

November 2020

The DEDDINGTON NEWS



Delivered free to Deddington, Clifton and Hempton

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The DEDDINGTON NEWS

Even though we're limited in what we can do and there's still no What's On, this issue is packed with things happening in the parish. Enjoy your read and have your say on two important items. Please see Deddington Development Watch report on the government's proposed changes in planning rules on p5 and the PC notes on pp2, 13, 17 and 18 and the survey on p18 where you are asked for your opinion.

JC

Remembrance Sunday 8 November



*Plans are subject to any changes
in government regulations*

There will not be a Parade. A Service of Remembrance and a Two-Minute Silence will be held at the War Memorial, in the church if wet, led by the Vicar with the Branch President, Chairman and Standard Bearer, Parish Council Chairman and the Bugler as the only six people attending.

No organisations should attend or lay wreaths.

This will be done by the Branch Chairman and the Parish Council Chairman on your behalves.

Social distancing must be strictly observed by anyone watching from the churchyard.

Poppies, pins, crosses etc can still be obtained from several locations including the church.

Please donate generously in this most difficult of years.

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DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting on 21 October held via Skype

Present: Collins, Cox, Eames, Oldfield, O'Neill, Robinson, Rogers (chair), Squires, Swadling, Timms, Watts, and the parish clerk. District Councillor Williams and seven members of the public also attended. County Councillor Fatemian arrived during the meeting.

Public Forum: A representative of Deddington Environment Network spoke about its proposal for a community orchard. She said the group wanted to consult with residents about their interest in an orchard but under current Covid restrictions could only do so online. Paper copies are available at the Flower Shop and the Unicorn. She indicated that all funding will come from different grant bodies and DEN does not expect any from the PC.

Two other members of the public spoke in support of the proposal, including one from Gaveston Gardens, Gaveston Green having to date been the focus of most of the discussion as to siting the orchard, although DEN has stressed that no decision has been made on this.

Community Orchard: Councillor Rogers reviewed the history of the proposal in relation to the PC. It first appeared on the July PC agenda when a preliminary paper had been submitted by DEN with no decision to be made on the site until after a public consultation. A project plan was to be drafted by DEN outlining grant application, consultation, site maintenance, costs, division of roles and responsibilities. It was put on the October agenda to 'clear the air' on the issue. He and District Councillor Williams have met and discussed the proposal on a number of occasions with some local residents, as well as receiving a number of telephone calls and emails.

Councillor Eames and several others spoke in support of the proposal. It was stated that residents are open to write to the PC and to take part in the survey. Councillor Robinson raised the question of whether or not the parish wants an orchard and, if they do, recommended that all available sites should be evaluated and additional ones considered. Councillor Collins suggested that the DEN volunteers should be applauded for their efforts and that opposition to the project was unnecessarily negative.

District Councillor Williams reported having received feedback concerning the objectivity of the consultation since it is being run by DEN, which is obviously an interested party, rather than the PC. He restated that the process should be open and responses be made by as many people as possible, not just those who are online. Councillor Oldfield pointed out that the proposal is not a PC project.

The PC agreed that it supports DEN in continuing its consultation activity and that the PC will review the results of the survey and all comments made directly to the council and its members at the December meeting.

These Parish Council notes are the view of our reporter, Jill Cheeseman, and not the official minutes. To see those, go to http://www.deddingtonparishcouncil.org/uploads/7/2/0/6/72062771/august_2020.pdf

Finance and General Purposes

Total PC funds amount to £714,000.

A year old survey listed a large number of trees need felling or other treatment. A subsequent contractor estimated £20,000 and suggested much of the work was unnecessary. The clerk indicated that parish trees have not been properly managed for some years with only immediate work having been carried out so that, once again, the PC is behind on work. Any work needs to be carried out before birds start nesting at the beginning of March. It was agreed to proceed with immediately necessary work at the earliest available date in February costing £5,475 and ask the contractor to check other things that have become more urgent, then the PC would have time to work out why there's a disparity between quotes.

It was agreed that the bow fence on the east side of the public path at the Windmill Centre should be repaired at a cost of £3,346.

A quote is to be obtained from OCC for the proposed street light on the corner of The Daedings.

Councillors agreed that, in line with their normal practice, they would not take any expenses.

Planning

No objection

Home Farm Works, Clifton Road, Deddington: retrospective change of use, containers on west side of property.

Orchard House, Hopcraft Lane: removal of trees overhanging neighbour's property. Suitable replacements in more appropriate places were requested.

Notice of Landowner Deposit: Colledge Farm, Hempton: landowner has filed plans of footpaths on their land with County Council to protect themselves from others claiming footpaths across their land in future.

Appeal Allowed

Land South of Clifton Road, Deddington: outline planning permission for the residential development of up to 15 dwellings with all matters except for the means of access reserved for subsequent approval.

Neighbourhood Plan

The group has now received information on sites from landowners. These have been pared back to meet local requirements. More detailed plans have been requested. An analysis and ranking of sites will be carried out before Christmas. The identification of sites is not being disclosed at present.

Government Planning White Paper Response

The council's response to the draft White Paper was adopted, raising concerns regarding the loss of opportunity to comment on planning applications and to influence those plans that affect communities most closely.

Continued on p13

POLICE

We hope you are all keeping well. We would like to be able to join in again with village events and meetings once restrictions are eased. We realise how difficult things have been and should you know of someone in your community who is vulnerable and could do with a visit please let us know.

As we come into autumn many of us look to top up our heating oil supplies ready for the colder weather. Please see OFTEC <https://www.oftec.org/> which offers advice and guidance for those who use and store oil at their premises. There is a security advice leaflet available which can be found on the oilsave website, <https://ukifda.org/consumers/oil-tank-care/>. Consider the position of the tank as it can have a significant effect on its vulnerability. If it is close to the house and overlooked thieves may consider the chances of being seen too high. If it is close to a road or other access points then it will be an easier target.

Consider using oil level gauge alarms: these remote control alarms activate if the tank level suddenly drops or falls. Consider using Proximity GSM alarms: these are battery operated motion sensor alarms which can alert designated mobile phones when motion activity has been detected around the tank. CCTV can be set up to watch over an isolated tank and may be a

deterrent. Defensive planting is nature's way of helping reduce crime: thieves will not want to fight their way through or over a thorny hedge.

Again as we come into the colder darker nights, it's a good time to check shed security. Use of tamper-proof screws or coach bolts, together with a good quality pad bar or hasp and staple and close shackled padlock, this will make it harder for the would-be thief. It is also a good idea to bond in any window glass with mastic to prevent easy removal. Ensure all tools and equipment are locked away when not in use. High-quality locks should be used on doors. Windows can be fitted with a grille or, as a cheaper alternative, chicken wire, to slow a thief down. A shed alarm can also be installed. Postcoding or indelibly marking all property such as lawnmowers, bikes, and tools using ultra-violet pens, forensic marking such as Selecta DNA, Smartwater or engravers, and installing security lighting and planting thorny shrubs to act as a barrier at potential access points would also help.

We can be contacted on BanburyRuralNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk or on 101.

