

THIS MONTH'S EDITOR
Jill Cheeseman

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the Deddington news

Although this month we say goodbye to several old friends from the community, there are some reasons to be cheerful. Firstly, the 'Alternative Carol Singing' took place in spite of everything – well done to those who organised it and cleared a space in the snow. Secondly, there are signs that the community is dragging itself into the 21st century!

DIARY

February

- Wed 2 Photographic Society: John Prentice, 'Comparison of Photo-processing Software', Cartwright Hotel, Aynho, 7.30pm
- Mon 7 Monday Morning Club: Coffee morning, Holly Tree, 10.30am-noon
- Tue 8 WI: Dusty Rhodes, 'Country Customs', Holly Tree, 7.30pm
- Wed 9 History Society, Liz Woolley, 'It Will Do Him More Good Than Going to School', Windmill Centre, 7.30pm
- Thu 10 Monday Morning Club: Film evening, *A Single Man*, Holly Tree, 6.30pm
- Thu 10 Deddington Charity Estates: AGM, Town Hall, 7.30pm
- Sat 12 Pre-school and Nursery Jumble Sale, Parish Church, 11.00am-1.00pm
- Tue 15 Public Meeting: Threat to Deddington Library, Windmill Centre Lounge, 7.30pm
- Tue 15 Youth Club: AGM, Windmill Centre, 6.30pm
- Wed 16 Parish Council Meeting, Town Hall, 7.30pm
- Wed 16 Photographic Society: Workshop, Evaluation of Members' Photos, Cartwright Hotel, Aynho, 7.30pm
- Mon 21 Police: Meet the team, Hempton, Outside Church, 9.00am-10.00am
- Sat 26 Deddington Farmers' Market, Market Place, 9am-12.30pm

March

- Wed 2 Photographic Society: Jane Ryman, 'Portrait Photographs of Family and Children', Cartwright Hotel, Aynho, 7.30pm
- Mon 7 Monday Morning Club: Coffee morning, Holly Tree, 10.30am-noon
- Tue 8 WI: AGM, followed by cheese and wine, Holly Tree, 7.30pm
- Wed 9 History Society: Gillian White, 'Portraits of Queen Elizabeth the First', Windmill Centre, 7.30pm
- Thu 10 Monday Morning Club: Film evening, *Treeless Mountain*, Holly Tree, 6.30pm
- Sat 12 PTA: Quiz night, Windmill Centre
- Wed 16 Parish Council Meeting, Hempton Church Hall, 7.30pm

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

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DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Report of two PC meetings held at the Holly Tree Club on 15 December 2010 and the Windmill Centre on 19 January 2011.

The meetings were chaired by Jim Flux; there was a good turnout of councillors and a total of six members of the public at the two meetings.

Threat to Deddington Library – Public Meeting on Tuesday 15 February, Windmill Centre

PC needs to register an 'Expression of Interest' with OCC to maintain library services. OCC are keen to co-operate with local communities to maintain the Library and are considering alternative operating ideas. A public meeting will be held in the lounge of the Windmill Community Centre at 7.30pm on Tuesday 15 February 2011 to discuss the future. Please come along and let the Parish Council hear your views/suggestions.

Co-option of two new members

Two candidates were standing: Aaron Bliss, a long time Deddington resident, and Brian Wood, an experienced PC member who retired for medical reasons but is now fully recovered. Brian Wood was duly elected.

Public Forum

Les Smith and others from Clifton raised renewed concerns over the planning application for the three terraced houses on the site of Ash Cottage, Chapel Close, Clifton. Discussion left until the Planning Working Group reported.

Cherwell District Council

There are reports that spending cuts may force the withdrawal of some unspecified subsidised bus services or an increase in fares.

Finance & General Purposes Committee

The Parish Precept will not be increased for the 2011–2012 tax year. Planning for the installation of solar panels at the Windmill Centre is to go ahead. The PC information on the DOL website is to be better maintained.

Environment & Recreation

PC is looking at ways of improving gritting in the parish in bad weather, perhaps through the introduction of more grit bins. For gritting to be effective the snow must be cleared first. PC would like to hear from any residents prepared to clear their public roads and paths and would like access to grit supplies to aid this task. Please contact the Clerk, Lorraine Watling by emailing her at parishcouncil@deddington.net or by letter to PC office at the Windmill Community Centre, Hempton Road, Deddington, OX15 0QH with your suggestions.

Sports clubs: both Football and Cricket Club membership is still growing, putting pressure on facilities. A number of options are being considered with both OCC and CDC but the ideal would be to have two separate ground facilities.

Hempton Play Area: There are 45 children under 16 without a play area. However at the moment no land appears to be available.

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

Planning

Ash Cottage, Chapel Close, Clifton: the meeting was informed that CDC planners were not inclined to prevent planning approval for the change from two to three terraced cottages and an increase in size of footprint. The problems of traffic access, parking and neighbours' privacy were also not considered to be an overriding problem. PC have exhausted their power to prevent approval.

Calcutt Farms, Radwell Grounds, Duns Tew Road, Hempton: a 35ft high grain dryer is planned; PC is preparing an objection on the basis of sight lines, noise and village building line. PC understands an alternative is being considered as a result of local consultation.

22 The Daedings: no PC objection to a ground floor extension.

Development off the Banbury Rd opposite the fire station: a meeting took place between the Planning Group and a property company that is considering a medium density housing development. Thirty per cent would be affordable housing. The company was informed that the school and surgery are at full capacity and that traffic volumes on Banbury Road are very heavy. Further consultative meetings including a possible public meeting are planned.

Highways

A stop request button is to be fitted to the traffic lights on the south (Library) side of High Street crossroads.

Speeding: efforts are being maintained to reduce speeding, particularly in Earl's Lane, and a number of options have been discussed with OCC.

Clifton–Deddington footpath: still in a bad state and needs at least weed-killing. Funding is being sought for further renovations and repairs.

Hudson Street: a variety of traffic control schemes are being discussed with OCC.

Damage to the verges around the Co-op, Market Place: wooden posts to be installed to prevent grass damage; alternative grass reinforcing measures being considered.

Millennium Emergency Plan: to be reviewed as a result of the recent snow disruption.

War Memorial

The complications surrounding moving the War Memorial are delaying a decision.

Fun-Fair is to return this year. Two letters of objection were received but PC considered the overwhelming majority of the community had an enjoyable time.

Ardley recycle site

OCC have decided to close the site along with many others. The nearest site will be Kidlington.

Invoices agreed for payment £1,954.92.

Investments of £552,150 at Barclays, West Bromwich BS, Santander and Anglo Irish Bank.

Next meeting – Wednesday 16 February at The Town Hall.

FARMERS' MARKET

Our February market will be on the 26th and all the usual high quality goods and produce will be on sale. I usually use this space to tell readers what to look out for in the next market, but this time I would like you to look back to the Saturday before Christmas.

That's the day that it SNOWED. It started early morning and didn't let up all day. It was well below freezing when the erection team met in the dark to set up for the market. They had some extra work to do, as the Christmas tree in the square means a re-jig of where the stalls go, coupled with an errant BMW left in the way. Work was also done making sure that the walkways and behind the stalls were cleared of snow and gritted. This made it possible for safe use by both buyers and sellers.



Geoff Todd presents a cheque for £300 to Rosie Hellawell of Thames Valley and Chiltern Air Ambulance at the December market, with Pat Swash looking on.

After the market and in blizzard conditions, the team reformed to take down the stalls. There was a record turnout of helpers on this, the coldest and most inhospitable market in all of the 112 that have been run. A fantastic job by all the helpers from Clifton and Deddington.

Only one trader failed to make it to the Christmas market, and estimates have been made of between 700 and 800 market visitors that day. Traders reported some harrowing tales of homeward journeys taking five or six hours.

A really good effort by all concerned, proving that Deddington Farmers' Market is pretty well weather proof.

Paul Drawmer
paul@drawmer.net



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PRIMARY SCHOOL

My name is Clive Evans and as you may already know, I will be the Headteacher at Deddington Primary School from January 2011. I feel very privileged to have the opportunity to join such a wonderful school community and I am very much looking forward to working with the parents, the staff, the governors and most importantly, the children.

I have been a teacher for 17 years, Deddington being my fifth school. I spent 11 years working as a senior leader in two Oxfordshire schools before moving just across the border to Northamptonshire for my current role as Headteacher of Chacombe C.E. (Aided) Primary School. I have lived in Banbury for 12 years, am married to Tracey and have 2 sons, Ethan who is 8 and Jude who is 6. When I used to drive through Deddington on my way to a previous job, I often looked at the school and reflected upon how I would one day like to be the Headteacher. I am delighted that this has now become a reality.

