

THE TEAM

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COVER – DAEDA'S WOOD

Jane Wilson

The DEDDINGTON NEWS

Here's a challenge: I wonder, if you read this magazine, whether you will notice a more than usual common thread from several of our regular contributors? News from Clifton, News from Hempton, Friends of Castle Grounds. We should be glad that we live in such a beautiful place and have so little to worry about but there are some amongst us who seem to care little about clearing up after their dogs. **JC**

What's On March

- | | | |
|-----|----|---|
| Thu | 1 | Holly Tree Club: Film Night, Holly Tree, 6.30pm |
| Mon | 5 | Deddington Bookworms: Library, 6.30pm |
| Mon | 5 | Holly Tree Club: Coffee Morning, Holly Tree, 10.30am |
| Wed | 7 | Photographic Society: Mary MacIntyre, 'Astrophotography', Cartwright Hotel, Aynho, 7.30pm |
| Tue | 13 | WI: Annual meeting, Holly Tree, 7.30pm |
| Tue | 13 | 1st Deddington Guides: Talent evening, Windmill Centre, 7.30pm |
| Wed | 14 | History Society: Simon Townley, 'The Wychwoods', Windmill Centre, 7.30pm |
| Fri | 16 | Deddington Cricket Club: AGM, Deddington Arms, 7.30pm |
| Sun | 18 | PC Parish Spring Clean: Town Hall, 9.00am |
| Wed | 21 | PC Meeting: the Old School Room, Hempton, 7.30pm |
| Wed | 21 | Photographic Society: Workshop, Simon Lutter, 'Studio Photography', Cartwright Hotel, Aynho, 7.30pm |
| Sat | 24 | Farmers' Market: Market Place, 9.00am–12.30pm |
| Sat | 24 | Church Craft Market: Parish Church, 10.00am–1.00pm |
| Sat | 24 | Explorer Scouts: Valuation evening, Edwyn Pym, Jones and Jacob, Windmill Centre 7.00pm–9.30pm |
| Wed | 28 | Friends of Castle Grounds: AGM, Holly Tree, 7.30pm |
| Thu | 29 | Book Group: Contact Sally Lambert on 01869 338094 |

April

- | | | |
|-----|----|--|
| Mon | 2 | Deddington Bookworms; Library 6.30pm |
| Mon | 2 | Holly Tree Club: Coffee Morning, Holly Tree, 10.30am |
| Mon | 2 | Royal British Legion: Quarterly Meeting, Deddington Arms Boardroom, 6.30pm |
| Wed | 4 | Photographic Society: AGM, Cartwright Hotel, Aynho, 7.30pm |
| Tue | 5 | Holly Tree Club: Film Night, Holly Tree, 6.30pm |
| Wed | 18 | PC meeting: Holly Tree Club, 7.30pm |
| Wed | 18 | Royal British Legion: Social Evening, Parish Church, 7.00pm |
| Sat | 28 | Farmers' Market: Market Place, 9.00am–12.30pm |
| Sat | 28 | Church Craft Market, Parish Church, 10.00am–1.00pm |

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

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DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Windmill Centre Wednesday 21 February

Present: Councillors Collins, Cox, Eames, Finnigan, O'Neill, Reeve, Rogers (Chair), Timms, Watts and Wood. Also Councillor Williams (CDC) and Councillor Fatemian (OCC).

Open forum: James Greenwood informed the Council that the Deddington Carfest will be on Sunday 10 June in the Market Place. Buses will be re-routed as for the Fair and farmers' market.

County Councillor's Report: Cllr Fatemian reported that the contractors operating at the traffic lights will be asked to work weekends. If they do not comply, the terms of their licence may be changed. Investigations are taking place regarding whether the damage to the Hempton–Duns Tew road might be charged to the contractors.

There will be an increase of 6% in OCC Council Tax. This is to cover the increased cost of adult and children's social care. The number of children who require this care has risen from 400 to 700.

Each OCC councillor has been granted a fund of £15,000 which is available to community groups.

District Councillor's Report: Cllr Williams reported that CDC Council Tax will remain unchanged for the ninth year.

CDC as a district should be protected from further development as the target of a 5.7 year land supply has been reached.

As of March 2018 a higher proportion of household waste will be re-cycled and there will be a reduction in the distance of transporting the waste as the re-cycling centre is now in Leicester instead of Wales.

Damage to the lane off Earl's Lane is to be reported to OCC's Countryside Access Officer, Beth Rutterford.

Windmill Development Group: Mary Robinson requested that a project manager be appointed to oversee the development of the sports and leisure area until its completion. The Council agreed in principle. Bats have been detected in the bowls pavilion and work will be suspended in this area until an emergence survey is carried out from May to October.

Planning

No objections

3 Castle End, Castle St: reduction of sycamore canopy by 20%.

The annexe adjacent to 3 Holly Tree Cottages, Earl's Lane: change of use from chiropractor's clinic to residential. Provision of one extra parking space and alteration to existing access.

Park Farm agricultural barn, New St: conversion of existing barn and outbuildings to residential use, raise roof of latter, new single storey extension to rear with living roof. (Planning for 3 houses was originally granted in 1991 and the current application is environmentally sympathetic.)

These Parish Council notes are the view of our reporter, Jean Rudge, and not the official minutes. To see those, go to <http://www.deddingtonparishcouncil.org/2018.html>.

Quinque House, New St: widen existing vehicular access, demolish side wall, adjust levels to rear car park, erect double car shelter, various internal alterations to rear.

Ashcroft House, Hudson St: change of use of ground floor from retail to clinic.

Wells Yard, Hudson St: variation of site working time to office hours.

Objections on grounds previously given

Orchard House, Chapel Close, Clifton: erection of two detached dwellings, associated garages and hard standing (5th application).

CDC approvals

High Bank, St Thomas St: single storey rear and side extension with attached garage and two storey addition to north elevation and removal of hipped roof.

Orchard End, St Thomas St: two storey rear extension and new window to front.

Royal British Legion Club, High St: demolition of single storey rear extension and outbuildings, conversion to 2 three-bedroom houses. The rear extensions have not been included.

Highways and Transport

Earls Lane parking. It was agreed to ask CDC to put down hard core to create a better surface.

An alternative site for the wheelie bins at the Town Hall is still being sought.

Oxford Airport has plans to extend the runway and make the airport more viable for commercial flights. RAF Brize Norton proposes to significantly increase the size of its controlled airspace. The working group had no objection to the Brize Norton proposal but felt that the expansion of commercial airlines would be a potential cause of environmental and noise pollution.

Environment and Recreation

It was agreed to spend £800 on bark for the Under 6 play area and to add £20,000 to planned expenditure for future refurbishment.

Work has started on the Wimborne Close and Welford's Piece play areas.

Finance and General Purposes

The rent for the Fair is to be increased by £20 to £250. The PC reserves are to be increased to £50,000 with an extraordinary reserve of £200,000.

The Parish Council agreed to take over maintenance costs of the RBL clock which will be kept in the library.

There was lengthy discussion concerning an application by the Holly Tree Club for £100,000. It was agreed to carry this item over to next month's agenda and make an interim grant of up to £7,500 to allow the Club to secure a detailed estimate for proposed works.

Next PC meeting: Wed 21 March 7.30pm in the Old School Room, Hempton.

