

This month's editor
CATHERINE DESMOND

APRIL 2013 copy to
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by 16 MARCH 2013

Next advertising copy date:
10 MARCH 2013

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the Deddington news

At one end of the spectrum, the primary school celebrates 160 years of existence (see page 12). At the other, Deddington continues its fibre optic adventure and gleans yet another local advisor on the topic (see page 3). Bridging the time gap, lambing season is well underway and Clifton's newly established flock of native Cotswold sheep has been reassuringly expanded (see page 8). No daffodils yet, though.

MARCH

- Fri 1 Primary School: *Joseph & the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*, Parish Church, 6pm
- Fri 1 Hempton Social Night: Church Hall, 6.30pm
- Sat 2 PFSU & Nursery: Jumble Sale, Windmill Centre, 11am–1pm
- Sun 3 Friends of Daeda's Wood: Working party, 10am–1pm
- Mon 4 Monday Morning Club: Coffee morning, Holly Tree, 10.30am–noon
- Wed 6 Photographic Society: Cliff May, 'Local Wildlife Photography', Cartwright Hotel, Aynho, 7.30pm
- Sat 9 Concert: 'The Moonrakers', Celtic folk music, Parish Church, 7.30pm
- Tue 12 Hempton Ladies: Church Hall, 2pm
- Tue 12 WI: AGM, Holly Tree, 7.30pm
- Wed 13 History Society: Dr Stephen Parrissien, 'Compton Verney', Windmill Centre, 7.30pm
- Thu 14 Monday Morning Film Club: *Quartet*, Holly Tree, 6.30pm
- Sat 16 Spring Fair: Parish Church, details tbc
- Sat 16 PTA: Musical evening: Tim Friers and the Mercenaries, Barford Village Hall, 7.30pm
- Sun 17 Friends of Daeda's Wood: Working party, 10am–1pm
- Tue 19 Friends of Castle Grounds: AGM, Deddington Arms, 7.30pm
- Wed 20 Parish Council Meeting: Holly Tree, 7.30pm
- Wed 20 Photographic Society: Workshop, 'Exposure Modes', Simon Lutter, Cartwright Hotel, Aynho, 7.30pm
- Sat 23 Farmers' Market, Market Place, 9am–12.30pm
- Sat 23 PTA: Easter Egg Hunt and Teddy Bears Picnic, time tbc.
- Sat 23 Concert: Steve Miller presents Michael Jackson Tribute Band, Parish Church, 7.15pm for 7.45pm
- Sat 23 Deddington Town FC Ball: Rye Hill Golf Course, 7pm
- Tue 26 Hempton Ladies: Church Hall, 2pm
- Thu 28 Book Club: Call Sally Lambert, 338094, for details, 7.30pm

APRIL

- Mon 1 Monday Morning Club: Coffee Morning, Holly Tree, 10.30am–noon
- Wed 3 Photographic Society: AGM followed by David Boag, 'Wildlife Photography', Cartwright Hotel, Aynho, 7.15pm
- Fri 5 Hempton Social Night: Church Hall, 6.30pm
- Sat 6 Concert: Piano Recital, Geoffrey Hopkins, Parish Church, 7.30pm

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DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Wednesday February 20 at the Duke of Cumberland's Head, Clifton.

There was a good turnout for the meeting on a cold and frosty February night with at least 10 members of the public. The meeting was chaired by Alan Collins.

Neighbourhood Planning

The existing Cherwell DC planning framework was judged to be adequate and it was not proposed to invest the time or money required to produce a new neighbourhood plan.

Fibre Optic Installation

BT will not now automatically connect every house. BT Infinity is becoming available across the parish and to the Bartons but households need to apply to their internet supplier for connection. BT has clarified that, while it is making the fibre optic service available to the whole of the Deddington exchange area, it will only connect up a property after an order has been placed. An order can be placed either with BT Retail on 0800 587 4787, or with any other ISP which is offering the service. Anyone interested is advised to contact their service provider directly.

Environment & Recreation

The Cricket Club want to hold a summer ball on 15 June and was seeking DPC support. Previous Cricket Club balls had caused local upset because of noise and time overrun. Despite this, DPC would support the application because of the greater good.

Planning

Application:

Deddington Tennis Club floodlights: a planning application had been submitted for the installation of lighting

These notes are the view of our reporter and not the official minutes of the meeting (see <http://www.deddington.org/community/pc/pcminutes>).

on two of the courts at the Windmill Centre. The club is anxious that youth coaching and play can continue during the winter months. A curfew on the lights would be imposed after 9.30pm and use would 'probably' be limited to three or four nights a week. The lights would be eight metres high and would be installed on the courts furthest from domestic properties. The lights are contentious and local residents are unsympathetic because of anticipated light pollution.

Decisions:

Earls Court, Earls Court Lane, erection of a two storey extension with a new carport and garden store, no objection but with conditions.

Hazel Cottage, Tithe Lane, Clifton, conversion of a detached garage into an annexe, no objection but with conditions.

2 County View, Clifton, single storey front extension, no objection.

Barford House, Hempton, addition of a two-storey extension, a conservatory, and the construction of a garage large enough for three cars. DPC would object because of the disproportionate size of the development and the impact on adjacent properties.

Finance & General Purposes

The Cherwell DC precept for DPC will be maintained at the same level as the previous year at £35,431.

Investments of £533,736 were with Barclays, Santander and NatWest Banks. £2,397 of invoices were agreed for payment in February.

Next Meeting 7.30pm 20 March at the Holly Tree, Deddington.

Charles Barker

LETTER FROM AMERICA

I have a thing about litter. We have moved into a lovely new area, in Greenwood Village, in Colorado. And there is no litter. By which I mean, NO litter. This is the cleanest place I have ever seen. I have spent time in Singapore, where they literally lock you up for dropping chewing gum, but I have never seen anywhere as clean as South Galena Street. I haven't seen any litter collectors, and there are very few waste bins, but there is no rubbish whatsoever. Yes, middle class Americans take much more pride in what is around them.

At first impression these estates are nothing like anywhere in England. First of all, our estate has a great name: hey, Sundance Hills has a much better ring to it than Walnut Close, or Gaveston Gardens. Well, perhaps Mr Gaveston has some kind of story attached as well.

I keep wanting to tell people ... 'I live in Sundance Hills'. It just feels good. And all the houses are individually designed. It is not like lovely old Oxfordshire. No offence guys, but your houses are all the same. These are all unique: different materials, different styles. To an Englishman it is totally mad. To a town planner in the UK ... well he would die of fright.

The problem is there are no pubs, and the drinking establishments that are within two or three miles are imitation Irish pubs. How girls in short skirts in some way are supposed to be indicative of Irishness I don't know, but we have had to find other ways to entertain ourselves.

It is all extremely lovely. And clean. Did I mention that already?

Mike Ward, Mike@qsoftware.com

GEEK DAD

Installing the Future

I am writing this to you from the future. Or at least from a future. The one that British Telecom has created here in Deddington as a template for all the telephone exchanges in the UK. London hopes that it will one day be like us. Probably.

