

THE TEAM

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John Price

the Deddington news

Well, here we are, 40 years on. We have seen some considerable changes in the parish and in the *DN*. During the year we shall be carrying some stories about how we've moved on. But I can't let this milestone pass by without pausing to thank all those involved, both past and present.

Many community-minded people have gone before me, some no longer with us. There have been fourteen editors in all, listed at <http://www.deddington.org.uk/news/aboutus> but, more than those, there has been a huge number of people who have done their bit to help the *DN* arrive on your doormat.

When someone moves away or decides for whatever reason that they don't wish to continue helping, there always seems to be someone willing to take their place. Thank you to all of you.

My particular thanks go to our contributors and advertisers, some new and some of whom have been doing their bit for a long time. Without you, *DN* would cease to exist.

JC

What's On February

Mon	1	Holly Tree Club: Coffee morning, Holly Tree, 10.30am
Wed	3	Photographic Society: Presentation by Martin Chapman on 'Wildlife, Landscape and Infra-red Photography', Cartwright Hotel, Aynho, 7.30pm
Thu	4	Holly Tree Club: Film, tba, 6.30pm
Tue	9	WI: Russell Cherry, 'The Wychwood Way', Holly Tree, 7.30pm
Wed	10	History Society: Dr Simon Wenham on 'Salter's Steamers and Leisure on the Thames', Windmill, 7.30pm
Wed	17	Parish Council: Meeting, the Old School Room, Hempton, 7.30pm
Wed	17	Holly Tree Club: Lunch outing to Fosseyway, depart Town Hall 11.30am
Sat	20	Daeda's Wood: Working group, post-winter clean-up, 10.00am–12.00pm
Sat	20	Adderbury Village Morris Men: Morris dancing taster session, the Institute, Adderbury, 10.00am–12.00pm
Thu	25	Book Club: Please call Sally Lambert, 338094, for next title
Sat	27	Farmers' Market: Market Place, 9.00am–12.30pm

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

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I am just a little proud that this year *Deddington News* is celebrating its 40th birthday. I can't quite believe it although there has been much water under the bridge in that time. In 1976

when we started my second daughter, Rachel, was less than a year old. My family have grown up and moved away and I'm just a little older but not much wiser.

In the beginning the magazine was run completely by volunteers and this remains the case today. There have been occasions when changing to a glossy professionally-finished magazine has been mooted but the current editorial team resists, believing it's important that *DN* remains a community effort. The only service we pay for is the printing of the yellow advertising pages which are produced by professional printers, North Court Press, in Abingdon. We depend not only on the production team listed on p1 of every issue but also on no lesser mortals: the two or three people who spend three hours printing the copy and praying that the printer keeps going, the dozen or so people who go to the Windmill Centre each month to collate and staple the copies and add any inserts, and the extensive team that covers every area of the parish, walking round to your home in all weathers to make sure you receive a copy of *DN*.

I was involved with *DN* at its outset, typing contributions, many of which were handwritten. The team was small: Mary Robinson editing, me dealing with reports and correspondence, and Mary Sullivan and Monica Sansome looking after advertising and Tony Mann was our treasurer.

When Gerard Sullivan initially suggested that Deddington should have its own village newsletter, my response was 'Why?' However, we were persuaded and, once we'd had a look at some other local efforts, not least *Steeple Aston Life* edited by the late Paul

O'Sullivan, we decided on the A4 format stapled as you see it today.

Mary R put together the layout which I then typed on to Roneo or Gestetner stencils (otherwise known as skins). For those too young to remember, the stencils were three-layered sheets comprising a backing sheet, a carbon and a waxed paper that the typewriter 'cut'. If you made a typing mistake, you had to turn the typewriter carriage up a few notches, slide a pencil behind the waxed sheet and place a blob of orange correcting fluid over the offending error. Then you had to wait a few moments for it to dry (like nail varnish) before removing the pencil and returning the carriage to type in the correct letter or word. I flatter myself that my typing was of a better standard in those days than it is now. It's surprising how accurate you can be when it's such a hassle to correct one little typo.

When it came to printing, the carbon sheet was removed and the wax stencil was wrapped round the drum of the duplicating machine which then forced ink through the typewritten cut marks. Sounds archaic? It was.

I was not often involved in the duplicating and collating. I obviously had a good excuse as our youngest, Will, arrived on the scene in March 1980. I moved on to become editor in July 1979 until I gave it up in January 1982.

When we began we were producing around 500 copies; that number has now increased to 1,050, and will need to hike it up significantly if we get the 95 proposed houses on the development site north of Gaveston Gardens. And we shall most certainly need some younger blood on the team in that case.

If you have any memories of *DN* in its early years, do contact me.

Next month Gerard Sullivan writes a little about the start of *DN* and Mary Robinson will write of the printing sessions with George Palmer in our April issue. There will be more stories to come from days of old.

Jill Cheeseman
01869 338609

DEDDINGTON LIBRARY

I hope it is not too late to wish all our borrowers and supporters a very Happy New Year!

We held a children's Story Time before Christmas; a lovely event, well attended and much enjoyed by a number of very excited children ... as well as the parents and staff.

We are starting two reading groups in the library: Coffee and Crime at 10.00am Wednesday mornings and a second (general) Reading Group (name to be decided by the group) on the first Monday of each month at 6.30pm. Both groups will last about an hour; perhaps half the meeting discussing the book, the other half having a cuppa and chat; nothing formal. It's your group, you decide. All are welcome.

If you are interested please telephone or email the library to register your interest in either group. If there is a general interest in reading groups but we need to reconsider times or days, do please get in touch ... if there is a demand, we can see what we can do to meet this.

We still need help for our Home Library Service; if you are interested in helping Maureen to deliver books to the housebound in our parish, please contact me for more details.

Stella O'Neill
Library Manager
01869 338391

deddington.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk

FARMERS' MARKET

ESCAPE THE WINTER BLUES

This is the market that may surprise you. The 'hungry month' looms but all sorts of fresh produce can turn up, especially on the vegetable stalls. Things like cured meats and cheese come into their own. But, a bit like the British weather, the produce range can't be predicted with any certainty.

This month (and March) can be dismal. Winter without end (further extended by an extra Leap Year day). You can console yourself with carbs, or pretend you are somewhere much sunnier, like Turkey. This dish makes an excellent breakfast, or lunch, or supper. And it looks sunny and cheerful.

MENEMEN

(eggs with tomato, pepper and green chillies)
serves 4 (or 2 if appetite healthy)
olive oil
1/2 small onion thinly sliced
1 medium tomato diced
1/2 pepper (red or green) deseeded and sliced
1 green finger chilli chopped
8 eggs beaten
salt
pepper
feta cheese

Fry the onion in the oil for 3–4 minutes on a medium heat to soften. Add the tomatoes, pepper and chilli and cook for a couple more minutes.

Stir in the eggs (and you might want to take it off the heat to slow the cooking down a bit). Season and crumble in the feta. Stir from time to time as the eggs begin to set. Serve when you have a soft-set scrambled egg.