The world is changing at a very fast pace and children need a range of skills, both academic and personal, to prepare them for future challenges. I believe that enjoyment should be valued as highly as achievement and that children should be surrounded by a rich, engaging curriculum within an environment and culture which celebrate individuality and diversity.

As a team, we will celebrate, maintain and develop upon the many achievements already realised by the Deddington school. As a school community that achieves together, works together and faces challenges and change in a positive manner, we will be a happy and successful school.

Clive Evans, Headteacher
338430

The months following Christmas are usually quiet in school and this month is no exception.

We are really excited about our annual whole school production. This year we are busy rehearsing the *Wizard of Oz*. It looks to be our most ambitious yet and all of the teaching staff, led by the very talented Alicia Rumsby, are busy making scenery and rehearsing children – it's a real team effort this year. The children in turn are fully committed to making this the best one yet. Our performances, in the church, are in late March and tickets will go on sale nearer the time.

At the time of writing the snow has stayed away and there have been no disruptions to school life. Fingers crossed it will continue that way!

Jane Cross, Deputy Headteacher
338430

The AGM of Deddington Charity Estates will be held at 7.30pm on Thursday 10 February in the Town Hall. The first half-hour will be an open session when the Trustees would be happy to respond to questions from the public on the work of DCE and the future of the Town Hall. Wine will be served.

Jim Flux

PTA

Christmas seems so long ago but before moving on to the new year, we must stop and thank all those who supported and helped out at our events in December. Despite the economic gloom, you all dug deeply and I am delighted to tell you that Santa's Float raised the fantastic sum of £1,200! Thank you so much to everyone who gave generously to Santa and his elves!

The Christmas cards designed by the children earlier in the term were fabulous. Our thanks to all who helped us produce (Mike Homer at Multiflow) and sell the cards.

Santa took time out from his hectic schedule to visit our children who eagerly queued to meet him in his Magical Grotto during the December Farmers' Market. The air of excitement and anticipation added a fantastic atmosphere to the morning – along with the snow! The PTA added to the spirit of the occasion by singing popular carols whilst Edward and Lewis did a wonderful job of keeping us in tune by accompanying us on the trumpet. Our grateful thanks go to Santa and his helpers, the Farmers' Market Committee, Hugh White and to all those who gave so generously. We'd also like to thank Pete Boss and Kelly Scott for the loan of their twinkly lights which made our new grotto in the Living Room look very special.

We have a full calendar lined up for 2011. Our ever-popular Quiz Night will be held on 12 March at the Windmill Centre. So it's time to dust off those books and start brushing up on your general knowledge. This is always very popular and tickets usually sell fast. For further details or to pre-book your place, please phone 338468 or email deddington@cherwell.co.uk.

Other dates for your diary: the 7th Deddington Walk – Sunday 15 May and the School Fete – Saturday 18 June.

Finally, on behalf of the PTA, I would like to thank everyone for their continued support and wish you all a (slightly belated) happy and peaceful New Year.

Janet Watts, PTA Chair
337135

Windmill Tuesday/Thursday Club

The club offers a day of friendship, an excellent lunch, activities and care for elderly people living in Deddington and the surrounding villages. We have places available so if anyone would like to know more, or visit the club, please phone Debbie, the Co-ordinator, on 07737 892745, Pat on 338685 or Jim on 338153.

CHURCH AND CHAPEL

Parish Church SS Peter and Paul

February

Wed	2	10.00am	Eucharist: Presentation of Christ in the Temple (School attending)
Thu	3	2.00pm	Squeals and Wheels
		6.30 pm	Eucharist: St Anskar
Sun	6	10.30am	First Sunday
		6.30pm	Evensong
Wed	9	10.00am	Eucharist
Thu	10	2.00pm	Squeals and Wheels
Sun	13	10.30am	Sung Eucharist (with healing prayer)
			Eucharist: St Sigfrid
Tue	15	6.30pm	Eucharist
Wed	16	10.00am	Eucharist
Thu	17	2.00pm	Squeals and Wheels
Sun	20	10.30am	Eucharist with Baptism
Wed	23	10.00am	Eucharist
Thu	24	2.00pm	Squeals and Wheels
Sun	27	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		10.30am	Service of the Word/Eucharist

From the Parish Registers

Funerals:

Dec 20 John Fowler
Jan 20 Roy Berridge

Memorial Service:

Jan 7 Olive Leslie

St John's Hempton

February

Sun	6	9.00am	Eucharist
Sun	20	9.00am	Eucharist
Sun	27	6.00pm	Evensong

Barford St Michael & St John

Sun	6	4.00pm	Eucharist	Bfd St M
Sun	13	4.00pm	Evensong	Bfd St M
Sun	20	4.00pm	All-Age Worship	Bfd St M
Sun	27	4.00pm	Eucharist	Bfd St J

For baptisms, weddings, funerals or home visits in case of illness, please contact the Vicar, the Rev. Dr Hugh White, 28 Duns Tew (349869), the curate, Revd Dr Dan Inman (338582) curatedan@gmail.com, or one of the church wardens, Glynne Bianchi (337743) or George Fenemore (338203). For further information please go to www.deddingtonchurch.org.

Services of Thanksgiving:

Nov	24	Ray West
Dec	2	Winifred Brain
Dec	17	Violet Reason
Jan	10	Pat Adkins

Wesleyan Reform Church, Chapel Square

Sunday mornings at 10.30am: Pastor Isabel Walton

Pastor Isabel Walton 337157

Congregational Chapel, New Street

This Chapel was closed at the end of September. The congregation will continue to worship on Sunday mornings with the Wesleyan Reform Church.

Joyce Minnear 338529

RC Parish of Hethe with Adderbury

Fr John Burns 277396

Mass at Holy Trinity, Hethe: every weekday except Wed at 9.30am, Sun at 10.00am.

St George's Church Adderbury: Mass Wed 7.00pm and Sun 8.30am.

Confessions at Hethe Sat 5.30–6.00pm and at Adderbury before Mass.

The Eve of Sunday Mass at St John's Church, Banbury, is said at 4.00pm on Saturdays to allow worshippers from the villages to attend by public transport.

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

POLICE

There was an aggravated burglary at premises just outside Deddington in December. Items from the house and a vehicle were stolen. The vehicle was involved in a pursuit which eventually resulted in the arrest of a man. Further enquiries are ongoing by CID at Banbury Police Station.

There has been a further burglary in the village where access was gained by an insecure front door. The good news is I have arrested two men in connection with this incident. It is important to remember to keep valuables hidden from view. Most burglars are opportunists and target houses that look unoccupied. While the evenings are dark we would like you to take

a few simple precautions to keep your home secure whilst you are out. Please take a couple of minutes to log on and watch this short YouTube film to show how you can help keep your home safe: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vizJ5POWjT4>.

Members of the Police team will be available on Monday 21 February in Hempton outside the Church between 9.00 and 10.00am. Please come along to meet the team and discuss any issues or problem within the community.

**PC 6600 Richard Miller, Neighbourhood Officer
Deddington Rural South, Banbury Police Station**

GREEN PIECE

Why should we reduce our food waste?

Every year 6.7 million tonnes of food is thrown away in the UK; 4.1 million tonnes unopened and untouched; 340,000 tonnes still 'in date'; 1.2 million tonnes simply left on our plates. One household thus throws away up to £610 a year.

Rotting food buried in landfill sites generates methane, a greenhouse gas over 20 times more potent than carbon dioxide and a major contributor to climate change. So serious is the problem, in fact, that it is estimated that if we stopped throwing away food that could be eaten, we could make carbon savings equivalent to taking one in five cars off the road!

In addition to producing methane, rotting food in landfill sites also produces leachate, a liquid produced when water (from rain) passes through the waste. The leachates collect at the base of the landfill and are a potentially hazardous waste, causing pollution to groundwater and the environment, which can cause health problems.

As well as the above, it is an uncomfortable fact that, while we waste millions of tonnes of perfectly edible food, people are still dying of hunger in the Third World.

Whether our incentive is to save the environment

or the money in our wallets, the government has made a commitment to reduce food waste in landfill to 35% of 1995 levels by 2020, which means we all have to do our bit. Reducing food waste is one of a number of really practical ways in which we can help slow down climate change and, if it reduces our shopping bills and produces tasty results, then we're all quids in!

