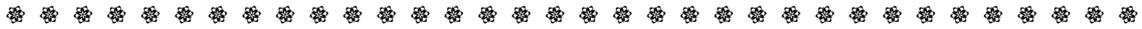


Commenting on the weather is risky. The words of our contributors may be proved wrong even in the few days before they reach you. The Clifton water meadows were flooded. Such is the fickleness of climate as Hugh Marshall comments - increasingly so as climate change takes hold. This editorial last month was underlined with a row of snow flakes. Lo and behold two inches fell as our collators

put the **DN** together. Renewed thanks to our loyal distributors who were not put off by the icy conditions the next day to get the **DN** to you.



• Libel insurance premiums are costly, so some reported comments do not get printed. If they are true, then it is sad that a few residents demean themselves by abusing their fellow villagers. **CA**



MARCH DIARY

See page 14 for April events

Mon	1	Monday Morning Club: Coffee Morning, 10 am -noon	➡ p.11
Wed	3	Deddington Ladies: Holly Tree, 8 pm.	
Thu	5	Badminton Club play in semi-final of Banbury Town league in Banbury School	➡ p.11
Fri	6	Babies & Toddlers: Dads' night out	➡ p.10
Fri	6	Boys' Brigade host Oxfordshire Battalion Juniors, Windmill Centre	➡ p.11
Tue	9	THE LYRA SINGERS: Parish Church, 7.30 pm	➡ p.5
Tue	9	WI: Annual General Meeting, Cheese and Wine and auction, Holly Tree, 7.30 pm	➡ p.11
Wed	10	History Society: David Vaisey, <i>Victorian & Edwardian Shopping</i> , Windmill Centre, 7.30 pm	➡ p.10
Sat	13	School PTA: Quiz Night, Windmill Centre, 7.30 pm	➡ p.3
Wed	17	Parish Council meeting: Town Hall, 7.30 pm	➡ p.2
Fri	19	Monday Morning Club: Bus for Noel Coward evening at Chipping Norton leaves 7 pm	➡ p.11
Sat	20	THE NORTH OXFORD CHAMBER CHOIR: Parish Church, 7.30 pm	
Sat	20	Bowls Club: Race Night, British Legion, 7.30 pm	➡ p.10
Tues	25	<u>Copy date for April Deddington News</u>	
Sat	27	Deddington Farmers' Market: 9am ~ 12.30 pm	
Sat	27	BANBURY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: Parish Church, 7.30 pm	➡ insert
Tue	30	Deddington Guides: Entertainment and Bring & Buy sale for Blue Peter, 7.30 pm	➡ p.10

Weekly Meetings

Mondays:	Brownies: Windmill Centre, 6-7.30 pm
Mondays:	Youth Club: Windmill Centre, 7-9 pm ➡ p.10
Tuesdays:	Deddington Guides: Windmill Centre, 7-9 pm ➡ p.10
Wednesdays:	Babies & Toddlers' Group: Windmill Centre, 9.30-11 am ➡ p.10
Wednesdays:	Anchor Boys: Deddington School, 3.15 pm ➡ p.11
Wednesdays:	1st Deddington Girls' Brigade Explorers: Parish Church, 3.30 pm ➡ p.11
Wednesdays:	Boys Brigade: Windmill Centre, 5.30 pm. ➡ p.11
Thursdays:	Life & Portrait Art Group: Town Hall, 10-12.30 & 1.30-4 pm.
Thursdays:	1st Deddington Cubs: Windmill Centre, 6-7.30 pm ➡ p.10
Thursdays:	1st Deddington Scouts: Windmill Centre, 7.30-9 pm ➡ p.10
Fridays:	Coffee morning in aid of Katharine House: Parish Church, 10~12
Fridays:	Babies & Toddlers Group: Windmill Centre, 9.30 -11 am ➡ p.10
Fridays:	Deddington Friendly Bridge Club: Holly Tree, 2-5 pm.
Fridays:	British Legion: Prize Bingo and "Play Your Cards Right", 8 pm ➡ p.7

Deddington News - Copy please to the relevant editor by next copy date: **TUESDAY 25 MARCH**

MANAGING EDITOR: Christopher Hall 338225
 The Knowle, Philcote St <achall@globalnet.co.uk>
 PARISH AFFAIRS CORRES: Norman Stone 338019
 CLUBS EDITOR: Alison Day 337204
 <alison.day@btinternet.com>
 DIARY EDITOR: Jean Flux 338153
 FEATURES EDITOR: Molly Neild 338521
 CHURCH/CHAPEL ED: Frank Steiner 338264
 LETTERS EDITOR: Kristin Thompson 337052
 <op@kristin.demon.co.uk>
 2004 COVER: Colin Robinson

MONTHLY ADS & INSERTS: Jane Plummer 338481
 Dragon House, Bull Ring
 ANNUAL ADVERTS: John Sampson 338739
 Shepherd's Cottage, The Lane, Hempton
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 Deddington Manor, New Street
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 assisted by Liz Handley, Alison Brice 338950
 and teams
 DEDDINGTON-ON-LINE: <http://www.deddington.org.uk>

Meeting in Town Hall - 18 February 2004

PRESENT: Cllrs Flux (chair), Alton, Cox, Ellis, Harvey, Rollason, Squires, Swash, Watts, Wood, C/Cllr Jelf, D/Cllr O'Sullivan, the Clerk, the Minutes Secretary and about 8 members of the public.

WINDMILL CENTRE

Mary Robinson, a Trustee of the Windmill, spoke by invitation about the origins and history of the Windmill Community Centre Project. She explained how the Centre is financed and managed, clarified the relationship between the Parish Council and the Windmill Centre Management Committee and summarised what needs to be done to maintain and improve what is a major parish asset.

[See Parish website for full text of Windmill Centre Committee's Project Report.]

PLANNING & PROPERTY

PC no objection: (i) Geggs Lodge, Hempton Road, Deddington - prune and shape yew. (ii) No 8 Walnut Close, Clifton - 1st floor extension above garage. (iii) No 2 Victoria Terrace, Deddington - loft conversion etc. (iv) Whitegates, Philcote Street, Deddington - single storey side extension, relocate garage. (v) The Hermitage, Market Place, Deddington - repair south gable wall, replace window, rebuild chimney.

PC objection: (vi) No 43 The Daedings, Deddington - 2 storey side annexe and front porch. Over-development. Potential to divide enlarged building into separate occupancies. (Cllr Harvey declared interest) (vii) Land next to and N.E. of No 1 The Maunds, High Street, Deddington - new 2-storey dwelling. This application, by the Holcombe Hotel manager, appears to be for additional development in the grounds of the hotel, though there is scant information about position or relationship to existing buildings and previous applications. PC expressed concern about over-development and parking, and called for more detailed plans.

CDC approvals: (viii) The Hazels, 1 The Maunds, High Street, Deddington - 2-storey extension to form self-contained unit for disabled person. (ix) St James Farm, Clifton - 2-metre high stone wall, timber gates, alterations to outbuildings.

Application withdrawn: (x) Orchard House, Hopcraft Lane, Deddington - fell prunus.

