

July 2021

The **DEDDINGTON NEWS**



Delivered free to Deddington, Clifton and Hempton

THE TEAM

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COVER

Steve Waterman

The DEDDINGTON NEWS

Ho hum! All good things come to an end but it is harder to say goodbye to some than others.

Since May 1995 George Fenemore has educated and entertained DN's readers. He has given us a day-to-day view of life as a family farmer and how the wider world affects his operations – from flood-creating planning decisions up-river and the Green Mafia's regulations and ill-conceived incentive programmes, to market fluctuations, trade deals with countries having lower welfare standards, and the big unpredictable, the weather.

He has chronicled the changes in farming practices from his youth, taught us how food production can co-exist with supporting wildlife and about nature as it really is – fox predations on lambs and badgers on hives. He has rightfully chided some of us on ignoring the Country Code.

He has also entertained us with stories of raft expeditions to rescue sheep looking for greener grass across the river and puppies learning where it is painful to stick one's nose. Every year we have been reacquainted with the Green Goddess and lamented the ever-increasing electronic complexity (and price) of farm equipment. Mention has been made of Her on the Inside.

We have followed the third generation's success, winning Shepherd of the Year in three successive years at Moreton Show and growing into the Farm Student. And on and on ...

Thank you, George, for the great gift of your erudition and grumpy humour for so many years.

We wish you a happy deadline-free future.

CD

WHAT'S ON

July

Mon 5 Bookworms
Wed 7 Photographic Society: Please check website for details
Sun 18 Deddington Original Golf Society: Belton Woods
Thu 22 Book Group: Contact Sally Lambert on 01869 338094 for details
Sat 24 Farmers' Market: Market Place, 9.00am–12.30pm

August

Mon 2 Bookworms
Wed 4 Photographic Society: Please check website for details
Fri 13 FODL: Photo competition deadline
Thu 26 Book Group: Contact Sally Lambert on 01869 338094 for details
Sat 28 Farmers' Market: Market Place, 9.00am–12.30pm

September

Sat 4 Parish Show

Cover. Steve Waterman's picture this month is of the Tchure. The bridge on the May cover was erroneously identified as Bowman's bridge. The error was spotted by both Steve and Bryony Fenemore. The May bridge is actually the bridge over the Swere in Barford St Michael, currently under repair, on which topic see pg 13.

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

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DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Church, 23 June

Present: Councillors Collins, Eames, O'Neill, Robinson, Rogers (chair), Snashall, Squires, Swadling, Timms, Watts, County Councillor Fatemian, District Councillor Williams, the parish clerk and five members of the public from Hempton.

Open Forum: All five Hempton residents addressed the issue of accidents at the pinch point where a truck from Deddington failed to stop and overturned, hitting an oncoming car. Fortunately there were no injuries. A near miss between a bus and a cyclist was also reported. Speed was frequently identified as a cause, together with poor placement of signage, obscured by vegetation. Proposed solutions ranged from converting the yield sign to a stop sign and police enforcement of the speed limit, 30 mph being regarded as too high. Cllr Fatemian responded that he would request additional signage and vegetation clearance to be followed by a speed survey, probably in autumn, and subsequent consultation with residents.

County Councillor's report

Cllr Fatemian expressed his gratitude at being re-elected for a further four years. He noted that the changed party composition of the council could have significant effect on the availability of funds but confirmed the availability of £1,000 from his Priority Fund towards the insurance and other costs of the annual Remembrance Day parade.

He asked the PC to consider the extent to which it wished to be involved with the development of the proposed M40-Rail freight interchange at junction 10 on the west side of the motorway between Ardley to the north, Middleton Stoney to the south and Upper Heyford to the west. The proposed development comprises a rail freight terminal and warehousing south of and adjacent to the Chiltern rail line providing up to 75,000 square metres.

To support this, a number of road improvements is being considered, including a reconfigured junction 10 on the M40; a bypass to the east of Ardley, as the main access linking J10 to the facility; a relief road to the north east of Middleton Stoney between the B430 and B4030; and a secondary access via a new Heyford Park link between the B430 and Heyford Park.

The proposal is being considered as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project and the PC has no decision-making role but can comment on its impact locally.

District Councillor's report

Bryn Williams thanked voters for his re-election.

Finance and General Purposes

Up to £1,000 was approved for covering any shortfall

in restoring the war memorial, should the community appeal fail to raise sufficient funds.

£1,000 was approved for renting two Portaloos at the Windmill for a four week trial, with the option of extension to a total of ten weeks over the summer holidays as an emergency measure while the Windmill's own facilities are unavailable.

Planning

No objection

Grove Lodge, High Street, Deddington: proposed loft conversion with associated internal and external works.

Appletrees, Hopcraft Lane, Deddington: demolition of existing double length concrete garage and erection of replacement one and a half-length wooden garage set 4 metres further back from the front boundary.

Commercial Storage Building, Clifton Road, Deddington: change of use to allow use as private personal training studio.

Land South of Home Farmhouse, Clifton Road: application for the erection of 15 dwellings, 10 open market dwellings and 5 affordable dwellings. Affordable housing is not tenure blind and units should be mixed among market housing. PC would like to discuss village boundary features with OCC/developer and suggests reinstatement of band of trees screening development and storage unit on the adjacent property.

5 Flux Drive, Deddington: convert half of detached garage to office.

Manor Farmhouse, Main Street, Clifton: conversion of existing barn from office to domestic workshop and accommodation, remove lean-to and replace with new greenhouse and minor alterations.

Windmill Community Centre, Hempton Road, Deddington: internal reconfiguration.

Environment and Recreation

Four sites at Castle End, Goose Green, Oxford Road and Windmill Street were left unmown from May to mid-June. Wildlife volunteers from Deddington Environment Network found 23 wildflowers, including a budding bee orchid (unfortunately mown before it could fully flower). This is lower than the national average for wildflowers in verges. If the experiment is repeated and refined (possibly planting bulbs for spring pollinators to enjoy) it should encourage biodiversity in the parish. There is interest from the Friends of Castle Grounds, Brownies and Rainbows and numerous individuals to get involved. Not everyone supported the experiment and all views will be considered as the plan develops, including closer liaison with contractors on detailed mowing plans and dates for achieving the best results.

These Parish Council notes are the view of our reporter, Catherine Desmond, and not the official minutes. For those, go to <http://www.deddingtonparishcouncil.org/2021.html>

DAEDA'S WOOD IS 25 YEARS OLD!



Photo courtesy of Nick Hardwick

Once a nine-acre field of waving corn, Daeda's Wood is now a spread of 3,500 maturing trees; a stretch of path for the less able-bodied to stroll more easily down to the boundary river Swere; a couple of seats; and open areas that are a tangle of wildflowers in season.