FARMERS' MARKET

THE DARK DAYS OF MARCH

We can sometimes get lucky with early signs of spring but being a thoroughgoing pessimist I expect yet another long month of winter when there's not a lot to look forward to that is local and seasonal. Time to seek solace in the spice cupboard.

This is a recipe I make often – either as a side dish or as a main. It's quick and easy and it is an excellent remedy for winter blues. It reheats well. It comes from Madhur Jaffrey's *Curry Easy*.

Aubergine with Fennel & Cumin

serves 4–6

1 medium aubergine (about 450g)

6 tablespoons oil

1 medium onion, cut into half rings about 5mm thick

½ teaspoon whole cumin seeds

½ teaspoon whole fennel seeds

120ml tomato passata

1 teaspoon salt

1 teaspoon granulated sugar

¼ teaspoon cayenne pepper

300ml water

Cut the aubergine lengthways into three slabs. Now cut the slabs into chunky chips about 5cm long and 3cm wide and thick.

Pour the oil into a large frying-pan or sauté pan

and set over a medium to high heat. When hot, add the onions, the cumin and fennel seeds, and the aubergine. Fry, stirring, for about five minutes or until the onions just start to brown. Add the passata, salt, sugar (taste first – some commercial passatas are already sweetened), cayenne pepper and water. Bring to the boil. Cover, lower the heat and simmer gently turning the aubergine pieces now and then until they are really tender, about 30-35 minutes.

This is the sort of dish that appreciates having some bread to mop up with.

For more up to date information about the market and contact details for all the stallholders you can visit the market webpage www.deddingtonfarmersmarket.co.uk.

The market is on Saturday 24 March from 9.00am to 12.30pm.

If you can't wait till then, there's always the Adderbury market on the second Thursday of each month at The Institute, The Green, Adderbury, 6.00-8.00pm.

More details at: www.market.adderbury.org.

Good shopping!

IAN WILLOX

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DOWN ON GEORGE'S FARM



It's that time of year again. By the time this hits the doormat, the 'big push' should be under way in the lambing barns – that's if I've got my sums right. It will be back to long days and even longer nights for the lambing team. The lambing season is always a very much anticipated start to the spring at Home Farm – well for the Old Man at least.

This year marks 60 years of the Old Man being a lambing shepherd. Many things have changed since that bright sunny Easter morning in 1958 when I was dispatched after the early morning church service to do the rounds, as Father and Mother were entertaining the then Bishop of Dorchester to breakfast after he had taken the service. I took off to the lambing paddocks on my pony, Silver, at a rate of knots, as neither of us had as yet had our breakfasts. All was well in the first two paddocks, but in the third a ewe was in difficulties with a mis-presented lamb. A quick rugby tackle from the saddle, a short tussle and, hey presto, I had delivered my first lamb, quickly followed by a second and then it was home for breakfast.

Father had drummed in to me that you always looked after the needs of your animals before yourself, so Silver had an extra helping of molasses and chaff, oats and bran, before I went off for my porridge and full English, with cream from the dairy herd for the porridge and home-produced eggs and home-cured bacon for the full English. Tut-tut, I wonder what the modern day dietitians would have to say about that breakfast menu for a 12-year old today. In mitigation I was fast approaching six feet and doing a lot of manual work on the farm, playing rugby and tennis and horse riding.

Our lifestyle was very different from today, with no electricity, mains water, TV, school bus – we rode a bicycle or walked in bad weather (snow) – and no central heating, with Jack Frost painting his patterns on the inside of our bedroom windows, no mobile phones or i-Pads, but, most of all no EU and their infernal electronic ear tags. The various governments of the day understood the importance of home food production. There was a Minister of Agriculture with a seat in the cabinet and, to be a civil servant working for the Ministry of Agriculture, you had to have a degree in agriculture. What difference 60 years on.

I left school at the age of 15 and started my agricultural career as a farmer's boy doing day release in agriculture at the new Banbury Tech College in Bath Road (now a housing estate) before going on to Ag College to do a diploma in agriculture and I am very pleased to say that my grandson has applied to do a degree course in agriculture at my old college.

When I left school and started full-time on the farm, all the sheep were lambed outside, with a few pens set up in a convenient corner of the lambing field, to house any weakly lambs and their mothers. The ewes were fed on hay and given a ration of home-grown oats and barley. The feed troughs were set up in a long narrow wire pen which ended up in a catching pen so that any ewe that needed help could be caught without much fuss. Fast forward to the spring of 1974 and my first lambing season at Home Farm, the small flock of a 150 ewes were lambed out and we suffered a considerable amount of fox predation, losing 42 lambs in that first season, and my .22 Hornet rifle became part of my lambing kit. The next year we set up a floodlight in the night-time lambing paddock, something that reduced predation but did not stop it. As the farming enterprise expanded with the inclusion of Apple Tree Farm and Manor Farm, we were able to put up sheep buildings to house the flock (by then 500) for the lambing season, with no lambs going out into the flood-lit paddocks until they could look after themselves. The local fox population soon learnt that the lambing paddocks were a very unhealthy place to be seen.

Today we are criticised for so-called factory farming. Our sheep are only housed for a few weeks of the year during the most difficult winter period, spending most of their time at grass in the Clifton valley. All I will say to the green Taliban is, ask the sheep where they would rather be, in a safe dry environment, with a twice daily Meals on Wheels service and their every need catered for, or out in the wet, muddy, cold, Clifton flood plain with the ever-present threat of their lambs being preyed on by foxes, kites, badgers and crows when they are least able to defend them.

As I put finger to keyboard the resident blackbirds have spoken, although given the long range weather forecast they may be a little deluded. The workshop robin has changed to his spring-time tune, but still enjoys his bowl of meal worms. The resident population of sparrows still come when called for their breakfast of grain cleanings and I am serenaded each morning by the farmyard song thrushes and the odd mistle thrush (the cock of the storm), so spring is really in the offing and to hell with all the political Brexit politicking, ho hum.

George Fenimore
01869 338203

Friends of Daeda's Wood

The Wood continues to be a source of pleasure for visitors and is taking on its spring colours now.

The AGM of the Friends of Daeda's Wood will be in April. This is open to members only so if you would like to attend, please contact me and I will send you details of how to become a Friend.

Annette Murphy, Chair
annette-orchard@live.co

CHURCH AND CHAPEL

March

Parish Church SS Peter and Paul

Mon-Fri	8.45am	Morning Prayer (also on the first Saturday of the month)
Wed	10.00am	Holy Communion (with prayers for healing on the fourth Wednesday of the month)
Thu	2.00pm	Bumps & Bundles and tiny tots A great place to meet for parents, carers and babies, from bump to 3yrs
<hr/>		
Sun 4	10.30am	Family Service
	6.00pm	Choral Evensong
Sun 11	8.00am	BCP Communion
	10.30am	Benefice Mothering Sunday
Sun 18	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sun 25	10.30am	Palm Sunday

Hempton

Sun 4	9.00am	Holy Communion
Sun 18	9.00am	Holy Communion
Sun 25	6.00pm	Evening Prayer

Barford St Michael

Sun 4	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sun 18	10.30am	Family Service
	4.00pm	Evening Prayer
Sun 25	9.00am	Palm Sunday

For baptisms and weddings, funerals and home visits in case of illness please contact the Vicar, Reverend Annie Goldthorp at vicar@deddingtonchurch.org or on 01869 336880. If Annie is not available, then please contact one of the church wardens, Iain Gillespie (338367) or George Fenemore (338203). We also have a Curate, Reverend Paula Smith who can be contacted on curate@deddingtonchurch.org.