Other planning matters: (xi) Coop has agreed to reinstate damaged grass area in front of Village Store, and pay for posts to protect site. (xii) Coop is now using garage in Church Street as store room. (xiii) Still no response from CDC on enforcing removal of any unauthorised signs on external walls of Centrepont, Chapel Square, Deddington. (xiv) No progress on legal procedures to verify PC ownership of Hempton Stonepits. Chairman will pursue.

NEWS IN BRIEF

- Discussions continue on the future of the British Legion Club.
- Agenda for March PC meeting to include review of best day for future meetings.

- Cllr Flux has been elected to Oxfordshire Association of Local Authorities.

- Filled potholes and edges on Earls Lane are breaking down. PC to pursue.

- Checklists for internal auditors of PC accounts will be ready in May.

- Village will not enter 'In Bloom' competitions this year.

BEST KEPT VILLAGE

PC decided to enter BKV Competition again this year.

A Litterblitz will be organised. Parishioners, shopkeepers and others are encouraged to make extra efforts with front gardens and surrounding areas, window boxes, hanging baskets, verges etc. Deddington has won twice already. We can do it again.

VILLAGE PLAN

A Village Plan is useful, even decisive, in defining objectives, setting standards, determining priorities and spelling out strategies for making the parish a better place to live in. Rather than preparing a Plan from scratch, PC can save time and expense by updating the 1994 Village Appraisal and incorporating the results of the Millennium Questionnaire. PC will liaise with Duns Tew, which is preparing its own Village Plan.

FEOFFEES

PC leases the Town Hall from Deddington Charity Estates, which is run by 6 Trustees (Feoffees), 2 of whom are appointed by the PC. For the next 4-year term, the appointees are Cllr Pat Swash and former Cllr Terry Clinch.

CLIFTON FOOTPATH

Opinion is divided on the best solution to pedestrian safety problems. Results of local consultation to be reviewed and reported at March PC meeting.

TRAFFIC CALMING

C/Cllr Jelf undertook to put pressure on OCC to respond quickly and positively to all the issues raised by PC, many of which were agreed long ago. Action is overdue.

SCHOOL REPORT

School received 40 applications to fill 30 places and the rules have to be applied strictly, in line with published criteria. PC bid to become a School Governing Sponsor has been put on hold while other matters take precedence.

PARISH FINANCES

Invoices passed for payment totalled £2,490.27, including £1,094.41 imprest (stewards' wages etc.); £671.88 Clerk's wages; £203.53 electricity for Town Hall.

Investments totalled £523,114.46, of which £1,740.49 Barclays (£1,265.93 current account + £474.56 imprest) @ 0.1%; £1,000 Bradford & Bingley @ 3.4% on 120 days; £520,373.97 West Bromwich @ 3.4% overnight.

NEXT MEETING Wed 17 March, Town Hall, 7.30pm

Official minutes of PC meetings may be seen at the Clerk's office and the Library, on parish noticeboards and the village website: www.deddington.org.uk/pcminutes

It has been a short, but very busy half term and the time since Christmas has seemed to fly past even more quickly than usual.

Over the last few weeks we have held two evenings for parents to discuss their children's progress, visited the Church for a Candlemas Service and welcomed a student, Anja Thieme from Germany who worked for four weeks with a number of classes in the school.



Children in the Foundation Stage learned how to count and listened to stories told in German and English. Children in Key Stage Two were able to compare Germany with Greece as part of a Geography topic and children in Year 6 had their weekly German lesson enhanced by being able to talk with a native speaker.

Our admissions panel have also been busy and 30 new children have been admitted to the school from September 2004. This year we were oversubscribed with far more children applying than there were places. Our admissions policy was strictly adhered to throughout the process. I would like to express how sorry I am for those to whom we have been unable to offer places.

For those of you who do not know, we now hold expressive and creative arts days in the school on a fortnightly basis. We have enlisted the services of a music teacher from Steeple Aston School to help us with these. We are grateful to Mrs Betty Caporn, who now plays the piano for us during our Monday assembly. However, we would still be very pleased to accept offers of help from any other musical talents hiding out there in the community. In particular, our two recorder groups are beginning to worry about what will happen to their clubs when I leave the school at Easter. Please contact me on the number below if you feel you could offer any help in this area.

Applicants for the post of Head teacher at the school have now been short listed and we are hoping that a new appointment will be made in March.

Lynne Stephens 338430

Handyperson wanted ...



Following the recent resignation of our school handyman, Mr Gary Rose, we are looking to employ a replacement for 6 hours per week in term time. If you feel that you might be interested in such a position - male or female, left- or right-handed - please telephone 338430 for details. Thank you.

Deddington School PTA

Santa's Float was a great success! Many thanks to everyone who so generously supported this event. Santa's and his little helpers raised in excess of £700.00 for the school.

Unfortunately Santa's Grotto did not do quite so well due to the terrible weather the Saturday before Christmas. Only those with snorkel & flippers were brave enough to visit Santa! However, he will be back next Christmas with a lifeboat !!

Quiz Night - Saturday 13 March 2004. This event is always very popular. Please contact Angela on 01869 337787 to reserve your place. £5.00 per person, including supper!

Date for your diary :

School Fête - Saturday 19 June 2004

For the latest up-to-date information, log on to the PTA's web site www.pta.deddington.net.

Thanks for your continuing support

Peter Tindale & John Brockett (Joint Co. Chair)

Deddington Pre-School

The children have enjoyed celebrating Chinese New Year this half term and have made lovely lanterns to decorate the display. They have also been learning and illustrating some popular nursery rhymes.

Lunch club has proved to be very popular with the children, who seem to enjoy the time exploring each other's lunch boxes and swapping bits of local gossip.

Holiday club, which ran for two days in half term, was a great success and there will be holiday club dates available for Pre-school and Reception class children during the Easter holidays. Call Anna or Michelle on 337383 for details and to book a place. The price is £12 for the day, 9.00am - 3.00pm.

Our Children's First Aid course ran after half term and was well attended and we have the demand for more places. Dates to be published soon. We are also planning a Pampered Chef's night on 12 March at Calcutt Farm - book soon to avoid disappointment.

Don't forget 10 July for our Eighties night with the Blue Meanies once again providing the music.

Term ends on Friday 2 April with our annual Easter Bunny Hunt and cake stall. First day of the new term is Monday 19 April.

Julie Westley

March 1-14 is the national FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT. On 5 March Oxford with 9 other cities is being declared a Fairtrade City. On 6 March the Oxford Diocesan Synod is considering the proposal to become a Fairtrade diocese committing 60% of parishes, diocesan offices and meetings to serve Fairtrade products.



Eat a Little for Charity

Throughout March and until Easter people will be eating a Tuesday Lunch in Deddington Church. At £2.50 minimum donation it will simply be soup (home-made) bread, butter and cheese, which may be neither a feast nor a hunger-lunch, but more of a Lenten gesture to bring a little help to a variety of good causes.

Starting on Tuesday 2 March. Everyone will be welcome at any time between noon and 1.30pm.

Why not arrange to meet a friend?

