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# the Deddington news

Welcome to Annie Goldthorp, the new vicar, who arrives in our midst on 12 February. My thanks to the redoubtable Frank Steiner who has decided to retire as our Church correspondent (p12). *DN* has been informing the parish for 38 years and we are holding our own little celebration on 5 February at the Windmill Centre, 6–8pm, so if you edit, print, collate or deliver, we look forward to seeing you for a drink.

## FEBRUARY 2015

- |     |    |   |
|-----|----|---|
| Mon | 2  | Monday Morning Club: Coffee morning, Holly Tree, 10.30am                                      |
| Tue | 3  | Hempton Ladies: Church Hall, 2.00pm   |
| Wed | 4  | Photographic Society: Bob Brind-Surcho, 'Macro', Cartwright Hotel, Aynho, 7.30pm              |
| Fri | 6  | Hempton Social Night: Hempton Church Hall, 7.00pm   |
| Tue | 10 | WI: Graham Soden, 'Local Wildlife Through the Seasons', Holly Tree, 7.30pm                    |
| Wed | 11 | History Society: Hugh Grainger, 'Notorious Highwaymen', Windmill Centre, 7.30pm               |
| Thu | 12 | Monday Morning Film Club: Film tba, Holly Tree, 6.30pm  |
| Thu | 12 | Institution of the Revd Annie Goldthorp, Parish Church, 7.30pm                                |
| Sat | 14 | Concert: Rhythm Is Life, 'Songs for Love and Life for Valentine's Day', Parish Church, 7.45pm |
| Sat | 14 | RBL: Live singer for Valentine's Day, RBL Hall, 9.00pm  |
| Wed | 18 | Parish Council Meeting: Holly Tree, 7.30pm  |
| Wed | 18 | Photographic Society: Workshop, 'Painting with Light', Cartwright Hotel, Aynho, 7.30pm        |
| Sat | 21 | Farmers' Market: Market Place, 9.00am–12.30pm   |
| Sat | 21 | RBL: Cash Prize Bingo, RBL Hall, 8.00pm   |
| Sun | 22 | Friends of Daeda's Wood: Working Party, 10.00am   |
| Sun | 22 | Photographic Society: Annual Dinner, Cartwright Hotel, Aynho, 7.00pm                          |
| Wed | 25 | <i>DN</i> Collating: Windmill Centre (upstairs), 10.00am                                      |
| Thu | 26 | Book Club: Call 338094 for information, 7.30pm  |
| Sat | 28 | PTA: Curry and Quiz Night, Barford Village Hall, 7.30pm                                       |

## MARCH

- |     |    |  |
|-----|----|--|
| Mon | 2  | Monday Morning Club: Coffee morning, Holly Tree, 10.30am   |
| Tue | 3  | Hempton Ladies: Church Hall, 2.00pm  |
| Wed | 4  | Photographic Society: Alan Fretten, 'So Long and Thanks for the Fish', Cartwright Hotel, Aynho, 7.30pm |
| Fri | 6  | Hempton Social Night: Hempton Church Hall, 7.00pm  |
| Tue | 10 | WI: AGM followed by cheese and wine, Holly Tree Club, 7.30pm   |

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## DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting held at the Holly Tree Club, Deddington, on Wednesday 17 December 2014.

The PC co-opted Don Anderson onto the Council.

A member of the public addressed the Council concerning the removal of the hedge outside the Viewing Lounge at the Windmill Centre.

County Councillor Fatemian has indicated that he is prepared to meet from his budget the costs for the new lighting at the Town Hall – one lamppost to be situated at the NW corner and one at the SE. His offer was gratefully accepted.

District Councillor Bryn Williams announced that a Tree Preservation Order may be requested for the trees and hedges to the north and east of the proposed 'School Ground' development. CDC's Arboricultural Officer, Caroline Morrey will make a site visit on Monday 22 December. The shrubs outside the Viewing Lounge at the Windmill Centre will now be retained and the hedge trimmed to a height of 3ft 6ins.

As reported last month, the police have been able to identify the two individuals responsible for recent damage to the Windmill Centre from CCTV footage. A payment to cover the costs is expected.

Response to the questionnaire regarding Neighbourhood Planning is reported to be 60%. It is now possible to view the raw data online.

Deddington Primary School has been rated 'Good' by Ofsted.

It is proposed to spend £40,000 next year on maintenance of the Windmill Centre.

The battery arrangement for the lighting on the Christmas tree seems to be working well.

The supplies of salt have now been delivered and the Snow Emergency team is standing by in case of adverse weather.

These Parish Council notes are the view of our reporter Jean Rudge, and not the official Minutes. To see those, go to <http://www.deddington.org.uk/community/pc/pcminutes>.

Meeting held at the Windmill Centre, Deddington, on Wednesday 21 January 2015.

The PC will address parking difficulties in New St where grass verges are becoming unsightly. OCC may pass on the cost of repairing verges to motorists who have been recorded doing the damage.

DC Bryn Williams has met with CDC's Arboricultural Officer and inspected the boundaries of land due for development north of Gaveston Gardens. The northern boundary should be maintained as a screen of mature trees with a Group Tree Preservation Order. The eastern boundary will have to be maintained as a hedge as a condition of planning. Trees need to be counted and identified to provide a site drawing. There are plans for a tree survey elsewhere in the Parish.

Local Heritage assets: forms have been sent to CDC for the Old School Hall, Hempton, the Duke of Cumberland's Head, Clifton, and Deddington Library.

Fair dates for 2015: 11–15 November.

Christmas tree: A smaller tree will be ordered next year and three more sets of lights bought.

The Parish precept is to be the same as last year. The Village Steward's hours have been increased and Susan Fuller is to spend four hours per week checking play areas.

ORCC and CAB run a volunteer ambulance service in Banbury and are looking for volunteer drivers. ORCC 01865 883488, Banbury CAB 0844 411 1444.

Oxford Parkway, Chiltern Railway's new station at the Water Eaton car park, should open in October this year. There will be a half-hourly service to Marylebone via Bicester.

Lorries seen going through Clifton should be reported to OCC. The PC has a contact number.

CDC has granted an extension for submitting views on the development of land north of Gaveston Gardens. Any comments should be given to the PC before their next meeting.

**Next meeting: Wed 18 February at 7.30pm, the Windmill Centre or the Holly Tree Club (tbc).**

## BLISSFUL THINKING

A decade is a long time in any sense – a miniature epoch even, unless you're in space, in which case time becomes as malleable as clay. How much could we see in ten Earth years, travelling in a straight line directly away from the planet, I wonder. Chaos on Mars? Paradise on Venus? Atmospheric pulping and poached lung aside, it would be some journey of discovery.

Coming back down to Earth, ten years sees empires fall, cultures shift, fashions fade and economies crash. Idols become has-beens, children grow into adolescents, towns progress to cities and villages evolve to urban sprawl. Alexander the Great marched across Asia and controlled one of the largest empires in human history in just a decade, while agoraphobia could keep one confined to the same compact living space for this same period.

Through all of our individual travails and collective vicissitudes, just one thing remains constant: the planet continues supporting life, irrespective of tragedy or joy. Our whole metaphorical world could crash down around our ears; we could wish for the ground to open up and devour us, but it won't. It only knows routine: our most comforting linchpin that means we can look forward to seeing that resplendent greenery, arid desert and boundless ocean again on the return leg of our cosmic odyssey. Just as long as that military uniform approaching us as we touch down again is not adorning a gorilla.

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

## FROM THE FIRE STATION

**H**appy New Year to you all and thank you for supporting our fire station in 2014. Now it's 2015 Hand and I can reveal that we had 260 call-outs last year, more than any other year. This cannot be said for most of the other stations in the brigade, mainly due to us being available all the time now. I feel that change is afoot in 2015. You may have seen that the ambulance service is being put under more and more pressure these days. It has been decided that as the Fire Service is now trained in FPOS (first person on scene), when an ambulance cannot be mobilised in time, they will use the Fire Service as a first responder. This is a higher level of training than we used to have. This may mean that you may call for an ambulance and find a fire truck on your doorstep. How this will develop in the future, time will only tell.