Wesleyan Reform Church, Chapel Square

Sunday mornings at 10.30am Pastor Isabel Walton

4 March Julie

25 March George Pearce

Pastor Isabel Walton 01869 337157

RC Parish of Hethe

There have been major changes in arrangements at Hethe and there is no longer a resident or full-time incumbent at Hethe. There will be a non-resident priest providing one Mass on Sundays (no Latin Mass). It is hoped that in due course Hethe will also provide one Mass on a weekday. The future contact will be the Revd Robert Hughes, Parish Deacon, 01869 720860.

Mass is said at 9.00am on Sunday at SS Peter and Paul's Anglican church in King's Sutton. The Vigil 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>.

PART-TIME JOB

with

Deddington Parish Council

£8.72 per hour

to make regular inspections of facilities and perform general maintenance around the parish

Please contact the Clerk,
Lorraine Watling, on 01869 337447 or
deddingtonparishcouncil@googlemail.com

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NEWS FROM CLIFTON

February saw a solemn anniversary that we must remember. Three years ago today the pub closed and plunged Clifton into a stupor lifted only two years, two months and two days later (not that anyone was counting ...) until Tim and Rebecca opened it again. Under the banner of 'Use it or Lose it', a dear friend and neighbour of mine, David Gebbels, was wondering if a Clifton Lunch Club might be in order for Lower Lark Risers to renew acquaintances with neighbours, meet new neighbours and use it as an excuse to have a pie and a pint with the friend you saw last week. Tim and Rebecca are offering a discount that was not available to 25 people from Candleford who tried this only last week and, if you're interested, contact me and we'll kick it off. So far we have eleven to keep David company.

J'accuse was an open letter published on 13 January 1898 in the newspaper *L'Aurore* by the influential writer, Émile Zola, in connection with the infamous anti-Semitic case of Alfred Dreyfuss. Some 120 years later this has been repeated in our midst following the Poogate revelations but, sadly I fear, without the basis in evidence that saw Alfred exonerated eight years later. Like *J'accuse*, the accusation was written in a public place but, unlike Émile's, it remained unsigned,

which is a shame because it denies the accused (who strenuously denies the accusation) a right of defence and us the access to the evidence. I fear that someone has added two and two but come up with five. If I am wrong, I invite the Zola of 2018 to get in touch and present their evidence because, as I said last month, I'm happy to name and shame, but owning a big dog is not evidence.

And finally a big Lower Lark Rise thank you to CDC's ganging crew. These gentlemen drive gritting-lorries when required and carry out handyman repairs in our community when it's not icy. They were asked to re-edge the Ray Jelf Memorial path as it had become overgrown of late. This job was placed on the ganging work list by the parish council and on Fix my Street by residents, and on Valentine's Day they did a splendid job. I do know that Cllr Collins gave them personal thanks (clearly he's working hard) but I'd like to add to the chorus as the path is now very wide again, so no excuses not to cycle, stroll or jog down to the Duck to help keep this community centre going. I currently hold ten emails from grateful neighbours.

Martin Bryce
martinbryce@gmail.com

NEWS FROM HEMPTON

The church now has a Faculty to make changes at the building, installing new heating, moving the font to a more suitable position, and removing some of the pews so that the new heating can be installed. All this should be taking place over the spring.

The parish council will be holding its monthly meeting in the Old School Room on Wednesday 21 March at 7.30pm. Please go along if you have any questions for them. I see from last month's council minutes that forms have been completed for registering the footpath that runs from the Old Chapel to The Lane as a public right of way.

Can you help with flower arranging at the church? They currently have only three people on a regular basis and one of them now lives in Deddington. Please give me a call if you can help.

People with dogs are, in general, cleaning up after them but on occasions people are leaving the poo bags where it happens or tying them to gates in the field area. Please put them in the bins provided or take them home.

This is an urgent appeal on behalf of the Friends of Hempton Church. The organisation has now been going for 30 years and has a strong membership. Under the constitution it is entitled to a committee of eight but at the moment this is down to seven and three of those no longer live in the village. Come the AGM in May they will be looking for at least one or two new members and a new secretary. Two of the members have been on the committee since its beginning in 1988 which

is rather a long time. Meetings are held infrequently and the main organising is for the Christmas Bazaar for which there is always more help. Please think carefully about this and come to the AGM. The date will be announced in next month's column.

This time of year, with the lovely snowdrops out and other flowers starting to show in the grass verges, always reminds me of my old neighbour, the late Mr Dennis Washington, who had many of them planted years ago.

Les Chappell 01869 338054

FRIENDS OF CASTLE GROUNDS

We have had to change the date of the AGM – it is now Wednesday 28 March at 7.30pm at the Holly Tree Club. Please come and hear about the work which was carried out last year and our plans for Castle Grounds for 2018. Become a member or join the committee, we will be delighted to see you.

Spring is on the way and, with new signs of life appearing at Castle Grounds, can we finally say goodbye to the mud?

Excess fallen wood after the wet and windy weather is to be collected and shredded.

Just another reminder for all dog walkers to clean up after their dogs. Please help us keep Castle Grounds a clean and safe area for all visitors. We are looking forward to lighter nights and better weather for us all to enjoy this wonderful site.

Carol Garrett cgarrett@btinternet.com

From the Fire Station

From the start of the year to mid-February we have been called out 31 times. These calls consisted of fires, road traffic collisions, alarms and stand-bys. Notable incidents were a six-pump incident on the M40 which involved a lorry fire with the load alight from a beer spillage. This then turned into a Hazardous Materials incident due to the copious amounts of beer spillage across the motorway and down the embankment. We also attended a ram-raid at the Hopcrofts Holt petrol station. We were required for this to help the police gain access to the premises using our specialist cutting gear. Finally we had a callout to a fire at the Warriner School in one of the science labs. Thankfully it was out on our arrival.

As I'm sure you are all aware, last year one of our Crew Managers, Tim Parker, hung up his boots after giving 10 years' service to the station. Unfortunately this left the station with only two personnel able to take the pump out in charge, Chris Fenemore (Watch Manager) and Lewis Mahony (Crew Manager). As you can imagine that is a lot of hours' cover for two people on a 24/7 station. They both managed between them to keep the pump on the run for 99% of the time and must be thanked for their dedication to the service and our community. To counteract Tim's departure, we have two firefighters training to become Crew Manag-

ers, George Williamson and Nicky Isted. By the end of April they will each be certified to take the pump out as an Officer in Command.

On the training front, Barney Alton is on the verge of passing his Breathing Apparatus Team Leaders certification. This involves one written and two practical assessments, of which he is about to take the final one. Adam Perry, our latest recruit, is about to undertake his initial Breathing Apparatus assessment. We wish them both the best of luck over the coming weeks.

We will be holding our annual Firefighters Charity car wash in March or April so please keep a look out for the exact times and dates. Your support over the years for this cause has not gone amiss and we thank you all greatly for your support.