The complete Deddington exchange from Aynho Wharf to the Barfords will be totally enabled with the completion of phase three – the old half of Deddington – some time in March. Then we have two years to switch our phones and internet connections over to fibre optic before they remove all the copper wiring in the area. There is no coming back from the future here you know.

The first step is to choose your phone and internet provider and package. The obvious choice is the omnipresent BT Infinity but there are a good dozen companies (listed at <http://www.thinkbroadband.com/guide/fibre-broadband.html>) which you can talk to instead, with rates varying from £18 to £150 a month based on internet speed and download limits. Some will include free installation of the last bit of cable from pole to phone point, others not.

Our installation was pretty painless. There were two visits, seven days apart. The first replaced the copper cable from the telegraph pole to the house and then ran the new cable down to a junction box nearer where we wanted our phone and broadband connection to be. The second included drilling through the outside wall, installing the actual new hardware and enabling the new connections. (For those with a fear of dentistry, look away; metre-long drill bits are not for you.)

The only real input the engineers need is to know where you want your new boxes installed. You'll need to have a space about the size of an A4 sheet of pa-

per free somewhere near a plug socket for the new phone lines and battery pack to be fixed. If you have computers or an office in the house, consider having the boxes there for a wired connection to your main machine and using wireless phones rather than the other way around. As long as the distance between the junction box and the new location is less than 25 metres around the outside wall, there's no problem.

If you're curious about the battery pack, one downside to fibre optic cables is that unlike copper wires, they don't carry an electric charge. The battery pack is mandatory in case a power cut happens and you need to use the phone. The pack is good for 12 hours which hopefully should be enough.

Once everything was installed, the engineer rang the BT service centre and asked them to switch the cable on. Funnily enough, our guy had a good half a dozen phone numbers for the centre and none of them answered for about half an hour. When he did get through, he was told their systems were down so he'd have to call back later. Nice to know it's not just the consumer that gets the run-around by BT.

With respect to phones, the old ones continue to work as normal even with the new cable installed. More next month on the search for a decent fibre optic phone and figuring out just what we can all do with this new-fangled speedy broadband thing. I can confirm right now however, that the BBC iPlayer and other watch on demand TV channels all work beautifully in glorious high definition. Which is nice.

Dan Maharry

dan.maharry@gmail.com

A Parish at War

Dedication of the Memorial Plaque

The Memorial Plaque will be erected in the Parish Church at the beginning of June. It will be dedicated by the Bishop of Dorchester on Sunday 16 June in a short service and ceremony starting at 12.00pm. More details will be promulgated in the *DN* and by email and Royal Mail in April. A facsimile of the plaque can be found inside the back cover of the Supplement.

Copies of both the original book and the later supplement are still available at the Banbury Tourist Centre bookshop, Deddington Library or from Rob Forsyth, tel: 338384 and email robert.s.forsyth@gmail.com. Any money raised over and above the cost of the memorial will be donated to the Deddington Branch of the Royal British Legion.

Rob Forsyth

Robert.s.forsyth@gmail.com

The Unicorn Redux

Many of you will be delighted to know that the Unicorn in the Market Place is about to get a facelift and a new management team. The HMS Unicorn as it has become known, due to its battleship grey colour, is going to be restored to its former glory and will look resplendent again in a lovely cream livery.

The new management team, which has recently come out of successfully relaunching the Crown in Woodstock and is currently getting the Boat Inn at Thrupp back on its feet, is due to take over at the end of February and have promised some fantastic offers: a Sunday carvery, new menu, rosette-trained chef, theme nights, live music, free function room and much more besides. You can contact the Unicorn on 338838.

John Harty

01865 374279

Please note: Mark David's advert, opposite, should read 'No VAT on our fees until 30 June 2013.'

NEWS FROM HEMPTON

Plans are still going ahead for the new windows in the church. It is a long slow process to get permission for work of this nature as first we needed a certificate from the Diocesan Advisory Committee and now have had to apply for a faculty from the Oxford Diocese. There is then a 28 day comment period. If everything goes well, West Oxon Stained Glass will fit them in the spring – they come well recommended.

It may seem very early to talk about Easter but it is right at the end of March this year. Services at St John's will be on Good Friday, 29 March, Meditation at 12.15pm, followed by lunch and Easter Saturday, 30 March, the Service of Light at 8.30pm. This is a special service. Let us hope for a good congregation and a warm evening as part of the service is outside.

The Table Tennis team's record is now P10, W6, D1, L3, pts 69. They lie third in Division 3 of the Banbury and District League but, with four games to go, have some ground to make up on the top two teams.

The recent bad weather has made it very difficult to get out of drives and side roads in the village but the main road has been kept well clear.

If anyone has any items of interest for this column for future issues, please give me a call or drop me a line at 4 The Lane. A lot of my reports centre around the church and hall where I know what goes on, but I need to report on other issues as well, such as weddings, birthdays, christenings, and anything else of interest.

Les Chappell
338054

Deddington PFSU and Nursery

The first term of the year was just five weeks long and has flown by. The PFSU children have been finding out about animals and had lots of visits from various pets including several dogs, two cats and some guinea pigs. Thank you to everyone who let their pets meet our enthusiastic children.

We were also pleased to welcome Mum Caterina to Pre-School who taught us to sing some Portuguese

songs. Thank you, Caterina.

We have been celebrating Chinese New Year with food, costumes, music and decorations.

We'd like to thank everyone who supported our quiz night and remind you of the jumble sale on Saturday 2 March. Please watch out for the posters for final confirmation of venue and times.

Lucy Squires
337484

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CHURCH AND CHAPEL

Parish Church SS Peter and Paul

Sun	3	10.30am	Eucharist
Wed	6	10.00am	Eucharist
Thu	7	2.00pm	Squeals and Wheels
Sun	10	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		10.30am	Family Service
		6.30pm	Evensong
Wed	13	10.00am	Eucharist
Thu	14	2.00pm	Squeals and Wheels
Sun	17	10.30am	Eucharist
Tue	19	6.30pm	Eucharist St Joseph
Wed	20	10.00am	Eucharist
Thu	21	2.00pm	Squeals and Wheels
Sun	24	9.30am	Eucharist followed by
		10.15am	Interactive Café Church

St John's, Hempton

Sun	3	9.00am	Eucharist
Sun	17	9.00am	Eucharist
Sun	24	6.00pm	Evensong

St Michael's, Barford

Sun	3	10.30am	Eucharist BfdStM
Sun	10	10.30am	Mothering Sunday BfdStM
Sun	17	10.30am	Family Service
Sun	24	4.00pm	Evensong BfdStM

From the Parish Registers

Funeral:
20 February Evelyn Freeman

For baptisms, weddings, funerals or home visits in case of illness, please contact the Vicar, the Revd Dr Hugh White, 28 Duns Tew (349869), the curate, Revd Dr Dan Inman (337893) curatedan@gmail.com, or one of the church wardens, Iain Gillespie (338367) or George Fenemore (338203). For further information please go to www.deddingtonchurch.org.