We have had our first chimney fires but they were well into December before they started. The crew was called to a chimney fire in Clifton on Christmas Eve. The occupiers had gone to bed and left the fire in the grate, a log fell out and a rug caught fire which quickly spread. Luckily they were alerted by their smoke alarms and shut the door to the room and called us out. When the crew arrived Watch Manager Fenemore quickly deployed two BA Firefighters (breathing apparatus trained) who dealt with the fire very quickly as it was confined to one room. If the occupiers had not had smoke alarms and shut the door to the room on the way out, then it would have been a totally different story. If you have not had your chimney swept yet, please do it now and definitely make sure you have at least one working smoke alarm on each floor. They will save your life.

We have attended more road traffic crashes than I would like. We had one just outside Hempton which was particularly nasty. It was at night so the air ambulance could not be used. Their service is dependent

on donations and fund-raising by the public. The cost of flying helicopters at night is much more than flying during the day, needing training and extra equipment. However, the Police are able to fly their helicopters at night so the decision was made to use a Police helicopter to get the casualty to hospital. This is another example of how all the emergency services will work together to maintain a flexible service to keep our communities safe.

For the second time in two months the Deddington crew was available for 100% of its fire calls. It is usually 98% – the 100% has always eluded us. Our aim for 2015 is to maintain the 100% every month. Training is the key to this goal and with everyone now trained in using breathing apparatus it's time to train some of our newer recruits into more senior roles. George Williams and Tom Hall are being put forward to do their driving. This can take up to a year. First they need to get on a course, then there are medicals and a very comprehensive driving test with practical and theory. They then have to drive the fire engine for six months in a non-emergency role. Then it's another training course for them to drive on blue lights. Nicky Isted, Tom Hall and Lewis Mahony will be doing their breathing apparatus Team Leaders' assessments which is a very long process too. All of these things take time because of the extra level of responsibility for others' safety.

When I say that the whole crew is now BA (breathing apparatus) trained that is not strictly true. We have a new recruit for the first time in a good while. His name is Barney Alton. He is doing his basic training and should be on station by the end of the month. This will bring our numbers up to an all-time high of fourteen. We wish him well on his basic training and look forward to having him at the fire station.

**Crew Manager Tim Parker  
Deddington Fire Station**

## FARMERS' MARKET

### IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER

February is a depressing time of the year: spring can seem an awfully long way off. So why not treat yourself to a little retail therapy at the Farmers' Market?

There are stalls of organic, locally produced, healthy, nutritious vegetables, fish, meat and other produce to choose from. But when the days are short and the nights are long you might want to abandon those January resolutions and cheer yourself up with something a little less austere. An old fashioned raised pie with a spoonful of piccalilli on the side? A home style curry? Some exquisite patisserie? Or just a sticky bun? Not necessarily the foundation of a balanced diet but gloriously morale boosting just because it is so indulgent.

The stallholders will be out, whatever the weather, so a stroll round the Market Place will at least give them

a bit of moral support and, you never know, you might find a hidden delight. If, as is sometimes the case at this time of year, the weather is truly awful, you can always take refuge in the Church and have a wander around those stalls instead.

Either way, you'll have got a little exercise, a little entertainment, perhaps got something for supper or an indulgent treat, and supported the local community – a virtuous circle which can be very warming.

For more up to date information about the Market you can visit our webpage [www.deddingtonfarmers-market.co.uk](http://www.deddingtonfarmers-market.co.uk), listen to Deddington OnAir [www.deddingtononair.org](http://www.deddingtononair.org) or BBC Radio Oxford.

The Market is on Saturday 28 February from 9.00am to 12.30pm. Good shopping!

**IAN WILLOX 337940  
[ian@deddingtononair.org](mailto:ian@deddingtononair.org)**

## WELCOME ANNIE!



**I** was born in Cheltenham in December 1959 and was adopted as a baby. I grew up with my older brother (also adopted) in a loving family in Olton, Solihull. I attended a Church of England Primary School which I absolutely loved and which, on reflection, helped to shape the adult that I have become. At age 11 I moved to an all girls grammar school in Solihull where I gained perfectly acceptable exam results along with a passion for all things theatrical – English language and literature, music and drama. Fairly typically I suppose, I didn't want to go to university for more academic study, but rather wanted to be earning and learning at the same time. I managed to secure a commercial apprenticeship at Land Rover, specialising in what was then known as the Personnel Department and discovering that at the very core of my being, I loved working with people. In fact I made history – I was the first female apprentice Land Rover had ever employed, and I enjoyed every minute of it – the greater the challenge, the happier I was. I left there in 1986 having had a wonderful time.

I was married in 1983, but unfortunately it was not to be a lasting relationship and we parted in 1992. Our son Jeremy was born in 1987 when we were at that time living in Hull, and several house moves later, he continued to live with me until moving to London to do his degree in 2011.

Jeremy and I have always had a very special relationship and shared the highs and lows of each others' life. He has been a great support to me, especially since I entered the vocations process for ordination back in 2007–08 and continues to give great encouragement.

I began working for a company which sold advertising space in various magazines in 1991. This company saw many changes over the years, and eventually became a magazine publisher in its own right. In 2004,

although working with the same team of people, I became publisher of my own design magazine.

In 1998 we moved to Warwick, mostly so that Jeremy would be able to get himself to and from school more easily, but also I had it in mind to move the business there at some point. It proved to be a very good move for all number of reasons. Having been a bit overwhelmed with the many church activities I was involved in my previous church, I imagined I would be free of such responsibilities in Warwick. However the truth was that I became more focused on the activities that would eventually lead to Ordination. I very quickly got involved with youth and children's activities at both St Nicholas' and St Mary's in the Warwick team, and before long was being 'nudged' by a couple of members of the clergy to explore the vocations process. It still took a while for me to believe that God might be calling me – but eventually I realised that the call was indeed there, and that getting through the process mattered so much that I couldn't imagine not doing it.

I was recommended for a Bishop's Panel in 2008, and started my training in the autumn of the same year. It was a very tough three years to have been working full time running my own business and training for ministry at the same time, but the rewards have been enormous.

My curacy was spent at All Saints, Harbury, and All Saints, Ladbroke, in the Coventry Diocese where I had a wonderful training incumbent – Revd Craig Grocock. It is difficult to explain, but I know that I have grown so much in confidence and have found my true self working and pastoring the people in the parish. By the time I had covered for Craig during his sabbatical in 2014 – which apart from anything else meant leading the churches through Lent and Easter on my own – I knew I was ready for my first post.

Resting on God's time is always difficult and I was beginning to get frustrated about not finding the right place. Then I read the advertisement for Deddington with the Barfords, Hempton and Clifton and knew I had to apply. I felt very strongly from the first time I visited that it was somewhere I could work and so was absolutely delighted to have been offered the post of Vicar.

That then, is the story so far ...

*Annie Goldthorp*

### From the Parishes of Deddington, Clifton, Hempton and the Barfords

You are cordially invited to the Institution by the Bishop of Dorchester  
and the Induction and Installation by the Archdeacon of Dorchester

of

**The Revd Annie Goldthorp  
as Vicar**

**on Thursday 12 February 2015 at 7.30pm**

in the Church of St Peter and St Paul, Deddington

The service will be followed by refreshments in Church

Clergy and licensed lay ministers are asked to indicate if they wish to robe (choir robes)

RSVP **Dan Maharry**, PCC Secretary (338105, danmaharry@gmail.com)

## CHURCH AND CHAPEL

### February

**Parish Church SS Peter and Paul**

Sun 1	10.30am	First Sunday
	6.30pm	Choral Evensong
Wed 4	10.00am	Eucharist
Thu 5	2.00pm	Squeals and Wheels
Sun 8	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	10.30am	Eucharist (with healing prayer)
Wed 11	10.00am	Eucharist
Thu 12	2.00pm	Squeals and Wheels
Sun 15	10.30am	Eucharist
Wed 18	10.00	Eucharist
Thu 19	2.00pm	Squeals and Wheels
Sun 22	9.30am	Eucharist followed by
	10.20am	Interactive Café Church
Wed 25	10.00	Eucharist
Thu 26	2.00pm	Squeals and Wheels

**St John's, Hempton**

Sun 1	9.00am	Eucharist
Sun 15	9.00am	Eucharist
Sun 22	6.00pm	Evensong

**The Barfords**

Sun 1	10.30am	Eucharist (BStM)
Sun 15	10.30am	Morning Service (BStM)
Wed 18	7.30pm	Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes (BStJ)
Sun 22	4.00pm	Evensong (BStM)

**From the Registers***Baptism*

Sun 18 Jan     Noah Thomas John Rawlins

For baptisms, weddings, funerals or home visits in case of illness, please contact one of the church wardens, Iain Gillespie (338367) or George Fenemore (338203). For further information please go to [www.deddington-church.org.uk](http://www.deddington-church.org.uk).