Daeda's Wood was the first in the Woods on Your Doorstep millennium project, sponsored by the Woodland Trust with financial backing from the Millennium Commission and supporters such as Cherwell District Council ... and not least the parishioners of Deddington. In order to qualify £9,000 had to be raised in a very few weeks. With the target in sight Deddington Parish Council underwrote the shortfall.

Volunteers – well over 100 of them – turned out with their spades for the tree-planting in near blizzard conditions in November 1996. A few months later, in rather friendlier conditions, they were out there again sowing seeds for the wildflower areas. Soon after this the Friends of Daeda's Wood was born.

The wood's northern boundary is formed by the River Swere. This dictated the riverine nature of the wood and, thus, the trees planted: ash, five species of willow, oak, alder, grey and black poplar, aspen, downy birch, osier, hawthorn, blackthorn and guelder rose. (Some of the oak seedlings originated from the ancient oaks in Windsor Great Park.) Daeda's Wood is no park; it has been allowed to develop as naturally as possible to provide habitat for insects and birds.

Over the years the Friends of Daeda's Wood have helped in maintaining its appearance and welfare, in cooperation with an officer from the Woodland Trust. Sometimes this was no more than straightforward litter removal but, as the trees grew, some woodland

management was required. In 2008 a workshop in woodland management was organised under the guidance of Oxfordshire County Council's Woodland Project director. Following that the Friends organised working parties to prune and thin trees, remove tree guards and rake thatch from the mown meadow. A managed wood is more environmentally friendly: pruning makes for straighter trees, passages for wildlife and a habitat for small mammals and insects.

In 1998 Cherwell District Council organised a Countryside Forum in Deddington that included an exhibition on, and a visit to, Daeda's Wood. This was attended by parish councillors, conservationists, farmers and ramblers. The recognition of Daeda's Wood continued when forestry students from ten countries across four continents attending the Oxford Forestry Institute visited in 2000 to discuss the significance of a community woodland. That year ended with the name of Daeda's Wood echoing round the halls of Westminster. A reception at the Houses of Parliament celebrated the achievement of the Woodland Trust's goal of 200 new woods for the millennium. As the first Wood on Your Doorstep, Daeda's Wood received several honourable mentions, as did the Friends.

There will be more about the fauna and flora in Daeda's Wood and how the wood is used by the community in the September issue of the *Deddington News*. In the meantime, we would love to hear from anyone who has enjoyed the wood over its 25 years – walkers, nature watchers or den builders. Please send your reflections to Alison Day at alisdag@gmail.com.

DOWN ON GEORGE'S FARM

It's that time of year again with the girls wandering around in the buff. By the time this comes to the press the Boys will have the wool in the bag. It's not that long ago that the value of the wool clip covered a large part of the farm rent bill but today it's a liability and shearing is little more than a welfare job.

The Green Goddess has had her annual sort out and is ready for the off but whether I get to fly the old dear remains to be seen. I have been driving combines for over 60 years but now it is a young man's job; everything is electronic and computer controlled, a far cry from the little Massey Harris 726 bagger I drove at the age of 12; but I can still take my turn on the platform when needed.

Despite a difficult winter and dry spring, the crops look well with the wheat in flower and the spring barley 'coming into awn', so harvest is not many weeks away. Just how it will pan out in light of the Australian deal to flood this country with meat and grain, produced to much lower standards than permitted in this country,



with its implications for food hygiene and animal welfare, remains to be seen.

The farmyard wildlife has had a good summer. The house sparrows made good use of the stone barns, as have the swallows, but the swifts and house martins have not arrived this year.

The inspector cometh. As with all things down on the farm there are regulations and always the clipboard inspector, on this occasion to inspect the water meadows to see if they comply with the official definition of wet grassland, so I shall have to be on my best behaviour.

It is more years than I care to remember that I have written this column, but all good things must come to an end. It's time for someone else to take on the challenge of a much changed village, so thank you for your support and comments over the years but it is really time to sign off.

George Fenemore
Home Farm, Clifton
01869 338203

NEWS FROM CLIFTON

Firstly, many thanks to the six neighbours who lamented the absence of this column last month due to no one's fault, simply the vagaries of modern life and technology. So we have a late welcome for new neighbours and apologies for the delay in saying 'hello'. It's great to be able to welcome new neighbours when you consider the terrific ones we already have.

James and Fernando have so far successfully evaded getting in touch so that we can introduce them properly (hope springs eternal) but Imogen and Chris have not. They very kindly contacted this correspondent a few weeks ago (*six months, I heard – Ed*) to say how they would love to help our Covid support team and to introduce their two Italian greyhounds (no names forthcoming). That will be of great interest to our own Italian who loves a friendly dog. Hopefully those of you who have already enjoyed seeing these two will now strike up more and longer conversations with Chris and Imogen knowing they are their owners. Chris has not only joined Book Club (and benefited from a free Jägerbomb) but also joined in Monday night five-a-side, favoured by so many of us down here. He is, however, far too good for many.

Other new neighbours are Bob and Susan who I bumped into only this week as I staggered home from a 5K while they were in their front garden in Main Street. If I have misspelt their names, I apologise, but they haven't yet followed up with a fuller email so that I could check. They are both genuine North Oxfordshire lifetime residents, finally overcome by the pull of Lower Larkrise. As friends of past Duke chef,

André the Czech, with whom they were planning to dine on the evening we met, Lower Larkrise clearly is the place for them. (I am sorry to say André's fabulous dog has died.) Susan and Bob expressed a desire to get involved with the Book and Ladies Sports clubs.

We can also add to our welcome list Sarah and her two black cocker spaniels, one of which is named Flo. Her husband's and second dog's names remain a mystery as he has eluded the draw of Book Club at this email address – but we live in hope ...

Well done and thank you to the Catlins for all they have done for us over the years caring for the pub which reopened the week before you read this. Rebecca and Tim are now able to put their feet up, as they have entrusted the running of the place to a small pub company. They deserve the rest.

Book Club has returned, with a wonderful turnout on the first evening back and a new re-opening feature is 'locals night', with a Sunday quiz. On its inaugural night it was won by a group of campers who took part at the recommendation of a son of the village whose team came in second! Cheap beer and an hour's entertainment was an excellent diversion before the work week ahead. Well done to the staff and our quiz master, Dave 'The Wizard' Darst, with his fabulous new beard. We look forward to the next round just before you read this.

All updates to me please.

Martin Bryce
martindnbryce@gmail.com

CHURCH

Parish Church SS Peter and Paul

The church is open for public worship and services continue to be streamed live. Regrettably the toilets will remain closed until further notice. Please see the church website or FaceBook page for updates, www.deddingtonchurch.org and <https://www.facebook.com/DeddingtonChurch>.