See *Eat Well, Waste Less* – a Green Book from Oxfordshire Waste Partnership: <http://www.oxfordshirewaste.gov.uk>.

Christopher Hall
338225

A Concert of Fine English Music at the Holywell Music Room, Oxford

Deddington composer, Donald Lane ('Four Great Queens' 2002) and Cecilia McDowall, ('King Leo', Deddington Festival 2006) are putting on a concert of their latest compositions in Oxford's Holywell Music Room on Saturday 12 February at 7.30pm.

Renowned singers, James Gilchrist (tenor) and Jane Harrington (soprano) will bring their songs to life, with flautist, Julian Sperry and pianist, Anna Tilbrook, completing an outstanding line-up of musicians. Donald has tickets (Wesley Place, Church Street: 01869 337199: donald199@btinternet.com). Do come and support him.

Eileen Anderson,
eileenandersonuk@yahoo.co.uk

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Spreading the Word in Deddington

In an attempt to help keep Deddingtonians informed about their own parish and its history the committees who bring us Deddington OnLine (DOL), *Deddington News* (DN) and Deddington OnAir met recently to see how they can move forward – together.

One first step was to set up pages for the three media sources, as a group, on Facebook and Twitter. These pages are available now and can be accessed here: <http://www.facebook.com/deddingtononline> and <http://twitter.com/DeddiOnLine>. For more on Facebook and Twitter, see p11.

By making DOL, DN, Deddington OnAir and the Church available through as many sites as possible we hope to be able to reach the widest possible audience and get important news out to everyone as soon as possible.

The Deddington News is circulated, as you know, to every household in the Parish, and the web version www.deddingtonnews.co.uk takes it worldwide. All issues from its start in 1976 to the present day are archived, forming a detailed resource of village life both past and present. Deddington OnLine is an ever-expanding source of information on businesses, clubs and societies, and the history, geography and resources of the parish of Deddington, Clifton and Hempton. A photo gallery, buy & sell section and a forum are also available.

Recently, work has begun on Deddington OnAir, www.deddingtononair.org, and already the residents of Featherton House are enjoying live relays of the Sunday morning service from the Parish Church. Local writers have recorded some of their work on the radio station, available as podcasts for anyone with access to a computer. We would like to invite the school, youth groups, guides, scouts, boys brigade and anyone else who might care to contribute to be involved with Deddington OnAir. We hope that it will become both a great resource for Deddington and a practical and useful exercise for those wanting to be involved in media. The Church services have attracted a wide audience in the UK and abroad; we have regular listeners in the Caribbean, Canada, Istanbul and Sweden, as well as closer to home. The broadcasts are also carried by Radio Horton, two Church of England websites, 'a Church near you' and the 'i-Church', as well as the Swedish Church radio station Svenska Kyrkans Narradio.

If you don't own a computer you can access one at the library or at the internet café sessions currently being held in the Church on Tuesday and Friday afternoons between 2.00 and 5.00pm. The library internet café is open Mondays and Thursdays 2.00–5.00pm and 5.30–7.00pm, as well as on Wednesdays and Saturdays 9.30am to 1.00pm. All of these internet café sessions are available to all and are free of charge.

There are plans for a series of teaching sessions for all levels of computer experience and Deddington OnLine will offer courses on how to create your own

website within DOL. Details on these courses will be announced shortly.

The next Deddington OnLine open meeting will be at the Unicorn on Thursday 21 April 2011 at 6.45pm. Everyone is welcome so please come along, tell us what you think or just come along and listen.

Eileen J Anderson

eileenandersonuk@yahoo.co.uk

David Rogers

david.rogers@primarycaresystems.co.uk

DEDDINGTON 150 YEARS AGO

The Following are extracts from the diaries of the Rev. Cotton Risley for the months of January and February 1861:

7th January – Robert went to breakfast at North Aston with T. Cartwright intending to skate to Oxford by the canal.

19th January – Mrs. Fowler came to seek advice about compelling her husband, with whom she was not now living, he having beaten and ill-treated her and her children. I told her I feared I could not do much for her magisterially with reference to her husband's being compelled to aid in maintaining her and her family, she choosing to continue living away from him.

21st January – The lopping of the churchyard elm trees was continued today.

From **20th January to 14th February** I was confined to my bed at the House by illness.

Heard when in Oxford of the Bishop's being confined to his bed with bronchitis, with all local confirmations to be held at Adderbury on the 22nd February. I had 13 catechumens from Clifton, I believe there were 16 to 20 from this place and one only from Hempton.

I sent the catechumens from Clifton to Adderbury in two covered carts and gave them a dinner at Mr. Barber's old house afterwards, they were accompanied by G. French, the carrier, our man G. Ford, and H. Drinkwater from Clifton. The Deddington candidates walked there attended by *our drunken sexton* T. French by order of the Vicar. The other parishes to come to Adderbury were Barfords, Bodicote and Souldern.

There was a hurricane the night before, very many trees were blown down, chimneys and buildings, ricks and even Churches injured.

Buffy Heywood
338212

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to local writer, Aaron Bliss, who has been awarded a Distinction in his Master's Degree in Creative Writing. Listen to him reading from his work at www.deddingtononair.org. Listen to Sylvie Nickels there too.

Eileen Anderson

eileenandersonuk@yahoo.co.uk

AT THE VETS

I have always enjoyed reading George's article about the goings-on at his farm throughout the seasons, so I hope people might be interested in what goes on at the vets throughout the year.

Post-Christmas can be a busy time for us at the vets as animals have a habit of eating things they shouldn't around this time of year. Often it is just over-indulgence of turkey and all the trimmings but this year we did have a few cases of dogs eating things that definitely weren't good for them. One dog had consumed its owner's sock and another ate part of a Christmas decoration – both of which had to be surgically removed. There were also two cases of potential chocolate poisoning in local dogs – one consumed a bar of dark chocolate and the other an entire tin of Roses chocolates. Their owners acted promptly and brought them in for us to induce vomiting and start treatment and neither suffered any long-term side-effects. Remember if you have any chocolates, don't leave them lying around where your dog can get them. The same goes for any left-over Christmas cake as raisins (and grapes) can be toxic in some dogs.

For the past few years at this time we have looked forward to a visit from Mrs Hazelgrove and her class of F2s from Deddington Pre-School. We show the children around the clinic, examine a dog, play with some of the veterinary instruments and look at some x-rays and interesting specimens. I am always amazed

how well the children behave (especially at the start of the visit!) and what great questions they ask. I really enjoy it when they come in later in the year with their pets and tell their parents about their visit. Next week I am also planning to take my dog Bryher to see the class of F1s at Pre-school to chat to the youngest children about looking after a dog and being a vet. I shall let you know how we get on with both school visits next month.

Juliet Owens
Hook Norton Vets
337732

KJV 400: 400 Voices?

As many readers will know, the Parish Church has organised a through-reading of the King James Version of the Bible in celebration of the 400th anniversary of its first publication. This reading is broadcast live over the internet (go to www.deddingtonchurch.org and click 'Bibliathon').

We hope to have 400 voices join in the reading. If you would like to be one of those voices, either coming to the Church or via Skype, please contact Hugh White (vicarhugo@hotmail.com or 349869). Reading sessions are every Tuesday to Friday 5.00–6.00pm and 11.15am–12.15pm every Wednesday.

Hugh White

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Deddington Vets Football

Deddington Vets had two scheduled games in December, but, like so much of the sporting calendar over the festive period, our fixtures fell foul of the weather. We were due to play a Banbury side early in the month which was postponed due to a frozen pitch and our Christmas Charity game planned for a couple of days after the feast of Stephen succumbed to the snow, which remained deep and crisp and even and, with no thaw in sight, put an end to this winter duel.

However, the New Year brought milder weather and with it the opportunity to play our first game of 2011 on 16 January. This was a significant milestone for the Vets and the entire Deddington football community as it was the first game to be played on the new Colts pitch at Fritwell. A big 'thank you' to Barry Grant and the other members of the Colts committee for not only letting us play on the pitch, but for all their efforts in turning a field into a quality playing surface.

The game itself was against a very strong and youthful Sibford team and turned out to be a classic game of two halves. On a blustery day Deddington played into a strong wind and conceded two goals in what was a relatively one-sided first half. With the wind at our backs in the second half we started to dominate possession and got the goal our play deserved. Unfortunately, time ran out before we could get the equalizer.