Wesleyan Reform Church, Chapel Square

Sunday mornings at 10.30am: Pastor Isabel Walton

Pastor Isabel Walton 337157

RC Parish of Hethe with Adderbury

Parish Deacon

Mass at Holy Trinity, Hethe: every weekday except Wed at 9.30am, Sun at 10.00am.

St George's Church Adderbury: Mass Wed 7.00pm and Sun 8.30am.

Confessions at Hethe Sat 5.30–6.00pm and at Adderbury before Mass.

The Eve of Sunday Mass at St John's Church, Banbury, is said at 4.00pm on Saturdays to allow worshippers from the villages to attend by public transport.

Fr John Burns 277396

Revd R Hughes, 01295 720869

Please see card insert for Easter services

Information on the meetings of other faith groups can be found at
<http://www.deddington.org.uk/community/church/otherfaithsandbeliefs>.

Primary School PTA

As it finally begins to feel a little more spring like, we are looking forward to helping the school with several projects to enhance the play areas with some lovely new equipment and outdoor play activities.

However, we must remain realistic about the British weather. As there are murmurs of more snow and cold weather on the way, we are also working on getting together a snow task force to help with clearing paths, car parks, playgrounds and pavements around the school.

If you fancy a great night out, come and join us for an evening of musical entertainment. We are organising an evening of music featuring the fabulous Tim Friers and the Mercenaries on 16 March. Doors open at Barford Village Hall at 7.30pm. Tickets are £10 and

include a traditional Irish supper. If you would like any further information or to buy tickets, please contact Lucie on luciesydenham@aol.co.uk.

On Saturday 23 March from 2–4pm there will be a whole host of Easter activities, including an Easter egg hunt, games, biscuit decorating, face painting, and a teddy bears picnic. There will be a prize for the best-dressed Easter bear and plenty of chocolate for everyone. Tickets are £10 per child, to include all activities and a picnic tea.

For more information about school and PTA activities please check out the new school website on www.deddingtonprimaryschool.co.uk.

Lucie Sydenham and Jo Watt
Co-Chairs, Deddington PTA
luciesydenham@aol.co.uk

Musical Notes

The Titanic House band certainly made our toes tap and our hands clap on 9 February. It was a pity that a wet night meant a small audience.

Let's hope for better weather and a fuller house for the 'Moonrakers' on 9 March at 7.30 in the parish church. This group of four talented performers (www.moonrakers.net) is Oxford-based with a national reputation and appeal. Their Celtic traditional and contemporary programme, 'just OOZES quality' (*Living Tradition*) and presents 'exquisite music' from England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales. '... mesmerising harp ... wonderful gentle harmonies ...an uplifting journey'. (BBC Oxford) and is suitable for all ages.

Put a note in your diary too for Geoffrey Hopkins' piano recital of music by Beethoven, Berkeley, Liszt and Chopin on 6 April, followed by two local choirs on 27 April and 18 May, with the Adderbury Ensemble booked for Sunday 9 June. For pop enthusiasts, Steve Miller's next gig is on 23 March, a Michael Jackson tribute. All these events are listed in the flyer included in the February *DN* which we hope you have kept for reference. If you would like an electronic reminder in the week before an event, join our mailing list by sending your email to Donald Lane at donald199@btinternet.com who will be happy to answer any queries or receive suggestions.

Donald Lane
337199

Deddington Parish Show

The date for this year's show is Saturday 7 September. Once again it is the time of year, given warmer weather than we have had lately, when we gardeners start planting vegetable and flower seeds. Hopefully some of the outcome of this work will be seen exhibited at the annual Parish Show. It is always a joy to see lovely flowers, vegetables and fruit which people have grown displayed on the tables in the church on Show day. I hear that Stan's Leek Club is thriving and it would be a great idea if others could set up friendly (hopefully) rivalry by forming other 'clubs' to boost the number of exhibits. Carrot Company? Onion Set? Artichoke Association? Shallot Society? Flower Fraternity? Go for it! An insert will be placed in the April *DN* giving all the Show classes for this year and they will also be available in the church porch. Show programmes will be available at the June and July Farmers' Markets.

Wendy Burrows
wendy.burrows536@btinternet.com

Friends of the Castle Grounds

The Friends of the Castle Grounds will hold their annual general meeting on Tuesday 19 March at 7.30pm in the upstairs meeting room at the Deddington Arms.

Carol Horlock
338935
07740 983453



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WELL REMEMBERED

Evelyn Freeman 1929–2013

Evelyn Davies was born in Hornton in 1929. After school she did war work in munitions at Kineton. Later at the Tropical Preservation packing company in Banbury she met Dennis Freeman. The couple married in 1954 in Hornton Church. A few years later they moved from Milcombe to Windmill Street in Deddington and then in the eighties to the Hempton Road.

Evelyn's family was central to her life. She had three children, and doted on her nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Family holidays, often on the Isle of Wight, were a particular pleasure. She liked to have her neighbours dropping in for a cup of tea and a chat. Her garden gave her great happiness and she loved its birds, particularly the robins. She had a number of jobs in the village, among them cleaning the Windmill Centre, and 'doing' at Castle House for a proud 27 years.

She was a member of the Deddington Ladies. In her latter years her arthritis became very restrictive and Evelyn was pretty much housebound. However, she had the loving care and support of her family, Dennis coming into his own as a cook under his wife's supervision. If not a Deddingtonian born, Evelyn nevertheless became part of the fabric of the village, which shares in her family's loss.

Hugh White

Ken Hart 1927–2013

Ken was born in Banbury in 1927 but soon moved to Ipswich and then Chelmsford where he grew up. At the age of fourteen he won a coveted apprenticeship with Hoffman's engineering company where, gifted and hard-working as he was, he did extremely well. However, he succumbed to the romance of the RAF and joined up in 1952. He served initially in the Canal Zone in Egypt and later worked in the field of guided weapons. His jumping off a bus in Newport to catch up again with the girl he had first met some years back and now recognised again on a casual sighting resulted in marriage to Mary in 1956 and then in the births of Chris and Liz. He was also to have five grandchildren with whom he developed strong bonds. Ken pursued his RAF career in postings across the world with great success. He loved life in the service, eventually retiring in 1987, having been asked to stay on beyond the normal retirement date. In Deddington Ken delighted in his garden, in his studies of the history of the Second World War and in the rhythms of village life in Deddington. A man possessed of great integrity and a wonderful sense of humour, modest and unassuming, he contributed much in his quiet way to the village. The day was set better just for having seen him on his morning rounds. We shall miss him greatly.

Hugh White



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DOWN ON GEORGE'S FARM

'February fill dyke black or white' is a well known country saying to describe the weather during February, black being rain and white, snow. Already this month we have had copious amounts of both. This time last year we were heading into a drought with the prospect of a hosepipe ban. After one of the wettest summers on record which reduced the harvest to a salvage operation and moved the haymaking from July to a last ditch fight in September, the wet weather continued into the autumn planting season, leaving us with parts of the farm too wet to drill. Many of the crops that we did manage to get in are in very poor condition as they went into water-logged soil and we have been unable to apply any of the normal grass weed sprays.