Goes well with pickled chillies.

From *Venice to Istanbul* by Rick Stein

For more up to date information about the Market you can visit the market webpage www.deddington-farmersmarket.co.uk, listen to Deddington OnAir www.deddingtononair.org or BBC Radio Oxford.

The Market is on Saturday 27 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, 6.00–8.00pm. The next market is on 11 February. More details at: www.market.adderbury.org

Good shopping!

Ian Willox

01869 337940

ian@deddingtononair.org

News from Daeda's Wood

The weather this winter has been unusually wet and, until the middle of January, mild. So the ground in the Wood has been waterlogged and, with the river levels being high, sometimes the boundaries of the river have become blurred. Each year there is extensive flooding and on occasions some shallow rooting trees such as willow become unstable and topple over.

The management of the Wood by the Woodland Trust includes the removal of trees which block the rides, are considered a risk to the public, or need to be thinned to allow better light penetration. At one time this work would have been carried out by the Friends of Daeda's Wood, but now contractors do this as it is beyond the physical capabilities of the volunteers.

Then the excellent organisation, Logs4 Labour, shows its usefulness by allowing people to cut up and take a car boot full of logs in return for tidying the brash, allowing it to rot naturally. The last event took place on 30 January.

The next working party at the Wood will be a general post-winter clean-up on Saturday 20 February, 10.00am–12.00pm.

Discussion is taking place with the Woodland Trust to determine how the 20th anniversary of the Wood will be celebrated this summer. It will culminate in the publication of a new *Diary of Daeda's Wood* in September in time to buy as Christmas presents.

Annette Murphy

annette-orchard@live.co.uk

BLISSFUL THINKING

It's been a pretty wretched month since Christmas in the national consciousness, as not one, not two, but three figures most would describe as world-renowned British icons have met their demise, leaving us culturally poorer. I never had the fortune of seeing David Bowie live, nor watching Alan Rickman on the stage, but I was lucky enough to see Lemmy more than once, in a festival setting.

A man who stands up as the embodiment of challenging established dogma to forge one's own path, he lived fast and died fast, just the way he would have wanted it, leaving Motorhead as his ultimately timeless legacy.

I wouldn't consider myself qualified to fully describe the influence of Bowie, but he was always more of a performance artist than just a musician. He absorbed the spectrum of genres, styles and cities and refracted his own rainbow, leaving everything he touched in-eradicably marked with his influence.

Rickman was a masterful performer, who encapsulated the spirit of the Shakespearean thespian more than most. Renowned for his Snape and Grüber, the Sheriff of Nottingham was surely the part he was born to play; camp, ridiculous, yet still dastardly.

Where you are born may simply be an accident of birth, but deeds and actions are often seized upon to inspire others who share your birthplace. We revere, we adulate, and we claim ownership, because they are our uneasy role models and unwitting ambassadors.

Aaron Bliss, aaronjbloss@hotmail.com

LETTERS

FROM MIKE RAMSDALE,
THE LEYES

Deddington 300 years ago – 1716

If you climb the bell-tower of Deddington Church you may see some initials carved into the wall above the stone steps leading to the top: 'EC-JH 1716'.

The old tall steeple had collapsed in a storm about 80 years earlier in 1634 and the rebuilding of the new tower was completed around 1684.

So what are these initials carved 20-odd years later? Builders who wanted to leave their mark for posterity? Or two lovers in such an unlikely spot? Or just graffiti? We will never know.

How do I know this? It is my pleasant task to climb the steps on the 40 or so days that you see the flag flying on the mast at the top of the tower.

Congratulations!

To Maureen Dew who entered the poetry category of the 2015 Peacock Open Planet Art prize at Upton Country Park, Poole, Dorset, and won it with a poem about Hengistbury Head, *Geology Now*. She shook hands with the Mayor and received a cheque in prize money.



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

FROM DELPHINE SAMPSON,
HEMPTON

Pews or Chairs

What a wonderful gift the Hempton Charity has received from a committed Christian worshipper. Let us not waste the opportunity presented to give greater versatility to the Church that was saved twenty-nine years ago by an enthusiastic village but today is in danger of becoming a damp and

dowdy museum piece serving a shrinking and ageing congregation only three times a month.

School Ground

David Wilson Homes, part of Barratt Developments, which recently purchased School Ground (land to the north of Gaveston Gardens) from the Prudential Group, has now submitted an application to build 95 dwellings (rather than the 85 previously approved). No further information was available at the time of going to press.

David French

dj@french.myzen.co.uk

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Children and Family Worker Deddington Benefice

We are seeking someone with a personal faith in Jesus and a passion for helping young people grow in their faith. As our Children and Family Worker, you would:

- Further develop our vision and strategy for reaching children and families
- Engage in Christian evangelism and discipleship with young people
- Lead children centred worship both in Church and in our village Primary School
- Take on the responsibility of leadership in this important area of our work and mission.

So...if you have a passion about sharing the good news of Jesus with children and energy, vision and enthusiasm for growing young disciples, then this post might just be for you!

This is a part-time position of 16 hours per week, offering a salary of £8,500. There is a genuine occupational requirement for the post holder to be a committed Christian and is subject to an enhanced DBS disclosure.

For further information and an application form, please contact Revd Annie Goldthorp at reverendannie@hotmail.com or telephone 01869 336880.

**Closing date for received applications
is 12 February 2016.**

CHURCH AND CHAPEL**February****Parish Church SS Peter and Paul***Weekly*

Mon–Fri 8.45am Morning Prayer
 Wed 10.00am Holy Communion
 Thu 2.00pm Squeals and Wheels

Sun 7 6.00pm Choral Evensong
 Sun 14 8.00am BCP Communion
 Sun 14 10.30am Holy Communion
 Sun 21 10.30am Holy Communion
 Sun 28 10.30am *God4Everyone* (no Communion)

Ash Wednesday – 10 February

To mark the beginning of Lent there will be services of Holy Communion with the Imposition of Ashes,
 Deddington 10.00am
 Barford St Michael 7.00pm

Hempton

Sun 7 9.00am Holy Communion
 Sun 21 9.00am Holy Communion
 Sun 28 6.00pm Evening Prayer

Barford St Michael

Sun 7 10.30am Family Service
 Sun 14 9.00am Holy Communion
 Sun 21 4.00pm Evening Prayer
 Sun 28 9.00am Holy Communion

From the Parish Register*Funerals*

3 December Daniel Holmes
 27 January Margaret Colley

For baptisms and for weddings, please speak to the Vicar, the Rev'd Annie Goldthorp, after a service. For funerals and for home visits in the case of illness, please contact the Vicar (01869 336880, vicar@deddington-church.org) except on Fridays, her day off, or one of the church wardens: Iain Gillespie (338367) or George Fenemore (338203).