Barry O'Connell
338988

THE ALLOTMENT

Happy New Year! I know all those festivities seem ages ago, as does the snow. It's positively warm now with snowdrops and grape hyacinths poking out of the ground. However, for the last two years in February we've been knee deep in snow so don't get too excited. You still have one more month to relax and enjoy seed catalogues (at least that's what all gardening magazines seem to tell us to do in the winter). One catalogue I have enjoyed is Chiltern Seeds – they have a good list of flowers and vegetables and I have been tempted to order a few different varieties. I've also ordered their edible flower seed packet for the children.

Whilst tidying up the allotment, I've decided that one of my gooseberry bushes is for the fire. It had gooseberry mite last year and whilst I'm advised that it doesn't harm the plant, this was our second year with it. You cannot see the mite but basically all your leaves get eaten, but the fruit remains. A hard pruning

and the harsh winter may kill the mite but two years is enough.

Unlike the gooseberry mite, the blackcurrant mite is easily spied. Have a look at the buds on your blackcurrants and if you have some overly-rounded swollen buds this could be the mite; normal buds are slightly pointed. If you find these swollen buds, prune back the plant and place the pruned pieces on the fire as you will lose your fruit with the blackcurrant mite. If you haven't yet pruned your bushes you can check whilst you're pruning.

If your bed is ready you may want to spread black polythene over the area you're planning to plant up next month to give the soil a chance to warm up before placing seedlings in the bed. If we don't have snow!

Samantha Willis
samantha.willis@gmail.com



News from Clifton sur Mer

Oh it's been a while, so a Happy New Year to all the residents, friends and neighbours in this corner of happiness.

Looking back over the last two months I can recall the Dads' Christmas trip to Candleford with at least half the attendees braving the snowfall that looked at the time to be a fairly serious effort as they walked up a clearly unsalted road. However, as most of the group are market erectors, plans were made the night before to have a go at clearing the snow before the next day's market was set up. How smug they felt eating the post-put up breakfast as some more flakes began to fall. But it fell and it fell and some more it fell...

Hence the usual fine display of community spirit with the requisite amount of badinage and persiflage as most of the village turned out both in the west and the east to clear the spectacular snow that fell that fateful Saturday that kept most of us mobile and in touch with the world. Well done all of you.

Rob did us proud with an impromptu carol concert in the 'Duck' on Christmas Eve and the traditional New Year's Day walk to the Unicorn totalled a record 30 souls this year (if you include Shelby the collie) and to our surprise the pub was empty as the Candleford folk obviously weren't up to moving about, but many thanks to Saskia and her staff for a warm and tasty welcome.

The Book Club is planning their second literary trip to 'Bristol' so any takers pop along any Thursday at 9.00pm. Father Christmas must be blamed for an increase of the number of Mamils* in our midst and a Clifton Cycling Club is not far off – but judging by the girths of potential members it won't be starting off too quickly or going too far. If you're interested drop me an email and I'll pass it on to the organisers.

Martin Bryce

MartinDNBryce@aol.com

*Middle Aged Men in Lycra - for people who forget this rubbish the moment you've read it

News from Hempton

Well done to everyone involved with the Christmas Bazaar. Once again it was a good family occasion and, despite the bitterly cold day, over £1,000 was raised for the Friends of the Church, so to stallholders and customers a big thank you.

Later in the month it was the Carol Service, again well attended with the Deddington Church Choir leading the singing. The service was followed by some excellent Christmas refreshments of mulled wine, sausage rolls and mince pies. Had the service been a day later it would probably not have taken place due to the heavy snow which fell all day. The Eucharist Service on Sunday 19th was held and our thanks to the vicar for getting here from Duns Tew. Christmas Day Eucharist saw 23 in the congregation and at the end of the service, the vicar, curate, youth worker and John Sampson re-enacted a nativity scene which brought a round of applause.

Everyone enjoys the Deddington Farmers' Market and volunteers are always needed to put up stalls and take them down. People from Clifton and Deddington already do this. Is there anyone in our village who could help? If so, please ring Geoff Todd on 338532.

At this point I would to thank Sue Montague, Mavis and Bernard Barton and Barbara Chappell for delivering the paper in our village, plus others who have done it on odd occasions. Many hands make light work, as they say.

Les Chappell
338054

[All on DN team wish Les a speedy recovery following his recent surgery – Ed.]



ON THE FARM

Well, I was glad to see the back of that. The Christmas snow event with its minus 16°C temperatures gave us a lot of problems: frozen water-pipes in the livestock buildings, frozen tractor fuel, and the main ewe flock out on the meadows needing to be hand fed, but despite the worry they took no harm and as soon as the water-pipes were sorted out they came inside. But as they came in some five weeks early we now have the ongoing worry of winter feed stocks, as last summer's drought reduced our hay crop by some 60%. So to conserve what hay we have, we have been feeding increased amounts of bought-in sheep cake and oat straw. But it won't be long before we will need to start to introduce hay into the ration in the build-up to lambing. The last of the 2010 lamb crop (about 400) came into the buildings at the beginning of November for 'finishing' on a special 14% feed plus hay and all but 70 have now gone to market and did very well. So it's a case of the swings and roundabouts again, as what we gained on the better fat lamb prices will be needed to feed the ewes for the next lamb crop.

The bees gave me a few sleepless nights as well. I have kept bees for 30 years but this was the first time we have experienced such low temperatures and I did not know how they would cope. But once the snow had stopped and the mercury rose above freezing a few of the bees ventured out on cleansing flights so I decided to take a quick look and put some extra food on. Thinking that it was too cold for them to get upset

at being disturbed, I went out without my bee veil but soon had to beat a hasty retreat back to the farm for my veil (ouch). It has been some years since any damage was done to the hives by Green Woodpeckers, but this year the 'chisel bills' have had a field day. I have had to do emergency repairs to 30 hives, so it was back to the 'ouch' factor as I quickly nailed on a pre-prepared patch and then made a run for it.

With the snow and low temperatures, the hedgerows and seed strips were stripped of their berries and seed by the start of the New Year, so we put out a number of 8' x 4' bird tables and have been feeding the birds with grain cleanings to keep them going. A cold spell always throws up a few unusual bird sightings. This year we had a small group of Waxwings foraging the hedgerows for a short time. The real coup was an Osprey sitting in an oak tree just below the farm building overlooking a small patch of open water in the Manor Farm trout lake. I hope he got his trout.

Now that the snow has gone and the Clifton spring is in full spate, we are seeing a large number of wild fowl in the valley, with Widgeon, Teal, Shoveller and Mallard duck making good use of the flood water. A flock of 200 Lapwing is also feeding on the tide line and with all this abundance of 'meals on wings' a Peregrine falcon has taken up temporary residence on the Clifton meadows. So not a bad start to the New Year bird-wise at least. As to the start of the farming year – well, I couldn't possibly comment.

George Fenemore 338203

Friends of Deddington Library

Friends of Deddington Library (FoDL) was formed in 1998 with the support of the Parish Council (PC). In effect it was a Working Group of the PC with a parish councillor involved in its membership. Then, as now, the future of the village library was under threat. FoDL lobbied and spoke at an Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) committee meeting which in turn began a productive dialogue with it. Instead of losing the facility, improvements to the interior and its service followed. FoDL raised several thousand pounds towards this project aided by both the Parish and District Councils and a few neighbouring parishes whose residents used the service. Its funds were held by Deddington PC.

For a number of years the PC supported the library book fund but once OCC finances began to flow again it was no longer necessary to continue this arrangement. A bequest from a very good friend of the Friends was made to benefit Deddington Library and its users. The residue of some £9,000 as at October 2010 is held by the OCC.

Several of the Friends remain but a number have passed away or are no longer active. Its original work complete, FoDL has been dormant but not officially disbanded. As stated FoDL is an offshoot of the PC so it is probably prudent to await any decision of the PC before taking matters forward. However as an in-

terim measure, as Chairman of this dormant group, I have written to the County Librarian asking for certain information and whether OCC would attend a village meeting. Friends or Community Groups have been suggested as a possible way forward by OCC.

This said, may I suggest that anyone interested in helping with the development of a strategy for a future library service in the village make themselves known to Lorraine Watling, Clerk to Deddington PC on 3374447 or by email to parishcouncil@deddington.net.

Geoff Todd 338532

Stories and Poems wanted

Everyone has a story to tell and some of us can also write poems. If you enjoy writing stories or poems, check out the 2011 Deddington Writing Competition. Full details, released during January, are published on the Deddington Festival website www.deddingtonfestival.org.uk or, if you prefer, email dwcomp@yahoo.co.uk or ring 01869 337761 for details of either the Open or Junior competition, to be sent to you. Closing dates for entries are 8 April for Juniors and 6 May for the Open Competitions. It is never too soon to start!

