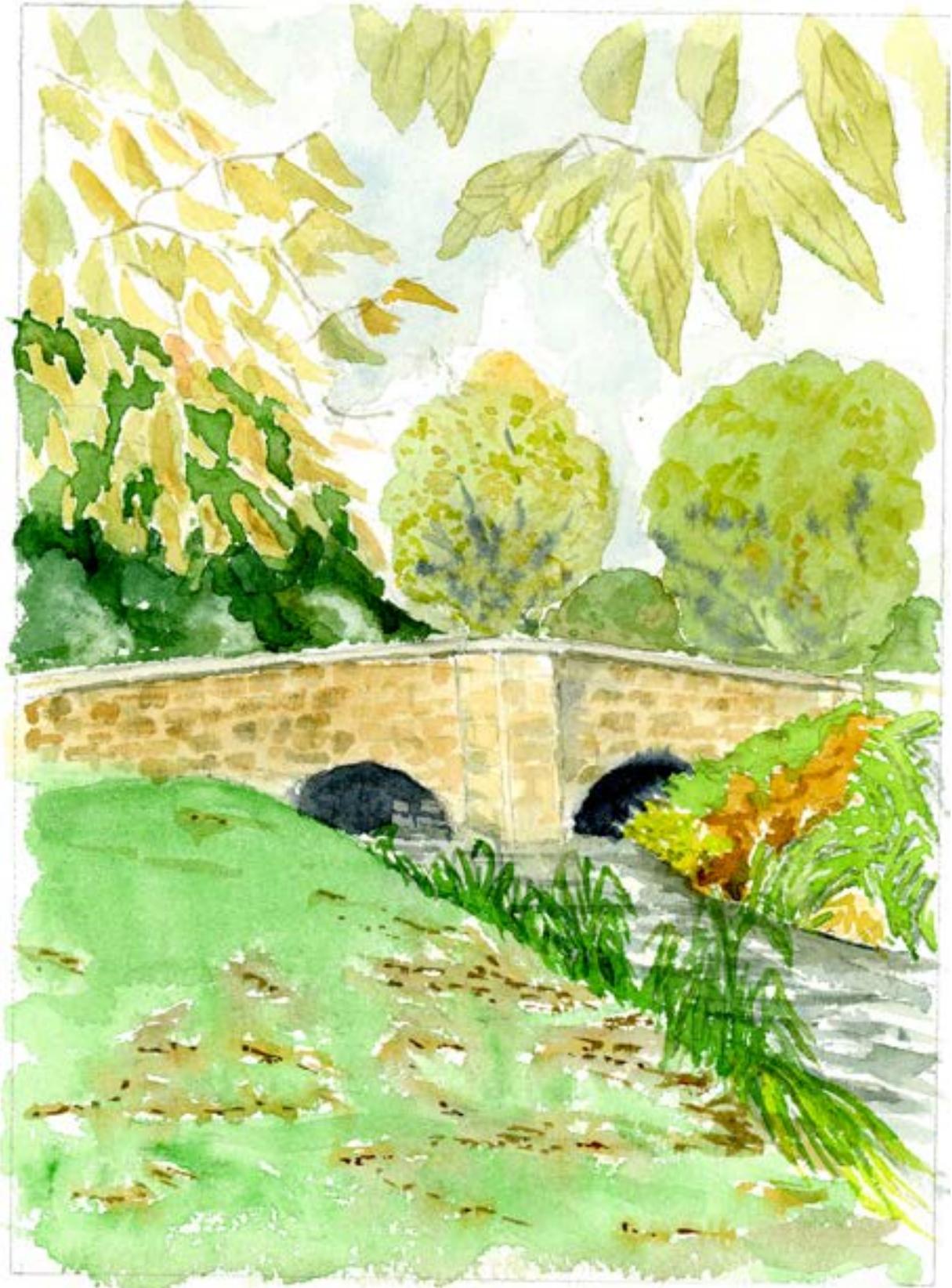


May 2021

# *The* **DEDDINGTON NEWS**



Delivered free to Deddington, Clifton and Hempton

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## *The* DEDDINGTON NEWS

The *DN* takes on a new rôle this month: the middle section consists of a pull-out survey, commissioned by the Holly Tree Club, to determine what further changes the community would like to see made. This is your chance to affect the future of the building and its offerings. Just pull out, fill in and drop off.

And as spring unfolds, lockdown eases and our horizons start to expand, it seems a good time to share John Cheney's ode to the stalwart S4. CD

### S4 THE BANBURY BUS

Come, thou long expected Stagecoach

Take us into Banbury, please

Bus passes are at the ready

(Most of us are OAPs)

Ten sonorous strokes denote the hour

Our anticipation surges,

Till from out of Hudson Street

Behold the new S4 emerges.

On the brow of Deddington Hill

See that wondrous view appear

Looking to the glorious westward,

Green and pleasant Oxfordshire.

So to Adderbury proceeding

Horn Hill Road, known oh so well

Down the slope and cross the river

Traffic chaos by the 'Bell'

Mary at the chapel waiting

Boards the bus and heeds our hints

Delves into her copious handbag

Dishes out her Glacier Mints.

At the Twyford stop are waiting

The Adderbury Army's boarding party

Armed with children, pushchairs, trolleys

Noisy happy, hale and hearty.

Thus we journey on to Sainsbury's,

Horton bus stop, surgery,

Round the Cross and to the bus stop

Handy for the KFC.

Always cars blockade the bus stop

Parked on double yellow lines.

Self-important people shopping

Heedless of 'No Waiting' signs.

So, descending to the pavement

Journey's end for creaking bones

Forward march across the High Street

Through the doors of SH Jones.

*John Cheney*

**Cover:** This month's cover picture is of Bowman's bridge on the Clifton loop of the Deddington circular walk.

Submission of any article to the *DN* carrying personal information (for example names, locations, pictures) will imply that the person submitting the article has obtained the necessary consent from the individual (or parent/guardian in the case of a minor) /company/organisation for this information to be used both in print and online. Contributors should be aware that the monthly issues are posted online and therefore any personal contact details given are there in perpetuity. Disclaimer: The views expressed are not necessarily those of the editors or the committee. Inclusion of an advertisement or insert does not constitute any recommendation or endorsement of the organisations concerned on the part of the Deddington News. The *DN* takes no responsibility and gives no guarantees, warranties or representations, implied or otherwise, for the content or accuracy of these advertisements.

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<https://www.deddington.org.uk/>

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## WELL REMEMBERED

### Chris Day 1946–2021

The untimely death of Chris Day on 3 March after a two-month illness, marks a sad loss, not only to his family and friends, but to the academic and local history community, both in Oxfordshire and elsewhere.

Chris and his wife, Alison, moved to Deddington from Oxford in 1996. Shortly afterwards Chris, with a few enthusiastic villagers, set up the Deddington and District History Society which he chaired until recently. He was a member of Deddington Map Group which produced hand drawn maps, recording what the parish looked like in 2000, displayed in Deddington, Clifton and Hempton as well as in a book, *Discovering Deddington*. Chris regularly took part in the Deddington Festival, leading the history walk around the village in his own peerless style. The walk was extremely popular with villagers and other local history societies; his last was at the request of 1st Deddington Brownies, which he enjoyed enormously.

Christopher John Day, MA, FSA, was born in Stoke-on-Trent in 1946 and remained a life-long supporter of Stoke City football club. His secondary education took place at Cotton College, now defunct. At 18 he was sent to a seminary for training catholic priests but after four years decided the Catholic ministry was not for him. He was accepted at Manchester University where he obtained a First in history and then embarked on a PhD.

Historical research brought him to Oxford in 1975 to join the staff of the *Victoria County History*. There he was immediately thrown in the deep end, his first task being to research the modern history (since 1771) of Oxford city. His work on Oxford, published in 1979, was an outstanding achievement and during his 20 years with the *VCH* he contributed to a further four volumes, remaining a much-loved figure within a harmonious team, his humour and vitality enlivening the routines of co-operative research. He published outside the *VCH*, contributing a substantial chapter to the multi-volume *History of the University of Oxford*, a chapter for a festschrift on the historiography of Warwickshire focused on early county histories, and book reviews in *Oxoniensia* and elsewhere.

Chris's talents as a communicator were already evident during his *VCH* years and in 1994 (perhaps

also spurred by the experience of surviving a near fatal attack of lymphoma in the early 1980s) he decided to split his time between the *VCH* and Oxford University Department for Continuing Education. In 1996 he moved to the Department full-time, where he directed and taught the Undergraduate Certificate (later Diploma) in English Local History, initiated the Advanced Diploma in Local History (taught via the Internet), and contributed to the MSt (later MSc) in English Local History.