Wesleyan Reform Church, Chapel Square

Sunday mornings at 10.30am Pastor Isabel Walton
 Sun 29 Julie Hutchins

Pastor Isabel Walton 01869 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. Mass is said at 9.00am on Sundays at SS Peter and Paul Anglican Church, Kings 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>.

Deddington Parish Archive Project

We are a small group investigating the possibility of collecting, storing and making accessible paper items relating to the lives and activities of the people of Deddington. Over the years, some of us have been approached by folk who have said that they had stuff (photos, minute books, diaries, etc) that would be of interest to the wider community, but did not know what they could do with it.

We have met with representatives of the library and library assistants and have come up with some proposals to see if the project can get off the ground.

Collection

If you have in a cupboard or attic any material that you feel might be of interest, pop into the library, collect a deposit slip, fill it in and then give it and whatever you are handing over to one of the library volunteers.

Storing and Cataloguing

What you deposit will be stored in a locked cupboard

in the library and then sorted and catalogued by members of the group and anyone else interested in helping. Wherever possible it will also be scanned and archived on Deddington OnLine.

Display

If there is sufficient material, we hope to mount an exhibition during the Deddington Festival.

Access

Eventually, we would hope to make the archive accessible to researchers on application.

So, if you have any items that you think would be of interest, bring them along to the library. We'd like you to indicate whether you are lending or donating, as we may have to exercise our discretion by disposing of duplicate material or, if we think it appropriate, passing it to the County Archive at Oxford.

Gareth Richard, Chairman
gareth.richard@btinternet.com

PTA

We were delighted that Father Christmas was able to find time to visit Deddington at the Farmers' Market on 19 December. We had wonderful feedback from all those who visited him. We had plenty of elves on hand to help and, together with the raffle, the face-painting and general donations, we raised over £450.

Of course many parents made this all happen and we would like to thank everyone who was involved. We would also like to say a particular thank you to Lizzy Wyatt from Wyatts Garden Centre for the wonderful donation of the hamper, and the beautiful cake by Sue Brown from the Red House Cake Company for the raffle prizes.

We were delighted to throw a school disco for the children in December which included sweets, popcorn and drinks. This was a gift from the PTA to the children and they had a ball. There was some brilliant dancing and the kids looked wonderful in their party outfits. It was a great start to the festive season.

Our next event is a quiz night at the British Legion, Deddington on Friday 29 January 2016 from 7.30pm, £6 per person (max six in a team). We hope to see you there.

I would like to take the opportunity on behalf of the committee and the school to thank you all for your continued support.

Alex Elvin, Chair
deddingtonpta@gmail.com

WELL REMEMBERED

Paul O'Sullivan 1927–2015

It was with great sadness that we learnt of the passing of Councillor Paul O'Sullivan in the weeks leading up to Christmas. Paul was well-known and hugely popular within the district as he'd been our District Councillor for over 20 years and become a friend to many, fighting our corner at CDC and making a difference to many who sought his advice and guidance.

I had the unenviable task of taking over his mantle as Deddington and Barfords District Councillor as Paul was a mighty act to follow. His assistance and endorsement were invaluable ahead of the district elections in 2014. We campaigned together as he insisted on knocking on doors and standing shoulder to shoulder, introducing me to as many parishioners as he physically could. His enthusiasm and determination remained undiminished, such was his trademark, a kind, gentle and principled man that we'd all come to love and respect.

I, and many within the parish, will miss him dearly. We remained in constant contact and I continued to seek his guidance on many occasions. I would like to extend my heartfelt condolences to Paul's family and friends at this difficult time. It was a privilege to have known him.

Bryn Williams
abw@brynwilliams.com

The
CHURCH TIMES

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NEWS FROM CLIFTON

Since we last went to press we've had floods, roadworks, holes in the ground, traffic calming and heroes.

A winter such as we have seen in our corner of heaven featured in an aerial photo on the BBC website advising caution when walking along the towpaths and river banks in North Oxfordshire. Sadly no windsurfers have been seen this time.

As the financial year for local government draws to a close we see a rush of road digging for little appreciable purpose other than providing some much needed traffic calming. However, due to some unstinting work by a dedicated group of Parish Councillors, Clifton is set to get its own Vehicle Activated Sign. The VAS, like the two in Candleford, will help the conscientious if temporarily careless drivers stick to the speed limits, so be careful you're not spotted lighting it up. Many thanks to the Councillors who answered the appeals from some of our neighbours for a positive traffic calming measure – roadworks won't go on forever, despite how it feels.

I know the New Year's Honours List gets a lot of stick and there is far too much 'buggins' turn' and back scratching that goes on, but, down the list, how delighted Cllr Alan Collins said he was to see Freddie Knoller OBE for services to Holocaust Education and Awareness. Now obviously teaching the holocaust to

a load of Candleford riff-raff is a challenge as he did in the finale to the Parish VJ70 commemorations in September, but I think the Queen was more impressed by the very many schools he has visited. There are Holocaust deniers in many places and, for those who have met Freddie, we are in a great place to tell the truth. Freddie certainly counts as a hero in my eyes, as does the subject of yet another Book Club cultural tour.

An evening with Colonel Chris Hadfield no less. Google 'astronaut sings Bowie song' and you'll see not only a tribute to a sadly lost icon of our age but you'll get an introduction to a Canadian who's circled our Earth 2,600 times in the ISS during two missions, once as a commander after a career as a fighter and test pilot. Some life for one man, as they say, and he held a full house at the New Theatre spellbound.

The Book Club members are theatre people obviously and the next time you read this drivel the Club will have completed the much anticipated Oxford Blue Plaque tour where talks will be given and beer consumed no doubt. No poncey poets apparently – only people who have made a real contribution. Both of these events have been organised by the Iron Man Mayo himself.

Martin Bryce

martndnbryce@gmail.com



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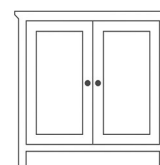
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DOWN ON GEORGE'S FARM



After the warmest and wettest December on record, the Clifton sea returned to its shores at the turn of the year and even made the BBC News with photos on the website but, unlike the biblical flood in the north of England, we have not yet been visited by the hordes of green-booted politicians.

The ewes came in to their winter quarters as the water came up and have now settled into their meals-on-wheels routine. The old dears have been sorted out into their different groups with the first group due to drop their lambs during the second week of February, and the second batch, including the Cotswolds, at the beginning of March, so the rites of spring are under way.

The 2016 lambing season will be something of a red letter year for the Home Farm shepherds, as we have taken on the management of an organic flock, doubling the numbers in our care. The organic flock will be lambed inside with a few miles between the sites. It sounds mad but, if we have got our sums right, the Home Farm flock will be done and dusted before the organic flock starts in April. Getting to grips with organic regulations created a rather steep learning curve for the boys, but in many ways it's not too dissimilar from the management practices that I learnt at my father's knee in the 50s, before we had all the modern day vet and med.

The crops look well but the ground is now very wet and has delayed some of the field work. Our green manure cover crops which should have been ploughed in by Christmas are, as I write, still standing as the soil is too wet to take the machinery. We need a good cold dry spell to get the fields ready to plant the spring barley.

