

Meeting in Town Hall - 19 November 2003

PRESENT: Cllrs Flux (Chair), Alton, Cox, Ellis, Rollason, Squires, Swash, Todd, Wood, C/Cllr Jelf, D/Cllr O'Sullivan, the Clerk, the Minutes Secretary and 2 members of the public.

APOLOGIES: Cllrs Harvey, Haslam, Spencer, Westley.

Geoff Todd: Cllr Todd thanked PC for their good wishes during his recent illness.

Leave of Absence: Cllr Spencer to have 6 months maternity leave. Clerk formally to congratulate her on PC's behalf.

PROPOSED GYPSIES/TRAVELLERS TRANSIT SITE

The meeting approved a well-argued letter to the OCC drafted by the Working Group. This drew on background information from various sources and concentrated on overall strategy. (See copies in Library and on the Website.)

The accuracy of road signs round the proposed transit site needs to be checked. This to be taken up with Highways Department.

C/Cllr Jelf will represent the PC at the related Environment Scrutiny Meeting at the County Hall on 26 November, and Cllr Wood at the Executive Meeting on 10 December. Any further comments to the Parish Clerk a.s.a.p.

PUBLIC OPEN SPACE AT HEMPTON ROAD

PC to accept transfer of responsibility for the public open space in Wimborne Close, receiving £31,000 (ring-fenced) for upkeep.

PLANNING & PROPERTY

CDC approvals: (1) High Bank, St. Thomas St.- fell conifers etc. (2) The Sheiling, Hempton - two storey extension. (3) Windmill Stores Hempton Rd. - change of use. (4) Huntleys, New St. - change of use to restaurant with take-away facility. To include ventilating duct to rear. (Approval for both 3 and 4 subject to conditions.)

PC has no objection to: (1) St. James Farmhouse, Clifton - planning application. (2) The Cottage, Philcote St.- demolish existing boundary wall and rebuild in reclaimed stone.

HIGHWAYS

Hempton Pinch Point: Still a serious traffic hazard. Clearer signs needed.

Castle St: Builders' equipment chewing up grass verge. PC to monitor.

FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES

Pamela Ward has been officially appointed as PC internal auditor.

Town Hall: Suitability for meetings and its disabled access to be further discussed with Feoffees.

ENVIRONMENT & RECREATION

BMX Track: Not to be fenced, but matter subject to review.

All Weather Court: Resurfacing will cost from £6,000-£10,000. PC to review.

Rubbish Bins: Some new bins are being left out on street where occupants don't have side access. PC contacted CDC who will assess access difficulty

and, if necessary, arrange for bags to replace bins. Cubs have asked to decorate village trees for Christmas, using home-made decorations. Clerk to contact cub leaders mentioning health and safety aspects of initiative.

Windmill Centre: Maintenance needed in men's showers and main hall. Windmill Centre to approach Clerk to ascertain source of funding.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association: PC agreed to renew membership - £55.

Royal British Legion: Clerk to contact Aplins asking for sight of the lease pertaining to the RBL building and to inform RBL of request.

Millennium Yew Tree to be planted at back of cemetery. As cemetery expands, tree's position will become central.

PARISH FINANCES

Invoices passed for payment on 15.10.03 totalled £4931.24. Major payments apart from stewards' wages included: T Fox Landscaping (grass cutting) £1206.64: CDC (emptying dog bins) £463.75: Complete Weed Control (weed killing) £364.25.

Investments totalled £531,161.32 of which £9787.35 at Barclays @ .1% instant access: £1000 Bradford & Bingley @ 3.4%, 120 days: W. Bromwich Building Society £520,373.97 @ 3.4%, overnight.

NEXT MEETING 17 December, Town Hall. 7.30pm.

Official minutes of PC meetings may be seen at the Clerk's office and the Library, on parish noticeboards and the village website:

www.deddington.org.uk/pcminutes

SATIN LANE ALLOTMENTS

Good view, good neighbours, good soil, good produce. The PC still has some plots (full, half, quarter) for rent at the Satin Lane site. Where necessary, plots are rotavated before letting out and rents are minimal. On-site water. Contact Parish Clerk (337 447, Mon. & Wed.) for details.

Deddington Players bring you
OTTC's production of

THE NUTCRACKER AND THE MOUSE KING

By Jane Buckler based on the story by E T A Hoffman

Windmill Community Centre

Friday 19th December at 7.30pm

Tickets £6 & £4 from the Post Office or Tel 338153

Theatrical Magic for all the Family

Deddington Players'
Present

DICK WHITTINGTON

Windmill Community Centre

22nd 23rd and 24th January 2004

Tickets £5 £4 £2.50(children under 16)

From the Post Office or Tel 338153

After Christmas

Our Headteacher, Mrs Lynne Stephens, has recently tendered her resignation. She will be leaving the school at the end of the spring term 2004.

Lynne and her husband Pete applied for US residency fifteen years ago and have only recently learned that their application was going ahead. They intend to start up a dog agility / obedience training business in the United States. A long held ambition for them both.

Lynne has been at Deddington School for 14 years, (Headteacher for the last 4) and during that time she has committed herself fully to the school and its community. She will be sadly missed by all. The Governors will be working closely with the staff over the coming months to ensure a suitable successor is chosen, to continue the good work already being done in our school. On behalf of the Governors, I should like to wish Lynne and Pete every success for the future.

Linda Davies Chair of Governors

As December approaches, the children and staff are busy preparing for our Christmas production - this year looking at Christmas around the world. I do hope that many of you will be able to join us on Tuesday 16 December at 6.00 p.m. in the Parish Church. Donations following the performance will be made to the "Living Rooms Project". We will also be participating in both the Barford and Deddington Christingle services on Sundays 7 & 14 December respectively and look forward to seeing some of you there.



Since last month's issue our Year 5 children have visited the Black Country museum as part of their topic about the Victorians and children in Year 3 have visited Sulgrave Manor as part of their study of the Elizabethans. You may also have seen some of our younger children taking their regular walk to the Castle Grounds, looking for signs of the changing seasons.

A number of children from the school entered the recent "Living Rooms" art exhibition / competition and I hope that you enjoyed their contributions.

On 11 November we held our Remembrance Day service in the Parish Church. All the children in the school observed a two minute silence and then listened to a talk by Mr Hood, who related some of his experiences of war. The service was very poignant and we would like to thank Mr Hood for his contribution and for giving us all much to think about as the festive season approaches.

Lynne Stephens 338430

Admissions for the Academic Year September 2004 to August 2005

Our Governors' Admissions Panel will be meeting in February 2004 to allocate places for reception children for the school year beginning September 2004 - August 2005.

If you have a child whose date of birth falls between 01/09/99 - 31/08/00 (i.e. who will be 5 years old between 01/09/04 - 31/08/05) and you would like a place for her/him at Deddington School PLEASE FILL IN AND RETURN AN APPLICATION FORM TO US BY **31 JANUARY 2004**.

We would also be grateful if you could inform anyone who does not currently have children at school and may not be aware of the deadline for admission applications. Application forms are available from the school office.

Deddington School PTA

Fireworks Night was a great success and the weather was good to us this year too! Many thanks to everyone who supported this event, and to all those who kindly volunteered their time to help. We raised in excess of £850.00 for the school, which was a fantastic achievement!