**Wesleyan Reform Church, Chapel Square**

Sunday mornings at 10.30am Pastor Isabel Walton  
Sun 22     Maurice and Carol

**Pastor Isabel Walton 337157**

**RC Parish of Hethe**

Mass is said at 9.30am on Saturday and every weekday except Thursday. There are two Masses on Sundays: the first at 10.00am is in the (normal) 'ordinary' Rite. The second at 12.00 noon is in the 'extraordinary' Rite, in Latin. The Vigil 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.

Mass is said at SS Peter and Paul Anglican Church, King's Sutton, at 9.00am every Sunday.

**Fr Paul Lester 01869 277630**

**Parish Deacon Rev Bob Hughes 01295 720896**

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

### News from Hempton

What a great bazaar in December! Lots of people came and enjoyed what was on offer and made it a happy family event, as well as raising £1,300 to help with the upkeep of the building. Thanks go to everyone involved but especially the customers who came.

The Carol Service was well supported with the church almost full and the singing led by the Deddington Church Choir who were in good voice. This was Rosemary Wilson's last service in St John's and she was presented with a small gift and a thank you card. There was also a good attendance for Christmas Day with 31 in the congregation. The next event will be a bring and share lunch on Saturday 31 January from 12.00pm to promote the refurbished Old School Room

which is now complete and looks great. Please come along. There will be tea and coffee available and also a raffle. The room is used quite regularly by different organisations, with a yoga class starting recently, so if you would like to book it, please give me a call. The Friday night Social continues on the first Friday of each month from 7.00pm.

During February the new vicar of the Benefice will be starting. Let's hope for a good congregation to welcome Annie Goldthorp on Sunday 15 February at 9.00am which could be her first service in St John's.

If you have any news for this column please give me a call.

**Less Chappell 338054**

## DOWN ON GEORGE'S FARM



all the sheep were inside by mid-November, enjoying their twice a day meals-on-wheels service, which as you can imagine sent the winter feed bill into orbit.

This season the grass has held up well and, with the old dears in very good condition, they have been given only a few feed blocks and a daily ration of hay, something that just might put a smile on the bank manager's face for once. But now it is time we started them on a high protein ration in the final few weeks before lambing. Although the ewes are in good condition, the unborn lambs will double in size in the last six weeks of their gestation and as the growing lambs take up more and more room inside the mother, the ewe has less room in her four stomachs to process a bulky diet of grass and hay and will quickly lose body condition, something that can lead to very poor weakly, and often unviable, lambs being born, and a shortage of milk. By feeding a specially formulated high protein sheep feed, the ewes can get all the nourishment they and their growing lambs need, without having to eat large amounts of low energy hay and grass which, if the ewe is carrying twins or triplets, can lead to life-threatening metabolic problems.

The Cotswolds will be the first to 'come down', quickly followed by the first half of the main flock dropping their lambs from the middle of the month, with the second half of the flock strutting their stuff in mid-March. The ewe lambs that we bought in the north of England in the autumn, will begin their careers as ovine mothers in April, so here we go again with the time honoured rights of spring, but I wouldn't miss it for the world.

Although the tide in the Clifton sea has yet to return, the farm being part of 'Clifton in the clay' is very wet with standing water in many of the fields, so it's back to deep cultivation with the sub-soiler and mole plough once the crops are off next autumn and then the old

man will be let loose with his favourite machine, a JCB digger or, if he wins the current farm office debate, a tracked 360 excavator. The one I have in mind is able to reach the parts that no wheeled machine can reach, a real big boys' toy.

As we are now in that 'pregnant pause' awaiting the first of this year's lamb crop to arrive, it's back into the farm office, to fight our way through an increasing pile of paperwork flying off the printer, all entitled CAP Reform Countdown. In their wisdom our masters on the other side of the Channel, aided and abetted by the mandarins of Defra, have come up with a new so-called simplified basic payment scheme, or BPS for short. So, after more than 20 years of continual change to the CAP regulations, it's back to square one, but this time around a lot of it has been outsourced to preferred government contractors who don't seem to know which end of the cow the milk comes from.

Before we can even start the registration process we must prove to some outsourced jobsworth that we are who we say we are. Before we can do that we have to await permission from another outsourced jobsworth to start the re-registration paper chase. This can only be done online, but it seems as if their new computer system is not fully operational yet, so what's new? It's not that long ago in farming terms that a previous administration had a go at improving things when the then Defra Secretary, Margaret Beckett (the witch of Defra), spent 60 million on a state-of-the-art foolproof computer system which went into meltdown after the first three days of coming online.

Ho hum, roll on the lambing season, but even that is destined to become an electronic nightmare, as all the lambs and their mothers now have to have an electronic identity tag clipped into each ear. The individual identity numbers are then recorded on a hand held reader which costs some £700. The information is then downloaded onto a handheld app which then downloads the information onto the office computer which then sends the information to yet another outsourced central government database and every time the sheep are moved off the farm, the tags have to be read and the movement recorded. Confused? Well, just wait, it won't be long before some outsourced bright spark comes up with the idea of electronically tagging the honey bees and that will cause a real buzz.

**George Fenemore  
338203**

## Adderbury Village Morris Men Need You!

Have you ever watched Morris dancing and thought you'd like to have a go?

The Adderbury Village Morris Men, as featured in the film *Way of the Morris* and seen on stage at the Cropredy Festival, will be providing taster sessions in February and March 2015. All you need is enthusiasm. It's lots of fun! It's also a great way to keep fit and helps

to keep a village tradition alive. Adderbury Village Morris Men only recruit from the local area and so would really welcome anyone who would like to give it a try. If you are interested, do please contact me on 811741 or by email on [johnekers52@gmail.com](mailto:johnekers52@gmail.com).

**John Ekers**

## Peggy Pacey and Park Farm

*In August 2013 Deddington mourned the passing of Peggy Pacey, the owner of Park Farm, paying tribute to her courage and determination. These qualities were evident, not only during her wartime experience, but also in her extraordinary achievements pre- and postwar, particularly, but not exclusively, in the world of horse showing and breeding. Described by Angus Irwin in his tribute to her as a 'redoubtable' and a 'formidable' lady, she has left a legacy of practical good sense to guide and inspire her successors.*

*Jason Maloney, the new owner of Park Farm and his partner Beatrice Bathe, look to Peggy's experience and example in running the farm today. Measuring fractionally over 22 hectares – hence the title '22ha' – it is less than half the size of an average English farm. Below Beatrice and Jason share with us more of the special memories that continue to inspire them.*

### 22ha

Park Farm is a place of traditional practices alongside modern techniques. Traditions continue in the breeding and producing of new generations of high quality horses and cattle that are seen as business assets from which we try to keep sentimentality separate. Such a principle of separation, not always easy in practice, should also be extended to our friends and neighbours with whom we do business.

One 'tradition' – or perhaps hazard – that we are trying to eradicate at Park Farm, is that of wandering

livestock. Peggy always liked to use timber fencing in order to accommodate the hunt's safe passage through the farm. However, the cost of timber is greater and the lifespan shorter than that of wire fencing, so one of our first tasks as owners has been to get our boundaries as secure as possible using wire, whilst leaving timber jumps for when the hunt does require access.

