

the Deddington news

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With hosepipe bans and rain all week, you know the cricket season has started! But what a summer we have to look forward to ... Keep a record of diary dates to ensure you don't miss any of the excitement.

May

- Tue 1 Bowls Club at home v Banbury Borough, 6.15pm
- Wed 2 Photographic Society: Presentation by Gordon Roberts, 'Photography in the Snow', Cartwright Hotel, Aynho 7.30pm
- Wed 2 Annual Parish Meeting, Windmill Centre, 7.30pm
- Thu 3 Neighbourhood Return: Dementia meeting, 7.00pm, Parish Church
- Sat 5 'Double Take', Song recital with a difference, Parish Church, 7.30pm
- Sat 5 British Legion: Bingo from 8.00pm
- Mon 7 Monday Morning Club: Coffee morning, 10.30am–noon
- Tue 8 WI: Resolutions, Holly Tree, 7.30pm
- Wed 9 History Society: Matt Armitage, 'History of Tooley's Boatyard', Windmill Centre, 7.30pm
- Thu 10 'The History of Christianity in Fifteen Objects': the Bishop of Gibraltar, Parish Church, 7.30pm
- Thu 10 Monday Morning Club: Film evening, Holly Tree, 7.30pm
- Sat 12 Concert: The Collared Doves, 'Music for Springtime', Parish Church, 7.30pm
- Sun 13 Deddington Tennis Club: Open day, 2.00–5.00pm
- Mon 14 Monday Morning Club: Coffee morning, Holly Tree, 10.30am–noon
- Wed 16 Parish Council Meeting, Hempton Church Hall, 7.30pm
- Sat 19 Banbury Rural Police Team: 'Have your Say' Day
- Sat 19 Concert: Warriner Choral Society, Parish Church, 7.00pm
- Mon 21 British Legion: Quiz night, from 8.00pm
- Sat 26 Chipping Norton Choral Society, Parish Church, 7.30pm
- Sat 26 Deddington Farmers' Market and Jubilee Photographic Exhibition, Living Room, Parish Church 9.00am–12.30pm

June

- Sat 2 Golden Jubilee Celebration
- Sun 3 Friends of Castle Grounds: 'Songs of Praise', 6.30pm, Castle Grounds
- Wed 6 History Society: Visit to Rycote Chapel and gardens
- Wed 6 Photographic Society: Photoshoot in Adderbury, 7.30pm
- Sat 9 WI: Cake and plant stall under the Town Hall
- Tue 12 WI: Alistair Lack, 'Oxfordshire Country Houses', Holly Tree, 7.30pm
- Thu 14 – 7 July Deddington Festival: Programme, see p7
- Wed 20 Parish Council meeting, Holly Tree, 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

Wednesday 18 April 2012 at the Windmill Centre

The meeting, chaired by Jim Flux, took place on a wet and windy evening; there were a good turnout of Parish Councillors and two members of the public.

Open Forum

Andrew Green addressed the DPC seeking a one-off grant of £500 to revive the fortunes of the Youth Club. The application will be referred to the Finance and General Purposes working group and will be discussed at the next meeting of the DPC.

Planning

New applications

Hempton Lodge, Hempton, a detached 4 bedroom dwelling with a garage was objected to because it was considered to be an inappropriate backfill development.

Deddington Manor, DPC did not object to the pruning of a beech tree.

The road leading to the new houses behind the old Holcombe Hotel is to be named.

The Unicorn PH is to be repainted and the brewery would submit a planning application.

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>.

Finance & GP

April is the start of the financial year and receipts are higher mainly because of the English Heritage grant of £1,900, the CDC precept of £17,715 and a VAT refund of £2,671.

Castle Grounds: wider use and accessibility by the community will be discussed at the Parish Meeting (2 May).

Windmill Centre: the Football Clubs are to be reminded of their responsibility of care for the grass at the Windmill, particularly around the goal areas.

Christmas tree lights: the cost of providing a power source is being investigated.

Invoices agreed for payment £2,354.

Parish funds on deposit £542,954 at Anglo Irish, Barclays, Nat West, West Bromwich BS & Alliance and Leicester BS.

Annual Parish Meeting, 2 May 2012, 7.30pm at the Windmill Centre

Next Meeting 16 May 2012, 7.30pm at Church Hall, Hempton

Public Meeting 3 May 2012

Deddington Church 7.00pm

Neighbourhood Return is a new national service to help people with dementia who get lost. We are building a network of local search volunteers

Developed by Oxford Health NHS Trust in conjunction with Neighbourhood Watch
We plan to trial the service in Deddington in June

This meeting is for anyone interested in learning more about the service. We also want to recruit local volunteers to take part in a trial search – no experience necessary

Please come – refreshments provided!
For more information: Richard Pantlin,
Project Manager on 07958-293078 or
richardpantlin@yahoo.co.uk

THE QUEEN AND I

Many thanks to those of you who have sent in contributions. Memories range from meeting Queen Mary to the current royal family. Here is the first instalment. More next month – Kristin Thompson

MEETING QUEEN MARY – Molly Neild

Although it betrays my age, I like to boast that I have shaken hands with Queen Mary. Well, sort of – in fact we were actually strictly ordered not to touch the fragile Royal Hand. I was one of the young secretaries who worked at the National Book League in London. On this occasion we were not just arranging yet another book exhibition, we were an integral part of the latest, 'Fashion Through the Ages' which was to be opened by Her Majesty.

Dressed in an appropriately chronological assortment of costumes we sashayed down a grand elliptical staircase towards Her Majesty, a vision in pale blue in the hall below.

I was deeply unhappy. My teenage figure had been squeezed into a velvet Empire-style gown with no waistline to show off my best asset and a skirt so tight that I had knock-knees. However, having achieved the bottom of the stairs, white glove hovered delicately over white glove and looking into her blue eyes, I was proud.

[Some fascinating experiences to reflect on while we celebrate our Queen's Diamond Jubilee – Ed]

DEDDINGTON 150 YEARS AGO

The following is an extract from Jackson's Oxford Journal for the month of June 1862:

Gross Outrage

We abstained last week from referring to a most violent and disgraceful assemblage in Deddington, of the lowest orders, who for three nights paraded the town, making the most discordant noises with tin kettles and horns, yelling and hooting, to the great terror of the peaceably disposed inhabitants, besides setting a bad example to the rising generation. The mob, as at first congregated, consisted merely of a party of idle, dirty, ragged boys and youths and girls, but as proved from the evidence given before the Bench of Magistrates at our Town Hall, its number increased every time they went round the town, till at last it assumed what it really

was, a most alarming and riotous assemblage of the worst characters of the town and neighbourhood, both male and female. Had the assemblage been at first put a stop to, as it ought to have been, the Inspector of Police would not have been so foully treated, and it is fortunate for the parties concerned that his life was not sacrificed. We have nothing whatever to do with the idle tales of low-bred gossiping women, and only regret that they cannot find something better to do than to invent and propagate slander, without, as we are credibly informed, the slightest foundation. But what we have to do is to denounce in the strongest possible language these disgraceful proceedings, which are looked on not only in Deddington, but for miles around, with feelings of abhorrence.

Buffy Heywood 338212

Banbury Rural Police Team visit to Deddington

Saturday 19 May

There will be a ballot box in the Co-op in Deddington from Saturday 12 May which will give people the opportunity to have their say and request a visit from a member of the neighbourhood team on 19 May. Should you wish to leave a message, please fill in a slip which will be provided with the ballot box.

On Saturday 19 May, officers from the rural neighbourhood team will be in the village, checking the ballot box and visiting those people who have requested a

visit or contact from the team. We will also be patrolling the village as part of our surgery and speaking with villagers to identify and discuss any issues within the village that the neighbourhood policing team can possibly assist with.

Samantha West

**Neighbourhood Policing Administrator
Cherwell LPA**

sam.west@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Music for Springtime

Concerts in Deddington Church

Saturdays at 7.30pm

5 May

Double Take :

A Song Recital with a Difference

Poems with two settings by different composers

Clare McCaldin, Mezzo Chris Windass, Viola

Paul Turner, Piano

12 May

Summer is A-Coming In

The Collared Doves perform madrigals
and part songs

and Anna Teare sings soprano classics with

Elsa Williams, Piano

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PRIMARY SCHOOL

During May the big focus tends to be SATs. Years 2 and 6 are working very hard at the moment and hopefully their hard work will be rewarded. In Year 6 we are also still remembering our very special residential trip to Yenworthy Lodge on Exmoor.