Santa's Float will be visiting Barford, Hempton, Deddington and Clifton on Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 December. Listen out for the music from 5.30, come and say 'hello' to Santa and his helpers. Your generous donations will be greatly appreciated. Posters will be displayed on the village notice boards detailing Santa's route plan for each night.

Santa Grotto will be in Deddington Town Hall on Saturday 20 December, come and visit Santa to see what surprises he has in store for you this Christmas.

Peter Tindale & John Brackett (Joint Co-Chairs)

Deddington Pre-school

This is one of our most exciting terms for the children at Pre-school, with lots of activities linked to Christmas. We have enjoyed a visit from the Vicar this term, which the children really loved. If anybody would like to come and talk to the children - if you have an interesting/unusual job or hobby, we would love to see you. Please contact Anna for details.

We will be busy soon learning carols for our annual Carol Concert in the church on Tuesday 9 December at 1.30pm. All our welcome and mulled wine and mince pies will be served after the service. The Christmas party will be held on Friday 12 December 10.00am until 12 noon at the British Legion, which is our last day of term.

Our fund raising team are busy organising another of our now famous Pamper Nights for Friday 28 November, hurry to get your ticket, as places are limited.

Look out for us singing carols with the children at the Christmas Farmers' Market.

Next term we are planning some First Aid courses aimed at parents covering the basics of first aid for small children. Watch this space.

Julie Westley

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

Deddington Parish Church

Sunday 14 December

at 4 pm

Come to this candlelit service

Bring the children



Support with your donations the Children's Society's work to prevent bullying in schools

SS PETER AND PAUL, DEDDINGTON AND ST JOHN, HEMPTON

You will always be very welcome at any service in Church or Chapel

Parish Church in December

Sat 6	9.15 am	Christmas children's activities
Sun 7	10.30 am	Morning Praise
	6.30 pm	CHOROS Candlelit Carols
Wed 10	10.00 am	Eucharist
	7.30 pm	Deanery Prayers
Sun 14	10.30 am	Eucharist, Baptism & children's church
	4.00 pm	Christingle Service
Wed 17	10.00 am	Eucharist
Thu 18	2.00 pm	Squeals and Wheels
Sun 21	8.00 am	Holy Communion
	10.30 am	Mattins
	6.30 pm	Carol Service

CHRISTMAS EVE No 10.00 am Eucharist
11.30 pm Midnight Mass

CHRISTMAS DAY 10.30 am Family Eucharist

Fri 26	6.30 pm	ST STEPHEN Eucharist
Sat 27	6.30 pm	ST JOHN Eucharist
Sun 28	10.30 am	HOLY INNOCENTS Eucharist
Wed 31	10.00 am	Eucharist
	11.30 pm	Watchnight service

St John Hempton in December & January

Sun 7 & 21	9.00 am	Eucharist
Sat 20	7.00 pm	Carol Service

From the Parish Registers

BAPTISM: 16 November - Grace Elizabeth May Hand

FUNERALS: 24 October - Ivy Rainbow 18 November - Stanley Payne

BIBLE STUDY GROUPS:

Boulderdyke House, Clifton [Jean Welford 338539] Wed 17 Dec, 7.30pm

2 The Leyes, Deddington [Liz Dickinson 337050] Wed 17 Dec, 7.30pm

Charity of the Month - each month a charity benefits from donations in the box in the Parish Church or St John's Hempton: the use by taxpayers of the pink *GiftAid* envelopes is commended.

December: EUROPEAN CHILDREN'S TRUST

January: THE HUNTER TRUST [education in Malawi]

WESLEYAN REFORM CHURCH, Chapel Square

Pastor Isabel Walton 337157

Morning services at 10.30 am

Dec 7, 14, 21, 25 & 28, Jan 4 & 18 - Pastor Isabel Walton; Jan 11 Faith Sharpe; 25 John Goulder

Bible Study/Fellowship every Wednesday at 7.30 pm

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, New Street

Joyce Minnear 338529

Sunday *morning* worship jointly with Wesleyan Reform congregation at 10.30 am

Sunday evening service and fellowship 6.00 pm, & Communion on the 1st Sunday of the month

Dec 7 Pastor Isobel Walton; 14 Mr John Hine; 21 Carol Service at Wesleyan Reform; 28 No service

R.C. PARISH OF HETHE WITH ADDERBURY

The Revd A J Burns 277396

Hethe : Mass is said every day [except Wednesday] at 10.00 am. Confessions: Sats -5.30-6.00 pm

Adderbury : Mass is said Sundays at 8.30 am; Wednesdays at 7.00 pm; Confessions before Mass.

Hethe : CHRISTMAS EVE Carols at 11.30 pm for Mass at midnight; CHRISTMAS DAY 10.30 am Mass.

Adderbury : CHRISTMAS DAY 9.00 am Mass. EPIPHANY 6 January is a Holy Day of Obligation.

The Eve of Sunday Mass at St John's, South Bar, Banbury is said at 4 p.m. on Saturdays to allow Catholics from the villages to attend by bus.

THE LIVING ROOMS PROJECT -

The Pantechnic Steel Band: Deddington Church - Friday 5 December at 7.30pm.
Adults Tickets £5.00 Children (under 16) £3.50 available on the door.

The Pantechnic Steelband is a lively, happy and enthusiastic group of young people. Under the

Parish Church in January

Thu 1	6.30 pm	NAMING OF OUR LORD Eucharist
Sun 4	10.30 am	Morning Praise
	6.30 pm	EPIPHANY Eucharist
Wed 7	10.00 am	Eucharist
Sun 11	10.30 am	BAPTISM OF CHRIST Sung Eucharist, Renewal of Baptismal Vows & Childrens' Church
Wed 14	10.00 am	Eucharist
Thu 15	2.00 pm	Squeals & Wheels
Sun 18	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	10.30 am	Morning Worship
Wed 21	10.00 am	Eucharist
Sun 25	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist & Childrens' Church
Wed 28	10.00 am	Eucharist

For Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals, hospital or home visits in case of illness, please contact the Vicar, the Rev. Dr Hugh White, 28 Duns Tew (349869); or one of the Churchwardens, Liz Dickinson (337050) or Iain Gillespie (338367)



Deddington is a town not a village, and in the c14th it was the largest Oxfordshire town after Oxford itself. My birthplace was the Red Lion from where, in the early 1930s, my parents moved to the Post Office, manning its telephone exchange twenty four hours a day, as well as running the shop with its stationery and newsagent business. They then purchased the building on the SW corner of the Market Place, then a single property, and opened The Domestic Requisites. Just prior to the second World War they bought Holcombe House, which had been a private school and also a finishing school for French and German students. They converted this into an hotel at the cessation of hostilities.

In those days The Finishing Touch was a private dwelling and did not become a butcher's shop until 1959, whilst Acorn Stores was a branch of the Oxford, Swindon & Gloucester Co-operative Society, to which it has recently reverted. The Library was then the Magistrates' Court where Petty Sessions were held, and, next door, was the Police Station, with two cells manned by a sergeant and a constable.