Park Farm has on the whole been blessed with understanding neighbours, not always of our deserving. On one occasion, many decades ago, Peggy's sheep escaped onto neighbouring land (now owned by Jim Calcutt), which at that time was managed by John Paull. John Paull, whistling, rounded them up and started to drive them back towards Park Farm. At this point, Peggy, having discovered the disappearance of her flock, appeared at some speed in the Land Rover. Misunderstanding the situation, she accused John Paull of sheep rustling: 'I've caught you red-handed, you're only returning them after an attack of conscience.'

John Paull and Peggy never did quite agree on the events of that day, but with true farmer practicality they separated their business disagreement from their great mutual liking. Even though she did still occasionally remark 'you should never quite trust him around your livestock' they remained firm friends to the day of Peggy's passing.

**Bea Bathe**

**the Deddington news**

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## Friends of Deddington Library

Happy New Year to all our volunteers, supporters and customers of Deddington Library. Now that Christmas is behind us we return our attention to the task of maintaining services at Deddington Library.

We have a dedicated and loyal group of volunteers who are supporting the ongoing running of the Library and doing an exemplary job. We are currently up to 65 funding subscribers whose contributions are helping to ensure the ongoing running of the Library on its current schedule of opening hours. We need to enlist at least 200 subscribers to maintain current services, as well as encouraging more individuals to get involved. You can find more details on how to get involved by talking to staff at the Library or by visiting our website, [friendsofdeddingtonlibrary.org](http://friendsofdeddingtonlibrary.org).

During this month we will be approaching the surrounding parishes, local businesses and a number of trusts for donations and grants. We would also like to hear from parishioners and users of the Library who may have their own ideas and suggestions about fund-raising initiatives and events they think could work in our continued efforts to raise awareness and funds to keep the library operational.

Thank you again for your support.

**Bryn Williams**  
[abw@brynwiliams.com](mailto:abw@brynwiliams.com)

## POSTCARD FROM AMERICA

There are a lot of people in Deddington who will find this hard to believe, but I have finally converted. Yes, I admit it, I am a dog lover.

I finally gave in over the summer. With our Jake off to college, I thought a baby substitute was perhaps needed to make Heather's life complete. In a homage to the 'American Way', I wanted to call our new family member Jake Junior, but for some reason this got vetoed. He became Leo after our new Leicester City footballer scored against Manchester United, and a new hero was born. A dog and a footballer - however, the footballer's fame didn't last a month. Thank you to Lark Rise for selling us that dud.

Americans have a strange relationship with dogs. The majority of houses in our neighbourhood have them. But all dogs have to be kept on a lead when out walking, a curious idea in the land of the free.

And here I have another admission to make, I have seen the light in another area.

On Christmas Day we took Leo for a walk. In fact I have taken the dog on dozens of walks although, on this issue, to be fair, I have to admit that I still don't really like walking. And unlike most civilised places, I can't walk him to a drinking venue (we don't have pubs), and at the local sports bar they don't let dogs in. In fact I don't really think they let walkers in.

But I have discovered the most glorious American invention: doggy day care. And it's cheap: for \$25 a day your dog is kept busy and before any of you start shouting at the page, I must assure you, Leo loves this place. He gets to run around for eight hours, licking as many dogs' bits as he likes. They are also teaching him to swim – seriously, the girls get in the pool with him and encourage him into the deep end. He has just been promoted from Tadpoles to Cygnets. And I don't have to take him out for a two hour walk while his 'mother' is away working in Ohio.

The thing that Heather loves about the place is that when you pick him up, they always spend five minutes going over his report card (honours student) and telling you what a lovely dog Leo is (or Fido, Roger or Dogsbreath).

But today I have to report a very traumatic event in little Leo's life, his equipment has been removed. He is sad and sits motionless dressed as a Conehead. Heather cried when she dropped him off at the vets, but was heartened when she picked him up because they told her Leo was the nicest (and most handsome) dog they had seen for ages.

Yes, selling is a way of life in America. I love it – not sure about poor Leo though.

**Mike Ward**

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

## THE TASTE BUDDIES

*We are the Taste Buddies. We lunch out every two months to assess local pubs and restaurants. We hope you will find our observations useful.*

### WHERE?

The Unicorn Inn, Market Place, Deddington  
Tel 338838

A very cosy traditional pub with open fires and a good sized garden for warmer weather.

### FOOD SERVED:

Monday–Saturday 12.00–2.00 (no lunch Mondays) and 6.30pm–9.30pm, Sundays 12–4.00pm. There is an extensive, well-balanced and imaginative menu, plus a fixed price lunch menu and sandwiches. Food is locally sourced and a close eye is kept on quality control. A full sample menu can be found online.

### AVERAGE COST

Starters £6.00–£8.00, Mains £10.00–£16.00, Desserts £6.00–£8.00

**Fixed price menu:** 2 courses £12.00, 3 courses £15.00, sandwiches and fries £ 6.50–£9.00

There is a good wine list including dessert wines and port.

### WERE THEY PLEASED TO SEE YOU?

We had a very warm welcome and chose our own seating area.

### WAS THE COOKING GOOD?

Yes, with top class ingredients.



### For starters we had:

Crispy calamari with aioli £5.50, whole black tiger prawns with coriander, ginger, lemon grass and chilli £8.00, heritage beetroot, crispy hen's yolk, white balsamic, goat's cheese and hazelnuts £6.50

### Mains were:

250gm Longhorn rare breed rump steak, roast shallots, tomato butter and fries £16.00, Longhorn steak burger, confit onions, bacon, Cheddar, celeriac remoulade and fries £12.50, Pork with Madeira mushroom sauce £8.00

### Desserts:

We were sated after two courses, but the desserts were very tempting:

Dark chocolate crème brûlée with candied orange £6.00, apple and golden raisin crumble and salted caramel ice cream £6.00, date sticky toffee pudding, cinnamon ice cream and toffee sauce £6.00, cheese board £8.00, homemade ice creams.

### VALUE FOR MONEY?

It certainly was – we could not fault anything.

### WOULD YOU GO AGAIN?

A positive YES!

## You Had Your Say – Here It Is ...

**A** huge thank you to everyone who filled in the Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire – quite a task, we know, but we have gathered a tremendous amount of information. Almost 60% – 914 from a population of 1,563 – returned the adult questionnaire, and nearly 50% of the 150-strong 11-to-17 age group returned theirs.

It will take a while for the steering group to digest what you're all trying to tell us, especially because respondents wrote in thousands and thousands of comments along with the ticked boxes. You can see the raw results for yourselves on the two Survey Monkey sites that you can access via the Neighbourhood Plan website (address below). The comments are in monster drop-down boxes.

And, ta dah, the winner of the £100 adult prize draw is Caroline Tindale and winner of the £50 youth prize is a junior Swadling (sorry, not sure which). Congratulations.

Now for some highlights and trends from the results themselves, with these provisos – what interests me may not be your top priority, and some of the results themselves can be misleading since varying numbers answered each of the questions.

The housing section kicks off in a public-spirited way as 47% accept that the country needs more housing growth and that Deddington should take its fair share. And indeed, 53% say the parish needs more development. However, when it comes to the detail, a more anti-development spirit emerges. In all 81% (admittedly from a smaller pool of 'voters') think 50 homes are the maximum that should be built in the parish between now and 2031 – and those on sites of less than 30. From the written comments, it's clear infill-only is a popular (if unrealistic?) choice.

If there is to be new housing, what kind should it be? Two- and three-bedroom houses for sale were top of the list, then came substantial support for affordable housing, starter homes and accommodation for the elderly. When you take into account that 50% of the people who answered the questionnaire were aged 60 or over, it is perhaps not surprising that a wish to downsize in years to come featured quite strongly.

Traditional tastes emerged in the style of housing favoured: stone-built, in sympathy with the conservation area. A handful spoke up for high quality contemporary design. Walnut Close, a development of ten detached stone houses in Clifton, was the runaway winner in the pick-an-estate picture question. Another preference that emerged from the Environment section, was that any new development should be plentifully planted with trees.