Pic Jane Cross

It was a glorious week and such good fun. Alex Clarke and Alice Collins in Year 6 share their thoughts on the week:

'Yenworthy was one of the most memorable and challenging weeks in Year 6 – both mentally and physically. After an eventful four-hour journey to get there we went straight on to the ropes course, followed by an evening walk across the moors to do some star gazing – in fact we were the last class to be able to get a glimpse of Venus from Exmoor; it will not be seen again for another 200 years! We even jumped borders, from Somerset to Devon. The following day was business day which focused on being a good team player and, when needed, a good leader too. The following two days we went outside the centre – on a moorland expedition – where we made fires and toasted marshmallows; went coasteering over and under rocks (and got very wet); climbed cliffs on the beach and went

rock pooling. On the final day we did the Lyn Valley River walk which was beautiful. Every evening was full of activities too such as orienteering in the dark. We learned so much and enjoyed it at the same time; the instructors were brilliant and really encouraged us to do our best and the food was always mouth-watering and scrumptious – some

of us even had five helpings in the evenings!'

Here are some more thoughts about Yenworthy from Year 6:

'An experience of a lifetime' – *Alfie*

'Why did it have to end?' – *Emily*

'I wish I could go back there' – *Victoria*

'I would recommend it to everyone' – *Fynn*

'It was fantastic and I wish it never ended' – *Jorgie*

I think the class will remember their Yenworthy experience for a long time. They were absolutely fabulous, they met challenges head on, they laughed a lot and they were incredibly supportive of each other. I felt very honoured to be their teacher. Now let's just get SATs out of the way ...

**Jane Cross, Deputy Head
338430**

PRIMARY SCHOOL PTA

The annual quiz was a great success. Quiz masters Al Collins and Peter Hogben did a wonderful job and kept us scratching our heads for most of the night. Sam and Ed Sinclair made a fantastic chilli for us all and the PTA committee ladies treated us to some mouth-watering desserts. Stella O'Neill and her team ran the bar and Mark Swadling kept us in sound and vision. Huge thanks go to all involved. We are still waiting for final figures, but we hope to have raised in excess of £1,000, so well done everyone!

The bake sale held at school was incredibly well supported and we were genuinely touched by the huge amount of beautiful cakes and biscuits that were donated. The children had a fantastic feast during the afternoon, meaning parents didn't have much left to buy after school. Everything went and we raised a truly tremendous £225. Our sincere thanks to everyone who donated a 'bake' and to the Year 5 and 6 girls who helped out on the day.

Sadly, the Deddington Walk is taking a year off this year, but the committee promises it will be back next year as usual.

The next date to ensure you have in your calendar is our annual fête which will be held on the school field on Saturday 16 June. We are continuing with last year's timing – 12.30pm till 3.30pm – so make sure you don't miss it. This promises to be an exciting event with sheep racing, the ever-popular quad bikes, 'Lane Change Digital Scalextric Racing', face painting and much, much more. Amazing Animals are coming along again too – what will they bring this year?

Each class will be organising and running a stall as usual so do come and support our children and have a great time with lots of fun. The PTA is also dreaming up some great new side stalls. The barbecue will be ready and sizzling – just in time for lunch – and then why not try one of our delicious cream teas later in the afternoon, while watching one of the events in the arena? Of course, we will have our usual licensed bar (including Pimms).

We look forward to welcoming you to the fête and thank you all for your continued support.

**Melissa Chadderton, Chair, 349936
melissa@rhubarbcreative.demon.co.uk**

CHURCH AND CHAPEL

May

Parish Church SS Peter and Paul

Tue	1	6.30pm	Eucharist: SS Philip & James
Wed	2	10.00am	Eucharist
Thu	3	2.00pm	Squeals and Wheels
Sun	6	10.30am	First Sunday
		6.30pm	Evensong
Tue	8	6.30pm	Eucharist: Julian of Norwich
Wed	9	10.00am	Eucharist
Thu	10	2.00pm	Squeals and Wheels
Sun	13	8.00am	Holy Communion
		10.30am	Sung Eucharist with healing prayer
Mon	14	6.30pm	Eucharist: Matthias
Wed	16	10.00am	Eucharist
Thu	17	2.00pm	Squeals and Wheels
Sun	20	9.30am	Fourth Sunday: Eucharist followed at 10.15am by Interactive Café Church
Wed	23	10.00am	Eucharist
Thu	24	2.00pm	Squeals and Wheels
Sun	27	10.30am	Eucharist with Baptism
Wed	30	10.00am	Eucharist with healing prayer
Thu	31	2.00pm	Squeals and Wheels
		6.30pm	Eucharist: Visitation

St John's Hempton

Sun	6	9.00am	Eucharist
Thu	17	7.30pm	Eucharist
Sun	20	6.00pm	Evensong
Sun	27	9.00am	Eucharist

The Barfords

Sun	6	10.30am	Eucharist (BfdStM)
Sun	13	10.30am	Family Service with Baptism (BfdStM)
Sun	20	4.00pm	Evensong (BfdStM)
Sun	27	10.30am	Family Service with Eucharist (BfdStM)

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Service of Thanksgiving:

29 March Daisy Cowley

10 April Ron Harper

Interment of Ashes

11 April Ron Harper

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, Iain Gillespie (338367) or George Fenemore (338203). For further information please go to www.deddingtonchurch.org.

Wesleyan Reform Church, Chapel Square

Sunday mornings at 10.30am Pastor Isabel Walton
27 May John Neale

Pastor Isabel Walton 337157

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.

The Feast of the Ascension which would normally fall on 17 April has been transferred to the following Sunday, so this year there is no separate Holy Day of Obligation.

The Feast of Pentecost falls on 27 April and is not affected by the transfer of the Whit Monday Bank Holiday.

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

STOP PRESS!

Deddington Town Football Club requests your support to cheer us on in the Banbury Charity Cup Final on Bank Holiday Monday 7 May, kick off 6pm at Easington Sports Ground, Addison Road Banbury, as we take on KEA Football Club. Entry for children is free. All proceeds from gate receipts go to the Katharine House Hospice. We look forward to seeing you there.

Andy Morris, 07803 931126

CORRECTION

The email address for Lee Mullins on p1 of the advertisement pages is incorrect.

Our apologies – it should be

lee@mullinsdecor.co.uk

GREEN PIECE

Development journalist David Fulshaw [aka John Madeley] takes unpaid leave from his newspaper to undertake a surreal journey by bike from West Africa to the Cape via East Africa. On the way he meets people and cannot resist filing their stories back to his editor. In the globalised world of the media the pointed criticisms of those responsible for climate change in the most polluting nation on earth reach the ears of a CIA agency who with their global reach take steps to snuff out their source.

The plot of *Let Live* is fiction, the real-life stories are facts, told by people in Africa to Nigel Cross, who wrote *At the Desert's Edge: Oral Histories from the Sahel*, and to John Madeley before 2007 when David Fulshaw's ride is set.

Climate change deniers treat all such stories as fiction; minds made up avoid being confused with facts – ignore the estimate, in the 2009 report 'The Human Impact of Climate Change' by the Global Humanitarian Forum that, even with relatively low levels of warming, 300,000 people die every year from the effects of climate change. Read *Let Live*, and you will want a film crew to bring an updated *Let Live* story to our TV screens for more to see.

Let Live, a novel by John Madeley, is published by Longstone Books, price £8.99. Also available from www.withouthotair.com.

Christopher Hall, achall@globalnet.co.uk



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– Lucy and Jack

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Celebration of Jubilees and Coronations in the Past

An exhibition of photographs and programmes depicting Deddington's celebration of the various coronations and jubilees since 1887 is being mounted in the church as part of the Diamond Jubilee events. What follows is a flavour of each event:

Golden Jubilee 1887: 'It was suggested initially that the occasion should be marked by paving the streets, but the idea of a public dinner of roast beef and plum pudding was adopted instead. Following the great parade, the vicar, the Rev. Mr Boniface, had a congregation of 1000 souls awaiting, more or less respectfully, his sermon. The celebrations started at 5am no less, with a peal from the tower... after the meal, the whole concourse ambled down to watch the sports in the Jubilee sports field by the gasworks.'

Silver Jubilee 1935: 'From a total of £67 6s. 8d. raised by a house-to-house collection, £15 was allocated to provide a 'feed' for children and adults (with much of the fare donated by local traders); £12 paid for sports prizes and souvenir mugs and a 6d piece for the children; £7 10s. put on a dance for the over-16s, and £2 paid for fireworks to accompany the bonfire on the Clifton Road. No less than £10 was spent on decorating the parish with flags and streamers. Each child was given a 1d. flag, and prizes of £1, 10s. and 7/6d. were awarded to the best decorated houses.'