**Hugh Marshall
Deddington Writers Group
337761**

FROM THE EDITOR'S POSTBAG

(The first two e-mails arrived too late for inclusion in the December DN.)

FROM JULIA THOMSON, ITALY

I grew up in Deddington at Ilbury House. My mother had a school there. She was Beti Evans Thomson, married to Hubert Guy Thomson of Woodperry (where my parents are buried). My brother, David Evans Thomson, worked in Deddington. I have so many memories of my childhood:

going to Sanders, the sweet shop, the hot cross buns in church at Easter, the bell-ringers who came to our house on Christmas Eve, the carol singers, the holly, the big Christmas tree in the hall. We moved to the Isle of Wight when I was about eight. Does anyone remember my mum? She continued to teach until she died. I am writing from Italy where my brother and I live. 52 years have now passed, but at Christmas I always remember the best ones at Ilbury House. With best regards and a very Happy Christmas to you all (I cannot find sherry here, so have one for me.)

FROM DAVID ROLLASON, THE BEECHES, DEDDINGTON

Can I publicly thank Stan Nelson for shaving off his moustache in the Deddington Arms and raising a total of £290 in donations for the benefit of Katharine House Hospice and the National Spinal Injuries Unit. By the time this acknowledgement is published, Stan's top lip will once again be fully thatched.

FROM MAUREEN FORSYTH, THE STILE HOUSE, NEW STREET

Well done to Julian Elkan's organisation and the Boys Brigade for rescuing the tradition of carol singing in the Market Square on Christmas Eve despite the very wintry conditions.

The sound of brass instruments and George Fenimore's enthusiastic leadership ensured that everyone joined together for a hearty half-hour of song. Can we look forward to a similar ensemble next year?

Facebook, Tweeting and Following

For anyone who wants to know a little more about Twitter and Facebook this might be of interest.

Facebook (www.facebook.com) is an online social networking directory that connects people with friends and others who work, study and live around them. People use Facebook to keep up with friends, upload an unlimited number of photos, share links and videos, and learn more about the people they meet.

Now open to anyone with an email address, the site includes members' pictures, biographies, interests and messages, and members can browse freely through open profiles. Members may choose their personal levels of security to prevent strangers from accessing their personal information.



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

FROM SUE LANE, FUNDRAISING MANAGER, KATHARINE HOUSE HOSPICE, ADDERBURY

We would like to express grateful thanks to our supporters in Deddington, Clifton and Hempton for their financial gifts throughout 2010, received from individuals, voluntary groups and businesses. Despite the arctic weather conditions, an impressive group of supporters and musicians went carol singing around the pubs on Christmas Eve, raising an amazing £528 to round off the year!

It will be our 20th anniversary in March and we will be marking this with a number of events throughout 2011. The first of these is a concert in St Mary's Church, Banbury on 5 March at 7.00pm. We look forward to welcoming the Morriston Orpheus Male Voice Choir, in a varied evening of song. Tickets are available from Fundraising at Katharine House (01295 812161), price £18. Application forms may also be downloaded from our website at www.khh.org.uk. We hope that you will come along to what promises to be a wonderful evening.

In this challenging economic climate, we are so fortunate to be able to rely on the generous support of our friends in the local community and those in Deddington have always gone that extra mile. This is so very much appreciated by all at Katharine House. Thank you.

FROM SYLVIE SPENCELEY, THE DAEDINGS, DEDDINGTON

Many may not have heard of the government's plan to sell off publicly owned woodlands. If you feel strongly about this, please go to: <http://www.38degrees.org.uk/save-our-forests> and sign the petition to try and prevent this.

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Twitter is a website, owned and operated by Twitter Inc, which offers a social networking and microblogging service, enabling its users to send and read messages called tweets. Tweets are text-based posts of up to 140 characters displayed on the user's profile page. Tweets are publicly visible by default. However senders can restrict message delivery to their followers. Users may subscribe to other users' tweets – this is known as 'following' and subscribers are known as followers.

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/deddingtononline>. Twitter: <http://twitter.com/DeddiOnLine>

Eileen J Anderson

David Rogers

david.rogers@primarycaresystems.co.uk

More i-Tea, Vicar?

The first step was the thought that it might be a good idea to make audio recordings, available both on CD and via the internet, of our Sunday services for the benefit of residents at Featherton House. But if that was a good idea, might it not be a better one to broadcast live and provide sight as well as sound? We had a telephone line in the vestry and were able to get broadband. APC and a webcam were installed and here we are – able to provide live Church services via our website to anyone who might care to look and listen.

And they do. When we first started streaming we were staggered by how many people tuned in, the highest ever figure was 160, and this has now settled at a solid Sunday average of 10 or so – which significantly adds to our physically present congregation. During the snowy weather the value of streamed services became doubly apparent. We are accessed by members of Oxford i-church and we have streamed (audio only as yet) to the Horton Hospital in Banbury. Broadcasts of our services are available through the Swedish Church local radio in Jonkoping, where we have Parish links with the Sofia Church. We broadcast the consecration of Jan-Olof Johansson, the new Bishop of Vaxjo Diocese (linked to Oxford), from Uppsala Cathedral in November last year and that also generated a large internet audience. We sent the Curate with a laptop, camera and some instructions and Dan did a great job, both in terms of the broadcast and in promoting Deddington and the idea of streaming services to a wide audience. We are delighted to receive emails from Istanbul noting technical defects in transmissions (which we have corrected) and thanking us for our broadcasts. These now include Evening Prayer on weekdays and our Wednesday Eucharist. We are able to offer streaming so that those unable to get to a baptism, wedding or funeral can tune in – we have had a New Zealand godparent make her declarations live from the other side of the world.

It's not just services, though. We are broadcasting our through-reading of the King James Version of the Bible in celebration of its 400th anniversary and anyone who wishes can join us via Skype. We broadcast a poetry reading for National Poetry Day recently. We are planning a local radio station. The internet dimension is proving attractive to the speakers we are inviting for our 'Christianity in 15 objects' series planned for 2011–12.

It's not just broadcasting, either. We started an internet café last autumn to supplement our local library (a provision possibly at risk in the present financial climate). We hope young and old will use this facility and we have a number of volunteers to help the computer-nervous. The café will be a resource for our Youth Group and our Boys' Brigade; an offshoot is a Homework Club for years 5 and 6 at Deddington Primary School (every Monday after school).

We benefited from donations of machinery and a general fair wind for the project. Our Istanbul correspondent thought, maybe wrongly, that we are the only Church in England offering the streaming service. Yet what we have done is neither technically nor financially demanding. This has to be the kind of outreach appropriate to our new communication technologies (and, yes, we are on Facebook and Twitter). We aim to use this technology to enhance our connectedness to our link Parishes in Sweden and South Africa, as well as to link with other Churches worldwide who may be interested. If anyone would like to discuss any aspect of these matters with us, or if anyone can help us to take things further, please do get in touch.

Do give <http://www.deddingtonchurch.org/> a go and sample one of our broadcasts. And why not join in the KJV readings, whether in physical person or via Skype (see separate notice in this issue of the DN)? The internet café is open for your convenience on Tuesday and Friday afternoons.

Hugh White vicarhugo@hotmail.com

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in Deddington's Bullring

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home treatment room in Banbury

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an appointment

CALLING ALL CLUBS

Photographic Society

There were two events in December. The first was a workshop by a member, Simon Lutter, on taking indoor studio photographs. In conjunction with Jane Ryman, a noted local photographer, Simon gave members an introduction to the various techniques involved in studio photography, followed by a practical demonstration on how to use a studio. The second was a presentation by Mikki Aston CPAGB on her travels in Botswana, Namibia and South Africa. Mikki showed some extraordinary photographs of birds, animals and reptiles in the National Parks and concluded with a wonderful display of landscape photographs taken in Namibia's Sossusvlei desert.

In January Ian Bateman FRPS MPAGB gave a presentation on 'audio-visual techniques'. An experienced and accomplished photographer, Ian took his audience through the main stages of preparing an audio-visual presentation, starting with basic sequence planning, preparing and sizing images, dissolve/transition techniques, voice-over and music preparation, and finally motion effects involving images and titling. He concluded by showing a number of his own recent audio-visual projects that were creative and diverse, and whose impact was truly amazing: a superb presentation by an articulate and talented speaker at the top of his chosen area of photography.