Our new 3 O'Clock service on the first Sunday of every month is for all members of our community, no matter what age. There will be live music and craft activities, along with teatime treats.

Weekday Services

Mon-Fri	8.45am	Morning Prayer
Wed	10.00am	Holy Communion
Thu	9.30am	Tea and Toast and Squiggles and Wiggles. We welcome back parents, carers with babies and toddlers to Tea and Toast at 9.30am followed by Squiggles and Wiggles until 11.30am

JULY

Sun 4	10.30am	Holy Communion
	3.00pm	3 O'Clock Service
	6.00pm	Choral Evensong
Sun 11	8.00am	BCP Communion
	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sun 18	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sun 25	10.30am	Holy Communion

Hempton

Sun 18	9.00am	Holy Communion
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Barford St Michael

Sun 11	9.00am	Communion
Sun 18	10.30am	Family Service

Barford St John

Sun 25	9.00am	Holy Communion
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AUGUST

Sun 1	10.30am	Holy Communion
	3.00pm	3 O'Clock Service
	6.00pm	Choral Evensong
Sun 8	8.00am	BCP Communion
	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sun 15	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sun 22	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sun 29	10.30am	Holy Communion

Hempton

Sun 15	9.00am	Holy Communion
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Barford St Michael

Sun 8	9.00am	Communion
Sun 15	10.30am	Family Service

Barford St John

Sun 22	9.00am	Holy Communion,
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From the Parish Register

Funeral
2 June Peggy Baker

For baptisms, weddings, funerals and home visits, in case of illness, please contact the Vicar, Revd Annie Goldthorp, at 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, Mondays to Fridays; at 10.00am on Saturdays; and 11.15am on Sundays 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.

DEDDINGTON PARISH SHOW

The 2021 Parish Show will held on Saturday 4 September in the parish church

This popular one-day village event will be back to normal, so please support it as an entrant or a spectator.

You have 99 classes to choose from, 15 of which are for children in three age groups. Please get

gardening and creating and bring your efforts along. You will find show programmes in the church porch, the Co-op, and on Deddington OnLine.

Thank you on behalf of the Show committee.

Wendy Burrows
Wendy.burrows536@btinternet.com

A GARDEN WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE

In 1983 a Dominican friar, named Matthew Fox, wrote a book called *Original Blessing* that began with events in the Garden of Eden. A decade later this, and other writings considered heretical by church officials, got him expelled from the order. The book certainly was a different take on the story of creation because Fox rejected the doctrine of Original Sin, replacing it with a belief that Eden and all of nature is God's original and abiding gift.

I thought of his book recently when, with the first sip of morning coffee, I noticed a goldfinch nearby feasting at length on seeds of groundsel that had not yet been 'weeded' from our garden-in-the-making at Middle Yard. Clearly groundsel was a blessing for the goldfinch, not withstanding the plants propensity for running amok. While it was always planned to devote parts of the garden to wildlife, it has not yet been completely clear as to what extent natural plants (aka weeds) would coexist with cultivated varieties. We are coming to the conclusion that if, indeed, we are going to have a garden where wild creatures, many of whose numbers are declining, can thrive, we also need to consider what plants they would choose if choice were theirs.

As it happens, there are lots of volunteer flowering plants, some in the weed category about which we shall learn more before consignment to the brown

bin. Some, of course, are not destined to remain because they do not play well with others. For example, even though damselflies near the pond appear to prefer bindweed leaves to sun themselves on, alas they will have to find another perch. the same goes for ground elder. On the other hand, we have three giant thistles whose pollen, nectar and seeds will be most welcome.

We still don't know exactly how this not-ready-for-Chelsea design is going to work. I have been wondering if the Scandinavian philosophy of 'Lagom' (just enough) might serve as a guide. The argument goes that to have the best life, our wants should not exceed what is actually necessary for happiness, in opposition to those for whom excess is the ever-present objective.

So we will forge ahead and continue to plant what we hope are just enough cultivated ornamental plants to please the eye and fruit and vegetables to meet the needs of the table – and the Head Gardener has given me permission to plant some Chinese Lanterns. So far, the birds, amphibians and beneficial insects are flourishing, doubtless because nature has made most of the choices. If somehow we can reconcile this with the things we choose, maybe the wild things' fare will also be just enough.

Dan Desmond
dessr@outlook.com

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NEWS FROM HEMPTON

Since the last edition of the *DN* roads have been a prominent issue. Concern about traffic speeding through the village and antics at the constriction was heightened by a collision involving a village resident and a pickup truck travelling too fast and entering the constriction without any apparent intention to give way. The pickup, in trying to avoid a head-on collision, partially mounted the verge resulting in it flipping onto its side and hitting the resident's vehicle. Fortunately neither driver was injured. The same cannot be said for the vehicles.

After a deluge of remonstrations by residents, OCC Highways has agreed to install a black box to monitor speed, volume and type of traffic for a seven day period. The results will form the basis for recommended action.

The last review of speed limits on Oxfordshire's A and B roads took place in 2011, using new Department of Transport guidelines. The OCC Highways website appears to indicate that, even if a reduced speed limit were appropriate, it could take years to introduce due to workload, budget and resource constraints.

VAS (vehicle activated signs) have been effective at reducing speeding and might be a useful measure here. However, unless or until there is a record of death or injury, it may be difficult to obtain funding from OCC. VAS signs might be funded by the Parish Council if OCC funding is not made available. We await the outcome and hope our fears of calamity are not realised in the meantime.

Volunteers are currently being sought to form search and rescue teams. Ideally volunteers should be expert trackers and have some experience of operating in dense jungle terrain. Their principle duties will involve rescue of pedestrians who stray from the path and get lost in the undergrowth bordering the western reaches of the Hempton road path. Volunteers must provide their own kit which should include long trousers or puttees to avoid the aggressive stinging nettles, a machete or something similar to cut through the dense undergrowth, a mobile phone or GPS device in case of emergency, such as becoming lost.

During and after rain, waterproof trousers and footwear are essential when following the path. Foliage droops over and onto the pathway all but covering it in parts and drenching walkers' lower extremities. Tufts of grass falling across the path are obstructive enough to trip the unwary walker and make passage by pushchair all but impossible. Brambles are a particular issue, catching and damaging clothing, lacerating the skin and providing a potent trip hazard.

Asthma sufferers or those with breathing difficulties should not apply, as walkers are likely to become covered in cow parsley pollen. Some opine the lacy white caps look pretty or that letting it all go wild increases biodiversity. Perhaps so! The modern practice of leaving mowings to rot into the soil, agricultural fertiliser overspill and even oxides of nitrogen from vehicle

exhausts, increase soil fertility. This favours selective species, principally nettles, cow parsley and brambles which thrive in nutrient rich ground, crowding out other species which prefer an impoverished soil. Following government guidance on social distancing whilst following the path is all but impossible; pedestrians are forced to walk in single file with no passing places.