At first, it's heart-warming to read the Community section of the questionnaire and realise how content people are with life in Deddington parish and the countryside around it, and how highly they value the assets we have – the Health Centre, the playgrounds, the School, Pre-School and Nursery, the Church, the

pubs, the Windmill Centre, the Castle Grounds. And it's clear from the added comments that the shops, Post Office – the sheer convenience of Deddington – are hugely important too. 'It's all here' says one. 'Safe, peaceful, beautiful' says another.

Then you come to the section 'How could the facilities be improved?' and the suggestions and criticisms pour in. It's the Windmill Centre that takes a hammering. 'Soviet-style' is the cruellest cut, 'desperately in need of new kitchen, new loos and a makeover' says another. Next, the playgrounds, though much appreciated along with the Windmill in the previous set of answers, are now found wanting: greatly inferior to play areas in nearby villages, in particular Steeple Aston apparently. Plenty want to see more football pitches. Some would like to see more going on at the Castle Grounds.

So, when it came to the question asking whether we should use the parish's near half million pound capital reserve for capital projects or continue subsidising our Council Taxes with the interest from it, you might have expected the answer to be, 'Spend, spend, spend'. In fact, the majority – 479 responders out of 723 – wanted to hang on to the capital. All the same, there were hundreds of suggestions how the money might be spent. Predictably, refurbishment or even rebuilding, at the Windmill Centre headed the list. Close behind came improvements to sports facilities (fencing or archery anyone?) and playgrounds (including providing one in Hempton). The Nursery and Pre-School, and a car park near Deddington village centre were other contenders.

Plenty of people complained about the lack of parking in Deddington – Market Place, Earls Lane and New Street being the blackspots – and some offered pretty radical solutions: do away with the grass verges, introduce residents' permits or time limits, or both, build a car park in Earls Lane or by the Fire Station, build an underground car park, move the Co-op. Help!

But, when it came down to it, more people were satisfied with parking arrangements in the parish than dissatisfied, and a handsome majority thought it would cause more harm than good to introduce parking controls in Market Place.

Maybe there are solutions to Deddington's shortcomings, maybe not. There was certainly one complaint the steering group will have a hard job solving: 'It's too far from the sea'.

**Helen Oldfield, [helenoldfield@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:helenoldfield@yahoo.co.uk)**  
**[www.deddingtonneighbourhoodplan.org](http://www.deddingtonneighbourhoodplan.org)**

### Neighbourhood Plan – Environment Group

Do you have an interest in or experience of the environment, conservation or heritage? The Environment Group is currently short on numbers and is looking for further members to help analyse the Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire responses. If you would like to help, please email Rosie Burland ([rosieburland@hotmail.com](mailto:rosieburland@hotmail.com)) for further details.

## News from Clifton

**L**et's start the year the way an awful lot of last year was spent – with an apology. It's for James Gill. When I was banging out the last issue about his sister's happy arrival his first given name fell off the slab and I might have left you not knowing his name is James William Gill. Sorry James, but I'm delighted to add that his sister has been named Eva. Welcome aboard Eva, and we all admire the time and care Gilly and Dee take in naming their children. Makes you think, doesn't it.

The last cultural tour to Industrial Oxford went very well and, keeping it brief, the gang discovered Old Rosie is a very strong cider, the last gas light was lit in Oxford in 1979 using the by-product of the coking process, Staffordshire Blue is all around, Mr Drinkwater is very important and the Jam Factory never was!

During the last holiday we remained indebted to the fine body of professionals praised often before by this correspondent who arrived within six minutes of the 999 call and dealt with a near fatal build-up of smoke from a poorly attended fire in a living room after the residents had gone to bed. The whole event caused the daughter of the house to declare 'this is my best Christmas ever – it was epic'. We must guard against taking our retained fire crew for granted as Chris and the team swooped in and rendered the whole village safe far more quickly than if we relied on Banbury. We must also guard against not tending our fires well enough. Deliberately making a fire in your living-room sounds mad on the face of it but most of us enjoy doing

it, so do it carefully.

The Duck's Christmas Eve quiz raised nearly £100 for Katharine House and was very well supported and rounded off splendidly the trip to Candleford for the carols. Well done Dave Darst, Julie and Alan.

Another 'emergency service' was called for after the Christmas festivities were flushed away. Ivor the drain man brought a very professional and amusing solution to some backed up drains. Ivor blamed too many pork pies and prophylactics (it's probably that white jelly stuff that no one likes the taste of, in the pork pies I mean!). Fortunately this was all in the shared branch of the drain network and therefore payable by Thames water and not Mr Purple or Mr White (for those of you who keep back copies). That means payable by all of you actually.

Remaining seasonal, as we all were, I'm happy to congratulate Grace or Holly for winning the Neighbourhood Plan youth questionnaire draw. No one knows which one of them as the survey was 'nearly confidential' but the number was eventually traced back to the house. Many thanks girls for taking the time to contribute to an important community initiative.

The Clifton Book of Knowledge advanced learning by explaining the cinematic reasons that Tommy Flowers was not in the fabulous *Imitation Game* movie and explaining the anamorphic principle (you might want to Google that – it's easier than reading *A Brief History of Time*) ...

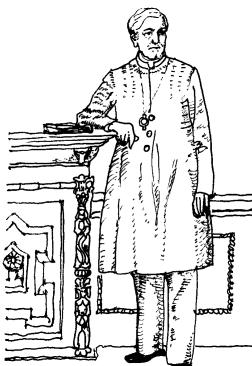
**Martin Bryce**  
[martindnbryce@aol.com](mailto:martindnbryce@aol.com)

## DEDDINGTON 150 YEARS AGO

The following are extracts from the diaries of the Rev. Cotton Risley for the month of February 1865:

**10th February** – I went up to the Town Hall and met Mr. Dormer there when we heard a case against a boy named Oliver Kilby between 7 and 8 years of age for robbing Mr. Tucker, the grocer's, till of a florin (*then 2s.*). We ordered him 6 stripes with a birch rod at the hands of the Inspector of Police, Bowen, and then to be discharged – on account of his age. His parents not the best of characters.

**15th February** – I met Capt. Owen, the Chief Constable, at the Police Station and examined the cells and premises generally, and agreed with him that it would be a waste of money to do anything to the property in its present dilapidated state – a new and commodious Station should supersede the present one in due time. [*The Police Station and cells were where the present Library – and Police Station – now stand.*] I also called at Mr. Tucker's, the grocers, and saw and examined the new American beef – not very tempting to look at, and must have time before the poor



will take to using it for food – 4d. per lb. Its nutritious and satisfying qualities require to be proved.

**17th February** – Rose's sister and her son could not return to Bloxham on account of the depth of the snow, from 12 – 18 inches deep.

**22nd February** – Attended the examination of the school children, the boys only, by the Government Inspector.

**23rd February** – Bowen, Inspector of Police, came and another policeman with two tramps whom I remanded till Saturday having property supposed to be stolen in their possession.

**25th February** – I discharged the two tramps, the police not having been able to discover where the coat in possession of Murphy had been stolen from.

**Buffy Heywood**

[I wonder if the 'American beef' might have been dried. If anyone has any further thoughts I'd be interested to know.]

## 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 WILLIAM HIORNS, BANBURY

My name is William Jack Hiorns and I was born on 10 Dec 1962. My family lived in The Paddocks, Deddington where I was born. My dad was Edward John Hiorns and he lived with his brother George and sister Mary at New Street, Deddington, with their parents, Jack and Florie. Jack was in the Home Guard. I found his picture on the Deddington website. I found his parents were Frederick Richard Hiorns and Harriet Wheeler. I have found their graves plus more family graves but, when checking the grave site list, I found that Annie Dorothy Hiorns's (born 1916 and died 24 Sept 1993) ashes have been put with Frederick Hiorns' grave. Can anyone tell me who Annie Dorothy Hiorns was and how she knew Frederick? Frederick was my great-grandfather. If anyone knows anything they can help me and my family with our family tree.

Like anything on any family tree, I have found some things already. You can contact me on [Hiorns@live.co.uk](mailto:Hiorns@live.co.uk).