During the c19th the site of the Royal British Legion Club was an axle-tree factory and a vast Emporium faced on to the Bull Ring. The King's Arms, The Unicorn and the Crown and Tuns were all coaching inns. Red Lion Cottage was a sweet shop and at one time, the Market Place entrance to The Tchure was flanked by a grocery, a butcher's shop and a bakery. Alongside was Wells Drapery and Furniture Store, all facing Tucker's Stores. There were more grocers, butchers and a fishmonger located elsewhere. Also catering for the populace were: schools, banks, law firms, a doctors' surgery, hairdressers, chemist, two cobblers, two tailors, an ironmonger, builder's merchant, joiners, garage keepers, a bus company, an electrician, coal and fuel merchants, carriers, veterinary surgeon, chimney sweeps, a farrier, blacksmiths, a timber merchant, coffin maker, an undertaker, a fire station and farmers. Until well into the c20th. the firm of Franklins, noted for its masonry work and wood carving in churches and public buildings, was famous nation-wide and as far afield as Hobart, Tasmania.

Legend has it that Shakespeare took liquid refreshment here on his way to London. Certainly Charles 1 had our church bells melted down for munitions, whilst our bell ropes were once pawned to provide beer money. Small wonder the town needed three official beer tasters.

José Stevens

Congratulations to all who rose to the challenge of the "Living Rooms" Arts Festival on Saturday 22 November. In the Music Composition section, of the 23 children who entered, Samuel Best was the first under-11 for 'non-notated' music and Maddi Idun won with Nick Worrell runner-up for notated; as the only adult Chris Nevile was highly commended. In the Art section, of the 38 children, Matilda Guyton & Jasper Pye were joint-1st '7 & under'; Kit Nevile won, Laura Wallington runner-up, '8-11'; Fiona McLellan won, Steven O'Connor runner-up, '11-16'; Adele Sullivan's exquisite quilt was the best though only adult

WELL REMEMBERED

FREDERICK REGINALD ENGLAND Born in 1923, Fred was brought up in Banbury; he left St Mary's Primary School aged only 14 – quite normal at that time. He saw service during WWII with REME, and served in Germany where he returned often on holiday. For a while he was a self-employed car mechanic before joining Taylor Woodrow as a foreman mechanic. This took him to London where he worked on the reconstruction of Euston Station. He lost an eye in an accident while working as a mechanic with Youngs Garage in 1960, so losing the sight of his remaining good eye had made life most difficult for him and his devoted wife Edna for the last four years. As landlord of the Crown and Tuns from 1966-92, he befriended my family from the very day we moved here in 1973. He was quite a character, a loveable, obstinate old boy. Cheers Fred!

Colin Robinson

GEORGE GREAVES lived most of his life in London, where he worked as a railway booking office clerk and then in the accounts department of the College of Preceptors, Holborn. Following war service in Italy, George became a committed Italophile, marrying an Italian girl, Rosa, and regularly spending time at her home town of Asolo. George loved the countryside, Italian and English. He greatly enjoyed the walks around Deddington, defending the footpaths and appreciating the wild life. He also delighted in human company, and his friendly communicativeness will be much missed in the village.

Hugh White

IVY RAINBOW (née Gregory) Though she lived all her life in Deddington, Ivy's first job was at the Cowley Road Post Office in Oxford. This, tough and determined as she was, she reached initially by daily bicycle ride. After the War Ivy transferred to Deddington Post Office, and then, with her husband Frank ('Sam'), took on the exacting work of the village milk round. She loved the round because it kept her in touch with people and their doings. Even when old age restricted her movements within it, she enjoyed discussing village news with her circle of close friends - as befitted the oldest Deddingtonian born and bred.

Hugh White



entry. In the Poetry or Prose section, of the 31 children, Celia Chambers won '7 & under', Evie Lovell won '8-11', Matthew Jones won '11-16' with Alice Woodall as runner-up; of the 9 adults Avril Leigh won and Janice Bowles was runner-up. Especial thanks to Jan Elvidge for her inspiration, and for the perspiration she induced from so many others - not forgetting the judges, Susi Idun & Donald Lane, Viv O'Donnell & Gill Maddison, and Charlie Lee-Potter. Joanna Cox's Deddington Ballet School, George Fenemore, Jim & Jean Flux in *The En-Suite Bathroom* by William Humble, and Iain Gillespie, George Fenemore & Ted Johnson with John Burdon completed the entertaining afternoon. *CH*

"I WAS THERE !"

What a wonderful experience ! More than 80,000 passionate spectators, about 30,000 wearing England shirts, singing and chanting and contributing enormously to an engrossing match that turned into a cliff-hanger. The tension was palpable. How do players like Elton Flatley and Jonny Wilkinson keep their nerve at such critical moments ? What a finish and, of course, the better team won ! And after a week in which the Australian press had attacked the English team, calling the players "Dad's Army" and "boring", it was good to beat them on their own patch. But, to be fair, as I left, many Australians shook my hand and offered their congratulations. "Swing low" was still being sung outside my hotel at 6am !

Having unexpectedly got a ticket for the final, I had to change my return flight. Guess what ? "Coming for to carry ME home !" I was on the same plane as the England team, renamed 'Sweet Chariot' ! There was much cheering, singing and clapping, and during the flight some of the players brought the Webb Ellis Cup to Economy. It was an unforgettable experience - a jolly scrummage with lots of photographs, autographs and banter, and I managed to touch the cup ! And, finally, the reception at Heathrow at 5 o'clock in the morning. Thousands of fans had been gathering during the early hours and out we came, team and passengers, to a tumultuous welcome. What an ending to my rugby adventure ... and then the car wouldn't start !

Charles Newey

**ON THE FARM**

Since I last put pen to paper the crop situation has seen a big improvement. November has produced almost 3 inches of rain to date. The winter sown winter wheat is coming on well with most of the bare patches now filling in and the oil seed rape is growing away by leaps and bounds and even the grass has greened up a little. But with the experts forecasting a cold dry winter we are a long way from being back to normal (whatever that is). The river is still well below its normal level for the time of the year and the field drains are still dry. For years now our masters have portrayed farmers as overproducing despoilers of the countryside, but they are now so concerned by this year's poor harvest and the effect that rising food prices could have on their inflation forecasts that they are proposing to cut next year's set-aside from 10% to 5% to increase EU cereal production by a further 7 million tons for next year's harvest. It is already a little late in the year to plant the extra 5% of winter crops but in any case after the devastatingly low prices of the last few years do we really need an extra 7 million tons of grain floating about the EU markets next year? According to a recent report this is the 5th consecutive year that the world consumption of wheat has outstripped production. With this year's supplies being put at some 556 million tons and consumption at 586 million tons a rise in the world markets was inevitable. The bees were put to bed with a good supper of sugar syrup at the start of November but the mild weather of late has brought them back out to play, so I took the opportunity to give them another feed which should see them well into the new year. Fieldfare, Redwing and other migrating birds have spent the last few weeks stripping the hedgerows of their berries before moving on south for the winter. One of our resident cock Blackbirds made a valiant attempt to defend 'his' bush against the invading hordes but each time he moved one lot on another group took over. In the end he was overwhelmed and gave up. I felt rather sad for him but his predicament could be seen as a reflection of the uncertain situation facing many in the countryside today. Christmas is coming and that's for certain. The New Year will bring on the village pantomime dame and her ten fat sausages. If you want to know more, come along and see. Happy Christmas to you all, see you in the New Year.