In 2004 he became Director of Studies in English Local History, before moving in 2006 to the Department's International Programmes Division as Director of Academic Programmes. Underpinning all that was Chris's passion for teaching and his genuine interest in people. A Fellow of Kellogg College since 1994, he served as Admissions Tutor (2002–5), and Senior Fellow in 2007. He was elected to an Emeritus Fellowship in 2011.

Chris somehow found time to continue as Honorary General Editor of the Oxfordshire Record Society (serving a 25-year stint) and had a long connection with the Oxfordshire Local History Association. Retirement meant no such thing – not only did he serve as a popular and effective President of the Oxford Architectural and Historical Society from 2012 to 2017 but continued to direct the Oxford Berkeley Program at Merton College, a three-week summer school partnership with the University of Berkeley California, on which he had taught for many years. In recent years he also edited *Cake and Cockhorse*, the Banbury Historical Society's journal, as well as continuing his own research interests, including a long-term project on Thomas Walker of Woodstock, town clerk and agent to the Duke of Marlborough in the late 18th century.

To those of us who knew him, however, Chris's manifold professional and academic achievements are almost secondary compared with the delights of his company and his less well-known talents as, amongst others, a brilliant cook and host. In the words of one former colleague, 'simply one of the best people we have ever known'.

**Simon Townley**  
*with contributions from Alison Day*

## DEDDINGTON PARISH SHOW 2021

Committee members are already working on the Parish Show which, all being well, will be held legally on Saturday 4 September in the parish church.

We need setters-up on Friday 3 September. On Saturday we need stewards, stall minders, 'runners' to work between the scorers and the judges and put out certificates for the winners for each section, and clearers-up from 4.30pm, as well as cake makers for

teas and the cake stall and, of course, lots of people entering all the classes.

Please contact me if you would like to be involved. Programmes will be available from the farmers' market in June and in shops and pubs throughout July and August.

**Wendy Burrows, Hon Secretary**  
**01869 338082**  
[wendy.burrows 536@btinternet.com](mailto:wendy.burrows 536@btinternet.com)

## WELL REMEMBERED

### Philip Dodd 1937–2021

Philip Dodd was born in 1937 in the Forest or Dean. His love of the countryside and all things rural took root at a young age. He and his sister, Margaret, would sit on Molly, the carthorse and ride around the fields.

During the war food was in short supply so he hunted rabbits to provide food for the table and to sell.

As a child he was a regular visitor at milking time at 'Donald's Farm' in Longtown. He visited his grandparents at Glebe Farm in Malpas; they ran a large cattle dealing operation which was most likely the start of his own cattle dealing activities.

At the age of 12, he moved to the Lodge in Hempton to live with his Uncle Reg, Auntie Jess and cousins, Hazel and Ruth. Each morning before school Philip delivered fresh milk from his uncle's cows around the village by bike. He loved motorbikes and built them using spare parts which were stacked around the tree in the garden at the Lodge. He had a mischievous sense of humour and often rode his motorbike round and round the tree just to annoy his Uncle Reg. Philip's love of engines drew him into a career as a lorry driver for Lampreys in Banbury for the next 19 years.

He continued to live at the Lodge for 13 years, marrying Pamela in 1963 when they moved to Calthorpe Road, Banbury. Charles was born in 1966, followed by Heather in 1972.

In 1974, the family moved to the Stores in Hempton where Pamela ran the village shop while Philip ran the smallholding. Purchases from weekly visits to Northampton cattle market included blocks of Stilton cheese to sell in the shop. It was not unusual for a calf or two to be brought back to Hempton in the car. Another regular jaunt was to Wisbech market to buy vegetables for the shop.

Philip had up to four Jersey and Guernsey cows which he hand milked every day with Charles' help. There were pigs, sheep, chickens, ducks and geese in the fold. Throughout his life, Philip had a dog by his side and often befriended any he met on his travels.

In his later working life he set up his own haulage business, mainly for EA Goundrey & Son, delivering soil to many grand residences and sporting venues until his retirement at the age of 67. He encouraged Charles to follow him into the haulage trade.

Philip had a great interest in tractors and in 1997 joined the Banbury Ploughing Club. When his first grandson, Callum, was born he was soon placed on his Grandad's little grey Fergie. Philip was keen for all three grandchildren, Callum, Aaron and Nathan, to follow his love of the countryside and his little grey Fergies. He enjoyed weekends travelling around the country to ploughing matches with his vintage tractors. He was the inspiration behind the *Vintage Scene* magazine published by his daughter, Heather, the proud cover star of the first issue with his Massey Ferguson.

Philip loved his family. His passing leaves a huge hole for them, especially Pamela.

*The Dodd Family*

## DEDDINGTON PFSU AND VILLAGE NURSERY

We look forward to the summer term when the PFSU children will be finding out about 'The World About Us'. We will be searching for mini-beasts, feeding the birds, planting seeds, and watching caterpillars and tadpoles grow and change.

At the Nursery our topic is 'Woodland Friends'. We will be finding out about woodland animals, playing in the Gruffalo's kitchen and enjoying our indoor woodland role play area. Our Easter Holiday club was a great success. The summer holiday club will run in the school summer holidays for the two weeks beginning 26 July and 2 August.

**Lucy Squires**  
**01869 337484**

## Friends of Deddington Library

# PHOTO COMPETITION

Winning entries will be featured in the  
2022 Deddington Parish Calendar!

Once again, we are inviting you to enter your  
photos of Deddington, Clifton, Hempton  
and the surrounding countryside.

All ages and abilities welcome!  
Images must be landscape format, files must be  
minimum 5Mb, 300dpi and saved as high quality JPGs.

Deadline for entries is Friday 13th August 2021  
Submit your entries by email to [abw@brynwilliams.com](mailto:abw@brynwilliams.com)

More details at:  
[www.FriendsofDeddingtonLibrary.com](http://www.FriendsofDeddingtonLibrary.com)



All calendar proceeds go to Friends of Deddington Library  
Registered Charity No. 1164811

## FARMERS' MARKET

*Continuing our occasional series profiling our stallholders is Janet Macey's story of Berry's Orchard.*

To our lovely customers at local markets, we are the couple who sell herbs and apple juice but what's the story behind the stall?

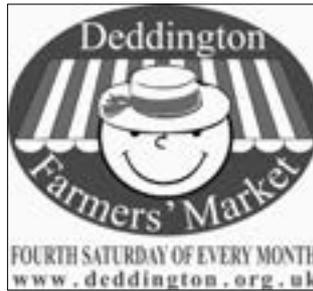
The small plot of land behind our house in Deddington was bought by my father in the 50s. His dream was to own land where he could grow food for his family and, by working three jobs, he bought the house with a bit of extra land and did just that; not only for his family but for many friends around the village.

In his late 80s ill health meant the house had to be sold. My husband, David, and I were in a position to buy the property and return to Deddington. We were now the owners of a large garden with a variety of fruit trees, overgrown beds, two rundown greenhouses, a vintage tractor and no gardening expertise. My childhood home, always effortlessly well-tended (or so it seemed to the uninitiated) was now in need of a large shot of TLC. We were daunted to say the least.

As David and I were both working, we could not tend the land in the way it had been in the past. In the interests of wildlife and nature (and not entirely unselfish reasons) we fenced off the orchard and let the wildflowers grow so we didn't have so much grass to mow. Unfortunately, as the soil is rich in nutrients from the years of vegetable gardening, it is not ideal for wildflowers. It has been a steep learning curve. Knowing when and how to cut was one of our first tests and resulted in David mastering the Austrian scythe. We are still learning but seeing how much the birds and bees love the wilder bits of the orchard is rewarding.

Herbs, wildflowers and nature have always been a great interest of mine and so after attending some evening classes I started to look at the things that grow in the orchard in a different light. Instead of fighting to clear things most people would consider weeds I let them grow – in certain places. This has meant the wildlife has become more diverse, the herbs are not just for cooking and the wildflowers are food sources for insects and sometimes medicines for us.

If someone had told me a few years ago I would be harvesting nettles to make a tincture full of iron and vitamin C to keep my daughter's anaemia at bay, that I would pick cleavers for its medicinal properties (as children we called it sticky weed and threw it at each other) or that I would carefully move the dandelions growing in my patio pots to a more suitable site for the bees, I would have laughed. We challenged ourselves to make the orchard as plastic free as possible and garden in the most environmentally friendly way we could, so no pesticides or herbicides. We applied for a stall at the farmers' market with the idea of selling herbs in recycled and upcycled pots, in fact in anything



as long as it wasn't plastic. Upcycling pots was enjoyable but very time consuming and we could not keep up with the demand for the herbs, so the idea of paper pots was born. The newspapers are donated by a neighbour. It has to be a broadsheet as these are exactly the right size when folded.

The rustic twine used to tie the pots is from a box of my father's found in the garage. It was probably intended for use in the garden but he found a ready source of baler twine from a local farmer – one of the few mistakes he made. We still pull out pink twine from the ground every now and then as it is plastic based and does not rot down like traditional baler twine.