I believe the verges are to be deforested in the next few days. So, the days of the Triffids may be numbered, but as Arnold once or several times quipped, 'I'll be back'. Missing you Dave (Stewart)! The eastern reaches of the path will soon be as overgrown as those in the west now that he has taken his trusty mower to pastures new. The bench at Swere Paddocks is receding into the undergrowth already.

I can't mention roads without a quick whinge about the condition of the B4031. The patch work carried out just before Christmas 2020 did little, if anything, to improve matters. Within weeks and by the New Year the verges were in as poor or worse state than before the work was carried out. The road is left covered in loose grit and chippings which are blasted onto the path and verges when the roadsides flood.

Judging by the extensive yellow notices that have appeared, some work is due in the indeterminate future. Hopefully the work will involve repairs and not more patching or just gritting to cover up.

Stuart Oldham sj_oldham@btinternet.com

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

More details at:
www.FriendsofDeddingtonLibrary.com



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

POSTCARD FROM AMERICA

I have always had a strange relationship with religion. When I used to walk into the lovely church of St Peter and St Paul, Father Hugh would look up, searching the sky for thunderbolts.

On the aeroplane to the US nearly nine years ago, I promised Heather three things: that I would stop swearing; cut out any form of road rage; and not talk to anyone about religion. In the Land of the Free the man who cuts you up on the motorway probably has a gun and no-one swears.

With regard to religion, two bizarre things happened this week. Firstly, the Catholic bishops announced that they are planning to stop the President from taking communion and then the Southern Baptists narrowly headed off a takeover by a far right group. These events are certainly driven by one issue. Abortion rights is not an easy subject, of course, but one the rest of the world has come to terms with, whereas in America family planning clinics regularly get fire-bombed.

When Heather and I moved out of central London to build a family life in Deddington, the real benefit to us was that the village was a community. It took a while to fit in – I've lost count of the times we got to the bar in the Deddington Arms and the locals would say 'Are you new around here?'. But we were very happy for our children to get a great grounding with Judith at the wonderful Church of England primary school. At one point our Jake regarded the Bible Stories as his favourite book.

I will always remember one Halloween when a black friend came up from London to go out trick or treating with the boys. There were certainly a couple of startled people; one thought it was me in black face.

But I didn't see overt racism, whereas in America this is now a much more prominent issue. A couple of years ago I was in Nashville and over lunch the client told me that he had problems with his black staff because 'they were all lazy'. Recently the stakes have risen and the demonstrations have been more regular, complaining about lack of opportunity, rising inequality, and far worse health outcomes and, of course, police brutality as, sadly, they are in the UK too.

I was brought up with the Anglican Church being a vaguely left-wing institution, certainly very inclusive, and driven above all else to help those 'less fortunate'. In the US now many on the Christian right are playing a big role in trying to eliminate the teaching of the history of slavery, rolling back protections for LGBTQ people and creating obstructions to voting rights.

When I first arrived in America, I had to play tennis with anyone who would have me, so I ended up playing regularly with the retired Bishop of Denver. One day he told me he had preached a sermon about me in the cathedral. The moral of his story was that, although church attendance was declining in the UK, in America the church was growing and solving world poverty, or something like that. Then one day I turned up to play tennis wearing an Obama t-shirt, and he wouldn't speak to me.

This kind of Christianity isn't what I recognise. I might not be a believer but I share the same values of inclusivity and helping others and the bishop's line calls were terrible.

Mike Ward

mikew@qsoftware.com

FROM THE FIRE STATION

Coming out of lockdown sees the station getting busier. We picked up 17 shouts this month, several being running calls – already out and completing a job when we receive a call to attend another incident before we get back to our home station.

There were two alarm calls, seven standbys at Banbury, Bicester and Chipping Norton, five fire calls and two rescues / RTCs. The alarm calls proved false but with good intent. Our fire calls ranged from a car well alight in Steeple Aston, with the driver safely out of the vehicle, fallen live power cables, a lightning strike to an external chimney breast in the recent stormy weather, and brakes alight on an HGV on the M40.

Both our new recruits, Garin Wilby and Louis Martin have had multiple shouts and have settled perfectly into station life. Corrie King has attended her Imme-



diante Emergency Care course, covering practical casualty care and will be hard at work completing the in-depth theory booklet that accompanies the course. Three firefighters will be starting their driver training which will allow increased cover. However, it will be at least a year before any of them will be driving the pump. With crew numbers back up to 11, Deddington's cover statistics are increasing, with the station nudging 70%

availability – rather good as we are purely on-call and all of us have separate employment outside the Fire Service.

As it is looking highly likely that July will see the end of lockdown restrictions for most of the country, we hope you will continue to stay safe and aware as summer approaches.

James Greenwood FFD

james@cyclologicalshop.co.uk

HOLLY TREE CLUB

Sadly, Boris Johnson didn't relax the Covid restrictions on 21 June so our re-opening will be delayed accordingly. At the time of writing, we've no idea when it will be possible to open the hall, but please rest assured, our members and regular hirers will be the first to hear, either via these pages or by direct contact from the trustees. So 'watch this space'!

Huge apologies to everyone who was inconvenienced by the temporary traffic lights on Horse Fair earlier in June, while Southern Gas Network laid lines across the road to the Club. They took many days longer than expected and, to add more angst to their completely lacklustre performance, they accidentally 'grazed' the driveway wall at the club, demolishing it on the last day of works. What an encore to an already poor show.

Meanwhile, we continue with the snag list of odd jobs, not least getting the garden in some sort of shape again, rehangng curtains, cleaning and so forth.

We have been spending quite some time analysing the responses given to the survey recently, both in terms of changes that we can reasonably implement immediately and listing things that we will take forward into phase two and beyond.

One thing that was very apparent from the responses was that our members would like coffee mornings to be held weekly, which is something we can organise as soon as we are able to return. Those who still want to come monthly can come as they always have and those who would prefer to come fortnightly can attend on a two weekly rota that suits them.

BLISSFUL THINKING



Britain really isn't built to deal with extreme weather. The trains and drains are rendered inoperative by excessive autumn detritus and precipitation, and most homes freeze in the winter and boil in the summer. Ironically, providing the inevitable thunderstorm gives fair warning of its arrival, it's more comfortable to sleep in a tent during most

of the British summer at the moment, at least until about thirty minutes after sunrise.