Paddocks Coronation celebrations 1953: 'A walking football match for men – if any man ran at all he was disqualified. At that time there were no bungalows at the Paddocks and that piece of ground was where we held our sports and games. ... We envisaged we should need about £150 ... when we finally settled up our account we had 3/6d left.'

Silver Jubilee 1977: a really first-class procession wound round the streets of the town. Modern Deddington went one better than their Victorian forebears for there, on her own float and surrounded by an elegant retinue of ladies-in-waiting, was Queen Victoria herself. Nor did 19th-century Deddington manage to summon up from the past the seigneur of Deddington Castle himself, accompanied by a brave mesnie of overlords, ladies, hunting dogs and outriders. The children gave us prize-winning crown jewels and Britannia surrounded by a satisfactorily chauvinistic crew of Jolly 'Jackette' tars. The spirit of goodwill could hardly go further.

Golden Jubilee 2002: 'Alex Soddy, Matthew O'Sullivan, and a choir from the Parish Church including local singers attacked a most demanding programme for the Jubilee concert. Given the breadth of expertise required, the musical performances were impressive. My particular interest was the 'Fantasy for Organ and Choir' by Norman Stone and Donald Lane. ... What remained was a warm glow that this is Deddington at its best – nothing flashy – but in a fast changing world, a good and secure place to be.'

Mary Robinson 338272

2012 festival deddington



Thur 14 June

Friends of Deddington Festival Reception

6.30pm in Church. The Festival opens with a reception for the Friends of Deddington Festival and the Champions of Deddington Rocks

Fri 15 June

Deddington Rocks

4.30pm in the Market Place, free entry. An open-air concert starting with a children's disco and then featuring local bands the Breakfast Men, Indigo Child, the Blue Meanies, followed by Queen II, a tribute to Freddie Mercury and Queen. Shuttle bus from Clifton and Hempton. Burger Bar by Wrightons of Fritwell

Sat 16 June

Deddington Cricket Club Ball

in a marquee at the Windmill Centre, tickets £50. Black tie charity ball in aid of ROSY and the Cricket Club, live band, dinner and full bar. Contact Clair Stevens on 07905 104510 for tickets

16–17 June

Open Gardens, Allotments and Castle Grounds

2–5.15pm, tickets £5. Visit Deddington's gardens. Pimms will be served at the allotments. Tickets and map from the Flower Shop from 5 June and at the open gardens marked with balloons

16–17 June and 23–24 June

Art Exhibition

at the Holly Tree 10am–6pm, free entry. The annual exhibition of local artists. To submit your work email annette-orchard@live.co.uk. Vote for your favourite exhibit for the Norman Stone £50 prize

Sun 17 June

Craft Exhibition

in the Church 2–4pm, free entry

Sun 17 June

Guitar Recital in the Church with Afternoon Tea

2–4pm, free entry. Joe Newman, classical guitarist with tea and home-made cakes on sale

Sun 17 June

Jazz in the Church with Stekpanna and Friends

7.30pm, tickets £10 on the door. An evening of world-class contemporary jazz with informal candlelit seating and bar

Tues 19 June

Art Workshop

Tickets £10. An afternoon of drawing and painting. Ring 01869 338718 to book one of only 12 places. In the garden of the Old Post House, 1.30pm.

Tues 19 June

Poetry Please

7–9pm at the Unicorn, free entry. Another wonderful informal evening of poetry presided over by the one and only John Cheney

Wed 20 June

Clifton Farmland Walk

6pm, free entry

George Fenemore will be leading a farmland walk in Clifton. Meet at Home Farm, Clifton

Thur 21 June

Sixty Years of Songs and Dance

7.30pm in the Church, tickets £5 on the door. Come and sing along and dance to music from Queen Elizabeth's reign

Fri 22 June

Writers' Competition Awards Evening

6.30pm in the Church, free entry

Sat 23 June

Deddington Farmers' Market

9am–12.30pm

Sat 23 June

Concert version of *The Mikado*, the Akeman Singers with the Deddington Festival Choir

7.30pm in the Church, tickets £10 on the door. Music Director, Martin Quinn, will rehearse residents and members of choral societies in this Gilbert and Sullivan classic. 'Come and Sing' workshop day, £15

Sat 7 July

Deddington Village Nursery Summer Dinner Dance

'Red White and Blue', 7.30pm at the Windmill, tickets £20 on the door. Support your local nursery and pre-school on this great evening. Live Band, bar, hog roast, charity auction

Visit <http://www.deddingtonfestival.org.uk/> and follow us on Facebook and Twitter: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Deddington-Festival/393176450700286> and <https://twitter.com/#!/DeddiFestival>



The Warriner School

I have written before about how incredibly lucky we are to have a farm within our school and this term the arrival of lambing has reinforced this in spades. As usual, the farm opened to the public on 15 and 16 March for lambing weekend and we were packed with families who came

to pet the lambs, talk to the goats and meet the pigs. Those who came on Saturday were lucky enough to witness the birth of three lambs. If you missed this opportunity please come along to our main open farm event on 28 and 29 April where the whole farm is open and you can try your hand at sheep shearing, willow weaving or just enjoy a stroll around the fields. We will also be opening our newly completed farm shop in May. Opening hours will be 3.00–5.00pm every Wednesday and 11.00–1.00pm every Saturday commencing on Wednesday 2 May, so please come along to buy beef, pork, lamb and eggs.

As ever, the students have been up to all sorts of amazing things this term. Highlights include two of our students being shortlisted for the Saatchi art prize in February and, although they did not win, they both went to the exhibition and received wonderful comments about their work. Our Year 9 Youth Speak team under the guidance of Mrs Hopkins has won both the local and county finals. They go on to represent us at the regional finals and we all wish them very good

luck. A large number of our students take part in Young Enterprise (usually aimed at post 16 students) and they have been touring Oxfordshire and Warwickshire making vast amounts of money on the way.

The news about our sixth form continues to be good. The County Council cabinet meeting on Valentine's Day debated whether to allow us to proceed to formal consultation and the vote was unanimous in our favour. Formal consultation is a four-week process and will commence in May. Once again, I will be asking for your support nearer the time. The plans for our two-storey sixth form building are gathering pace and will be available to view very soon. The building will include five classrooms, a large common room, a study area, ICT suite and a kitchen area. Those Year 11 students who have chosen to stay on to study a combination of 'A' level biology, chemistry, physics, maths, further maths or a diploma in animal management or agriculture will take a lead in choosing the furnishings and colour scheme for the building.

We have the opportunity to offer teacher training places on School Direct in conjunction with Warwick University. School Direct is a new 12-month training route into teaching which allows you to choose the group of schools in which you train, with an expectation of employment at the end. If you or anyone you know is considering a career in teaching design technology, English, geography or history, then please let me know.

There has been so much going on this term and I hope this gives you a flavour of how we continue to go from strength to strength.

Dr Annabel Kay, Headteacher

Will the Hosepipe Ban Make us Water Wise?

Hosepipe bans are now in force across the South East. This follows the fifth driest March recorded since 1910.

You may try some of the following: connecting a water butt to your roof guttering downpipe to collect rainwater; water your plants at their base and in the

evening so less water evaporates; try watering your household plants with your used bath water.

Avoid leaving taps running when washing vegetables and dishes; install an aerating shower head; fit a graduated flush device to toilets; fix a dripping tap. Go to www.superhomes.org.uk for further details.

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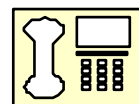


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Retired BT engineer

07986 538599

OLYMPIC GOLD CHALLENGE – MY 100m RACE

Sunday morning, 1 April, we joined the thousands of people streaming into the Olympic Park. To our left is the Aquatic Centre, all swooping curves and sudden straight lines. The Water Polo venue is on our right. It should be ugly, a windowless block, but it's sheathed in some opaque material that shimmers in the sunlight. Ahead is the Olympic stadium, black and white, its soaring metal structure visible, stripped for action. We trudge round the perimeter looking for our seating area. Here, I must explain.

Three years ago Daniel, my elder son, conceived the idea of the Olympic Gold Challenge. This involved persuading people of all ages, regardless of ability, to take on an Olympic-themed charity challenge, forming family/school/work-based teams and seeking sponsorship. From then on Dan worked flat out, networking with relevant bodies all over the country. In 2011 he presented his plan to the government and the Olympic Committee. They were enthusiastic and the Gold Challenge became part of the official Olympic Legacy programme.