Looking ahead, on 2 February member John Prentice will give a presentation on 'Comparison of photo-processing software', followed by the return of Jane Ryman on 2 March to talk about 'Portrait photographs of family, children and pets'. In addition, a further workshop is planned on 'Software processing of photographs' on 16 March. Everyone is welcome, just come along to the meetings, which are at 7.30pm in the Cartwright Hotel, Aynho.

John Branton 01295 811079
www.adandd.co.uk

1st Deddington Scout Group

Happy New Year to all our members and their families and welcome Archie, Archie, Sean, Ryan and Matthew to Cubs, which brings our total number to 24.

Cubs finished the old year with an evening making decorations followed by a wild games night. Topics for the new year include, 'Looking after Yourself' (emergency aid, diet, personal safety and bullying), photography and finishing touches to Deddington Castle.

Congratulations to Rhys who came third in the District Chess Tournament and will be going on to compete at county level.

The Scouts now total 27, having taken delivery of four Cubs – Jake, Josh, Toby and Ben. At the end of last term they made some beautiful painted glass decorations and some less than beautiful peppermint creams, they tasted nice though!

We took advantage of a free swimming session at Spiceball (available to any youth group on Wednesday

evenings), races, floats and an investiture in the pool.

Thanks to everyone who used the Christmas post, we raised £205. Thanks also to Eagles, Barford Post Office and Deddington Library for having the boxes. We try to deliver all the cards but some were outside the general bounds of the villages and a few were not addressed properly (check your labels) but we braved the snow and hopefully everyone got their cards.

Jo Churchyard CSL 338071
jochurchyard@hotmail.com
Pete Churchyard SL 338071
pete.churchyard@btinternet.com

Deddington Youth Club

Our end of term disco was very well attended at the Town Hall; we hope you all had a great break and would like to wish everyone a very happy 2011. We started back after the Christmas holidays on Monday 24 January 2011 at the same place (Windmill Centre), the same time (7–9pm) and at the same price (£2). All new members welcome – if you are between 9 and 15 and live in the parish it would be great to see you. Don't forget, if you bring along a new member your entry is half price that evening.

We would like to invite members of the public and especially Youth Club parents to attend our AGM, which will be held at the Windmill Centre at 6.30pm on Tuesday 15 February 2011.

Jill Radini 336133
jillmunson250@hotmail.com

WI

This being the 85th anniversary of Deddington WI, a large decorated cake was provided, together with drinks, to celebrate the fact at our meeting on 11 January, which all members enjoyed. Our speaker, John Suckling, accompanied his commentary on 'St Kilda, a far better place' with a most spectacular film of the island approached via huge dramatic rocks. The National Trust is involved in conservation work on the stone houses built on a protected site, and the MOD also has some involvement here. John's commentary was full of information about this uninhabited island which kept members interested throughout. A vote of thanks was given by Barbara Upton.

On 8 February our speaker is Dusty Rhodes on 'Country Customs' and 8 March is our annual meeting followed by cheese and wine.

Rene Mahony 338438

1st Deddington Guides

Christmas party – pyjamas and slippers! Great fun! Snow and 'flu kept most Guides away from the Wardington House Nursing Home Christmas party, but well done to Yolanda and Natalie and cub Philip for helping with tea and ensuring the games and carols went with a swing.

CALLING MORE CLUBS

Thank you to all the helpers and supporters of the Christmas post with especial thanks to cub leader Jo Churchyard for all her work.

New term – welcome to Olivia and Alice – 31 Guides and the waiting list is growing – great news!

Our patrol activities are underway – good turn challenge, annual entertainment, and first rotas. It's all happening!

Maggie Rampley, Guider 01295 810069

Marian Trinder, Guider 340806

Deddington Branch Royal British Legion

December and January give the Branch a little respite after Remembrance in November and the AGMs in December. At the AGMs we reverted to the same person being Chairman for both Branch and Club and Albert Humphries was elected. Jean Morris was elected Branch Secretary and Norman West is bravely ploughing on as Acting Branch Treasurer – surely some kind soul will come forward and let Norman off the hook after over 40 years. The funny thing is that this is one of the least time-consuming jobs on the Branch Committee but we can't get a volunteer. Dave Keats is continuing as Standard Bearer and the committee has some new and younger members so we are hoping for great things. This year is the 90th anniversary of the British Legion (as it was originally, prior to the granting of the Royal Charter). We are planning a number of activities especially on the weekend of 10–12 June: see future reports.

Deddington Royal British Legion Club

The AGM followed similar lines to that of the Branch (see above). Georgie Scott took over as Treasurer but as yet we have no Secretary. As with the Branch we have an extended committee with some younger members. We have continued our policy of not replacing our bar steward for economic reasons and running with volunteers. This has proved popular with the members but we would like one or two additional volunteers if only to do a couple of hours here and there. Experience is not needed – reliability and honesty being the key requirements – and training will be given. We would like to thank all who have done bar service recently.

It was amazing that during the dreadful weather over Christmas our members supported us well, but New Year was a little quiet. Perhaps our members were spent up, worn out or both but those who turned out enjoyed the festive season. The smokers suffered a little as the heavy snow demolished our smoking gazebo. This is the time of year when memberships fall due. We finished the old year on 30 September with 155 members and are delighted that, at the time of writing, 120 have renewed with still two weekends to go. The last date for renewal is close of business Sunday 23 January 2011 after which non-renewed cards must be returned to The Royal British Legion.

We are sad to report the deaths of three of our long-standing members. Winnie Brain had been a member for very many years and a willing supporter of both the Branch and the Club. Violet Reason (wife of George) had been bravely fighting a respiratory problem for some time and, whenever possible, came down to the club with George. The jobs that Violet undertook over all the years are beyond counting to say nothing of the support she gave George in all that he does. We were shocked to hear of the sudden death two weeks ago of Eddie Harrison senior. Eddie came to the club every Sunday without fail for as long as we can remember, and was MC of the meat draw. We will miss his weekly report on the quality of the Hooky Bitter but mostly his cheerful calling of the draw numbers and his presence in the corner of the bar. Our sympathies go out to all their families.

Memberships are still available for all those over the age of 18 at the rate of £16 per annum and £11 for pensioners (ladies 60 and over and men 65 and over on 1 October 2010). Members may be joined in the club by their partners and youngsters under 18 at certain times free of charge.

Albert Humphries Branch and Club Chairman

338943 or 0771 865 6920

Jean Morris Branch Secretary 338143

DeddingtonRBL@aol.com

Deddington Town Football Club

First Team results:

20/11/10	The Bell Sports (h) W 4–0 Flemming J, Paroussis (2), England
08/01/11	Benson Lions (h) (CUP) W 4–1 Flemming J (2), Thornton L, England

Reserve Team results:

20/11/10	Wroxton Sports (a) D 3–3 Kaye (3)
08/01/11	FC Langford (a) W 3–2 Paroussis (3)

As December's tundra segues to January's mud and murk, we can finally enjoy some local football again. Unsurprisingly, just one game was played by each team since November. The First Team have headed into their new era under the sole guidance of Mikey Large with two resounding victories, the second in the Junior Shield. John Flemming and Andy England were amongst the goals, but the real success stories have been in the Reserves, where both results were accomplished through players scoring hat-tricks. Against Wroxton, Jordan Kaye, who is in something of a purple patch, netted a treble, while unorthodox Reserve fullback Josh Paroussis was switched to a more offensive role in the First Team. He responded with a brace, and then a hat-trick on his return to Reserve duty as a striker. The First Team now sits comfortably amongst the title contenders. The Reserves are mid-table having played 11 of their 20 matches, though some teams below them have played as few as six.

...AND EVEN MORE CLUBS

Money tends to evaporate much quicker right now, but there are not many times you stand a good chance of getting it, and more, back, whilst supporting a local concern. For those of you who wish to help support your local club whilst standing a chance of winning £50 every week (£100 every ninth week), Deddington Town runs a '75' club. For more details, contact our club treasurer Paul Smith at: psmit104@astonmartin.com.

A prosperous and spiritually enlightening 2011 to all of my readers!

Aaron Bliss 07909 642882

Deddington and District History Society

Our January speaker, Peter Leney, who is Chairman of the TE Lawrence Society, was the perfect choice to talk about Lawrence of Arabia. He spoke to a packed house. He began by pointing out that Lawrence was by no means the 'great Englishman' of legend, being primarily Irish with strong connections to Wales and Scotland. More disappointing to some in the audience was the revelation that Lawrence was only 5' 5" tall and looked nothing like the young Peter O'Toole! Peter outlined Lawrence's extraordinary career as archaeologist, academic, soldier, writer and persistent misfit. Lawrence was an extraordinarily complex character. His later years were clouded by depression brought on by his belief that he had, albeit unwittingly, participated in the betrayal of the Arabs by the British and French governments. Peter was especially interesting in his reflections on the way in which that episode has bedevilled the geo-politics of the region ever since.

