

## How life changed

From the 24 March lockdown, many businesses had to close or change the way they traded, many organisations changed the way they operated, and many events were cancelled. For others life went on. There was a fine line to be trod between preserving one's own and others' safety and keeping a business and therefore the economy going. Despite financial help from the government, for many it was a tough choice between lives and livelihoods.

### Health care

At Deddington Health Centre, anyone showing Covid-19 symptoms was asked not to see a doctor but to stay at home and follow NHS guidelines. Non-Covid appointments were still possible, but triaged.

Prescriptions could be ordered by phone and, for those on their delivery system and on the government's shielding/vulnerable list, deliveries could be arranged through the volunteer team zone captains. The local Delmergate **Pharmacy** stayed open, operating a one-customer-in, one-out system (the shop was very small), and deliveries were made to the over 60s. Dental appointments were cancelled and vets ran an emergency service only.

### Church services

The **church** building was closed and services were streamed from the homes of the vicar, Revd Annie Goldthorp, curate Paula Smith, or Canon Christopher Hall.

## Sunday, 26th April - Holy Communion



From Rev Annie



### **The Parish Council went virtual**

The monthly meetings of the Council and its various working groups carried on by Skype at the usual time each month. There were a few hiccups in establishing the technology but it soon settled down. An audio recording was taken to back up the usual recording taken by the Clerk for the Minutes.

Emergency legislation had to be rushed through Parliament to allow meetings to take place in this way. The Annual Parish Meeting was abandoned, but the annual report was drawn up and distributed online. It showed the wide range of activities that even a PC in a small North Oxfordshire village undertakes in the course of a year.

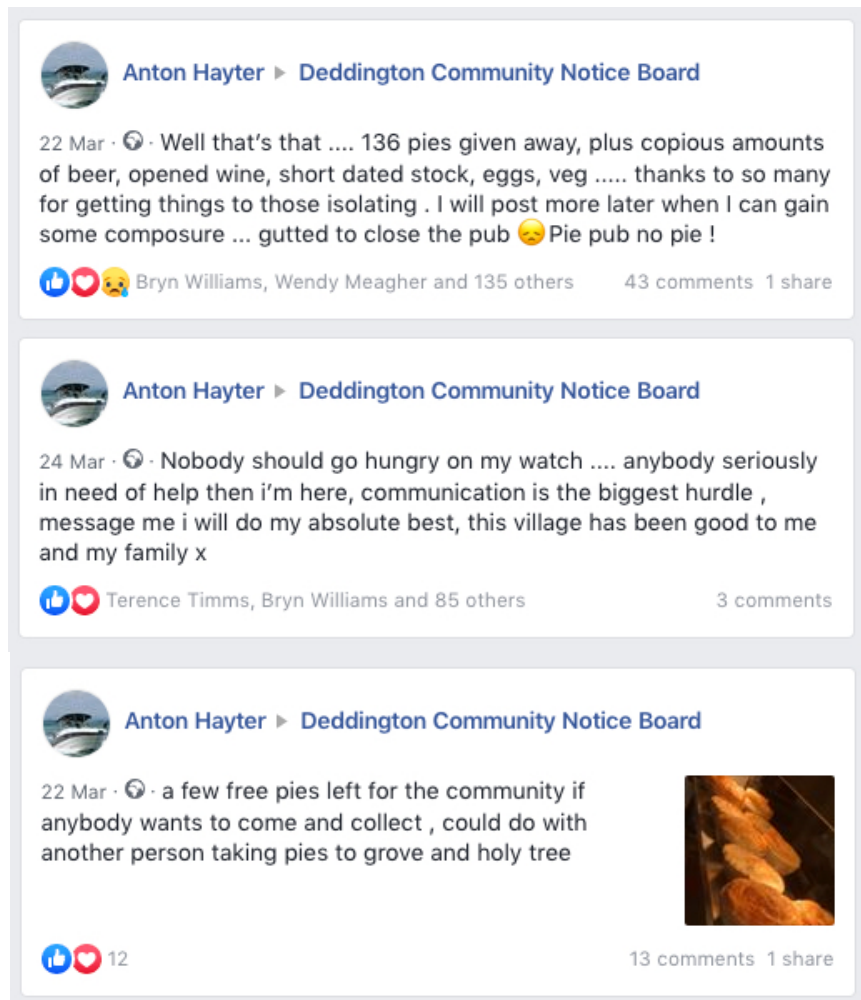
Working group reports were taken as read – which shortened meetings considerably! The restricted range of concerns reflected a life on hold, but planning and financial decisions still had to be made and cheques written. The Clerk worked from home, with occasional visits to the Windmill Centre office. The stewards were stood down apart from essential tasks.