### FROM KATE PARRINDER, OXFORDSHIRE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

#### **Surviving Winter appeal – if you don't need your Winter Fuel Payment, donate it!**

Local charity Oxfordshire Community Foundation are encouraging those who receive an unneeded Winter Fuel Payment to consider giving it to their Surviving Winter appeal which uses the funds to help elderly and vulnerable people around Oxfordshire who are struggling to cope. Now in its fifth year, the current appeal has so far raised nearly £8,000 to support local charities and community groups that are working directly with those who need help the most. But with a target to match the £20,000 that was raised during the previous appeal, there's still a long way to go.

In the past, grants from the appeal funds have been made to groups that befriend elderly people, help them overcome fuel poverty, and that assist them in practical matters such as keeping warm and well fed through the cold winter months. Oxfordshire Community Foundation are partnering with other local organisations, in particular Age UK Oxfordshire. The appeal addresses the fact that in 2013 there were 18,200 excess winter deaths across the UK, with 340 winter-related deaths in Oxfordshire alone.

If you would like to help, visit the online donation page at [www.justgiving.com/SurvivingWinter2014-15](http://www.justgiving.com/SurvivingWinter2014-15) or call 01865 798666 to arrange a postal donation.



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

### FROM MICHAEL LIEBRECHT, NEW STREET

Thank you so much to all those who came on Christmas Eve to the Market Place carols, for readying us all for Christmas in great voice, and for such generosity. Some £1,117 was given for Katharine House Hospice. I am grateful once again for support in contributions, equipment and facilities from so many: the Royal British Legion, the Co-op, Peach Pubs, the Rylands, the Crown and Tuns, the Unicorn and the Church, as well as for all the efforts of those who take up the task of making it all happen once the music starts.

**FROM JEAN AND MICHAEL RUDGE, NEW STREET**  
We would like to thank everyone for attending Phil's funeral and helping to make it such a special occasion. Thanks also to Martin Humphris for his compassionate professional help, Christopher Hall for conducting the service and the choir for leading the singing. The support we have received from the community has been amazing and is warmly appreciated.

### FROM PAUL COX, ST THOMAS STREET

Cox's Garage would like to thank all our customers who supported us on Small Business Saturday and we now have the results of our Christmas Raffle:

1st Prize: Full valet, Julie Ward; 2nd Prize: Goodie bag, Mrs Milward; 3rd Prize: Port, Janet Lawrence; 4th Prize: Coffee Liqueur, Judy Ward.  
Congratulations to our winners.

### FROM CHRISTOPHER HALL, PHILCOTE STREET A Golden Opportunity

With a focus on Valentine's Day (14 Feb), engaged couples could win Fairtrade gold wedding bands worth £1,500 by sharing their love story at <http://ido.fairtrade.org.uk/tell-us-your-story/>. Fifteen million small-scale goldminers are paid as much as a third less for their gold than the global market price. That deficit can be restored through the purchase of Fairtrade gold, plus buyers pay a \$2,000 premium per kilo sold.

Fairtrade ensures that producers, wherever they are in the world, are paid a fair price for their labours. There is no conflict between producers in Britain and those in the Two-Thirds World – both are dependent for their living on being paid more than it costs them to produce what they sell. That's only fair.

George Fenemore produces honey which is sold locally, for Katharine House in retail shops and each month at Deddington Farmers' Market. To keep his

*Continued on p12*

## POSTBAG

*Continued from p11*

bees fed in 80 hives through the winter, George needs 500kg sugar. He also needs sugar in the spring and summer to feed collected swarms, queen breeding, and nucleus colonies to produce honey the next year. The best price sugar he could find this winter was from the Deddington Co-op and it was Fairtrade sugar sourced from the Two-Thirds world. Win-win for producers at home and overseas.

In Fairtrade Fortnight (22 Feb–6 March) Deddington School will have a Fair Trade themed assembly at 2.45pm on 27 February and host a Traidcraft stall at 2.45pm on 6 March.

## PTA

We would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year.

We all enjoyed a busy December with a fun packed and energetic school disco on Thursday 11 December. This really got everyone into the festive spirit. Following on from this, we were lucky enough to have Father Christmas visit us in the Unicorn at the Farmers' Market on Saturday 20 December. This was a new event for us, as a replacement for the float around the villages, and proved a popular event with many happy children getting to see and chat to Father Christmas in warm surroundings. Also at the Farmers' Market we enjoyed carol singing, selling festive sweets and holding a raffle for a hamper, which was kindly donated to us. We would like to thank everyone for supporting us at this busy time of year, especially Wyatts Garden Centre for the hamper and the Unicorn for hosting Father Christmas.

This year Deddington Primary School is using our fundraising to purchase team sportswear, a choir uniform, new sports and gymnastics equipment and to subsidise some activities in school, including a survival day for Years 3 and 4 and the whole-school trip to *the Lion King*. All the money you donate really is making a difference.

Our next fundraising event is a Curry and Quiz night on Saturday 28 February in Barford Village Hall and you are cordially invited to join us for this fun packed event. Tickets will be on sale in a few weeks (please email us for tickets or further information). Other events in spring include a sale of second-hand uniform and cakes and a muddy run; more details to follow.

**Julia Jackman, PTA Co-chair**  
[deddingtonpta@gmail.com](mailto:deddingtonpta@gmail.com)

## Friends of Daeda's Wood

The next Logs for Labour working party will be held on Sunday 22 February commencing at 10.00am. If you would like to take part, please contact Paul Jarczewski, the Woodland Trust Officer, on 08452 935796.

**Yvonne Twomey**

## Local Intergenerational Opportunity

Deddington Primary School is looking for people over the age of 50 to be part of a weekly intergenerational friendship group that will be starting soon. The group will provide a very positive experience in a small and supportive setting for children and older people to get to know each other, enjoy each other's company and learn lots from one another.

The school is working with Full Circle, an Oxfordshire intergenerational charity ([www.fullcircleoxon.org.uk](http://www.fullcircleoxon.org.uk)), and is following in the footsteps of Bloxham Primary School and Dr Radcliffe's School in Steeple Aston where Full Circle groups are running very successfully. There are over a dozen other schools across the county also benefiting from the fun and friendship of a Full Circle group, and the rewards are felt both by the younger and the older members of the groups, in lots of ways.

In the words of one older volunteer, 'The main thing that I have got out of it is that I have made about ten new friends, who I look forward to meeting up with each week, and miss during the school holidays. I have received from them their friendship and trust, and we have shared a lot of fun, laughter and enjoyment. It opens my eyes wider to what young people think, what they enjoy, what's important to them, what worries them and what makes them tick. It keeps me in touch, and gives me an opportunity to share with them my experiences about family, work and holidays, where I've visited, what I've enjoyed, what I've found challenging, interesting and important to me. It is very satisfying and good fun.'

The group will meet in school for one hour each Wednesday lunchtime (or another day if that suits more people) in term time, will be looked after by a dedicated member of staff, and will be supported by Full Circle. If you are interested (or know of someone who would benefit from taking part) and would like to find out a few more details, please contact me at Full Circle, we'd really love to hear from you.

**Ruth Stavris, 01865 246456**  
[ruthstavris@fullcircleoxon.org.uk](mailto:ruthstavris@fullcircleoxon.org.uk)

## Frank Steiner

Frank has now decided to step down from his responsibility as the DN's Church and Chapel correspondent

which he has fulfilled since May 1994, before which he was letters editor. We owe him a debt of gratitude for committing over 20 years to the community. Unlike the Police Service we don't award long service certificates but we are no less grateful.

Frank is now in his 93rd year and has earned a rest from copy deadlines.

JC



## CALLING ALL CLUBS

### Deddington Original Golf Society (DOGS)

The end of an era. David Darst, Secretary of the DOGS decided, after seven glorious years in the post, to retire.

David has been a stalwart, working tirelessly over the years to ensure the society days worked like clock-work and, apart from the weather, he pretty much had everything else under control.

David, American by birth but a self-confessed Anglophile, will be missed as Secretary, but it is hoped that we will still enjoy his flamboyant dress code and dry sense of humour on the various courses scheduled for 2015.

Big shoes to fill but we're all confident that his successor, Keith Spengler, elected at the DOGS AGM on Wednesday 7 January, will settle into the role quickly.