**PCSO Lana Smith and
PCSO Jayne Langford**



Mallams
1788

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FARMERS' MARKET

FINGER FOOD

Even without lockdown I suspect a lot of us will be spending time curled up on the sofa in front of the TV. This is the comfort food you'll need – a sweet and extremely tactile supper from Nigel Slater's *The Kitchen Diaries*.

Sweet and Sticky Chicken Wings

Serves 2–3

12 chicken wings (about 600g)

2 heaped tablespoons of grain mustard

1 heaped tablespoon of runny honey

1 large juicy lemon (producing about 5 tablespoons juice)

3 large cloves of garlic

Preheat the oven to 220C/Gas 7. Remove any stray feathers from the chicken wings (tweezers or blowtorch work best) and put them in a roasting tin.

Mix the mustard and honey with the juice from the lemon. Peel and crush the garlic and add to the honey



mixture with a grind of pepper and salt.

Toss the wings in the honey mixture and roast for forty minutes, by which time they should have taken a healthy colour. Turn the wings over and roast for a further ten minutes. They should now be intensely dark and sticky.

Eat with your fingers as soon as they are cool enough, perhaps with a crunchy salad and a beer or a glass of red wine.

The market is scheduled for Saturday 28 November. This is traditionally the market to place your Christmas orders. Check the market website <http://www.deddingtonfarmersmarket.co.uk/> for location and details and COVID advice.

Ian Willox

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WINE TIME

Sometimes a wine merchant recommends a wine sounds too good to be true. A good red Burgundy from a young vintage at an affordable price – £15.95? I went for it, bought two bottles and hats off to Slurp in Banbury for a remarkable find. Their Manoir du Carra Bougogne 2019 is a lovely wine and a great example of young, fresh Burgundy with cherry and strawberry fruits and gentle, balanced tannins. It was lovely. I mostly stopped buying red Burgundy (one of my favourite reds) some years ago as prices went stratospheric, so this was a real treat. Smaller independent wine merchants are in a constant search for new wines as the large and famous merchants and supermarkets snap up quality new wines and take over the supply. It's one of the reasons going to smaller merchants can lead to great discoveries.

The wine above is significant as we are approaching Christmas and the annual discussion about what to drink with turkey. My view has always been Pinot Noir is perfect. It matches not only the slightly gamey flavours of the bird but also the cranberry sauce and other traditional trimmings that come with it. Away from France there are excellent Pinots from New Zealand, Chile, South Africa and the USA. If you are looking for an interesting treat, and happy to pay a bit more, Lemelson's Thea's Selection 2016 is a full flavoured Pinot from the Willamette Valley in Oregon USA, at £22.00 from the Wine Society.

If Pinot isn't your thing try Cru Beaujolais as an alternative for Christmas lunch. Made from the Gamey grape they produce rich, fruity, reds, but with lower tannins than Cabernet Sauvignon/Merlot/Syrah-based



wines. They go by the names: Saint-Amour; Juliéna; Chéna; Moulin-à-Vent; Fleurie; Chiroubles; Morgon; Régnié; Brouilly; and Côte de Brouilly. You may not see Beaujolais on the label as producers want to differentiate themselves from Beaujolais Villages and Beaujolais Nouveau. These are widely available and should be around £12 to £25 for good examples.

If you are going to go for a white with your turkey, then search out one with plenty of strong flavours. Lighter or more delicate wines will get swamped by the meal as will most champagnes and sparkling wines. Try richer Chardonnays, Pinot Gris or a Chenin Blanc, all of which should have enough depth of flavour not to get drowned out by the food. Majestic sell Catena Chardonnay at £11.99 from Argentina, Single Vision Chenin Blanc at £9.99 from South Africa, and Mt Difficulty 'Roaring Meg' Pinot Gris at £13.99 from New Zealand – all worth experimenting with.

Lastly, an appeal to discover the wonders of sweet wines to accompany Christmas pudding, or whatever delight you choose at the end of the meal. Sweet reds, like Banyuls, go fantastically well (Waitrose and a few other wine merchants sell it, but not the supermarkets), as do Sauternes, Monbazillac, Tokai from Hungary, and Sweet Muscat (Rutherglen) from Australia. So often overlooked, they are also good with cheese and frequently available in half bottles. These glorious but underrated wines are worth the money as you only need a small glass each.

Charles.elvin@btopenworld.com

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DEDDINGTON DEVELOPMENT WATCH

WHITE PAPER 'PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE'

The Government is proposing the greatest shake-up of planning laws in over 70 years. The present planning control system would be replaced by a zoning system with three types of zone: growth areas, renewal areas and protected areas.

Growth areas would be deemed to have outline planning permission. There would be a presumption in favour of development in renewal areas. Current planning permission procedures, with the ability for the public to comment on individual planning applications, would only be retained in the case of protected areas, such as conservation areas and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Zones will be determined by local planning authorities (eg Cherwell District Council) through a streamlined local plan process with limited community engagement (just one six-week consultation).

It seems that neighbourhood plans are to be retained, but may be limited to dealing with design matters.

It is to be expected that Deddington (apart from the Conservation Area), Clifton and Hempton would be designated as a renewal area 'suitable for development', with the risk of unconstrained housing development around the village edges.

Draft legislation is to be tabled later in the year and considered during the 2020–21 parliamentary session. In the meantime there is a lot of uncertainty.

The proposals have been described as an assault on local democracy and the principle of 'Localism'. Local people would in large measure lose the ability to have a say over the quantity and quality of development and to hold their locally elected representatives to account.

Proposed new method of calculating housing numbers

The Government is also proposing changes to the way local housing need is to be calculated in future.

Allocations to local authorities are to be based not on where future growth might be best located or where need is greatest, but on relative house prices. The higher local house prices, the more houses you will have to build.

Housing numbers will be imposed top-down by the government on local authorities using a controversial algorithm.

The net result would be that rural areas will be required to build significantly more houses while urban areas will be given reduced allocations. This has already attracted a lot of adverse comment as reported in the media.

It has been calculated that the housebuilding allocation for Cherwell District under the new algorithm would rise from 756 houses a year to 1,305 new houses a year, an increase of 549 (72.6%).

'Have your Say'

If you feel that the proposed government planning reforms would significantly undermine local democracy, result in over-development and risk spoiling the countryside, please write with your concerns to our MP, Victoria Prentis, at victoria.prentis.mp@parliament.uk.

The key issues that you may wish to mention are:

- the imposition of unrealistic and unacceptable top-down housing numbers;
- the loss of local democracy and ability to comment on individual planning applications;
- threat to the countryside, green spaces and key views;
- impact of over-development on all types of infrastructure (eg traffic, schools, drainage, Market Place parking).

Links to the government proposals may be found on the Deddington Development Watch website,

Deddington Development Watch
deddingtondevelopmentwatch@hotmail.com
<http://www.deddington.org.uk/community/deddingtondevelopmentwatch>

FRIENDS OF DAEDA'S WOOD

The Wood is constantly changing as the seasons progress. This month it should be spectacular after frosts: cobwebs, spiders' webs and seed heads provide the structure for nature's artistry. If you have your camera or phone on standby you might even snap deer wandering through.

I referred to Sylvie Nickel's recent funeral last month and flowers have been laid at the northern entrance at the foot of a tree planted to honour her husband's memory. I'll ensure the removal of any inorganic litter from the flowers.