Thus, this Sunday, the Gold Challenge participants and fund-raisers have been given the use of the Olympic stadium and the chance to take part in track events, 'running-in' the lanes that will, this summer, see the world's top athletes go for gold. Quite an experience.

We find our excellent seats (nice being the boss's mum), watch some of the school teams race, and then go down to the registration area to prepare for our own Family Race, the 100 metres. There are nine of us, age range, 7 to 77 years. Professional coaches take us through a limbering-up programme and I realise that battered gym-shoes aren't tops in Olympic footwear.

Finally we emerge, through the athletes' entrance, into the stadium centre. The structure looks huge from here, overpowering. Well over twenty thousand people are present today. What will it be like when the Games begin?

We line up. Olympic legend, Mary Peters, is here to wish us well. The starter's pistol (shatteringly loud) goes off and we are away. Another explanation. I have a metal knee joint, OK for daily use, but no running asset. I stutter forward, balancing myself with flapping arms, rather like a dying duck. By the time I reach the halfway point, the rest of the team, including my 7-year-old granddaughter, are over the finishing line. I'm on my own. Ahead, on the vast TV screen, I can see this solitary figure in lane 1 – it's me. Terrifying. I'm too old, can't run, wrong shoes. Then vaguely I hear the commentator boom, 'But, hey folks, this race isn't over yet ...'. People are kind to losers and from this point, the spectators cheer me on to the finishing line.

I've completed the 100 metres on the Olympic track! And may even have done a Usain Bolt in reverse – the slowest time ever recorded?

Kristin Thompson

337052

As part of his personal Gold Challenge, Dan is participating in all 120 Olympic and Paralympic sports. Follow him on <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Dans-Gold-Challenge/191159234262694> and <http://twitter.com/#!/DTGoldChallenge>. Enter the Gold Challenge yourself: www.goldchallenge.org or even sponsor Dan in support of: Cancer Research UK, Oxfam, Scope, Right to Play, and NSPCC: <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/DansGoldChallenge>.

REDUCE FUEL BILLS NOW, AND FOR THE FUTURE

I thought I'd take the opportunity to talk about a few things we can all do to help save a little on our gas and electricity bills. My five 'top tips' are:

- If the colder winter weather is behind us, consider adjusting your central heating timers to provide fewer heating hours (or can it be turned off completely?). If you do feel chilly, make sure you're dressed accordingly in the first instance. Some natural material can be better than synthetic, so grab your nice warm woollen jumper!
- A hot, healthy meal will help you to feel warm too, but if it's still cold, put the heating on (the evenings can be especially cold if it has been a lovely sunny day with little cloud around).
- Draw curtains at dusk to trap the heat in the home – tuck them behind radiators where appropriate.
- Insulate your home: now really is the best time to get unfilled cavity walls, and lofts topped up. Insulation is unlikely to be this cheap ever again!

- And finally, to get your free, no obligation survey for insulation, or for more advice on heating, keeping warm, saving money on energy bills, grants, switching supplier, and a whole host of other helpful ways to cut your bills, call us on Freephone 0800 107 0044. Lines are open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm.

We're the Affordable Warmth Network for Oxfordshire, a friendly team from United Sustainable Energy Agency, a local not-for-profit organisation devoted to helping people achieve affordable warmth, reduce carbon, adapt to climate change, tackle fuel poverty and build community spirit. This is supported by the District Councils across Oxfordshire, County Council and the Primary Care Trust. We hope to hear from you soon...

Dale Hoyland

**Project Manager for the
Oxfordshire Affordable Warmth Project**

DOWN ON THE FARM ...



Well, that's it bar the shouting – my 2012 lambing season came to an end with a bit of a bang when one of our stock rams caught me with my back turned and sent me heading off to A&E with a dislocated knee and a crash course on driving a pair of crutches. Fortunately, as it will be some time before I am

up and running again, the lambing season is all but done, with just a few hogs left to go. The downside is that much of the planned bee expansion is now on hold, but the onset of the 'Blackthorn winter' with lower temperatures and some very welcome rain over the Easter weekend has taken them 'off the boil'. This will give me a little recovery time before I have to get stuck in, twisted knee or not. The real disappointment with my bout with the battering ram is the fact that the fly fishing season has started without me.

The lambing season, apart from a few messy ones at the start, has gone well with most of the ewes coming down very quickly over a ten-day period. Everything is now back out to grass which is a great relief given the size of the feed bill.

The April showers, or 'lambing storms' as the old shepherd at home would call them, coupled with a good dressing of nitrogen (another hefty bill) have brought the arable crops on in leaps and bounds. The oil seed rape is now well out in flower and it won't be long before the beans follow. The hay meadows have been 'shut up' but after the weather-reduced hay cuts of the last two years the hay barns are now empty. In

an attempt to increase the hay cut, all of the hayfields (except the traditional flower meadow) have been given a good going over with the grass harrows and then over-seeded with a rye grass mixture but we shall still need a wet May and a dripping June to fill the hay barns for next winter.

Despite my concerns the wildlife has come through the winter in good form. Although the buzzards did a real 'hatchet job' on last season's partridge and pheasant broods, we have a pleasing number of breeding pairs setting up home for the coming season. Many of the so-called declining farmland birds are getting on with the job of producing the next generation, with good numbers of greenfinch, goldfinch, linnet, chaffinch, bullfinch, yellowhammer, tree sparrow, skylark and hedge sparrow (dunnock) being seen. If you go out for a walk along Jerusalem Lane, keep an eye out for a white chaffinch. The farmyard birds are all at it, with pied wagtail, blue tit, blackbird, robin, wren, starling and house sparrows all making use of the opportunities offered by a mix of traditional and modern farm buildings. Some of our summer visitors have returned, with curlew and redshank back on the meadows, but their breeding success is dependent on the severity of the predicted drought. The various warblers have yet to put in an appearance along the river but the first swallows were seen on Good Friday, so things are looking up.

Perhaps the enforced idleness of a damaged knee giving time to 'stand and stare' will have a silver lining after all.

George Fenemore
338203

[I hope you make a swift recovery George – Ed]

... AND UP THE ALLOTMENT

Every year I seem to say 'beware of the frosts' but it's so true. Just today Brize Norton was officially the coldest place in the UK at -6 last night. Fortunately the end is in sight and soon we'll be planting out all our seedlings and sowing seeds straight into the earth. For the last two years I haven't grown on squash seeds; instead I've placed them straight in the ground and placed a horticultural fleece on them. This has saved me time which there never seems to be enough of and the plants have done well. If you are partial to courgettes 'Goldrush' is a beautiful golden colour and tastes slightly sweeter than the greener varieties (or the one's I've grown).

If you are looking for something different there is an enormous selection of seeds from 'Seeds of Italy'. I was given some delicious French beans from this company and the colour combinations were interesting. 'Neckargold' was again a golden colour whilst 'Trionfo Violetto' grew black or deep purple. The gold colour stayed gold but the 'Trionfo' does turn green

when cooked which is good fun for anyone with children or grandchildren.

They also have a wonderful selection of salad seeds; planting salad is an excellent idea to help keep the weeds down. If you try to plant every two weeks you should have an excellent supply of leaves.

I remember chomping on lettuces from the garden when I was little and there was nothing as off-putting as a slug staring at you from the end of your fork. A friend told me to soak my leaves in salted water for 10 minutes and all the pests float to the top. I must say this is preferable to added protein!

I hope the weather stays fine and we have rain at night for a successful season.

Sam Willis
samantha.willis@gmail.com



FROM THE EDITOR'S POSTBAG

The Postbag, or parts of it, now appear on the website Forum (<http://www.deddingtonnews.co.uk/forum/>). This enables readers to comment without having to wait until DN appears the following month. If you would prefer your letters not to appear online, please tell us when you write. Thank you.

FROM JANE GREEN, CHURCH STREET

I was sorry to read that the Taste Buddies did not enjoy their meal at the Mason's Arms, Swerford. We have eaten there three times in the last six months and found the food to be very good. It was unfortunate that the Buddies did not stay for desserts, as these, we thought, were especially tasty and imaginative. We also found the restaurant to be very child-friendly. Our grandchildren aged 7, 5 and 3 enjoyed the wide choice on the children's menu and also playing on the lawn at the back between courses.