The glorious weather in April meant the grass was already growing fast so the contractors started cutting the grass at the Windmill and the Castle Grounds so people could take exercise. Efforts at parish, district and county level focused on getting the community through Covid.

In general, Deddington people stuck to the government's guidelines on how to steer a path through those difficult times. But there were always those – not too many, happily – who were only too ready to take advantage of the situation, and meetings reported Increased dog poo, fly tipping, anti-social (and illegal) gatherings, and speeding through the village.

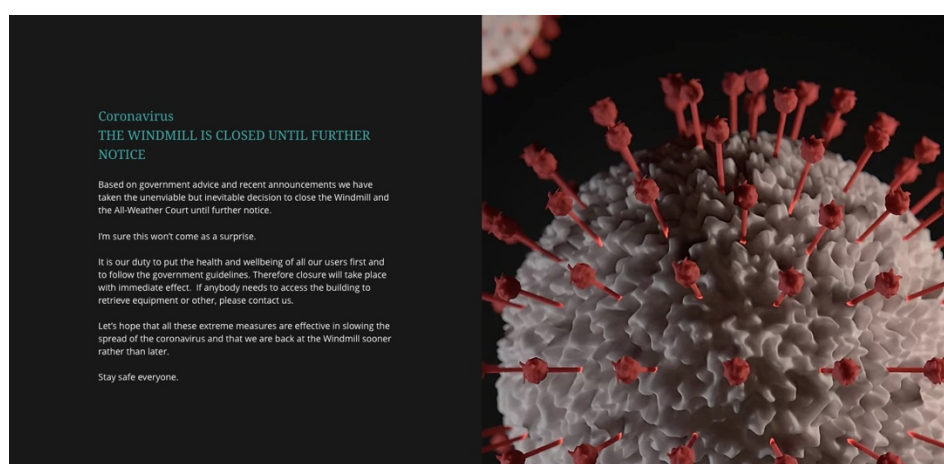
### **Closed**

Businesses that closed included the **pubs and restaurants**: Deddington Arms, Red Lion, Unicorn, Crown & Tuns/Pie Pub, the Duke at Clifton, and Otters. And Earl's Farm and Hill Barn B&Bs. Some turned their kitchen supplies (and beer) into meals for those self-isolating.



Hamptons and Mark David **estate agents**, Steve Miller, Finishing Touch and Polka Dots **hairdressers**, Cedar Therapy, Antiques Centre, Nellie & Dove and Jocy **dress shops** and **gardening services** were all casualties as they were regarded as non-essential to the fight against Covid.

The **Windmill Centre, Library, and Holly Tree Club closed**, as did the **Village Nursery/PFSU**. The **Primary School** stayed open for the children of key workers only. It lasted only three days as sadly one of the children became ill and the school joined the list of closures.





### Cancelled

Among the events normally happening in May–June cancelled or postponed were: the Four Farms Challenge for Deddington Primary School PTA, Deddington Village Nursery & PFSU and Deddington Fire Service ; Deddington Festival, and Deddington Town Football Club presentation day. Many of these were major fund raisers for the organisations involved. All football, cricket, netball and tennis training and matches were cancelled for the foreseeable.





# **Deddington Festival 2020 postponed**

**It is with extremely heavy hearts that we announce the cancellation of this year's Deddington Festival.**

In our current unprecedented circumstances, it is simply the right and responsible thing to do.

Thank you, as always, for your support of Deddington Festival.

We'll hopefully be back next year, if not sooner - watch this space for updates - and, in the meantime, please stay home and - most importantly - stay safe.

## **Public transport**

This was severely curtailed, with Stagecoach running a one and a half hour service between Banbury and Oxford to enable key workers to get to work, with drivers wearing gloves and masks. Contactless payment was preferred so drivers didn't have to handle change. Chiltern Railways also ran a much-reduced service.

## **Virtual group meetings**

Some enterprising clubs like Local Vocals and the Brownies managed to continue their group meetings early on via Zoom. Other ways to get virtual groups together for those without access to smartphone or computer were explored.

## **Life carried on for**

The police, firefighters, posties, binmen, farmers, builders, electricians and plumbers, as they were essential to the normal running of local services. The 2m social distancing rule still applied to them, and many wore face masks and gloves. And of course the key front-line workers in the health and care sectors: doctors, nurses, ambulance drivers and care workers who daily put their lives on the line to fight Covid-19. The parish was immensely grateful to all these workers in what was a desperately difficult and stressful time for many.