The Woodland Trust has now replaced the bench just off the gravel path which had deteriorated. It is beside the wildflower meadow facing a meander in

the river, a perfect place to sit quietly and observe the river life and fields on the opposite bank. The bench has a dedication plaque. The Woodland Trust can give details of how to donate if you look on their website.

The preparation of the second edition of *A Diary of Daeda's Wood* is in hand and an online version of the first edition is now available at http://www.deddingtonhistory.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/16863/DiaryDaedasWood.pdf.

For further information about the Friends of Daeda's Wood please contact me.

Annette Murphy, Chair
murphyannette74@gmail.com

CHURCH AND CHAPEL

November

Services are taking place in Deddington church with a reduced capacity due to Covid-19 restrictions. Hygiene and social distancing precautions are in place. Services continue to be streamed live. Regretfully the toilets will remain closed until further notice. The church will be open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 9.15am to 5.00pm, Wednesday from 10.45am to 5.00pm and Sunday from 11.45am to 5.00pm. All are welcome to come in to pray, to simply sit and be, or to explore this wonderful building.

Mon–Fri	8.45am	Morning Prayer
Wed	10.00am	Holy Communion
Sun 1	10.30am	Holy Communion for All Saints
	6.00pm	<i>All Souls, no congregation, but live streamed online and recorded</i>
Sun 8	8.00am	BCP Communion (Note back to usual time for this month only)
	10.50am	<i>Remembrance will not be in church this year but will be at the war memorial</i>

Sun 15	10.30am	Holy Communion
	6.00pm	Choral Evensong
Sun 22	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sun 29	10.30am	Holy Communion

Advent Carols: there will be two services on Saturday and Sunday evening to avoid exceeding the capacity of the church with Covid-19 restrictions in place.

Sat 28	6.00pm	Advent Carol Service
Sun 29	6.00pm	Advent Carol Service

From the Parish Register

Funeral

14 September Winifred Holt

For pastoral care, funerals and prayer requests, please contact the vicar, Revd Annie Goldthorp at vicar@deddingtonchurch.org or on 01869 336880. If the vicar is unavailable, then please contact one of the church wardens, Iain Gillespie 01869 338367 or Meriel Flux 01869 338901.

RC Parish of Hethe

St John's Church in Banbury will be streaming Mass daily at 9.30am, Monday to Friday; 10.00am on Saturdays and 11.15am on Sundays on <https://www.mcnmedia.tv/camera/st-john-the-evangelist-banbury>. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be streamed for 30 minutes at the end of each weekday Mass.



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*Committee on Climate Change, February 2019

<https://www.deddington.org.uk/>

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DOWN ON GEORGE'S FARM



As we are now officially into winter, what happened to the mellow fruitfulness of autumn? None of the warm balmy post-harvest days that I look forward to for getting the last extraction of honey off and the bees safely tucked up in bed for the winter.

According to the experts Oxfordshire has been the wettest county in the country this autumn, receiving a 148% more rain than the same period as last year. The river has burst its banks on a number of occasions, flooding the sheep off their grazing, but the water problems have not stopped with just wet meadows. Our arable fields are now so wet that it is almost impossible for the soil to carry the tractor and drill to get next year's crops planted and some will have to be left in the hope that we can get them planted in the spring.

Wet fields are not my only bugbear at the moment as the saga of overflowing ditches and blocked village drains rumbles on, with yet another meeting with a different bod from Highways who will, as the rest have, disappear like a water vole up a drain once they realise that it is their responsibility to repair the drain under the pavement which collapsed when OCC Highways extended the pavement at the request of the village residents' committee. We have had surface water running down the main street every time it rains ever since. Although the sight of surface water has caused consternation to some, no properties have been flooded or damaged as the floodwater follows the lie of the land and runs down the Drove Lane and drains on to my sheep meadows washing the sheep off their grazing.

We now have the trade agreement with the EU and the USA to contend with. All I can advise is that you look at the label and buy local as there is no telling where in the world it came from to fill the supermarket shelves.

As we head into winter and crash towards Christ-

mas, our over-wintering visitors have begun to arrive, a little later than normal, as it has been an 'open back-end'. We allow the hedgerows to grow up and thicken out and they are carrying a heavy crop of berries which the visiting fieldfare and redwings are tucking into on their way south on their journey to southern Europe and North Africa before making the return trip to breed next spring. Another bird making good use of the visiting hordes is a female peregrine falcon. She is a young bird, one of a brood of three hatched in an old crow's nest in the tall cricket bat willows on the meadows and with any luck she will stay around and bring off her own brood next year.

Another of my wildlife interests is moths and I have been involved with Oxford University and the national insect research centre to record the moths on the farm. This year there has been a distinct reduction in the numbers of the larger moth species coming to my light traps but we have had a pretty awful summer and autumn with heavily waterlogged soils and, as most of these moths pupate in the ground, conditions have been difficult for them.

Bob, the trainee sheepdog, is showing a lot of promise and has already learnt that sheep have hard heads. Something I am glad to say has not put him off. I have had a number of good sheep dogs over the years and sadly we lost Sam a week or two ago. He was 15 and had been on the farm from the time he was a puppy. He had the trick of letting a ewe charge him and just before the ewe got to him would go flat on the floor so the sheep had to jump over him and, before she could recover, had her in the rear end. Not the ideal situation but with a hard head backed up by 80kg of sheep on four legs who could blame him?

After the devastation brought on by the local badger population, it's time for a rethink on how we manage the bees. We have an old four-wheeled trailer which has not been used for some time, needs a new set of tyres, and the bed is shot but we have a lot of wire mesh sheets which will be fitted to carry the hives and a new apiary of 18 hives put together that can be worked off the ground, well that's the theory, ho hum

George Fenemore
01869 338203

NEWS FROM HEMPTON

Where did October go?

Not much has been going on in our quiet little village, apart from people not picking up their dog poo. Please could we all do our bit to keep our village clean and tidy as there is no excuse for this? Thank you.

I have really enjoyed my time doing the write-up for the *Deddington News*, but it is now the turn of Stuart

to take over. If you have anything you want to include in our write-up, please let Stuart know by the 10th of each month. Thank you.

Ingrid Robey
Stuart Oldham
sj_oldham@btinternet.com

POSTCARD FROM AMERICA

MAGA, Money and the Forgotten Many

I guess it was predictable. The President was infected with the virus and then blamed it on meetings with families of dead soldiers. In total, 35 people were infected in this local outbreak in the centre of government and they didn't even do any contact tracing. Covid cases are rising rapidly in the US. This weekend we have new limits in Colorado on gatherings of more than five people, but the good news is that I can stop worrying soon. The election is due very shortly.

I was on a call to someone in Michigan last week who said 'Sweden had the right idea'. It's a commonly heard point, but this gentleman had never been to Sweden, didn't know any Swedes and, like many, is getting his information from F&F (Fox and Facebook). I explained that unlike America there are many countries where the government is admired, where people listen to instructions. In these countries when the chief scientist says, 'Mask up and stay two metres apart', they do it.