FROM NICK BOISSET, DN TEAM

So, spring has finally sprung and new life is appearing in the garden. A good time then, for me to say a big thank you to John Sampson from whom I have taken over the running of the annual ads for the DN. For the last 10 years, John has been quietly keeping the advertising going, and has done a sterling job. Thank you, John, for your help, knowledge and encouragement, and I trust that I can do as good a job as you. To anyone interested in advertising, I will be sending out forms for 2013 shortly but if somehow I miss you off the list, you can email me on annualse@deddingtonnews.co.uk to ask for a form.

FROM CHRISTOPHER HALL, PHILCOTE STREET

In reply to my enquiry about Fairtrade orange juice in the village store, the Co-op have decided to trial it again for a period of six weeks to see if it sells more than previously. If it does, the product will be made part of Deddington store's permanent stock line. Please show them there is continuing demand for it here.

FROM DEDDINGTON CHRISTIAN AID WEEK COMMITTEE

Good news for all who contribute to Christian Aid this month! The government has agreed to match the first £5 million raised during Christian Aid Week (13 to 19 May) pound for pound. This will mean that more of the world's poorest and most disadvantaged people can be helped to work their way out of poverty and it shows that the government recognises that one of the key aims of Christian Aid is to enable people to find their own solutions to poverty. 'Let's give the tools to help people in poverty out of poverty' is this year's aim in Christian Aid Week. So it will be good to know that when the authorised Christian Aid collector calls for your red collection envelope later this month each £1 donated could be worth £2 (but only for the first £5mil-



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

lion). If we in Deddington can dig deep into our pockets and raise our target of £2,500 this year it could be worth £5,000 of help to people working their way out of poverty. Is this a bargain?

FROM THELMA DOVER,
THE GROVE

The tree landmark to all home-comers on the A4260, its single uppermost spearing apex bent at a right angle away from the trunk, standing against the skyline and the approach to Deddington. Most of the larger birds used this arm on which to perch – it was their parliament. Who knows what strategies and policies they tweeted about? When final bursts of chitter-chatter had diminished, there would be a signal from one bird and all would, as one, take off to feed or find their night roost. Who knows how long the tree had been growing – the number of rings I managed to count on the base were close to 150. Was it planted by someone around 1860 or, perhaps, a seed dropped by a passing bird? It was sad to witness its demise. First, all the side branches and twigs were stripped off, then the angled top. At one stage the trunk appeared as an obelisk, like a defiant digit, but the man on his cherry-picker with his electric saw soon demolished our landmark and left the base and trunk remains to rot and maybe, provide homes for ants, beetles, bugs and fungi. The centre of the base was still very sticky with resin. The stems of ivy which had taken advantage of this sturdy tree were extremely thick. Presumably the tree was considered dangerous, thus requiring its removal. Sad, but another example of life's rich tapestry!

'Creating Change', a Talk at the Adderbury Quaker Meeting House on Sunday 17 June, 3pm

Banbury and Evesham Quakers invite you to the Adderbury Gathering, our annual public talk at the Adderbury Quaker Meeting House at 3pm on Sunday 17 June, followed by afternoon tea. All are welcome – no charge.

What is it about some times, places and company which help us to change? We hear from a speaker from Woodbrooke (a Quaker Study Centre in Birmingham), exploring how to create an environment where people can change.

This Quaker Meeting House is one of the oldest in the country, built in 1675, and a very special place. It's off Horn Hill Road in West Adderbury on the path to the Adderbury Cemetery.

For further information please phone Maria Huff on 347179 (evenings) or 07717 698214.



What wonderful news about the forthcoming BT upgrade to the Deddington exchange. The potential this represents will only become fully apparent once we are benefiting from this very welcome improvement. Next we need to convince the

mobile phone providers to improve coverage and we will have the connectivity of a city in the beautiful environs of Deddington, Clifton and Hempton.

Well done and very many thanks to everyone who made a contribution, contacted BT, posted on Facebook or barracked our MP.

Deddington OnAir continued to broadcast while we relocated our 'studio' to its new home. Thanks go to Ian and Tei Willox for their forbearance as they hosted the station for three weeks while we sorted ourselves out.

Amanda Gray continues to produce an excellent audiobook of the *Deddington News* and this is always available through the 'Listen Again' page, www.deddingtononair.org/dn.html.

James O'Neill has started a new Friday evening show, 'Thirty Minute Mix', to complement our regular

offerings from Matt and Jake's Hour of Rock, David Macey's Blues and Jazz show and the effervescent Late Night Large.

Aaron Bliss and Mikey Large also provided brilliant live coverage of Deddington Town FC playing Bodicote and this is still available from the 'Listen Again' page.

The Local Artists page has gained some new material. Visit www.deddingtononair.org then click on 'local artists' on the site and you will find recordings from Jennifer Anderson and from Calico Blue. We are looking for more local musicians to do similar pages – please contact us if you want to contribute.

Also new to the site is the latest 'Me, Myself, My Music' which is an emotional interview with Tommy Blackhall. Aaron Bliss has just uploaded commentary of the Eric Morris Cup Final and Aaron and colleagues have completed their series of Schismic Monologues which are an exploration of the dichotomies inherent within all of us.

Finally, Deddington OnAir would like to ask you to come on board. Would you like to be involved by contributing material, being a voice on the radio, being our roving reporter to cover local events or by joining the Friends of Deddington OnAir? Please contact studio@deddingtononair.org or Eileen Anderson on 338325.

David Rogers, Chair
david@deddingtononair.org

DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

Saturday 2 June

With our Jubilee celebrations now only four weeks away, here are a few updates on details and a reminder of the programme.

Participation in the Street Party is by ticket only. Free tickets will be available from the Flower Shop, Market Place, from 12 May, and you should pick up one ticket for each person coming before Tuesday 29 May, so that all the people who have offered to help with the 1950s style food know how many to cater for. There are 300 tickets, so we hope 300 people of all ages will come, whatever the weather (in the church if wet). Give the tickets in as you come.

Prizes for the children's Fancy Dress Parade have been ordered and have arrived, and there will be a Jubilee memento for each child taking part. We hope to see lots of queens, kings, princesses and princes with homemade crowns and corgis, so we have a large parade in the church after the Street Party.

The three age groups are 5 and under, 6–8, and 9–12 (ages on the day of our Jubilee).

We also want to see a large number in the parade, starting from the school at 4.45pm – all young people's groups and representatives of all the adults' clubs and groups in the village.

Please all make your own flag or small banner featuring your club or group.

There are at least 40 clubs in Deddington, showing what a fantastic community we have, so please support this parade.

To remind you, the programme is:

- | | |
|--------|---|
| 4.00pm | Church bells |
| 4.15pm | Parade assembles at the school |
| 4.45pm | ParademarchestotheMarketPlace to the Boys' Brigade Band |
| 5.15pm | Street Party along Church Street |
| 6.15pm | Children's Fancy Dress and judging |
| 7.00pm | Singing and Dancing in the church to favourite music from the six decades ending with patriotic songs |

We badly need strong men to help with getting out and putting away all the tables and chairs!

Does anyone have pictures of Deddington's Golden Jubilee Celebrations in 2002 to add to our collection?

Wendy Burrows
wendy.burrows@hotmail.com

CALLING ALL CLUBS

Deddington Royal British Legion

In addition to the Poppy Appeal in November, we raise funds for the Royal British Legion charity throughout the year. Part of this fundraising is done by events at the Club on the High Street and particularly by tombolas and raffles. We would welcome donations to help with this fundraising, be it cash, raffle prizes or tombola prizes. These can be brought to the club during normal opening hours or by arrangement by ringing me on the number below.

The club is open on Friday evenings from 7.00pm, and on Saturdays and Sundays from noon. All contributions gratefully received.

Jean Morris, Secretary 338143
DeddingtonRBL@aol.com

1st Deddington Scout Group Cubs

Our victorious team from the district Scrapheap Challenge competed in the county event coming a very creditable third. Well done to all of them.

We have tackled the Scientist badge over the past weeks. The Cubs made volcanoes out of paper plates and glass jars (geology) before mixing bicarb, paint and vinegar for the eruption (chemistry). They dissected a daffodil (botany) and grew cress on cotton wool.

We are fast entering camping season and are making plans for the District Camp at Horley in May, which is based on athletics and Olympics.

Jo Churchyard CSL 338071
jochurchyard@hotmail.com

Scouts

At the end of last term some of the Scouts made a number of fire beaters from broomsticks and carpet, useful to take when cooking outdoors and at camp. We also took on the job of delivering the leaflets for the low cost housing survey. The boys counted, folded and delivered around 900 leaflets, which will count towards their Community Award.