On 9 February we have a return visit by someone who has become a firm favourite with our members: Liz Woolley is remembered not only for her excellent talk last year but also for the wonderful tour of St Thomas's parish in Oxford that many of us enjoyed. In February she will be speaking on child labour in 19th-century Oxfordshire.

We are always delighted to see new members. Just turn up at the Windmill Centre on the second Wednesday of any month to be assured of a warm welcome.

Chris Day (Chairman) 337204
Moiria Byast (Secretary) 338637

1st Deddington Brownies

Late last term we made the most of the dark winter nights to learn about star gazing. Two Dads, Alan Collins and Doug Rose, came along to share their expertise with us and we had a fascinating evening learning how to recognise the different stars and finding out some of their stories. Thank you! This term we have completed our agility badges and we are looking forward to going to London in the spring to do our Wildlife Explorer Badge in Hyde Park. We hope you enjoyed seeing Brown Owl in the Deddington pantomime. Oh yes she was!

Lucy Squires 338442

Deddington Players

As I write this we are into the final few nervous rehearsals for our 2011 pantomime, *Puss in Boots*. By the time you read this the panto will be over and we will (I hope) be looking back on another successful show. This year it has been great to have an enthusiastic cast of over 40 on the stage, many more behind it, and several people joining us or taking to the stage for the first time. What a great community effort! Thank you to everyone involved for their commitment and thanks too to everyone who supported us by coming to see the show. We'll see you all next year - and please give me a call if you'd like to get involved.

Lucy Squires 338442

Deddington Cricket Club

In the afterglow of England's Ashes' triumph we are looking forward to the new season which is barely three and a half months away.

The club's Summer Ball, which was a great success in 2010, will take place on Saturday 18 June this year. If you missed out last year, book your tables early so as not to be disappointed. You can phone Clare Stevens, who is organising the event again, on 337431, the cost as last year being £50 per person.

We will be fielding two Saturday League teams, two Junior sides – U11s and U13s, as well as a Ladies' team.

Full information can be found on the club website: www.deddingtoncc.co.uk.

Derek Cheeseman 338609
dfc2001@lineone.net

Deddington PFSU and Village Nursery

Thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas events, including the PFSU decorations days, the Nursery Nativity play and the PFSU production of *Born in a Barn*.

This term the Nursery children will be finding out about transport and the PFSU children will be learning about animals and the Chinese New Year. We have already had visits from several family pets which has been fun.

Our major fund-raising event this term is a jumble sale in Deddington Church on Saturday 12 February from 11.00am to 1.00pm. We welcome donations of good quality bric-à-brac, books, children's clothes, adults' clothes, and toys. These can be brought to the church the day before the sale. Do come and support us. There will be some great bargains to be had. Thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas hamper raffle and sale of reindeer food. We raised £895.75 which was fantastic! Thank you also to the Fenemore family who provided our wonderful Christmas trees and to Deddington Guides for their Christmas pass-the-parcels.

Lucy Squires 338442

WELL REMEMBERED

RALPH ELSLEY 1923 – 2010

Ralph was born in Eastbourne on 24 July 1923, the elder of twin boys. His mother died a few days afterwards. Jack and Ralph went to local schools, but they were evacuated to Wellingborough when war broke out. After school, Ralph became a conscientious objector and was sent to Salisbury Infirmary as a porter. Here he met Marianne, a German Jewish refugee training to be a nurse. They married a year or so later.

After the war he finished his education, completing a first class honours degree at Birmingham University and then to Southampton to complete a Master's. He went on to work on a BLit at Lincoln College, Oxford.

In 1952 their daughter Judy was born in Oxford. Ralph found a job in Magherafelt, Northern Ireland, where the family lived for a couple of years and where their son Nick was born. When Ralph was offered a job at Bedford Modern School in 1954, the family moved into one of the school's boarding houses. Ralph hoped to become Head of the English Department at Bedford, but when that did not happen, he took a post in 1970 as Head of Department at Magdalen College, Brackley. He was not happy there, but met the headmistress of Tudor Hall School who offered him a teaching job. He was very happy and was an active member of the school community until his retirement in 1983. Meanwhile, the family had moved to Banbury and then Deddington where they lived for 40 years. From 1983 Ralph took an active part in Deddington events. For a short time he edited the *DN*. Perhaps he and Marianne are best remembered by their friends for their hospitality. They regularly gave dinner parties, often had overnight guests, and we can all recall the splendid summer parties in their beautiful garden. Ralph appeared at a village fête many years ago as the Deddington Dandy, perfectly adorned with bow tie and boater.

The last few years were difficult for Ralph and Marianne. He cared for Marianne at home when she became ill, refusing all help until it became necessary to move her to a nursing home. For the few months he was on his own Ralph liked to entertain friends to tea, and always brought in an impeccably laid tray with delicious cakes. He would then fix stern eyes on his visitor and enquire, 'What are you reading?' at which we searched our minds for an approved author, fearing schoolmasterly disapproval. He loved word games and provided we played intelligently he would invite us to join him. He enjoyed the village play reading group, put up with what he termed 'run-on-the-mill' stuff and, when his turn came to choose a play, chose Shakespeare. His camp rendering of some of Shakespeare's fools was hilarious.

After Marianne's death in December 2009, Ralph moved to Featherton House in May and lived in comfort there, but the combination of depression and poor physical health led to his death on 17 December.

Molly Neild, 337719

ROY BERRIDGE 1922 – 2011

Roy Berridge was a natural gentleman – a popular, kindly, considerate and courteous presence in Deddington for the last 18 years. He was educated at King's School, Peterborough (where he was head boy) and Leicester College of Art and Technology. His father was a power station maintenance engineer and Roy also gravitated towards a career in engineering. His first jobs were at firms specialising in optics and instrumentation, but his exposure to the technical challenges of running power stations led him to pursue a distinguished career in the UK's then-nationalised power generation industry.

Roy met his future wife Marie when he was 18 and she 16, as he sought shelter from the rain in a badminton club where she was playing – a club he was very quick to join! Five years later, in 1945, Roy and Marie were married. They were blessed with a daughter, Diana, in 1950, who became an early focus for Roy's passion for cameras and photography. They shared a love of classical music and attended countless concerts and operas during their 64 happy years of marriage.

Roy's 34 years at the heart of Britain's energy industry started with a job as a Reactor Design Engineer for the British Electricity Authority, but his intellect, dedication and integrity eventually led to such prestigious (and high-pressure) positions as Director-General of the Design and Construction Division of the Central Electricity Generating Board, and Chairman of the South of Scotland Electricity Board.

He became a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering in 1979 and was awarded the CBE for his services to engineering. But he invariably emphasised the team nature of his work and was generous in recognising the worth of his staff.

After his retirement in 1982, Roy and Marie moved to Deddington where they rapidly became active members of the community and enjoyed many years of happiness and close friendships.

Roy took a particular interest in the replacement of the church bells, following and filming their restoration and the casting of new bells. He also battled with the County Council over plans to reorganise the traffic flow in the village, resulting in a safer and more environmentally friendly system. Always a technophile, Roy stayed well abreast of computer technology too, and for several years was responsible for designing the advertisement pages of *DN*. He also set up a beautifully equipped workshop where he repaired clocks of all kinds for his growing circle of local friends who were very generous with their support when Roy's health began to deteriorate in later years.

Roy died peacefully at the Horton Hospital on 3 January 2011. His family and many friends mourn his passing, celebrate his gifts and count themselves fortunate to have shared his life and achievements.

Francis Tombs and Crispin Gair

WELL REMEMBERED

ELIZABETH OLIVE LESLIE (nee Weir)

If to be born British was to win the lottery of life, then to be born Anglo-Irish in the South of Ireland, towards the beginning of the last century, was to enter a lottery of a different kind. A childhood replete with pastoral scenes and old homes was counterbalanced by fear and alarm. The 'Troubles' found her watching her father, a Canon in the Church of Ireland, dig his grave in front of an IRA firing squad, to be reprieved at the last moment.