George Fenemore 338203

The Warriner Choral Society**Christmas Concert**

An evening of Christmas choral and organ music

including:

Choruses from Handel's Messiah

Works by: Rutter
Britten
Mathias

and audience carols

Musical Director: Matthew Smallwood
Organist: Dr Christopher Tadman-Robius

Saturday 13 December 2003

7.30 pm

St Mary's Church, Bloxham

Tickets: £7 (concessions £5.50) - refreshments

With Wine and Mince Pies

Available from: Bloxham Post Office
One Man Band
Spratt Endicott
on the door
or ring Jenny on 01295 721224

E-MAIL FROM REVD DR HUGH WHITE, DUNS TEW

Contributors to the Church Restoration Appeal, begun in the mid 1990s, and other villagers might appreciate a brief report on the progress of restoration work on the Parish Church.

Through the generosity of the village and many others and the hard work of the Appeal organisers, almost £200,000 was raised. Of this, nearly £125,000 has been spent on essential repairs to the roof and the floor of the Church, now accomplished. Work is currently in progress on a stretch of wall at the south west corner of the churchyard and will begin shortly on a window to the east of the south porch. The money remaining after this expenditure will be available for further restoration as needed.

The Church's Living Rooms project involves raising money in support of an HIV/AIDS day centre in Mmbatho, South Africa (in our linked Diocese of Kimberley and Kuruman) and for building a room in the north west corner of the Church. This Church room, which we hope will benefit the village as a whole, is new work and cannot therefore be funded by past Restoration Appeal monies. The Church is very grateful for the support it is receiving from the village for this project.

The Church is also seeking to employ a Children and Youth Worker to help with the provision of services for young people in the village and to enhance its own operation with the young. The financing of this appointment is again wholly independent of the Church Restoration Fund.

FROM ANGELA STONE, MARKET PLACE, DEDDINGTON

May I through the *DN* express my thanks for all the support Norman and I have received during my recent spell in hospital and since? Not for the first time we have been helped through a very difficult period in our lives.

E-MAIL FROM FFIONA WELFORD-WINTON, BOULDERDYKE FARM, CLIFTON

A big thank you to Ted Johnson for his recent RSPCA article suggesting that, "If you are having a firework party, please warn your neighbours and local farmers." This year we heard from Rob Blythe, Jan Walsh and Linda Davies in Clifton, notifying us of parties. This was very, very much appreciated. Thank you. Here's hoping their neighbourly action starts a trend.

On Boulderdyke Farm we do every thing possible to minimise the stress and chance of injury to livestock, rescue ponies and pets. Annually around New Years Eve and for 10 days around 5 November, our small animals are taken inside the farmhouse and 'supervised' by my mother. As stabling is not a preferred option (horses smelling smoke can break a leg trying to kick the door down) my husband, Fraser, and I station ourselves in the field. Here we monitor the rescue ponies and Highland cattle. Like us, they are not nocturnal creatures and do not have good night vision. Their field is familiar to them by daylight but in the darkness the bangs and smoke from fireworks send them into a blind panic and

fences and shelters form hazardous obstacles to the stampeding herd. I liken this to children in the school playground being blindfolded and left to run randomly as fast as their legs can carry them – imagine the injuries!

FROM JOHN AND GAY BREWER, PHILCOTE STREET, DEDDINGTON

We will not be sending local Christmas cards this year. Instead, we shall be making a charitable donation. Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year to all our friends.

FROM PHIL PLANT CHAIRMAN DEDDINGTON HOUSING ASSOCIATION

The Association oversees the upkeep of the four cottages at the corner of Earls Lane. I am pleased that all of the cottages are fully occupied at present and this has been the case for a little while now. Work

has been carried out this year to improve the laundry facilities and communal areas for the benefit of all the tenants.

The objective of the association is "to provide housing for aged and/or physically disabled persons in necessitous circumstances within the parish of Deddington". Should a cottage become vacant details will be published in the *DEDDINGTON NEWS* and on notice boards around the parish. If you wish to be considered for a cottage in the future please contact a member of the committee so that your details can be kept on file.

I would like to thank the members of the committee for their dedication in managing the association both on a day-to-day basis and at our regular meetings. The AGM of the Association is scheduled for 19 February 2004.

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

**On your own this Christmas?
Would you enjoy some company?**

**We invite you to
come and join us for a chat, a cup of
tea or coffee, some snacks and
company
at**

Deddington Parish Church

**-NO 'churchifying'
-- NO 'partying'**

**just people wanting to share the time with you.
You are welcome to come and chat, bring your
book and sit and read, or possibly play a game of
cards, a board game or do a jigsaw.**

Drop in at any time between

Christmas Eve: 6.00p.m to 10.00p.m

Christmas Day: 12.30 p.m to 6.00p.m

THE FLOWER GARDEN

November, and still we have a little colour, and still the beds are too dry to dig over. Our perennials need dividing, they look tatty, but they have given us much pleasure during this unusual summer. I bought a couple of penstemon plants at the Farmers' Market last season and had no idea how they would spread. So we have started to deal with the containers, emptying and refilling them for the spring stuff. With this in mind I went to a nursery to buy some pansies and there met another customer who gave me her recipe for really splendid pansy blooms (she said). She plants them in her tubs according to her colour plan and then cuts off all existing flowers and flower buds. Snip, snip, just like that. She said that she has a wonderful display when they get over the shock and bloom again. Ever heard that one? I am not sure that I am willing to try that because for me one of the attractions of these enchanting plants is that they make an instant garden, taking over from the summer blooms. But if anyone has the courage to try, let me know how it went. Apart from that new one, I shall go back to my usual ideas according to the Wisley tapes. Underplant with bulbs, muscari, crocus and white narcissi, then pansies, forget-me-nots and small leaved ivies on the edges. Now is the time to check your tools and get your secateurs sharpened and then feet up and look through the tempting gardening magazines. Here's hoping for rain [*Happy now? Ed*], and good gardening to everyone.

Marianne Elsley

Dear Garden.

Perhaps it is the long dry summer and mild autumn that make it seem as if the end of the year is earlier than usual. But soon you won't be seeing so much of me for a few weeks. Time to give you a rest and to think about what we might grow next year. Should we go for perennial or deep-rooted plants which can better survive dry spells, or continue with annuals and quick-growing crops which might require more watering if it is dry again? I am told that herbs, which mostly come from warmer parts of the world, thrive on dry soil - but man cannot live on herbs alone (to adapt a quote). Longer term we could go for more fruit trees, but they would take a while to establish and what do we have meantime? It would not be British to expect two dry summers in succession, though these days anything might happen. I'm told there may be a day for Open Gardens in the village next year, so we could plan for that. I wonder if our friends the allotments will take part? Perhaps we should think about all this one day, and talk it over together, or when the dog and I take a walk around the allotments to see what others have been doing. I am sorry I didn't manage to keep everything going through the summer. That time when we were on holiday and nothing was watered was a bit of a disaster, but I will try to do better next year. Anyhow, thanks for everything in 2003, have a good rest and we will soon get going for next year.