Enjoy your retirement David and thank you once again for all your hard work.

**Tony Lowe  
337108**

### Deddington Town Football Club

#### *1st Team Results*

15.11.14	Bishops Itchington (h) Charles, Large	L 2–4
22.11.14	Swis FC (a) Cup	L 1–3 Smith C
29.11.14	Abba Athletic (a)	W 2–1 Cook
06.12.14	West Witney (a) Cup	L 0–1
13.12.14	Woodford Utd (h)	W 1–0 Gray
20.12.14	Banbury Utd Youth (h) Cup	W 4–0
27.12.14	Middleton Cheney (a) Cup	W 2–1 (aet) Cook, Large

#### *Reserves Results*

15.11.14	Chesterton (a) Cumming, Kaye (Josh)	L 2–9
22.11.14	Bodicote Sports (h) Catania, Cook (2)	D 3–3
29.11.14	FC Langford (h) Catania (3)	D 3–3
06.12.14	Croughton (h) Piggott	W 2–1 Large,
13.12.14	Heyford Ath Res (a) Cup	L 0–6
20.12.14	Finmere (a) Davies (Jack)	L 1–4

Not much fat to chew on, but Deddington Reserves mainly looked prize geese over the festive period, while a perfunctory gander at the Premier Division shows the First Team somewhat plucked and immobile in mid-table.

With a couple of painful defeats in mid-November, the First Team picked up some momentum with four wins in their next five, including progress in two cups. Looking safe from the drop, the Firsts still have much to be optimistic about in terms of potential silverware come the reckoning.

The Reserves meanwhile need any kind of run to claw their way up the table. Despite a miniature un-

beaten home spell of three matches, including back to back six-goal draws, they have fallen well short of the standards they normally set when away from home comforts, and languish second from bottom, as well as being eliminated from both major cup competitions. Some bright spots include Luca Catania announcing himself with a hat-trick, but otherwise they have had to rely on First Team stalwarts Mark Cook and Mikey Large chipping in with goals, and have much to do to avoid a disastrous climax. Nevertheless, play your part and you know there will be an end to savour!

**Aaron Bliss  
07909 642882**

### 1st Deddington Scout Group

Well, we've just started back after Christmas and the Cubs and Scouts are busy rehearsing for an evening of riotous entertainment: puppets, slide shows, magic and comedy. We have based this on the exploits of the original Scouts that we have been researching recently. We attended the Deddington Players panto at the Windmill.

Cubs – coming soon – a trip to Pets at Home for the animal lover badge.

Scouts, Cubs and Explorers – the winter challenge hike.

**Jo Churchyard CSL  
[jochurchyard@hotmail.com](mailto:jochurchyard@hotmail.com)**  
**Pete Churchyard SL  
[pete.churchyard@btinternet.com](mailto:pete.churchyard@btinternet.com)**

### 1st Deddington Boys' Brigade

Christmas has been and gone and we had lots of fun at the Anchors' and Juniors' Christmas party and enjoyed the pizza and chips. The evening continued with more pizza and curry at the Company Section film night. Both events rounded off a good term.

We are hoping to hold our Enrolment Service this month after the new vicar starts and we are very excited about getting to know her. We were back at the Farmers' Market in January and will be there again in March, running our bookstall. Donations of good quality books (novels and autobiographies are popular) are welcome on the day of the Market or give me a ring to discuss collection or drop off options.

This month the Company section will be entering the First Aid competition so we will be practising our skills.

**Jen Childs, Leader  
337481**  
**[jen.childs@btinternet.com](mailto:jen.childs@btinternet.com)**

### Deddington Players

Wow, what a show! We hope you enjoyed this year's pantomime, *Scrooge – A Christmas Carol*, as much as we enjoyed putting it on. Thanks to everyone who braved the cold to come and sing along with Bob

## CALLING MORE CLUBS

Cratchit, yell 'Behind you!' at our Dames, and of course boo the baddy Scrooge.

A big thank you to the front-of-house volunteers and well done to the director, cast and backstage for another run of fantastic performances. It makes all the rehearsals and line learning worthwhile.

If you've been inspired to get involved with us, either on stage or backstage, do contact me on 337095 or [suzieupson@mac.com](mailto:suzieupson@mac.com).

**Suzie Upson**

### Photographic Society

November's workshop, led by member Simon Lutter, was on 'Camera Controls and Composing Photographs' and comprised a basic introduction to digital cameras and the observance of rules to improve one's photography. At the club night in December Anne Sutcliffe, FRPS, gave a presentation entitled 'Annie's Land' in which she showed a large number of prints and discussed her techniques for landscape, portrait and street photography, including many prints that formed part of her application for FRPS accreditation. This was an interesting and absorbing presentation, much appreciated by her audience.

At our club night in early January, members were invited to present their best photographs taken during 2014. Some 20 members accepted the challenge, with around 60 prints and digitally projected photographs being shown. Each presenter was then afforded the opportunity to say how each was taken, why they considered it their best and any lessons they had learnt in the process. This resulted in a lively, informative and often humorous discussion amongst members which contributed greatly to the enjoyment of the evening.

The next club night is on 4 February when Bob Brind-Surch will give a presentation on 'Macro Photography'. This will be followed on 18 February with a workshop led by member John Prentice on 'Painting with Light' that will concentrate on long-exposure photography. Looking further ahead, Alan Fretten will give a presentation on 4 March entitled 'So Long and Thanks for the Fish – a selection of images covering sport, rock bands and travel'. All club nights and workshops are at 7.30pm in the Cartwright Hotel, Aynho. Please come along – everyone is assured of a warm welcome.

**Richard Broadbent**  
**338173**

### Book Club

At our last meeting we discussed *The Devil's Light* by Richard North Patterson. This book describes the theft of a nuclear weapon from Pakistan on orders from Osama bin Laden. The CIA must find and disable it before it reaches its intended target, Israel.

The background to the story would have taken a huge amount of research and woven into the story

is textbook-style information about the history and politics of the Middle East, including details of all the different religious factions. This plausible depiction of what could happen in this volatile region is interesting but at the same time unsettling.

The next meeting is 26 February. Please call for details of the next book.

**Sally Lambert**  
**338094**

### Deddington Branch Royal British Legion

After a successful year we held our AGM in December. The outgoing committee was re-elected unanimously. We are pleased to welcome Paul Teasdale as a new committee member. Plans are underway for at least two visits this year, as well as skittles matches. We will also mark the 70th Anniversary of the end of the Second World War in May and September this year.

**Jean Morris, Branch Secretary, 338143**  
[mrsjeanmorris@gmail.com](mailto:mrsjeanmorris@gmail.com)

### Women's Institute

We had a good attendance at our January meeting. There was a build up of business due to our December meeting to celebrate our WI birthday and Christmas. Andrew Jenkins from Cherwell District Council gave our talk entitled 'Cherwell to Cheshire: A Recycling Odyssey'. He gave a résumé as to what happens to the contents of the green and brown bins. We then had a longer talk on the contents of the blue bins which go to a state of the art recycling centre in Cheshire. We were shown how the conveyor belt, equipped with magnets, blowers and shredders for all things plastic, picks everything out. All plastic makes new bottles and the tins appear in a new form within seven days. We then had a delicious tea.

Next month's speaker is unwell so we are not sure who or what subject we are getting. For more information please contact Angela Sones on 338027.

**Julia Hobbs**

### Deddington and District History Society

Our January speaker, Deborah Hayter, told us the intriguing history of Astrop Spa (or Wells), close to Astrop House near King's Sutton. It has now totally disappeared but from the later 17th century to the early 19th it was a popular resort of gentry and even royalty travelling to take its reputedly curative waters (which are rich in iron but contain little else likely to improve one's health).

It originated, as so many did, as an ancient holy well renowned for its miraculous powers. Astrop was never a rival to the great spas such as Bath or Buxton. It was one of myriad smaller establishments across the country: there were more than twenty in London alone such as Sadlers Wells. The popularity of spas reflected

*Continued on p15*

## WELL REMEMBERED

### **Philip Rudge 1937–2014**

For over 25 years 'Phil Rudge Engineering' in St Thomas Street was an enterprise with a well-earned reputation for integrity and reliability. Phil had a passion for engines and helped to maintain the Formula Ford racing car for the (then) King's Arms racing team. Their driver remembers him 'wearing a huge smile and even bigger beard – the quiet mechanic with a massive heart.'