**An ecumenical Lent programme will explore
the Churches Together in Britain & Ireland course "FACE TO FACE"
on Thursday evenings from 4 March in the Parish Church at 7.30 pm**

SS PETER AND PAUL, DEDDINGTON AND ST JOHN, HEMPTON

You will always be very welcome at any service in Church or Chapel

Parish Church in March

Wed 3	10.00 am	Eucharist
Thurs 4	2.00 pm	Squeals & Wheels
Sun 7	10.30 am	Morning Praise
	6.30 pm	Evensong
Wed 10	10.00 am	Eucharist
Sun 14	10.30 am	Eucharist & Children's Church
Wed 17	10.00 am	Eucharist
Thur 18	2.00 pm	Squeals & Wheels
Sun 21	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	10.30 am	MOTHERING SUNDAY Family Worship
Wed 24	10.00 am	Eucharist
Sun 28	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist & Childrens Church
Wed 31	10.00 am	Eucharist

St John Hempton in March

Sun 7 & 21	9.00 am	Eucharist
Sat 28	6.30 pm	Evensong

From the Parish Registers

BAPTISM	8 February	Joshua Browitt
SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING	15 January	Shirley Gibbs
CREMATION	29 January	Mary Tyrrell
FUNERALS	2 February	Percy Brock
	3 February	David Onley

Charity of the Month - each month a charity benefits from donations in the box in the Parish Church or St John's Hempton: the use by taxpayers of the pink *GiftAid* envelopes is commended.

March: **CHRISTIAN BLIND MISSION**

WESLEYAN REFORM CHURCH, Chapel Square

Pastor Isabel Walton 337157

Morning services at 10.30 am

March 7, & 21 - Pastor Isabel Walton; 14 - Revd Geoff Lee; 28 - Vince Napper

Bible Study/Fellowship every Wednesday at 7.30 pm

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, New Street

Joyce Minnear 338 529

Sunday *morning* worship jointly with Wesleyan Reform congregation at 10.30 am

Sunday evening service at 6.00 pm: Sunday 7 Pastor Isabel Walton (and Communion)

Sundays 14, 21 & 28 to be announced

R.C. PARISH OF HETHE WITH ADDERBURY

The Revd A J Burns 277396

Hethe : Mass is said every day [except Wednesday] at 10.00 am. Confessions: Sats -5.30-6.00 pm

Adderbury : Mass is said Sundays at 8.30 am; Wednesdays at 7.00 pm; Confessions before Mass.

The Eve of Sunday Mass at St John's, South Bar, Banbury is said at 4 p.m. on Saturdays to allow Catholics from the villages to attend by bus.

LIVING ROOMS Project

Starting on 6 July 2003, 65 £10 notes were given to parishioners - attracting coverage on BBC *South Today* and Radio Oxford. On 1 February 2004 over £5,800.00 was returned to the **LIVING ROOMS Project**, with more still to come and some schemes yet to mature. BBC *South Today* news bulletins and Radio Oxford again covered the story with interviews with several parishioners telling how they had raised money.



PARISH COOK BOOK - Do you have a favourite recipe you would like to share with the parish? To fill the second half of the book as many recipes are needed as soon as possible. Please send your recipes by 31 March to Hugh White, John

Sampson, Pat Brittain, or Liz Handley
Liz@sentryhouse.fsnet.co.uk.



**www.
deddingtonchurch.
org**

*For Baptisms, Weddings,
Funerals, hospital or home visits
in case of illness,
please contact the Vicar,
the Rev. Dr Hugh White,
28 Duns Tew (349869);
or one of the Churchwardens,
Liz Dickinson (337050)
or Iain Gillespie (338367)*

ST PETERSBURG - CAMBRIDGE - DEDDINGTON

Deddington may not be the hub of the world (except for those of us lucky enough to live here), but two distinguished choirs are making their way to the Parish Church during the next month.

Return Visit of **LYRA SINGERS**
from St. Petersburg
Tuesday March 9th. 7.30pm.

Tickets at the door: £6 and £5 (conc.). If you would like to have supper in the church following the concert, please contact: Kristin Thompson: 337052 E-mail: op@kristin.demon.co.uk

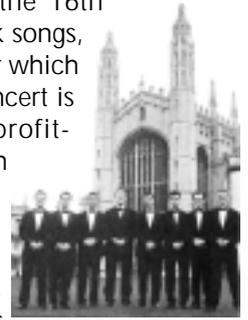
The Lyra Singers from St Petersburg come for a second time. This small group, winners of many national and international awards, have superb voices that fill the church. They can both move their audience and set fingers snapping. Their programme includes Russian Orthodox Church chants and folk songs and their aim is to promote their country's great choral tradition.

Collegium Regale will be singing a concert in Deddington Parish Church at 7.30pm on **Friday 2 April**. The group, seven of whom are Choral Scholars from the Choir of King's College, Cambridge, includes Deddington resident Oliver Loach. Although the Choral Scholars sing in the daily services in the chapel, as well as the annual Carols from King's Christmas radio broadcast, Collegium Regale is independent of the choir

and has recently toured the USA and Canada. Their programme for this concert reveals the breadth of their repertoire: sacred music from the 16th century, romantic part songs, folk songs, and, of course, close harmony for which the group is best known. The concert is supported by OXAVI, a non-profit-making charity working with Oxford University in designing an AIDS vaccine for Africa and worldwide.

Tickets are £8 (£6 concessions), and are available from the Tickets Oxford box office on (01865) 305305 or www.ticketsoxford.com, or a limited number of tickets are on sale at the Deddington Post office.

Come to both concerts, enjoy a glass of wine in the interval, and hear why renowned choirs are happy to perform in SS Peter & Paul, Deddington. *JCT*



DEDDINGTON
FESTIVAL

Purcell's opera **Dido and Aeneas** will be performed on **Sunday 27 June** at 6.00 pm in the Parish Church.

We need singers, actors, dancers and stage assistants.

Please contact Janet Lincé

232618; lince@choros.org; Hugh O'Donnell 338350

or Hugh White 349869; vicarhugo@hotmail.com

PLEASE HELP - GET IN TOUCH

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**The Living Rooms
Project**

**Saturday February 28
7.30pm**

**St Peter and St Paul's
Church Deddington**

**Cambrian Male Voice
Choir**

**Tickets £10.00 and £7.50
(with wine) available
from Post Office
One Man Band
On the door**

PERCY BROCK was born in 1921, one of 12 children of a Chipping Warden farm worker. During the war he was a driver in the RASC, took part in the North Africa campaign, and saw service in Normandy. After the war he spent most of his working life at Pressed Steel in Oxford until an injury forced him into early retirement. He very much enjoyed his allotment, took great pleasure in his dogs, liked to walk the fields of the neighbourhood, and appreciated the bird life, Indoors he was something of an addict of cowboy films. He was a contented and cheerful person, given to whistling and singing, a twinkle habitually in his eye and always ready with a friendly greeting. *FW*