The bees also need a cold spell as they have not 'clustered up' in their winter hibernation and are still on the wing, with bees flying for a few hours each day. When the bees are very active at this time of the year and no forage is available for them to collect, they are using up the winter stores at a very fast rate and we need to keep feeders topped up. Another problem is that with the mild weather the queens have come in to lay, something that will put even more strain on their winter larder. This does not bode well for the spring as we could see heavy hive losses through starvation. With the bees being very active and a mild damp atmosphere, condensation within the hives is another big problem which can cause respiratory problems and fungal growth on the food stores. We have, for a number of years, used expanded mesh floors as a

mechanical method of varroa control, the idea being that, as the bees groom themselves, the mites fall through the floor and can't climb back into the hive. The floors are fitted with sliding shutters that can be pulled out for cleaning and to aid ventilation in the summer. For the first time I have removed the shutters in the depths of winter. Perhaps a cold draft from below will persuade the little dears to go to bed and make the queens realise that spring has not yet sprung.

By the time this hits the doormat, I hope that our new environmental agreement will have arrived. Although we have been told that our application has been successful, this weighty tome should, according to the regulations, have been signed and sealed by the start of the new year, but it seems as if the Defra IT system is unable to 'talk' to the Natural England IT system and has gone into meltdown. Without the two systems conferring with one another, the agreements cannot be produced. Sounds familiar and echoes back to the nightmare situation of last spring when the new EU regulations came in to force and Defra's new state-of-the-art £158-million IT system gave up the ghost and we were back to paper forms. It won't be many weeks before that lot starts all over again. Ho hum or should that be tweet?

George Fenemore
01869 338203

DEDDINGTON ROYAL BRITISH LEGION CLUB

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**Available for meetings,
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DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting at the Holly Tree Club on 16 December

During the ten minute Open Forum, Andrew Green raised the issue of funding for the Youth Club, which needs financial support if it is to continue.

A minute's silence was observed to commemorate former District Councillor Paul O'Sullivan, who died on 3 December.

District Councillor Williams reported that as no-one has come forward to purchase the Duke of Cumberland's Head, the property will be placed on the open market after 24 December.

Work on Windmill Street car park will be inspected in January to decide if further attention is required.

Planning

No objections

Land on north side of the Tchure – Demolition of existing southern boundary wall and erection of a two-storey dwelling with reconstruction of part of southern boundary wall. Re-submission – no objection provided access is protected during construction.

4 Hopcraft Lane – Two-storey extension to rear, removal of car shelter, erection of single garage and log store and internal alterations.

9 The Paddocks – Proposed first-floor side extension, rear single storey extension, loft conversion and new entrance porch.

Objection

Geggs Lodge, Hempton Road – Demolition of existing chalet bungalow and garage, erection of one replacement dwelling and one new dwelling. Objection on the grounds of increased traffic on to Hempton Road.

Highways and Transport

New Street parking: OCC has concluded that the 'Keep Clear' road markings are legitimate. Residents are reminded that they do not have an automatic right to a parking space on a public road but they do have a right of access to their drive. If there is a shared drive, each person has a right of access and neither should block the drive. If there is a dispute it is suggested that, a) you talk to your neighbour, b) contact the neighbour's landlord, or c) use a mediation service.

The S4C bus service from Deddington to Duns Tew and Middle Barton will end in February 2016. The Dial-a-Ride service will end in April 2016.

A request has been received for a temporary 'No Waiting' restriction to apply to High Street outside the British Legion Club while essential gas mains replacement works are carried out. This will operate from 4 January–15 February. Further information may be obtained by contacting Ian Barrett of AMEC Foster Wheeler on 07793 308454.

A resident has expressed concern about the blind corner on the Hempton/Barford road junction. This was discussed at some length and the matter will be forwarded to OCC.

Environment and Recreation

The Neighbourhood Plan showed that there was some support for the allotments being listed as a community

asset. This will be discussed with the Allotment Society.

Betty's bench is weathering badly but the steward has this in hand.

A dog waste bin is to be installed at the entrance to Castle Grounds.

The Town Hall Grant of Arms plaque has warped and alternatives are being discussed with the supplier. Apologies were extended to Deddington Charity Estates for this unfortunate situation.

OCC has agreed to repair the concrete culvert by Home Farm in Clifton to alleviate flooding.

Windmill Centre upgrade: Windows have been repaired. Outside painting will start when weather improves. Work on replacing the boiler is to begin on 21 December.

The Queen's 90th Birthday: suggestions are invited for the celebration of this event in June 2016.

Meeting at the Primary School on 20 January

Janet Higham was co-opted to the vacant position on the Council.

Councillor Williams reported that the group Tree Preservation Order for the northern boundary of School Field is now in place.

OCC is to be asked to confirm that the replacement fence erected along the western boundary of 9 Gaveston Gardens is within the ownership of said property.

County Councillor Fatemian reported that Hook Norton Parish Council lost its appeal against a planning application which conflicted with their Neighbourhood Plan because the wording of the latter was too vague. Wording of Deddington Neighbourhood Plan will be scrutinised and will be concise and specific.

OCC has taken in four Syrian refugee families and 20 more are planned to arrive next year.

The position regarding the OCC budget is worse than feared because the government changed the criteria for calculation. At least another £20 million cuts must be found. All proposed cuts to the budget will be implemented.

Planning

No objection

Geggs Lodge, Hempton Road – amended positions of windows and doors on north and east elevations and enlargement of windows on north elevation of plot 2.

Unicorn Antiques, Market Place – change of use of 1st floor from residential to office use. Internal and external alterations.

18 The Daedings – single storey rear extension.

Cotswold House, New Street – internal and external alterations to former garage.

The Hazels, 1 The Maunds – insertion of lantern light and addition of fireplace recess to family room.

Objections

Caldicote House, Main Street, Clifton – re-submission, erection of single dwelling and garage etc.

36 Gaveston Gardens – 1st floor extension above

Continued on p10

Postcard from America

I am pleased to report that, after three years, I have completely failed to integrate myself into US society. During my first Christmas here, I reported that Heather followed me around at parties to ensure I didn't get into trouble. This year I managed to get my face slapped by a lovely lady and I can't even remember why it happened. But they are certainly a prudish and sensitive lot – why else would you relieve yourself in a 'Rest Room'?

The Republican primaries roll onwards. You'd have thought everyone would be bored with it by now, six months in and another nine months before we have a new President. But at least people are going to start voting in the primaries in the next few weeks. Of course this kind of election process plays to the most extreme parts of the population, and thus the issues have veered from the comic to the appalling. Trump has seldom been off the front page. Initially described as unelectable, he enters the primaries way out in front. And he has a huge benefit over the rest of the pack because he is self-funded and thus doesn't have to worry about what he says. Needless to say the Republican hierarchy is now very worried and the Democrats are delighted.