Phil was born in Oxford on 26 June 1937 and spent his childhood in Swalcliffe where he can be seen at school in the documentary '24 Square Miles'. Leaving school at the age of 14, he started work at the Forge Garage in Brailes and then for 15 years was a civilian telecommunications operator at Banbury Police Station.

He and Jean moved to Deddington in 1974 and Jasmine Cottage in New Street is a tangible testimony to his skill and versatility as a craftsman. Son Michael was born in 1980. Philip was a long-standing member of the Deddington and District Rifle and Revolver Club, originally housed in a tin hut in the Castle Grounds. He began learning the violin at the age of seven – reaching Grade 6 later in life. In Southerndown Care Home residents remember him playing at 5 o'clock in the morning. He and Jean were enthusiastic followers of the City of Oxford orchestra and attended nearly all their concerts. He also loved steam locomotives and a trip on the Settle-Carlisle line was a favourite day out. In heaven he is perhaps playing his violin and tinkering with the lock on St Peter's door!

*Jean Rudge*

The Nursery and Pre-School received unannounced inspection visits from Ofsted before Christmas and we are delighted that both settings have retained their 'good' grading. Here is just a flavour of the reports which are available on the Ofsted website.

#### **PFSU**

Children are effectively supported to develop strong relationships with their key persons, who know them well.

Staff give high priority to safeguarding children and providing a safe and secure environment for them to play and learn.

There is a strong partnership with parents, which means that parents are very aware of their child's progress and how they can further support their learning at home.

Staff use effective teaching methods, and a good balance of adult-led and child-initiated play, to motivate children and help them make good progress in their learning and development.

#### **Nursery**

Children demonstrate that they feel secure and settled in the nursery and have positive relationships with staff.

### **Sheila Oram 1944–2014**

Sheila was born in Kingston-on-Thames, Surrey to Ann and Richard Ford. She had one sister, Shirley. She went to school in the area and, on leaving, went to work at Bentall's department store and trained in hairdressing and, at times later, worked with her sister.

Sheila met Ray and they married in September 1973. Some time later they moved to Brackley as Ray's firm had relocated to Banbury. She continued in hairdressing before going to work for an optical lens company. They moved to St John's Way, Hempton in 1980 where she continued with her original job, doing people's hair. She made many friends over the years but two of the first here were Betty Waller and Pam Dodd. At that time Pam ran the small village shop. One day Sheila went to buy something and came back with a dog called Molly instead – but that was Sheila. She also saw Phil Dodd walking along the road with a yoke and two buckets of water he had drawn from a well and thought she was going back to olden times.

She also worked at Featherton House and was care manager at the Grove, Deddington. In the mid 1990s she spotted an advert for a manager's position at the Quiet Woman Antiques Centre, Chipping Norton and got the job, despite knowing little about antiques. She soon learnt, staying there for 15 years until ill health forced her to retire. A good friend to many, both here and much further afield, she was a member of the Friends of Hempton Church and is sadly missed by everyone. She is survived by her husband Ray.

*Les Chappell*

## Deddington PFSU and Village Nursery

Staff use observations of children to accurately assess their progress and effectively plan for the next steps in their learning.

Children enjoy outdoor activities that promote their physical development and help them to explore the natural environment.

Regular staff training ensures that they are knowledgeable about safeguarding policy and procedures, which helps keep children safe.

*Lucy Squires  
337484*

## **CALLING ALL CLUBS** *Contd from p14*

the growth and spread of wealth across the country. With wealth came increased leisure time, much of it spent at spas. It was the start of holiday-making.

On Wednesday 11 February Hugh Grainger will speak on 'Notorious Highwaymen' – the sort of hazard one might well meet when travelling to take the waters at Astrop. We meet at the Windmill Centre at 7.30pm and all are welcome.

*Chris Day (Chairman) 337204  
Moira Byast (Secretary) 338637*

## BUILT TO LAST BUT NOT ALWAYS TO KEEP

In 1998 I travelled to a Newark, New Jersey, suburb to visit an energy technology company. As there was a train service to Newark from my home in Pennsylvania there was no hesitation in booking a ticket as it was only a short hop from there to my destination on what I thought would be a local commuter train. I was just short of astonishment when, instead of a train out of Newark, I found myself riding on an ancient electric tram (streetcar in the American language) that I last recalled in service in the late 1940s

when I was a small child in Ohio. When I boarded the Newark relic I couldn't help but ask the motorman what he knew about his car and discovered that it was made in 1928 and had been in continuous service since then. Seventy years on the job may not have been a record but it was certainly not the norm for railed transit. There is something profound about the idea of a simple electric traction motor operating reliably all those years while internal combustion engine counterparts have long since gone to the scrapheap.

Environmental benefits are implicit in using any manufactured product that lasts for decades because most of the pollutants emitted to make it have long since been sequestered and recycled in the natural environment. Perhaps without our noticing it much, automobile lifespan is already on the rise. For example, one in five cars in the UK is more than 10 years old and fairly reliable at that. Most of us can remember when problems with tyres, transmissions, ignition systems and many other parts of an automobile were a common and I daresay frequent cause of breakdowns. The electrical lighting system on British cars I owned years ago in the US was known as the 'Prince of Darkness' and for good reason. Today, I can't even recall the last time I had any of the car problems that were rather common 30 years ago.

My streetcar adventure prompted a train of thought about just how long things might be made to last if we really valued things that were dependable and useful as opposed to things that are simply new. A few years earlier I had been involved in the design and fabrication of an experimental electric car built with a carbon-fibre chassis, composite body and even fibreglass springs. Other than tyres, brakes, batteries and a few other minor components, there was nothing that would wear out in the conventional time frame expected for automobile components. While the prototype was never commercialised, it continues to operate perfectly today and, after a wash, cannot be distinguished from when it was new in 1993, even though it has been stored outdoors since that time. The electric traction motor was estimated to have what engineers call a 'mean time between failures' of 100,000 hours operating time. That's about a factor of 30 better than the internal combustion engines of the day. Other cars are coming onto



the market these days that have composite bodies and electric motors and, while it is yet to be seen how long they last, I believe it will be far longer than most would imagine. If for some reason customers wanted it, there is no compelling reason that certain 21st century automobiles could not last as long as a house. Owners who wanted a 'new look' could remodel them for the same reason we remodel houses. Improbable I'll admit, but not impossible.

Most of us have some favourite things that we've had for decades and have no intention of replacing. My 130 year old Stanley plane still cures a sticking door with the same ease and precision it would have when new. I have some good quality outerwear now approaching the third decade of life. Tools inherited from my grandfather still find employment in my son's toolbox. My 1930 Webster unabridged dictionary can still teach most words worth knowing.

Not that we could make an easy transition to an economy where things lasted a very long time. At the global level, unrelenting population growth and a penchant for things that are cheap, new or both make the steady-state, durable goods model unlikely. We have only to look at the mountains of garbage generated by modern industrial societies to be reminded that most things are not built to last. Even governments would need to rethink their treatment of the economy, especially those that continue to fiddle the books with 'hedonic regression' multipliers – if we just have to have the latest smartphone or TV and there are new features or buttons to push, the government will report our purchase in the GDP as greater than its actual cost because, as only economists understand, those improvements made us happier (hedonists that we are) and presumably more productive.

It has been said that to become environmentally aware, we can't do just one thing. But if we were to focus on that one thing, it seems to me that choosing and using things that will last a while just might be the greenest thing that any of us can do.

*Dan Desmond  
dessr@outlook.com*

### Friends of the Castle Grounds

We will be holding our AGM on Thursday 19 March at the Holly Tree Club from 7.30pm. Hear about all the work we have done during 2014 - come and share your ideas for 2015, become a Friend or join the Committee - come and have your say and get involved. We will be delighted to see you there.

*Carol Horlock  
Secretary  
338935*