The orchard is home to the original eight trees and numerous other fruit trees we have planted, including two cider apple trees. Our biggest tree is a Bramley estimated to be over 150 years old. Bramley's were first named in 1856 and so our tree is likely to be one of the earliest ones. Amazingly, this old tree bears the most fruit of them all each year.

With this many trees you get a lot of apples so we now get them pressed, pasteurised and bottled. David has perfected the art of cider making and I make apple cider vinegar. We still give apples to friends and neighbours following my father's tradition. Over winter we leave some of the fruit on the ground as it encourages wild birds, with lots of fieldfares and redwings visiting this year.

Although the big greenhouses have gone, parts of the old infrastructure are still here and used to house our pizza oven, not a fancy brick oven but a cob version. Traditionally cob was made by mixing clay, straw and soil, often using cattle or horses to tread the mixture. We did the treading for our oven and it was well worth it, the pizzas are delicious.

We love visitors and so run a handful of workshops in the orchard each year on herbs, herbal remedies, pizza and pasta-making and even how to build and cook in a cob pizza oven. The garden which has given so much over the years just keeps on giving. The emphasis now is less on how much we grow but how we grow. If what we do encourages people to leave a patch of nettles for the bees, reduce their use of plastic, re-use, recycle and generally think about the environmental impact of what they are doing, we are achieving something.

Why is it called Berry's Orchard? My father's name was Sid Berry so it's an acknowledgment of the man who had the courage and foresight to go for his dream all those years ago.

**Janet Macey**  
[Berrysorchard@gmail.com](mailto:Berrysorchard@gmail.com)

## CHURCH

### Parish Church SS Peter and Paul

### May

Deddington church is open for public worship and services continue to be streamed live. We regret that the toilets will remain closed until further notice. Please see the church website or Facebook page for updates, [www.deddingtonchurch.org](http://www.deddingtonchurch.org) and <https://www.facebook.com/DeddingtonChurch>.

Mon–Fri 8.45am Morning Prayer  
Wed 10.00am Holy Communion

Sun 2 10.30am Holy Communion  
Sun 9 8.00am BCP Communion  
10.30am Holy Communion  
Sun 16 10.30am Holy Communion  
Sun 23 10.30am Holy Communion  
Sun 30 10.30am Holy Communion

#### Barford St Michael

Sun 9 9.00am Communion  
Sun 16 10.30am Family Service

#### Hempton

Sun 16 9.00am Holy Communion

#### Barford St John

Sun 23 9.00am Holy Communion

#### From the Parish Register

##### Funerals

23 March Cecelia Heard  
13 April Philip Allan  
14 April Philip Dodd

For baptisms, weddings, funerals and home visits, in case of illness, please contact the Vicar, Revd Annie Goldthorp, at [vicar@deddingtonchurch.org](mailto:vicar@deddingtonchurch.org) or on 01869 336880. If Annie is not available, please contact one of the churchwardens, Iain Gillespie on 01869 338367 or Meriel Flux on 01869 338901.

### RC Parish of Hethe

St John's Church in Banbury will be streaming Mass daily at 9.30am Monday to Friday at 10.00am on Saturday; and 11.15am on Sunday on <https://www.mcnmedia.tv/camera/st-john-the-evangelist-banbury>. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be streamed for 30 minutes at the end of each weekday Mass.

## DL History Corner

Daphne Tucker was a WAAF Radio Operator in WWII. After training in London and being bombed out of her lodgings while asleep at night, she was based at RAF Chicksands in Bedfordshire where she collected signals intelligence for Bletchley Park. There she met Ron Canning from Deddington. Ron was subsequently relocated to New Delhi in India.

Bletchley Park has recorded an oral history of Daphne's story and how she and Ron remained in touch (seemingly illegally) by overseas teleprinter until the end of the war when they married and came to live in The Stile. Daphne can be heard talking about herself, her father, also a radio operator in WWII, and Ron via this link: <https://bit.ly/3urvz8D> and, of course, you can read her story in *A Parish at War* via this link <https://bit.ly/3uyzG2u>.

Daphne now lives in Adderbury and was a proud 94-year old recipient of one of the four RBL commemorative brooches presented by the Deddington Branch to WWII veterans to mark the 75th anniversary of VE Day in lockdown last year.

**Rob Forsyth**  
[robert.s.forsyth@gmail.com](mailto:robert.s.forsyth@gmail.com)

## FROM THE FIRE STATION



We still find ourselves in lockdown but there is light at the end of the tunnel. It has been very quiet at the station – only eight shouts, six standbys and two false alarms.

Training at the station has started again, albeit masked up every other week as we are only allowed to have five people at the station at any one time – so half one week and the other half the following week.

Ben Fenemore has started his BA training, whilst both Adam Perry and Emma Flint progress with their driver training. We said a sad farewell and a hearty thanks to our Station Support Officer Mark O'Connor, and a welcome to our new SSO James Newton. We also have two new recruits who are going through their basic training – Garin Wilby from Clifton and Louis Martin who lives in Adderbury.

**James Greenwood FFd**  
[james@cyclogicalshop.co.uk](mailto:james@cyclogicalshop.co.uk)

<https://www.deddington.org.uk/>

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## DOWN ON GEORGE'S FARM

'Ne'er cast a clout (coat) till May be out', just one of the old weather sayings that this year has a ring of truth about it. It has been a cold miserable lambing season. Although the lambs are born inside they cannot stay inside for too long because of 'mis-mothering' in the close confines of the lambing shed.

It is good when a plan comes together. The Clifton flock has dropped its lambs and which are now out at grass, the spring planting has been completed and the organic flock is on the trot. The ewes are in good condition and producing some very good lambs. All we need now is for the weather to warm up. The bees have had a difficult time with badger attacks but as they are a protected species there is nothing I can do about it, apart from putting the hives on raised platforms out of reach, something that will make hive management more difficult.

The farmyard swallows came back from their winter holidays in Africa at the start of March and have now established their nest sites. Sadly the one with the white wing feather has not returned but she was four years old so not bad for a bird which spends most of her life on the wing, traveling between South Africa and



Home Farm. All we need now is the cuckoo to get summer started. We arrived at the farm in March '74 to the sound of nesting curlew, something that has been a springtime herald ever since, but this year there are no curlew in the river valley, something that has a lot to do with the ever increasing pollution coming down the river from Banbury. The trees and hedges are now coming into leaf so the annual enclose is coming as the in-leaf hedges restrict the view.

Although the house sparrow is on the bird Red List, there seem to be plenty at Home Farm where we have a number of old stone barns providing good safe nesting sites, something that is lacking in done-up barn conversions and modern housing estates. The other thing affecting sparrow populations is the ever-increasing numbers of sparrow hawks. Ten years ago they were an occasional sighting; now it is an everyday occurrence but, as the experts say, without the prey the predators would not be here.

With summer on the way the pace of farm work has taken a lift. No sooner have the ewes gone out to pasture than it's time to shear them. It was hard work but gave the young farmer the opportunity to earn some extra cash once the flock at home had been shorn. I used to do a few weeks contract shearing before hay-making. I no longer shear. It's a young man's job but Chris and Ben are very good at it.

We still make hay on the traditional valley hay meadows but with the purchase of a modern round baler my 50 year old rectangular baler will stay in the barn. The round baler will also be used for the straw which will make things easier when bedding up.

**George Fenemore**  
**01869 338203**

### The Adderbury and Milton Feoffee

An exciting opportunity has arisen for the position of Assistant to the Clerk of the Adderbury and Milton Feoffee Charity.

This is a part-time position, reporting to the Chair of the Trustees and working with the clerk. Would suit Self-employed/PA.

Applicants must be:

- IT literate in Word and Excel.
- Able to take instruction and work on their own to achieve the requirements of the charity.
- Have good communication skills and know and understand how to run and set up an office.
- Able to take accurate notes.
- Able to set up meetings .
- Trustworthy and discreet about the Charity's business.

For a full job description please apply to the Clerk of the Trustees, Mrs Charlotte Holmes by email to [adderburyfeoffee@gmail.com](mailto:adderburyfeoffee@gmail.com)

### PARISH COUNCIL

There are no parish council notes in this issue as the date of the meeting had to be cancelled due to the mourning period for Prince Philip meaning no agenda could be sent out for the usual third Wednesday in the month, by which time the DN had gone to print. The April parish council meeting will be held on Wednesday 28 April. The annual parish council meeting will be incorporated into that meeting and any matters not completed at that time will be transferred to an additional meeting on Tuesday 4 May. The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Wednesday 5 May.

If you would like to join any of these meetings, please contact the parish clerk, [deddingtonparishcouncil@goolemail.com](mailto:deddingtonparishcouncil@goolemail.com) or 01869 337447.