We desperately need a break in the weather to get some field work done before the start of lambing. Our tractors are now fitted with large flotation tyres in the hope that we can keep them 'on top' but we shall end up with some very wide 'tram lines'. We had hoped to plant the remaining fields in January but they are still too wet to walk on, so we have decided to plant 50 acres of the worst land with grass when we can and expand the sheep flock. The remaining fields that did not get sown or where the seed has rotted or the plants been taken out by slugs, will, weather permitting, be planted with a spring crop if we can find the seed. Even in this case, however, they are destined to be 'cuckoo' crops, planted after the cuckoo arrives in April.

As I bash this out, even that last ditch stand is beginning to look like a lost cause, but we are not alone as there are many thousands of acres across the country that will not grow a crop this year. The devastating effects of the last year's wet weather will have a lasting impact on crop yields for some years to come. Ironically, although we need some warm dry weather over the next few weeks to stand any chance of seeing a harvest, a long hot summer that so many dream of would be the final straw, as the winter planted

crops that went into very wet ground did not produce much of a root system; a summer drought would finish them off.

Most of the Cotswolds had dropped their lambs by the end of January and have produced a pleasing number of ewe lambs which will join the flock next year. Our main flock of mule ewes has been pregnancy scanned with a large number carrying twins and only a few barren, so it seems we may have missed the German virus since a number of flocks in the area have reported up to 30% of their ewes being barren. We are not out of the woods yet though. The virus is well known for causing lambs to be born either dead or deformed, something that doesn't show up on the scan so the only time to count the lambs is when they are out at grass.

The wildlife on the farm has had a difficult winter to date. The poor summer weather meant the winter bird seed strips did not produce much in the way of seed, so we have been supplementing them with grain cleanings since the beginning of December.

The bees were all present and correct when they had their February top-up of sugar syrup and to date Mr Woody Woodpecker has not paid us a visit. March will be the crunch month for over-wintering bee losses, so it is still too early to predict how many hives will survive into the spring. All our hives are fitted with mesh floors, which help to keep the hives dry and ventilated to reduce the increased condensation. In a hive this can chill and kill a colony faster than low temperatures, in the same way as a lamb with a full tummy and a dry back will stand any amount of cold, but will succumb very quickly if it has a wet back.

So what we all need, after one of the worst farming years I can remember, is the one thing in short supply: some sun on our backs, and maybe a shirt sleeve lambing. Ho Hum.

George Fenemore 338203

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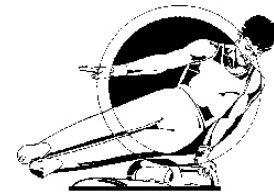
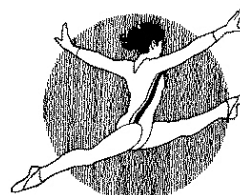
Contact Sheila for further details:

Mobile: 07583 724917 Home: 01869 338543

Email: sheila.heywood@yahoo.co.uk

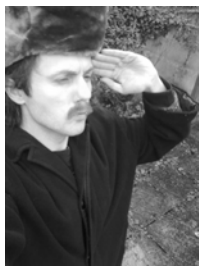
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BLISSFUL THINKING

Dogs are proclaimed 'man's best friend'. They whine at you for food, exercise or attention, and slobber all over you when you return home. They make a mess of everything, embarrass you in front of guests, and make an infuriating noise at the most inconvenient times. When puppies, they can't be left alone for any length of time. You shower them with toys and treats, talk to them in baby language, and give them their own sleeping space. Dogs are constantly reliant on your altruism and devotion to them, and potentially don't even guard the house very well. In short, dogs prepare one for having children. If you can raise a dog from puppy, tolerate its whining and mess and pleading eyes and still have a heart full of love, there's a fair chance you can cope with raising a child, who will evoke similar levels of dependence.

Cats don't give a damn when you return home or waking you at 3am to let them out. They prowl all night and return simply to refuel. They don't ask for attention; they take it. They lounge on the furniture, whether people are home or not, not yielding for anyone, and use your legs as scratching posts. Some may demand to defecate inside the house. They will not so much ask for food as demand it with force, if they haven't eaten yours already. They will happily torture animals weaker than them for their amusement, and even show them off to you. Despite your blind deference and care, these cunning creatures will lavish attention and affection on any stranger they may consider to be more likely to offer them food. If you can tolerate these animals accepting all they are given, only to take more, stitch you up and expect you to be grateful, then you are ready for the world of work. No wonder so many people share their lives with such pets: they are a rehearsal for the realities of the world around us.

As a footnote, just as you wouldn't leave your infant's soiled nappy in a shop or on someone's lawn, please be sure to clean up, should your pets befoul an inappropriate public area. Peace.

Aaron Bliss

aaronjbliss@hotmail.com

Anglo-Saxon Brooch Comes to Banbury Museum

A rare Anglo-Saxon brooch will be on show at Banbury Museum until 27 April.

The brooch, found at West Hanney in 2009, is on loan from the Oxfordshire County Council's museum service following several months of conservation and investigation. It was discovered during a metal detecting rally in West Hanney in 2009.

The brooch dates from the 7th century and is decorated with garnets and gold. Its style and fine craftsmanship indicate that the individual buried at West Hanney was of high social status.

Love ... Natural ... Food

What's good to eat right now and inspiring you to eat with the seasons

In March I am eating ... rhubarb. Move over winter! Spring is here, and bringing with it longer days, warmer sunshine and crops and crops of yellow daffodils scattered on grassy verges and roadsides. There is nothing like a bit of colour to brighten up your day and, while daffodils may keep you cheery in the great outdoors, it's the vibrant pink stalks of rhubarb which will keep you smiling in the kitchen. While a hardy clump of rhubarb may be a familiar sight in your garden in the summer, it is around this time of year that forced rhubarb, grown over the winter in hothouses or dark sheds, is available in shops and farmers' markets. Distinctively tart and lip-puckering in taste, rhubarb is best accompanied by a little sugar or fruit juice while cooking to mellow its sharp flavour.

About: Rhubarb is a member of the polygonaceae family. It grows above ground, with large, green leaves and edible leaf stalks called petioles. The colour of the leaf stalks varies depending on variety, age and growing methods. Forced rhubarb tends to be brighter in colour, sweeter to taste and more tender than outdoor rhubarb.

Season: Forced rhubarb is available in the UK from January to April. Outdoor rhubarb is in season from April to September.

How to choose: Seek out rhubarb with firm, bright stalks. It will keep well in the fridge for a couple of weeks, but is best eaten fresh. Rhubarb freezes well; simply cut into chunks and store in an airtight bag or container.

How to prepare: Thoroughly wash and trim the rhubarb stalks before preparing. Remove and discard the green leaves which are poisonous. To cook, simply chop into chunks and simmer in a pan. However, be warned that when cooked this way, rhubarb will lose its shape and become a bit of a gloopy mess (perfect for a pie filling or as a topping for porridge). If you wish to preserve the rhubarb's cylindrical shape, bake covered with foil.