SHIRLEY GIBBS (née Harwood) was born in 1944 and brought up in Banbury. After school she did secretarial work in various posts, for instance at Alcan and Watts' Seeds. In 1972 she married Pete Ward and they had a son, Andy. Shirley came to live in Deddington with her second husband Mike some 20 years ago and until their move to Norfolk was heavily involved in the village. Besides her various jobs she was a member of the Deddington Ladies and President of the W.I. She had a talent for cooking and baking, liked foraging in charity shops and Car Boot sales and enjoyed caravan holidays - the Gower peninsula being a favourite destination. She was most generous with her time and effort when anyone needed her help. *FW*

DAVID ONLEY died on 22 January aged 75. He was originally from Wolverhampton, and first lived in

Banbury while working for many years for Bibby's Seeds in Adderbury, in the course of which he and his first wife Irene built their house in Chapmans Lane over 40 years ago. After redundancy at Bibby's he and Irene owned a dry-cleaners in Brackley. While still in good health he was a sociable figure around Deddington playing darts at the Unicorn and going in for exotic long distance holidays. In the course of one of these, in the Caribbean, Irene suddenly died. Some three years later he married Julatra ("Jula") from Thailand who with her daughter gave the ailing David a new lease of life and contentment and made their garden an exhibit which people have come to see from all over Deddington and beyond. *JS*

MARY TYRRELL (née Whitlock) died on 24 January aged 87, the last of many generations of Clifton Whitlocks. Following domestic service in Surrey and at Castle End, she married Ron Cox and they lived opposite Deddington Church. They moved to Clifton where she worked for my family well into her eighties. She was lovingly known to the children as 'Tick Tock'. Sadly Ron died, and she later married Arthur Tyrrell. Mary was a born carer, washing and nursing so many people in Clifton during their latter years. She took great pleasure in God's creation, especially animals, birds and flowers. When I asked Mary what had contributed to her long life, she replied "hard work, laughter and doing what you can for others". She will be sadly missed by her son Nigel, Arthur and her many friends. We give thanks for a life well lived. *Jean Welford*

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EMAIL FROM B. & J. SAUNDERS, CLIFTON

(Last month the Parish Council consulted Clifton residents about the position of a 'build-out' on the through road, aimed at slowing down traffic and making crossing the road safer. Brian Saunders wrote to the PC about the plans, with a copy to the **DN**. Here are extracts from his letter.)

I believe (the PC) is confusing two requirements – one being to slow down traffic and the second to provide a safe pedestrian crossing. Given the first, the second assumes a lesser importance and may be served by a crossing painted on the road.

The first requires a 'build-out' near the 30mph restriction sign, and of sufficient size to work. The build-out will usually be obstructed by parked cars. Your build-out is shown to be 1.5m deep, whilst a parking space is required to be 2.4m wide. You are therefore suggesting that pedestrians step off the build-out in front of oncoming traffic whose sightlines are obscured.

Assuming your dimensions to be correct, the width of the road, at 7 metres, minus the build-out, leaves 5.5m. Most housing estate roads are built to this width of carriageway. The build-out, therefore, will be totally ignored by any driver already ignoring speed limits as there would still be ample room to pass.

FROM CHARLES NEWBY, EARLS LANE, DEDDINGTON

I enjoy George Fenemore's On the Farm column in the **DN**: always interesting and informative, often controversial, so much so that he has to be taken on.

The belief that badgers are the main cause of bovine TB, and that the solution is to cull all badgers, is widespread in farming circles, but not universally shared elsewhere. (Currently the NFU is pushing strongly for mass culling.) In 1996 the Government set up a committee to review the scientific links between bovine TB and badgers. The resulting Krebs Report concluded that 'the sum of evidence strongly supports the view that, in Britain, badgers are a *significant* (my italics) source of infection in cattle' but that there was 'no scientific basis for assessing the impact either of culling or not culling.' They recommended a specially designed five-year 'scientifically controlled' badger culling trial. This started in 1998 with the aim of establishing the proportion of bovine TB caused by badgers and whether culling was an effective (and cost-effective) control. It has had its problems. It was disrupted by a foot-and-mouth outbreak and, more recently, a major aspect was cancelled because, surprisingly, in the designated badger-cull area, following a TB outbreak in cattle, the number of cases increased by 27%. So, we haven't got very far yet but, no doubt, George will keep us informed!

See www.defra.gov.uk/animal/tb/select.htm for further information.

FROM SALLY LAMBERT, CHESTNUT COTTAGE,
DEDDINGTON

Would anyone like to join a book reading group?
The idea would be to choose a book each month
and meet to discuss it over coffee. Any interest?
Please call Sally Lambert 338094

FROM NINA FAIRNS, CHAIRPERSON, ROYAL BRITISH LEGION/CLUB, DEDDINGTON

The village may be aware of the on-going altercation between the Royal British Legion Club and residents living in close proximity. In the September 2003 issue of the **DN**, Mr Soddy stated that he was not seeking to have the Club closed. The unrealistic demands put upon the club make me believe otherwise. Residents have disparaged the good name of the club, yet in the last three years there have only been five incidents, three resulting in eviction from the club for drunken behaviour and two resulting in the people concerned being banned absolutely from the Club for one year.

One of the many ludicrous restrictions we are expected to comply with is: double glazing to be in place at all times, no windows open, doors sealed. (Even animals are entitled to adequate ventilation.) What other public house or hotel in the village is expected to comply with such a rule? Our members are fire fighters, nurses, etc, decent people. We also do a lot of fundraising, not just for the RBL, but for Katharine House Hospice and the Fire Benevolent Fund. The Learning Disabilities Trust and Playgroup have the use of the building for meetings and social occasions.

You may wonder what has compelled me to write this letter. On 14 February one of our committee members, Dave Keats (our ex-policeman) and his wife, Diane, held an engagement party at the Club for their daughter and her fiancé. A wonderful night was had by all, marred only by having to stop the music at 11pm, and a next-door neighbour shouting at leaving guests complaining about the noise. There was no noise. Someone was at the door requesting guests to leave quietly, and earlier Mr. Keats had made the same request. Another stipulation by local residents was that we did not leave by the front door but used the side door. This we complied with. So how are we supposed to leave the Club – fly?

The Club has been in operation for 80 years, used by villagers, fathers, grandfathers and great grand-fathers - long before the objectors chose to live in its vicinity.

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

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(two-mile option)

14TH MARCH 2004

ORGANISED BY THE BANBURY GUARDIAN

in aid of

KATHARINE HOUSE HOSPICECALL 338995 TO
SPONSOR THE THREE-GENERATION
SPENCELEY TEAM:DEDDINGTON'S
82-YEAR-OLD
GEORGE SPENCELEY,
joined by son, **ADRIAN,** andgrand-
daughter,
KATE

THE FLOWER GARDEN

It seems a bit early to write about Spring gardens at the beginning of February, but the seasons seem to have got mixed up, and in our patch at the moment we have crocus, and *Penstemon* in the same bed, as well as pansies, tulips nearly out and *Forsythia* having a go.