## VICTORIAN DEDDINGTON: COGGINS SCRAPBOOKS 1836 to 1914

While there is a wealth of material documenting the history of Deddington, a source which previously has been largely overlooked is a set of three scrapbooks with items covering the years 1836 to 1914, compiled by George Coggins, a Deddington solicitor, and deposited at the Bodleian Library.

George Coggins (1846–1920) was an avid collector of any printed material which came his way relating to events in Deddington. The legacy of his scrapbooks provides a remarkable insight into life and social developments in Deddington in the second part of the 19th century and the early years of the 20th century.

Scrapbooks numbers 1 and 3 contain an assortment of programmes for various musical and dramatic entertainments, leaflets, notices, circulars, reports, posters and accounts, spanning the years 1836–1914.

Scrapbook number 2 contains over 1,000 local press cuttings covering the years 1855 to 1888, as well as over 80 handbills and programmes of entertainments, the earliest two dating from 1840. George Coggins was the eldest of two sons of John Coggins, a carpenter, of Goose Green, Deddington, and his wife, Caroline (née Holiday), who died aged 32 just after George's ninth birthday. Despite his humble origins, George must have shown exceptional promise, since the 1861 census records that, at the age of 14, he was employed as a solicitor's general clerk, progressing to become a managing clerk by the time of the 1871 census.

George's principal was Mr C Duffell Faulkner of The Priory in Hudson Street, the coroner for North Oxfordshire. Faulkner clearly identified George's potential and, in due course, granted him articles of clerkship, taking him into partnership when he qualified as a solicitor in 1877 at the age of 30.

The innumerable events chronicled by the scrapbooks include the troubled state of the church in the parish during the controversial incumbencies of two successive vicars, James Brogden (1848–1864) and James Turner (1864–1877). Brogden's living was sequestered three times on account of his pecuniary difficulties. His neglect of church and school affairs led to dwindling congregations and the abandonment within two years of the new school built in 1853 at a cost of £1,244, 'the windows being broken, the playground overrun with thistles, nettles, and rank weeds, horses and any cattle constantly getting into it, the gates and fences being daily destroyed, and no one endeavouring to counteract this flagrant evil'.

His successor, the Revd James Turner, was a prominent low church protagonist in a long-running 'civil war' between high and low church Anglicans, denouncing 'Romish' practices and closing the church at Clifton to exclude the curate, prompting public petitions and many vitriolic letters to the *Banbury Guardian*, invariably anonymous, other than from Mr. Faulkner. Turner also presided over the near collapse of day schooling, the re-appearance of dame schools and the

demise of the choir and church Sunday school. The Nonconformists, however, always strong in Deddington, and their Sunday schools, continued to prosper.

The press cuttings also chronicle the militancy of the temperance movement in Deddington in the 1880s, which organised numerous events, including monthly entertainments with a temperance speaker, and in the winter months, free Saturday night 'Populars' in the new Temperance Hall in New Street as a counter-attraction to drink shops. Amongst the various ancillary temperance organisations were a juvenile group (Band of Hope) and a teetotal coffee tavern opposite the Crown and Tuns.

Each Whit-Wednesday the three Deddington benefit societies celebrated the annual Club Day Festival. Members of the Ancient Order of Foresters (Court Robin Hood) in Sherwood green costumes, the 'Old Plough' Club and the Deddington General Friendly Society, used to parade through the streets, each headed by a band, and attend a special church service, before dining separately at local hostelries. There was also an annual Pudding Pie Fair every 22 November, with traders selling Welsh ponies, other stalls and children's amusements.

Cuttings from the *North Oxon Monthly Times* document the controversy in 1854 surrounding the second of three attempts to fill-in the, by all accounts stagnant, pool in the south-east part of Market Place (Town Pool), with the majority in favour (local inhabitants) being outvoted by the multiple votes of farmers and landowners. The pool was not filled-in until 1861 when an ornamental pump was erected.

Indices summarising the contents of each of the scrapbooks, and transcripts of non-newspaper materials, are available on Deddington OnLine – see 'Coggins' in the index on the home page of Deddington History. The greater majority of the newspaper cuttings are accessible online through the British Newspaper Archive (subscription required), and links are provided.

George Coggins was a modest and diligent man, and was clearly held in the highest esteem both locally and in the wider district. It seems that there were few aspects of life in Deddington in which he was not actively involved at some time or any public office which, in the fullness of time, he did not hold. Amongst other things, he was clerk to the divisional magistrates (Petty Sessions) 1886–1920 and coroner for North Oxfordshire 1892–1920, as well as vicar's churchwarden for many years and a school governor.

Coggins and his wife, Mary, who was some seven years his junior, lived at The Laurels in the Market Place. In 1897 the opportunity came up to purchase The Hermitage opposite and they moved early in 1898. Sadly, Mary, who had been in poor health for some years, died in January 1899, aged 45, leaving Coggins a widower at the age of 52. Coggins continued to live at The Hermitage until his death in 1920.

**David French** [zen210551@zen.co.uk](mailto:zen210551@zen.co.uk)

## POSTCARD FROM AMERICA

My wife says I am a grumpy old man. I am on holiday but I guess I have to agree.

We have escaped Colorado on an aeroplane for the first time for 14 months. You might well have heard, the US has majorly given up on the pandemic. Most of our neighbours have, like me, been fully vaccinated so I really don't think I am under any great personal risk. However, around 25% of the population are saying they won't take the vaccination. Strangely enough there appears to be a correlation to the 50 million who think the election was stolen.

America is divided by the interpretation of simple facts but also riven by racial and financial divides. A Native American child is twice as likely to die in infancy as a white child. Black Americans have an average life expectancy five years shorter than that of the white population. These are the facts that many white Americans simply don't want to hear or simply don't care about. In the richest country in the world surely these facts are disgraceful.

Last month we had another mass shooting, just 30 miles north of us in Boulder. The name of the supermarket chain is so classically American, King Soopers, and so is the complete lack of response from the politicians. Last year 19,000 people died in gun violence, a 25% increase on 2019, but we didn't hear about them because 'mass' shootings were rare when people weren't going out.

Even more astounding is the suicide rate; 24,000 people used a gun to take their own life last year. Why does a father, campaigning for gun control after his six-year old son was killed at Sandy Hook, have



to move house every few months? Crazy lunatics like Alex Jones have a nationwide forum to spread lies and many people think the answer is to buy more guns. They are threatened and so they threaten a poor grieving father.

I thought a new President would bring some stability and things are certainly quieter, but, after a good start, Biden is running into the stalemate that is US politics. I have to be careful about lecturing Americans about democracy – after all we have a queen – but the US political system is broken.

The Upper House is split straight down the middle but, because the Senate was constructed with two members from each state, the rural states with small populations are over-represented. Wyoming with 600,000 inhabitants gets two seats, the same as California with 40 million. The rural states are much more right wing so the 50 Republican senators only represent 43% of the overall population.

I have to report that I have spent the last seven days working hard at avoiding loud Texans with partial face masking. Generally, this encounter starts with a pantomime based on the complete inability of Americans to determine an English accent. No, I am not an Australian. The next question is predictable, last month it was Harry and Megan, now it is the Queen and dear Philip. I wonder what it is that fascinates them about the monarchy. Perhaps it is the lack of democracy that they relate to, perhaps they really do want King Trump.

Heather is right, I am relaxing in Paradise and yet I am still the grumpiest old man in the village.

**Mike Ward**

[mikew@qsoftware.com](mailto:mikew@qsoftware.com)



## FRIENDS OF DEDDINGTON LIBRARY

[www.FriendsofDeddingtonLibrary.org](http://www.FriendsofDeddingtonLibrary.org)



We would like to welcome Louise Willis as our new Deddington Library manager. After several months of closure we are excited to have our valued library open from 19 April and look forward to working with Louise.

The following temporary opening times will be operational until further notice, Monday 2.00–5.00pm, Wednesday 10.00am–1.00pm, Thursday 2.00–5.00pm. The library will be closed on Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday.

We continue to receive a healthy influx of photo competition entries and encourage everyone to get involved. With improving weather and flowers and trees blossoming around the parish there are opportunities galore to capture that winning entry.

As always, send your images (landscape format, 300dpi and taken within Deddington parish) to me. You've got until 13 August to send your images in.

Thank you

**Bryn Williams**

[abw@brynwilliams.com](mailto:abw@brynwilliams.com)

<https://www.deddington.org.uk/>

Follow us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/deddingtononline](http://www.facebook.com/deddingtononline) and Twitter @DeddiOnLine



**Holly Tree Club**

## **Holly Tree Club redevelopment - have your say!**

**We need YOUR help! This is a community questionnaire; your views and opinions are especially important to us, we need everyone to join in, whether you currently use the Holly Tree Club hall or not!**

You may be aware that much work has been carried out at the Holly Tree Club recently. Phase 1 renovations have been mostly funded by a generous grant from Deddington Parish Council, for which we are incredibly grateful, with additional financial support from The Deddington Housing Association. The work carried out so far is mainly renovations to the existing hall. These include re-wiring, major damp proof works, insulation, new replacement roof as well as guttering, fascia, and downpipes, underpinning the north wall, renovating the parquet flooring, carrying out driveway and car park works and redecorating.