On a final note, please be careful whilst out on the roads. The days may be getting longer but the freezing conditions and wet surfaces still pose a real threat for accidents to occur. Until next time, stay safe.

Thomas Hall, Firefighter

THE PARISH SPRING CLEAN

This will be on Sunday 18 March at 9.00am at the Town Hall. Everyone is very welcome to help – gloves and other equipment will be provided.

Creative Piano Lessons

I'm a piano teacher and composer with many years' experience of offering piano lessons focusing on developing musicianship, creativity and most of all enjoyment.

While I do coach for exams (Grades 1–8 and GCSE and A-level performance), in an increasingly high-pressured, exam-oriented culture I'm also pleased to offer an environment for creativity to blossom.

Whether you're contemplating piano lessons for your child or yourself, feel free to get in touch.

Rosemary

Rosemary.Jefford@gmail.com

Tel: 07542 086 038



Deddington Primary School PTA

Easter Treasure Hunt and Raffle

30 March - 15 April 2018



For more information please see
Deddington Primary School PTA on Facebook
and on the Deddington Primary School website

Tickets (£5) on sale outside Deddington Primary School
26 - 29 March at 3pm. Tickets also on sale at The Flower Shop,
Market Place, Deddington, 30 March - 15 April

DEDDINGTON CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

January and February have been busy months in school and we have enjoyed everything we have done and been involved in.

As usual, we have had both fun and successes in our Warriner partnership sporting events. Years 3 and 4 children took part in a Bollywood Day of Dance and Years 5 and 6 pupils participated in two tournaments as part of the Athletics Festival at the Warriner school.

Year 5 children also attended Tudor Hall School for a wonderful music day, and Year 6 has begun hockey training once a week at Bloxham School, enjoying their great facilities.

Some classes have been on trips, with Year 4 taking a journey to Warner Bros Studio, having an amazing experience of the Making of Harry Potter set, and Year 1 took a trip to Banbury Museum to learn about toys of the past.

In early February, all classes took part in learning activities related to e-safety, with the National Inter-



net Safety Day having taken place on Tuesday 6 February. We also enjoyed having our yearly visit from Scholastic Book Fairs for a week at the start of Term 4. Our children loved having the books to buy and enjoyed reading them at home and at school.

In terms of religious education and the deepening of our school's Christian ethos, we launched 'The Big Frieze' during Term 3. This frieze has enabled our

pupils to develop their understanding of Christianity and indeed many important bible stories. Assemblies and reflection times have focused on studying the frieze and discussing its content amongst children in all year groups. It is already apparent that we have invested in an amazing resource from which everyone will benefit over the coming weeks.

Finally, let us hope spring will soon be here, when the days will become longer and warmer.

Denise Welch

dwel3954@deddington.oxon.sch.uk

WINDMILL DEVELOPMENT GROUP

Bats Hanging out at the Windmill

The presence of bats in the bowls pavilion was spotted in the recent ecological survey carried out as part of the development of the new sport and leisure area at the Windmill. They are probably not roosting females, more likely one or two opportunists who dropped in for a quiet feed. But, as bats are protected species, nothing can be done to the pavilion or the surrounding hedges for the next active season (May–October) while the situation is more closely monitored. We're assured it's not a huge problem and it can be managed.

The same survey has given us the all-clear on the all weather court (AWC) and the old BMX track where the new multi-use games area (MUGA) will be. We're now looking for quotes for the new MUGA, and fencing and lighting for the AWC, before the PC gives the final go ahead.

The PC has agreed in principle to appoint a project manager to oversee work on the sport and leisure

area, and also a landscape designer. It's an ambitious project that needs professional skills and input, and we need to get it right. We're drawing up an extensive brief and approaching potential project managers.

The topographical and utilities surveys were also done over a couple of freezing days at the end of January.

The recent Parish Questionnaire gave us a mandate to improve the Centre building which was at the receiving end of some pretty brutal comments. So as a first stage we will want to get feasibility plans and rough costings to give us a budget target. Only then can we ask what the PC might be willing to fund and what grant aid we should seek from outside bodies.

If you have any comments on the plans, please email us.

Mary Robinson, Chair

development@windmillcentre.org

Deddington PFSU and Village Nursery

The PFSU (pre-school) year began with a visit from Ofsted and we are delighted to announce that we were awarded 'Good' in all areas of the inspection. The inspector highlighted the quality of the children's learning: 'Staff know children well and make good use of this knowledge to plan meaningful activities for them.' 'They help children to become inquisitive learners.' 'All children are developing good skills needed for the next stages of learning such as starting school.' 'Children progress well with their literacy skills.'

We were praised for working closely with parents and for our strong partnership with the primary school. Safeguarding was judged to be effective. Our 'children behave well'. Staff 'prioritise children's independence' and 'encourage children to be physically active'. 'Staff provide effective support for children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities.' Thank you to everyone - staff, committee, parents and children - who helped us to achieve such a successful result.

Lucy Squires 01869 337484

POSTCARD FROM AMERICA

Politicians, Tax and Innocent Children

When I was a boy, my second professional ambition was to be the Prime Minister, my first was to be a train driver. I think I was wiser at eight than I was at 12. Politics is a dirty business anywhere in the world.

Most of the political talk in the Land of the Free has been about the budget and the tax cuts. I can't tell you whether the Republicans have improved my personal wealth – tax here is an incredibly complex issue. I pay a man huge amounts of dosh to do my tax returns and even he can't answer this basic question. However, since the tax act was published after Christmas and some regulations have yet to be clarified, making the new rules work from 1 January seems absurd to anyone with common sense.

Once again, this bill exposed the crudity of political manoeuvring out here. Mitch McConnell, the Republican leader (imagine a male Theresa May), was very worried about two private schools in Kentucky and slipped in a provision to give them a special tax break. Kentucky is his home state. The Democrat, Bernie Sanders (imagine a cross between Michael Foot and Jeremy Corbyn), had this removed from the bill but it has mysteriously reappeared in the next budget bill. When the US government ran out of money for the second time in three weeks, someone said to me 'America gives banana republics a bad name'.

As I write this, I am sorry I can't be funny, but I am

very angry. Yesterday there was yet another school massacre. So today the politicians were out performing to the crowd as usual. Trump is blaming mental health – some bizarre folks on CNN even tried to link the huge over-supply of guns with this carnage of the innocent youth of America. This argument won't have appeared on Fox News so Trump will have missed it.

Since the Sandy Hook school shooting in 2012, 138 people have been killed in more than 200 shooting incidents in schools. In the Denver area, ten police officers have been shot, and three have died in the last six weeks.

Most people I know around here are appalled but some just leave me speechless. Gun purchases go up, people demand armed guards at every school and declare 'Guns don't kill – people do'. And the politicians will continue to focus on their own little worlds and the sponsors who keep them in office.

It is reckoned that the billionaire Koch brothers will make \$1bn from the tax changes. This week they have committed \$500m to a fund to elect Republicans they like in the elections in November.

Perhaps this is all fake news and I will wake up tomorrow to a happy land where the population rises up after a school shooting and changes things. There are times I really do miss England.

Mike Ward mikew@qsoftware.com

WYCHWOOD ART GALLERY



Visit us in our art gallery in Deddington or buy original art online from £20 – £4,000.