This winter we have made a new small shrub bed, where a row of white *Rugosa* roses have come to the end of their life span and needed to be replaced with something else. This has given us the opportunity to look at something new. A friend suggested a *Fatsia*, and quite apart from the fascinating name, it is indeed a good plant. I had only seen it in pots on patios. But when all is said and done, we come back to the good old faithfuls, those whom we can trust to give us foliage for most of the year, and don't mind being cut back a bit for flower arrangements. *Pittosporum*, plain and variegated, springs to mind, so does *Elaeagnus* and the many different laurels. When choosing shrubs one must also remember not to go in for anything that spreads too much if it is next to a path. In the end we decided on a *Chaenomeles* (Japanese Quince), a *Fatsia*, a *Ceanothus* and a silver *Euonymus* for winter colour. Right by the path we shall have a hellebore, the dark pink one and a shrub of French Lavender. Any other ideas will be gratefully considered; I know everybody has a favourite. Did I mention that the shrub bed will have a layer of black plastic and over that bark chips? Dorothy White had some chips to spare, and a fine time we had getting them home! They are very heavy and not the cleanest stuff to handle, but they look splendid.

This is the time to inspect secateurs. They will soon be required to work overtime. They need cleaning, oiling and perhaps new blades. At the same time I check on stakes and tying-in material, and following that thought, I will do some research on them before next month.

Marianne Elsley

THREE VILLAGE OPEN GARDENS

Saturday 12 June - 2.00 ~ 6.00 pm

Sunday 13 June - 2.00 ~ 6.00 pm

In aid of the LIVING ROOMS PROJECT

Please contact Jane and Andrew Green (01869 337837) by 30 April if you are willing

... ..

- to open your garden on these days
- to serve teas in your garden from 3.00 to 5.00 pm on either, or both, of these days with some assistance with equipment, food and help from the organisers
- to make scones, sandwiches or cakes for the teas

... .. or for more information

Get dug in! and sow the seeds of inspiration to make this a spectacular floral weekend in our Villages!

The British love to complain about the weather; without it we would have little conversation. But what about the plants and birds which, if they have feelings or memories, must be getting quite confused. Last summer was unseasonably warm and dry so that plants became parched and the ground rock-like, whilst now, stories of birds hatching chicks in February have taken the place of the reports of the first cuckoo that used to appear regularly in the newspapers. Who knows what the cuckoos will do if Spring comes any earlier. There will hardly be a chance for them to migrate before it is time to come back again.

Seriously, I am beginning to question those little charts on the back of seed packets which say 'sow in March'. Is this the historic March which can be very cold at night but mild by day, with a good chance of frost and snow, or should we read it as if it were 'old' April, which historically could be wet and warm? With daffodils and crocuses out in profusion during February, is it possible to think that snow and frost could happen again in May as, I was taught when a child, it did quite regularly?

Perhaps along with 'New' Labour and 'New' Tories we should learn to speak of 'New' Spring and 'New' Summer? On second thoughts I think I will wait and see what happens (weatherwise) in June.

Hugh Marshall

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LIVING HISTORY

A few readers of my account in the February issue of *Deddington News* expressed surprise at the 'up beat' memories of our three ladies, Joyce, Doreen & Pauline, from the evacuation of children from London to the country. Joan Davis, who introduced me to these intrepid East Enders, and I quite expected recollections of homesickness, bewilderment and not a little bit of anger when they discovered that the two weeks in the country were to turn into a long term stay. Now read on ...

Not all the girls immediately took to their foster families and over the first few weeks some changes were made. Doreen remembers arriving with her little sister at her new billet and finding no one in to greet them. ("What did you do?" shouted both Joan and I in some horror.) Doreen's logical reply: "We went for a little walk round the village and by the time we returned our foster parents were in!" Joyce shared a small bedroom and one bed with another girl (sleeping head to toe) until she was re-homed with one of her teachers who had acquired a house in Hudson Street.

All three ladies remember with glee having PT in Deddington Primary School's playground clad in navy blue regulation knickers and liberty bodices "showing off" to the village boys who congregated round the fence. And talking of schooling, it wasn't easy for the three teachers in charge of 50 children to arrange the required lessons.

At first the village and London children had to work in two shifts in the Primary School premises, taking turn and turn about mornings and afternoons. Later on all the London children attended their 3 R lessons in the first floor room of the British Legion, Domestic Science in their teacher's house in Hudson Street and Cookery Classes in Forester's Hall in the Tchure. The latter was also the meeting place for the Village Youth Club which they joined enthusiastically.

Some of their class mates found homes in Hempton



and Clifton. Most of them met for the first time the inconvenience of outside toilets and lack of indoor baths with running hot water. With great merriment the following story was recalled: Their friend, billeted in Clifton wanted a bath in the absence of her foster mother.

She persuaded Joyce and two visiting friends to help her carry a tub to the bedroom, fill it with hot water from the downstairs range and, at the end of her ablutions, help her carry the tub with water downstairs. All went well until the descent when the water began to flop about and eventually spilled in cascades down the stairs. The visitors fled leaving their poor friend to clear

up and confess to her foster parents!

Just a few girls in class went back to their homes in London in the period of the 'phoney war' and never returned. Most of them remained in Deddington. A few times a year their parents came to visit them from London by coach. Doreen recalls her excitement at her parents' first visit, running down New Street to meet them, shedding tears of joy. Sadly her father, later in 1940, was killed at his work place during an air raid. Life in Deddington certainly had its ups and downs, as Joyce recalled, but, she said "We felt safe".

Compulsory schooling ended for our girls at age 14. Let us find out in the next and final instalment how their most caring and farsighted teachers prepared them for adult life, upon which war put a damper on the one hand but opened unforeseen opportunities on the other.

Ruth Johnson

DEDDINGTON 150 YEARS AGO

The following are extracts from the diaries of the Rev. Cotton Risley for the month of March 1854 :

2nd-4th March - Attended the Assizes in Oxford.

8th-9th March - In London with Susan - purchased a Harmonium for 15 guineas for the Church at Clifton.

11th March - J. Matthews came to complain of Hiorns the Relieving officer refusing to help him in burying his child. Wrote to Mr. Hiorns on the matter and sent the man to the Guardian who thought with me he deserved relief. I ordered Coggin to make a coffin and I would pay for it. Mr. Matthews had only earned 16s. in the last 3 weeks.

18th March - Col. Bowles called and wished I would let Holford join the Militia - told him I would rather not, or the Yeomanry either, though I preferred the latter to the former.

22nd March - Young Malins of Clifton came and I heard the case against one Rysmith for leaving his service - who rather than go to prison agreed to go back and serve his master properly for the time to come.

27th March - Busby from the Turnpike came on business.

Buffy Heywood



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1st Deddington Cub Scouts

The Pack is pleased to welcome Jack as its newest member, and we are expecting Adam to join us before half term. The Cubs have been learning about garden birds and participated in the RSPB Garden Birdwatch: as some were confusing herons with sparrows, I'm not sure how accurate the results will be! We had an Australian evening when the Cubs became Australian Cubs for the night and earned 'Bronze Boomerangs'.

During the next few weeks we shall look at road safety, personal safety, art, cycling and communicating; finishing with an evening of foolery on 1 April.

We attended the annual district Supercub competition and came 3rd, well done to all those who made up the team.