So, if you need to be an early bird for work, a tent is actually the most reliable alarm clock known to man, and, if you need a lie in, you just pitch under a spectacularly large tree, ideally a fruit tree so breakfast can be sourced immediately after getting up. Now I see the true potential of a community orchard: as a breakfast club!

Aaron Bliss

aaronjbliss@hotmail.com

Regarding the improvements and facilities you would like to see at the hall, it appears that as a 'You Said, We Did' exercise, we have delivered everything you asked for in phase one it was possible to do. We are unable to deliver some items until phase two when we rebuild the kitchen and cloakroom but we have installed heating and hot water to both to make them more comfortable.

There is much more work to do on the responses; we have only just touched the surface, but we're grateful to have received so much useful feedback, and some criticisms too, that we'll work on equally as hard.

Meanwhile, I'd like to wish you all a lovely summer break and look forward to bringing you news of our reopening as soon as we possibly can.

Revd Annie Goldthorp, Chair

TALES FROM THE PUMP



Meg had popped in for her usual Double Bloody Mary at morning coffee time. She settled into the window seat saying, 'I remember Grumpy, when being a free spirit and bucking the trend was seen as something to be admired. These days it all seems to be about control and toeing the line.' I replied, 'Well, I guess you drinking your morning Bloody Mary when all around are sipping coffee shows a free spirit even if it's vodka and not free'.

As usual she ignored my grumpy response and went on 'This woman Susan Mitchie is a good example of someone who wants to control us – she's a communist and is on the SAGE committee advising the Tory Government during the pandemic. Given her politics, it's no surprise she wants to curtail individual liberty for the collective, but to maintain that people need to be more frightened to ensure compliance is a bit worrying.' Old Fred came into the pub and sat with Meg and I poured him his morning pint as he struggled to remove his face mask whilst saying, 'The trouble is it seems to have worked – I still have mates who are scared to come to the pub despite their two jabs and the low Covid rates.' I chipped in, 'And she wants us to be wearing masks for ever and a day – despite saying they were ineffective at the start of the pandemic. And these Perspex screens we pubs have spent a fortune on are now apparently limiting ventilation and should be removed.' 'Hurrah', say Fred and Meg in unison. I'm in full flow, 'And the World Health Organisation is now saying that all women of child bearing age shouldn't drink alcohol.' Meg looks pensive, 'Well, if it ever happens it certainly wouldn't be good for your business, Grumpy, and I guarantee the number of pregnancies will plummet.'

Grumpy Landlord

Grumpylandlord1@gmail.com

FARMERS' MARKET

Meet the Stallholders

Craig Churchill, Wildlife Photographer

Craig has been a photographer from his early teens. He was initially drawn to wildlife photography through his father who was interested in birds and butterflies and loaned Craig one of his cameras. That was the beginning of his photography journey.

One of the shots he took with that camera – a fox cub – saw him awarded a runner-up place in the Wildlife Photographer of the Year competition in the junior category – probably the most prestigious competition even now.

Perhaps the recognition he received then played a part in Craig's decision to turn professional about 21 years ago, a seemingly wise decision although there have been a few hiccups on the way. There have, inevitably, been some tricky and frustrating moments. He has, on occasion, walked miles to his destination only to discover that he has forgotten all the film, batteries or other bits of kit. He thinks the worst instance of that sort of thing was on one occasion when he travelled all the way to Norfolk only to realise that he'd left his camera bag by the front door, in his words 'disaster'.

The majority of Craig's work is UK based as he



finds that most people can relate better to an image of a species that they are familiar with, whether it's in their back garden or maybe something they've seen on a holiday somewhere like Scotland. In fact, Craig says that the Highlands of Scotland are probably one of his favourite places to work as they are home to a wide range of species, pine marten and red squirrel being just a couple of examples.

He has travelled to Europe to photograph species that are either rare here or difficult to capture. Spain is a favourite destination. Certain parts of the northeast of the country are similar to how the UK would have looked a hundred years or so ago, with untouched countryside, beautiful stone walled fields and masses of flowers, insects and birds.

Norway and Finland also feature heavily in Craig's trips abroad and probably one of his best experiences so far happened in Svalbard where he was able to capture a number of pictures of polar bears. The portfolio of those images earned him a category win in the Travel Photography Photographer of the Year competition – just one of the many competition successes he has had in his career.

Jenny Snashall

jennynashall@gmail.com

PFSU AND VILLAGE NURSERY

We returned to sunshine after the half term break and intend to spend much of the summer term out of doors. The Nursery children have been enjoying their Forest School sessions, spending the morning in the woods, enjoying hands-on outdoor learning. The pre-school children will visit both the allotments and the Castle Grounds this term. We are preparing for our sports days and will be holding teddy bears' picnics to celebrate the end of the school year. Alongside this, we will be preparing our older children to move up to their new schools and settings, with open and move up days. The changing guidance to keep us all safe means that some dates and arrangements will be more last minute than usual but please bear with us. Thank you for all your support this year and we wish you all a wonderful summer holiday.

Lucy Squires 01869 337484

FRIENDS OF DEDDINGTON LIBRARY

Thank you to all who have entered pictures into our annual calendar photo competition. Some beautiful shots have been submitted but the flood has slowed to trickle. If you're out and about please seek out those winning shots during these glorious sunny days, or even when it's raining there are still opportunities to be had when the weather isn't so kind. As always send your high res pics to bryn.williams@iconpublishinglimited.com, landscape format, 300dpi and taken within our parish.,

Bryn Williams

Bee Beautiful 

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LETTERS

FROM CHRISTOPHER HALL AND
DIANA MARSHALL

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2021

Very many thanks to the DN team for delivering this year's Christian Aid Week envelope to every home, to Hamptons for providing a convenient drop-off and to Sharon Greenwood for promoting the online appeal on Facebook. Deddington has an enviable reputation for raising more than £2,000 in Christian Aid Week each year and this year 73 generous donors gave the total of £1,891, to be supplemented by £345 in reclaimable Gift Aid.

This year's Christian Aid Week has been symptomatic of the national switch from cash to digital, accelerated by Covid. Collectors have been spared going door-to-door but the downside has been the loss in nurturing personal contact. Nevertheless one donor still handed in their annual accumulation of small coins. It didn't take four people four hours, as in the past, to count this year's bounty of £15 in coins and £560 in notes. Twenty-three supporters who had the means went online to the dedicated web page www.bit.ly/DtonCAW and found a shopping list of how to support Rose and her Kenyan neighbours meet the challenge of climate change – from taps to team building – and responded accordingly. You know who you are – thank you.

FROM MIKE ROBINSON, DEDDINGTON

As a relative newcomer to Deddington, I was disappointed to see how little input the community has had in the supply of suitable new housing. It would seem that we are at the mercy of landowners willing to sell to developers who then build expensive 'open market housing' which is not affordable for locals who have to move away and rent in other locations.