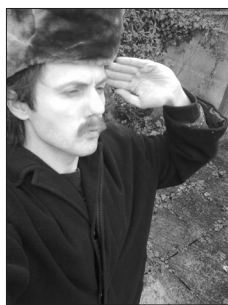
Open Monday - Saturday, 10am - 4pm.

Wychwood Art, Market Place, Deddington OX15 0SE, 01869 338 155

Email: Deborah@wychwoodart.com

WWW.WYCHWOODART.COM

BLISSFUL THINKING



By the time this is published, the vernal equinox will be nearly upon us, all things being equal (daylight and night to be precise). Equilibrium is a funny thing. Stasis seems to be the absence of extreme forces but really is the equal pull of opposing factions, and one particularly strong pulling force is of course found at the North pole. We all know that a

compass will point us towards magnetic north so when our delirious peregrinations leave us hopelessly lost we can follow the happy arrow, as it's the only direction we can be sure we're heading in without accidentally circumambulating back to our origin point. If we don't possess a compass, we have to rely on geographical markers on the landscape, or even the position of the sun and stars, because we just can't trust our natural instincts to lead us in one direction.

As the crow flies is not how the human treks. Most people will lean slightly to the left as they walk as the right leg tends to be more powerful and dominant. This becomes more pronounced when under the influence, so navigational perspective diminishes further as we all head vaguely left while trying to go up.

With this in mind, is it any wonder that the bulk of Deddington's properties lie north-west of the cross-roads?

Aaron Bliss

aaronjbliss@hotmail.com

Holly Tree Club

The Holly Tree Club management committee has discussed reducing the age of membership to 55 years. It is thought this would attract new members, ensure continuity of the club and engage with a younger retired element of the community. When the club was set up some 50 years ago, women normally retired at 60. Now men and women can retire on private pensions from 55 and as the age of admission to Grove Court and Hudson Court is also 55 years, it seemed the age of 60 was out of date. A vote was taken and all in attendance agreed that this was a good idea and agreed this will be formally discussed and adopted at our next AGM in May.

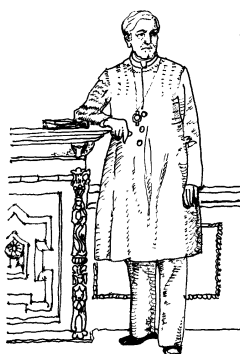
Our members first trip of the year was to Robbins Nest on Monday 19 February, a community restaurant at Stanbridge House in Ruskin Road, Banbury. Lunch was much enjoyed by our members and reviews were excellent.

We are now looking forward to our next trip to Stratford-upon-Avon on 23 April where we will enjoy a river cruise and a cream tea. A couple of spaces are still available if any members wish to go.

Our next film night, in association with Age UK, will

Continued in next column

DEDDINGTON 150 YEARS AGO



The following are extracts from the diaries of the Revd Cotton Risley for the month of March 1868:

2nd March – Went with Holford to attend the Assizes at Oxford.

9th March – A woman named Sykes came for a summons against G. Lewis for assaulting her, which I granted.

14th March – Holford went hunting at Blenheim. I called

at the butchers and spoke to him about his meat charges – Mr. Stilgoe being present.

16th March – I heard a vagrancy or tramp case at Mr. Churchill's office, a stone mason from Bath – discharged him from custody with a reprimand and a promise to leave the Town tomorrow morning early. Heard a second case later in the day, Donald Cameron, a true Scotsman and a really casual vagrant, discharged him and gave him 1s. to help him to his home – now at Warwick.

17th March – I heard from Willy announcing his engagement to Miss Martina Beevor – the marriage to take place this autumn.

19th March – Heard the deserters' case at Mr. Churchill's office and committed them to Oxford till the War Office authorities had been communicated with.

26th March – Three policemen came with tramps, Mr. Churchill came down and we heard the case here – sent two to House of Correction with hard labour for 14 days and discharged two, a man and his son, eight years of age, being with him. H. Wilkins came begging having lost three horses in six months – gave him 10s.

31st March – I called on the widows at the Alms Houses.

Buffy Heywood

bd.heywood@btinternet.com

Holly Tree Club *Continued from previous column*

be the romantic drama *No Reservations* on Thursday 8 March, starring Catherine Zeta Jones as a master chef who runs her life and her kitchen with intimidating intensity until she becomes the guardian of her young niece. No need to be a member or to book to see the film. Just come along, all over 60s will be made very welcome. The only cost is £2.00 for refreshments on the night.

Don't forget our Monday morning coffee club for the over 60s is held on the first Monday of the month at 10.30am in the Holly Tree Club.

For all Club enquiries, please contact Liz Dickinson 01869 337050 or Diana Marshall on 01869 337761. For all Holly Tree booking enquiries, please contact Hugh Blythe on 01869 338126.

John Finnigan, Chair

LETTERS

FROM SALLY BROWN
FUNDRAISING AND MARKETING
ASSISTANT, PACT
Adopt with PACT

Last year adoption charity, Parents And Children Together, helped transform the lives of 82 children by finding them their forever families. PACT, which offers outstanding Ofsted-rated adoption services to families across the south-east, is one of the leading independent adoption charities in the country. With more than 2,000 children waiting to be adopted, PACT specialises in finding secure and loving homes for priority children who can be harder to place and often face the longest wait for their forever family. These include children over four years old, in sibling groups of two or three, of BME heritage or with additional needs.

PACT welcomes adopters from all backgrounds, including those of black and minority ethnic heritage and from the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community.

The charity holds regular adoption information events in Reading which are led by a social worker and include a talk from someone who has adopted through PACT. There is also chance to ask questions and talk informally to adoption staff. PACT's information events are free to attend but you do need to book a place by calling 0300 456 4800.

For more information about adopting with PACT see www.pactcharity.org, email enquiries@pactcharity.org or call 0300 456 4800.

FROM NIGEL ODDY
DEDDINGTON ARMS HOTEL
Tourism in Deddington

I was surprised to read the Neighbourhood Planning comments on tourism in Deddington. (*whether any tourist would wish to visit Deddington*).



The Deddington Arms Hotel welcomes many leisure guests to Deddington. They not only appreciate Deddington as a base to visit Blenheim Palace, Oxford and the Cotswolds but also the village itself. Below are a few comments from independent TripAdvisor Reviews.

'Deddington is a quaint little town with some nice individual shops worth browsing'.

'The pub is in the middle of the old village of Deddington with lots of beautiful country walks nearby'.

'Lovely village. Everywhere we went people were so friendly. Would highly recommend'.

'The town has several good restaurants and pubs so an ideal base'.

'The village itself is pretty enough, not close enough to the Cotswolds to be pure but it tries hard. Three other pubs, a supermarket, and a village green and that's your lot and as peaceful as you like. Deddington Castle is an open field as the monument disappeared a while ago but worth a wander round and good views south as well'.

'This little country hotel is situated in an attractive village, ideally situated for a visit to the Cotswolds and surrounding areas. If you enjoy country walks the staff can provide maps of shorter and longer hikes in and around the surrounding area. Over the years we have stayed here several times and it is always a great delight to return'.

'The village itself is nice to stroll around too – two or three more pubs and a very tempting delicatessen. There are also some good circular cross-country walks too. All in all an excellent weekend. I wouldn't hesitate to go back'.