For something savoury, try Jamie Oliver's My Favourite Hot and Sour Rhubarb and Crispy Pork with Noodles (recipe available in his *Jamie at Home*).

Alternatively, for a classic dessert, try rhubarb fool or rhubarb crumble, recipes by Anthony Worrall-Thompson and James Martin respectively, available on the BBC website.

Phillipa Carson

Phillipacarson@googlemail.com

Any Volunteers?

Do you have an hour or two to spare and would like to help produce the *DN*? The collating team meets at the Windmill Centre at 10.00am, usually on the last Wednesday of the month. Please contact Pat Brittain on 338685.

DEDDINGTON 150 YEARS AGO

The following are extracts from the diaries of the Rev. Cotton Risley for the month of March 1863:

2nd March – Holford and I started by the first train to attend the Assizes at Oxford, the calendar a very heavy one both as to the number and gravity of the crimes – 2 murders, cutting and wounding with intent, manslaughter, arson (6 cases) and forgery. The Heyford murder of James Allen by Noah Austin being a most cruel, cold-blooded, pre-meditated affair.

6th March – Holford went to London to witness the entrance into London tomorrow of the Princess Alexandra of Denmark, the betrothed wife of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, on her way to Windsor Castle preparatory to her marriage on Tuesday.

10th March – The day was ushered in by a merry peal of the Church bells at 6am – many of the houses were decorated with flags bearing divers inscriptions appropriate for the occasion. At 12 o'clock the Rifle Corps fired a feu de joie in the Market Place, and the Parishioners walked in procession round the Town accompanied by the Bloxham Band – the School children having previously paraded round the Town accompanied with their little Drum and Fife Band. At 1 o'clock the whole of the men and boys were regaled in the National Schools with roast and boiled beef and plum pudding, with a certain quantity of good wholesome

beer, pipes and tobacco. About 380 or 400 sat down to dinner, the Vicar presiding in the Boys' school and I in the Girls' school. After dinner a variety of sports and games came off according to a programme, and at 4 o'clock all the women and children were regaled with tea and cake, about 400 in number. In the evening a Concert and Ball took place attended by the farmers, tradesmen and other respectable inhabitants. At 4 o'clock I drove down to Clifton to be present at their tea drinking and games for the women, the men had previously been entertained with beef of both kinds, beer, pipes and tobacco. I got home a little before 6 o'clock. I was rather tired and my cold was not well. The whole thing passed off admirably and reflected the greatest credit on the Managing Committee.

24th March – Noah Austin was executed this morning at Oxford for the murder of James Allen of Upper Heyford Mill in February last.

Buffy Heywood
338212

George Spenceley

A memorial service for the late George Spenceley will be held in the parish church on 4 March at 3.00pm, after his cremation in Banbury at 1.00pm.

Sylvie Spenceley
338995



GET INTO GOLF

at Tadmarton Heath

Saturday, April 13, 10.30am-4pm

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- All are welcome – golfers, beginners and everyone in between
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Easter Fayre

Saturday 16th March 10.00 - 12.30

in the Parish Church

Raffle ~ Cake Stall ~ Bottle Stall

Easter Gifts & Cards

Face Painting & Children's Games



Bring your teddy bear to parachute
from the Church tower!

[You are advised to begin his physical and mental
preparation for this experience as soon as possible]

Proceeds to Church funds



FROM THE EDITOR'S POSTBAG

The Postbag, or parts of it, now appear on the website Forum (<http://www.deddingtonnews.co.uk/forum/>). This enables readers to comment without having to wait until DN appears the following month. If you would prefer your letters not to appear online, please tell us when you write. Thank you.

FROM CHRIS HART

Mary would like to thank all her kind Deddington friends who wrote such lovely letters of sympathy and support after the sudden death of Ken. She and her family were very touched that so many people came to the thanksgiving service. Everyone's most generous donations will be shared between the Church and the Royal British Legion.



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

FROM JEAN GODDARD

In 1952 my parents purchased the White Cottage, at an auction at the White Lion in Banbury, for the sum of £3,000. They spent happy years there until the garden became too much for them and they moved into Deddington.

Bryony Fenemore kindly sends a copy of the *Deddington News* to Frankie Cox and I was pleased to read about Clifton. I accessed the file and

spent a very happy Sunday afternoon reading the archived article.

I well remember Tardy, Mrs Drinkwater and Sydney with his van, Mrs Jennings, Frank Garrett and his son John, Charlie and Laura Gardner, and the Welfords (lovely picture of Donald in his pram). I was particularly interested in the church history and remember attending Holy Communion one Christmas morning and receiving a jar of honey from Revd Frost.

Thank you for such a splendid magazine. It gives both Frankie and me much pleasure. Best wishes to any Deddingtonians who may remember us.

FROM CHERYL,

BRITISH RED CROSS VOLUNTEERS

Do you want to get out and about in your local community? Would you like to raise funds for a worthy cause? The British Red Cross is active across Oxfordshire, helping people in crisis and providing welfare provisions for vulnerable people. We are on the look-out for volunteers who could help us manage our collection boxes in local shops and businesses, and also for people willing to help during our national week of fundraising in May 2013. Join the network of Red Cross volunteers at ctree@redcross.org.uk.

The Taste Buddies Eat at the Black Boy, Milton

The Tastebuddies lunch out every two months to assess local pubs and restaurants within a 20-mile radius of Deddington. We are an independent group with no connection to the *DN* or any of the establishments visited.

Where? The Black Boy Inn, Milton, Banbury OX15 4HH, telephone 01295 722111

Food served: Lunch is served Monday to Saturday 12.00 until 2.30pm, dinner served Monday to Saturday 6.00pm to 9.00pm. Traditional Sunday lunch is served between 12.00 and 4pm. It is essential to book for Friday and Saturday evenings and Sunday lunch, and advisable to book at other times as well. We were there for lunch on a Monday when you might expect it to be quiet, but many of the tables were taken.

Cost: Starters between £5 and £7, main courses between £11 and £20, and desserts all at £5.50.

Are they pleased to see you? We were very warmly welcomed with cheery smiles and given an inviting table by the window. The service was attentive, helpful and friendly.

Is the restaurant attractive? The establishment was taken over about 18 months ago by Marco Pierre



White and has been renovated to create a spacious but cosy feel. There is a large conservatory style dining area at the back for use when the restaurant is busy.

Was the cooking good? Our starters included a fried duck egg en broche with black pudding, a beetroot and goat's cheese salad, and a cauli-

flower and smoked haddock soup. Our mains featured a very tender belly of pork served with butter beans, and a rump of lamb with gratin Dauphinoise. All the food was beautifully cooked and presented. One of our party found that the lamb was slightly too rare for their taste and asked for it to be cooked a little longer. This was done graciously and it was returned cooked to perfection. After such a delicious and substantial meal, we decided to share a dessert and the classic bitter chocolate mousse proved to be a good choice. There is a good selection of wine on offer and several available by the glass.