In Michigan they strap a gun to their backs and turn up outside the Governor's office to tell her exactly what she can do with her instructions. Then they sneak into a basement with the local militia and work on a plan to kidnap her.

Yesterday I listened to a podcast which was interviewing Trump supporters in Pennsylvania. A factory worker said 'Trump understands and supports us working people.' I understand why rich people will vote for Trump. The only significant legislation he has passed gave millionaires huge tax cuts. I understand why a lot of business leaders vote for Trump. He halved their corporation tax and is rolling back compliance and environmental legislation which makes it easier to make a buck and not worry about the consequences.

Friends of Castle Grounds

Apple scrumping has happened again. This time a man with two children and armed with a ladder and two large bags was seen at Castle Grounds and stripped the trees of the apples. A passerby took a photo of this in progress. May we suggest the thief might like to make a donation to the Castle Grounds fund?

The AGM did not take place this year due to the pandemic so it has been decided that the three officers will remain for the next twelve months.

Most of the remedial work has been put on hold for the time being but will be planned in the near future when permitted.

Extra bins have been put in place but, if possible, please take your rubbish home with you.

Castle Grounds look spectacular at this time of year with all the lovely autumn colours. Come and enjoy while the trees are still in leaf.

Carol Garrett
cgarrett@btinternet.com

But the top 1% of Americans now own more than the bottom 90% put together. The working classes have been ignored and Trump offers them solace. They are fed up with the fat cats lining their pockets in Washington. The estimate is that \$4bn a year is spent on lobbying politicians, and \$11bn will go into this election, but those spending these enormous sums aren't looking for a return that will benefit that man in Pennsylvania. An article I read last week said that Trump's supporters 'are submissive, fearful, and longing for a mighty leader who will protect them from life's threats.' Make America Great Again.

This is Trump's universe, at least partially appealing to the racists, the forgotten, the selfish and the dreamers. They want him to make it all be great again, an emotional fix not attached to reality or facts.

On 3 November the country will decide whether it is going to move forward as a rational player in the modern world, not leading, but joining. And then perhaps I will be able to sleep properly again and concentrate on worrying about Covid. But don't expect me to make a prediction this time. I got both the last election and Brexit wrong and I didn't even put money on my beloved Leicester City winning the Premier League.

Mike Ward
Mikew@qsoftware.com

2021
PARISH CALENDAR
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'must-have gift'

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DEDDINGTON ENVIRONMENT NETWORK

Thanks to everyone who visited our refill station at the last couple of farmers' markets to fill up their bottles of washing-up liquid, laundry liquid, fabric conditioner and all-purpose cleaner or to drop off spare empty bottles. Several of you commented on how cost effective it was and how much you like the SESI products. We love them too as they are made locally by a company based in Oxford which refills our big containers so, not only are we all helping to reduce plastic use, we are also minimising transport miles. We were also impressed by the range of bottles people brought to the refill station. They don't have to be plastic – gin, anyone? Also don't forget you can order your supplies from the Banbury Zero Waste shop's website, <https://www.refillnotlandfill.co.uk/>, and have them delivered to our stall for collection at the market.

We have been asked about the focus of our work. Over the last few months we've been generating debate about local environmental initiatives that we would like everyone to be engaged with, whether in energy, transport, biodiversity or resource efficiency. We are a Community Interest Company, made up of volunteers from Deddington and the surrounding area, and we would love you to become involved in any way you can, whether it's coming up with new project ideas, helping us to apply for funding, assisting at the refill station, or sharing your views on making life in our community more sustainable and environmentally friendly.

Supporting biodiversity has led DEN to consider the merits of a community orchard. Half of all pear and two-thirds of apple orchards have disappeared since the 1970s and 45% of remaining ones may be under threat and it's a similar story for plum and cherry orchards. From the once incredible 2,000 plus varieties of apples grown in this country, including our Deddington Pippin, only a handful of different ones are commonly available in our shops. Orchards can be fantastic for wildlife too, providing homes for a range of different creatures such as butterflies, bumblebees, birds such as owls and woodpeckers, bats and rare beetles. A consultation on whether you would like a community orchard and, if so, where, is live online until 9 November, but you can still get paper copies until 16 November from the Flower Shop and the Unicorn pub or email us for a copy. We want to hear your views, whether you support the idea or not.

Please log on to <https://www.streetbank.com/splash?locale=en-GB> to borrow or share an item with a neighbour. Let us know if you'd like to test out local car-sharing on <https://turo.com/gb/en> and look on our website for a compilation of repairs of small electrical items, furniture, lampshades, metal items and more.

Contact us with your ideas.

The DEN Team

<http://www.deddingtonenvironment.net/>
info@deddingtonenvironment.net

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Website: www.stepsdeddington.co.uk

DEDDINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

School is running as well as possible this term with the ongoing situation we are still in. Our pupils are enjoying new topics and learning now they are back with their friends every day, within their own bubbles. Children in F1 are continuing to do well and have settled well into the routine of school life.

Several of our pupils are runners who show perseverance in all aspects of sport. A decision was made for us to enter the London Mini-Marathon. All classes are taking part and by half-term, each child will have run the equivalent of 2.6 miles. The children are gradually increasing the number of laps they run around the field, until they've each reached their goal.

As part of our focus on remembrance this year, the children will be making poppies to display in classroom windows. If you pass the school in early November, have a look across at our windows.

Reverend Annie has delivered some online assemblies which we have watched and the children have enjoyed seeing her, particularly at a time when Annie cannot come into school and we cannot visit the church.

We hope everyone enjoys a rest. over half-term

Denise Welch
dwe13954@deddington.oxon.sch.uk

BLISSFUL THINKING

It's infinitely intriguing how our minds make order of the chaos of faces and names we accumulate during our lives. When you were at school and happened to chance upon a teacher dressed in casual clothes making their way around the supermarket at the weekend, it was like a glitch in the matrix. Teachers were characters that appeared during the school day, they weren't supposed to be three-dimensional people who had lives outside their particular role in the real world.

It occurred to me that when I refer to kids I knew from school, I actually refer to them in the past tense as people entirely, rather than just people I used to know and who are likely still living somewhere else as adults. Seeing them only sporadically makes you almost view some acquaintances as soap opera characters who are not given life until we notice them again. I don't know about you, but I also regularly forget names of new acquaintances, until there is something memorable about their appearance or actions. If somebody tells me they were once a conjoined twin or possess a rare collection of snakes, this interesting information then gives something of a visual paperclip to their name, as most strong memories are formed from emotional visual responses. As to be expected amongst seven billion other similar animals, there is a spectrum of cognitive aptitudes and, indeed, there are rare sorts referred to as 'super recognisers'; able

to retain thousands of faces (and so, presumably, names too) they have come across, maybe just once from many years prior, as well as prosopagnosiacs, who may not be able to even recognise the face of their spouse or their own reflection.

Anyway, there are small things we can do to eliminate those awkward moments where you cannot recall a name you need to use in these times: could everybody please have their name printed on their face mask from now on? Thanks in advance.