Deddington is a very welcoming village; it does have more to offer than many villages of a similar size – our guests love the place and its people – many return again and again. Perhaps we sometimes take our village strengths for granted.

History Corner

www.deddingtonhistory.uk

One of the pleasures of being DOL history editor is being contacted from all corners of the world for information. This last month I have been in contact with a New Zealand descendant of Joseph and Richard Matthews coming here in March to research her ancestors. The Matthews brothers emigrated to NZ as missionaries in the 1830s. Richard was first taken to Tierra del Fuego by Charles Darwin on the *Beagle* but was discovered naked and nearly dead after a short time amongst the local tribes. He only joined his brother two-and-a-half years later at the end of the voyage.

Closer to home, Leiden University in Holland has been seeking information about one of their alumni, Thomas van Oss. He was an Army officer killed by a sea mine in 1941 while inspecting coastal defences. Before the war he lived with his family in The Hermitage.

The easiest way to find their stories is to put their names into the search box found via the Search tab at the top of the History home page.

Rob Forsyth
robert.s.forsyth@gmail.com

CALLING ALL CLUBS

Adderbury, Deddington and District Photographic Society

Our monthly club meeting was a presentation by one of our members, Jim Muller. He presented a brilliant series of photographs titled 'America; from Cowboy Country to Indian Reservation'. It highlighted the contrast between the green fertile plains occupied by cattle ranchers and the arid regions of tribal reservations. Jim gave us his personal view of Yellowstone National Park with its well-known scenery and wildlife, and pictures ranged from bison and elk to magnificent geysers and colourful hot mineral pools. Unique were the Travertine Falls Terraces. A highlight of his journey was to be in the right place when the total eclipse occurred. A series of perfectly exposed pictures showing stages of the total eclipse were shown. (As Jim said, 'You only get one chance at this'.)

Moving further south took us to the Arches National Park, an area of naturally-formed huge arches of sandstone. These formations offer endless potential for photographers, particularly the Window Arch at sunrise. The Balancing Rock also gives a unique photo opportunity. Monument Valley's widely recognised geological formations are a magnet for travel photographers, and the low angle of the late sun threw columns into relief. The amazingly photogenic Antelope Canyon also provides almost endless creative pictures, and Jim gave us excellent examples of the formations in this slot canyon. Canyonlands National Park holds the Green Canyon, the Colorado Canyon and the Grand Canyon within its boundaries and we were treated to superb shots of all of these. Some were stitched panoramic shots. The range of rock formations were thrown into relief by the angle of the sun that illustrated the uniqueness of these canyons. This excellent presentation finished with deserved loud applause.

Our next club meeting is on 7 March at the Cartwright Hotel, Aynho, and will be a presentation by Mary MacIntyre, titled 'Astrophotography'. All are welcome to attend, come along and meet us.

Paul Brewerton

Paul.brewerton@btinternet.com

Deddington Bookworms

Bookworms recently read *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Burrows. Set in 1946, it tells the stories of a number of people living in Guernsey during the German occupation in WW2. The whole novel is written as a series of letters, a format that met with mixed reactions from the group, ranging from deciding not to finish the book to appreciating that the letters conveyed the story well and were cleverly used to introduce and describe a number of different characters.

One of the main characters, Juliet Ashton, is developing her reputation as a writer. Whilst seeking a

theme for a new subject, she enters into correspondence with a Guernsey pig farmer. From this initial contact, a network of correspondents grows who shed light on their experiences under German occupation. There is a mixture of happier and sadder experiences and a gentle humour in some of the islanders' stories.

Everyone agreed that much was learnt about the suffering and plight of the native islanders and an insight gained into the hardships they had to endure.

Our next meeting is on Monday 5 March at 6.30pm at Deddington library. We will be discussing *Sweet Tooth* by Ian McEwan. If you would like to join the Bookworms, please contact the Library or email James (james@cyclogicalshop.co.uk) or Janet (jss@talktalk.net) for more information.

Deddington Library
01869 338391

Royal British Legion

Anyone who has an interest in hearing about the work of the Royal British Legion is invited to a social evening (free entry) at the church at 7.00pm on Wednesday 18 April. Our County Chairman, Ms Lynda Atkins, will introduce a veteran who will talk for a short time about how the Legion changed his life, after which there will be an opportunity to meet and talk to committee members over a glass of 'Hooky' or wine (cash bar) about how you can join our branch and help us with providing support in the community to the Armed Forces – serving, veterans and their families. Branch membership is open to men and women – and not just ex-service people – and there is a Riders Branch that Deddington bikers may be particularly interested in hearing more about from the Oxfordshire representative. More in next month's *DN*.

Rob Forsyth, Chairman

01869 338384 robert.s.forsyth@gmail.com

Book Group

In January we read Joanna Cannon's debut novel, *The Trouble with Goats and Sheep*. Set in a suburban street during the hot summer of 1976, the plot revolves around the disappearance of one of the residents, Margaret Creasy. Much of the action is related by 10-year old Grace who, together with her friend Tilly, tries to solve the mystery. The narrative is interspersed with flashbacks, gradually revealing a shameful incident which had occurred a few years before. The neighbours are jittery and suspicious and it seems that Margaret had, in fact, been the keeper of many secrets.

In spite of dark themes, the novel is humorous and compassionate. Grace is a spirited character, given to witty and perceptive observations, and has a touching relationship with the more vulnerable Tilly. There is an interesting range of adult characters, some mean-

Continued on p13

CALLING ALL CLUBS *Continued from p12*

spirited and others more deserving of sympathy.

The 1970s are vividly evoked, as well as the unsettling heat and uneasy atmosphere. Occasionally the flashbacks are confusing and at one point the narrative lags slightly but most of the group found the book well-written, compelling and very enjoyable.

Our next meeting is on 29 March, when we will discuss *Conclave* by Robert Harris. Please contact Sally Lambert on 01869 338094 for more information.

Sian Waterman

Deddington Baby and Toddler Group

This is a friendly group run by parents and carers for Deddington and surrounding villages, offering a variety of toys and activities for babies and pre-school children and a great meeting place for parents and carers. Healthy snacks, drinks, tea and coffee are included. New members and new volunteers are always welcome. We meet every Friday, 10.00am–12.00pm, at the Windmill Centre, £3 per family and there is no need to book, just come along. Contact Maggie Moseley Richards, Maggiemr1204@gmail.com.

Louise Tustian

Women's Institute

Quite a few members braved the chill to attend our meeting on 13 February. After the business meeting we had a most interesting talk on the Taoist Tai Chi Society from Martin Edwards. He discussed its age and how it had spread worldwide. We then had a demonstration of some of the simple movements; 17 make up the elementary moves.

Our next meeting is on 13 March. This is the annual meeting with election of a new president and committee. Beryl Suckling, our long-serving president, is standing down. She has served us very well and found speakers from thin air. It is difficult when speakers' fees and the cost of petrol money increase. We are having a lunch at Otters on 20 March.

Visitors are always welcome. Ring either Beryl Suckling on 01869 337385 or Jenny Cross on 08169 337613.