We have also installed a ramp from the Horse Fair to the hall, gas central heating, new LED lighting, hot water and heating to the existing cloakroom and kitchen and carried out tree works, both in preparation for Phase 2 and overdue tree management.

Phase 2, which we are already working towards, will involve demolishing the existing cloakroom and kitchenette, building a bigger extension to include new cloakrooms, disabled and baby changing facilities, full kitchen, small meeting room/studio that can be rented out independently, hopefully providing a stable income to help meet the ongoing maintenance and management of the hall and further upgrade to the parking area, new glass porch/entrance area, all designed to enhance the Holly Tree Club experience in the 21st century.

To raise funds for Phase 2 from grant giving bodies, we have to show we are aiming to provide what the users and future users of the building WANT, not just what the trustees thought was a good idea. We need to know what difference the proposed work would make to YOU, and how you could use the hall in the future as a result. This would help us provide for the longevity of the Holly Tree Club, post-Covid, if we improved the building and amenities further.

Please complete and return this survey by the 15th May 2021 so we can take as many views into consideration as possible and help us to justify our need for applying for grant funding.

**Please answer the following questions for normal times  
(i.e. without COVID restrictions)**

**1. Pre - Covid, How often did you use the Holly Tree Club Building?**

*Please tick.*

- Once a week
- More than once a week
- Monthly
- Occasionally
- Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Pre - Covid - Which clubs /meetings did you attend there? Please tick *all* those applicable.**

- Age UK - Dementia café
- Age UK - Gentle Dance Group
- Art Group Friday
- Art Group Thursday
- Baby Massage
- Ballet
- Craft Group
- Bridge Club
- Deddington Development Watch
- Deddington Housing Association
- Friends of Castle Grounds
- Holly Tree Club Coffee Morning (for Members)
- Holly Tree Club Film Night
- Home Instead
- Knit and Natter
- Parish Council
- Photographic group
- Red and Grey Band
- Royal British Legion Branch
- Stonewater Property management - The Grove
- Women's Institute
- Yoga
- None - I don't use the HTC
- Other? \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Do you belong to any other groups in the village (or elsewhere) If so, which, and where do they meet?**

Group name \_\_\_\_\_

Where they meet \_\_\_\_\_

Group name \_\_\_\_\_

Where they meet \_\_\_\_\_

Group name \_\_\_\_\_

Where they meet \_\_\_\_\_

**4. How important is the Holly Tree Club building to you?**

*Please indicate (circle) where 1 is the lowest/least value to you and 10 the highest/most value to you.*

1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8   9   10

**5. Why do you like going there?**

*Tick **all** that apply.*

- Attending regular coffee mornings helps to stop me feeling lonely/isolated
- Attending regular groups helps to stop me feeling lonely/isolated
- I can meet with friends and socialise
- I enjoy the activities/outings arranged
- I can get there easily
- Intimate size of hall is perfect for the size of the group activity/activities I attend
- Within walking distance from home
- As a hirer, the rent is reasonable/affordable
- Great sized space for the size of group/s I organise
- Other reason - please state: \_\_\_\_\_

**6. What improvements to the building would make it a better experience for you? Please tick *all* that apply.**

- Ramped pedestrian access from the Horse Fair
- Hearing loop
- Gas central heating to radiators throughout the building
- Hot water to cloakroom and kitchen
- Storage so chairs/tables could be removed from the hall during activities
- Outside lighting
- Better car park surfacing & improved drainage
- Disability access to building
- Better/brighter décor in the hall - Improve aesthetic appearance
- Improved LED lighting
- Super-fast Broadband helps with my business use of the hall
- Installation of projector and screen will enhance my meeting experience
- Improved kitchen facilities
- Disabled friendly toilets
- Baby changing facilities

**6a. Are there any other improvements you would like to see?**

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**7. Pre-Covid, we held coffee mornings for members monthly, would you like to see coffee mornings held more frequently? If so, how often?**

- Weekly
- Fortnightly

**8. Do you have any other comments?**  
*(continue on a separate sheet if required)*

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**9. What would you like to do at the Holly Tree Club?**

**9a. Question 2 includes a list of groups that already meet at the HTC, but what would you like to do there when HTC is allowed to open again? Some of our suggestions are below. Tick *all* the ones you might be interested in.**

- Board Games Club (general or specific Scrabble/ Backgammon clubs etc.)
- Mah Jong Club
- Chess Club
- Book clubs and reading groups
- Choir/drama groups
- Family Film nights - convert your home cine films and show them to your family in a 'home cinema' night out!
- Bingo night
- Your suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_

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**9b) In the second phase of redevelopment, we will be adding a full kitchen and new cloakroom facilities and therefore be able to offer even more activities. Here are some suggestions for activities once the second phase is complete.**

*Tick **all** the ones you might be interested in.*

- Lunch Club
- Supper Club
- Events with buffet and bar
- Licensed bar
- Small parties
- Funeral wakes
- Christening parties

**9c) Do you have any other ideas/ suggestions - we want to hear what YOU would like.**

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**10. It would also help us if you would be willing to answer the following questions to help us gauge the demographic of our responders:**

*Please tick **all** those that apply*

Do you live alone?

Yes  No

Do you have family close by?  
(within 10 minutes drive)

Yes  No

Do you have easy access to a garden/  
outdoor space?

Yes  No

Do you have a car which you drive?

Yes  No

Do you have a hearing difficulty?

Yes  No

Do you use a walking aid of any sort?

Yes  No

**Your age group - please tick.**

- |         |                          |       |                          |
|---------|--------------------------|-------|--------------------------|
| Under 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 45-54 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6-11    | <input type="checkbox"/> | 55-64 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 12-16   | <input type="checkbox"/> | 65-74 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 17-25   | <input type="checkbox"/> | 75-84 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 26-34   | <input type="checkbox"/> | 85-90 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 35-44   | <input type="checkbox"/> | 90+   | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Thank you so much for taking the time to answer our questions. It really will help when we submit grant applications for the funding – Follow our progress in the Deddington News!

Additional forms are available from [Secretary@TheHollyTreeClub.Org](mailto:Secretary@TheHollyTreeClub.Org) or by calling 07986 141 291. Or complete the on-line version at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/JCLCKN6>

**How to Return forms;**

Drop box in the Deddington Church porch. By post to The Secretary, College Farm Cottage, 5 Hopcraft Lane, Deddington OX15 0TD. Or on e-mail to [Secretary@TheHollyTreeClub.Org](mailto:Secretary@TheHollyTreeClub.Org)

**Closing date for returning questionnaires Saturday 15th May 2021**

## NEWS FROM HEMPTON

Good news has been in short supply of late but there were moments of joy amongst the gloom. Andrea and Pete Churchyard produced a daughter, born in February and so did Catherine and Henry White, born 26 February. Congratulations and welcome to the world.

Hempton bade farewell to a cherished resident, Phillip Dodd, who died on 23 March aged 83. He was a tractor fan and a magnificent cortege of vintage tractors escorted him from Hempton church to his final rest with his own grey Fergie leading the way. We offer our condolences to the Dodd family.

During the pandemic residents have been not only working from home but also worshipping from home. The Revd Annie has glad tidings; services at St John's Hempton will resume in May at 9:00am on the third Sunday of every month. To avoid the fate that nearly befell St John's in the eighties; use it or lose it.

Looking for that special wedding car? You could not do better than hire a chauffeur-driven classic VW camper van from the Cotswold Camper Van Company based here in Hempton. Don't take my word for it; they have just picked up the award for 'Best Wedding Transport in the UK for Customer Service' by *Guides for Brides*.

Archaeological evidence suggests that Hempton (defined nominally within a radius of one mile of the village) has been the habitat of humans over a period of about 3,000 years and, by conjecture, possibly 4,500 years or more.

Ilbury Hill fort provides the earliest evidence of settlement in the area during the Iron Age – between 800 BCE and 100 CE. Many hill forts were developed from earlier Bronze Age settlements. They were typically small palisaded hilltop enclosures and, whilst no supporting evidence has been found, there may have been a settlement during that epoch from 2,500 BCE. (This was the time of the Egyptian Old Kingdom, the building of the pyramids and the construction of Stonehenge.)

It is not known when Ilbury Fort originated, for how long or whether it was continually occupied. It is a univallate fort, meaning it has a single rampart and is typical of early examples of 800 to 400 BCE. After 400 BCE many hill forts were abandoned and a number of more elaborate ones developed with additional ramparts. Ilbury may have been abandoned.