Aaron Bliss
aaronjbliss@hotmail.com



As we continue to adjust to life in the time of Covid and the restrictions it places on all our regular

Windmill hirers – at least those who have been able to resume their activities (many haven't) – we've been trying to think a bit more laterally about how we could use our facilities. One idea is to offer the Clifton room – our newly refurbished meeting space – as an alternative to home working. Equipped with robust free wifi, modern office furniture, central heating and bathed in natural light, could these quiet surroundings be a more attractive proposition than, say, a laptop balanced precariously on the kitchen table? We are working out the details, but if you're stuck at home and are interested in an alternative space to work in, please get in touch.

Outside, we have the old bowls pavilion next to the adventure playground. This is crying out to be repurposed – a venue for kids' parties, a meeting point for Scouts, Guides and other uniformed groups, or refreshments for parents watching football matches? We are currently in discussions with the parish council to see what might be done. Any ideas will be gratefully received.

On another topic, we would like to say a massive thank you to Jenny Spencer who has been a cleaner at the Windmill since 1997. We are very grateful for all her hard work over the years. No more early starts Jenny! Enjoy your retirement.

As always, for further information and updates on what is, or isn't, going on at the Windmill, please check our website at www.thewindmilleddington.org or look us up on Facebook. Stay well everyone.

Vaughan Jones
vaughan@englishlanguagematters.com

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News from Clifton

Welcome to Chris, Imogen and dog. They, or Chris at least, has met three Book Club members already (although they completely overlooked mentioning it) but he will be welcome and all he needs do is give his mobile number to Iron Man Mayo and he will receive the agenda, venue, timings and a whole barrage of persiflage (Google it). Email me Chris and I'll pass it on. Of course the Clifton Ladies Sports Club awaits Imogen. Sadly there are no details on the dog (rumour has it there might be two) but they miss this special column. An addendum next month can take care of this if you let me know.

We've been getting down with some junkanoo recently. As all you hipsters know it's the style of music from the (fairly) recent hit *Who Let the Dogs Out* by the Baha Men because someone down here certainly has. We have Paul and Joe's new friend for Maximus and Lucius, the bulldogs. She's called Pepper and is a mastiff who recently enjoyed both the pub on her first trip out and Guinness as she became the Book Club mascot. Naomi and Chris have a border collie called

Bob. It isn't known but is assumed that this will be a working dog pretty soon. And finally, the Mayos have a 12 week old Nova Scotia duck tolling retriever. She is ginger but then we are not short of them down here (with one recent addition apparently) and mighty glad we all are too.

Finally some of us have enjoyed seeing the fruits of the Bamford family business working in our midst, creating what has been described as a Japanese garden (... although that might have been a stab at humour). For those few of you who don't know, the Bamfords make JCBs and one has been excavating the garden of Four Winds as that much-loved house gets its long needed make over and modernisation by our resident architect Aric. It's going to be epic.

As usual, if you have more news then send it to me as happened this month – thanks for that. It saved me the bother of making this all up which I'm happy to do if it entertains anyone for five minutes as we fear how these strange times will pan out.

Martin Bryce
martindnbryce@gmail.com

In Remembrance

The 75th anniversaries of VE and VJ day have reminded us all of the huge debt that we owe to those who fought in the two world wars and, especially, to those who lost their lives.

The sacrifices were enormous. Seventy men from Deddington were killed in the First World War and 13 in the Second. In 1914 the number of men of enlistment age in our parish was only about 220. The death of a third of them must have been devastating for their families.

Those of us who are not Deddington born will also have lost relatives in the two world wars so it is right that we should all pause once a year to reflect on their sacrifice as, indeed, several hundred of us have been doing in recent years.

Sadly, owing to the coronavirus, we will not be able to hold this simple but moving ceremony this year. However, there are positive developments to report. This spring a properly surfaced footpath was



constructed from the memorial to the main door of the church. Our thanks go to the British Legion, the parish council and the church itself which shared the cost between them. Our thanks also go to Iain Gillespie, the church warden, who organised it all.

We also now have a wide and fully resurfaced pathway from Castle Street to the entrance to the memorial. We have Richard Spencer to thank most warmly for constructing this new pathway and donating it to the village. As many readers will know, three generations of Richard's family have worked in the building trade in Deddington and he now runs his own building firm

based in our village.

Finally, this is an opportunity to thank the group of volunteers who do so much to make the churchyard itself such a peaceful and pleasant part of our village.

Andrew Green
afgreen@btconnect.com

LETTERS

FROM CINDY AND ANDRÉ,
CLIFTON

We'd like to send our sincere thanks to Naomi and Chris Fenemore of Home Farm, Clifton, for everything they've done and continue to do, for the community. Naomi has worked wonders to ensure that we've had an uninterrupted supply of essentials, even managing to procure some of the items that suffered the most severe shortages in the early stages of the pandemic.

In addition, we've really enjoyed the fascinating information sheets around the farm, explaining all that's going on. Feeding dandelions (his favourite) to Spotty the ram has been a delight.

Home Farm has been a great boon in these difficult times. Thanks for all you do for us.

FROM ROB FORSYTH, DEDDINGTON

The Atom Bombs

Philip Allan and I have had an interesting and friendly debate about the atom bombs. My attention has subsequently been drawn to the *The US Strategic Bombing Survey* commissioned in November 1944 by the US government, of which Philip may also not have been aware. This was a wide ranging report by a US/Anglo team of impartial and respected authorities which was published after war end – 208 volumes for Europe and another 108 for the Pacific. The section seeking an answer to our question concluded: 'Based on a detailed investigation of all the facts, and supported by the testimony of the surviving Japanese leaders involved, it is the Survey's opinion that, certainly prior to 31 December 1945, and in all probability prior to 1 November 1945, Japan would have surrendered even if the atomic bombs had not been dropped, even if Russia had not entered the war, and even if no invasion had been planned or contemplated.' So the debate rolls on but *DN* readers may be relieved to know we will do so outside the pages of the *DN*.

The circumstances surrounding the atom bombings and its subsequent justification are just one of the reasons that have caused me to change my views about nuclear deterrence since my days in the Polaris force. I now believe, as Philip alluded to in his article, that the UK should unilaterally give up its nuclear weapons. Philip shares this opinion.

FROM KEITH RITCHIE, DEDDINGTON

I have been following the correspondence regarding the American decision to end the Pacific war by dropping the atom bomb on Japan in August 1945.

Apart from the fact that this is rather a curious topic for a village magazine, the debate cannot really be resolved at this date; it all depends on one's point of view.



The American literary critic, Paul Fussell, entered the debate in the 1980s.

As a young infantry lieutenant, he had fought up through France and into Germany. When the bomb was dropped on Hiroshima his unit was then in transit from France to join Operation Olympic, the American assault on Japan.

He discovered later that they were to be shipped to the Philippines and from there in March 1946 to assault the Japanese island of Honshu. The earlier landings on Kyushu were to have been carried out in November 1945 by the 700,000 troops already in the Pacific.

The American army anticipated the fighting in Japan to last until November 1946 by which time, they calculated, they would have suffered more than a million casualties.

The Japanese had a pre-invasion song, 'One Hundred Million Souls for the Emperor'. The casualties they were prepared to suffer can only be imagined.

The subject of Lieutenant Fussell's 1988 essay was 'Thank God for the Atom Bomb'.