We took advantage of the free swimming at Spiceball as an Easter treat, a bit of messing about combined with testing for the 1st and 2nd Swimmer badge.

Pete Churchyard SL 338071
pete.churchyard@btinternet.com

Photographic Society

There were two recent activities. The first was a workshop led by member Simon Lutter, who offered a gentle critique of members' photographs of models, taken during the Indoor Studio workshop the previous month. Simon was complimentary about the standard of achievement for the Society's first real attempt at this type of photography.

The second event was the AGM. Chairman Philip Rigby reviewed the year's activities – the continuing growth of the Society; two meetings each month; fur-

ther development of the Society's website, and exhibitions at Adderbury, Deddington and Kings Sutton. He then outlined activities planned for the coming year. Other committee members presented the financial report, and programmes for future presentations and workshops. The AGM concluded with the re-election of the Committee.

The AGM was followed by a presentation on 'Creative Photography' by Don Byatt. Don explained that most photography is about catching the moment, and he described his use of available light, shooting angles, shadows, silhouettes and backgrounds to heighten the interest of 'street photography' images – his preferred type of photography. He showed how, with the advent of digital photography, images could be enhanced through dramatic cropping, conversion to monochrome, colour on monochrome, subject substitution/removal. Don then showed examples of his photographic and exhibition work, explaining how he had created the required impressions. This was a most interesting and revealing presentation from an accomplished photographer.

The next meeting is on 2 May, when Gordon Roberts will make a return visit to give a presentation on 'Photography in the Snow'. Everyone is welcome at 7.30pm in the Cartwright Hotel, Aynho.

Richard Broadbent 338173

WI

Penny Varley was our speaker on 10 April. Her talk on the 'Life of a Studio Potter' was accompanied by an extensive array of her work, which was attractive both in the smooth texture and delicate colouring. Items were passed around for members to handle while Penny continued to explain the details and techniques required to produce the varied decorative finishes. She concluded her talk with a short demonstration after which Doreen Watkins gave Penny a vote of thanks. Several people were then able to purchase items from the pottery display.

Our next meeting is on 8 May for Resolutions, followed by a guest speaker, and 10 July is the outing to Chartwell.

Rene Mahony 338438

Deddington Town Football Club

First Team results

24.03.12 Bodicote Sports (h) W 2–1 Hall (2)
 31.03.12 Bardwell (h) W 5–1 Hall (3), Thornton L, Waddelow

Reserve Team results

10.04.12 Sams United (h) W 3–1

Now that the first sprouts of spring have sprung, the sprint for the spread is in its most furious throes. Spread pertaining to both the glorious journalistic spread afforded to trophy winners, and of course the lashings of post-match victuals. The First Team rolled away their proverbial stone without getting hot or cross,

CALLING MORE CLUBS

and saw off both Bodicote and Bardwell, leaving them comfortably mid-table after more heroics from the irrepressible Simon Hall, accounting for five of the six onion-bag ticklers. The Reserves are currently laying siege to the silver citadel, helped in no small part by the majestic form of goalkeeper Jimmy McPhee and goal scoring prowess of one Luke Gibbs. They play the Eric Morris Cup Final against Hardwick Old Boys, whilst also being a grass blade's depth from promotion to Division 1. Another season of grandeur could be seized by the time this is consumed, but then, DTFC's culture of success through spirit and flair makes this little surprise. Beat proud you hearts of Deddingtonia!

Aaron Bliss 07909 642882

Mini football

The Under-8s season is nearly over, with more wins than losses through the season, so an excellent campaign against some strong sides from the local larger towns. The team is now starting to focus on a number of tournaments that are coming up over the summer months. The Under-9 Sharks had a series of top-of-the-table clashes, and some enforced absences meant a run of three narrow defeats. Most notable was a 2–1 defeat by cup finalists and champions-elect Middleton Cheney despite being without five key players.

Junior football

The Under-11 Cobras continue to improve with a 4–1 win over Bourton to move away from the bottom of the league. This was a superb team performance with great contributions from all players and a well-deserved first league goal for Ander Bradley. The Under-11 Sharks lost their knock-out cup semi-final to Ducklington, who deserved their win. Ducklington scored just before half-time and just after the break, and despite Nick Dawkins hitting the woodwork and Alfie Barbeary going close and having a penalty turned down, Ducklington scored again with eight minutes to go. Nonetheless, it was a great achievement to reach the semi-final and a good team performance despite the result. The Under-12s finally got their first league win of the season, a 2–1 win over Grendon Rangers – and they played the whole match with only ten available players. William Staples equalised with a fine finish in the first half, and Cameron Fowler fired home the winning goal straight after the break. Stand-in goalkeeper Jake Hope made fine saves to secure the win. However, the return fixture the following week saw Grendon win comfortably. The Under -14s had a comfortable 3–0 victory over Freeland and remain second in the A league, and are yet to concede a goal in 2012. They play in the final of the County Cup against Oxford Blackbird Boys in April. The Under-16s had a narrow 1–0 defeat to Brightwell and currently sit third in the 'B' League with two matches to play. The Under-17s ended their season in second place in the Oxfordshire Invitation Youth League. A great season with some great play and results. Congratulations to all the players.

Players Wanted for the 2012–13 Season

The Under 12s are looking for experienced players to join the team next season (this will be for current year 7 pupils who go into year 8 in September). If you are interested then email me on carsykes@btinternet.com.

Roger Sykes

**U12 Manager and Club Welfare Officer
337034**

Deddington Beeches Bowls Club

As mentioned in the March *DN* our first game is against Banbury Borough Bowls Club on 1 May at home at 6.15 pm. You are all welcome to come up and have a look at us (behind the Windmill Centre).

If you feel like having a go, we are still offering free membership for this year. Come along on your own or with friends. If you are interested and you would like to come up for a try, please contact one of the following:

Chris and Yvonne Twomey 337213

Ted Davies, 338710, Pat Clements 338710

Deddington Cricket Club

We are now the proud owners of brand new sight screens so there should be no excuse for players 'not seeing the ball' this year. We await the start of the season with bated breath. This is a considerable investment for the club as part of our ongoing commitment to developing the skills of younger players.

We are constantly grateful for the support we receive locally from individuals and businesses who (more or less voluntarily) contribute to the high cost of maintaining a cricket club. Where would we be without the sights and sounds of the village cricket scene? It would be like losing the sound of the church bells.

The Summer Ball is our main fund-raising event of the year and, in addition to raising much-needed cash for ourselves, we split the proceeds with ROSY (Respite Nursing for Oxfordshire's Sick Youngsters). This will be our third summer ball and in previous years we have raised in excess of £5,000. ROSY pays the salaries of ten nurses who work within the Children's Unit of the NHS to provide respite support. They buy specialist equipment for families with seriously sick children, help families to go on holiday, and hold events for sick children's siblings, among many other things. The committee that runs the charity takes nothing from donations so that every penny counts. So, if you haven't been invited to the Summer Ball, contact Clair Stevens on 07905 104510 or me. The event is being held on Saturday 16 June at 7.00pm; tickets are £50, which includes a glass of champagne and canapés, two-course dinner, dancing to a great band, and the most amazing auction.

Our home fixtures for the men's teams begin in May as follows:

Sat	5 May	2nd v Garsington III (League)
Sun	6 May	1st v Challow & Childrey (National Village Cup)

...AND EVEN MORE CLUBS

Sat 12 May 1st v Eynsham (League)
 Sat 19 May 2nds v Marcham II (League)
 Sun 20 May 1st v Cairns Fudge (League)
 Sat 26 May 1st v Charlbury II (League)

All these early fixtures start at 1.30pm. Training is on Thursdays from 6.30pm to 8.00pm at the Windmill.

Jill Cheeseman 338609

adults and children of all ages and abilities. The club runs a full programme of events. There is coaching for children aged from 3 years to adult, regular adult club nights and for experienced players there are teams in local and Thames Valley leagues.

For full details about the club, see: www.deddingtontennis.com.