Jo Churchyard 338071

1st Deddington Scouts

The Troop welcomed Rory from Cubs and invested Lewis. So far this term we have attended the panto, which all enjoyed, watched Eastenders (there was a serious reason), and talked about survival. The latter, combined with the pioneering we start this week, will be helpful when we build and sleep in bivvies when the warmer weather arrives.

We are planning a summer camp, a trip to try the new bowling alley, and the Troop will be working for their photography badge, with help from Banbury Camera Club.

We would like to have a computer at Cubs and Scouts so if you know of anyone updating their system, please let me know.

Jo Churchyard 338071

Deddington Babies & Toddlers

Don't forget that we meet on both Wednesdays and Fridays (9.30 - 11.30am at the Windmill Centre) and that we run throughout the school holidays (except Good Friday). There is a Dads' Night Out on 6 March and Easter egg hunts on Friday 2 and Wednesday 7 April, with our spring sale on 23 April. Don't miss the fun!

Lucy Squires 338442

Deddington Beeches Bowls

If you fancy a night at the races, on Saturday 20 March we are holding a Race Night at the Royal British Legion, with the first race coming under Starter's Orders at 7.30 pm. Entry is free and a warm welcome assured.

Yvonne Twomey 337213

Deddington Original Golf Society (DOGS)

At its AGM on 12 February Roy Hart was re-elected as Chairman, Arthur Kennedy as Secretary, John Stiff as Treasurer and Dave Chatterton as Captain. The officers reported on a successful year and agreed to hold five golf days in 2004 in addition to the annual DOGS v DOGS (Dorchester Golf Society) match that will be held at Kirtlington.

To celebrate the 10th anniversary of the society there is a two-day event with an overnight stay (partners welcome) sometime during August; the venue is yet to be decided, so watch this space.

The Society's full-day events are at Burford Golf Club in June and Chipping Norton Golf Club (which will also

be an optional half-day) probably in September.

The remaining two outings - the last of which is in October followed by the Annual Dinner and prize giving - will be half-days at nearby courses with dinner in Deddington.

Annual subs for 2004 (only £10) are now due and new members are most welcome.

Roy Hart 338871 roy.hart@deddington.net

Deddington & District History Society

It was a pleasure and a privilege to welcome Hugo Brunner, Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire, as speaker at our February meeting. On Wednesday 10 March David Vaisey will make a popular return, speaking this time on 'Victorian and Edwardian Shops and Shopping'. On 14 April Martin Rowling will speak on 'The Village Smithy'.

We are preparing a number of summer activities, for which we shall give as much notice as possible. On Saturday 22 May the Society will host Oxfordshire Past (a day-long event devoted to the county's history and archaeology) at the Windmill Centre, on behalf of the Oxfordshire Architectural & Historical Society. It is quite a feather in our cap to be asked to host this prestigious annual event. For late June (date to be confirmed) we hope to arrange a visit to Chalgrove, to include historic Chalgrove Manor - not normally open to the public. Finally, Moira Byast has agreed to lead another historical walk in July. Everyone is welcome to attend all our meetings and activities.

Chris Day 337204

Deddington Youth Club

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Gay Brewer for her unrelenting hard work and commitment to the continuing success of the Youth Club during her eight years as Chairman. The Management Committee is delighted that she is going to stay on as a member as her experience will be invaluable to us.

The Club is extremely fortunate to have recently received a donation of £100 from the Deddington Players and a pool table from the Mowatt family - we are always very grateful for any gifts. The Youth Leaders are planning for the children to do some fundraising later this year. Half the proceeds will go to buy equipment for the Club and the other half to go to a charity, yet to be decided.

We are still looking for a new secretary as Molly Neild, who like Gay has given a huge commitment to the Club, deserves a rest from the job. If you are interested and would like further information please contact me.

Mauveen Forsyth 338384

Deddington Guides

We continue to grow in numbers - 20 guides now meet every Tuesday - noise levels have increased tremendously! We are a very lively, energetic bunch and our 3 patrols - Pandas, Penguins and Parrots (uncannily the patrol that does most chattering) are working extremely well - teams in the real sense of the word.

Patrol time produces all sorts of wonderful food and drinks, crafts, dances, exercise routines, plays and art.

We've also managed to fit in badge work, learning about flags and international issues. Some guides went to the district Thinking Day party and joined other guides in crafts and games from overseas.

After half term we have our own international celebration and also welcome Kate Lander as a guide. We were delighted to help raise a lot of money towards the church **LIVING ROOMS** project. On Tuesday 30 March at 7.30 pm the guides are organising an entertainment and bring and buy sale for Blue Peter. Please come and give us your support. *Maggie Rampley* 01295 810069

Deddington Colts

The recent Race Night at the Windmill Centre raised nearly £900 for club funds. Over 70 race goers turned up to watch the seven races on the card. A big thank you to all the local businesses that sponsored the night in various ways and also for the volunteer helpers and race officials.

The next event off the field of play is the Annual Awards evening, which takes place at the Windmill Centre on Saturday 25 June.

The Colts would like to send a Get Well message to Peter Robinson who is a great supporter of the Colts and also a key worker within the Youth Club. We all hope to see him up and about before too long.

David Rollason 337351

Deddington Town Football Club

1st Team Results

Finmere (a) (Supplementary Cup) Lost 1-3 J. Pearce.

F.C. Callebaut (h) (Mid Oxon Cup) Won 4-2 J. Pearce (2), M. Hewitt (2).

Due to the poor weather the 1st team have only played 2 matches this month, both being cup games. An excellent second half performance saw the team recover from a 2-1 deficit, to an impressive 4-2 victory. Michael Hewitt and Julian Pearce both scored 2 goals in this game. In the final on 17th April (venue and kick off time to be confirmed) the opponents are Finmere. This will give an opportunity for the team to gain revenge for the defeat they suffered in the Supplementary Cup.

Reserve Team Results

F.C. Callebaut (h) Lost 2-4 K. Wild, D. Gibbs.

The Reserve side have seen even less action. Two second half goals from Kevin Wild and David Gibbs were not enough to salvage a positive result against Callebaut. With only 3 league games to go the side are looking like finishing in a respectable mid-table position.

75 Club Winners all winning £50 are M.Reason, Mr P.Pinfold £50, R.Cowley £50 and Mr C.Smith.

If you would like to support your local club, then become a member of the 75 club. For a stake of £1.50 per week you are entered into a weekly draw, where you could win £50. Four weeks during the year the prize is £100. If you are interested in joining please give me a call or speak to any club member.

Steve Plumble 01295 278258

Monday Morning Club

Apart from the usual coffee mornings on 1 March and 5 April - 10 am to noon - at the Holly Tree, we have

plenty of other activities planned. There is an evening of Noel Coward at the Chipping Norton Theatre on 19 March: the bus leaves Deddington at 7 pm. Then there is a table booked at the Cotswold Restaurant for dinner on 1 April. We haven't organised a bus, but can accommodate one or two more people if anyone wishes to join in. On 22 April we go back to Chipping Norton for a Cole Porter evening - there are still one or two tickets available for this - leaving Deddington at 6.30 pm.

We are planning a visit to the Malvern Show on 7 May, and to an evening race meeting at Towcester on 28 May. Please let me know if you want to sign up.