Good value for money? Very good value for money. We came home feeling that we had been well fed and well looked after without having spent too much.

Would we go again? Definitely.

OLD SCHOOL TIES

A History of Deddington Schools – Part I

Early Records ... and a bit of a spat

Early mentions of a school in Deddington date from 1547, when 'the late guild of the Trinity in the parish church of "Dadyngton" ' had as its schoolmaster William Burton, 'a good schoolmaster [who] bringeth up youth very well in learning'. And from 1555, when Sir Thomas Pope (founder of Trinity College, Oxford who it is thought was born in Deddington), agreed to provide a schoolmaster and usher for a free grammar school – a 'Jhesus Scole' – who would teach 'gramer & humanitie'.

In 1673 a 'school house' was made in the Church, the schoolmaster then being Edward Kempster, the Parish Clerk. However, there would seem to have been another school as well in the late 17th century, with a bit of rivalry going on between the then vicar, Rev. Jeremiah Wheate, and a non-conformist minister and unlicensed schoolmaster, Mr Whately.

During the 18th century the schools appeared to be supported mainly by charity, with a school for 16 boys and 16 girls in 1712, a school for 20 boys in 1718, and reading and the catechism being taught at the expense of 'a private gentleman' in 1727 with the children paying 1d. a week each. By 1738 the three manorial lords and neighbouring gentlemen were supporting a school for 20 boys who, after learning reading, writing and arithmetic, were put out to apprenticeship. In 1808 this is referred to as a Church Charity School with 35 pupils. The school seems to have been too small for the town's needs, with the then vicar again reporting that 50 or 60 children were being taught by 'illiterate men' at a Methodist Sunday School during church services.

19th Century

In 1814 a branch of the National School Society opened, firstly for boys and a year later for girls, by which time there were 100 pupils and the Charity School closed. Approximately £420 was raised by subscription; numbers of pupils grew rapidly to 141 boys and 94 girls by 1816, including about 20 children from neighbouring parishes. The school was probably in buildings attached to Appletree Farm and lying to the south of Hopcraft Lane (previously known as 'School Lane') and owned by Christ Church.

Numbers fluctuated over the years and by the mid-1830s there were ten other private schools with 110 pupils in all. An Infant School was started by the then Vicar, the Rev. Richard Greaves in Church Street,

which subsequently became the Wesleyan Chapel.

The Rev. William Cotton Risley became Vicar of Deddington in 1836 and held jurisdiction over both the National and Infant Schools, the latter being bought by him. He appointed the schoolmasters and mistresses, paid their salaries and 'collected the pence' from the pupils each week. In June 1838 he records in his *Diaries* that he and his wife entertained nearly 200 children with beef and plum pudding in the Infant School as part of the celebrations for the Coronation of Queen Victoria. He had plans early in the 1840s for new schools, but nothing seems to have come of them.



The Old School House, Hopcraft Lane, used as a school in the early 19th century (line drawing by H.E. Robinson, 1978)

Risley resigned the living in 1848, being succeeded by the Rev. James Brogden, a drunken, querulous figure who resisted all attempts by his parishioners to get rid of him. Risley wrote to Brogden saying 'I shall have something to say about the Schools, which have *never* been conducted as I could have wished, *or as they ought to be*, from peculiar circumstances. They are *both* my property.' Brogden published a long letter on the need for new school buildings; but he left the village for some time in 1850

and a Committee took over.

The Present Site ... and more trouble

In 1852 the present site on the Banbury Road was given to the village by W.C. Cartwright of Aynho, lord of one of the three manors of Deddington. In July 1852 it was agreed that new schools should be built and an application be made for government aid. A 'treat of tea, cakes, etc.' was given to the children attending the schools of Deddington, Clifton and Hempton, then numbering nearly 400. Funds were raised, building was commenced, the foundation stone laid in March 1853 and the school was opened in January 1854 at a total cost of £1,244 14s. 7d.

But Rev. Brogden then returned; he disputed the administration of funds and within a year the school was closed. It reopened a year later in 1856, with 90 boys and 90 girls. By 1868 this had risen to 247 children of agricultural labourers in winter and 191 in summer, and it must have been during this time that Thomas Manchip (1843–1911) became headmaster of the Boys' School. He held this position for 37 years and was also church choirmaster for 34 years.

In 1875 a separate infants' section was established, which was moved in 1908 into the former girls' school.

Buffy Heywood 338212

Part II of the History of Deddington schools will follow next month.

CALLING ALL CLUBS

Photographic Society

Member Cliff May led a workshop demonstrating a screen calibration device bought by the Society for use by members. After calibrating the Society's own laptop computer, Cliff then used the device to calibrate members' laptops.

Members braved the snow and inclement weather to attend the Society's annual New Year dinner. We took over the restaurant of the Cartwright Hotel, and a delicious meal was served, followed by coffee, mince pies, the customary general knowledge quiz and the inevitable raffle, all of which made for a most enjoyable evening.

At last month's club night, Roger Tapp, LRPS, gave a presentation entitled 'My Digital Renaissance' in which he showed his collection of over 100 landscape photographs. Becoming weary of processing film negatives, Roger's interest in photography waned but was rekindled by the advent of digital photography. He travels extensively around the UK, concentrating on landscape and seascape images, many of which have won awards. In reviewing his photographs, Roger stated his objective is always to find the right light to show the image to best effect. This usually means getting up very early in the morning, but the resulting images were both ethereal and stunning. The evening concluded with a review of the monthly photographic subject, 'By Candle Light'. Members demonstrated their individual creativity with low light photography.

The next club night is at 7.30pm on 6 March when Cliff May will give a presentation entitled 'Local Wildlife Photography'.

The AGM is on 3 April at 7.15pm, followed by a presentation from David Boag on 'International Wildlife Photography'.

Everyone is welcome at the club nights, which are held in the Cartwright Hotel, Aynho.

Richard Broadbent 338173
www.adandd.co.uk

1st Deddington Scout Group

Cubs

The Cubs started the new year by tackling the artist badge. They began with a still life, 'Kettle, Brush, Dice and Ball', and then followed this with clay pots and portraits. Some of these looked remarkably like their subject, although I don't remember one that looked like Archie's cubist Cub.

They also spent an evening learning about the British Isles for the Global Challenge.

Jo Churchyard CSL
jochurchyard@hotmail.com

Scouts

With the younger Scouts starting the meteorology badge, the older ones went on a night hike. This was an obvious success as they all came back. An even-

ing was spent working on models and some started their art badge.

On the last meeting before half-term the Scouts cooked jam sandwich doughnuts over a fire lit in a washing-machine drum. Now that's what I call a patio heater.

We have raised £590 for a Shelterbox, well done to everybody; we'll let you know where it is used.

Pete Churchyard SL
pete.churchyard@btinternet.com

1st Deddington Guides

A busy start to the year working on Patrol projects – planning for badges: film-lover, confectioner and traditions of guiding. We have also been developing ideas for our annual charity fund-raising entertainment evening at the end of March.