Steve Ashby 01295 263855

Deddington and District History Society

Our subject for April, 'The Mitfords in the Cotswolds', attracted a large audience. Muriel Pilkington first of all sketched in the family's background, which turned out to be every bit as extraordinary as we expected and hoped for. The Mitfords originated from the place of that name near Morpeth. They were survivors from the beginning, one of the few Anglo-Saxon landholding families able to strike a deal (a marriage alliance) with the new Norman overlords. The Mitfords have always exhibited four characteristics: they have married well; they have, partly as a result, repeatedly acquired (and then lost) property; they have been staunch benefactors of the Church (of England, naturally); and they have a propensity for risky political attachments. The Cotswold Mitfords, a cadet branch, displayed the family characteristics in spades. Muriel spoke mostly, and entertainingly, about the famous Mitford daughters, Nancy the novelist, Diana the fascist, Unity the Nazi, Jessica the communist, Deborah the Duchess, and Pamela the livestock keeper. There was a son, Tom, in there somewhere, too. Muriel's talk was a *tour de force*.

On 9 May Matt Armitage, director of Tooley's boatyard in Banbury will talk about the history of the boatyard. On 6 June we have arranged a private visit to Rycote Chapel (unspoiled Tudor) and gardens, near Thame. Anyone interested should contact Moira Byast.

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

1st Deddington Brownies

Last term we joined other youth groups from the village for the Mother's Day service in Deddington Church, and at Brownies we made cards and presents for our Mums. Following the Easter break, in May we are looking forward to taking our bikes to Brownies and to doing our Cyclists Badges. Brownies meet on Monday evenings at the Windmill Centre and are open to girls aged 7-10 years old. If you would like to put a name on the waiting list or to find out more, please contact Brown Owl (Anne Kent) on the1stdeddingtonowls@hotmail.co.uk.

Lucy Squires 338442

Deddington Tennis Club

This year our Open Day is on Sunday 13 May from 2.00pm to 5.00pm. This is a free event for people to come along to the club to play tennis, meet the members and talk to the coaches. Everyone is welcome,

1st Deddington Guides

A big thank you to those who supported our puppet show entertainment – those who came or made donations. £100 was raised for our chosen charities: Cancer Research, Katharine House Hospice and Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital. Many Guides made thoughtful and mature mini-presentations about the charities of their choice before voting. Well done Guides.

Our village quiz kept us on our toes and we loved the Easter egg hunt in Mr and Mrs Bouverie's beautiful garden setting.

The Guides were busy during the Mothering Sunday service, providing colour parties, helping with the collection, giving out posies and taking some to Featherton House.

The patrols continue to work well together, planning their own activities and having great fun together.

Preparations are under way for our hectic outdoor term. We are planning cookouts, shelter building, bat walks, hikes, camps, stream walking (will the stream be there?) and taking part in District Patrol overnight competitions, and Jubilee celebrations.

Maggie Rampley 01295 810069
Marian Trinder 340806
Catherine Blackburn 01295 258008

1st Barford and Deddington Rainbows

We had a nice end to the Easter term, enjoying the glorious sunshine and meeting outside as much as possible. We spent one meeting playing skipping and parachute games, with lots of very realistic blood-curdling screams during 'sharks and lifeguards'! 'In and out the dusty bluebells' is an old favourite that is still popular with the girls while 'Pass the Didgeridoo' is a fairly new game we've learnt that always ends up with one girl trying to run around the whole circle and beat the song.

We had our last meeting at the Castle Grounds, looking at plants (and playing plant bingo), playing more running-around games and finishing with an Easter egg hunt. Sadly it was our Young Leader Robin's (aka Freya) last meeting. We're all very sorry to see her go and are very grateful for all her hard work over the past couple of years. The girls love having a leader a bit nearer their age – there's always a scramble to sit on her lap when we sit in a circle. Thank you Robin, and all the best with your studies.

Hazel and Nikki 337822

PIERS GAVESTON AND THE NUN OF DEDDINGTON

This is the seventh instalment of a serial written in 1849 by Georgiana Bennet and published in the North Oxfordshire Monthly Times and Agricultural Advertiser. Loaned to us by Clive Sanders, it was given to him by the late Fred Deely. If you have missed previous instalments, they are available online at www.deddingtonnews.co.uk.

On the night of that day, the Nun again visited Gavestone's prison, bringing with her a peasant who, she told Gavestone, was to be his guide.

'There must be no mistake,' she said, 'you must each be able to recognise the other.'

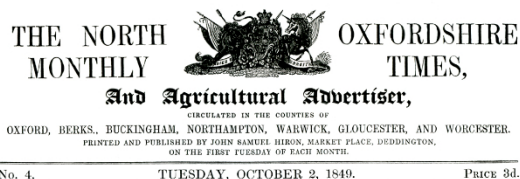
'There shall be no mistake,' replied Sir Piers, 'here, my good man, take this chain and when I come to you, shew it to me, and I shall know how I can trust you.'

As he spoke, he gave the man a small but heavy gold chain, the gift of the Monarch. After a few more words the Nun and her companion departed.

How heavily rolled on the ensuing hours – the Captive thought they would never pass. The sun seemed to linger in the Heavens longer than on any preceding day, and he heard more distinctly the measured walk of the guards before his prison door.

The Nun felt equally, if not more anxious; and once or twice her evident abstraction called forth a remark from the Abbess, who as they arose from evening prayers, observed:

'You are ill, my daughter, your cheeks are flushed with fear, and your eyes have an unusual fire in them, which foretells coming illness. We cannot be too careful of you, dear daughter,' she added affectionately, and



laying her hand on the arm of the distressed Nun, 'you are indeed ill, I cannot count the throbs in your pulse, they are so rapid – and you are as pale as death.'

Then, addressing an attendant, she bade her summon the good Father Ambrose whose skill as a leech had made him famous throughout Oxfordshire.

For a moment the brave spirit of Sister Margaret quailed at the impediments raised in her path; it was but for a moment, and even while the Abbess kept her fingers on the Nun's wrist she felt that the blood flowed more temperately along her veins; and as she turned her sweet face upwards the feverish light had departed from her eyes, and they shone with mild affection only. She spoke in her usual gentle tones:

'Give me your blessing, dear Mother, and I need no more. I have been with Lady Pembroke during the last few days as you know. She is full of sorrow for the death of her youngest born, and I have promised to watch with her part of this night by his corpse. Stay me not, good Mother, I beseech you; as you love me, for I must fulfill my duty.'

The Abbess bent down and kissed the brow of the Nun, and with a heartfelt blessing and many kind messages to the mourning Mother permitted Sister Margaret to depart.

FRIENDS OF THE CASTLE GROUNDS

We have been busy preparing the north bank south side of the Castle Grounds for the sowing of wild flower seeds and the planting of cowslip plugs, with great help from Community Pay Back Workers who have spent recent Thursdays clearing the bank of debris, and removing ivy, nettles and other invasive plants. By the time you read this the work will be completed, and next year we hope the results of our efforts will be plain to see.

The Parish Council has supported this work and for their own part will be cutting the main grass area seven times this year; the first cut was completed on 5 April. They have also asked their contractor Tom Fox to take down dead and dangerous trees and to cut back ivy on trees worst affected and this will be done shortly.

Now for an important date for your diaries. On Sunday 3 June as part of the Parish Jubilee celebrations we are to have Songs of Praise at the Castle Grounds starting at 6.30pm. Under the expert direction of Hugh White, with music courtesy of the Boys Brigade Band, we will sing a selection of well known hymns together. This idea of Friends of the Castle Grounds is an ideal chance to meet together at this most beautiful part of our parish. Please come and support this event; in fact

why not bring a picnic an hour before and make it a family treat? The collection will go to the Boys Brigade together with a donation from Friends of the Castle Grounds. Everyone is welcome and your dogs too (if they can bark in tune).

Next month more social events will be offered to you all.

Terry Clinch 338711

Deddington PFSU and Village Nursery

We made the most of the warm weather before the Easter holiday. The PFSU children planted the garden with flowers and vegetables, and the Nursery held an Easter bonnet parade. Thank you to Kate Oldroyd who cleared the PFSU vegetable garden ready for planting, and to all the Nursery parents for some amazingly imaginative hats! Holiday Club ran during the Easter holiday and was much enjoyed by the children who attended. Looking ahead, our Sports Day will be held on Friday 15 June, the PFSU will be leading the 'First Sunday' service in the church on 1 July, and our major fund-raising party is on Saturday 7 July.

Lucy Squires 337484

BLISSFUL THINKING

Rejoice! We are now the proud dominion holders of not just the broadest, but the most fibrous fibre-optic broadband. Not content with this, we demanded satisfaction. We insisted that we also be the fastest gun-slingers in the west. Well, the south east. Because, these days, if it's not in front of you waiting to be consumed by the time you've taken a seat, it's a bit of a hassle. Whether it's something to settle your hunger, something to wear at the weekend, or needing to know which Beatle had the longest criminal record for a pub quiz, it has to be delivered yesterday.