Although developers have to build a percentage of 'affordable houses' and make a contribution via a 106/Community Infrastructure Levy, the affordable houses are not usually affordable for local people and the Levy is out of step with the time it takes to put in supporting infrastructure. I have read the draft Community Plan and it does not seem to address the need for the community to be more in charge of the housing and facilities needed for the local community.

I would suggest that consideration be given to setting up a Community Land Trust (which should be noted in the Community Plan) so that the community can be more in control of what is built and what local



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

amenities are developed (eg the orchard). Housing should be prioritised for local people who are on the housing list and rents and values of the properties built should relate to local earning levels.

The CLT would manage and own the housing and provide guaranteed long term rental leases and, if required, allow incremental arrangements for occupiers to buy their houses. These would never

be available as open market housing. The design and facilities for the houses would be dictated by the CLT, not a developer.

Our CLT would work together with a housing association which can access government funding for the purchase of the land. It would manage the building and rental or purchase arrangements. I have practical experience of this, having set up a CLT and built eight houses in a farmer's field in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (not normally allowed) with assistance of a housing association. The farmer sold the land at well below the agricultural land value.

FROM RICHARD BROADBENT, DEDDINGTON

If you received a letter of invitation from me to join NextDoor Deddington, I would like you to know that it was sent without my knowledge. I have done some research and find that the company behind it is based in San Francisco. They run similar operations worldwide. I assume they get revenue from advertising and possibly from selling personal information. I was able to trace the invitation which went to 65 people in Deddington.

SUSIE CARRDUS, DEDDINGTON

In my house the *Deddington News* gets read from cover to cover, but possibly a few bits of information have been missed during the dark on-line-only months. Could anyone give authoritative answers to a couple of questions?

First: what stage is the Neighbourhood Plan at, and does anyone have an overview of what will be in it? Next: how many people are there currently living in Deddington?

Considering this need for reliable information, I wondered if it would be an idea to have a small section in the DN as a Forum, where such questions could be posted and answered. It could have a name like News on the Street, and be occasional or regular. Any takers?

It was all going so well ... and then we learn that the final step on the government's roadmap out of lockdown is now a giant leap. Fingers crossed that the new date of 19 July is one we can hold to.

There is a lot riding on it, not least of which the much-anticipated Deddington primary school production which we are proud to host at the Windmill. Having already missed last year due to Covid it would indeed be a cruel blow if this year's production had to be cancelled too. All of our fingers and toes are crossed, hoping we get the green light on 12 July for performances on the 19th, 20th and 21st.

Most other regular groups and activities at the Windmill are continuing as normally as they can while we wait for the final restrictions to be lifted. It is so good to see coffees, teas and ice-creams being sold at the Lookout as families enjoy the summer weather in the Windmill Park. I'm sure Nick and James of Bloom



Coffee Roasters would like to hear your feedback on their efforts.

As well as the Lookout, which is an ideal venue for outdoor kids' parties, I would like to remind you of the recently decorated and re-floored Deddington

Studio upstairs – perfect for dance and yoga classes. There is also the Clifton Room downstairs, which we have transformed into a business space for successful meetings or away-days (or maybe just a welcome change from the kitchen table for those of you still working from home).

You'll find more information on our website at www.thewindmilldeddington.org or on our Facebook page. Hope to see you at the Windmill soon.

Vaughan Jones
Chair, Windmill Management Committee
vaughan@englishlanguagematters.com

History Corner www.deddingtonhistory.uk

The church bells are a vital and unmissable part of our village life. While not everyone appreciates them (why choose to live within their sound if you don't?) the fact is they have told us of Sunday services, weddings, funerals and great national occasions since at least the 17th Century except when the tower fell down and when they were commandeered to make royalist cannon in the Civil War. Getting them back proved more difficult.

However, their history is scattered throughout various books, pamphlets and occasional references on our own website but all is now gathered together

in one place and recounted in the form of a timeline with links and images at: www.deddingtonhistory.uk/deddingtonchurch,stpeterandstpaul/bells. Here you can discover what the Ting Tang bell is (also known as 'the pooden bell' to some), find out why the Rev Cotton Risley had a poor opinion of the bell ringers and see images of the bell tower and the bells. My thanks go to Colin Cox (Bell Captain) and John Plumbe (ringer and indefatigable newspaper researcher) for their invaluable help.

Rob Forsyth, History Editor
robert.s.forsyth@gmail.com



Are you interested in finding out what your Parish Council does?

Minutes Secretary

needed to attend a monthly evening meeting and also provide holiday cover for Clerk.

Paid position, min 6hrs/month.

For further details please contact the Parish Clerk on 01869 337447 or email

deddingtonparishcouncil@googlemail.com



THE WINDMILL CLEANER REQUIRED

Early mornings

10 hours per week

Please contact Vaughan Jones

vaughan@englishlanguagematters.com

DEDDINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Incredibly, we are now approaching the end of this academic year, heading towards the summer holidays. It doesn't seem possible we are at this point; time seems to have simply flown by.

Thankfully, since half term, the weather has so far been dry and this has meant the children have been able to play on the field as well as the playground and PE sessions have been able to take place in the open air. During the week of 21 June we were able to enjoy a sports week. This involved cricket, pentathlon, football, tennis and hockey. The children had great fun as well as increasing their fitness levels.

We are proud to say we took part in the Rafiki Relay sponsored challenge which involved children raising money to enable education for young, disadvantaged people in Kenya, Uganda and Lesotho to receive an education. Everyone who raised £10 or more through their fundraising received a Rafiki Relay for Education medal. The challenge involved walking, running, swimming or cycling, or a combination of them all. We would like to thank all the parents and carers and people in the community who sponsored our pupils.

The whole school took part in 'Eat Them to Defeat Them!'. This was an initiative linked to the Food Foundation which states that 80% of children are not



eating enough vegetables. As a result of this, 'Veg Power' was created to set children on a healthy mission designed to inspire them to develop veggie loving eating habits, in the hope they would maintain this love of vegetables for life. Fresh Start supported us in this initiative and our pupils loved tasting different vegetables on a weekly basis, as well as F1 and KS1 collecting stickers and rewards for taking part.

Our PTA has done a terrific job this term, raising funds to improve the playground to make it a brighter, more exciting place for the children to play and work in. Over a few weeks, the children were encouraged to complete jobs at home and perform tasks to earn rewards for 20p or £1 and fill up a small tube with these coins. We would like to express our thanks to the PTA for once again supporting us in improving our school environment. We all appreciate their support greatly.

Finally, let's hope the warm summer weather continues and we are all able to have an enjoyable and relaxing summer break.

With best wishes from all of us at Deddington Primary School.