The outlandish statements about Muslims from Trump and Cruz strike a chord here in Middle America. A lot of people say they feel frightened, despite being more likely to be killed by a white supremacist and several thousand times more likely to be shot by a fellow citizen with a legal weapon. One terrorist incident

in San Bernadino has sent the white middle classes into shock. One person I know told me they ought to carpet bomb Syria. They simply don't understand the complex issues involved and the need to make friends, not enemies.

My rants about gun control are a big source of amusement to my neighbours, but I still find it unbelievable that just up the road in Wyoming you can buy an automatic weapon without any checks at all. The buyer could be highly unstable, a known terrorist, or even be on the 'no fly' list, and yet a large part of the population seems to think it makes sense to sell him a dangerous weapon.

If you watch Fox News, you hear over and over that the US is 'being weak in the world'. They want the President to be the leader of the free world. My good friends here are able to put up with me and most of the time they enjoy my comments that they should sort out their own issues, but I don't think I am converting them in huge volumes.

I am definitely a source of much amusement. Even our Christmas decorations caused derision because we didn't 'dress the tree'. All the locals put a 'skirt' round the bottom of the tree, don't ask me why. They are good people in the main, and I do love it here, but it isn't like a discussion in the parish council or a night out in the Unicorn.

Mike Ward

Mikew@qsoftware.com

PARISH COUNCIL

Continued from p9

existing garage and single storey extension to rear. Pending site visit by CDC.

School Field – residential development of 95 houses. (Councillor Williams will investigate.)

Non-Designated Heritage Assets – the following have been added to the list: Deddington Library and the Old School Room, Hempton. Pond Field, Earl's Lane has been nominated.

Highways and Transport

A complaint has been received of inconsiderate parking at the Primary School but such complaints should be addressed to the police.

The VAS at Clifton should be installed within the next two weeks.

Environment and Recreation

The Fair will visit Deddington this year from 16–20 November.

The planter on the Clifton Road (Deddington end) is in a poor state. Sponsorship to rebuild it is to be sought and the orientation changed to give plants a better chance to thrive.

The drain in the block paving by Windmill Centre village nursery is to be repaired at a cost of £40.

Some cars parked on the green in Hempton have had tyres damaged. Residents are considering installing CCTV.

Registration of Satin Lane allotments as an asset of community value is to be discussed at the next meeting.

Windmill Centre upgrade

The boiler has been replaced and redecoration is due to begin. There is the possibility of seeking a disability grant to install a lift.

Finance and General Purposes

It was agreed to make a payment of £1,000 to the Youth Club as a bridging award to give time for consideration of a more viable structure.

The Parish Precept is to be increased by 10%, the first rise for over five years, equivalent to approximately £3.50 per annum per household. The increase is as a result of low interest rates on investments and the extra being spent on the refurbishment of the Windmill Centre. The latter is strongly supported by opinion in the Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire and it is not possible to treat these expenses as capital items.

Next meeting: Wed 17 February at 7.30pm in the Old School Room, Hempton.

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

From the Fire Station

Happy New Year to you all and thank you for supporting our fire station in 2015. We had 212 call-outs last year which is down on previous years but we are still one of the busiest one-pump stations in the county. I feel the reason for having fewer call-outs is that Oxfordshire fire control went regional and this had an impact on our call-outs for the first few months. 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. With all new systems it takes time for it to integrate and looking at our calls for the last quarter of the year, we will be up to our usual 250-plus for 2016. Deddington fire station has been available for over 99% of 2015 and that deserves a very 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 since my last report. Our advice is to get them cleaned once a year but that would be for light domestic use. If you have a fire on a daily basis or burn non-smokeless coal, then you should consider getting your chimney swept more frequently. Your chimney sweep will be able to give you advice on when to have it done.

The Deddington fire crew has been on call all over Christmas and has been called out every day over this period. We went to a large animal rescue on Boxing Day where a horse had thrown its rider at Nether Worton. The rider was unhurt and, after calling a vet to sedate the horse, we managed to pull it out of a very muddy ditch using heavy lifting equipment and a telehandler that a very kind local farmer brought to the incident from his farm. The horse was clearly shaken by the fall but walked away unharmed. Without the assistance of local farmers who give up their time and equipment to help with all types of incidents we attend, we would have to use our resources which would add valuable time and may be the difference between life and death. A very big thank you goes to him and all farmers who help the Fire Service and local community.

I am sad to say that our crews have attended two road traffic incidents over the Christmas period where a person at each incident lost their life. There is no way to describe these tragedies and the impact that it has on their friends and families. For all the people this has touched, you are in our thoughts and prayers. I have been trying to think of safety advice to give you but feel that anything that I say would sound a little hollow after these events. For now, I will say when your loved ones leave for a journey, give them a kiss and ask them to drive safely.

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. Most of our training happens in Oxford but this will be changing to 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. The Brigade has changed our scene safety procedures for highways. This involves different traffic cone layouts including where and how we position our appliances at incidents. The crew has been going to the College to hone these new skills.

I would like to finish with thanking our community for supporting its local fire station. Our parish is very lucky to have such a very 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.

Crew Manager Tim Parker

News from Hempton

Once again we had a great bazaar, a happy family occasion with something to suit all ages. £1,300 was raised which helps with the ongoing upkeep of the church and our insurance. Thanks go to all who helped and especially to those people who came to enjoy themselves.

The new railings are now in place at the front of the building and will be painted once the weather improves. The five yearly inspection of the building took place during December and the architect did not find too many problems, apart from the roof which will need some attention in the future.

The church was pleasantly full for the carol service. Many thanks to the Deddington Church Choir for leading the singing and to all the readers, as well as those who supplied festive refreshments.

The Parish Council will be holding its monthly meeting in the Old School Room on Wednesday 17 February at 7.30pm. Please go along if you wish to speak to them.

A couple of trees came down in the recent bad weather, one across the road in the narrow gap. Many thanks to the neighbours who cleared it away.

Congratulations to Emma and Ashley Morrell of Middle Corner Cottage on the birth of a baby daughter, Charlotte.

The Friday night Social evening has now stopped. Our thanks to Sean Parsons who ran it for several years. If anyone has any ideas for the future please give me a call.

Several cars have been damaged which were parked near the green area on the Duns Tew Road corner. Please keep your eyes peeled.

Les Chappell 01869 338054

ADDERBURY VILLAGE MORRIS MEN Morris Dancing Taster Session

Free taster session to learn about Morris dancing, Saturday 20 February at the Institute, 10.00am–12.00pm. Further information from John Ekers 01869 811741.



John Fardon Clock Turns up in California

Tom Reggiardo, from San Francisco bought an old clock from an acquaintance who originally purchased it in New York in the 1950s. It bears the name 'Jn Fardon, Deddington'. He put

this into his internet search engine and landed on the article about Deddington Clockmakers on DOL which includes information about the Fardon family. He also emailed me, as author, to ask for help in identifying his clock and its maker more precisely.