Interestingly, we have stopped demanding the same of the one aspect of our lives that is actually practical to reduce transit times of: personal transport. In the eighteenth century, a journey by road from the capital city of England to the capital city of Scotland could take as long as 12 days by horse-drawn carriage. Now, it usually takes just over seven hours, though this rapid progress could be receding again. With an average car for every two people in the United Kingdom, gridlock is more and more a regular grind: thus travel times creep back up again. Once upon a time, we may have looked to the rail network for an alternative, though now people consider there are more important things to remortgage their homes for. The prohibitive price of petrol and diesel may prove an unwanted solution, leaving us with just one answer: flying hovercrafts which run on politicians' blood.

Aaron Bliss

aaronjbliss@hotmail.com

EASTER HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

We had a short, bubbly gathering at the end of the Easter Holiday Activities in the church on 5 April to celebrate the tenth anniversary of these events. We began on 28 March 2002 with 29 children and seven adult and four teenage helpers. This Easter we had 41 children and 15 adult and three teenage helpers.

A great deal of the success of these activities has been due to the high ratio of helpers to children, and so an enormous debt of gratitude is owed to very many people who have given their time and talents over these 10 years. We were delighted to have a dozen 5 year-olds join us this time: we hope they will keep coming, as have those that have gone before them, many staying until their last year at primary school. May these activities continue to flourish!

Jane Green

green-jane@btconnect.com

Making Room for Stories

An exhibition of collaborations between more than 20 pairs of writers and artists, will turn the home of the future Story Museum into a giant storytelling compendium, with a surprise around every corner in Oxford.

1–27 May (inclusive), for all ages: £3 entry for adults and children, under-2s free. Special May Day opening. More info and times www.storymuseum.org.uk/otherworlds or call 01865 790050.

1st Deddington Boys' Brigade Visit to Mmabatho, South Africa

The 1st Deddington Boys' Brigade Company Section had their first ever overseas trip during the February school holiday. Accompanied by seven adults, nine young people representing Deddington, Kings Sutton and Chipping Norton Boys' Brigade travelled to Mmabatho in north west South Africa. Their hosts were all based with the Church of the Resurrection which has existing links with St Peter and St Paul's Church, Deddington.

Chris Mitchell, Company Captain, 1st Deddington Boys' Brigade, says: 'Our young people were fantastic on this trip and a huge credit to themselves, their families and to Boys' Brigade. The officers and leaders would like to thank everyone who worked so hard to put this trip together and for the finance we received to help offset some of our costs. Special thanks go to the families who so generously hosted us in their own homes and to the Church leadership in Mafikeng/Mmabatho who co-ordinated events in South Africa. We hope that this will be the first of many opportunities for our young people to travel abroad and experience the wider world.'

NEWS FROM CLIFTON

The sound of willow on leather is not one often heard in Clifton, but the sound of cheap pine on a dolly perched on iron has been keeping the neighbours alert as the occasional stick sails over the garden fence (sorry about that!) as Clifton prepares to field their very own Una Stubbs team in the Banbury and Rural beady bloke league 7 [*isn't this Worzel Gummidge-esque reference too obscure even by your standards Martin? Ed*]. It has been noticed that many of the names put down in January failed to make first practice and missed Kevin '4 dolly' Mayo showing everyone how it is done. The Duck's team brilliantly won/narrowly lost* the friendly Thursday before last and are now competing each Thursday before book club. The book club who are the very backbone of the team/beery hangers on* are looking forward to continuing to write their book based on beers tasted on the away legs.

I'm still waiting to hear from all the candidates for Father (or Mother) of the village – you know who you are, so I can write a little sketch of you so other neighbours can revere you as the village elder.

On a more serious note a number of Clifton residents have been moved by the commemoration of the passing a year ago of Eddie Lynch that they witness as they go west. Much has and will continue to be said about that tragedy. Our thoughts are with the family and friends touched by this pointless wasting of a young life but as more than one of our neighbours have been convicted of drink driving since that terrible night there is still a lesson to be learnt by some.

Martin Bryce, martindnbryce@aol.com

*Delete where appropriate

NEWS FROM HEMPTON

It is now only one month to the Jubilee celebrations, plans are in hand to hold a tea party in the church and hall on Bank Holiday Monday 4 June from 2.00pm. Donations of refreshments would be gratefully appreciated, so bring the family along and make this a day to remember. I hope to ring the church bell at 2.00pm along with many other churches that weekend.

As there is not a public house in the village it is proposed to hold a pub style evening in the church hall on the first Friday of each month starting on Friday 4 May from 7.30pm and see how things develop. We are not allowed to sell alcohol so if you would like something stronger than soft drinks, you would need to bring some. There are facilities to play darts, table tennis and maybe other pub games, so come along and meet people you may not know.

The Parish Council will be holding their May meeting in the church hall on Wednesday 16th at 7.30pm, so if you have any concerns please go along.

Church services in May will be different to normal with the third Sunday 20th being an Evensong at 6.00pm and the fourth Sunday a Eucharist at 9.00am. There will possibly be a Eucharist service on Thursday 17 May which is Ascension Day, probably at 7.30pm, but I am still waiting for details.

People have commented to me about litter, not particularly in the village but the surrounding roads and footpaths. Lots of it is where people throw rubbish from cars as they are passing through but please take your litter home.

Les Chappell 338054

[Best wishes Les for a speedy recovery from your op and we look forward to seeing you leaping around as usual in a few weeks' time – Ed]

FARMERS' MARKET

The next Farmers' Market will be on 26 May, which is Mother's Day in Poland and the Christian Feast Day of Augustine of Canterbury, who founded the monastery of SS Peter and Paul.

You may have noticed the FARMA symbol on our market literature and signs. FARMA represents farmers, growers, producers and farmers' market organisers throughout the UK. It is the only organisation in the UK dedicated to supporting the local direct sales sector and driving local foods. It was created from the merger in 2003 of the Farm Retail Association and the National Association of Farmers' Markets.

It's fair to say that Farma and Deddington Farmers' Market have been able to help each other over the years; this has been demonstrated by the recent election of Deddington Farmers' Market chairman Geoff Todd to the council of Farma. Geoff has been a major force behind the market since its start in 2001, and I'm sure that Farma will benefit greatly from his experience.

Paul Drawmer
paul@drawmer.net

POST HASTE

I had a letter, without fail
To entrust to the Royal Mail.
I headed north to the Co-op
(The pillar box outside the shop).
Arriving there, I found it vanished!
Had it been stolen, lost or banished?
And then I heard that it had been
Spirited across the Green;
And there it stood, without a fuss,
Calmly waiting for the bus.
The bus arrived, it climbed aboard
And headed off to Oxenford

Had I but read the *Deddy News*
I'd know of other people's views,
Which doubtless would elucidate
What great decision sealed its fate.
I'm sorry that it's moved, because
I rather liked it where it was.
I've learned my lesson: I know better,
I'm Oxford bound to post my letter.

John Cheney

THE LAST WORD

Ron Harper, 1916–2012

Ron and his wife Joyce moved to Whitegates, Philcote Street in 1979 from Adderbury where they had lived for 34 years.

He practised as a chartered accountant with Morris and Harper, Banbury from 1939 to 1965 when he 'retired' at the age of 49! He had been in the Home Guard during the war because at his call-up medical it was discovered he had a heart murmur (as well as 10% vision in one eye) and he was consequently rated '111C, unfit for service'.

Married in 1942, Ron and Joyce moved to Adderbury in 1945 where they lived a happy and successful life with their three children, Elaine, Nigel and Katherine (Kate).

On retirement, with the sort of judicious investments you'd expect from an accountant, Ron and Joyce were able to travel widely, including Bermuda where their daughters lived, Spain in the winter months, and on numerous overseas bowls tours. He was President of Banbury Rugby Club in 1964, President of the Oxfordshire Bowls Association in 1983, Treasurer of the National Drama Board in the 1980s, and an enthusiastic member of the Banbury Cross Players from its inception in the 1950s. His ugly sister was so good they produced the play, *Cinderella*, twice in that decade. He was also an active member of the Bowyer Masonic Lodge for many years.

Ron was rightly proud of his part in developing Adderbury Bowls Club on its present site in Twyford; he was President or Chairman from 1950 to 2000.

After Joyce died in 2000, Kate and her family came from Bermuda to live with and care for him in Whitegates where he stayed until his death on 25 March.

Nigel Harper