interest is as player, volunteer, sponsor or fundraiser, please get in touch. You can visit our website, <http://www.deddingtontownfc/> or visit us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/DeddingtonTownFc>.

Roger Sykes

**Development Officer and U7/U6 Coach
01869 337034**

1st Deddington Boys' Brigade

May's dry weather meant that we have been out and about in the village and at Castle Grounds with various quizzes and challenges. The Juniors competed in last month's uni-hoc competition and our Deddington B team came second, beaten by 1st Witney by one point. Deddington's A team were joint 3rd so a really good result all round considering they have only been playing the game since the New Year. We have another chance to compete and have fun on Saturday

CALLING MORE CLUBS

17 June, with the Company Section 10-pin bowling competition in Oxford.

The Company Section has been looking at our global community as a topic for most of the last half-term. We've explored where we were born, who came to live in Deddington, and then at all the groups and organisations we belong to which form our communities. Lastly, we looked at the global BB community and where in the world BB operates – we aren't just limited to the UK.

This month we will be helping Neil Skinner with lighting in the church for the Deddington Festival and be busy preparing for our Awards and Display evening which is on Wednesday 28 June.

Jen Childs, Leader
Jen.childs@btinternet.com

Book Group

In April, we read *My House in Damascus: An Inside View of the Syrian Crisis* by Diana Darke. A critic describes this as 'written with the pace of a novel and the colour of the best travel writing'. We agreed that this was a good description of the book, which explores Syria's religious and ethnic background and richly describes the history behind the current conflict.

The author, Diana Darke, had worked as a journalist in Syria for many years, forming a passionate love for the country and its people. She buys and restores a house in the Old City of Damascus, which she later offers as a sanctuary to her friends, many of whom had helped her with the project. There are some charming anecdotes about the people she meets along the way and poignantly shows how the war has affected the lives of ordinary people. The book was warmly welcomed by the group as a way of developing a deeper understanding of the Syrian conflict, while remaining non-political and allowing readers to draw their own conclusions.

The next book is *The House on Paradise Street* by Sofka Zinovieff for 29 June.

Sally Lambert 01869 338094

Deddington Bookworms

At almost 700 pages long our members looked forward to settling down and reading *The Children's Book* by A S Byatt. However, with the words 'you should never judge a book by its cover' ringing in our ears, each and every Bookworm arrived at the next meeting feeling a slight sense of failure, ready to confess to giving up at around page 300, if not before. The book is set in Edwardian England and follows the lives of two generations of a number of interlinked families living in the Kent countryside. The fact that this encompasses the lives of around 20 children and their associated families and friends, added to the very detailed and often diverse descriptions of subjects ranging from works of art to pottery kilns and fairies, makes this book far too

detailed. As we all love to read, we don't like to put an unfinished book down but this was, unanimously, not enjoyed by the group.

Deddington Library
01869 338391

1st Deddington Scout Group

Cubs

The pack has just received its first Beaver from our new colony. Let's hope Zach enjoys himself as much with us as with them.

Since the Easter break we have been immersed in compasses, maps and navigation, culminating in a short hike around Bloxham. Hopefully the weather will allow us to continue with lots of outdoor activities.

Soon – OXJAM, county camp at Blenheim Palace.

Jo Churchyard
jochurchyard@hotmail.com

Scouts

The Scouts have started their Navigator Badge, brushing up on setting a map and basic co-ordinates. A hike round the outskirts of Bloxham should prove if they've learned anything – or we might lose a few.

Some Scouts will also be attending the Blenheim camp for three days – we must be mad.

Pete Churchyard
pete.churchyard@gmail.com

Spartans Explorer Scout Unit.

The Explorers have started the environmental section of one of our awards by studying the impact both new and old housing developments have on the environment. As part of this award we had a stall at the Farmers' Market. Many thanks to everyone who supported us there.

Janet Duxbury 01608 737959
spartansexplorers@gmail.com

We had a small, if noisy, turnout for our St George's Day Parade at the last market, where Annie, the Vicar, (she was the one in the gigantic hat) was, once again, rescued by St George. We all retook our scouting promises in the Market Place. The following Sunday a few of us joined the District at the parade in Banbury where we marched through a very quiet Castle Quay to the Spiceball Park.