Jean Flux 338153

Deddington Badminton Club

We are in the second half of the season with mixed fortunes for our teams pre- and post-Christmas. The good news is we have reached the semi-final of the Banbury Town league for the second year running and this match is being played at Banbury School on Friday 5 March. Club nights are Tuesdays from 7pm at The Windmill - it is still not too late to start!

Mark Tyler 338056

1st Deddington Boys' Brigade Company

In February the BB Juniors welcomed Jake who was promoted from the Anchor Boys. The Windmill Centre will host the Oxfordshire Battalion BB Juniors Figure Marching and Team Games competitions on 6 March. Finally, with the summer fast approaching, the BB would be pleased to hear from anyone who could help our BB Juniors with cricket training. BB Anchor Boys is open to all boys aged 5, 6 & 7 and meets at the School on Wednesdays between 3.15 pm and 4.15 pm. BB Juniors is open to all boys aged 8, 9, 10 and 11 and meets at The Windmill Centre on Wednesdays between 5.15 pm and 6.45 pm.

Brian Bushell 338715

1st Deddington Girls' Brigade Company

GB Explorers is open to all girls aged 4, 5, 6 & 7 and meets at the Church on Wednesdays between 3.30 pm and 4.30 pm. GB Juniors is open to all girls aged 8, 9, 10 & 11 and meets at the Church on Wednesdays between 3.30 pm and 4.30 pm.

Jean Welford 338539

WI

At our meeting on Tuesday 10 February we were pleased to welcome Chris Day as our speaker for the evening to tell us about the history of Deddington Castle and site. The Castle history is more or less common knowledge thanks to the Parish Council and the Heritage Trust, but the site is of great interest: the surrounds have been excavated more than once. Two rather more modern points: firstly that the grounds did not come into the remit of the Parish Council until 1945, and secondly the cricket club based there were fortunate enough to have their own splendid pavilion and groundsman. Clearly, the grounds have seen some great times and remain a valuable asset for Deddington. Chris was roundly thanked. Our next meeting is our AGM on 9 March - cheese and wine and auction.

Rene Mahony 338438

ON THE FARM

Here we go again ! The daffodils are coming out, the snowdrops are going over, the bees are on the wing and the first lambs are due any time, so Spring cannot be far behind, I hope.

With the mild weather of the last few weeks the grass has started to grow and will soon need a dose of nitrogen to bring it on ready for the ewes and lambs to go out. The oil seed rape has started to 'move' and it too will soon need a visit from the fertilizer spreader. The set-aside will need to be 'moved', planted with a cover crop and the flower strips sorting out. The fly fishing season starts in the middle of the month so it's all go at the moment.

We and our neighbours have a lot of repairs to do before we can turn out any stock onto the meadows for the summer. Over the last few weeks we have had problems with vandals. A number of the metal field gates have been lifted off their hinges and thrown into the ditches, water troughs tipped over, wire fences cut and bridle gates along the path to Bowmans Bridge pulled down and dropped into the stream. We always had a problem with gates being left open, but is this the sort of thing we must expect when the 'right to roam' regulations come into force next year? If you see anything going on when you are out for a walk, please contact the Deddington Police office.

I have at last been able to build a new poultry house for my small but growing flock of Indian game poultry. Despite the name, the breed originated from the West country and is a very fine table bird. I started with a trio (a cockerel and 2 hens), but I now need to find another cockerel to run with last year's pullets. The decision to keep the breed again was prompted partly by nostalgia as my mother kept them at home, and partly because I am fed up with the tasteless rubbish which is passed off as chicken today. At least I shall know what the bird has been fed on, what conditions it was reared in and how it was prepared for the table, which is just as well given the most recent problems with poultry production in the Far East.

Food scares are set to become the norm for the consumers of this country as more and more of our food is imported from countries that do not subscribe to the same food production regulations that are enforced in this country. Despite all the spin about their support for British farming and their demands for traceable assured crops and livestock, a number of British companies who supply the large food retailers have production units in the Far East simply because production costs are low and there are no health or hygiene regulations.

Food scares are not a product of modern agricultural practices, in fact history illustrates this very point. The Biblical parable of the wheat and tares is in part a reference to the dangers of eating the seeds of the tare (*Darnel lolium temulentum L*) which produced a toxic mould and was a common weed of arable crops at the time of Christ. Modern herbicides have all but wiped it out. In AD944, 40,000 people died in Southern France

**NEWS from HEMPTON**

The Bangers and Mash evening takes place this Friday 27 February at 7.30pm. The meal will be followed by one or two after-dinner speakers.

The Table Tennis team continues to play well after a poor start to the season. Their record now is: Played 12; won 7; drawn 1; lost 4. They are currently second in the Banbury and District League, Division 2.

It is nice to see all the snowdrops, crocus and daffodils coming up on the grass verges as you come into the village. They are complemented by the two plant troughs at each end of the village which are a credit to the villagers who look after them. On the down side, the footpaths are really bad as they are all covered in loose chippings thrown up from the road and are uncomfortable to walk on. Can something be done?

If anyone has news of interest, please let me know as I am sure there are items that I do not hear of.

Les Chappell 338054

NEWS from CLIFTON

Mary Tyrell née Whitlock, who died on 25 January 2004, was born in Clifton in the old house facing west, just up Tith Lane, now known as The Hollies. Mary's father, Fred, lived there for 70 years and was also born in Clifton. Mary was a grand old lady and will be sadly missed by residents old and new for her friendship, hard work and willingness to help anyone in need. She herself was fiercely independent to the end. *Carol Drawmer*

after eating wheat infected by a toxic mould, something that modern fungicides would have prevented. We often hear conservationists complaining about the loss of arable land flowers but the seeds of many of these 'flowers' contain toxins that are known to cause poisoning in animals and humans. The biggest danger we face from the products of modern agriculture is from having too much of it. *George Fenimore* 338203



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Windmill Community Centre

As the Nursery School no longer uses space in the Windmill on a regular basis, applications for use are invited from local clubs and groups, as well as from commercial organisations. Over half of the capacity is already taken up, but anyone interested in using either the large top room or the small downstairs room should contact Joyce Minnear on Deddington 338529 for rates and availability.

Roy Hart 338871

FIRE SERVICE

We have received 17 calls in the last month: 2 house fires; 1 shop fire; 1 chimney and 1 car; 3 false alarms; 7 calls to stand by; 1 fire in a light fitting and 1 dumped washing machine set alight. We are always on the look out for new recruits. Interested in joining us? Please telephone the Retained Recruitment Hotline 0800 5870 870 for more information.

Anne Waters Sub-officer Deddington Fire Station



THAMES VALLEY POLICE

After the *DN's* back cover had been sent to the printer Thames Valley Police announced a new single number for all non-emergency calls ...

 **0845 8 505 505**

NEWS from DEDDINGTON POLICE OFFICE

Crime results for 2003 recorded by Police for the Parish of Deddington, Clifton and Hempton total 70. 3 motor vehicles were broken into and 5 stolen (driven away). This compares with a high in 1999 of 35 vehicles stolen or broken into. Burglary to homes and outbuildings continues to decrease: 6 properties broken into, as against 15 recorded in 1999. Damage to property remains high: 13 offences recorded in 2003. Violent crime has trebled lately: 9 offences recorded last year compared with a low of 3 in 2000.