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From the Fire Station

We have found ourselves out and about a little more this month with nine call-outs: one fire, one alarm, five standbys and two RTC rescues. The alarm proved false as it was caused by a rather embarrassed couple vaping where they shouldn't but better safe than sorry.

The two RTC calls were vastly different. The first found us rushing out of the station on blues only to be stood down before we reached Adderbury. For the second, we were part of a four pump shout to junction 12 of the M40 to help with an RTC involving two HGVs with one driver trapped. Deddington provided support, lighting and traffic safety. Kidlington's rescue tender was also in attendance and provided an elevated platform to allow specialist cutting equipment to operate at cab height to speed up casualty extraction and also helped the ambulance crew in attendance to administer critical care to the driver whose legs were trapped. Unfortunately, several of the passing cars, rather than

continue past and keep traffic flowing decided to slow down and film the accident – appalling behaviour.

Interestingly, whilst preparing for an evening pumping from open water drill, down at Daeda's Wood, we received a fire call which proved to be a controlled burn in the open. By the time we returned to the drill exercise it was dark, adding an extra dimension to the exercise. And despite the shallow water by the bridge, we were able to pump water over 100 meters to the fire truck and out onto the fields via a main jet.

Regarding training, Ben Fenemore has indeed passed his basic training and has had his first two shouts; and Adrian Spilsbury has passed his BA team leader exam practical and can finally take those diamonds off his helmet.

James Greenwood FFD
james@cyclogicalshop.co.uk

DOL History Corner

deddingtonhistory.uk

The WWI Battlefield grave marker crosses in the church are a moving reminder of the Deddington men who sacrificed their lives in all wars on our behalf. I have recently discovered there may be an untold story as to how our crosses were recovered. A new website, <http://thereturned.co.uk/>, now maps the location of over 550 other similar grave markers (twenty-two in one location) across Great Britain and further afield. The Home page provides a full account of the background to the original battlefield burials and there is a location list of all the grave markers in their records. Look for St Peter and St Paul, Deddington, under Oxfordshire and click on the link. You will find somewhat fuller details than in *A Parish at War* because it includes details of the fighting in which each death occurred.

Ruth O'Quigley has left comments on the website

saying that the three Hancox brothers were her grand-uncles and her grandfather was their brother, Arthur James, who was the only one of the four to survive the war. Intriguingly she also says 'In 1928 their father went to France with other men from Deddington to look for the graves. They found the crosses of Walter David and Albert Edward but no cross for William Rufus.' So there is perhaps a story to be told of this trip to France and the sad search they undertook across what would still have been a very bleak battlefield landscape. Her last post was in February this year. If anyone knows how to contact Ruth please tell her I would very much like to be in touch.

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

PARISH COUNCIL *Continued from p2*

Large scale planning:

Land to the west of Wimborn Close, 14 houses, re-consultation. An extension beyond the deadline of 4 November until after the next PC meeting is being requested.

A meeting with Thames Water in Clifton clarified their ownership of the infrastructure. It is apparent that OCC does not intend to carry out any remedial work on the drain damaged by the installation of a footpath outside Home Farm. This issue has been ongoing for several years. PC decided to follow the formal complaints procedure.

Environment and Recreation

Allotment rents and water will remain the same.

The Windmill Centre management committee is still opposed to the installation of a gate across the driveway. There was lengthy discussion on the pros and cons of installing a gate on the advice of the police and OCC Traveller Unit.

PC and sports clubs contracts are now available for signature.

Continued on p17

CALLING ALL CLUBS

Photographic Society

In October we welcomed ex-member, Scott Hurd, who now lives in Namibia, to give a Zoom presentation. It was a whistle stop tour of the country using Scott's archive photographs of the diverse areas; vast desert as well as unspoilt beaches and the green Caprivi Strip where the rivers Okavango, Zambesi and Kwando flow through to neighbouring countries. We saw fascinating street shots showing everyday life, as well as stunning wildlife shots including meerkats, hippos and all manner of birds. The lack of cloud cover ensured stunning sunsets and Scott would usually shoot with a subject in the foreground to create an interesting silhouette. For the wildlife shots he used aperture priority because of the movement and light exposure thus allowing him to concentrate on the animal's behaviour to create an appealing image. It was a wonderful trip down memory lane for some members who had visited five years ago for a photographic tour and it was a great evening with lots of banter and discussion from members about life in Namibia and the beautiful locations. It was a fantastic escape from rainy Oxfordshire. Scott's delightful images can be viewed on www.h4urd.co.uk; well worth a look.

Scott supports a charity, Snap Africa, that supplies camera equipment and training to Namibians. The society donated and spoke about donating unwanted camera equipment to Snap Africa.

Keep checking our website for the latest information about upcoming presentations, how to join us and members' workshops that run during the month. Following Covid 19 guidelines, some members have taken part in a variety of workshops on portraiture

at Broughton Castle, the Milky Way at the Rollright Stones, and a fun session in a field at Cropredy making light trails with torches and glow sticks.

Anne Hunsley
www.addphoto.co.uk

Book Group

Our book choice for October was *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry* by Rachel Joyce.

Harold's pilgrimage does indeed seem most unlikely at first. A very ordinary man in an apparently loveless marriage, he makes a spur of the moment decision to walk from his home in South Devon to a hospice in Northumberland where his old friend, Queenie, is dying. The physical challenge proves extremely arduous, made more difficult by his complete lack of distance-walking experience, suitable clothing or footwear. However, it provides the time and space for reflection on the difficulties and sadness in his past.

Alternate chapters describe Harold's progress and the agitated feelings of his wife, Maureen. There is a painful emotional force in the story but it is not grim reading. Chance encounters result in surprising conversations and great kindness from strangers. Bleak memories from the past are tempered by other happier times and occasional gentle humour. There are also lovely descriptions of the places and landscapes on his journey. We found it a gripping and enjoyable book.

Our next book is *Olive Kitteridge* by Elizabeth Strout. Please contact Sally Lambert on 01869 338094 for more information.

Sian Waterman

SPORT

Deddington Tennis Club

We're not letting the increasingly autumnal weather stop us. We are open all year round and courts are available to book for members and non-members. We continue to monitor the Covid-secure guidelines set by the LTA and there is now a QR code on the gate so players can check in to the venue with the NHS track and trace app.

Our junior sessions are going from strength to strength – this term we have had to add sessions due to increased demand. Our U12, U14 and U16 teams are also now in action in the Oxfordshire Winter League where we had a lot of success last year and are hoping to defend our titles.

For the adults, there are two weekly round robin all play sessions, three adult group coaching sessions per week at different levels and we have a record number of teams playing in the winter leagues now underway.

If you would like further information about coaching, please contact Paul, our head coach, on paultaylor@deddingtontennisclub.org.uk

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SPORT*Continued from p14*

nis@hotmail.co.uk. For further information about our other activities, to become a member or book a court, please go to our website www.deddingtontennis.com.

We hope to see you on court, at a safe 2m distance of course, very soon.

Becky Jones

Deddington Ladies Netball

As an 'organised sport' ladies netball is still allowed to meet, so we are playing as usual on the all-weather pitch at the Windmill 7.15–8.15pm on Wednesdays. We'll keep playing until the end of November. It's pay as you go and everyone is very welcome. New players can contact me.