Photographic Society

At our May meeting, we welcomed Mary McIntyre from Tackley. Her objective was to share her passion for astrophotography (photographing the skies), and she focused on capturing star trails. This is achieved by taking long exposures (up to 30 seconds) of the sky, repeated many times (up to 600) and then 'stitched' together using software to produce a generally circular picture of the stars' progress through the sky. Most of

... AND EVEN MORE CLUBS

her images are captured in this way using a standard digital SLR camera with a remote shutter lead to take repeat images automatically. This needs a good level of dedication as some of her shoots last for three or four hours.

She explained the need for a low level of light pollution but found Tackley to be acceptable, the main irritations – bearing in mind the long exposure time – being car headlights, commercial aircraft and pets setting off neighbours' security lights. She explained how to include land-based objects in the foreground to enhance the star trails. She also showed some useful accessories she had devised to keep herself and the camera free from condensation. Many of those present indicated they would be spending more time outside on cold clear nights trying to replicate the images shown by Mary. Mary's website is www.tackleyvillage.co.uk/astronomy.html.

On Wednesday 7 June, Yin Wong will give a talk titled, 'Yunnan, China: A Travel Presentation', at 7.30pm in the Apricot Room of the Cartwright Hotel, Aynho, and on Wednesday 21 June, there will be an outdoor photo-shoot led by Simon Lutter. More details nearer the date on www.addphoto.co.uk.

John Prentice
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FRIENDS OF DAEDA'S WOOD

The Wood is a riot of green shades and cow parsley, white with soft bluebell hues – well worth a visit. Reg Tipping, who monitors the bat boxes, reports that a visit in mid-May revealed one box with three brown long-eared bats and another with five brown long-eared.

At the AGM last month the Friends were delighted to hear that the *DN* had decided to give a generous grant of £400 towards the purchase of a new bench in the wildflower meadow, as a resident had noticed the dilapidated state of the original one. This figure represents about half the cost, so the Committee will be doing some creative fundraising in the coming months.

If you would like to visit the Wood but are reluctant to go unaccompanied, please give me a ring or email me and I will sort something out. To join the Friends (subscription is £5 for the year) please contact me.

Annette Murphy
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01869 336195

**DEDDINGTON DAY CENTRE
CHARITY CAR TREASURE HUNT
SUNDAY 9 JULY, 11.30AM
WINDMILL CENTRE
to register call 07964 785189**

FRIENDS OF DEDDINGTON LIBRARY

Sunday 2 July introduces our first annual Parish Garage and Yard Sale. Time to clear out your garages, cupboards and those garden sheds while helping raise some money for the library. It's much like a car boot sale, but you don't have to leave home, using your front garden, garage or backyard, as long as it's safely accessible by the public and on your private land. Just complete the registration form on the insert in this issue *DN* and hand it in to Hamptons or the library with your registration fee. Use the poster on the reverse side of the registration form to advertise the event in your cars or front windows and display on the day to identify you as a registered site. To generate interest, we will be advertising the addresses holding the sales on local social media, posters and online.

We are working hard on the 2018 Deddington parish calendar photo competition too. So keep taking photos in and around our lovely parish and send your entries in as soon as possible but no later than the 18 August deadline. Ideally files should be 5mb or larger and saved as high resolution JPGs.

As I mentioned last month, we have reviewed our *Cash for Trash* fundraising and reluctantly decided that we are no longer able to recycle cartridges. We are very grateful to all who contributed and are pleased that the initiative raised some £150 for library funds.

Finally, the library has been bequeathed a complete library of books. While the more interesting items will be valued and sold elsewhere, a selection of popular authors and contemporary fiction will be sold at very reasonable prices in the library for your summer holiday reading enjoyment. Paperbacks and some hardbacks await your perusal and would love a trip to your holiday destination of choice. The book sale trolley will be clearly marked but please ask if you can't find it. It may be in the IT room. The stock will be changed regularly, so check it out each time you visit.

Bryn Williams abw@brynwilliams.com



Puppy Classes

- Teach your puppy to sit, wait, walk on lead, come when called & more!
- Have a sociable & well-trained dog
- Puppy play and socialisation
- It's easy and fun for all the family
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