Denise Welch

dwel3954@deddington.oxon.sch.uk

DEDDINGTON PLAYGROUP

We have been excited to reopen over the last five weeks and have welcomed lots of lovely families. It's been brilliant to see so many familiar faces and lots of new ones too.

We hope you've been enjoying it and love that we have a place within the community for local families to meet and for children to play in a social atmosphere.

We have been working hard on our fund raising efforts and, due to all the local businesses that donated prizes and those of you who bought raffle tickets, we have raised almost £300 for the playgroup- so a huge thank you to everyone who contributed.

Please come and join us on Fridays at the Windmill Centre, 10.00am-12.00pm, £3.50 per family. We are Covid secure and there is no need to book. The Deddington playgroup volunteers. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Shrene Saleh-Gillett

deddingtonbabyandtoddler@gmail.com

BARFORD BRIDGE

After its lengthy closure Barford bridge has now partially reopened. As full repairs have not been carried out there is with a weight restriction of three tonnes and a width restriction of two metres, marked by bollards. Two metres is very narrow in relation to a car's width and attempting to cross should be approached with extreme care. **CD**

TIE-DYING? BLOCK PRINTING? SCREEN PRINTING?

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CONTACT EITHER OF US BY 30 JULY**

**KAMALA DICKSON 01869 338733
MERIEL FLUX 01869 338901**

CALLING ALL CLUBS

Photographic Society

Greenland – A Land of Icebergs and Inuit presented by Richard and Janet Burden was a travelogue of a 2017 trip to Greenland; a place they knew extraordinarily little about but were keen to know more. The breath-taking views were tempered by the -30-degree temperatures where everything soon began to freeze up. Equipment, whether it be tripod or camera, suffered in the biting cold but 'warm hands' were invaluable to keep equipment warm in camera bags; it could be an expensive trip if camera bodies died due to the cold.

The skyline of the 'modern' town of Ilulissat gave opportunities to show the colourful, timber properties positioned in small groups; when the land is covered in snow and ice there is little need for conventional roads. The traditional sled dogs created lots of photo opportunities. Sunsets produced amazing light for images of skyscraper-sized icebergs but the best prospects proved to be the aurora borealis. Richard decided to include one of the local houses in the foreground if the aurora appeared. Stunningly it did and the images were amazing in their intensity. The key to the capture, in the dark, was setting up the camera before the appearance to ensure that the focus would be on infinity and a manual exposure of 15 seconds at f2.8. There was nothing bleak about the Greenland landscape because the light was so special.

Our next presentation is by Peter Greenway about National Trust photography on 7 July at 7.30pm. Please check our website for details if you wish to join us as we still cannot confirm we will be meeting in person. Everyone is welcome.

Anne Hunsley
www.addphoto.co.uk

Royal British Legion

The former branch club has donated £2,800 to the church's war memorial restoration project prior to final closure of the club's accounts. This is in addition to the £3,661 previously donated as a third of the cost of surfacing the path between the church and the lower churchyard. The £6,461 donated in total is a very appropriate and lasting legacy for the 92 years that the club was such an important part of our branch and village life.

This latest donation means that work on the memorial can now proceed. However, a further £1,000 is needed to complete the groundwork around it. Appeals are being made to local organisations for grants and for public donations. Thank you to those branch members who have already done so.

The Union Flag was flown on our new flagpole on Saturday 26 June to mark Armed Forces Day. The flagpole has a gold-coloured finial in honour of this year being the centennial of the founding of 'The Legion'.

Rob Forsyth Chairman
 01869 338384

Deddington Bookworms

Lionel Shriver is an American author and journalist who lives in London. Her book, *Property: A Collection*, is a collection of short stories with the central thread of ownership (in different senses of the word) running through them. With a mixture of scenarios ranging from young adults who don't want to leave home to widows finding friendship with neighbours, most readers will find some thread with which to connect.

Unfortunately, the first story is not as compelling as the others and put some Bookworms off. However, once past this hurdle most found that the other stories were well written and humorous. A good book to pick up and read when time is short.

Our next book is *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho.

Deddington Library
 01869 338391

Book Group

Venice by Jan Morris was first published to great critical acclaim in 1960 and last revised in 1993. It is an intricate and fascinating portrait of the city, the people and the surrounding islands. Although neither a guidebook nor a history of Venice, elements of both are woven into the text. It is an immersive read – an invitation to soak up the unique atmosphere and nature of the city. The author's love for the city is conveyed in beautifully written, vivid descriptions and anecdotes examining multiple aspects of life in an extraordinary setting. The level of detail is impressive but perhaps rather daunting. Most of us found that reading the book in short sections helped us to assimilate and enjoy it.

Our next book is a detective novel, *The Darkest Evening* by Ann Cleeves. Please contact Sally Lambert on 01869 338094 for more information.

Sian Waterman

Local Vocals Community Choir

Success at last! We are delighted to announce that we have found a new choir leader. Unfortunately, we still can't sing inside in groups of more than six people, despite other restrictions having been eased. We are hopeful that this will change on 19 July but who knows what is around the corner. We are keeping our members up to date and will announce when we are up and running again and open to new members in the *DN* as well as on posters around the parish.

To find out more about our choir and contact us please go to www.localvocalscc.co.uk.

Alison Grieve

SPORT

Deddington Tennis Club

Since restrictions on playing tennis were lifted at the end of March, we have been running a programme

SPORT*Continued from p14*

with Deddington Primary School to allow every child in the school to have a go at tennis. For the younger year groups, Paul, our coach and Becky, the junior rep on the committee, have been going into school and doing tennis skills and drills on the playground. The older children have been down to the tennis club for their sessions where they have worked on forehands and backhands and had lots of fun. Apart from one or two sessions where rain stopped play, we defied the showers in May and the searing heat of the beginning of June and the programme has been a great success. More than one of the kids has told us they are going to be a tennis player when they grow up. If your child has tried tennis and enjoyed it, please get in touch to find out about the junior coaching sessions at the club.

As ever, if you're interested in playing tennis, or you'd like to find out more about junior and adult coaching or booking a court, check out details on the website where you can also find information about membership.

Guidelines are still in place for playing tennis safely and we ask that players respect social distancing and use hand sanitiser before and after playing.

Becky Jones

www.deddingtontennis.com

Deddington Town Youth Teams

The Under 14s playing in the Under 14 B League finished their season in style with a fine 4–0 win over Easington Sports with a hat-trick for James Marrett. The Under 12s playing in the Under 12 C League had a 3–1 win over Tysoe United in their last match of the season.

After a season heavily disrupted due to the pandemic, we will now plan for 2021/22. We will not have our presentation day this season but will present player awards at the start of the new season at early season training sessions.