Julia Hobbs

Deddington and District History Society

Our February speaker, Bill King, took as his theme the defences of the Thames and Cherwell Valleys in the Second World War. On paper, plans for the country's defence look impressive. A screen of radar stations ringed the coast and formed part of the world's first 'internet', being closely linked with observation posts,

anti-aircraft batteries, fighter squadrons and command posts. Further inland, railway embankments, rivers and canals formed a natural barrier to enemy advance and were strategically essential. Bridges and other crossing-points would be blown up if threatened. We are all familiar with pill-boxes, but Bill explained also how to identify a host of obstacles such as anti-glider concrete blocks that still litter the countryside. Cells of resistance fighters (volunteers commanded by regular officers) were to conduct guerrilla warfare, carrying out acts of sabotage and assassination.

Thankfully, the defences were never put to the test. One suspects that in reality they would have proved largely ineffective, not least because the British Army had lost almost all its equipment (including its only armoured division) in the rapid and overwhelming defeat in France. As the threat of invasion receded, our area took on a new significance, home to scores of airfields devoted mainly to training bomber and glider crews. When the invasion came in 1944 it was in the opposite direction to what had seemed likely in 1940. As an aside, Bill informed us that the world's first jet plane was trialled at Barford St John. All in all, this was a fascinating, sobering, well-researched talk, delivered with tremendous panache.

Our next event, in the Windmill Centre at 7.30pm on Wednesday 14 March, will be a change from that previously advertised. Instead of Gary Lock on 'Becoming Roman in Oxfordshire', Simon Townley will talk on the history of that ancient, mysterious forest area, the Wychwoods. Gary's lecture will now be in May. All are welcome.

Chris Day Chairman 01869 337204
Moiria Byast Secretary 01869 338637

Craft Group

Tuesdays at 2.00–4.30pm at the Holly Tree

Friendly Bridge Club

Fridays at 2.00–5.00pm at the Holly Tree

Thursday Club

The Windmill Centre Thursdays 10am–3pm

Deddington Brass

Monday evenings in the church from 7.00–9.00pm

Life and Portrait Art Group

The Holly Tree Club on Thursdays from 10am–12.30pm and 1.30–4.00pm.

SPORT

Deddington Tennis Club

Open to all regardless of standard. For more information visit our website www.deddingtontennis.com.

Ed Toll

Deddington Badminton Club

Meets every Tuesday from 7.00pm during the season (September to April) at the Windmill Centre.

Caroline Tindale deddingtonbc@hotmail.co.uk

SPORT*Continued from p13***Deddington Original Golf Society**

Men, women, beginners, amateurs and professionals are all welcome. For more information visit our web page www.deddington.org.uk/clubs/deddingtonoriginalgolfclub.

Tony Lowe**Deddington Ladies Netball**

Deddy Ladies Netball is taking a break for a while. We hope that it will return at some point. If you can rejuvenate the club or have any suggestions, please contact Suzie Upson on 07717205051

Deddington Cricket Club

We run 1st and 2nd XI teams participating in the OCA League and a women's team. For more information visit our website www.deddingtoncricket.co.uk

Derek Cheeseman**Deddington Town Football Club***First Team results:*

20.01.18	Bloxham (a) (CUP)	W 9–0 Cook (2), Hamblin, Lydon (5), Stanley
27.01.18	AFC Bicester (h)	W 3–1 Hall S (2), Thornton J
10.01.18	Chasewell Park (a)	L 2–4

Reserve team results:

27.01.18	Broughton & NN Res (a)	L 0–6
10.02.18	K Sutton First Team (h)	L 2–6 Paroussis C, Todd

A definitive improvement from the First Team as the beginning of the year saw them fill their boots with seven goals in the first half alone, to extirpate Bloxham in the cup, and Dan Lydon helping himself to a nap hand of goals. An excellent victory over Bicester saw them threaten second place, but the Humbugs couldn't quite repeat the feat against their other contenders at the apex of the table, as Chasewell metaphorically handed them off. As it stands, a tight pack is jostling for runner-up spot to runaway division leaders, Bishops Itchington.

YOUTH**1st Deddington Scout Group**

Following an enjoyable visit to the panto (they are very easily bribed with free sweets) we organised a 'Market Evening' during which the Scouts bought materials and sold finished articles and gained credits for demonstrating a variety of skills. Having witnessed their woeful attempts at pioneering, we decided to base the next few meetings on rope work and are pleased to announce a great improvement. So, if you need ropes of different thicknesses joined together or a slightly rickety 'A' frame, look no further.

Peter Churchyard
deddingtonscouts@gmail.com

As for the Reserves, the last rites are being prepared, unless a titanic run of form helps them drag the two Banbury teams (Sports and Galaxy) into the relegation pit ahead of them, with Naranja looking well gone at the foot of Division Two.

Aaron Bliss 07909 642882**Youth section**

In the Witney and District Youth Football League, the U14s had a 5–2 home defeat to Banbury Irish, despite being level 2–2 at half-time. This was followed by a 5–0 defeat away at Ducklington in the Knock-Out Cup. The U13 Sharks sit third in the U13 B league and are chasing promotion to the A League. With seven games left to play, just three points separate the top three teams. The U13 Cobras playing in the C league had two defeats to Launton and Easington, and now have just two fixtures left for the season. The U12s playing in the C League had defeats to Bloxham and to Kingston Colts in the supplementary cup, but a 4–2 win over Banbury United.

Presentation day

Our annual presentation day is at the Windmill Centre on 10 June. We will be producing a programme and have opportunities for local business to advertise (thank you to the Deddington businesses who supported us last year). The programme will be sold on the day and we expect more than 200 people to attend. It will also be used as a marketing document for the season ahead and will go on our website after the event. If you wish to take up this opportunity to provide support for your local football team, contact Roger Sykes on 07899 914425 or carsykes@btinternet.com.

Get involved

If you want to get involved with the club as player, volunteer, sponsor or fundraiser, please do not hesitate to get in touch. Further information about the club is at www.deddingtontownfc.com or visit us on Facebook www.facebook.com/DeddingtonTownFc.

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

Beavers

Beavers are for children between six and eight. We meet at the Windmill Centre from 5.30-6.30pm on Mondays.

Laura Kiff
deddingtonbeavers@gmail.com

Cubs

This term we have welcomed Flynn who is new to the movement, Parker, who has transferred from Hook Norton, and Samuel and Finlay from Beavers. We are gently expanding to accommodate as many interested children as we can.

YOUTH*Continued from p14*

The Cubs have recently turned their own bodies into measuring tools – how long is your stride, how high can you reach, what is the span of your hand? Not totally accurate but close enough for a rough estimate, ruined, of course because they will keep growing.

By splitting them into groups we have managed to award three badges, Disability Awareness, DIY and Artist. They have all worked hard and produced some surprising results.

Jack, Flynn and Will represented the pack at the District Swimming Gala and put in a storming performance to win the Under 9½ relay.

Jo Churchyard
deddingtoncubs@gmail.com

Explorers

We have found out that not all of us are as agile as one member who organised a dance evening for us. But we did have a few laughs on the way.

The first of our Fairtrade evenings showed us how difficult it is to eat a bar of chocolate wearing gloves and against the clock. We have organised cooking various items from the main countries involved in Fairtrade.