Tuberculosis nearly took her. But, blessed with a thirst for knowledge and a sharp intellect, she survived and graduated in English at Trinity College, Dublin. She married Graham Leslie, a senior civil servant and, in due course, they moved to England, there to join much of the rest of her family. She became headmistress of Hampden House and then St Mary's Hall, Brighton, now conflated with Roedean. Of many awards, she particularly valued her time in America on a Walter Hines Page scholarship.

Moving to Deddington in retirement, she engaged with the Church and the community there, as she had always done, and became an inspiring Chairman of the Oxford English Speaking Union. She loved her time in Deddington, and the people of Deddington more than repaid any debt of gratitude, when she went blind though a medical mishap.

A gracious lady, she gave and received much love. She is survived by her son, a physician, and two grandsons, a banker and a barrister.

Professor David Leslie

RAY WEST 1943 – 2010

Ray was born to an Oxford family in 1943, the only child. In the mid-1940s the family moved to High Street, Deddington; Ray's mother and father worked at the Manor, she as housekeeper, he as gardener. The family had a smallholding, where Ray kept pigs. He also bred rabbits, and became skilled in the care of animals, for which he had a great love. Ray left school at 15 and went to work at Steeple Aston on a chicken farm owned by Spillers. He then worked as a fitter at Maybury's Coaches in Souldern moving on to Heyfordian. He became a highly skilled mechanic and also cultivated an interest in the workings of tractors and trains. After leaving Heyfordian he developed a small market garden and sold produce locally. He made holly wreaths at Christmas, a popular purchase in Deddington. Outside work, Ray did bell-ringing and enjoyed authors such as Dick Francis and Colin Dexter, as well as his gardening and engineering magazines. Ray did not marry, but lived with and looked after his mother. He was a friendly and helpful neighbour, handy at all manner of jobs. Quiet and unassuming, he nevertheless had a good sense of humour. He tasked his executors with delivering lemons to a couple of tax offices, having felt himself squeezed dry by the taxman. Not a bad way to sign off!

HW

PAT ADKINS 1940 – 2011

Pat was born in the Tchure in 1940, the youngest of four children, her father a Deddington man, her mother originally from the East End of London. From the cottage in the Tchure Pat and her family moved in the late 40s to the comparative luxury of 14 The Paddocks, one of the newly-built Council houses. Pat went to Deddington Primary and then to the Windmill School before working at Cheney's, the Banbury printers. She married Malcolm Adkins (of Adderbury) in 1962 and had three children, David, Stephen and Karen. There were homes in Kidlington, Banbury and elsewhere in Deddington before the family settled at 2 The Paddocks in the early 70s. When her children were old enough, Pat went out to a variety of work. She was on the production line at the Welford chicken factory for while; she cleaned canal boats at Aynho wharf; she went potato picking to earn some money to spend at Banbury fair; she cleaned up newly-built houses prior to occupancy. Later she worked for the Bouveries at Castle House and helped her sister Grace in servicing Philip Allan's offices. When her husband Malcolm became ill, much of Pat's time was given over to looking after him, a task she performed with great devotion. Deddington born, around and about in the village so much, whether walking to work or to the Red Lion or to the Church, doing so much for and with people in the village, Pat, self-effacing as she was, was nevertheless right at the centre of our community. We have lost a great deal in losing her.

HW

VIOLET REASON 1925 – 2010

Violet was born in 1925 in Hook Norton, one of a large family. After school she took a job at Alcan and then worked as a housekeeper. She married George in 1950. They lived at Sibford Gower, Whichford, Cropredy and then at Tom Smith's caravan site in Bloxham before coming to Windmill Street in Deddington in the early 1960s. Violet was now well into the major task of raising her family. She was hugely supportive of her husband and her six boys and worked hard and long to make them happy. There was still time for a social life, much of it centred on the British Legion. She played bingo there on Sundays and was generally at the Legion every evening, always on hand – ever helpful as she was – for the washing-up. Her contribution to the Legion was formally recognised in certificates expressing esteem and admiration for her as helpmate. Beyond the Legion there was her knitting (dolls for charity a speciality); there were drives with George to the pubs of the area, and summer weekends saw the couple travel far and wide to visit steam rallies. Violet's mechanical interests also found expression in a collection of model cars. But, essentially, she drew her own happiness from making other people happy and that meant she gave a great deal to her family and her friends and to Deddington.

HW

WELL REMEMBERED

JOHN FOWLER 1958 – 2010

John was born in Abingdon, the second son of Joan and Bob Fowler. He lived most of his childhood and teenage years in Harwell, where Bob was a scientist at the Rutherford laboratory. John went to Abingdon School and then on to Oxford Polytechnic, now Oxford Brookes, training in Advanced Building Studies. He moved to Deddington with his parents in 1978 and, having completed his studies, he started his own business as an Architectural Building Surveyor. He was a meticulous draughtsman and produced work of a very high standard, some of it for local institutions in Deddington. He did work for the Unicorn and his drawings of the British Legion premises are still a valuable resource for that organisation.

Unfortunately, recession hit the building trade and John was not able to earn a living through his business. In due course he secured a position at RAF Croughton, having impressed his interviewers with his knowledge of building matters, and he worked at the Croughton base for six years.

John was sociable by nature; he loved going off into the village to talk with people and he was a funny, witty conversationalist – good company. He was a charming, engaging, endearing person, open and warm-hearted. His recession-induced problems with alcohol eventually perhaps rather dimmed some of these qualities, blurred his true character – his conversation, though not lacking in humour, sometimes tended to the self-absorbed. However, John never lost the affection of the village. His essential charm survived his alcoholism and his underlying generosity and good nature were apparent. Actually, his good nature didn't 'underlie' – it was very obvious and evident, for all John's troubles. Many people in our community, while lamenting John's affliction and too early demise, will remember with pleasure his ready, slightly lopsided grin, recall his affable friendliness with gratitude and count themselves fortunate to have known him.

HW

POLLY – FEEDING THE HOMELESS

As many of you know, we have a box in Church – collecting food for Polly who cooks 365 days a year to provide a hot meal to feed the homeless. She so much appreciates Deddington people's generosity in supporting her.

However, I have to ask that extra care is taken NOT to put food in the box which is out of date or has been opened. The food is taken to Polly once a week on a Monday morning so it is important to observe these rules in the interests of health and safety. Should you have food which will not keep, please telephone me and I will endeavour to make an alternative arrangement. Thank you.

Jean Welford
338539

WINIFRED BRAIN 1938 – 2010

Winifred was born in 1938 in the Tchure in Deddington to Florence and Wilfred Harper; she was one of seven children.

On leaving the Windmill School Winifred became a machinist at Spencer's, the corset makers, in Banbury. She married Stan and they had five children. Married life began at Great Tew, but Stan moved from his quarry work there to employment at Castle Farm, Deddington and the family was raised at Field Barn on the farm. Winifred was pretty firm in the way she brought up the children. You were made to eat what was on your plate and if you got really difficult the copper-stick was wielded. But she looked after the family well and there could be some wild fun – as with Winifred chasing her son David through the house brandishing her false teeth.

When the children were old enough, Winifred took cleaning jobs and eventually went to work in Tuckers stores, which she greatly enjoyed. After this she worked at the Hotel Russell, moving on, following its closure, to the Sue Ryder shop in Banbury. Highly sociable, she loved helping her customers and made friends wherever she worked. When she and Stan divorced, Winifred moved into Windmill Street. She met Colin Summers and Colin and she worked the Windmill Street garden assiduously, Winifred's flowers being widely appreciated. Winifred was a member of the Deddington Ladies, the Friendship Club and of the trophy-winning ladies' darts team at the Crown and Tuns – this the more surprising considering the problems she had with her eyesight.

A great participator in village life, Winifred knew everyone and never had a hard word to say of any of them. A Deddingtonian born and bred, she was true and faithful to the community she loved.

HW

A Foretaste of Summer

Now that all the Christmas things have been put away some people will have started to think about summer. Holidays? Clothes for warm weather? Meals on the patio? In readiness for this, Fairtrade producers in many parts of the world have been busy preparing for the launch this month of Traidcraft's summer catalogue which promises to be packed with colourful clothing, exciting foods, useful household and kitchen goods and lots of new toys for the children. Deddington Fair Traders will have free catalogues as soon as they are published as well as at the Fairtrade stall in the Church during the Farmers' Market on Saturday 26 February. Call me now and be among the first to get one. Also it can be fun to sell on the stall and at the same time know that you are supporting others to have a better standard of education and life. Why not talk to us about joining the team?

Hugh Marshall 337761