This season completes 25 years of youth football in Deddington. The club is in a strong position with many committed coaches and other volunteers who provide a safe, supportive and enjoyable setting for children and young people to develop their football. We will continue to build the club in the future supported by all our volunteers, parents and players in the season ahead.

If you want to get involved with the club as player, volunteer, sponsor or fundraiser, please get in touch. Information about the club is on our website, www.deddingtontownfc or visit us on Facebook www.facebook.com/DeddingtonTownFc

Roger Sykes

Development Officer and U7/U6 Coach

01869 337034

Deddington Original Golf Society (DOGS)

Leamington and County Golf Club course was in great

condition on 4 June with lush fairways and fast and true greens, much appreciated by the 28 golfers who attended the DOGS event. Our winner was Dave White who scored 37 points off a handicap of 6. Second was Conrad Hoy with 36 points and third John Dauphin with 34. The nearest the pin prizes went to Conrad Hoy and Tony Round and the team prize was won by David White, Thomas Blackhall and John Dauphin.

The prize-giving and dinner at the Deddington Arms was great fun (even under Covid rules) and our chair, Lynn Talbot thanked everyone. Our next event is the weekend at Belton Woods on 18 July.

Our committee has decided to contribute £200 to the Deddington war memorial restoration project – a very worthy cause.

Nigel Oddy, Secretary

nigeloddy@yahoo.com

YOUTH**1st Deddington Guides**

Our outdoor programme continues. Dollar Market was hugely popular; each patrol is given money to buy equipment required to fulfil set challenges. The aim is to see who uses their resources wisely and earns the most. The challenges included filling a container from the bridge, first aid, making a mini stretcher, hunting for plants and mini beasts, building a tower and balancing an egg on top.

Ready, steady, cook produced some lovely suppers, cooked over an open fire. Well done, Guides. Knotting and lashing are useful skills and the Guides learnt quickly, proving skilful and inventive. We spent a lovely evening at the Manor campsite at Barford (thank you very much) learning how to put up tents. The Guides went about this with great enthusiasm and loved the old faithful canvas tents ... and we hoped we might be able to camp this year. Maybe we'll just sleep under the stars. Whilst younger Guides learnt new skills the senior Guides demonstrated putting up more modern lightweight tents. Well done all round.

Girls of 10 or older come along and see what we get up to. Call Maggie or email Marian.

Maggie Rampley 07957600755

Marian Trinder Mariantrinder@gmail.com

1st Deddington Scout Group**Cubs**

Would you believe it, our first meeting for a year and it pours with rain. We carried on regardless with a game of walking football. This was followed by two weeks of alternative athletics, archery, frisbee golf, caber tossing and an obstacle course. Next came making water filters and hide and seek in the little wood.

New to the pack and very welcome are James, Joe, George, Hamish, Harry, Edward and Jack.

Jo Churchyard

deddingtoncubs@gmail.com

YOUTH ————— *Continued from p15***Scouts**

It was great to see the Scouts again and, although it was a bit wet, nobody cared, we just laughed and messed around. We tried some new sports and socially distanced games – Evolution, based loosely on rock, paper, scissors, where you have to evolve from an egg to a member of the Royal Family – hilarious.

The Scouts had a go at making water filters with paper cups and grass, then boiled the result using our Trangia stoves.

Peter Churchyard
deddingtonscouts@gmail.com

Explorers

If you're interested in joining the unit, contact us on spartanexplorers@gmail.com.

Janet Duxbury

DEDDINGTON ENVIRONMENT NETWORK

Things are definitely looking brighter – the ending of Covid restrictions, although delayed, may be in sight, and summer is finally here in all her squally, sultry and, at times, sweltering, splendour. As you read this, we may have had a week of rain after the spell of drought but it's still good to think about water conservation, however full the aquifers are. Unless you have your own water supply, the chances are that every drop will have been through a water processing plant which requires significant energy and chemicals to treat the water, so every drop we save contributes to reducing our environmental footprint: from collecting the cold water for watering plants as we wait for the hot to come through, to reducing the time spent in the shower and having fewer baths, to not worrying if the lawn isn't as green as we'd like during a hot spell and planting more drought-friendly plants.

The Plastic Free July movement was started back in 2011 with the aim of encouraging consumers to think about making small, lasting changes that could reduce the amount of plastic they consume. It's estimated that in the UK we throw away around 295 billion pieces of plastic each year, which is mostly made up of single-use plastic. Plastic recycling and plastic waste incineration are lengthy and complex topics which we cannot do justice to here but, put briefly, plastic that can be recycled, and relatively little can, is exceeding the capacity of the recycling plants in this country by over two-thirds, and countries such as China have refused to take our recycling any longer. This has resulted in more of our plastic being incinerated which, critics say, releases toxic chemicals into the atmosphere and toxic ash into landfill sites that may contaminate water supplies as well as using a lot of energy. So, it is still very important for us as consumers to try to reduce

Continued from previous column

our plastic footprint.

Here are seven ideas to help you take part in Plastic Free July. 1) Buy unpackaged fruit and veg wherever possible to put in your own bags – locally, shops such as Eagles and Wykham Park Farm Shop have a very good selection, and the latter also has a small plastic-free section selling dry goods; 2) Visit or order online from the plastic-free shop in Banbury which now has an easy to use website, and offers free delivery to Deddington and surrounding villages <https://www.refillnotlandfill.co.uk/>; 3) Take your own containers to the butcher/deli; 4) Keep re-usable bags and a re-usable coffee cup along with your face mask by the front door/in the car/in your bag for your daily shop/morning takeaway coffee; 5) Consider giving up takeaways for the month; 6) Stop buying cling-film and invest in re-usable silicone lids or beeswax wraps or make your own with beeswax from Fenemore Farms and spare cotton fabric; 7) Bring your empty household product bottles to be refilled at the Refill Station at the farmers' market on the fourth weekend of the month and to Barford farmers' market on the third weekend.

Sincere apologies are due to those people who tried to sign up for last month's Swift Walk by clicking on the link provided but found the link didn't work. This was unfortunately due to a typo. At the time of writing the event is sold-out, but we hope to organise another one in the future.

Lastly, look out for Barford-based Linda Newbery's book *This Book is Cruelty Free: Animals and Us* which comes out on 8 July, published by Pavillion. It is aimed at older children and teenagers but has ideas for all of us to adopt. Linda is a founding member of the newly created Barford Environmental Network and patron of the Friends of Deddington Library.

Finally, if you're finding that you have a little more time or energy now that restrictions are easing and you'd like to help us spread the message of living more sustainably and working to combat climate change together, please contact us at info@deddingtonenvironment.net.

Nick and Fiona Smith
www.deddingtonenvironment.net

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