Sophie Cameron 07812 739978

Deddington Town Football Club*First Team results:*

26.09.20 Swis FC (a) W 7–2

03.10.20 Charlton & District (h) L 2–6

10.10.20 Halse United (h) L 1–4

Reserve Team results:

19.09.20 B Itchington Res (n)(CUP)W 3–1 Ward (2),
Catania (pen)

26.09.20 Wroxton Sports Res (a) L 3–4

03.10.20 Graven Hill 1st Team (a) L 1–2

10.10.20 AFC Arncoth (a) W 6–3

Sound a bugle for glory! The Reserves (also known henceforth as Deddington Athletic, surely a misnomer) have claimed some silverware. In this strangest of times, the opening competitive game of the season for the Athletic was actually the Geoff Wilson Cup final from 2019–20, and they did the business with two goals from Tom Ward and a penalty for Luca Catania. Lavish them with libations and love, for they have staked their claims for places in Deddington annals of sporting conquest. Sadly, there was an element of after the Lord Mayor's show in the opening 2020–21 batch of games, but a big victory over Arncoth will hopefully kick-start a promising season to some. The First Team opened with a thumping win, but sadly have had their pants pulled down and their backsides handed to them twice since. Even in the era of Covid, the two Deddington sides just can't seem to keep their sheets clean.

Aaron Bliss 07909 642882

YOUTH**1st Deddington Scout Group***Cubs and Scouts*

Well, sorry to say we're still unable to meet face to face and I'm struggling to get to grips with Zoom but I hope I'll soon sort it out and we'll be able to see our old (a little older) friends again. Stay patient.

Jo Churchyard deddingtoncubs@gmail.com

**Peter Churchyard
deddingtonscouts@gmail.com**

Deddington Town FC Youth

All our teams play in the Witney and District Youth Football League. The Under 14 playing in the A League suffered a 10–0 defeat at Tysoe, followed by a 6–0 home defeat to Bampton Town. This was followed by an impressive 5–2 win at Brackley Town with two goals apiece for James Marrett and Leo Thomas-Lidster. The following week the team lost 5–0 at home to Charlbury Town. The Under 12s playing in the C League had a 3–1 home defeat to Garden City Rangers, followed by a 3–0 win at Farringdon Town with Theo Flint scoring two goals. Since that victory, three defeats have followed: 4–0 away at Bicester Town Pumas, 1–0 at Football Bart Academy, and 7–0 to Easington Sports Reds.

The club supports the FA match day guidelines for U8 to U10 teams to allow the best learning environment for young players. This includes having no A and B sides, allowing players equal time on the pitch, playing in all positions, Power Play and no shouting by coaches from the side-lines.

Under 7s – kit sponsor

As the U7s plan for playing in the league in the 2021–22 season, we are looking for a kit sponsor for the season ahead. If you are a local business which would like to support the club, please contact me.

25 years of Deddington Town FC youth football

The 2020–21 season will see us celebrate 25 years of youth football at Deddington Town Football Club. We are planning an event in summer 2021. If you are a past player or coach and want to get involved, please drop me an email – carsykes@btinternet.com.

Get involved

If you want to get involved with the club as player, volunteer, sponsor or fundraiser, please get in touch. Further information about the club is on our website – www.deddingtontownfc.com or visit us on Facebook www.facebook.com/DeddingtonTownFc.

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

Explorers

After consulting with the Explorers, we are carrying on with our virtual meetings via Zoom. A cautious approach is being taken as we cover four year groups and five schools.

We started back during September after a short break for the leaders. We've listened to the Thames Valley Police forensic talk which gave a topic for discussion but no one wanted to become a forensic

SPORT ————— *Continued from p15*

scientist. Less serious evenings have seen us playing battleships and charades.

We're looking forward to our renewed activity with Street Child United in the next few weeks. Plus, we've been able to help the charity, the Community Action Trust Group, which is assisting old people's homes and orphanages in Zimbabwe, specifically in Bulawayo, by collecting donations of clothing, pharmaceuticals, PPE, cleaning products and jigsaws. We look forward to seeing the progress of the container. If you are interested in joining the Unit contact any of the leaders us on the following email.

Janet Duxbury
spartansexplorers@gmail.com

1st Deddington Brownies

Brownies have been meeting in small groups at the Old Bowling Pavilion at the Windmill Centre, with all activities having been outdoors. Games on the field and basketball court have been popular as well as playing conkers and toasting marshmallows. Next term we hope do a torchlit walk.

Fern Stringer
deddingtonbrownies@gmail.com



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Thank you to everyone who bought a calendar, or two, from our stall at the September farmers' market. Your continued support is very much appreciated. Our prize winners collected their complimentary calendars and our top three received their canvases during the course of the morning. Our Facebook page shows the prize winners who attended. Congratulations to them all and keep on shooting. We will be at each market from now until Christmas but as this year's print run is limited we'd recommend buying them sooner rather than later.

For those asking for an update on the likely date the library will open, we have no date yet for re-opening. Matters are in hand with the volunteers and the library service and we will let them and customers know as soon as we have a date. In the mean time, loan periods have been extended until 2 November when books will need to be returned or renewed. If Deddington isn't open by then, the nearest libraries to return books to are Banbury, Chipping Norton, Kidlington and Bicester. Opening times can be found on the internet under OCC libraries. If you wish to renew them, you can do so online or by telephone to any library that is open. Please do not ring Deddington library as your message will not be acted on. You are still entitled to three renewals. However, if books are not returned or renewed by 2 November, overdue fines will be charged.

Bryn Williams
abw@brynwilliams.com

Tales from the Pump

Enjoying a pint outside the pub has become the norm for many of my customers. Steve kindly pointed out that I needed to install outside heaters so he could stay warm whilst enjoying his pint. I told him about the schoolkids in Germany who've been asked to wear their coats, gloves and hats in lessons because the school was keeping the windows open for a healthy, if chilly, atmosphere. 'What's good for them should be OK for you.' 'That's fine', says Steve, 'but what about my warm British beer – can't have that cooling down.' 'Fair point', says I.

I'm supposed to be the grumpy one in my pub so I get annoyed when the customers start to compete. The problem is I can't sort out their moans. 'Why do I have to wear a mask to go to the loo but not sitting down? Why can't I go to the screen protected till in the pub when I can in a shop? Why do I have to leave the pub at 10pm?' I become the Dad who says to his kids, 'Because Boris says so.'

None of the new regulations appear to have any obvious basis in science. For example, a requirement for table service was introduced – which is expensive to implement and undermines the essential nature of pubs for many people – pubs have now become more like restaurants – not what my customers want when out for a relaxing pint.

I don't envy the government their job in battling this pandemic but inconsistencies lead to people losing faith in the guidance and result in non-compliance.

At the time of writing Deddington is classed in the medium tier for infection rates (not low because there isn't a low tier) and hopefully this will continue, negating the need for a lockdown. Those recommending a national two week shutdown for pubs and restaurants just don't understand how a pub operates, with the need to keep fresh stock, look after employees, and keep serving the customers who have supported the pub through these difficult times.

Keep warm!