I put Tom in touch with Tim Marshall, an Oxfordshire-based expert and author of *The Quaker Clockmakers of North Oxfordshire*. Within 24 hours Tom and Tim exchanged information and photographs and Tom realised he is the owner of a superb tavern clock by John Fardon II.

'Tavern' clocks were so called because they were hung in drinking houses (and churches), in the mid-18th century.

Who took the clock to North America? We have details of several families who emigrated to North America in the 19th century. There is a much longer article, *Emigration*, which records all the names of the Deddington families and the circumstances of the deaths of one-third of the ship's passengers from cholera on the *Brutus*. The incidental apprehension of a murderer is also recounted.

To see this article in full and colour images of the clock, readers should go to <http://www.deddingtonhistory.uk/> and click on the link there.

Rob Forsyth, 01869 338384
robert.s.forsyth@gmail.com

Friends of Deddington Library

The Friends met on 5 January to review our progress to date. Our subscribers now exceed 100, so we're halfway to our target of 200 subscribers. We have also gained full charitable status from HMRC and the Charity Commission which will help future fundraising initiatives and Gift Aid donations.

We will have a presence at the April Farmers' Market and will be running a raffle, kindly supported by Deddington Farmers' Market and local businesses. The prize is a hamper worth in excess of £200 containing products donated by stallholders including Cornfield Bakery, Shaken Oak Mustard, Paddocks Produce, Oxford Foodies Coffee plus many, many more. Tickets will be on sale shortly.

As ever thank you for your continued support. Spread the word and encourage a friend or neighbour to become a Friend of Deddington Library. It costs as little as £2 per month, less than the price of a coffee. Subscription forms are available at the library or from our website, www.friendsof deddingtonlibrary.org.

Bryn Williams
abw@brynwilliams.com



Deddington Primary School

As mentioned in the *Deddington News* before Christmas, Deddington Primary School achieved outstanding test results in 2015. The official results on a national level have now been published. Our

school results compare very favourably with both local and national data.

The actual level of achievement and the progress made by children in Deddington are both significantly higher than the national average and the average for Oxfordshire, and also higher than the vast majority of other local schools. This was seen in the test results for Year 2 and Year 6 children, and in the strong results achieved in the Year 1 phonics and reading tests.

The national league tables for primary schools were released in December 2015. This data shows that our results place Deddington in the top 6% of all schools nationally in terms of the progress children make at our school.

We know, however, that results are only part of the picture. Our children enjoy happy surroundings with lots of opportunities to try new experiences across the curriculum. Amongst many other things we are offering lots of sports opportunities, music and drama. We would like to officially thank the Farmers' Market for a grant which allowed us to buy a piano. Our aim is to encourage all our children to be the best they can be and to fulfil their potential in all areas.

We should all be proud of the high standards achieved by the children of Deddington and our surrounding villages. Maintaining these high standards is part of our ongoing journey to outstanding.

Clive Evans, Head Teacher
Becky Jones, Chair of Governors

Deddington PFSU and Village Nursery

Christmas seems a long time ago now but we all had a lovely time. The pre-school children and their friends in the F1 class presented their performance of *Hey Ewe* to a packed audience of parents and friends in Deddington Church. Every one of our amazing three- and four-year olds stood at the front and took part in the performance, for which they deserve huge credit.

The Nursery children also had a lovely morning on an interactive 'Journey to Bethlehem' with their parents and friends. Both settings had very enjoyable Christmas parties.

At the PFSU this term our activities will include finding out about animals, meeting some pets, and celebrating Chinese New Year. The Nursery children will be learning all about 'Change'. Happy New year.

Lucy Squires
01869337484

CALLING ALL CLUBS

Deddington Original Golf Society

Following a full golfing programme in 2015 it's time to look to the future once again. The AGM took place on 6 January, courtesy of Paul Haverson, general manager of the Deddington Arms.

With a free drink to entice members from their cosy environs, the meeting was well attended. Full minutes will be circulated when our secretary, Keith Spengler, finally sobers up.

The meeting was tinged with sadness at the resignation of David Chatterton who has served DOGS long and well as captain. David was able to quote he'd 'been captain since the last century'. As a token of our appreciation, David and his wife, Michelle, are to be guests of DOGS at our annual evening event on 12 August. Thank you David once again for your commitment over the years.

Our secretary has been working hard behind the scenes and outlined the following programme for 2016:

6 May	Broadway Golf Club	18 holes
10 June	Wrag Barn	18 holes
12 August	Feldon Valley	18 holes
	with barbecue in the evening	
30 September	Blackwell GC	18 holes

The election of Officers resulted in the following:

Tony Lowe	Chairman
Keith Spengler	Secretary
Ralph Stewart	Treasurer
Ron Colley	Social Secretary and new Captain
John Dauphin	Handicap Secretary

Much to the surprise of the Chairman, the Arthur Kennedy Memorial Trophy was presented by incoming Captain Ron Colley to Tony Lowe (Chairman)!

On behalf of the DOGS Committee we would like to wish all members a very happy, healthy and enjoyable golfing New Year.

Tony Lowe, Chairman
Tonylowe077@gmail.com

Deddington Players Pantomime

Jack and the Beanstalk

Wow, what a show! Jack overcame the baddies, Buttercup the cow is safe and there are weddings all round. Whether you were audience, cast or backstage, we hope you had a great time. The pantomime involves many people and a lot of hard work, so a huge thank you to everyone who took part.

If you've been inspired to join the Deddington Players, please email suzieupson@mac.com.

Suzie Upson

Photographic Society

In December, John Credland APAGB presented 'Salon des Refusés', loosely interpreted as the 'Gallery of Failures'. John showed his skill in both professional and amateur work, including the High Dynamic Range

(HDR) technique for commercial work in low light situations, and showed how HDR could enhance architectural images and street photography. He demonstrated his use of the ultra-small Casio EX ZR 1200 compact camera for the latter – a personal favourite.

John then discussed his experience in seeking an Associate accreditation of the Royal Photographic Society. Submitting a panel of 15 HDR prints to the judges, two prints failed for various technical reasons, a result that John discussed with a great deal of humour. It also provided an intriguing overview of the judging process.

The second part of John's presentation concerned his audio visual (AV) work, in which he showed three clips that had been put together using 'Audacity' AV software. This was followed by an AV sequence called 'The Weather Forecast' that had been submitted for accreditation to the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain, but it was also rejected by the judges. Again, John discussed his failure with much humour, ascribing it mainly to the nature of the HDR image content and the rather frenetic accompanying pop music soundtrack. Overall, an intriguing insight into both the commercial photographer's world and the eccentricities of judging panels, recounted with humour and many anecdotes by an accomplished professional photographer, which was immensely enjoyable.

The New Year began with the now traditional Members' Evening when members showed their best three 2015 photographs. Members talked about their images, where and how they were taken, what they learned, and why they valued each photograph. This was another enlightening and enjoyable evening.