We are looking ahead too to when we can get outside on our first hike and cookout and learning about suitable equipment and clothing, so now it's half-term already and we look forward to celebrating Thinking Day with international activities on our first meeting back.

Maggie Rampley
01295 810069

1st Barford and Deddington Rainbows

There was a delayed start to the term because of the snow but we've made up for it since. To celebrate Burns Night, Anna and her mum, Jenny, taught us the Gay Gordons. The Rainbows danced non-stop all meeting and finally stopped to have haggis, neeps and tatties. The haggis in particular is always popular. The girls loved it – thanks for bringing your mum along Anna. We had a slightly less strenuous meeting, learning about the Rainbow Guide promise, when the girls completed a team relay and made paper mice with long woollen tails to help them remember ways they can be kind and helpful, an important part of the Rainbow promise. They wrote their reminder on the mouse and took it home to tie a knot in the tail every time they carried it out. Then it was Chinese New Year and as 2013 is Year of the Snake, half a dozen royal pythons and a large Dumerils boa visited us. They were fascinating and everybody, Rainbows and helpers, held a snake, even those who were quite sure they wouldn't want to.

Next will be Thinking Day and we'll play games and try fruits from different countries as well as joining in with our District celebrations.

Hazel Neal 337822

Deddington Royal British Legion Branch

As a result of the research into the excellent book, *The Parish at War*, it was discovered that names on both the parish war memorial and the memorial in the church were incomplete. The authors of the book have undertaken to correct this by a new memorial plaque in the parish church. This is being financed from the

CALLING MORE CLUBS

profits of the sale of the book and the supplement.

The Bishop of Dorchester will dedicate the memorial plaque on Sunday 16 June in a short service starting at 12.00pm, following the morning service. We hope that as many members of the Royal British Legion as possible will attend.

We are still keen to recruit new members to the Royal British Legion and, in Deddington, membership includes membership of the Deddington Royal British Legion Club. Cost is £18 per annum (£13 for pensioners) and no forces connection is required. Further details from the Club during opening hours, Friday 7pm to midnight, Saturday 11.00am to midnight and Sunday from noon to 4pm, or from me.

Jean Morris, Branch Secretary 338143
mrsjeanmorris@gmail.com

Deddington Town Colts

This month the weather took its toll on matches with many games postponed due to the snow and ice.

Mini football

The U7s and U6s are continuing to train hard and are enjoying their football despite cold Saturday mornings. The U10 Cobras have put in some strong team performances and are sitting in the middle of the table. They found themselves 2–0 down against Chadlington despite dominating possession, but Peter Sansom equalised in the last minute after Casian Rowbotham put away a sublime free kick to bring them right back into the game.

The U10 Sharks have not had any league games since they rose to the top of the table in mid-January. In the quarter final of the cup they met Ducklington, and got off to the best possible start with a Dom Bagot goal within the first minute, and a second from Harvey Machin truly calmed the nerves. Too much, perhaps, as Ducklington bounced back: a lob from Lucas Lluna made it 3–1 to the Sharks and it was 3–2 before Tom Haynes restored the two-goal advantage. Ducklington scored again and the nerve-shredding last five minutes were played out and the final whistle blew with the Sharks victorious, 4–3. The Sharks now play Brackley Town in the semi-final. The U11s had a fine 6–2 victory over Witney Vikings Youth and currently sit third in the league.

Junior football

The U12 Cobras had an emphatic 7–3 victory over Chadlington and stand fourth in the league. Ben Haynes had one of his best games in another superb season, scoring three goals. However, all players contributed well for the best team performance of the season and, while Matty Dawson and Harvey Rye caused chaos in midfield, Simon Potter and Joe Morris had an excellent game in defence. The U12 Sharks lost 4–1 to table-topping Banbury United Youth and sit mid-table with two matches to play. The U13s played just one league game and had a 2–1 win over

Bloxham. Deddington took the lead after four minutes as Josh Rowe beat the keeper with a powerful shot. Bloxham had several shots go wide, and Will Duxbury kept Deddington in front with a fine one-handed save after 33 minutes. Deddington started the second half with pace, and Ethan Stevens calmly beat the keeper after a fine through-ball after 37 minutes. Deddington had most of the possession and Alfie Thatcher and Cameron Fowler went close, before Bloxham pulled a goal back after 55 minutes. The U15s had a 2–1 victory over Bampton and stand third in the league.

Successful quiz night and 125 Years Ball

In November, at a packed British Legion, Craig Milner hosted a fantastic quiz night that raised over £750 for the club. Thanks to Kate Gibbins and Hazel Hunt for organising the event. Thanks also to the companies who donated prizes for the raffle: Amanda Gill, Personal Training; the Bell Inn, Adderbury; Bengal Spice restaurant; Cross Embroidery; G&E Builders Ltd; Shared Beauty Secrets Ltd; Viva Sacs; and the Unicorn Inn, Deddington.

The Deddington Town Ball to celebrate 125 years of Deddington Town FC has sold out. The event is at Rye Hill Golf Course on 23 March 2013 and will provide valuable funds for the club for the future.

If you would like to get involved with the club as player, volunteer, sponsor or fundraiser, please don't hesitate to get in touch. Further information about the club is on our website, deddingtontownfc.com/.

**Roger Sykes Club Welfare Officer
and Under 13 Manager
337034**

Book Club

Last month's book, *In the Springtime of the Year* by Susan Hill, provoked a lively and interesting discussion. For many of us this is an important book, giving a comprehensive and graphic depiction of grief and the many different ways in which people cope with it.

The story features a girl in her twenties whose husband of one year has been killed in a freak accident by a falling tree. The author, who shows a remarkable understanding of the process of grief, effectively uses descriptions of the changing seasons to illustrate the girl's journey. Many in our group shared their own personal experiences on coping with grief.

This book is easy to read and, in spite of the melancholic subject matter, not too overwhelming and most were glad to have read it. We noticed a few editorial errors and also some irritating inconsistencies in the story, but these can be overlooked and do not detract from the message.

The next book is *Love in the Time of Cholera* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez and the next meeting 28 March.

**Sally Lambert
338094**

... AND EVEN MORE CLUBS

Deddington Tennis Club

Members are looking forward to their annual visit to the Manor Hotel in Oakhampton where they can enjoy the indoor tennis facilities for a long weekend.

Winter league matches have been continuing despite the bad weather, though several have had to be postponed. Coaching for juniors aged three and above is still taking place inside the Windmill Centre and will move outside after the Easter break.

An application to light two of the courts has been made to Cherwell District Council for modern low level lights specially designed to light the courts with minimal light spillage and with an automatic cut off mechanism. Lights will enable us to continue coaching older juniors throughout the winter, rather than losing them to other clubs, and we feel this will be a big boost to sporting facilities within the village.

For details about the club see www.deddingtontennis.com.

Steve Ashby
01295 263855

Deddington Town Football Club

First Team results

02.02.13	Slade Farm United (h) (CUP)	L 2-4
16.02.13	Bloxham (CUP)	W 4-1

Reserve Results

16.02.13	Kings Sutton (a)	L 1-3
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A forgettable month for local football saw just three games escape winter's pitiless wrath, and they painted a somewhat inglorious portrait, as a solitary victory was the only consolation in a bleak February.

