

## Deddington Association

A Deddington-based Society for the Preservation of Property and Prosecution of Felons was first formed in 1783. It seems to have lapsed, for, in 1805, a new association was established.

A notice indicates that the Association was in existence in 1812, but it seems it must have lapsed again since in 1818 a public meeting was convened with the object of reviving and re-establishing the Association.

During the period 1820-1837 the General Annual Meeting was usually held in April in one of the public houses in Deddington, the notice stipulating "Dinner on the table at two o'clock precisely":

1820	King's Arms
1821	Ditto
1822	Ditto
1823	Ditto
1824	Ditto
1825	Ditto
1826-1829	Notice of GAM not published in <i>Jackson's Oxford Journal</i>
1830	Crown and Tuns
1831	King's Arms
1832	Unicorn
1833	Crown and Tuns
1834	King's Arms
1835	Notice of GAM not published in <i>Jackson's Oxford Journal</i>
1836	Crown and Tuns
1837	Notice of GAM not published in <i>Jackson's Oxford Journal</i>

From time to time the Association published notices offering a reward when the property of one of its members, often a horse, had been stolen.

Lists of members were published in 1830-1834 and 1836. In 1830 there were 61 subscribers in Deddington and the surrounding villages within a ten mile radius. 16 of the subscribers were from Deddington, and one each from Clifton and Hempton, listed below in the order in which they appear in the 1830 newspaper notice:

Thomas Austin, farmer

John Churchill, solicitor

Henry Churchill, grocer

Henry Dean, farmer  
Henry Dean, jun., butcher  
William Emberlin, paper maker  
Samuel C. Field, solicitor  
Philip Fowler, farmer  
John Gilks, farmer  
Edward Hatten, farmer and proprietor of the King's Arms  
William Merry, jun.  
Benjamin Pritchett, jun., farmer  
John Poulton, landlord of the Crown and [Three] Tuns  
John Sturch, landlord of the Unicorn  
Joseph Slatter, farmer  
Thomas William Turner, surgeon  
William Bloxham, Clifton, farmer  
Giles Ibell, Hempton, farmer

The above may be taken as representing a majority of the principal inhabitants and resident land owners in the Parish in 1830. About half of the members appear to have been farmers.

In 1820 the Treasurers of and Solicitors to the Association were Messrs. Churchill and Field, then the leading firm of solicitors in Deddington. After the dissolution of the partnership in 1826, followed by the bankruptcy of Samuel Churchill in 1827, his cousin Samuel Churchill Field continued as treasurer and solicitor, and, following his death in 1833, by his son Samuel Field.

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**19 December 1829, page 1**

**£30 REWARD.**

*Deddington Association for the Prosecution of Offenders.*

WHEREAS some person or persons did, in the night of Saturday the 12th of December, 1829, feloniously kill an EWE SHEEP, the property of Mr. John Barnard, of Dornford, (a Member of this Association), in a ground on Dornford Farm, called *Lower Rick Ground*, and steal and take away the carcase thereof, leaving the head, skin, and entrails.

Whoever will apprehend the offender or offenders, or give such information as may lead to his or their conviction,

shall, upon such conviction, receive a Reward of TWENTY POUNDS of Mr. Barnard, and a further Reward of TEN POUNDS of Mr. S.C. Field, of Deddington, the Treasurer and Solicitor to the above. - And if more than one person was concerned in the felony, and either of them will impeach his accomplice or accomplices, he shall, on his or their conviction, receive the above reward, and endeavours will be used to procure a pardon.

**11 December 1830, page 2**

**£60 Reward,**

*Deddington Association for the Prosecution of Offenders.*

WHEREAS early in the morning of Friday the 3d of December instant, a Stack of Oats, upon the farm premises at Hempton, in the parish of Deddington, Oxfordshire, belonging to Mr. Joseph Lovedren, of Great Barford (a Member of this Association) was discovered to be on fire, which communicated to another Oat Stack, a Bean Rick, a large Hovel, and a five-bay Barn, containing Corn, all of which were consumed; and there is reason to believe that they were wilfully and maliciously set on fire; - Whoever will apprehend the offender or offenders, or give such information as may lead to his or their conviction, shall, upon such conviction, receive a Reward of FIFTY POUNDS, of Mr. Lovedren, and a further Reward of TEN POUNDS of the Treasurer of the above Association; and if more than one person was concerned in the felony, and either of them will impeach his accomplice or accomplices, he or she shall, on the conviction of such accomplice or accomplices, receive the above Rewards, and every endeavour will be used to provide a pardon.

*Deddington, Dec. 6, 1830.*

SAMUEL C. FIELD,  
Treasurer and Solicitor.

By his Majesty's late Proclamation, any person giving such information of the offender or offenders shall lead to his or their conviction, or any accomplice (except the person actually setting fire to the premises) will, on conviction, be entitled to a further Reward of Five Hundred Pounds, and the accomplice will be pardoned.

**20 June 1835, page 4**

**£20 REWARD.**

**DEDDINGTON ASSOCIATION**

*For the Prosecution of Offenders.*

WHEREAS on the night of Monday the 15th of June, 1835, some person or persons did feloniously steal from the Home Ground of Mr. Edward Hatten, of Deddington (a member of this Association), a very handsomely made BLACK NAG MARE, the property of Mr. Hatten.

Whoever will give such information as may lead to the conviction of the offender or offenders shall, upon such conviction, receive a reward of 10*l.* of Mr. Hatten, and a further reward of 10*l.* of Mr. Samuel Field, of Deddington, the Treasurer and Solicitor of the above Association; and if more than one person was concerned in the felony, and either of them will impeach his accomplice or accomplices, he shall, on his or their conviction, receive the above rewards, and endeavours will be used to procure a pardon.

The mare is 6 years old, and stands 15 hands and an inch high; is entirely black (except a small piece of white on her near hind fetlock, and some grey hairs on her legs nearly up to her hocks); has a thick square tail, rather curly, a small piece of hair rubbed off her nose and forehead; has been marked a little by the collar, traces, and breeching in drawing, and on her back by a gig saddle, and has been lately trimmed.