See you soon, *Hugh Marshall*

PURELY PLANTS

Countryside Garden Centre

*Create a magical Christmas with our
imaginative Christmas decorations...*

REAL FOLIAGE FOR CHRISTMAS

*We specialise in beautiful hand-made Door
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The Olive RESTAURANT

*The Market Place, Deddington, Oxfordshire
OX15 0SA*

Telephone 01869 338813

We are pleased to announce the opening of **The Olive** Restaurant, Deddington. Open Tuesday to Saturday for lunch and dinner. Please see our Festive Menu below, available from 2nd December 2003 for those wishing to organise a Christmas Party @ £16.50 per head to include coffee or tea.

To Start

Celery and Stilton soup (V)
Duck rillettes with a cranberry coulis
Gravadlax with a rocket salad and dill sauce

To follow

Turkey ballottine with duxelles of chestnuts, home cured bacon and chanterelles mushrooms
Red onion tartletatin with melted goat cheese croutons (V)
Salmon with a crust of herbs and lemon,
& mashed winter vegetables
Rib eye steak with a pepper and brandy sauce

To finish

Chunky marmalade bread and butter pudding
Mousse au chocolat de Noël
Santa's basket of ice creams and chocolate stars
Winter fruit pudding

For further information please telephone Lucy Garnier
on 01869 338813.

LIVING HISTORY**Frederick William Davis 1888-1954**

Topper Davis remembers his father and his duties as Verger & Sexton of the Parish Church from 1931 to 1951. His first and dearest memory is being carried safely, on his father's back, into the darkness of the scary winding stair well of the Church tower and up into the bell chamber. It was a verger's duty to ring the bell for services and Curfew, which required Fred to mount these stone steps at least once a day and several times on Sundays. But it wasn't only bell-ringing duties that called for his attention in the Tower. More frequent visitors than he were flocks of jackdaws leaving - in Topper's words - cartloads of twigs, sticks and dirt to be scraped up and swept out by the now much older Topper and his choir-boy friends. Fred rewarded his young helpers with a couple of pennies, as he did when they assisted him with digging a grave or gave a hand with tidying the Churchyard. Riches indeed in a boy's pocket in those far off days.

Inside the Church Fred's daughters lent a hand with polishing the pews, black-leading the gratings, cleaning the brasses and, as befits the location, cleaning the floor on their knees. When it came to spring cleaning (the memory still rankles!) a genteel lady on the PCC thought it quite outrageous that Fred should be paid an extra 3/6 on top of his weekly wage for those chores!



Fred loved to decorate the Church for Festivals; his showpiece being a Christmas tree mounted on top of the Rood Screen and decorated with Fairy lights. Not so enjoyable was the task of keeping the furnace burning during the winter months. Sundays and weekdays he shovelled coke to keep the heating in the big building at an even temperature. It is of little wonder, that

DEDDINGTON 150 YEARS AGO

As there is no edition of the DN in January, I am giving below the extracts from the diaries of the Rev. Cotton Risley for the month of January 1854. Times must have been very hard as the month is dominated by concern for the poor of the parish.

4th January - A greater quantity of snow had fallen yesterday and today than had been remembered since 1814 - 1814 was by far the deepest and heaviest fall of snow ever remembered by the oldest individual. Took train to Paddington and walked to Hatchets Hotel, not an omnibus or a single cab being visible on account of the blockaded state of the roads from the fall of snow.

18th January - I was busied giving away 60 gallons of soup or thereabouts to the poor, at our farmhouse. I attended a meeting at the Town Hall this evening called to consider the best mode of lowering the present high price of bread to the poor - especially the larger families.

20th January - I was busied getting subscriptions for the Poor Relief Fund all day - attended a 2nd meeting at the Town Hall this evening to deliver up my collection.

21st January - Mr. Stilgoe came and we walked down to the brick kiln together and arranged with J. Hopcraft about some alterations and improvements at the House there and taking in some more ground - he paying £5 per annum more rent and doing all the work and finding bricks and tiles, and I timbers and post and rails. I was busied begging for the poor again. Mr. Field of Banbury called to talk over our proposed mode of relieving the poor - and very kindly brought us cheque books as used at Banbury now for that purpose.

25th January - Was busied from nearly 3 o'clock to 5 o'clock in giving soup away to the poor.

31st January - I attended another Poor Relief meeting at the Town Hall - £102-5s.Od. the amount given in to-night of the subscriptions.

Buffy Heywood

one small girl - now a grandmother - remembers being terrified by "the man who jumped out of the stoke hole", when she was playing in the Churchyard. One moment shovelling coke and the next standing smartly dressed at the Church door greeting congregations for weddings and funerals was all in a day's work. That Fred had to attend all Services in his role as Sidesman goes without saying, and woe betide if he forgot to warm the water for a baptism.

In 1935 the Church was wired for electricity relieving Fred from organ pumping and cleaning gas lights. Just a bit of light relief!

In 2003 numerous unsung volunteers, steered by various committees, serve their Church. We admire Fred for what he achieved as a more or less one-man-band and thank him for his care.

Ruth Johnson

[Many thanks to Topper for sharing his memories with us.

In the early '60s it was the curate's job to keep the coke boiler going when the vicar took his post-Christmas break! Ed]

Deddington Craft Group

The Group flourishes, thanks to a great deal of talent and interest in fabric work of all kinds. We have been in action for 17 years and achieved a great many beautiful and varied pieces of needlework including fabric dying and painting, transfer ink printing, embroidery both hand and machine, canvas work, appliqué, patchwork and quilting. We produce greeting cards using many of these techniques and our efforts have been exhibited and bought by numerous people both here and overseas. We have also made items for charity, notably The Katharine House Hospice and Deddington Church. We have just been introduced to teddy bears and dolls for grown ups!

We welcome anyone who would like to have an afternoon of fun, friendship and interest to learn or teach creative crafts, always something new to see or hear about. We meet every Tuesday afternoon at the Three Horseshoes in the Bull Ring. For further information ...

Stella Marmion 338834

Very many thanks to the Craft Group for designing this month's cover. Monochrome printing cannot do justice to the polychrome multi-texture original. Ed

WI

After a short business meeting, our speaker for the evening, Mr Jim Flux, told us about how he became involved with voluntary services operating locally. These are many and varied and involve work on the organisational side: members appreciated the time and enormous effort required to keep these worthwhile causes operating successfully. Though "More volunteers are needed urgently" was far from being his main theme and was almost mentioned in passing, it was nevertheless a point worth noting. Mr Flux considered his subject dry, but 'no, it wasn't at all'.

Our next meeting is 9 December when we celebrate Christmas at the Unicorn. At our meeting on 9 January Maureen Cox will tell us about the role of the practice nurse.

Rene Mahony 338438

Deddington Youth Club

We have now had 3 youth club evenings this autumn with our new leaders. Although there have been some teething problems, these evenings have been successful. Our leaders are Peter Robinson from Deddington and John O'Connell from Banbury. Peter was part of the team which organised the successful Millennium celebrations and is training with the Deddington Colts as a football trainer. John is head of FE Photography at Oxfordshire School of Art and Design and has coached a junior football team. We are fortunate to have young men with these skills as our new leaders. We do need some voluntary help with the crafts (need not be every week). We would also like some more Management Committee members (meetings only about once every 2 months). There is a disco on 15 December with snacks provided by the Committee and members' families. We hope to arrange an outing on 19 January when the hall is occupied by the pantomime. *Gay Brewer* 338097

1st Deddington Boys' Brigade Company

On 29 October our Church hosted the annual Oxfordshire Battalion BB officers' devotional service and we thank Dr Hugh White and other members of the Church for their help in making the event such a success.

