

Baby steps in easing the lockdown – May

Food shops:

Social distancing was still in place, but Facebook posts reveal that not everyone observed it in the narrow aisles in the **Co-op** which caused some anxiety for staff ('All you are asked to do is follow the arrows, make one queue at the end aisle, and stand behind the line on the floor when you get to the till ...') and other customers ('... hovering in the doorway of the Co-op while waiting to go in is NOT following social distancing rules').

Two of **Eagles'** staff, Dan and Callum, started working nights to keep up with the grocery orders and restocking. This meant fewer staff working during the day so everyone could stay safe.



More **take-away food outlets** appeared in the area, such as the Pickled Ploughman in Adderbury, White Horse in Duns Tew and King's Sutton, a Monday mobile fish'n'chip van, Pizza Pronto in Bodicote, Killingworth Castle. We were encouraged to support local businesses as much as possible.

Cotefield, Bunkers Hill and **Nicholsons** nurseries reopened but were quickly out of stock as bedding plants swept from the shelves. Queues and timed slots became the norm. Deddington's gardens will never look so lovely

The **Antiques Centre** decided to call it a day after a 2-week closing down sale. For nearly 50 years' they had traded from Laurel House in the Market Place.

Pubs and cafes were likely to be the last businesses to reopen, and publicans' woes were laid bare in 'Tales from the Pump' by the Grumpy Landlord in the [May issue](#) of *Deddington News*. Across the Market Place from the Antiques Centre, the 'To Let' sign on the **Red Lion** was a sad sight. The landlord had been on the point of changing his business from fish'n'chips to vegan when lockdown hit.



Other changes:

Health care: In addition to the weekly newsletters, a Wellbeing version (see [Newsletters](#)) was published with details of support groups for those struggling with wellbeing and mental health problems.

To get the economy moving again and to get parents back to work, the schools had to reopen. So the **Primary School** reopened on 1 June for Reception, Years 1 and 6. A Victorian school building with narrow corridors was not an ideal setting to bring children into socially distanced classrooms.

The **Parish Church** reopened so the Revs Annie and Paula could lead services which were streamed to the outside world.

Holy Communion - 10:30 Sunday, 24th May

For the Order of Service - [click here](#)



Local lighting designer Neil Skinner illuminated the church to thank the NHS.



And local First Responder Paul Reis did the honours on behalf of the NHS by touring the village at 8pm on Thursday evenings during the 'Clap for Carers', klaxon sounding and lights flashing – he even made it on to Australian tv.



The **Library** was closed but eBooks, and eAudio books could be downloaded to computers or portable devices free for up to three weeks with a library card. There were no late fines and a wide choice of titles was available.

The **recycling and rubbish tips** at Ardley and Shenington opened again at half capacity and with no physical assistance from staff. Long queues formed with people desperate to get rid of their garden and DIY detritus.

More **exercise** was allowed and further away from home, family mixing was relaxed – slightly. The footpaths between Deddington and Clifton, and Deddington and Hempton in particular got extra cuts as it was impossible to pass anyone without stepping into the road or into the abundant nettles that line the paths at this time of the year.

On 8 May, the 75th anniversary of VE Day was celebrated in style with bunting and socially distanced street parties (see [VE75 in lockdown](#))

Those out walking produced some amazing landscape photographs (more in the [Gallery](#))



The grass at the Castle Grounds was cut – old ladies and dogs with short legs did rejoice! Dog poo bags were left a-plenty in the Castle Grounds even though the dog bins were still being emptied.

The *Deddington News* was published and appeared in an online version only on Deddington OnLine. Residents were encouraged to print out a paper version for neighbours with no internet access.

June 2020
***The* DEDDINGTON NEWS**



Serving Deddington, Clifton and Hempton

Parish Council business continued online, and its new 3-year **Action Plan** was published on the [PC's website](#).

A **Cherwell DC grant of £1000** helped the Emergency Volunteer Team pay for PPE, and printing of the weekly newsletter.

The **Windmill Centre** began tentative steps towards reopening when it was announced that playing tennis was once more permitted. The Tennis Club reopened on 22 May with loos and pavilion still closed, players had to use their own (marked) balls, singles only to be played on courts 1 and 3. The long-awaited extended paving in the car park was completed (with electrical cables ready for electric vehicle car charging points to be installed in the near future).

Public transport: Chiltern Railways introduced a new timetable to cater for people starting to return to work. They still advised against non-essential travel and advised passengers to wear face masks on public transport.