The next meeting is on 3 February when member Martin Chapman will give a presentation on 'Wildlife, Landscape and Infra-red Photography' in the Cartwright Hotel, Aynho at 7.30pm. Please come along - we will be very pleased to see you.

Richard Broadbent 01869 338173
www.addphoto.co.uk

Deddington Tennis Club

We're a hugely welcoming club with plenty going on for all standards and ages. And despite the shorter daylight hours we're continuing to run a programme of daytime and weekend social tennis, as well as competing in the local winter league.

Our new Community Partnership Programme will see us partnering with local community groups, including the Youth Club, Brownies, Boys' Brigade and Primary School by running a series of 'Get into Tennis' taster sessions and coaching programmes. If you organise, or are part of, a local community group and would like to get involved, please contact Ed Toll on 07901 688913.

Over the coming weeks we'll be putting together our spring and summer schedule of junior and adult

CALLING MORE CLUBS

coaching, club sessions and open days and would love you to come and join us. If you're interested in finding out more just email deddingtontennisclub@gmail.com and we'll keep you posted.

We hope that our summer programme of coaching and club tennis will soon extend into the autumn and winter evenings if our recent application for floodlight funding is successful.

You can find up-to-date information on these activities and more, plus full committee member contact details, on our website www.deddingtontennis.com.

Ed Toll, Acting Chairman
07901 688913

Deddington Town Football Club

First Team

- 21.11.15 Middleton Cheney (a) (CUP) W 9–0 Charles (2), Cook (2), Hall S (3), Kay P (2)
28.11.15 Sinclair Utd (a) (CUP) W 8–1 Hall S (3), Kay P (2), Kaye (Jordan), Smith unknown
05.12.15 Croughton (h) D 1–1 Smith
12.12.15 Bloxham (a) (CUP) W 5–1 Bird, Hall S, Kay P, Large, Lewis
19.12.15 Broughton & NN (CUP) L 0–1

Reserve Team

- 14.11.15 FC Langford (a) L 2–4 Davies (Jack), Hall D
21.11.15 Diverse (a) L 1–6 unknown
28.11.15 AFC Bicester (h) W 4–1 unknown
05.12.15 Broughton & NN Res (a) (CUP) W 5–1 unknown
19.12.15 Bloxham (h) L 0–4 unknown

A curious clutch of results ensued as 2015 drew to a bitter close with defeats. The First Team bestrode their dominion convincingly, with three cup demolitions coming prior to a narrow cup defeat, with a league draw thrown in so it wouldn't be forgotten. Si Hall once again ran riot, with back-to-back hat-tricks, while Paul Kay also rattled in back-to-back braces in the same games, adding one (like Hall) in the other cup win. League-wise it's hard to tell anything until February time.

Much like the pro-leagues, it seems harder to get conclusive information on scorers when it comes to the Reserves, but they are a touch erratic, dishing out back-to-back tonkings in between suffering their own three resounding defeats. Struggling at the foot of the division, they'll need all your confetti and air-horns from here on in. Don't forget to check out www.deddingtontownfc.com for more match reports and stats.

Aaron Bliss
07909 642882

Deddington Town Colts

The Under 15s playing in the Midland Junior Premier League have had a great run of form with a 4–0 vic-

tory at Kinver Colts with a hat-trick for Will Roach, a 4–0 victory at Tividale Colts, a 2–2 draw with Coventry United, a 2–1 home defeat to Coventry Sphinx, a 3–1 win at home to Stratford Town and 6–4 home win over Tividale Colts to sit sixth in a league of 32 teams. A great achievement for a village team!

In the Witney and District Youth Football League the Under 15s have had heavy defeats in the League to Bampton Town Youth, Banbury Town Youth and Bicester Town Stars. However, in the knock-out cup they had a handsome 8–0 win over Brackley Athletic to progress to meet Carterton Town in the semi-final. The Under 14s suffered a defeat to Yarnton Blues in the league, followed by a 4–2 defeat after extra time in the cup. However, this was followed by back to back wins over Hanwell United and Bampton Town Youth before Christmas. The Under 13s had an 11–0 win over Grendon Rangers in the cup. This was followed by good form in the league – a 2–2 draw at home to Banbury Irish, a 3–1 win over Carterton Town, and an 8–0 victory at Chadlington Whites. The Under 12s had a 3–1 win away at Chadlington Whites in the cup, followed by defeats at Stonesfield Strikers and Easington Sports and a draw at home to Stonesfield Strikers.

And finally, congratulations to the Under 7/Under 6s who had a fine victory in the Lads v Dads match before Christmas. More work is needed on the training pitch for the Dads before the match next season.

If you want to get involved with the club as player, volunteer, sponsor or fundraiser, please do not hesitate to contact me. Further information about the club is on our website, www.deddingtontownfc.com or visit us on Facebook www.facebook.com/DeddingtonTownFc.

Deddington Town Foot Ball

Tickets are selling well for the Foot Ball which will take place at the Great Barn in Aynho on 19 March to celebrate 20 years of colts' football in the village. We are looking for local companies and individuals to donate prizes for the auction. If you can support the auction, please contact Vaughan on 07967 162486.

Roger Sykes, Club Welfare Officer
01869 337034

1st Deddington Guides

A little late Christmas news: in the holidays three Guides and a young leader came and helped entertain the residents at Wardington House Nursing Home with songs and carols. They helped with the party food and chatted with the residents. Afterwards there was a quick tour, learning all about the background work that goes on in a nursing home. Well done to Emily, Jess, Connie and Tilly.

To get us going at the start of the term we had an action-packed meeting of games, drama, dance and music, all part of our early preparation for our entertainment for charity at the end of term. We also honed our

... AND EVEN MORE CLUBS

first aid skills and knowledge of flags and took part in activities involving quick thinking responses.

At a slower pace, we enjoyed crafts, including making key ring fobs with stitchwork and knitting, when those who could knit helped teach those who couldn't. We've also reconnected with our badge work and welcomed several new girls to the unit who want to become Guides.

If you are a girl of ten or over, come along and join in the fun.

Maggie Rampley 01295 810069

Marian Trinder 01869 340806

Catherine Blackburn

1st Deddington Scout Group

Cubs

At the end of last term, the Cubs made individual Christmas cards using their own silhouettes, made by drawing round their shadows. They had to sit very still – a feat in its own right!

We finished early due to school commitments and started this term with three new Cubs, Tyn, Jack and Kieran, who we hope will enjoy their time with us.

We began this term with electronics and are making Morse keys, which we will of course use to practise Morse code.

Spaces are available at Cubs, please contact me if your child (boy or girl) would like to join.

Jo Churchyard

jochurchyard@hotmail.com

Scouts

Three of the Cubs, Ethan, Harley and Ben, have moved on to Scouts. They have blended in seamlessly. The autumn term came to a close with a night hike (lost no-one), a film night (*Time Bandits*) and skittles at the British Legion where we invested Alec. Many thanks to them for a great evening.