The Juniors took part in the Oxfordshire Battalion 'Top Teams' competition and the Deddington 'A' team won the event with the 'B' team finishing third!

Thirty-five members (including 10 from the Girls' Brigade) took part in the annual Remembrance parade and service and the younger members of our group were all smartly presented and very well behaved.

Our BB Company has recently 'twinned' with the 11th Tasmania, based near Deddington in northern Tasmania. Over the coming months Anchor Boys and Juniors will be encouraged to write to 'pen-friends' in Australia to learn more about life on the other side of the world.

It is the BB and GB annual enrolment service on 7 December at the Church (part of the monthly family service) following a parade starting at the school at 10 am.

The BB and GB are still planning to launch a marching band. We have acquired a set of drums and we hope to offer training courses on brass instruments in the New Year. If you are interested in becoming a band instructor, please contact us as soon as possible.

BB Anchor Boys is open to all boys aged 5 and over. The group meets at Deddington School each Wednesday from 3.15 pm (spaces now available). BB Juniors is open to all boys aged 8 and over. The group meets at the Windmill Centre each Wednesday from 5.15 pm.

Brian Bushell 338715

1st Deddington Cub Scouts

During the last month the Cubs have been rehearsing 'Mowgli and the Bandalog' for a performance on 4 December. They have put a lot of effort into the designs for their masks and the props for the play and have practiced very diligently. I'm sure it will be a great success. Plans are well in hand for the Christmas party; will the Cubs solve the heinous crime we have planned for them?

Jo Churchyard CSL 338071

1st Deddington Scouts

The Scouts are practising their map reading skills and planning a hike on a dry weekend. Anyone spotting them running around The Windmill in the dark should know that they are honing their night tracking skills and not just indulging in a wild game of Fox and Hounds.

Thanks go to all the cubs and scouts who turned out for Remembrance Day; you did us proud.

Please note that our Christmas post boxes will be in the Post Offices and Chip shop from 7 December, with deliveries on the 14 & 21 December.

Jo Churchyard 338071

Deddington Players

As the Christmas season approaches, please make a note in your busy diaries of two un-missable events! Deddington's own homegrown Pantomime takes to the stage at the Windmill Centre on 22, 23 and 24 January

- 7.30pm (and also 2.30pm on Saturday). Tickets are £5, £4 and £2.50 and are available from Deddington Post Office, or phone 338153. *'Dick Whittington and his Amazing Cat'*, written especially for us by Ron Sawbridge of Aynho, guarantees to be an entertaining evening in the best seasonal tradition. More Christmas entertainment comes to the village on 19 December (7.30pm at the Windmill): take some time out to be entertained by the Oxfordshire Touring Theatre Company's production of *'The Nutcracker and the Mouse King'*. A winter fairytale for all the family, it is certain to put you into the Christmas mood. Tickets are £6 (£4 concessions) and can be obtained from the above outlets.

Lucy Squires 338442

Deddington Babies & Toddlers Group

We are losing two highly valued committee members: Janet Watts, who has run the group for the past four years, will be standing down from the Spring and Claire Iley, our treasurer, is moving to Italy after Christmas. We thank them for their contribution to the group and wish them well with their future plans.

We celebrate Christmas on 19 December with our Christmas Party and visit from Father Christmas. Members who wish to attend are asked to bring a food contribution (see the list at our meetings), and to provide a named gift for their child. There will be two parents' nights out during December - again, watch the board for details.

Just a reminder that there is not a meeting on 26 December!! A Merry Christmas - especially those who were too small to appreciate it last year, but will this time!

Lucy Squires 338442

Deddington & District History Society

At our November meeting we marked the 40th anniversary of the Great Train Robbery with a talk by Chief Inspector John Woolley. It was by common consent one of our most entertaining lectures ever. Mr Woolley was the village policeman at Brill at the time of the robbery, and it was he who discovered the robbers' hideout at Leatherslade Farm. At the end of a delightful hour we were able to see the collection of newspapers and memorabilia that he has collected relating to those events of 40 years ago.

On Wednesday 10 December at 7.30 we shall hold another of our popular Christmas socials and 'events' at the Windmill Centre. There will be a charge of £5 to cover the cost of refreshments: please contact Moira Byst (338637) if you are coming. On Wednesday 14 January our speaker will be Paul Sanders, on *'The Occupation of the Channel Islands in World War II'*.

Chris Day 337204

Deddington Guides

What a busy half term! Nine new Guides made their Promise recently at a ceremony attended by parents. We have adjusted well into three working patrols that have elected their own leaders. They have organised themselves very well and have done some super activities which they have really enjoyed taking part in. Autumn has featured highly - learning about trees and

fruits, dressing up for Halloween and apple bobbing - and Guides are working on their agility, party planner, traditions of Guiding and safety badges.

We had a grand turn out for the Remembrance Day parade - well done everyone! In complete contrast several guides went to the Big Gig - a huge pop concert with big stars and 19,000 guides in the audience. They are all slowly recovering from all the excitement.

Please support our Christmas post - deliveries on 14 and 21 December.

Maggie Rampley 01295 810069

Glynnis Eastwood 337021

Deddington Friendship Club

We enjoyed our trip to the Organic Garden Centre on 22 October in spite of it being the coldest day there had been for months. It is well worth another visit. The Harvest Lunch was held on 5 November, no fireworks but good food and again a most enjoyable time. We had a social afternoon on 19 November with scrabble and indoor bowls. The next meeting is on December 3 and will be the last of this year. The AGM is on Wednesday 9 January.

Joyce Minnear 338529

Deddington Friendly Bridge Club

The Club has had a successful and satisfactory year. Members attend on Friday afternoons whenever they can so we usually enjoy 3 or 4 tables of bridge. The last session of this year will be on Friday 12 December and will be preceded by a members' Christmas lunch.

The first session of 2004 is on Friday 9 January beginning at 2.00 pm. We are considering having a few afternoons (not Fridays) for beginners if there is sufficient interest - please let us know. New members are always welcome to the Friday sessions.

Dorothy White 337530

Kenneth & Winifred Holt 338154

Deddington Town Football Club

1st Team Results

Napier Rovers (h) (Junior Shield) Lost 1-2 (Golden Goal) J.Pearce.

Charlton (a) (Mid Oxon Cup) Won 7-1 M.Hewitt, L.Rawlings, B.Durrant (2), J.Pearce (3).

Souldern (h) Won 1-0 J.Pearce.

Souldern (h) (Charity Cup) Won 1-0 B.Durrant.

During the past month the 1st team were heavily involved in cup matches. A Julian Pearce hat trick secured a comfortable victory over Charlton in the Mid Oxon Cup. Ben Durrant scored the match winner against Souldern in the Charity Cup. On the league front things are going very well, Julian Pearce scored the only goal of the game to secure the points against Souldern. This victory leaves the team top of Division 1 and in with a good chance of promotion at the end of the season.

Reserve Team Results

Cropredy Res (h) Lost 1-2 P.Kirsopp.

Steeple Aston Res (a) Won 5-2 P.Kirsopp (3), D.Gibbs (2).

St John's (h) Lost 1-2 S.Colley.