We've put up our posters in the village and are looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our valuation evening on Saturday 24 March at the Windmill Centre. A fish and chip supper will be included for £10 and monies raised will be divided between the International Otter Survival Fund and a charity working to assist vulnerable young adults. The evening starts at 7.00pm and will finish at 9.30pm, with auctioneer Edwyn Pym from Jones and Jacob Fine Art Auctioneers and Valuers, Watlington. Bring one item per person and look forward to an evening of stories about the antique industry and a valuation.

Janet Duxbury 01608 737959
spartanexplorers@gmail.com

1st Deddington Guides

Camping out in February? Crazy? No, a challenge, readily taken up by 15 Deddington Guides. We camped overnight in sub-zero temperatures and 60mph winds.

We cooked our supper and breakfast on an open fire. We had a large shelter for meals and activities but most of our time was spent out in the elements. We enjoyed a session on the rifle range, exploring the woods and playing games. The Guides independently organised a litter-pick in the woods and surrounding area as a good turn. We had a competition at bed-time to out sing each other – including Christmas songs which were probably heard miles away. Everyone had great fun and, of the 15 guides, six had never been to camp before, so at 10 years old that is really taking up the challenge. All the tents withstood the high winds that hit the site with train-like sounds. So very well done to all the Guides – a great achievement.

Please support our Deddington Guides Got Talent evening on 13 March 13 at the Windmill Centre in aid of charity starting at 7.30pm. Entry is free, raffle and refreshments will be available, and donations will be in support of local charities.

Maggie Rampley 01295 810069
Marian Trinder 01869 340806
Catherine Blackburn 01295 258008
Tilly Neal

1st Barford and Deddington Rainbows

Rainbows is the youngest section of the Girl Guide Association for girls between five and seven. We meet at Barford St Michael village hall on Friday, 4.15–5.15pm.

Hazel Neal 01869 337822

1st Deddington Brownies

Brownies is for girls between seven to 10. We meet on Wednesday (term time) at 6.00–7.30pm at the Windmill Centre.

Claire Friday
deddingtonbrownies@gmail.com

1st Deddington Boys' Brigade

Regrettably all sections – Anchor, Junior and Company – are suspended just now for lack of leaders. If you are interested in helping restart any section please contact Jen Childs 01869 337481 or 07774 608715. More information is available on www.boys-brigade.org.uk.

DEDDINGTON LIBRARY

There are exciting changes ahead at the library as we prepare to have Windows 10 installed on the staff PCs and a new library management system installed. The new system, called SPARK, is a completely different system to the one we currently use, so will take quite some getting used to. In order to help me out and to save you waiting so long at the library counter, if you could remember to bring your library cards it would be greatly appreciated; it will enable our volunteers to help you use the self-service system and give me more time to get used to the new SPARK system at the counter.

If you don't have your library card, I will of course, be happy to help you, but may be quite slow for a time. If you need a replacement library card, we can accommodate that at a small charge for adults and at no cost for children. So please have a look around at home and try to find your cards; it really does help a great deal.

Similarly, while I can, of course, order books from the library catalogue at the counter, I and all of our volunteers are able to show you on the library PCs how to access your own online library account where

DEDDINGTON LIBRARY

Continued from p15

you can order books, renew the ones you have and access the wealth of information the online service has to offer.

Have a look at home at <https://libcat.oxfordshire.gov.uk/web/arena/my-account>. You just need to have your borrower number and PIN to hand. I can issue your PIN at the counter if you don't have it yet.

Our lively and fun Rhyme-times for under 5s and families are very popular and it's great to see so many little ones join us on Mondays. Don't forget to come along 2.30–3.00pm, term time only.

We really need another Rhyme-time volunteer, so if you interested in helping, please contact me for de-

tails. Our Rhyme-time hosts do one session every 4–5 weeks. Come and visit a session to see what we do.

We look forward to seeing you in the library again soon.

Stella O'Neill, Library Manager
01869 338391

Deddington.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk

At Adderbury Library on Wednesday 4 April at 4.30pm meet Annie Murray who will speak about the joys and sorrows of writing and will also talk about her latest book. Tickets, available from the library or by email from Keith Mitchell on krmcbe@gmail.com, are £8 per head and include a glass of wine or soft drink. Entry is free for accompanied children.

WELL REMEMBERED

Joyce Minnear 1927–2018

Joyce was a true Deddingtonian. She was born Joyce Hiorns in Castle Street on 22 March 1927 to John and Bessie Hiorns, also of the village. Joyce had two brothers, Joe and Maurice Hiorns, both of whom have now passed on.

Joyce's family moved from Castle Street to High Street, where she spent most of her teenage years. Then a holiday in Blackpool when she was just 18 years old brought a chance meeting with a young Cornish soldier by the name of Bill Minnear. Bill was in Blackpool for rehabilitation, having been freed from being a prisoner of war. They got married three weeks later and settled back in Deddington. Almost immediately afterwards, now fully rehabilitated, Bill was posted back out to Palestine. Joyce thought it was very unjust that a man who had fought for his country and been a prisoner of war should not be allowed time off for a honeymoon and felt so passionately about it that she wrote a letter to the Secretary of State for War, Manny Shinwell, imploring him to grant Bill compassionate leave. Much to everybody's surprise, Mr Shinwell agreed. Bill had apparently been shaking in his boots as he was called before his senior army officer in Palestine, wondering what he had done wrong.

Joyce and Bill had two children: John, in 1947 and Susan a couple of years later. They lived in a cottage that used to be where Manor Farm Barns is now (on the Hempton Road) before moving to New Street in the early 1950s.

Joyce worked for Banbury Buildings, Adderbury, and progressed to middle management, where she was in charge of a team of 200 workers. She was hard working and meticulous. She was hugely popular and was affectionately known as 'Min' to her colleagues.

In the community, Joyce was a true Christian and heavily involved with the Congregational chapel in New Street, running the Sunday School there for a many years alongside the late Eddie Lines. She was also steward and treasurer.

When Joyce retired from Banbury Buildings, she became even more involved with the community. She was on the Windmill Management Committee from the opening in 1986, and was bookings secretary for nearly 30 years until she retired only five years ago. She was always on hand to open up or help in any way she could. If there was any trouble or vandalism, Joyce would be there the next day to sort things out.

In addition to this, Joyce carried out various pastoral care roles in the community. She would babysit people's children, she would drive elderly people to Banbury for their shopping, or to the doctors, chiropodists or hospital. She looked after neighbours' cats. She would visit the elderly and sick, both at home and in hospital, and she did this until well into her 80s. She built relationships with everybody around her and had a great many friends both in the village and further abroad.

In 2015, Joyce received the Oxfordshire High Sheriff's Award for Outstanding Services to the Community, a very deserved honour.

After Bill died in 1997, Joyce moved from New Street into the Holly Tree Cottages in Earls Lane, where she lived until her death in January.

Joyce was never much of a sportswoman, but she was an avid spectator. One could even call her a sports fanatic. Her particular favourites were tennis and athletics. Joyce passed away on Tuesday 30 January. She had watched Roger Federer win the Australian Open just three days before.

On a final note, we used to joke that if we had a pound for every time someone from the village stopped us in the street and told us how wonderful Joyce was, we would be incredibly rich. In reality, Joyce increased our spiritual wealth, by being who she was and doing all the good things she could, helping all the people she could and creating happy memories for everybody around her.

Olivia Fenion, John Minnear, Susan Rivers