Although originating as forts there is little evidence they were actually used as fortifications. There was a great deal of conflict in the period but little evidence of warfare on these sites. Some forts appear to have housed whole communities, whilst others appear to have been used as livestock enclosures and for communal food storage, offering refuge only in times of conflict. They may have had religious significance

or been an expression of tribal prestige. Building and maintaining the ramparts was a significant undertaking, requiring a substantial investment in time and resources.

Surface finds of Iron Age, Romano-British and Medieval artefacts in and around Ilbury Fort suggest it may have been used continually or intermittently throughout those periods.

Many forts existed alongside open farmsteads. Romano-British finds at Blackingrove Farm have been described as sufficient to suggest a village settlement at some point between 100 and 450 AD. Rural life in Roman times differed little from that of Iron Age and Early Medieval periods. Round houses continued to be the typical accommodation; villas, baths and central heating were enjoyed only by those of high status or the wealthy. The term 'black' in the place name Blackingrove may indicate that the site was destroyed by fire, possibly by raiding Saxons or peasants rebelling against their harsh overlords.

A small settlement at Ilbury on the South Brook is recorded in the Domesday Book. The origins are unknown and may have been a continuation of Iron Age settlement in the area. The village was eventually abandoned and only traces remain. Many Medieval settlements were abandoned following depopulation after the Black Death 1348–1352 CE. Banbury was heavily affected by the plague losing perhaps 50% of the townsfolk. Other factors may have been responsible or in combination resulted in its demise.

The end of the Medieval Warm Period gave way to a period of sustained periods of bad weather, 1310–1330 CE and the Great Famine of 1315–1317 CE. Food became scarce and insufficient to sustain the population that had grown rapidly during the preceding warm period starting in 1050 CE. Migration in search of work, better reward for labour, clearance and enclosure may also have been factors.

An estate plan of 1619 shows a mill to the south west of the Ilbury village site on South Brook but there is little visible evidence. It may have been a remnant of the Medieval village but is not mentioned in Domesday or in the later Hundred Rolls survey of 1279 and was possibly built later.

Then there is the existing Hempton village. Apart from the surviving 17th and 18th century buildings and the well opposite the church, nothing to my knowledge survives from an earlier period although it seems likely there has been a significant settlement here since before the Norman Conquest as it is listed in Domesday.

**Stuart Oldham**  
01869 338147

[sj\\_oldham@btinternet.com](mailto:sj_oldham@btinternet.com)

## HOLLY TREE CLUB

We are very excited to let our members and users know that we expect work on the Holly Tree Club to be completed by late May. As yet, we are undecided as to when we will re-open the hall. Much will depend on the further relaxation of the current Covid restrictions and we will be in touch with our existing users as soon as we are able once the decision on a date for re-opening has been made.

The renovation and improvement work has continued. We now have a very smart, fully restored parquet floor in the hall which will be decorated, along with the kitchen and cloakroom, by the time you read this.

A ramp has been installed from the pedestrian gate in Horse Fair to aid those with mobility problems and ground works in the car park and vehicular access will be carried out before the end of May, which will improve the area greatly during the winter months.

Underpinning work to the north wall of the hall is still going on. However, the retaining wall to keep the garden from making the hall wall damp again has been built, with a very nice ramp up to the Holly Tree Cottages which will make it much easier for the residents to access the hall and village.

You will see in the centre pages a questionnaire that we would urge all readers of the *DN* to complete and return to us please. It is imperative for our next stage of fundraising to know what the community wants from the building and how you see the phase 2

work enabling more activities at the Holly Tree Club. So please take part and help us to provide what you, the community, wants.

As we bring phase 1 to a close, it is incumbent on me to thank Deddington parish council for providing the vast majority of the funding for the work we have been able to carry out to date. Thanks also to the Deddington Housing Association for their generous donation.

This has been critical in order to fully renovate the hall, a valuable parish asset located in the heart of the village. With the work carried out to date, the hall will now be able to serve the next generation of Deddington residents, as it has for the last 60 years.

**Revd Annie Goldthorp, Chair**

## TALES FROM THE PUMP



'What are you moaning about now,' said Dave. I realised that for once this wasn't directed at me but at George sitting with his group at the table outside the pub. I delivered the tray with their three Hookies and a Guinness. 'Do you know that when you use your Nectar card all your purchases are recorded? We just had a message from Sainsbury's saying we were in the top ten of Hooky bottled beer purchasers in the Banbury store.' He looked

at me apologetically. 'Only 'cos you were shut down, Grumpy. That was embarrassing enough but it could have been my haemorrhoid cream or something.' 'It's another case of Big Brother,' said Reg, nodding philosophically. 'Before long They will know when you've been to the loo and what you've had for breakfast.' 'This is all very interesting boys but is anyone paying for these drinks?', I said, brandishing the card reader.

'My round,' said John. 'I suppose these drinks will be on my record for life once I use this card', he moaned. 'Just the payment', I said, 'but at one time we did have customers who would keep a tab and pay at the end of the week. They packed it in when their wives spotted the tab and realised how much they were quaffing. The whole Big Brother thing has come to the fore with Covid', I went on. 'There's little doubt that pubs have been made scapegoats and blamed for Covid transmissions without any real evidence and despite all the money spent on screening, signage and social distancing. And the next idea from the powers-that-be is to insist that pubs display calorie counts on all alcoholic products and on the beer pumps.' Fred sat back and rested his glass on his considerable paunch and said, 'I wouldn't have a clue what a calorie count is and anyway we can't get near the pumps these days.'

**Grumpy Landlord**

[Grumpylandlord1@gmail.com](mailto:Grumpylandlord1@gmail.com)

### LIFE IN A SPIN

*the funny and riveting revelations of an ex-Army and international helicopter pilot now living in Deddington*

**by Nick Mylne**

**'This is an entertaining read. A "must" for fellow aviators!'**

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The British  
Helicopter  
Association

Nick Mylne spent 30 years flying in the commercial and the military worlds, followed by 20 years teaching Aviation Law and Human Performance and Limitations at Oxford Aviation and L3 Harris Aviation Academies.

ISBN 978-1-913567-59-0

On sale now as a paperback or ebook from [www.theconradpress.com](http://www.theconradpress.com), Amazon and other outlets

## LETTERS

FROM CHRISTOPHER HALL AND  
DIANA MARSHALL

Christian Aid is indebted to the DN team for delivering this year's Christian Aid Week envelope to every home. Deddington has an enviable reputation for raising more than £2,000 each year. Even during the lockdown last year, 29 generous supporters gave more than £1,400 online with a further £240 in Gift Aid.

This year, because of Covid, envelopes will not be collected but can be dropped off at Hamptons or The Duke, Clifton. However, each envelope has this weblink, [www.bit.ly/DtonCAW](http://www.bit.ly/DtonCAW), and also a QR code giving smartphones and tablets direct access to the Deddington CAW online giving page without waiting for the Giving Week to begin. The small print on the envelopes says 'Christian Aid works with people in poverty, regardless of religion, race or gender', supported by donors of every race and gender, of every faith and none. Together this year may we set a new record for our generosity? The online giving page reports on our progress towards, and beyond, our £2,000 target.

FROM ZAIN RAJABALI, DEDDINGTON

MediPill Pharmacy will be opening its doors from 4 May as the new owners of your local pharmacy in Deddington.

As a new starter, MediPill Pharmacy has acquired Delmergate Pharmacy in Deddington.



Please address all letters to:  
JILL CHEESEMAN  
37 THE DAEDINGS, DEDDINGTON  
[letters@deddingtonnews.co.uk](mailto:letters@deddingtonnews.co.uk)  
and include your name and address  
even if they are not for publication

MediPill Pharmacy will be introducing a range of new pharmacy services in the near future for the benefit of our patients and the local community. It is important to note that there will be no disruption to patient deliveries and opening times will remain the same.

As the new owner I have already been working at the pharmacy where some of you may have come across

me.

I look forward to becoming involved with the local community and getting to know the parish better.

FROM A. FLUMMOXED, DEDDINGTON

(name and address provided)

I expect some people are wondering how on earth a licence to place six picnic tables in front of a Market Place pub has been granted.

It appears that Cherwell District Council's licensing department was overruled by Oxfordshire County Council, with the subsequent quite predictable outcome. I am sure it won't be long before cars will be obliged to mount even more kerbs and grassed areas.

Whilst we all support local businesses and are sympathetic to the loss of revenue during lockdown, it seems crazy that the public parking space in the Market Place has been so dramatically reduced for a long period.

I wonder how much public consultation took place.



Thanks to the merry band of chefs, Alex Moss, Al Kitchen, Daire Dowling, David Westbury, Fi, Eloise and Nick Smith and Mike and Sue O'Brien, who gave up

some of their Easter Sunday to cook up a feast for all those who were going to be on their own. Also thanks to those who helped deliver the meals. **JC**

<https://www.deddington.org.uk/>

Follow us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/deddingtononline](https://www.facebook.com/deddingtononline) and Twitter @DeddiOnLine

Reopen at last! In April the Windmill welcomed back some of the babies' and children's groups – so good to see you.