Abba (a) (Eric Morris Cup) Lost 0-3

Bloxham (a) Won 3-2 P.Kirsopp (3).

The Reserve side have picked up two useful league victories this month. A hat trick from Phil Kirsopp and two goals from David Gibbs helped the team to an impressive 5-2 victory over local rivals Steeple Aston Res.

Another Phil Kirsopp hat trick ensured the team left Bloxham with all 3 points. These victories currently leave the team in the top half of Division 2.

The club would like to say a big thank you to Richard Spencer for generously buying the club two brand new team strips; they look very smart. To see these new strips in action the kick off time for all home matches is 2pm.

75 Club Winners all winning £50 A.Franklin (twice), B.Durrant, M.Reason and R.Berry. L.Scarrott won £100.

Steve Plumb 01295 278258

Deddington Branch Royal British Legion

The President and Committee of the Deddington Branch of the Royal British Legion would like to thank all who made the 2003 Poppy Appeal such a success. The ever willing house-to-house collectors, the local businesses who, each year, agree to take our collecting boxes and especially all who gave so generously have enabled us to send over £3000 to the National Fund. This exceeds last year's total with more donations still to come in. The breakdown is :- House to House and collections at business premises £2296.85; Parish Church collection £336.97; Other Churches etc. £151.00; Wreaths £182.00; Other donations £125.00

Once more the parade on Remembrance Sunday was well supported and thanks go to all who joined the parade, to the uniformed organisations whose leaders give so much time to their good causes, the Deddington Police and to all who helped organise the services in the churches.

Let us all hope that the proposed changes in the format of the Deddington British Legion Club can soon be completed to enable the Branch to continue its work for the Royal British Legion. Membership of the Branch and Club combined is open to all over the age of 18 and costs £15 per annum of which £10 goes to the National Fund. For further information...

Ray Morris 338143 or Raymorris@aol.com

NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATIONS.

At last New Year's Evening celebrations a small number of persons came into the village, with the intent of causing trouble. However we as licensees saw this developing and with the help of the police who were here in the Market Place at midnight, major problems were averted and most the revellers were unaware of any problem. As a result of this we together with the police, acting as the Deddington Pubwatch Scheme, will be issuing free tickets to all our regular customers and Deddington residents. These will be available from your local pub from the middle of December. The tickets will allow you entry to the pubs within the village. The Holcombe Hotel and Royal British Legion will be selling their own tickets for private functions.

*The Crown & Tuns, Deddington Arms,
Red Lion and Unicorn*



Computing in Deddington Library

The Autumn programme is continuing and will do so during December and January - except for the holiday period (Christmas Eve to 3 January). As usual, priority is being given to beginners but if you have an interest in more advanced topics, it's always worth asking Rosemary in the Library if one of the tutors can help.

Charles Newey 338282 *Martin Ince* 338417

NEWS FROM HEMPTON

The Church Bazaar will be on Saturday 6 December at 2.00 pm. with lots of stalls: i.e tombola, cakes, gifts, plants, also a pew of pennies, Christmas Draw, refreshments and much more. The proceeds will go to Friends of Hempton Church who have to find funds for the repair and maintenance of St John's Church.

The Carol Service will be on Saturday 20 December at 7.00 pm. The Deddington Parish Church choir will be leading the service which will be followed by refreshments. This service has been moved from its normal Friday evening to Saturday to enable the choir to be there. One other extra service during this month will be Christmas Day Eucharist at 9.00 am.

The Friends of the Church hope to organise a 'Bangers & Mash' evening on Friday 27 February at 7.30 pm. More details about this in the February issue.

The Table Tennis team has improved on their poor start to the season. Their record is now P6-W2-D1-L3 As the year ends I would like to thank the regular distributors in the village : Barbara Chappell, Sue Montague, Mavis and Bernard Barton. Also the people who have helped when others have been on holiday. No Deddington News in January so please let me have news for February.

Les Chappell 338054

NEWS FROM CLIFTON

In the September issue of the magazine I reported on the many activities at St. Anne's. There are around eight other elderly people in the village who mostly manage very well. In Clifton there is a lively group of children 12 years and under, and also a few of the 12-18 group. Some of the younger children have offered me articles. This is their first contribution. Maybe the children can liven up our Clifton news in the future.

Carol Draumer

Kids' News: Halloween - thank you to everybody who gave us sweets at Hallowe'en.

Christmas - Santa's Float is coming to Clifton, raising money for the PTA.

We think the worst thing about Clifton is the busy road which means it is dangerous to get to the other side, and the best thing is the park with a wood at the bottom for us to play in.

Jokes: Q. What do nervous cows give you?

A. Milk shake.

Q. Did you hear about the man who had a paper shop?

A. It blew away.

Elenya, Callum & Sam

Switch OFF your mobile phone BEFORE driving

On 1st December 2003 it will become an offence to use a hand-held mobile phone while driving. Initially the penalty will be a £30 fine (fixed penalty notice). Or, if the case goes to a court, a maximum fine on conviction will be £1000. Drivers of goods vehicles and buses/coaches could face a maximum fine of £2,500. In time the offence will become endorsable, with three penalty points, and the fixed fine will be increased to £60.

There have been many queries from the public about whether hands-free kits can still be used. A hand-held mobile phone is defined as one that is or must be held at some point to operate it. It is the activity of holding the phone that is prohibited, rather than the type of hands-free kit the driver uses. However drivers using a hands-free mobile phone will still risk prosecution if they fail to maintain proper control of their vehicle. And a crash or other incident, while using any type of phone while driving, could justify careless or dangerous driving charges. National figures have shown that an accident is four times more likely to happen when using a mobile phone while driving.

PC Bob Donaghue

Deddington OnLine
<http://www.deddington.org.uk>

60 years ago, a new sound would have been heard in the skies above the Parish as the Gloucester Whittle Jet and Meteor aircraft were test flown from RAF Barford. The Meteor was the first RAF jet fighter and the only Allied jet plane. It has been suggested that DOL develops a Second World War section to the website. There is already a vast amount of WW2 material published in other media. However it is important to record parishioners' experiences and feelings at the time before they are lost. We would welcome any story from the period, either first hand accounts or other material from family or friends. Oral contributions could be tape recorded in the first instance. Please contact me if you have a story. DOL will not manufacture the sort of WW2 jingoism and nostalgia often seen on TV and cinema. We simply wish to add to the public record.

Colin Clark 338064

Deddington Map Group

The Farmers' Market on Saturday 20 December is your last chance this year to take advantage of our special offers. There will be money off everything, as well as some attractive special deals. Illustrated maps of Deddington, Clifton and Hempton, framed or unframed; Farms & Fields of the Parish; Ages of Building from before 1700 to the present day; Ken Langstaff's remarkable prints of Deddington and Banbury; leaflets on different themes from churches and chapels to historical characters; the oldest known and slightly spooky photograph of Deddington - all these are about discovery, and Discovering Deddington is the title of the definitive publication. Something for everyone - something for you?

Norman Stone

PS: Next year the Map Group will be at the Markets in March, June, September and November.