The First Team played no league matches but still sit top, though progress in cups has distorted the league picture somewhat. A disappointing defeat to Slade Farm was remedied with progress in the Coronation Cup while, for the Reserves, another turgid defeat meant a fourth loss in a row, and no win since the end of October. Hope springs eternal though, and no doubt both teams will be gambolling like fresh lambs come the prize-giving in April.

Aaron Bliss
07909 642882

Deddington Players

We were very pleased to be able to send £200, the proceeds of the pantomime raffle, to Cancer Research

UK in memory of Jean Flux. Thank you to everyone who contributed. We have acquired a new member of the Players in the form of an ex-London theatre pantomime horse. If we can think of a few lasagne jokes we may even let him feature in a future show. We will be arranging an AGM shortly – watch this space.

Lucy Squires
338442

Deddington and District History Society

Despite snow and ice, we had a good attendance on 13 February for Shaun Morley's talk on Oxfordshire friendly societies. From the perspective of the 21st century, friendly societies can seem curious indeed. Beginning in the 17th century, friendly societies were ubiquitous by the mid-18th. The friendly society became the foremost example of associational life throughout Britain. Providing insurance against sickness and death, they also offered a sense of identity and self-regulation and an annual club day, usually held at Whitsun. Each society or club had a box in which members' subscriptions were kept and from which benefits were paid – hence the expression of being 'on the box', or 'on the club'. Shaun has identified 14 clubs in Deddington alone. In 1815 Deddington clubs had a membership of 325. Here, as elsewhere, meetings were usually held in pubs, all of Deddington's pubs seeming to have a share of club business. Club day parades, with banners and brass bands, were often further enlivened by the consumption of impressive quantities of beer. At Stonesfield, one club day dinner for 60 people was supplied with 54 gallons. Nowadays the benefits of the 'Big Society' are urged on us, voluntarism and localism being held up as alternatives to the heavy hand of the state. Shaun's talk demonstrated yet again that truly there is nothing new under the sun.

On 13 March our speaker is Dr Steven Parissien, Director of Compton Verney. This will be an opportunity to learn more about the house and gallery and to meet with and talk to its director. This will be a special event, so do come along. Everyone is welcome. The meeting will take place as usual at 7.30pm at the Windmill Centre.

Chris Day (Chairman) 337204
Moiria Byast (Secretary) 338637

Picture Gallery on DoL



Nearly 2000 pictures of Deddington, Clifton and Hempton are now available on the Deddington OnLine Gallery. Explore the rich heritage on our doorstep by going to www.deddington.org.uk/gallery/main/php/

News From Clifton

All very subdued this month. Mostly dominated by water, in its crystalline, vapour and fluid states. Thanks are due to two groups of individuals who helped spread road salt before the first big snow, both in the west and in the east of the village to help prevent the snow from freezing and causing more transport difficulties. This was tried again later in the month but a smaller snow-fall lessened the impact. This preventative approach might well be the answer, as those who then helped clear the snow later (often the same volunteers) found the lack of ice at the base made this far easier. Again, many community thanks to the salters and the clearers.

There are signs that the Clifton spring is becoming an attraction again but starting lower down the hill. I think those in Candleford who complain about low water pressure might have cause for a conversation with the utility supplier. This liquid phenomenon can also be experienced by standing outside the Duck and listening to the deluge beneath your feet. The receding of the lake, suggested last month, was premature and some of us wake every morning to the now familiar vista that only seems to lack a flock of flamingos to finish it off. We are all looking forward to seeing the sheep return.

Many a school book is being dug out and re-read as we all prepare for a quiz in the Duck to help fund young Luca on his World Challenge trip to Morocco to build a community and health centre. Many thanks to Ron for the PR. Well done Luca, and let's see who wins.

Finally, but belatedly, we have a new resident. Team Murray-Hundley has adopted Walker, a 'distinguished' nine-year old golden retriever who was abandoned and picked up, severely emaciated, by his local dog pound. His previous owners were contacted but didn't want him back. So we have now taken him on. He is a lovely old boy who is having the desired calming effect on our lively young springer, Squire. Even the cat likes him. With support from the Hook Norton vet team, we are working on restoring him to his former glory and giving him a happy retirement home.

Martin Bryce

Martindnbryce@aol.com

WEEKLY DIARY

School holidays: 29 March–12 April

Mon: Brownies, Windmill Centre, 6–7.30pm
Youth Club, Windmill Centre, 7–9pm
Bellringing practice, Parish Church, 7.30–9pm

In term time:

Homework Club, Parish Church, 3.30–5pm
Boys Brigade Band, Parish Church, 6.15pm

Tue: Tennis Club, Windmill Centre, 10am
Craft Group, Holly Tree, 2–4.30pm
Internet Café, Living Room, Parish Church, 2–5pm
Badminton Club, Windmill Centre, Juniors 6.30pm, Seniors 7.30pm

Guides, Windmill Centre, 7–9pm

Alt Tue: Hempton Ladies, Church Hall, 2–4pm

Market Place Tree



Pic Richard Broadbent

As most shoppers in the Market Place will have noticed by now, Oxfordshire County Council has fulfilled its promise to plant an oak tree and two protective rowans on the green to replace the diseased oak. Nicholson's, the North As-

ton nursery with a specialist forestry division, was awarded the contract by the OCC to plant and maintain the trees which augurs well for their reaching a healthy adulthood and sheltering Oxford-bound bus travellers far into the future.

Jane Green

green-jane@btconnect.co

In term time:

Music for Under 5s, Windmill Centre, 2–3pm

Alt Wed: Friendship Club, Windmill Centre, 2.30–3pm

Wed: Caterpillar Music for Babies and Toddlers, Windmill Centre, 10–10.30am
1st Deddington Boys' Brigade Company, Windmill Centre: Anchor Boys 5.30–6.30pm, Juniors 5.30–7pm

1st Deddington Boys' Brigade Company, Company/Seniors, Living Room, Parish Church, 7.15–9pm

Thu: Life and Portrait Art Group, Holly Tree, 10am–12.30pm and 1.30–4pm

1st Deddington Cubs, Windmill Centre, 6–7.30pm

Youth Group, Parish Church, 7–8.30pm

1st Deddington Scouts, Windmill Centre, 7.30–9pm

Fri: Deddington Toddler and Baby Group, Windmill Centre, 9.30–11am

Drawing and Watercolour Classes, Holly Tree, 9.30–11.30am

Katharine House Hospice Coffee Morning, Parish Church, 10am–noon

Solemates Footcare, Parish Church, 10am–noon

Deddington Friendly Bridge Club, Holly Tree, 2–5pm

Internet Café, Living Room, Parish Church, 2–5pm

Church Choir Practice, Parish Church, 7.45pm

Events in this occasional listing also appear in the DN online calendar: <http://deddingtonnews.co.uk/whatson>.