The Government has now added minor (common) and violence in the home (domestic) assaults to Police recording to get a true figure of the amount of violence taking place in the country. So the increase is mainly due to violence within the family unit and more robust action being taken by Police with many more arrests being made for domestic assault. One youth suffered a street robbery in 2003 while walking home in the early hours. The largest recorded crime within the Parish is still theft of unattended property; coats, purses and mobile phones from pubs; plant pots and ornaments from gardens, theft from employers by employees; shoplifting and fraud. 20 such offences were committed. 3 persons were arrested in possession of drugs. So far 25 persons have been arrested in connection with crimes reported over the last year.

If you have information that could help identify any offender, contact me at the Deddington Police office or ring Crimestoppers (0800 555111).

PC Clive Middleton (01869 338444)

SUCCESS - BROADBAND IS COMING !

BT tell us that the Deddington telephone exchange will be providing a broadband service from 26 May 2004.

Further information can be found from your internet service provider or <<http://www.deddington.org.uk/broadband>>

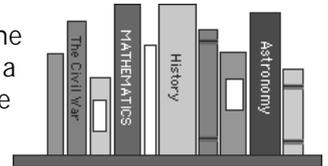
Congratulations to Hamish Stoddart for his success in co-ordinating the campaign for this service.

Colin Clark 338064 colin.clark@deddington.net

'Broadband heaven' comes at a price. Though transmission speeds are ten times as fast, the sum charged by the provider may be £25 a month (or more if you are stuck with your present provider so as to keep your e-mail address), plus the cost of a new modem, and possibly a connection charge. This is in addition to the line rental payable to BT, though a single Broadband line may provide the service for which two lines are now needed. Ed

21st Century Library

From 1 March 2004, the Library will be on a computer system. If you are a borrower and have not received a new 'credit-card' ticket, please call in at the library and see Rosemary. The old brown tickets will not be valid after 1 March.



Sue Goddard 338122



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Honeybees

One of the pleasures of the Deddington Saturday market is the chance to buy honey, a product of local bees; it is also the occasion to consider the life of the honeybee, a most remarkable creature. Most bees (90% of all species worldwide) are solitary, like the local bumblebees, and excavate their own nests in the ground. But the honeybee (*Apis mellifera*) is social and, uniquely among British social bees, the honeybee colony remains intact all year round. Maeterlinch delighted to observe that honeybees are good housekeepers, they 'carefully sweep the floor, and remove, one by one, twigs, grains of sand, and dead leaves'. (*The Life of the Bee*, Maurice Maeterlinch, 1912, Dodd Mead & Co., New York, p 135.)

How strict their diet is - only pollen and nectar! The body bristles with hairs, and each hair, whether on the belly or the head, has the potentiality of carrying a grain of pollen. Baskets on the hind legs are for collecting pollen to take back to the hive. The rear legs are designed to scrape pollen from each other, and deposit it in the pollen baskets. But not all the pollen is collected for food; dusted with pollen in places the scraping legs cannot reach, the bee becomes a go-between, an agent of pollination.

Plants are not passive actors in the honeybee's life. The current view is that plants and insects, flowers and their pollinators, have co-evolved. This is not symbiosis, but the active adaptive interaction of species. Mutual self-interest is the glue in the relationship between plant and pollinator; if one partner fails, if, for example, a very cold winter depletes the population of honeybees, rates of fertilization decline. The reproductive success of bee-pollinated flowers depends entirely on the reproductive success of the insect pollinators, and vice versa.

Colour, the flower's flag, attracts the honeybee at a distance, but on coming closer, scent, the flower's

perfume, is the more effective guide. Bee olfactory organs are located on the antennae, and honeybees, with sensory aptitudes different from our own, can detect scents 10 to 100 times weaker than those barely perceptible to man. As a result, the honeybee can determine, with great precision, a flower's nectar supply; I am convinced this is why bees move rapidly from flower to flower, knowing more quickly than we would which flowers it will be productive to visit.

For honeybees, there are in the fields of Deddington two landscapes. One is the landscape of colour - it is what you and I see, but which the honeybee sees differently; and there is the landscape of scent. Since scent is individual to flowers, each honey, amber in its jar, will be the distilled harvest of a particular floral landscape.

Walter L Meagher

Edwin Who ?

BBC Gardener of the Year at the end of 2002, Edwin Rye, was featured in the BBC2 *Gardeners' World* programme for the imaginative small garden that he designed and built in the Birmingham Botanic Gardens. The six finalists had just three days and £1000 to create a well-designed small garden around a theme of their choice. Edwin's was based on 'dreams' and he achieved this largely by using white plants and flowers which are amongst the most difficult to bring together in bloom at the same time. A knowledgeable plantsman, Edwin also came out top in the various tests and quizzes which formed part of the competition. "But I never thought I would be the winner, the others were all so imaginative and creative" he said after the result was announced.

Another of his skills is arranging flowers which he often undertakes in his local Church near Aylesbury and for the weddings of friends. He will be talking about plants, thoughts and colours for a small garden on Saturday 17 April 17 in Deddington Church with the title 'Garden Delights' as part of the Living Rooms project. *J.M*

April Diary

Thu	1	Monday Morning Club: Dinner at the Cotswold Restaurant, 7 pm ➡ p.10
Fri	2	Babies & Toddlers: Easter egg hunt, Windmill Centre, 9.30-11 am ➡ p.10
Fri	2	COLLEGIUM REGALE Choir from Cambridge: Parish Church, 7.30 pm ➡ p.5
Mon	5	Monday Morning Club: Coffee Morning, 10 am- noon ➡ p.11
Wed	7	Deddington Ladies: Holly Tree, 8 pm
Wed	7	Babies and Toddlers: Easter egg hunt, The Windmill Centre, 9.30-11 am ➡ p.10
Thu	8	Children's activities: Parish Church, 10- 12.30 pm.
Tue	13	WI: <i>Hanging Baskets & Containers</i> , Farnborough Garden Centre, Holly Tree, 7.30 pm ➡ p.11
Wed	14	History Society: Martin Rowling, <i>The Village Smithy</i> , Windmill Centre, 7.30 pm ➡ p.10
Sat	17	Edwin Rye, <i>Garden Delights</i> , Parish Church, 7.30 pm ➡ p.14
Wed	21	Parish Council Meeting: Town Hall, 7.30 pm ➡ p.2
Thu	22	Monday Morning Club: Bus for Cole Porter evening at Chipping Norton leaves 6.30 pm ➡ p.10
Fri	23	Babies & Toddlers' Group: Spring Sale, Windmill Centre, 9.30 ~ 11 am ➡ p.10
Sat	24	Deddington Farmers' Market: 9 am ~ 12.30 pm.

Remember: This diary is delivered not only to every home in the three villages, but is also published on the Deddington website. Make sure you get the date of any event you are organising to Jean Flux, our diary editor [338153] as early as possible - the best way to make sure it is widely known, and avoid clashes with other events.