Deddington needs only 59 more Broadband registrations

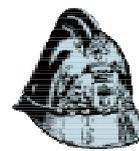
BT has published the numbers of expressions of interest necessary to install a broadband facility for each of its telephone exchanges. 300 are required for the Deddington exchange. Up to 20 November, 241 were registered. This represents 80.33% of the target. It is noteworthy that Steeple Aston, a much smaller village, has achieved 95.33% of its target. IT IS A RACE against other villages. Our campaign covers all numbers with 336-, 337-, 338- including Clifton and Hempton and some other hamlets. Each BT telephone number you have can be separately registered. Please push your neighbours and friends again.

Registration is an expression of interest only. IF YOU REGISTER NOW, THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO COMMITMENT FROM YOU TO SUBSCRIBE TO BROADBAND LATER. Further information can be found on www.deddington.org.uk/community/broadband.html

This summer passers-by looking at purchasing a property in Clifton asked whether there was Broadband access in the village. The increase in homeworking may mean that Broadband access is increasingly an important property selling point.

Hamish Stoddart

Colin Clark 338064

Deddington Fire Station

The total of the calls received so far this year is 173. In the last month we have received 32 calls; 3 car fires, 2 tree fires, 14 calls to stand by, 1 rubbish fire, 1 canal boat fire, 1 flat fire, 4 road traffic accidents, 4 calls to caravan fires, 1 shed fire, and 1 false alarm with good intent.

Following all the press coverage, I am sure you are all aware of the fatal accident that occurred outside the Fire Station on Wednesday 19 November 2003 at around 11.20pm. The police are appealing for witnesses to this accident, anyone with any information please contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111

On a lighter note, I am expecting a baby next April and therefore I can no longer take part in operational duties. At present I am carrying out the station management and focussing my efforts on a recruitment drive, so beware! Rachel Freeman is acting up as Leading Firefighter, and from next spring, Andy Hayward will be acting Sub Officer. Richard Bolton has passed his LGV driving test and the rest of the crew are now taking tranquillisers. Congratulations Chud! We have one potential new recruit offering 24-hr cover, so we are keeping our fingers crossed that he is successful in his selection tests on 6 December. We will be holding an open day in the New Year for interested people to come along to the fire station, meet the crew, try out some of our tests, ladder, fitness, claustrophobia, and generally find out more about being a Retained Firefighter, so keep an eye out for the date.

Stuck for a Christmas Present for the person with everything? How about a 10-year smoke alarm.

Anne Waters Sub Officer 338281

The River Swere

The River Swere arises from a spring next to a badger sett in Over Norton parish, and travels 25.3 km (15.8 miles) - forming the northern and part of the western boundaries of Deddington parish - to its union with the River Cherwell. In summer's slack season, when rainfall is light and the sun is strong, it does not seem a river at all. Then it deserves the name given by the Anglo-Saxons: 'Swaer' meaning heavy, weak, slow, sluggish. Autumn rains swell the river: in a single day, after heavy rain, it becomes a torrent; after two successive days, floodtide is reached.

The river has three distinct parts. The upper course extends from the river's source to the western limit of Paradise Farm, where a tributary from Hook Norton joins it. Steep hills stand close to the bank, and compress the narrow valleys; field edges are more wooded, and in places the woods are wide. Fallen tree limbs criss-cross the stream, and hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and grey willow (*Salix cinerea*) are common. In a floodplain wood, there are bluebells (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and the rare wildflower, herb-Paris (*Paris quadrifolia*), as well as dog's mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), an indicator of ancient woodland. Trails through the wood are made by roe deer.

There are two large (for the Swere valley) man-made lakes; a grey heron often visits one of them. The middle course finds the Swere in pastoral mood. From the Wigginton valley to east of Bloxham Bridge, the hills stand back, making way for a more spacious landscape; sheep graze on the rich grasses and horses stand on less valuable ground waiting for their weekend carers. Alders (*Alnus glutinosa*) form an avenue along the river corrected of its meandering from the ford in South Newington to The Dingles. Where the river meanders in the valley east of Wigginton, for example, it does so with greater arc.

Deddington alone possesses the lower course, where, from the eastern edge of the wood east of Bloxham Bridge



Parish Book of Recipes

Someone had the bright idea of cooking up a recipe book to raise funds for the Living Rooms Project. The format proposed is a kitchen proof book, spiral-bound, covering soups, snacks and starters, main dishes, cakes and cookies, puddings, punches and potions but we are not trying to outdo Delia, so there will be a limitation on space! The invitation is out for your favourite recipe (the more unusual, the better !!!).

I have -er- volunteered to co-ordinate the book in conjunction with some gourmets in the parish, so please submit your offering to me on liz@sentryhouse.fsnet.co.uk and, given the right ingredients and the right gas mark, the publication should appear in June 2004. Bon appetit!

Liz Handley 337243

OHCT RIDE OR STRIDE 2003

Many thanks to all who so generously sponsored the Riders, Striders and Welcomers to raise the splendid total of £1,335. *Dorothy White*

to the Cherwell, the fields are cultivated to the river's edge. The flat landscape is unwooded, except for a dotting of unpollarded crack-willow (*Salix fragilis*), and the river is more often straight than meandering.

Birds, mammals and wildflowers change in kind and frequency with the river's habitats. Downstream, arable crops are more common; upstream, unimproved pasture is more frequent. In the meadows of the Milcombe and Wigginton valleys, wildflowers, including meadow saxifrage (*Saxifraga granulata*) and yellow rattle (*Rhianthus minor*), salad burnet (*Sanguisorba minor*) and lady's smock (*Cardamine pratensis*), are plentiful. There are many indicators of a clean river, including crayfish, and a busy invertebrate fauna. The heavy-footed thud and rumble of motor traffic over the Adderbury bridge (A4260) does not disturb the native crayfish in the waters below. We are happy to say that the Environmental Agency finds the River Swere passes its tests.

So far!

Walter L. Meagher

FEBRUARY DIARY

Mon 2 Monday Morning Club: Coffee Morning, 10 am- noon

Wed 4 Deddington Ladies: Holly Tree, 8 pm.

Fri 6 PTA: Key Stage 2 Disco, Deddington School ➡ p.3

No **Deddington News** in January. Copy date for February edition: Tuesday 20 January

Weekly Meetings

Mondays:	Brownies: Windmill Centre, 6-7.30 pm.
Mondays:	Youth Club: Windmill Centre, 7-9 pm ➡ p.10
Tuesdays:	Deddington Guides: Windmill Centre, 7-9 pm. ➡ p.11
Wednesdays:	Anchor Boys: Deddington School, 3.15 pm.
Wednesdays:	Boys Brigade: Windmill Centre, 5.30 pm. ➡ p.10
Wednesdays:	1st Deddington Girls' Brigade Explorers: Deddington School, 3.30 pm.
Thursdays:	Life & Portrait Art Group: Town Hall, 10-12.30 & 1.30-4 pm.
Thursdays:	1st Deddington Cubs: Windmill Centre, 6-7.30 pm. ➡ p.10
Thursdays:	1st Deddington Scouts: Windmill Centre, 7.30-9 pm. ➡ p.10
Fridays:	Coffee morning in aid of Katharine House: Parish Church, 10-12.
Fridays:	Babies & Toddlers Group: Windmill Centre, 9.30 -11.30 am. ➡ p.11
Fridays:	Deddington Friendly Bridge Club: Holly Tree, 2-5 pm. ➡ p.11
Fridays:	British Legion: Prize Bingo and "Play Your Cards Right", 8 pm. ➡ p.12