The £1 Challenge raised £491.67 – we started with £21 and, including a small donation, we will be passing £500 to Dogs for Good. Well done everyone! They did everything from cake sales to homemade dog biscuits and rabbit shooting.

This term – skills various and electronics.

Our Christmas card delivery raised £168 towards our kit insurance. Thanks to everyone who used the service and to Eagles and Barford Post Office for hosting the boxes.

Pete Churchyard

pete.churchyard@btinternet.com

Spartans Explorer Scout Unit.

Continuing with the Chefs badge, the ESU had an evening trying the cakes that had been made while deciding what they wanted to see in their programme for the next term. A good combination.

Four took part in the Tour de Trigs. They all com-

pleted the 15 mile 'Lite Hike' and came back looking pleased with their achievement.

We had another investiture, this time at the top of the climbing wall at the Dewey Centre, Bloxham, followed by another one at the British Legion after playing skittles with the Scouts for our Christmas evening.

We are continuing the science and technology badge by everyone learning how to maintain their bikes and starting on a project to help Re-Cycle. Look out for more information about this shortly.

Janet Duxbury 01608 737959

1st Deddington Boys' Brigade

Christmas has been and gone and we had lots of fun at the Anchors' and Juniors' Christmas party and enjoyed the pizza and chips. The evening continued with a chill-out session at the Company Section. Both events rounded off a good term.

Many thanks to the Revd Annie for officiating at our Enrolment Service in Church on 6 January and also thanks to Graham Wallington and Deddington Brass for providing some excellent music for the evening.

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 five-a-side football competition for Juniors and Company sections took place on 23 January but we are too late for copy deadline to reveal the scores.

Jen Childs, Leader

07774 608715

Deddington and District History Society

Our first speaker of 2016 was Simon Townley of the Oxfordshire Victoria County History (VCH). The VCH is one of those astonishing Victorian enterprises (eg Oxford English Dictionary, Dictionary of National Biography) that no-one today would have the confidence even to contemplate. No other country in the world has anything comparable. In the case of the VCH the aim is to write a history of every parish in England, county by county. Some county sets are complete; others are in abeyance. Oxfordshire is currently the most successful county of all those in progress, with two-thirds of its parishes completed (Deddington, as every reader of *DN* knows, was covered in Volume 11) and the end is in sight.

VCH research requires knowledge of all periods and a wide range of topics, combining archival research into buildings and landscape, and the use of archaeological data. The VCH aims to develop close community links in the places studied, and it works where possible with volunteers and local groups. Simon's wide-ranging talk covered all these aspects and in doing so revealed some fascinating insights into the history of Oxfordshire places. It was impressive and a real eye-opener.

... AND FINALLY

Our next speaker, on Wednesday 10 February, will be Simon Wenham, on the subject of 'Salter's Steamers and Leisure on the Thames', everything from *Three Men in a Boat* to international regattas.

Our meetings take place on the second Wednesday of each month at the Windmill Centre at 7.30pm and all are welcome.

Chris Day (Chairman) 01869 337204
Moirá Byast (Secretary) 01869 338637

Women's Institute

Fourteen of us met to celebrate our ninetieth anniversary at Otters on 8 December 2015. We had a wonderful meal as we always do. The committee had worked hard to organise the evening and also paid for our drinks. Some of the generous gift of money from the Farmers' Market provided us with a bag of chocolates to take home. Thank you one and all.

Visitors are always welcome: please contact Beryl Suckling on 01869 337385 or Angela Sones on 01869 338927.

Julia Hobbs

Book Club

October's book choice was *The Shepherd's Life* by James Rebanks. Fluently written, it relates the continuity of life throughout the year, autumn to winter to spring. Subtitled *A Tale of the Lake District*, we are led through the hardships but also the rewards of hill farming in Cumbria.

Autobiographically the author writes of gaining an Oxford degree but returning to the attractions of the traditional occupation of his family through many generations.

Almost without exception the book received universal compliments with minor criticism of some of the narrative.

John Sampson

November's book was *Me Before You* by Jojo Moyes. Touching on a difficult moral subject, this is a well written, absorbing story.

A young girl, Lou Clark, reluctantly takes the post as a carer to a successful and wealthy young man who has been left a quadriplegic as a result of a road traffic accident. Having previously enjoyed a full and active life, he is left bitter and angry and determines to go to Dignitas to end his life. With his family at the end of their tether, Lou tries to give him a reason to live. There are some eye-opening descriptions of the struggles of his everyday existence, relying on other people for every part of his life.

Touching and at times heartbreaking, the story moves along at a fast pace and keeps you guessing until the end.

The next meeting is 25 February. Please call for next title.

Sally Lambert
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JACK AND THE BEANSTALK

When I'm in New Zealand there are many things that I miss and pantomime is one. This year's treat was *Jack and the Beanstalk*, an amazing demonstration of village cheer and spirit. There were some familiar faces from past pantos and some delightful new ones. This production didn't fail to delight with some fabulous fart humour for the younger viewers and some great gags for older patrons. The witches warmed us up nicely for the participating boos and hisses – let's face it, that's the essence of a great panto.

I was particularly impressed with the many local gags, including references to recent Barford burglaries, and some curious shenanigans in Daeda's Wood (someone needs to fill me in on that as it was mentioned twice). Particular kudos to the writer with the local flair for adding gags for cast members, namely Revd Annie as the land developer, and the Co-op lady as the amazing cook. I loved the Prime Minister who had more jobs than I've had turkey sandwiches. The Police Constable deserves a mention for superb ad-libbing with the bottle-kickers in the audience – he has missed his vocation there. And a bar tip ... no bottles in the hall – plastic cups maybe next time folks.

It's mind-blowing to think of the work that goes into a production like this. The preparation, rehearsals, planning, line-learning and the rest, take a vast amount of effort and family time. The scenery was perfectly painted yet understated. The costumes were designed beautifully even taking into account a particular fairy's 'condition', some recycling of dames, the village idiot, and the pantomime horse/cow. The make-up artists, stagehands, sound effects, stage managers, back-stage crew, all play their part to create a fabulous village production. Even the front of house and interval staff need precision timing and teamwork.

Some great singalong numbers (perhaps some encouragement would be good for audience participation) started well with Bowie and Jagger numbers (haven't heard any Bowie for a while!), *Money Money Money* and *Always Look on the Bright Side of Life*. I could have done without the over-used *Annie* song *Tomorrow*; this got a major yawn from someone behind me. For a moment I thought the snorer from Midnight Mass was back in disguise. Leave the slower songs and the pitiful tunes of Adele for the radio, I say.

I love the talent we have in our village. Great job from the pianist who tinkled the ivories throughout and the harpist who played a difficult piece brilliantly. The show-stealer was the young man who played David Dickinson with real flair and style and then got my biggest laugh with his flour-throwing scene – a star in the making.

This is a cheap evening out for the whole family. There's nothing like a British panto with the fluffed lines, the over-the-top acting and the occasional fit of giggles from the cast members – a great evening's entertainment. Such fun!

Claire Cheeseman