Grumpy Landlord
Grumpylandlord1@gmail.com

PFSU AND NURSERY

Our AGM was held via Zoom on 6 October and we were pleased to elect a new committee to take us into next year. Particular thanks were extended to Deedee Irving who is stepping down from the committee after a number of years.

The settings continue to thrive and are running at nearly full capacity. Despite the limitations of the current situation we have enjoyed finding out about autumn, dressing up for Hallowe'en, parachute games, obstacle courses, action songs, glue and paint and many other activities that still make our settings a fun place to be.

Lucy Squires 01869 337484

Plough Horse Tommy Remembered

When carols floated innocence and hope to chilly air
He knelt upon the ground one night
Let go his chords of strength, at last unwound.
We failed to share his ending, out of sight.

No more he'll draw a plough the heavy clay to shift
No more at furrow's end he'll make his dancing turn.
Tackle is laid outside with chains adrift
No more his gift of working days hot blood will earn.

Signature his hoof-prints mark the icy mud,
Worn treasured harness hangs bereft.
He leaves us grieving in his vacant stable,
Solace, those years of memories left.

Man with horse paced time's harmonious toil
Became as one, matched all the riches of the soil.

Maureen Dew

*From a conversation with a man in his nineties who
had grown up alongside farmhorses.*

Escape to Creativity Art Exhibition by Stroke of a Brush

14–15 November at the Deddington Arms

Whether you like photography or art, here is a chance to indulge in the creativity and artistic talent of others.

Brought to you by Stroke of a Brush and a few creative art friends, come and take some time out from all things Covid, 10.00am–5.00pm daily, and indulge in an array of art, from photography, print, seascapes, abstracts, landscapes, children's art, portraits and human form art. Cards and prints will also be available.

Whilst 2020 has been tough for us all, in the creative world it has meant many exhibitions were cancelled. So now things have eased a little, we want to show some artwork, free of charge, and take a moment to appreciate some local talent.

This is a Covid-friendly exhibition and it will require people attending to adhere to government guidelines. Masks, venue check-in, hand sanitisation, social distancing, and one-way systems must be adhered to if you wish to attend.

Jo Cross

hello@strokeofabrush.co.uk

Monthly Advertising Rates

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WELL REMEMBERED

CHRIS FARMAN 1938–2020

Chris Farman died in late May, one of the longest serving members of the North Oxfordshire Villages Labour Party, serving as chair from 2013 to 2019. His funeral took place at the Deddington cemetery with ten mourners. Simon Rigge gave an informal talk, emphasising what a good listener he was, as well as a perfectionist in his work. Simon ended with saying how Chris, with his generous wit and bonhomie, was always the life and soul of any gathering. One of Mary's poems was read out and the short ceremony concluded with Shostakovich's No 7 *Leningrad* symphony.

Chris was a professional journalist and historian, spending most of his life in London and being published in *The Guardian* and other papers and periodicals. He also authored *The General Strike* published in 1972.

After working on *The Illustrated London News* and other magazines, in 1973 he joined the staff of Time-Life books, working as an editor on the *British Empire*, published jointly with the BBC.

Chris and his wife, Mary, moved to Deddington in 2004. In 2014 he became an invaluable member of the Oxford International Brigade Memorial Committee, set up to raise funds for a memorial in St Clements, Oxford, dedicated to the thirty-one men and women who went to Spain to defend the democratically elected Popular Front Republican government during the Civil War 1936–39. He contributed much to the raising of over £30,000 for the memorial, selling IBMT merchandise and providing vital work for the organisation.

With local historians, Valerie Rose and Liz Woolley, he co-authored the popular *No Other Way – Oxfordshire and the Spanish Civil War 1936–39*.

PARISH COUNCIL *Continued from p13*

County Councillor's report

OCC has put together its own test and trace team to support the government system.

OCC income is down and there is a £50m deficit meaning that some things can't be done this year but will be back in next year's budget rather than permanently cut.

Councillor Fatemian still has around £10,000 in his discretionary fund for which applications can be made. Covid-related applications would be a priority. The PC suggested making application for the cost of the street light for the corner of The Daedings.

Highways and Transport

Funding has been obtained for an electric vehicle charging point to be installed at the Windmill Centre.

Funding for electric car charging infrastructure is likely to be given as a priority to main car parks and only for groups of six at a time will be considered. Even with grant funding the PC would have to pay around £2,000. The PC will register interest so as to

Continued on p18

DEDDINGTON ENVIRONMENT NETWORK COMMUNITY ORCHARD SURVEY

The recently formed DEN is a group of local volunteers trying to make life in the parish more environmentally friendly through such projects as its refillable household products stall at the farmers' market, creating a network of people who will repair items to avoid them being thrown away and engaging with other projects such as car sharing.

It is now proposing development of a community orchard. Given Covid-19 restrictions the group is unable to hold a live consultation as to the village's interest in such an orchard and has, instead, placed a short survey on its website <https://www.deddingtonenvironment.net/orchard/> and on Facebook. The online version has a deadline of 9 November. Since not everyone in the village is online or active on social media the *DN*, as the forum for discussion of anything Deddington, has decided to publish the survey in the interests of helping to widen access to the consultation.

Since some of the proposed sites are property falling under its purview, the parish council has asked the DEN to share the results of this survey, which the council will consider at its December meeting, together with any comments made directly to councillors and the council itself.

The following has been taken from the DEN paper survey which I believe is identical to the online option. We can't reproduce their proposal but, if you have access to the internet, this can also be found at <https://www.deddingtonenvironment.net/orchard/>. You can complete this page but you'll have to tear it out of your copy of *DN* (I know!) and it should then be delivered to: Holcome House, High Street, Deddington (where the Holcombe Hotel was) by 16 November.

Name:

Do you live within the parish of Deddington?

Contact details (please provide if you would like us to follow up with you in regards to the initiative)

Are you broadly in favour of the community orchard initiative?

- Yes
- No

5. Which of these are your preferred sites (you can choose more than one):

- Gaveston Green
- Land to the rear of Wimborn Close
- Satin Lane allotments
- Hempton allotments
- Welford's Piece, Clifton

6. Are there other sites that you would like to put forward for consideration?

7. Would you be interested in getting involved with the project (you can tick more than one option):

- Sponsoring a tree
- Helping us take care of the trees and/or harvest the fruit (fruit tree maintenance training provided)
- Undertaking wildlife surveys to monitor site (training provided)
- Attending community events such as apple days
- Being part of an orchard committee

8. Do you have any particular skills (gardening, ecologist, apple pressing etc) or experience that you feel would benefit the work and that you could share with us?

9. If you answered no to question 4, we would really like to understand any misgivings you may have about the project (that are not covered in the project summary and FAQ materials). Please be constructive by suggesting possible solutions or alternatives wherever possible.

PARISH COUNCIL *Continued from p17*

remain informed. Nothing is being proposed without consultation with local residents. This to be discussed at next parish meeting.

A resident's electric car is regularly parked in Earls Lane opposite the school on double yellow lines while charging. PC agreed to contact the school headteacher as to whether this poses a problem.

Thanks were expressed to Councillor O'Neill for all the hard work she has put in on behalf of the community as manager of the library.

Next meeting 18 November 7.30pm on Skype.