All being well, from 17 May, we will be opening the doors to all our regular groups as well as some interesting new ones including, amongst others, art classes, circuit training and sound meditation. Check our website or Facebook page for further details.

Initially, there will still be some Covid restrictions on indoor activities. Any adult meetings that do not come under the umbrella of 'sports activities' will be subject to the 'rule of 6'. More generally, we need you all to continue wearing face masks in communal areas, washing hands and social distancing. Let's continue to help keep each other safe.

In other developments, and as part of the parish council and Windmill management committee's ongoing commitment to develop and improve our



community facilities, we can now offer The Lookout (aka the old Bowls Pavilion) as a new space for hire.

The Lookout is a perfect base for a children's party, making use of the nearby adventure playground or all-weather court. We are

also hoping somebody might want to use it as a pop-up venue for selling drinks and snacks to the many families who enjoy themselves at the Windmill Park. Any takers? Please get in touch.

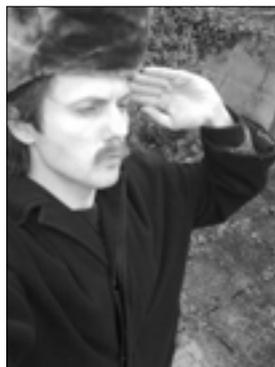
Finally, can I appeal again to anyone out there who would like to join our management committee? We need you to help us run and develop the Windmill. It's a great way to get involved in village life and, in the words of that well-worn cliché, 'give something back'. I look forward to hearing from you.

**Vaughan Jones, Chair**  
[vaughan@englishlanguagematters.com](mailto:vaughan@englishlanguagematters.com)

## BLISSFUL THINKING

How long has it been now? So long that I have had time to formulate and compose a new grand unified theory of physics which I read from mysterious runes that appeared on my wall after staring at it for hours on end. It postulates that the dimension of time behaves like a rubber band: when a particular cycle has played out, the timeline itself will snap back to its own beginnings and collapse everything that has occurred in a standard linear fashion up until that point, taking with it the universe and everything in it with a twang. It may sound stupid but I produced many passionate YouTube videos on the subject and have amassed thousands of devotees as a result.

Yet now that lockdown is easing somewhat, I



find it more difficult to communicate on a personal social level, because it takes so many more words to convey meaning than it does with memes. Isolation and technology did not quite lead to the fusion of man with machine but a true cyberpunk age was definitely edging closer and is surely inevitable in the near future. Despite its romantic ideals, we would certainly need to work on organising ourselves a little more equitably and sustainably, lest we are stricken with a race of manacled biomechanical cannibals. Anyway, I'm off to take full advantage of our cautious freedoms to have my paper peer-reviewed before I snap.

**Aaron Bliss**  
[aaronjbliss@hotmail.com](mailto:aaronjbliss@hotmail.com)

## HELP FOR UNPAID CARERS

Carers Oxfordshire is a free service championing the needs of unpaid adult carers in the county. It provides a wide range of services including help for carers in accessing the support to which they are entitled, navigating what can be a confusing system of public benefits, offering bespoke training courses and helping carers find ways to care for themselves as they care for someone else through local carers' support groups. Services are provided under contract by Action for Carers and Rethink Mental Illness who are now re-

sponsible for the whole support process, eliminating the need to go to the council to continue the process of accessing the support that they were entitled to. Carers Oxfordshire is also now able to give support to parent carers, those who are aged 18 and over and care for a disabled child.

To find out more call the Carers Oxfordshire team on 01235 424715 or email [carersinfo@carersoxfordshire.org.uk](mailto:carersinfo@carersoxfordshire.org.uk).

## NEWS FROM CLIFTON

I think we can all be confident that the light in the darkness ahead of us isn't a train coming to smash us but, as many of our arms ache from jabs, we can see the brighter days outside of this Covid tunnel.

The Duck is planning to open this month and Book Club is back on a nomadic basis to any venue with a fire pit and enough room to sit at a distance. More walkers are travelling our many footpaths while they look adoringly at the lambs (some of which are a day old) produced by the Fenemores while their ancestors' appear at the farmers market that keeps so many of us in Lower Larkrise busy on one Saturday morning each month.

We have two sets of new residents that this correspondent knows of. One pair was located via a Facebook exchange about our lack of gas (the home fuel variety – not the too-much-beer variety) and this correspondent was too slow to ask for details. The others, James and Fernando, only became known to this correspondence as a result of them visiting the 'other local', on the other side of the county line. If I could request a quick bio from them both for inclusion in the next issue they will, first, become better known to their neighbours and more easily welcomed into the bosom of this fabulous community and, second, give some actual facts to include in this column next month.

But until facts cloud my prose too much, can I encourage our residents to keep the pictures flooding into the library's photo competition to ensure Lower Larkrise features on many of your walls next year? We have past winners down here, I can tell you.

Finally, talk is rife of our retirement from Una Stubbs. Some of us feel we have climbed the glorious heights of successive promotions and winning away in Candleford so perhaps the time to hang up our sticks is nigh. However, if any of you feel you want to take up the cudgel please get in touch and the glory can be rekindled.

Any news – you know what to do – because this is even thinner than last month.

**Martin Bryce**

[martindnbryce@gmail.com](mailto:martindnbryce@gmail.com)

## DEDDINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL



The children have continued to flourish back at school with their peers and teachers. Interesting and exciting work has begun again with all classes involved in new learning, working on history-based topics such as the Greeks, Victorians and Tudors. We have had trained Activators working

alongside classes in outdoor learning and activities, teaching new games to the children on the playground and introducing different pastimes. Swimming sessions have started up again and children in Year 4 have loved the opportunity to develop their skills, increase their exercise and have some time for relaxation. We are looking forward to starting more activities in Term 5 when hockey and tennis will begin.

We are pleased to announce that some after school activities will begin again next term, including musical theatre sessions with Alicia and Seb and football for Years 5 and 6 pupils with Adam Bradley. It will be lovely to see these sessions happening once more, after a 12 month hiatus.

On the last day before the Easter break, we held an outdoor assembly led by Mr Evans and Revd Annie. With socially distanced classes in different areas of the playground the children sang songs. It was wonderful to end the term on a positive note and we are looking forward to the summer term with great anticipation and motivation.

**Denise Welch**

[dwel3954@deddington.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:dwel3954@deddington.oxon.sch.uk)



### PARENTS and GRANDPARENTS

Ask your young people\* about giving **GOLF** a try

**Let them come and enjoy our free taster afternoon and hit some balls!**

- Sunday, 23rd May 2021
- 12 noon - 3pm
- Equipment provided (sanitised)
- PGA professional on hand to help and guide

Please call the number below to book your arrival time or to speak with our PGA Professionals who can answer any questions you may have:

**01608 737278**

[marcwheeler@tadmartongolf.com](mailto:marcwheeler@tadmartongolf.com)

Tadmarton Heath Golf Club,  
Wiggington, Banbury, OX15 5HL

*\*Girls & Boys under 18*

## FRIENDS OF DAEDA'S WOOD

The Woodland Trust set up an informative seminar recently which examined the latest findings about ash dieback disease. Whilst there is currently a good deal of research on and development of resistant cultivars, the results are unlikely to be known for at least ten years.

An approach to the management of the disease involves removing affected trees which might fall on roads and block footpaths. Such measures are not necessary at Daeda's Wood since the trees are relatively small and pose no such threat. The management of the wood ensures that debris is removed from the rides.

It is considered to be good practice to wear special footwear to prevent the spread, as spores of the disease are in the leaf litter around the trees. Of course it also makes sense not to take any plant matter to our own gardens. It is hoped that natural selection will eventually produce young trees which have adapted to their environment and develop a resistance to the disease. The problem lies not in the seed stock but in the growing conditions when young trees are grown abroad and imported. For more information look on the Woodland Trust's website,

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/>. For information about the Friends of Daeda's Wood please contact me.

**Annette Murphy, Chair**  
[murphyannette74@gmail.com](mailto:murphyannette74@gmail.com)

## FRIENDS OF THE CASTLE GROUNDS

Now things are finally opening up, let's look forward to spring and summer.

We had our annual general meeting by Zoom in March. All officers were re-elected apart from Jean Welford, our subscriptions secretary, who unfortunately has decided to stand down after many years but is still going to stay involved. Thank you, Jean, for all your time and help.

There were a few problems at the Grounds. During the good weather five or six fires were lit and, on one occasion, the fire brigade was called, resulting in the trees having to be cut back to allow easier access. With more people using the site, cans and bottles have been a problem, so more bins were installed. If you visit the Castle Grounds please take your rubbish home with you.

This year has been quite dry and the paths have established themselves. There is a new one running along the top of the north bank and it is lovely to see it being so well used. The plan for the path by the badger setts is to put heavy logs with wedges along the line of the path to prevent the earth going into the ditch allowing the path to re-establish itself.

With the lighter nights and, hopefully, warmer weather arriving, come and enjoy this wonderful space which we are so lucky to have.

**Carol Garrett**  
[cgarrett@btinternet.com](mailto:cgarrett@btinternet.com)





## Thinking of selling your Jewellery?

Mallams specialist Louise Dennis FGA DGA, is available to give **free** confidential valuations on any piece(s) you are considering selling at auction.

**Home visits also available**

Enquiries: 01865 241 358  
or [louise.dennis@mallams.co.uk](mailto:louise.dennis@mallams.co.uk)  
**[www.mallams.co.uk](http://www.mallams.co.uk)**

## CALLING ALL CLUBS

### Adderbury, Deddington and District Photographic Society

After a second lockdown AGM, via Zoom, we welcomed a new treasurer, Nick Hardwick and Colin Lamb as programme secretary. Our thanks went to the retiring officers, Diana Saville and Maureen Robinson, who have done an excellent job during exceedingly difficult times. All voting on the resolutions was completed online and there was a 67% turnout, which was remarkable, so thank you to the membership.

Sticking with tradition, we then had the 'What is it?' competition. Thirty-nine entries meant great concentration was required to try and decide what the close-up image depicted. Miggy Wild came out as a super sleuth correctly guessing twenty-two objects. If you want to see if you can beat that score, check the website for the slide show; some images are extremely tricky. Anyway, we had a good natter and catch-up discussing the results.

Our next presentation evening on Zoom is on 5 May at 7.30pm when Tony Bramley (Light Academy) will be talking about 'Inspiration'. You are most welcome to join us. Have a look at our website .

**Anne Hunsley**  
[www.addphoto.co.uk](http://www.addphoto.co.uk)

### Bookworms

It is interesting to note that sales of the Penguin edition of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* rose 22% in 2020. Could this be because life in lockdown could be compared to that depicted in Jane Austen's novels – people spending more time in nature and going for more walks?

Unfortunately, we felt that *Persuasion* was not of the same standard as Austen's previous works. This was the last book she wrote before her death at the age of 41 and published posthumously in 1818. Never edited, it is hard to follow at the beginning, with extraordinarily long sentences and an ending that could be more concise. There were high expectations but the group did not enjoy this book; in fact, only one stoic member got to the end. However, true to a good book group, we still found plenty to talk about.

Our next book is *My Name is Leon* by Kit De Waal.  
**Deddington Library**

### Book Group

Finnish author, Tove Jansson, is best known in the UK as the creator of the Moomin children's series. However, *The Summer Book* was written for adults. It comprises vignettes of life on a tiny island where Sophia, a small girl whose mother has died, spends every summer with her father and grandmother. The stories concentrate on the interaction between Sophia and her grandmother, their small adventures, bursts of creativity, discussions about nature and life. There are no dramatic plot lines but the relationship be-

tween these two quite feisty characters is simply and beautifully conveyed with gentle humour and without sentimentality. Vivid descriptions of the flora and fauna of the island add to the atmosphere of a leisurely and secluded world. This is quite a short book (174 pages) and we found it an easy and delightful read.

Our next choice is *Death in the Dordogne* by Martin Walker. Please contact Sally Lambert on 01869 338094 for more information.

**Sian Waterman**

### Royal British Legion

The centenary of the founding of the Royal British Legion is on 15 May. Sadly, any events to mark the day have had to be suspended. The centenary of our Deddington Branch is in 2025.

**Rob Forsyth, Chairman**  
**01869 338384**  
[robert.s.forsyth@gmail.com](mailto:robert.s.forsyth@gmail.com)

## SPORT

### Deddington Tennis Club

The tennis club successfully reopened on 29 March. There are some very happy, if slightly rusty, tennis players making use of our court facilities.

Individual and group coaching has begun again, with the junior groups restarting on 19 April. We are once again running a programme with Deddington Primary School to make sure all the children get a chance to try tennis as part of their school PE lessons.

For further information about adult and junior coaching, please contact Paul Taylor, [paultaylor@tennis@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:paultaylor@tennis@hotmail.co.uk).

We have three 'All Play All' friendly sessions running during the week, one in place of our usual social club night, which we have not yet reinstated due to Covid restrictions. Our teams have resumed matches and we are hoping to repeat some of the successes of last season in summer 2021. You can find more information about the social sessions, the teams and how to become a member on our website. . There is also information on there about how to book a court.

We're delighted to be able to welcome players back to courts again. However, we ask everyone to please bear in mind the guidelines for playing tennis safely – respecting any restrictions that are in place about group sizes, observing social distance before, during and after playing and using hand sanitiser.

Hope to see you on court soon.

**Becky Jones**  
[www.deddingtontennis.com](http://www.deddingtontennis.com)

### Deddington Original Golf Society (DOGS)

With golf back in full swing DOGS are looking forward to their first event of 2021 at Leamington Spa Golf Club on Friday 4 June, with supper and prize-giving back in

**SPORT** *Continued from p15*

Deddington. Leamington is a very welcoming club and the course makes the most of the beautiful Warwickshire countryside. Please email me if you want to join DOGS - only a tenner a year – or if you would like to come along as a guest to Leamington Spa.

**Nigel Oddy, Secretary**  
[nigeloddy@yahoo.com](mailto:nigeloddy@yahoo.com)

**Deddington Town Football Club***First Team results*

12.12.20	Kings Sutton (a)	L 2–4
19.12.20	Charlton & District	L 2–3

*Reserve Team results*

12.12.20	Longford Park (h)	L 0–2
19.12.20	Wroxton Sports (h)	L 0–8

Some up-front honesty initially from your intrepid correspondent: I have no idea what the hell is happening with the season. There are clearly not enough weekends left to complete home fixture commitments before cricket season begins but that didn't stop both sides sneaking in a couple of cheeky fixtures prior to Christmas and the winter lockdown. Sadly, all of these fixtures resulted in defeats, with the Reserves/Latics conceding ten without reply. The games will presumably come thick and fast now, though whether they will mean anything before time runs out is anyone's guess at this stage.

**Aaron Bliss**  
**07909 642882**

**Deddington Town FC youth**

Youth football is back! All our teams started training and playing matches from 30 March – the first time we have been back since before Christmas. The Under 14s returned with a 3–0 win at Freeland, followed by a 4–2 home defeat to Witney Vikings. The Under 12s had a narrow 4–3 defeat at Chadlington, with Theo Flint scoring two goals. All the other teams continue to play in the FA Foundation Phase Football from Under 7s up to Under 11s and are excited to be back playing. The Windmill Centre is a hive of activity on Saturday mornings with Under 7 and Under 6 training and matches for Under 8s and Under 11s.

We will continue to play matches until early June 2021 and then start to prepare for the 2021/22 season over the summer months.

*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 on our website – [www.deddingtontownfc/](http://www.deddingtontownfc/) or visit us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/DeddingtonTownFc](https://www.facebook.com/DeddingtonTownFc).

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

**YOUTH****1st Deddington Scout Group***Cubs*

We finished the spring term by completing the disability awareness badge. Two ladies from The Guide Dog Association joined our Zoom meeting and told the Cubs all about their organisation and how the dogs assist the blind in everyday life. None of the Cubs asked how the dog can drive the car, which is, apparently, a common question. We also looked at Braille, learnt to sign the Cub Promise, drew a picture using our mouths and, thanks to their parents, hunted for, unwrapped and ate an Easter egg wearing big gloves. Hopefully, the Cubs gained an insight into the lives of disabled people.

**Jo Churchyard**  
[deddingtoncubs@gmail.com](mailto:deddingtoncubs@gmail.com)

*Scouts*

After the success of the fire safety badge, the Scouts looked at the topic of gender as part of their world challenge. We tackled stereotypical attitudes to jobs, sports and toys – it was interesting to compare their attitudes with mine, coming from a different generation. We also tried to find out the historical basis of 'pink for a girl, blue for a boy', interesting, look it up.

**Peter Churchyard**  
[deddingtonscouts@gmail.com](mailto:deddingtonscouts@gmail.com)

*Explorers*

Hooray, we can now meet face-to-face and some people will have grown in the last year.

Before Easter we completed lots of badges with three members of the unit gaining their Chief Scout's Platinum Award. It's amazing what we've managed to do during this lockdown period.

We're looking forward to being taught how to do coding by one of our members after the break and then to actually seeing one another. Our virtual walking for Street Child United – [www.streetchildunited.org](http://www.streetchildunited.org) – has got us as far as Sarajevo. Everyone is busy adding miles, getting fit and having their families join in as well: a great activity.

If you are interested in joining the unit contact any of the leaders at [spartanexplorers@gmail.com](mailto:spartanexplorers@gmail.com).

**Janet Duxbury**

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